



Gateway Historic District Design Guidelines

Adopted by Resolution 2015-11
Amended by Ordinance 2024-15

Purpose and Intent

Gateway Historic District will become a village of mixed uses, promoting a pedestrian friendly atmosphere and providing excellence in landscaping and architecture, in a setting that honors and preserves the past while promoting the future.

1. In the interest of preserving the character of the Gateway-Historic District, it is necessary to regulate to a certain extent the new construction that is built there. New structures should only affect the district in a positive manner, and not in detrimental ways.
2. Respecting the heritage of Alpine associated with the historical structures in the district.
3. Utilize approaches that have been shown to encourage the sustainability of historic districts and neighborhoods.

The guidelines for the following elements are intended to encourage compatible new construction. In the event that these guidelines conflict with the Alpine City Zoning Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance will be followed.

Guidelines

1. New developments should:
 - a. Mimic details of older buildings
 - b. Use similar materials
 - c. Make mundane uses look good
 - d. Include design features on blank walls
2. All new development projects should achieve a determination of design appropriateness from the Planning Commission.
3. New construction should respect and build upon the historical legacy of downtown Alpine and borrow historic features from the area. It should be

designed for its specific context. Elements that should influence the design of new development include building form, massing, scale, materials and colors.

Gateway Historic District Design Criteria

1. Relation to the Surrounding Area (Massing, Scale, Orientation)
2. Height
3. Exterior Walls, Fences, and Surfaces
4. Windows and Doors
5. Exterior Trim and Decorative Detailing
6. Roofing
7. Materials (Texture, Color, Finishes)
8. Streetscaping

1

Relation to the Surrounding Area **(Massing, Scale, Orientation)**

New construction that utilizes appropriate massing and scale can affect historic districts in a positive manner. New structures should take their own place in time.

Design Standards

- New structures should relate to the fundamental characteristics of the district, but may use their own style and method of construction.
- Orientation of new construction should be to the street to establish a pedestrian-friendly quality.
- One major entrance should orient to each street to which the building abuts for easy access by pedestrians from the street and sidewalk.
- Corner entrances may be used for buildings orienting to two streets at an intersection.
- New construction should not be dramatically greater in scale than surrounding structures in the district.
- The perceived width of new construction should be visually compatible with adjacent structures. Wider buildings should be divided into modules to convey a sense of traditional construction.
- The building form of new construction should be similar to surrounding structures but should not necessarily be a direct imitation.



2

Height

New construction should respect the overall height limits established in the city code for the underlying zone.

Design Standards

- The height of buildings should be compatible with adjacent historic structures.
- Creative historic design elements fitting for the area can be considered.



Exterior Walls, Fences, and Surfaces

The type of materials used for new construction can greatly enhance the relationship to surrounding historical structures while maintaining individual identity.

Design Standards

- The use of stone, brick, wood, or stucco is encouraged for use as the primary exterior material.
- Innovative use of other materials that mimic the primary exterior materials listed may be considered.
- The use of chain link, vinyl, or wire fencing shall be prohibited.



Windows and Doors

Windows and doors of new construction should relate to the general character of the area.

Design Standards

- Windows with a vertical emphasis shall be encouraged over a horizontal orientation.
- Scale, proportion, and character of windows and doors should be carefully considered and should relate to the intended general character of the area.
- The simple shape of windows is encouraged.
- If new construction is built to the sidewalk, the use of awnings or canopies should be considered for providing protection to the pedestrian.
- The ground floor of the primary façade should include transparency at the pedestrian level.



Exterior Trim and Decorative Detailing

New construction can be enhanced by the wise use of exterior trim and decorative detailing. Using these details to break up uninspiring solid surfaces can help avoid the box-like appearance often seen in new construction.

Design Standards

- Trim and detailing should be simple in material and design.
- Materials that are compatible to the primary exterior material should be used.
- Excessive ornamentation is not recommended.
- The following factors should be considered in determining whether or not a particular finishing material is acceptable:
 1. Durability and low maintenance characteristics.
 2. Consistency with the overall design goals.
 3. Location on the building.
 4. Potential shielding by landscaping or other feature.
 5. The visibility of the site from public streets and neighboring uses.
 6. A mansard roof is prohibited



6

Roofing

The style and form of the roof on new construction can contribute to the success of blending in with surrounding historic structures.

Design Standards

- Traditional rooflines are preferred.
- Smaller structures should use a hip, gable, or shed roof.
- Flat roofs may be considered for use on structures where the context is appropriate.
- Flat roofs shall provide a cornice or other decorative treatment.
- The character or design of the front and rear façades of all buildings shall demonstrate a variety in depth, relief, rhythm and roof line height, with changes occurring in all of these areas at least every forty feet.
- Mechanical equipment shall not be visible from the street.



Materials – Texture, Color, Finishes

Good attention to design and color is expected in the Gateway Historic District to help all buildings become more complimentary to each other and assist the creation of a unique and cohesive environment. The materials used for the finish of the exterior surface of new construction should be compatible with the nature of the surrounding area.

Design Standards

- The use of color schemes should be compatible with the surrounding area. Simplicity is encouraged – excessive amounts of different colors should not be used.
- Avoid pure white as a façade color, and if masonry must be painted, it should be done in a natural hue.
- The natural colors of brick masonry, stone, or other existing building materials should dominate the color scheme of the building. Other colors should be respectful of adjacent buildings.
- A predominant color should be used with one or two other accent colors.
- The texture and finish of new construction should attempt to convey a modern building while still respecting the historic character of the area.
- The cornice, window frames, ornamental details, signs and storefronts should all blend in as an attractive harmonious unit.



8

Streetscaping

Streetscapes should be incorporated in sidewalk areas adjacent to Main Street.

Design Standards

- At least one streetscape feature should be installed and maintained every thirty (30) linear feet along sidewalks, nearest to the curb.
- Acceptable streetscape features include, but are not limited to, the following: trees, planters, benches, drinking fountains, decorative garbage canisters, outdoor clocks, bike racks, and water features.
- Businesses are encouraged to coordinate the installation of streetscape elements with surrounding properties.
- Installation of plazas and gathering spaces where people may linger is encouraged.
- Installation of planters with trees and shrubs to create areas to sit are encouraged.
- Providing benches in strategic areas to encourage mingling and gathering is encouraged.

