

**CITY OF EVANSTON**  
**Ord. 29-O-18 "Historic Preservation"**

**2-8-9. - STANDARDS FOR REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS.**

**(A)** Standards for review of alteration. In considering an application for a certificate of appropriateness for alteration the Commission shall consider only the following general standards, specific design guidelines, if any, accompanying the ordinance designating the landmark or district, and the standards included in Subsection (E) of this Section. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to prevent ordinary maintenance or repairs that do not involve a change of design, material, or the exterior architectural appearance of a property, structure, site or object as long as the prescribed review procedures are followed.

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to adapt the property, structure, site or object in a manner that requires minimal alteration of the property, structure, site or object and its environment.
2. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a property, structure, site or object and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features shall be avoided whenever possible except when retention represents a hazardous or dangerous condition.
3. All properties, structures, sites and objects shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations to sites, buildings, structures, or objects that have no historic basis shall be discouraged.
4. Changes that may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a property, structure, site or object and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.
5. Distinctive stylistic features, materials, finishes, examples of skilled craftsmanship, or examples of distinctive construction techniques that characterize a property, structure, site or object shall be treated with sensitivity.
6. Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historic, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other structures or objects.
7. The surface cleaning of buildings, structures or objects shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Treatment methods that will cause damage to the historic materials of the structure, site, or object must not be used.
8. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archaeological resources affected by, or adjacent to, any project.
9. Innovative design for alterations to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations do not destroy significant historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological material, and such design is compatible with the features, size, scale, proportion, massing, color, material and character of the property, neighborhood and environment.
10. Wherever possible, alterations to structures and objects shall be done in such a manner that if such alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.

**(B)** Standards for review of construction. In considering an application for a certificate of appropriateness for new construction and additions to existing buildings, the Commission shall consider only the following general standards, specific design guidelines, if any, accompanying the ordinance designating the landmark or district, and the standards included in Subsection (E) of this Section:

1. Height. Height shall be visually compatible with properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which it is visually related.
2. Proportion of facades. The relationship of the width to the height of the facades shall be visually compatible with properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which it is visually related.

3. Proportion of openings. The relationship of the width to height of windows and doors shall be visually compatible with properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which the building is visually related.
  4. Rhythm of solids to voids in facades. The relationship of solids to voids in the facades of a structure shall be visually compatible with properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which it is visually related.
  5. Rhythm of spacing and structures on streets. The relationship of a structure or object to the open space between it and adjoining structures or objects and the setback from the public ways shall be visually compatible with the properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which it is visually related.
  6. Rhythm of entrance porches, storefront recesses and other projections. The relationship of entrances and other projections to sidewalks shall be visually compatible with the properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which it is visually related.
  7. Relationship of materials and texture. The relationship of the materials and texture of the facades shall be visually compatible with the predominant materials used in the existing structures to which it is visually related.
  8. Roof shapes and roof mounted equipment. The roof shape of a structure including any roof mounted equipment shall be visually compatible with the structures to which it is visually related.
  9. Walls of continuity. Facades and property and site structures, such as masonry walls, fences and landscape masses, shall, when it is a characteristic of the area, form cohesive walls of enclosure along a street, to ensure visual compatibility with the properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which such elements are visually related.
  10. Scale of a structure. The size and mass of structures in relation to open spaces, windows, door openings, porches and balconies shall be visually compatible with the properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which they are visually related.
  11. Directional expression of facades. A structure shall be visually compatible with the properties, structures, sites, public ways, objects and places to which it is visually related in its directional character, whether this be vertical character, horizontal character or non-directional character.
  12. Original qualities. For additions to existing structures, the distinguishing original qualities or character of a property, structure, site or object and its environment should be preserved. The alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.
  13. Archaeological resources. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archaeological resources affected by, or adjacent to any project.
  14. Innovative design. Innovative design for new construction and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such new construction or additions do not destroy significant historic, cultural or architectural material, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.
  15. New additions. Wherever possible, new additions to structures or objects shall be done in such a manner that if such additions were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.
  16. New construction. In considering new construction such as a new free standing structure, the Commission shall not impose a requirement for the use of a single architectural style or period, though it may impose a requirement for compatibility.
  17. Signs. Any sign that is readily visible from a public street shall not be incongruous to the historic character of the landmark or the district. Recommendations regarding signs are advisory only and may be referred to DAPR.
- (C)** Standards for review of relocation. In considering an application for a certificate of appropriateness for relocation, the Commission shall consider only the following general standards, specific design guidelines, if any, accompanying the ordinance designating the landmark or district, and the standards included in Subsection 2-8-9(E):
1. Whether the historic or urbanistic character of the existing site or setting would be negatively impacted by the relocation of the structure or object.

2. Whether there are definite plans for the area to be vacated and what the effect of those plans on the character of the surrounding area.
  3. Whether the relocation of the structure or object can be accomplished without significant damage to its physical integrity.
  4. Whether the proposed relocation area is compatible with the historic, cultural or architectural character of the structure or object.
- (D) Standards for review of demolitions. In considering an application for a certificate of appropriateness for demolition, the Commission shall consider only the following general standards and the standards included in Subsection 2-8-9(E):
1. Whether the property, structure or object is of such historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological significance that its demolition would be detrimental to the public interest and contrary to the general welfare of the people of the City and the State.
  2. Whether the property, structure or object relates to the distinctive historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological character of the district as a whole and should be preserved for the benefit of the people of the City and the State.
  3. Whether demolition of the property, structure or object would be contrary to the purpose and intent of this Chapter and to the objectives of the historic preservation for the applicable district.
  4. Whether the property, structure or object is of such old, unusual or distinctive design, texture, and/or material that it could not be reproduced without great difficulty and/or expense.
  5. Whether the property, structure or object is of such physical condition that it represents a danger and imminent hazard condition to persons or property and that retention, remediation, or repair are not physically possible or require great difficulty and/or expense.
  6. Except in cases where the owner has no plans for a period of up to five (5) years to replace an existing landmark or property, structure or object in a district, no certificate of appropriateness shall be issued until plans for a replacement structure or object have been reviewed and approved by the Commission.
- (E) In addition to the above standards, the Commission shall also consider the Secretary of Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties," as amended. [The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#)