What are Old & Historic Districts?

In 1957, the St. John's Church Old and Historic District was created by Richmond City Council in response to citizen appeals to help preserve the historic character of the Church Hill area. The Commission of Architectural Review was established to administer and protect the area, and since that time 15 additional districts and numerous individual historic sites have been added to the Commission's jurisdiction, for a total of approximately 3,850 properties.

What is the Commission of Architectural Review?

The Commission of Architectural Review helps to preserve the unique qualities of historic neighborhoods and sites by reviewing any proposed alteration, repainting, construction, or demolition within a designated Old and Historic District. The Commission is composed of nine members; one representative each from the James River Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Richmond Association of Realtors, Historic Richmond Foundation, and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (William Byrd Branch), and five from the citizenry at large. The Commission makes every effort to approve proposals that serve to maintain or restore the significant features of a given structure or site.

Your Responsibilities as a Property Owner:

A Certificate of Appropriateness is required when any proposed work alters the exterior appearance of the property as it is viewed from a public street or alley. Certificates must be obtained before work can begin. For work requiring a building permit, no permit will be issued without a Certificate. This review procedure is required not only for the main structure on a lot but also accessory buildings, fences, exterior lighting, driveways and walks, and any other features visible to the public.

Property owners who wish to use paint colors not presently on the building, or the existing colors but in a different scheme may do so only by application to the Commission. The painting of previously unpainted masonry will generally not be permitted.

Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness are available through Commission staff (contact info, below) or online at:

www.richmond.gov/CommissionArchitecturalReview

To determine whether or not your property falls within a City Old and Historic District, go to the website above and click on the link "View Map of City Old & Historic Districts".

As in any review process some preplanning is necessary. Please direct any questions or requests to:

Secretary
Commission of Architectural Review
Department of Planning and Development Review
Room 510, City Hall
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 646-6335

The Commission meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month except in November and/or December, when the meeting is held on the third Tuesday. Applications are due by the last Friday of the preceding month.

Old & Historic Districts (see map on reverse)

Boulevard; Broad Street; Chimborazo Park; Church Hill North; Hermitage Road; Jackson Ward; Monument Avenue; St. John's Church; Shockoe Slip; Shockoe Valley; Springhill; Two Hundred Block West Franklin Street; West Franklin Street; West Grace Street; Zero Blocks East and West Franklin Street; Union Hill.

Individually-Listed Old & Historic Properties

The Barrett House; Belgian Building; Bolling Haxall House; Centenary United Methodist Church; Crozet House; Glasgow House; Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House; Henry Coalter Cabell House; Jefferson Hotel; John Marshall House; Leigh Street Baptist Church; Linden Row; Mayo Memorial House; William W. Morien House; Norman Stewart House; Old Stone House; Pace House; St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; St. Peter's Catholic Church; Second Presbyterian Church; Stonewall Jackson School; Valentine Museum and Wickham-Valentine House; Virginia House; White House of the Confederacy; Wilton; Joseph P. Winston House; Woodward House-Rocketts; Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church.