



MAINTAINING CHARACTER IN OLD TOWN

The goal of the Historic Preservation Commission is to preserve the historic character of Old Town. It is this character that makes Old Town Louisville a unique and inviting place to live.

To that end, the Commission encourages home owners in Old Town who are considering exterior renovations or additions to be mindful of the impact of those changes on the atmosphere of

Old Town and in particular the impact to the character and feel of the street facade.

The Commission encourages you to consider the items listed below as you plan your project and hopes that you will keep these ideas in mind when designing your addition. Although not every home or lot will allow for all of these recommendations, we hope the comments below will be

helpful as you move forward with your project.



834 Parkview Street

REAR ADDITIONS RECOMMENDED

The pedestrian-friendly feel of the neighborhood from the street contributes to the overall charac-



928 LaFarge Avenue

ter of the Old Town area. Maintaining the smaller street facade of a building while adding to the rear helps to keep that smaller feel for those viewing the neighborhood from the sidewalk.

Many Old Town lots allow for rear additions as a large number of the homes are built on the very front of the lot allowing for a rear addition. Some Old Town lots have sufficient space for ga-

rages or other off-street parking on the rear of the lot with access from the alley.

Limiting your addition to the rear of the lot may lessen the impact of that addition on the neighboring houses.

If your home can support such an addition and your lot is appropriate you may want to consider a rear addition rather than expanding directly upward.

STEPPED-BACK SECOND STORY ADDITIONS RECOMMENDED

If you are thinking of adding a second story to your home, we suggest you consider stepping back the addition from the first floor thereby retaining the street level focus of the original structure.

We recommend that the second story be no more than 75% of the square footage of the first

story.

By stepping back your second story, the mass of an addition has less impact on the lot as a whole and the original home.

There are a number of homes in Old Town with stepped-back second stories if you are looking for examples.



609 LaFarge Avenue

HEIGHT AND MASSING LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS RECOMMENDED

Each lot in Old Town is different and putting some consideration into where you put the height and mass of your addition can make a significant difference in how it affects the historic character of the home.

The size and topography of your lot can lend itself to the particular placement of an addition. Your lot may allow for a stepped back addition to the

side of the home that would place the bulk of the addition away from the street facade thereby helping to retain the character of the neighborhood.

In addition, by placing height and mass thoughtfully on your lot you may be able to lessen the impact on neighboring homes as well.



1008 Jefferson Avenue

RETENTION OR REESTABLISHMENT OF DOOR AND WINDOW LOCATIONS



608 LaFarge Avenue

The historic features of a home include the original door and window openings. We recommend you consider retaining and/or restoring those openings in your design plans. The removal or changing of door and window openings will alter the historical integrity of the house.

You may consider looking for old photos of your

home to help you determine where your openings might be. The Louisville Historical Museum may have historical photos of your home.

Elements such as these have a significant value to the architectural integrity of your property and the removal of these features will alter the historical integrity of the house and may at some point render it no longer contributing to a potential Historic District.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The **Historic Preservation Commission's Design Review Committee** is available to offer limited assistance and recommendations on your Old Town home remodel project. Architects on the committee are available to give you advice on addition location, height and massing, and second story step-backs.

Committee members are able to give you ideas that may help to maintain your old home's character as you plan your addition.

This assistance is best taken early in your planning process. More limited assistance is available once your design is complete.

To avail yourself of this assistance, please contact Sean McCartney at 303.335.4591 or seanm@louisvilleco.gov.

The Historic Preservation Commission advises the City Council and City staff on preservation issues. In addition, the Commission oversees the process for properties in Louisville to be designated as local landmarks of historical relevance.

To find out about preservation incentives that are available to owners of historic buildings, please contact Sean McCartney at 303.335.4591 or seanm@louisvilleco.gov.

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