

Historic Preservation Committee

Operating Guidelines for Historic Preservation Overlay District:

The Historic Preservation Committee ("Committee") seeks to maintain a certain aesthetic for the Village of Rochester's Historic Preservation Overlay District ("District"). This aesthetic is meant to protect, enhance, and preserve Rochester's cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history, while further safeguarding Rochester's historic, prehistoric and cultural heritage. Ultimately, this effort will stabilize and improve property values; enhance the visual and aesthetic character of the Village of Rochester; protect and enhance the Village's attraction to residents, tourists, and visitors; and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry.

Specifically, the structures and features of the District should present an aesthetic and/or construction similar to that which may have existed in pre-WW2 rural America. Any exterior changes to properties within the District should conform to this aesthetic and/or construction.

The burden of proof that any proposed change is appropriate for the District rests on the applicant for a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Committee will consider documentation from applicants to support their proposals in the following forms: primary sources, secondary print sources, and non-editable internet sources.

The question before the Committee when considering any Certificate of Appropriateness application will be, "Is the proposed change appropriate for the District?" If the applicant provides satisfactory evidence that it is, then the Committee will issue the Certificate. If the applicant fails to demonstrate that the change is appropriate, then the Committee will deny the application.

Specific Exceptions:

Chain link fences may be permitted if they are flat black in color and this flat black coloring is maintained in good condition throughout the life of the fence. If the flat black color should wear, chip, or fade to the point where the fence can no longer reasonably be considered flat black, this will amount to a change to the exterior of the property, requiring a new Certificate of Appropriateness.

Specific Restrictions:

Exterior colors of buildings should be limited to earth tones, whites, greens, reds, yellows, and blues. The Committee shall make determinations if the particular shade of an otherwise approved color is not appropriate for the District.