

STOP WORK ORDERS IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS



You've received a Stop Work Order from the City of Savannah and You're in a Historic District ... Now What?

Which historic district is my property in?

There are four different local historic districts in Savannah with different regulations that apply in each. The four districts are:

- Savannah Historic District
- Victorian District
- Mid-City District
- Cuyler-Brownville District

Please see the map on reverse to find the boundaries.

Each historic district has its own set of design standards, which are used to evaluate proposed work. These standards are intended to protect the character of the building and site as well as the surrounding historic district.

What does it mean to be in a local historic district?

Being in a local historic district means that an area has been designated by City Council as historically significant to the development of Savannah and, therefore, it is worthy of protection. This designation includes an ordinance with design standards that all development visible from the public right-of-way – both new construction and changes to existing construction – must follow. This includes a review process and issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

What is the difference between a Certificate of Appropriateness and a Building Permit?

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is issued by the MPC Preservation Department to approve any changes to a building exterior that is visible from the public right-of-way. A COA ensures that proposed work is visually compatible with other historic buildings within the district.

A Building Permit is issued by the City's Development Services Department to approve any changes to property – interior, exterior, and site. A Building Permit ensures that you are in compliance with building codes involving demolition, renovation, installation, construction, augmentation, or other changes to the building.

A COA is required prior to the issuance a building permit.

What do I do now?

Apply for a COA using an application for your local historic district.

The applications can be downloaded from the Metropolitan Planning Commission's (MPC) Urban Planning and Historic Preservation Department website at:

<http://www.thempc.org/historicpreservation.htm>
or hardcopies can be obtained in the lobby of the MPC office at 110 East State Street, Savannah, GA 31401.

Once you have received your COA, apply for a Building Permit with the City. The application can be downloaded from the City website at:

<http://www.savannahga.gov/index.aspx?NID=379>
or call 912-651-6530 or visit 5515 Abercorn Street.

How do I find out more?

The web page for each historic district also contains other useful information to guide you through the COA process, such as: historic district maps, zoning ordinances, design manuals, and applications. Also the MPC Preservation Department is available to answer questions.

Contact the Historic Preservation Department:

historic@thempc.org or 912-651-1440



SAVANNAH

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

