

41.26 FIRST SETTLEMENT HISTORIC DISTRICT.

- (1) Purpose and Intent. It is hereby declared a matter of public policy that a specific area of the city be identified, designated and protected because of its special character of historic interest and significance. This area, to be called the First Settlement Historic District, shall be described generally by the map and specifically by the legal description on file in the City Clerk's Office. The purpose and intent of this ordinance shall be to designate this area in accordance with Subchapter D of this chapter.
- (2) Standards for the Creation of the First Settlement Historic District. In that the First Settlement Historic District reflects the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of Madison, the state and the nation and in that elements within the district meet designation criteria in Sec. 41.10(2) of this chapter, specifically that they are identified with historic personages or with important local historical events and/or that they embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period, style, method of construction or of indigenous material or craftsmanship, the area described by the map and legal description shall be designated a historic district.
- (3) Historic Resources in the First Settlement Historic District.
 - (1) Landmarks.
 - (2) Landmark sites.
 - (3) Properties constructed during the period of significance, 1850-1920.
- (4) Standards for the Review of New Principal Structures.
 - (a) Structure Height, Scale, Proportion and Rhythm. New principal structures shall be similar in height to the structures directly adjacent to each side. If the structures directly adjacent to each side are different in height, the new structure shall be of a height compatible with the structures within two hundred (200) feet of the proposed structure. New principal structures shall be compatible with the scale, proportion, and rhythm of masses and spaces of structures within two hundred (200) feet of the proposed structure.
 - (b) Siding Materials. Narrow gauge clapboards made of wood, composite wood material, or concrete, and/or brick and stone may be permitted. Stucco and split-faced concrete block may be permitted only as trim, rather than the primary siding material. Stucco panels and pebble dash are prohibited. If the first two floors of a proposed structure are masonry, the Landmarks Commission may permit the use of artificial siding (i.e. vinyl or aluminum) on the upper floor or floors. In such circumstances, the artificial siding must conform to the following requirements:
 1. The material shall be of the highest grade offered by the manufacturer.
 2. The material shall have a minimum gauge of .042.
 3. The color and sheen of the siding shall be consistent with those used in the era in which adjacent structures were constructed.
 4. The siding shall not have a false wood grain.
 5. The width of each apparent clapboard shall not exceed four (4) inches.
 6. The use of visible j-channel trim and other prefabricated elements that differ in appearance from those used on historic structures in the neighborhood is prohibited.
 - (c) Roof Materials. Roofing materials shall be asphalt shingles; fiberglass or other composition shingles similar in appearance to multi-layered architectural shingles or 3-in-1 tab; or Dutch lap, French method or interlock shingles. Sawn wood shingles may also be approved. Thick wood shakes are prohibited. Vents shall be located as inconspicuously as possible and shall be similar in color to the color of the roof. Rolled roofing, tar-and-gravel, rubberized membranes and other similar roofing materials are prohibited except that such materials may be used on flat or slightly sloped roofs that are not visible from the ground.
 - (d) Roof Shape. If a principal structure does not have a flat roof, the pitch of the new roof shall be no less than 4-in-12.

- (e) Façade Design. Street facades shall be modulated with setbacks incorporated into the design at the first floor level. The entrance shall either be inset or projecting from the plane of the main facade. Porches on main entrances are encouraged. Street facades shall reflect the rhythm and directional expression of pre-1930 structures within two hundred (200) feet of the subject property.
 - (f) Windows and Doors. The proportion of width to height of doors and windows and the proportion and rhythm of solids to voids in the front and side facade designs shall be similar to pre-1930 structures within two hundred (200) feet of the subject property. Windows trimmed with bead molds similar in design to other pre-1930 window trim in the district and windows and doors shall be inset at least one (1) inch from the exterior trim. The main entrance to the structure shall be on the front facade. Garage doors shall be located on the side or rear facades whenever feasible. If it is not feasible to locate the garage door on the sides or rear facades, one-car garage doors will be permitted on the front facade.
- (5) Standards for the Review of Exterior Alterations and Repairs. All additions, exterior alterations and repairs must be compatible with the historic character of the structure and the First Settlement Historic District. The standards listed below are intended to maintain a historically accurate appearance. Modern materials that do not meet the exact requirements of the standards but which duplicate the historic appearance may be considered on an individual basis for a variance as listed in Sec. 41.19 of this chapter.
- (a) Porches. Porches that are original to the structure, or that pre-date 1930 and blend with the historic character of the structure, shall be retained, rehabilitated or rebuilt to match the original in all details. Porches on street facades may be enclosed with wood-framed screens, on the condition that the railing must be retained or restored in a design compatible with the historic character of the structure. Porches on street facades shall not be enclosed as a heated space. If a porch is on a street facade and the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that it is beyond repair, then a new porch must be constructed in its place. Construction of new porches to approximate the dimensions of original porches is encouraged.

