

Downtown Specific Plan

HISTORIC PRESERVATION STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

IV. HISTORIC PRESERVATION STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

A. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The overriding principle of design for historic buildings is to be consistent with the significant architectural style of the building. The "Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation" is an appropriate resource for reference. The significant architectural style of the building is the style which existed when that building gained historical importance. In many cases, this is the original style of the building at the time of construction. However, in some cases, the significant architectural style is established when a later modification is made which has its own historic value.



The following Design Guidelines focus on historic commercial structures and adaptive re-use of historic residential structures for commercial uses. The

Guidelines also can be applied to historic residential structures. In the event that research cannot determine the building's significant architectural style, adjacent buildings' ages and architectural styles shall be considered. The resultant design for the subject building should be consistent with a single architectural style and not a compromise between, or an amalgam of, various adjacent styles.

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1. DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS

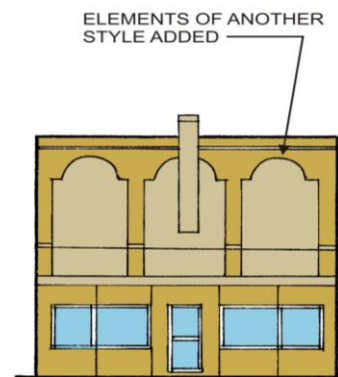
- a. Historic Local Register commercial buildings should be researched before designs for alterations, additions, or rehabilitation are prepared so that changes to the building can be based on a clear understanding of the importance of the building and the feasibility of retaining or restoring its significant architectural features.



EXISTING ORIGINAL FACADE



ENCOURAGED



ALTERED FACADE
DISCOURAGED

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- b. Buildings should be recognized as products of their own time and should not incorporate alterations which create a historic appearance unrelated to the significant design of the building.
- c. Buildings that have attained historical importance with altered facades made over 50 years ago represent a natural evolution and are evidence of the area's history. Re-creation of the original façade is not recommended.
- d. Distinctive stylistic features which exemplify the style should be retained, uncovered, and restored. Where necessary, due to damage or deterioration, original elements of design which define style should be re-created.



**FACADE WITH RESTORED STYLE ELEMENTS
ENCOURAGED**



**FACADE ALTERATION DOES NOT RETAIN BUILDING STYLE
DISCOURAGED**

- e. Damaged architectural features should be repaired, rather than replaced, whenever possible.
- f. If alterations to a historically significant building are necessary to ensure its continued use, these changes should not alter, obscure, or destroy historically significant features, materials, forms, or finishes.
- g. Additions to historic buildings should be complementary (not identical) as well as removable.
- h. The cleaning of historic facades should always be approached by employing the gentlest method possible first, and then increasing the severity of treatment as necessary. Brick masonry, wood, and terra cotta should NEVER be sandblasted to clean or remove paint to avoid permanent damage.



**DAMAGED SANDBLASTED
MASONRY**

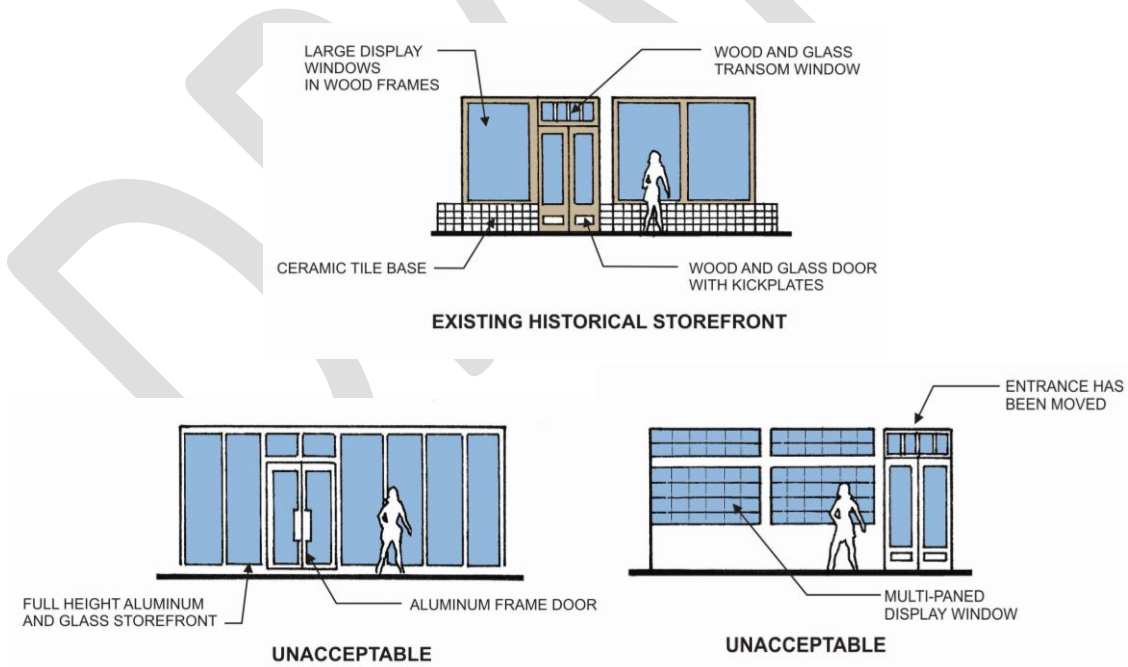
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- i. The proportion, size, and location of existing window openings should be respected and maintained. The rhythm of solid-to-void of the existing historic building should be retained and the total percentage of facade glazing in proportion to solid-wall mass should not be significantly altered. Glazing should NOT incorporate mirror reflective glass or dark tinted glass.



