

PRESERVING HISTORIC LEXINGTON

As the owner or occupant of a building in Lexington's Downtown Historic Preservation District, you benefit from the attractive appearance and enhanced property values that historic districting promotes. At the same time, being in the Historic District does entail some special obligations and responsibilities.

In particular, to ensure that all properties in the District are carefully preserved, the City of Lexington requires that you obtain approval for changes to your property. This approval, called a Certificate of Appropriateness, is issued by Lexington Architectural Board. Before beginning any work on your building, you should always check with the Planning & Development Department at City Hall (300 East Washington Street, 540-462-3704) to determine if a Certificate of Appropriateness is required.

“Of all places that have come under my observation in the United States this little village is the most beautiful.”

“Stonewall” Jackson
1852

ACTIONS REQUIRING A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Demolition of part or all of an existing
building

Construction of a new building

Construction of any addition to an
existing building

Moving a building

Remodeling or renovation of the exterior
of a building

Removal of any architectural element

Painting of any building exterior

Cleaning or repair of wall surfaces or
architectural elements

Posting or painting of signs

Any removal, alteration, repair, or
construction of amenities such as fences
or walls

STEPS TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

1. Decide exactly what will be done.
(Facade work? Painting? New construction?
New signage? etc.)

2. Work out a preliminary design.

3. Obtain application forms
from the Planning & Development
Department or from the City of Lexington's
website, www.lexingtonva.gov.

4. Finalize the design and describe it
completely on the application form.
(Return the completed form to the Planning
& Development Department at least fifteen
(15) days before the meeting of the Board.)

5. Attend the Architectural Board review of
the project (Thursday afternoons at City
Hall), and revise the project design if
necessary.

6. Receive confirmation by mail that your
application has been approved.

Note

Consulting a design professional can help
you create a design appropriate to
Lexington's Historic District.