All porches shall present a finished appearance, e.g., all floor joists shall be hidden from view and all porches shall be finished with ceilings and frieze boards. Porch ceilings shall have the appearance of narrow beaded boards, unless another original material is approved by the Landmarks Commission. First floor porch flooring shall be tongue-in-groove boards; carpeting and two-by-four (2 x 4) decking are prohibited. All wood on exterior porches, except flooring and stair treads, shall be painted or opaque stained.

All railings on porches shall be constructed of wood, or another material that duplicates the appearance of wood, with top and bottom rails. Bottom rails shall be raised above the floor level and shall be no higher than three and one-half (3 1/2) inches from the floor. All balusters on porch railings shall be square posts, unless the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that a different design is original to the structure. If the building code requires a forty-two (42) inch high railing, the lower portion of the railing may be solid framed panels. Railings on stairways may be either wood to match the railings on the porch or wrought iron with one-by-one (1 x 1) plain vertical balusters. Twisted or other decorative wrought iron is prohibited. All balusters shall be constructed such that a four (4) inch ball may not pass through the railing at any point. All balusters shall be located in between the top and bottom rail and shall not extend across the face of either. Siding on porch rails is prohibited unless the existing rail is sided. Porch posts shall be trimmed with decorative molding at the top and bottom of the posts.

All porches and stairways shall be enclosed between the frieze under the first floor and the ground with a framed lattice of crisscross design, narrow vertical boards or other openwork design. The lattice shall be designed such that a three-(3) inch ball could not pass through any portion of the lattice. All stairways shall have solid wood risers.

Porches on street facades may be enclosed by storm windows. Storm windows on porches shall have the appearance of double-hung windows, with or without a transom, and shall fill the space between the top of the railing and the upper frieze board. When porches are enclosed, the railing area underneath may be filled in with solid framed panels. Porches on street facades shall not be enclosed as a four-season heated space.

- (b) Decks. Decks in rear yards will be approved by the Landmarks Commission provided that the design complies with par. 1., except that tongue-in-groove flooring is not required. Decks in front and side yards may be permitted if they are not replacing an entrance porch, do not detract from the historic character of the structure and neighborhood, and if they comply with par.1.
- (c) Accessibility Ramps. It is the intent of this section to permit accessibility ramps wherever possible, especially when required by ADA provisions. Accessibility ramps shall be as inconspicuous as possible. Landscape screening shall be provided where possible. The details of such ramps shall conform to the requirements for porches in par. 1.
- (d) Windows. On the front facade and on side facades within ten (10) feet of the front facade, all original windows or pre-1930 windows that are compatible with the historic character of the structure shall retain their existing historic size, appearance, and trim detail. If any of the original windows or pre-1930 windows that are compatible with the historic character of the structure have true divided lights (i.e., with small panes of glass between muntin bars), replacement sash shall duplicate the existing appearance and have true divided lights. If windows have been altered in the past, restoration to the original appearance is encouraged. On side facades not within ten (10) feet of the front facade and on rear facades of the structure, the sills of original windows or pre-1930 windows that are compatible with the historic character of the structure may be raised to serve bathrooms and kitchens. In other respects, the design shall duplicate the original appearance of the existing window. On side facades more than ten (10) feet from the front facade and on rear facades, new windows in locations where no window previously existed may be approved, provided they retain a similar ratio of height to width as original windows on the structure, are the same type of window as others on the structure (e.g., double-hung or casement), and are trimmed and finished to match the appearance of the other windows.
- (e) Entrance Doors. If the entrance door is original or is pre-1930 and blends with the historic character of the structure, it should be retained unless the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that it is beyond repair. Metal doors may be approved, provided they blend with the historic appearance of the structure. Unpaneled, modern-style doors, and doors with a fake wood grain are prohibited. All doors shall be painted or varnished.
- (f) Double or Multiple Doors. Double or multiple doors, such as doors leading onto patios or decks, may be permitted, provided they have frames similar to full view doors. Raw aluminum or other metallic finishes are prohibited. Patio doors shall be painted or finished with a material that resembles a painted finish. Such doors on street facades shall be hinged doors, rather than sliding doors.