- j. Proportion, scale, and rhythm are important features of historic storefronts and should be retained. Original materials should be repaired or, when necessary, replaced with like materials. The location of the entrance to the building and recess of the entry should be maintained to keep the balance and emphasis of the overall facade.



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- k. Awning design should be compatible with the overall facade on which it is to be placed in terms of size, scale, color, and style. The use of retractable awnings is recommended, but not mandatory. Historic buildings traditionally had sloping shed-style awnings of one or two colors which complemented the overall color scheme of the entire building.



- l. New awning materials on historic buildings should maintain the appearance of canvas or fabric. Aluminum, vinyl, or back-lit awnings are not suitable for historic buildings.



- m. Historic buildings should be painted in colors appropriate to the architectural style of the building and complementary to the colors used on any building within the immediate area.



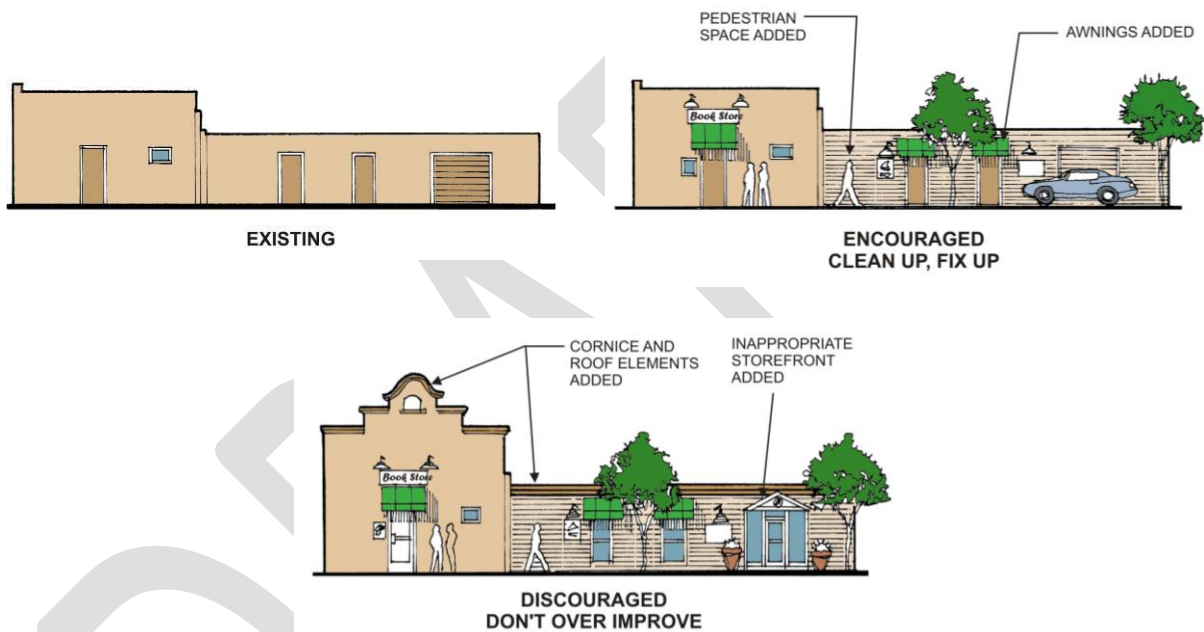
2. REAR FACADES

- a. The design of rear facades should be consistent with the building's architectural style and design of the primary facade, but should not be over-improved.
- b. Abandoned pipes, conduits, wires, and signs should be removed and exterior anchors patched to match adjacent surfaces.
- c. Brick masonry should be cleaned or repainted by non-corrosive techniques.
- d. The use of awnings is encouraged to identify entrances and to add visual interest at windows above the first level.
- e. The use of existing window openings as display windows is encouraged. Additional openings created for displays may be permitted where they are suited to the rhythm and scale of the building.

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- f. Any seismic structural upgrading should be conducted within the interior of the building unless the structural elements blend into the architecture of the exposed rear facade.
- g. Direct entrances to shops through the rear facade should be provided to encourage pedestrian activity and to separate walkway areas from vehicular traffic.
- h. Use appropriately scaled identifying signs at rear entrances and/or rear facades to encourage the use of rear entrances.



- i. Landscape design should include special planting treatments at rear facades and along pedestrian pass-throughs.
- j. Outdoor lighting should be added to rear facades and pedestrian pass-through areas to create a pleasant and safe nighttime environment. Outdoor lighting shall comply with the City's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, Article 35 of the Escondido Zoning Code.

