

Arlington Historical Commission Design Principles  
March 2022

When reviewing individual proposals, the Commission suggests that the following design principles (adapted from the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties) be considered:

- If you have recently or are proposing exterior changes to your house that affect more than 25 percent of total an elevation or in total, the town bylaws (Title VI, Article 6) require that the Historical Commission review your plans in a public hearing. More information about scheduling a hearing with the Historical Commission can be found on the Arlington Historical Commission's website at [www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/historical-commission](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/historical-commission).
- Retain and preserve the historic character of the property. This includes retaining distinctive materials and features, exterior spaces and spatial relationships that all characterize the property.
- Retain and preserve changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right.
- Preserve distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property. This can include wood or metal casement windows, ornamental/decorative detailing, siding design and materials.
- Prefer repair rather than replace historic features. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature should match the old in design and material. Not limited to: color, texture and other visual qualities.
- Document all architectural features present/vestige with photographic or physical sample as evidence before they are removed and/or reproduced.
- Historic carriage barns, automobile garages and outbuildings should also be preserved.
- New construction of additions or exterior alterations must retain the original character of the property and complement historic materials, features, scale and spatial relationships that characterize the property. These additions can not impair the integrity and essential form of the historic property.