

APPENDIX C Glossary

Addition - A non-original element placed onto an existing building, site or structure.

Alteration - Any act or process which changes the exterior architectural appearance of a building.

Appropriate - Suitable to or compatible with what exists. Proposed work on historic properties is evaluated for “appropriateness” during the design review process.

Buffer Areas - These areas are generally located along the district boundaries and adjacent to historic areas in the district. They are nonhistoric but similar in scale and character to the districts historic development. These areas provide a buffer against intrusive development that might encroach upon the district.

Certificate of Appropriateness - A document giving approval to work proposed by the owner of a property located within a locally - designated [Historic District](#) or designated as a local landmark. Specific conditions, set forth by the Historic Preservation Commission and to be followed during the project, may be specified in the document. Possession of a Certificate of Appropriateness does not remove any responsibility on the part of the property owner to acquire a building permit prior to beginning the project.

Character - Those individual qualities of buildings, sites and districts that differentiate and distinguish them from other buildings, sites and districts.

Compatible - Not detracting from surrounding elements, buildings, sites or structures; appropriate given what already exists.

Component - An individual part of a building, site or district.

Contemporary - Of the current period.

Contributing - Essential to the full significance of a [Historic District](#). (A “contributing building” in a historic district is one that may be of limited individual significance but nevertheless functions as an important component of the district.)

Context - The setting in which a historic element or building exists.

Demolition - Any act or process that destroys a structure in part or in whole.

Element - An individual defining feature of a building, structure, site or district.

High Style - A completely authentic or academically correct interpretation of one or more architectural styles. A building that combines one or more styles is typically referred to as eclectic.

Historic District - A geographically definable area designated as possessing a concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects of historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic value.

Historic Site - A site worthy of protection or preservation, designated as historic because of its historic, archaeological or aesthetic value.

Historic Structure - A structure worthy of preservation, designated as historic because of its historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic value.

House Type - A definition based on floor plan, height and sometimes roof shape, having nothing to do with architectural style. Most houses that fall into a particular type are of [vernacular](#) design, meaning that their designs are based on regional tradition and utilize regional materials.

Infill - New construction within a [Historic District](#), generally situated on the site of a demolished structure but possibly on a site never previously developed.

Landmark - A building, structure, object or site worthy of preservation, designated as historic because of its historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic value.

Maintenance - Routine care for a building, structure or site that does not involve design alterations.

Neglect - The failure to care for a property in such a manner as to prevent its deterioration. Neglect is often not intentional, but may lead to very serious deterioration of materials and even structural systems.

New Construction - The construction of a new element, building, structure or landscape component; new construction involves the introduction of designs not original to the building, structure or site.

Nonhistoric - Nonhistoric properties within the district are those properties constructed less than fifty years ago.

Preservation - The taking of steps to sustain the form, details and integrity of a property essentially as it presently exists. Preservation may involve the elimination of deterioration and structural damage, but does not involve reconstruction to any significant degree.

Reconstruction - The process of reproducing the exact form of a component, building, structure or site that existed at some time in the past.

Rehabilitation - The process of returning a building to a state of utility while retaining those elements essential to its architectural, historical and/or aesthetic significance.

Repair - Any minor change to a property that is not construction, removal, demolition or alteration and that does not change exterior architectural appearance.

Restoration - The process of returning a building to its appearance at an earlier time (though not necessarily to its original appearance). Restoration involves the removal of later additions and the replacement of missing components and details.

Setting - The immediate physical environment of a building, structure, site or district.

Significant - Possessing importance to a particular building, structure, site or district; essential to maintaining the full integrity of a particular building, structure, sites or district.

Site - A place or plot of land where an event occurred or where some object was or is located.

Stabilization - Maintaining a building as it exists today by making it weather-resistant and structurally safe.

Structure - Anything constructed or erected which has, or the use of which requires, permanent or temporary location on or in the ground, or which is attached to something having a permanent location on the ground, including, but not limited to, the following, buildings, gazebos, signs, billboards, tennis courts, radio and television antennae and satellite dishes (including supporting towers), swimming pools, light fixtures, walls, fences and steps.

Style - Showing the influence of shapes, materials, detailing or other features associated with a particular architectural style.

Vernacular - Based on regional tradition and utilizing regional materials.