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B. PARTY-WALL CONSTRUCTION



The majority of historic commercial buildings in the Downtown Specific Plan Area are party-wall construction, which means that these buildings share common side walls with their neighbors. Many of these buildings also are commercial vernacular in style and have fairly simple stylistic elements.

The most important principle in dealing with these modest buildings is, as noted before, to respect the original design. Misguided efforts to "restore" these simple structures by adding quasi-historical elements that were not present in the original design can negate their simple charm. Compatibility in design is particularly important since these small structures are physically close to their neighbors. These buildings can often be effectively integrated into a unified design by the use of similar awnings and signs.

C. ADAPTIVE RE-USE / RESIDENTIAL CONVERSIONS

There are several residential structures that remain in the Specific Plan area, although many of these have been converted to non-residential uses. Conversion of these buildings to office or retail uses (termed adaptive re-use) presents a number of challenges because the needs of the new use (such as increased parking, air conditioning, increased number of exits, improved handicapped access, added floor area, etc.) are often substantially different from the old use and yet must be accommodated within the same building.

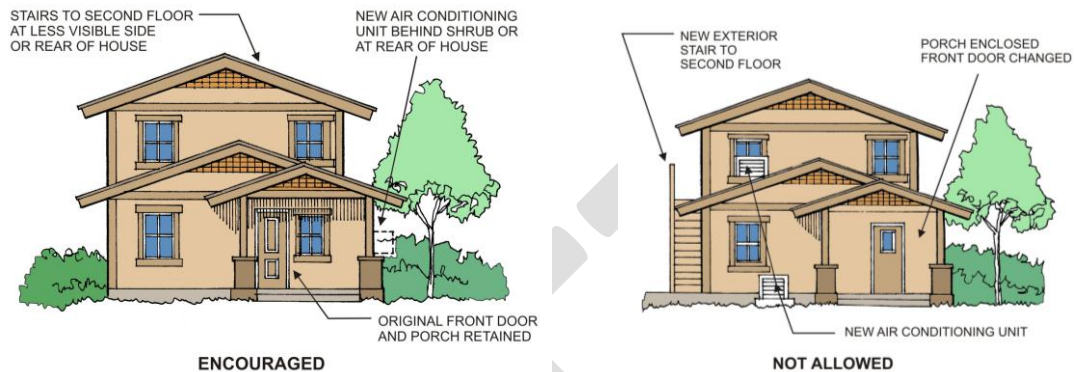


As with rehabilitation, or renovation, of historic commercial buildings, the overriding principle of design for adaptive re-use is to be consistent with the significant historical design of the building whenever that design can be determined. Where historic records are not available, the building design should follow the design and architectural style typical of that era; particularly any buildings in the immediate area that were built in the same era and style. The following guidelines also apply to all adaptive re-use of historical buildings within the Downtown Area.

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- a. The primary facade or facades (those sides of the building facing or clearly visible to a public street) should not be modified unless no other design solution is possible.

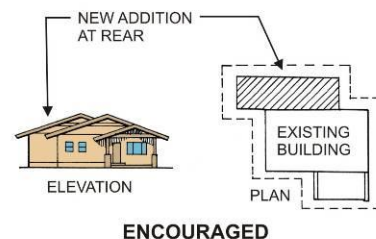


- b. Preserve the significant historic features of the building by designing changes which can be reversed if the building were restored in the future.

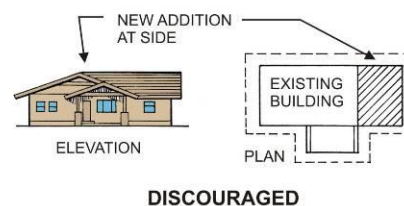
- c. Any new additions or changes to the original structure should preserve the historic character of the original by retaining the overall shape, materials, colors, setting, craftsmanship, and window arrangement.



- d. While new additions or alterations should be compatible in design, they should not replicate the historic design in order to give the impression the historic property is a distinct unit.



- e. Consider incentive programs offered by the City or use of the Historic Building Code to provide rehab options to make a difficult project feasible.



- f. Landscape design in residential areas should include landscape improvements and street furniture conducive in scale to the residential architecture.

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D. HISTORIC BUILDINGS LOCATED IN A CONTEMPORARY AREA

Where significant historic buildings are located in an area of contemporary design, special care should be taken to retain the original design of the historic building. Significant historic buildings are those which are considered eligible for listing on the City's Local Register of Historic Places, or Landmarks List. Other buildings also might be significant, particularly where additional research reveals a connection to the City's history or where the original historic facade can be uncovered and restored.

By virtue of being surrounded by contemporary buildings, historic buildings have already lost their original historic context. Consequently, it is extremely important that such buildings retain the integrity of their original design. Further information on appropriate guidelines for these buildings is contained within the Standards for Preservation published by the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C. This document identifies the standards to be followed for restoration and rehabilitation of National Register properties seeking to utilize Federal Tax Credits.