- (g) Storm Windows and Doors. Storm windows and doors shall be enameled, painted or otherwise coated with a colored surface to resemble a painted surface. Raw aluminum or other metallic finishes on storm windows and doors are prohibited. Painted or varnished storm doors of wood and glass to match the original design on the structure or on similar structures in the district are encouraged. Storm doors of simple design with no stylistic references may be used. Full view storm doors will be permitted. Storm doors with metal grills are prohibited.
- (h) Skylights. Skylights on the roof slope over the main street facade are prohibited unless not visible from the street. Skylights may be permitted on rear roof slopes and on side roof slopes, provided the front edge of the skylight is at least ten (10) feet back from the front edge of the main roof and provided that the skylight is not so obtrusive as to detract from the general appearance of the structure. Skylights on any roof area not visible from the ground will be permitted. The design of new skylights shall be as simple as possible, of the flat (not bubble) type, and finished to blend with the color of the roof.
- (i) Roof Materials. Reroofing shall be done with asphalt. Fiberglass or other rectangular composition shingles similar in appearance to 3-in-1- tab asphalt shingles. Sawn wood shingles also may be approved. Modern style shingles such as thick wood shakes, Dutch lap, French method, and interlock shingles are prohibited. Vents shall be located as inconspicuously as possible and shall be similar in color to the color of the roof. Rolled roofing, tar-and-gravel, rubberized membranes, and other similar roofing materials are prohibited, except that such materials may be used on flat or slightly sloped roofs that are not visible from the ground.
- (j) Dormers and Other Roof Alterations. New dormers shall match the appearance of original dormers on the structure in roof shape and material, width of overhang, siding, window design, and trim details whenever feasible. If the original roof shape is not practical, another shape may be approved, provided that it does not detract from the historic character of the structure or the neighborhood. New dormers shall be no less than twelve (12) feet from the front edge of the roof. The ridge line of a new dormer shall not extend above the ridge line of the main roof of the structure unless such higher roof line is not visible from the ground. Shed dormers behind existing dormers or gables on non-street sides of the structure may be approved, provided that the roof material, siding, window design and trim details match the original features of the structure. Other roof alterations shall be compatible with the roof shape and other historic features of the structure, such as siding and trim details, and shall not extend above the ridge line of the structure unless such extension is not visible from the ground.
- (k) Chimneys. The exterior appearance of original or pre-1930 chimneys visible from the street shall be maintained in good repair. The removal of the exterior portions of such chimneys is prohibited. Chimneys not visible from the street may be removed. New chimneys shall be constructed of brick, stone, stucco, or other compatible material. Metal chimneys are prohibited.
- (l) Siding. Original wood siding or pre-1930 siding that blends with the historic character of the structure shall be retained and restored as necessary, except that if the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that the original siding is beyond repair, it may be replaced with wood, composite wood, or concrete clapboard siding to match the

original or existing pre-1930 appearance. Restoration of original wood decorative details is encouraged. Soffits may be replaced or sided with wood or artificial materials, provided the appearance of the proposed material matches as closely as possible the original appearance.

Original brick, stone and stucco siding shall be retained. Installation of artificial siding on such structures is prohibited. Painting of unpainted brick is prohibited. Mortar and other materials used in brick repair shall match the original in color, hardness, and appearance.

