

COA applications for minor maintenance improvements using same or similar design and materials as the original construction can be approved at a staff level. Other COA applications for more substantive improvements typically require approval from the Board. Please refer to the attached pamphlet to learn more about the COA process and the Rock Hill Board of Historic Review.

Important Development Services Information

General Questions 803-329-5587
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Visit us on the web under the Development Services tab at www.cityofrockhill.com



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May marks the celebration of Historic Preservation Month. Citizens of Rock Hill will join others from around the country to commemorate this important event and reflect upon the hard work invested in the preservation and restoration of our historic resources. In 1987, the City Council recognized the importance of historic preservation by forming the Rock Hill Board of Historic Review. The Board, which is comprised of seven members, is charged with preserving the character of architecturally and historically significant structures.

One of the most significant projects to come before the Board this year was the National Register Nomination of Laurelwood Cemetery. Dating back to 1872, this cemetery is the oldest resting place for many of Rock Hill's citizens from all walks of life and economic levels. The combined work of the Cemetery Committee and the Rock Hill Board of Historic Review along with the support of the City Council has helped make this new National Register Nomination a reality.

I invite you to use the month of May to invest time in historic preservation activities and I also invite you to attend one of the Rock Hill Board of Historic Review's monthly meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. In this newsletter you will find information about energy efficiency in historic structures as well as information about Historic Rock Hill and Rock Hill's historic districts. For additional information, you may want to look at the Historic Preservation page on the City's new website at www.cityofrockhill.com, Development Services Department.

Have a wonderful Historic Preservation Month.

Sincerely,

Addie M. Rutledge, Chair

VALUABLE INFORMATION



The buzz word over the past several years has been “GREEN”, whether the topic is green building, green resources or green products. The theory behind the green movement is preserving the environment for future generations – a theory that the historic preservation community has been following for at least the past 195 years, beginning with the successful effort in 1813 to save Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA from demolition.



The green movement today stresses increasing the efficiency of existing buildings while reducing this impact on human health and the surrounding environment. A number of window replacement companies want homeowners to believe that the biggest energy waste in homes comes from the windows. In truth, window

replacement is not the most effective way to conserve energy. In fact, the worst offender for historic homes is the fact that historic buildings were meant to breathe and HVAC units work most efficiently in air tight environments. The easiest solution?

Making areas of your historic building as air tight as possible – not replacing the windows. Windows that operate correctly can oftentimes be more efficient than replacements. According to Ben Leigh of the Sustainability Institute of South Carolina, the best place to begin is to insulate and provide air sealing on what may be the least obvious areas: Electrical outlets on exterior walls, attic access doors, ductwork and plumbing fixtures. By air sealing using caulking, weather



stripping and expandable foam insulation, you can increase energy efficiency by up to 40%. The Sustainability Institute of South Carolina has an informative website that can answer any number of questions regarding energy efficiency and green building at www.sustainabilityinstitutesc.org.

HISTORIC ROCK HILL

Historic Rock Hill is one of the most active preservation groups in the area, especially with the exceptional work it is doing on the Historic White Home. There are a number of events celebrating this landmark of the community, including a MayDay Celebration on the White Home grounds, Saturday, May 3 from 11-3 pm.



Visit www.historicrockhill.com for the meeting location and additional information on this and other events as well as information on becoming a member.

IS MY PROPERTY IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

A call to the Development Services Department 803/817-5129 can establish whether or not a property is within one of the designated districts. The department also has maps of the districts on file when a property owner applies for a Building Permit. If the property is within a designated district or is individually considered historic, the owner must obtain a COA application with their Building Permit. We always recommend you check with the Rock Hill Historic Design Review Guidelines Manual located under the Zoning, Approvals & Appeals tab of the Development Services site on the City of Rock Hill website, www.cityofrockhill.com and City Development Services staff at 803/817-5129 prior to making any exterior restorations or renovations within a historic district.

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