

*ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GUIDELINES  
FOR THE EXTERIOR REHABILITATION OF  
BUILDINGS IN ROCKVILLE'S  
HISTORIC DISTRICTS*

*Adopted  
September 1977*

*ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Historic District Commission is pleased to present Adopted Architectural Design Guidelines for the Exterior Rehabilitation of Buildings in Rockville's Historic Districts. This guideline contains detailed design standards and recommendations by which plans for rehabilitation and for new construction in the City's historic districts can be judged for harmony, compatibility, and appropriateness. The design review guideline is based on existing design characteristics commonly observed in Rockville and detailed in a companion document entitled, Rockville Historic Districts Preliminary Preservation Plan.

In Rockville, as in other places, community appearance and maintenance of historic sites and structures are important dimensions of the public welfare. Rockville's architectural, historical and environmental interests add immeasurably to the City's image, physical patterns and sense of place. Our historic neighborhoods provide much needed housing for families who value older, centrally located areas. Our historic districts are not merely areas consisting of historic relics, but vibrant, living elements of the city. It is within the public purpose to protect and enhance these historic districts so their contribution to the diverse, pleasant and convenient living environment of the city, both now and in the future, can continue.

The intent of this architectural guideline is not to require particular architectural features or to dictate architectural style. Rather, it is to identify a range of design options which will encourage development that is compatible with the existing character of the Rockville historic districts and which will discourage the introduction of incompatible features. Contemporary designs and materials used in a manner compatible with the visual character of the past that is being preserved are not only permitted in Rockville's historic districts, but encouraged. Economic feasibility and durability of proposed improvements along with aesthetic harmony are of primary concern to the Commission. Consequently, a strict interpretation of these guidelines may be waived by the Commission if the applicant develops a design solution which meets the spirit and intent of these regulations in a better manner. In the same sense, the guidelines presented are not fixed and immutable through time but are subject to continuing study and revision.