- (m) Foundations. All original foundation masonry, such as brick, stone, or rusticated concrete block, shall be retained unless the owner can demonstrate to the Commission that significant repairs are required, in which case replacement with materials to duplicate the original appearance is encouraged. If duplicating the original appearance is not practical, other materials may be approved, provided they blend with the historic character of the structure and the district.
- (n) Additions. Additions on the front of the structure are prohibited, except for open porches. Additions on the sides or rear shall be permitted if they are compatible with the structure in architectural design, scale, color, texture, proportion and rhythm of solids to voids, and proportion of widths to heights of doors and windows. Additions that exactly duplicate the original materials in composition are encouraged. Additions that destroy significant architectural features are prohibited. Side additions shall not detract from the design composition of the main facade. Siding on new additions shall be the same as the structure, unless the structure is masonry, in which case narrow-gauge clapboards will be permitted. Foundation material on additions shall duplicate the original foundation material whenever practical. Other foundation materials may also be permitted, provided they do not detract from the historic character of the structure.
- (o) Fire Escapes and Rescue Platforms. Fire escapes and rescue platforms shall be located such that they are as unobtrusive from the street as possible. No fire escapes or rescue platforms shall be permitted on the front facade of a structure unless the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that no other location is practical. The design of fire escapes and rescue platforms shall comply with the requirements of par. 1., except that balusters on fire escapes and second exit platforms may be metal with one-by-one plain vertical balusters, painted to blend with the colors of the structure. Twisted or other decorative wrought iron is prohibited.
- (p) Lighting Fixtures. Lighting fixtures that are visible from the street shall be of a design that is compatible with the historic appearance of the structure.
- (q) Permanently Installed Air Conditioners. Permanently installed air conditioners shall be as inconspicuous as possible. Ground air conditioners shall be screened with landscaping where possible.

- (r) Shutters. The installation of new shutters requires approval of the Landmarks Commission. Shutters will be permitted, provided they are compatible with the historic character of the structure and are of a size that, if the shutters were workable, would cover the window opening.
 - (s) Repairs. Repairs to structures shall either match the existing or the original appearance. Restoration to the original appearance is encouraged.
 - (t) Alterations to Post-1930 Structures. Alterations to structures that post-date 1930 shall be compatible with the original character of the structure and shall not detract from the historic character of older structures in the district. Alterations that bring the structure into compliance with the regulations of this section regarding siding, decks, foundations, porches, the proportion of windows and doors, and the proportion and rhythm of solids to voids of the street facades of such structures are encouraged. It is not the intent of this ordinance to create fake historic structures, but to allow modern style structures to retain their essential style while still blending with the appearance of historic structures in the district.
- (6) Standards for the Review of Accessory Structures, Fences and Retaining Walls.
- (a) Accessory Structures. Accessory structures shall be compatible with the design of the existing structure on the zoning lot, shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height and shall be as unobtrusive as possible. Garage doors shall either be entirely flat or shall have approximately square panels. Horizontally paneled doors are prohibited. Windows shall be either double or single-hung units of a similar proportion to the windows on the structure or shall be six-paned (three panes across and two panes high) units similar to those seen on 1920s era garages. Siding may either match the siding on the structure or be narrow-gauge clapboard, vertical board-and-batten, or a smooth stucco or stucco-like applied material. The roof shape shall have a pitch and style similar to the roof shape on the structure. The roof material shall match as closely as possible the material on the structure. Alteration of existing accessory structures shall comply with this subdivision and with subdivision (d).
 - (b) Fences. Chain link and rustic style fences, such as rough sawn wood or split rails, are prohibited in the front yard.
 - (c) Retaining Walls in Front Yards. For retaining walls in front yards, railroad ties, landscape timbers, boulders, and concrete blocks are prohibited. Poured concrete walls with a smooth rubbed finish and under twenty-four (24) inches in height, flagstone and stone ashlar are permitted. Proposals to construct front yard retaining walls of other materials must be submitted to Landmarks Commission for approval prior to installation.
- (7) Reference to Plan. The history of the First Settlement Historic District is derived from the Downtown Historic Preservation Plan, City of Madison Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development, 1998.”

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