

Chapter 9.5 Accessory Structures and Appurtenances

“Historic accessory structures, including sheds, carriage houses, and other structures on a site were once plentiful in rear yards in the historic district, and surviving examples contribute to the historic character of the Historic District. Accessory structures that contribute to the historic character should be preserved. New accessory structures should be designed and located so that they do not detract from the historic character of the primary structure on the site or from the character of neighboring structures. Likewise, driveways, walkways, and other appurtenances should be preserved when they contribute to the historic character of the Historic District, and new appurtenances should not detract from the character of the primary structure on the site or from the character of neighboring structures.

Accessory Structures

Garages, driveways, and surface parking area are twentieth and twenty-first century introductions to the Historic district. Plans for new garages, sheds, and other accessory structures must be in scale with the proportions of the site and compatible with the architectural style of the existing structures. When the HDC determines that a new garage is appropriate based on the early 20th century character of the neighborhood and house, the structure should be placed at the rear of the lot, detached from the main house. The scale and detailing of the primary façade of the garage, shed, or other accessory structure should be similar to the historic residence, and to other outbuildings in the Historic District. Garages and surface parking areas shall be concealed from the street by their location or by screening with architectural or landscape features.

Garages, sheds, and other outbuildings generally should have less ornamentation than the primary structure on the site. Cupolas, shutters, sawn brackets and other ornamentation typical of residential structures in the Historic District are generally inappropriate for accessory structures.

Selection of materials and other design considerations for new accessory structures should follow guidelines for new construction and additions (Chapter 12).

Appurtenances

Paved and unpaved walkways, driveways, parking areas, and other appurtenances should be designed to be compatible with the style and character of the principal structure on the site, or to be screened with architectural or landscape. Recommended materials for driveways and parking area are gravel, shell, or grass pavers that have voids to permit partial permeability and greening of the covered area. Asphalt and poured concrete are inappropriate. Driveways should be kept as narrow as feasible, and designs that include parallel tire tracks are encouraged over fully paved designs.

Walkways and patios may use gravel, shell, brick, flagstone, or other material compatible with the primary structure and the site. The HDC will treat application for such appurtenances leniently when they are not visible from a public way.

Adopted 12.1.08