



**36 Court Street
City Hall
Springfield
Massachusetts
01103**

What is the Springfield Historical Commission?

The Commission is the City agency responsible for the preservation and promotion of Springfield's historic assets. Its seven members are appointed by the Mayor for staggered three-year terms. The Commission must include residents of the historic districts, as well as members nominated by the Board of Realtors, American Institute of Architects, the Springfield Preservation Trust, and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. The Springfield Historical Commission meets on the first and third Thursday of each month.

What is the QUADRANGLE-MATTOON Historic District?

Quadrangle-Mattoon (see Map) is Springfield's first historic district, formed in 1972. Mattoon Street is the only city street lined with brick Victorian Row-houses. They were built in the 1870's and 1880's. The Quadrangle area is a collection of architecturally significant public or quasi-public buildings. To aid in preserving this architecturally delightful area, the Historical Commission, City Council and the Mayor have declared it a historic district.

What does Historic District Status Mean?

The Springfield Historical Commission must approve any exterior work **PRIOR** to beginning any work. This review mechanism attempts to insure that changes are compatible with the character of the district. New construction and demolition are also controlled. Landscaping with plants, shrubs, and trees is not controlled.

The following can be approved through a certificate of nonapplicability, which does not require a public hearing:

1. Ordinary maintenance, repair or replacement of any exterior feature which does not involve a change in design, material, or outward appearance thereof.
2. Work which cannot be seen from any public street or park.

What Residential Controls and Guidelines are Being Adopted?

The following features **ARE** controlled and their guidelines have been adopted so that the individual character of each house will be respected, and that the integrity and visual cohesiveness of the neighborhood is retained:

<u>Features</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>
Walls	Brick walls should be steam-cleaned or cleaned with muriatic acid or detergent, but NOT painted; brick walls can be protected with silicone; mortar used in pointing brick walls should match the color of the original mortar; if repair work is necessary, the replacement brick should match the original as closely as possible; any change in paint colors on a wooden wall will be subject to the Commission's approval.
Porches	Porches should remain in their unaltered form; if of brick or masonry, it should match in color and texture to areas of corresponding materials on the house; if of wood, any color change must be approved .

Exterior Architectural Feature

Design Guidelines

Doors	Doors should be of deep-toned wood finishes or can be painted matte black, or muted brown, green, gray, or ocher; original hardware should be retained if possible; if an original door is unsalvageable, its replacement must be paneled wood and be of the same proportions. If door glass must be replaced, it should be a smoked or opaque type of glass.
Front Steps	Front steps should be maintained or restored to their original condition; if stone, it may be painted to match the original color of the stone; if wood, they should be painted to match the house trim color.
Awning and Canopies	Aluminum or plastic canopies and awnings are not permitted. Heavy canvas is recommended. Suggested colors are buff-brown, light gray, oger, brick-red, gray/green or medium blue.
Windows	Please see <i>Window Replacement Guidelines</i> . Windows of this period are double-hung and fitted with large panes of glass and, if replaced, should duplicate the original. Movable window sash should be dark. Wooden window frames should be similar in color to the window sash with acceptable colors being deep shades of gray, brown and green or matte black, off-white. Storm windows are allowable but must have a baked black enamel frame and must not obscure architectural details; shutters are not

normally used on Victorian row houses, but if used, should be painted matte black. Window air conditioners on the street facade is discouraged, but if no other placement is feasible, units should be of slim-line type or set flush with the building surface and should be dark in color; stone window sills and lintels should be restored to their original color, but if it is not possible to cleanse the stone, it may be painted to simulate its original color. The Commission can provide recently approved windows for your review.

Fences (front yard)	Fences should be cast iron or wrought iron type, two to three feet high, mounted on low masonry curbs and painted black.
Handrails	Handrails, if new, should be of iron, dark in color, simple in design and sturdy in appearance.
Fire Escapes	Fire escapes should be installed on the side or rear walls of a building, should be of iron construction and should be painted black.
Cornices	Cornices should be maintained in their original form and should be painted the color of the original masonry, masonry trim, or wooden trim.
Gutters and Downspout	Copper gutters and downspout are recommended. If another material is used, it should be painted black, bronze, green or another dark color; placement on facade should be inconspicuous such as along the party wall line.
Utility Equipment	Utility equipment should be placed at the rear of the building or to the rear of the roof where it is not visible from the street; TV antennae should be placed to the rear with the cables being located to the rear of the building.
Roof	The predominant roof type is the mansard and its original shape and form cannot be altered. Slate mansard roofs must be maintained as slate roofs and cannot be replaced with another material.
Dormer Windows	Dormer windows should be maintained and repaired in their original design.
Stone Trim	Stone trim should be cleansed like brick walls and can be protected with silicone. If the stone cannot be safely cleansed, it can be painted to match the original stone color.
Light Fixtures	Are subject to approval on a case-by-case basis.
Satellite Dishes	Please see the <i>Satellite Dish Guidelines</i> .

What Procedures are to be Followed in Requesting Approval for a Change?

1. Call Springfield Planning Department (787-6020) and ask for the staff person for the Historical Commission to determine if the proposed change is controlled by the Commission.
2. If it is controlled, request an "Application for a Certificate" to proceed with the change.
3. The Historical Commission, after receipt of the application form, will schedule a public hearing to discuss the request. Notices will be sent by mail to abutters fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing.
4. The Commission must decide on all requests within sixty (60) days of receipt of the application; otherwise, the request is automatically granted.

What Kinds of Certificates Are Available?

1. **APPROPRIATENESS** - issued for those changes that are in conformance with guidelines and/or are acceptable for the district.
2. **HARDSHIP** - issued for those changes that are not appropriate, but which may be necessary due to economic, physical, social, or other special conditions.
3. **NON-APPLICABILITY** - issued for those changes which affect features not controlled by the Commission.

What About Further Recourse?

If a petitioner disagrees with a ruling by the Commission, he or she may, within twenty (20) days after the filing of the notice of such ruling with the City Clerk, appeal to the Superior Court (Housing Court may also have jurisdiction). On the other hand, the Historical Commission may, through Superior Court (or Housing Court), seek an injunction against any violation to the historic district. The Court may order the removal of any such violation or the restoration of any building or feature altered or demolished in violation of the historic district. Persons found guilty of violating the district may be fined not less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

Where Can More Information Be Obtained?

Call the Commission staff person at the Springfield Planning Department (413) 787-6020.