

6.2.8 Mechanicals

PURPOSE AND INTENT

The usefulness of historic structures in the modern world is often increased by updating these structures with modern heating and cooling systems, electrical systems, satellite television or broadband internet systems, and other mechanical appurtenances that require the location of equipment outside of the historic structure itself. While the location of one of these elements may not seem to make a significant negative impact on a structure or neighborhood, the visible location of many of these elements along the streetscape can have a significant negative effect on the historic character of a neighborhood.

GUIDELINES

- .1 Satellite television dishes and other mechanical appurtenances should be located in the rear yard, in a location not visible from the public way, whenever possible. Small dishes or other appurtenances (under 2' in diameter) may be located on lower rear roof surfaces, on rear yard accessory structures, on rear facades, or in the rear yard.
- .2 Satellite dishes may be located in publicly visible areas only if they cannot be operated from locations not visible from the public way.
- .3 Satellite dishes and other appurtenances that are mounted on the fabric of an historic structure must be attached using the least invasive method, without damaging significant architectural features.
- .4 Mechanical apparatus not mounted on the structure should be located in rear or side yard areas not visible from the public way whenever possible. In addition, consider placing such apparatus out of sight and sound of neighboring homes, if at all possible.
- .5 Mechanical apparatus not mounted on the structure may be installed in areas visible from the public way if there is no other technically and economically feasible location for installation and if appropriate landscape screening is proposed and installed as a part of the project.
- .6 Mechanical apparatus that must be placed in a location potentially visible from the public way shall be obscured from view where possible, including the use of landscape screening and the use of paint colors to match the surrounding environment.
- .7 Utilities should be placed underground where feasible.
- .8 Electrical masts, headers, and fuse boxes shall be located at the rear of a structure where possible.

PRESERVATION PLAN WORKSHEET PAGE THIS SIDE WILL NOT BE PART OF FINAL DOCUMENT

Notes on text:

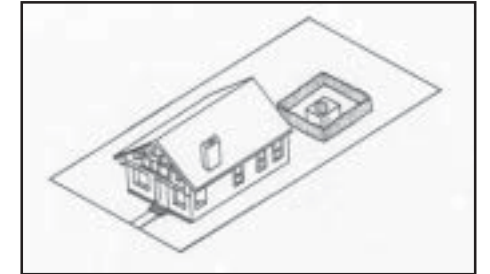
Review these guidelines as you think about those appropriate for your HPOZ area. You may delete those that do not apply or rephrase/reverse them to meet your needs. Additional guidelines may be developed and listed here as well. As you think about appropriate guidelines, it may be helpful to make a separate list of areas of concern regarding work in this section, and then draft a guideline for each item. After doing so, compare your list with those to the left and remove/rephrase/delete/add as appropriate.

Clear and specific guidelines will help convey the expectations for specific types of projects within the HPOZ and provide certainty and predictability to the process for both the applicant and project reviewer.

When customizing guidelines in this section, please remember that a range of guidelines are listed on these pages to foster discussion and debate regarding the key points. A full assortment of topics and issues are listed, you may wish to cross many out, and add many more. You will find that some may not apply in your HPOZ, and others may be contradictory to those that do. Guidelines that do not apply may be deleted, reversed, or rephrased. General guidelines may be developed in more detail to suit the character of your HPOZ. You may find it helpful to make a list of topics you feel are important, and then draft guidelines to address each one.

Make use of a hierarchy of verbs and phrases to convey the general importance of each particular guideline. The use of the words 'are encouraged', 'are strongly discouraged', 'may', 'should', 'shall', etc. indicate how strongly the HPOZ board will, and the applicant should, adhere to a particular guideline. Each guideline listed on the left is only a draft concept, the verbs and phrases can be modified to meet local expectations.

Additional graphics:



Air conditioning units and other mechanicals should be screened from view whenever practical.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EXEMPTIONS

.1

WORK REVIEWED BY PLANNING STAFF

- .1 The review of ordinary maintenance and repair applications as defined in Section 12.20.3.G for work solely within this section shall be delegated to the Director of Planning.

GENERAL BACKGROUND AND ADVICE TO THE APPLICANT

With careful planning, many mechanical appurtenances can be located where they cannot be seen from the public way. Air conditioning units can be placed in the rear yard or through rear windows. Attic vents can be placed on the rear elevations of a roof, or in a rear dormer. Satellite television dishes can usually be placed in the rear yard or on a rear elevation of the roof. Junction boxes can be placed on rear facades. Wiring for cable or telephone equipment or electrical lines can be run through the interior walls of a structure instead of along visible facades.

Even when mechanical equipment must be placed in a visible location in the side or front yards, landscaping or paint treatments can help to conceal these incompatible elements.

Please refer to the Appendix for additional assistance and resources.

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Notes on text:

Additional graphics:

List specific types of roof projects, if any, that would benefit from being exempt from the HPOZ review process. This section will be linked to the Exemption section in Chapter III, Function of the Plan.

Routine, recurring, and/or simple cases that are easily and effectively governed by the guidelines may be delegated to staff for review and processing. This may create more time for the board to focus on significant projects and speed the review of certain types of projects. Boards may also wish to continue to review all applications. This section will be linked to the Delegation section in Chapter III - Function of the Plan.

Finish with any background information or advice that the reader might find useful. A reference section at the end of this document will identify other places to find preservation information.

You may wish to include general advice, recurring problems and locally unique solutions, and if desired, even explain the rationale behind a particularly controversial or complicated local preservation issue specific to your community.

There will be an opportunity to list preservation resources, contacts, and directories in the appendix. In this way, the appendix may be updated as appropriate without requiring resubmittal of the entire document to the City Planning Commission for approval.