

Demolition of Pre-42 Single-Family Home Regulations

Sec. 142-108. - Provisions for the demolition of single-family homes located outside of historic districts.

(a) *Criteria for the demolition of an architecturally significant home.* Pursuant to a request for a permit for partial or total demolition of a home constructed prior to 1942, the planning director, or designee, shall; or independently may, make a determination whether the home is architecturally significant according to the following criteria:

- (1) The subject structure is characteristic of a specific architectural style constructed in the city prior to 1942, including, but not limited to, Vernacular, Mediterranean Revival, Art Deco, Streamline Moderne, or variations thereof.
- (2) The exterior of the structure is recognizable as an example of its style and/or period, and its architectural design integrity has not been modified in a manner that cannot be reversed without unreasonable expense.
- (3) Significant exterior architectural characteristics, features, or details of the subject structure remain intact.
- (4) The subject structure embodies the scale, character and massing of the built context of its immediate area.

The date of construction shall be the date on which the original building permit for the existing structure was issued, according to the City of Miami Beach Building Permit Records. If no city building permit record exists, the date of construction shall be as determined by the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser.

Any applicant requesting a determination as to the architectural significance of any single-family home constructed prior to 1942 shall pay upon submission [of] all applicable fees in section 118-7. No application shall be considered complete until all requested information has been submitted and all applicable fees paid. Public notice shall be required in accordance with section 118-8, subsections (b) Mail notice, and (c) Posting. Within ten days of posting any required notice, interested persons may submit information to the planning director to take into consideration in evaluating the application. The director shall file the determination with the city clerk no later than five (5) days after the decision is made.

(b) *Appeals.* The decision of the planning director, or designee, which shall bear the presumption of correctness, pertaining to the architectural significance of a single-family home, may be appealed to the board of adjustment, pursuant to the requirements of section 118-9. No demolition permit may be issued within any appeal period, and if an appeal is filed, while the appeal is pending.

(c) *[Pre-application conference.]* An applicant may have a pre-application conference with the planning director, or designee, prior to the submission of a request or an application to discuss any aspect of this section. Such pre-application conference and any statements by the planning director, or designee, shall not create any waiver of, or estoppel on, the requirements of, or any determination to be made, under this section.

(d) *Total demolition procedures for a pre-1942 home.*

- (1) A building permit for the total demolition of any single-family home constructed prior to 1942 shall only be issued following the final determination (after the expiration of time or exhaustion of all appeals) by the planning director, or designee, or the DRB, that the subject structure is not an architecturally significant home. A property owner may proceed directly to the DRB, pursuant to subsection 142-108(g); in this instance, a demolition permit shall only be issued in accordance with subsection 142-108(f).

- (2) A request for such determination by the planning director, or designee, shall be processed by the planning department within ten business days of its submission.
 - (3) In the event the planning director, or designee, determines that a single-family home constructed prior to 1942 is architecturally significant, ~~a demolition permit shall require the review of the DRB. The DRB, if required to review a replacement structure, may~~ shall explore with the property owner reasonable alternatives to demolition such as, but not limited to, reducing the cost of renovations, minimizing the impact of meeting flood elevation requirements, and designating the property as an historic structure or site. The DRB shall not have the authority to deny a request for demolition.
- (e) *Partial demolition procedures for an architecturally significant home.*
- (1) A building permit for partial demolition to accommodate additions or modifications to the exterior of any architecturally significant single-family home constructed prior to 1942 shall be issued only upon the prior final approval by the planning director, or designee, unless appealed as provided in subsection (3) below. In the event an architecturally significant single-family home is proposed to be substantially retained, the mail notice requirements in subsection 142-108(a) shall not be required and a property owner may proceed directly to the design review board, pursuant to subsection 142-108(g), or agree to have the partial demolition reviewed and approved by staff, pursuant to subsection 142-108(e)(4); in either instance, a demolition permit shall only be issued in accordance with subsection 142-108(f).
 - (2) An application for such approval shall be processed by the planning department, as part of the building permit process.
 - (3) An appeal of any decision of the planning department on such applications shall be limited to the applicant, shall be in writing, shall set forth the factual and legal bases for the appeal, and shall be to the DRB.
 - (4) Review of applications for partial demolition shall be limited to the actual portion of the structure that is proposed to be modified, demolished or altered. Repairs, demolition, alterations and improvements defined below shall be subject to the review and approval of the staff of the design review board. Such repairs, alterations and improvements include the following:
 - a. Ground level additions to existing structures, not to exceed two stories in height, which do not substantially impact the architectural scale, character and design of the existing structure, when viewed from the public right-of-way, any waterfront or public parks, and provided such ground level additions
 1. Do not require the demolition or alteration of architecturally significant portions of a building or structure;
 2. Are designed, sited and massed in a manner that is sensitive to and compatible with the existing structure; and
 3. Are compatible with the as-built scale and character of the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood.
 - b. Roof-top additions to existing structures, as applicable under the maximum height requirements specified in chapter 142 of these land development regulations, which do not substantially impact the architectural scale, character and design of the existing structure, when viewed from the public right-of-way, any waterfront or public parks, and provided such roof-top additions:

1. Do not require the demolition or alteration of architecturally significant portions of a building or structure;
 2. Are designed, sited and massed in a manner that is sensitive to and compatible with the existing structure; and
 3. Are compatible with the as-built scale and character of the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood.
- c. Replacement of windows, doors, roof tiles, and similar exterior features or the approval of awnings, canopies, exterior surface colors, storm shutters and exterior surface finishes, provided the general design, scale, massing, arrangement, texture, material and color of such alterations and/or improvements are compatible with the as-built scale and character of the subject home and the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood. Demolition associated with facade and building restorations shall be permitted, consistent with historic documentation.
 - d. Facade and building restorations, which are consistent with historic documentation, provided the degree of demolition proposed is not substantial or significant and does not require the demolition or alteration of architecturally significant portions of a building or structure.
 - e. Demolition and alterations to address accessibility, life safety, mechanical and other applicable code requirements, provided the degree of demolition proposed is not substantial or significant and does not require the demolition or alteration of architecturally significant portions of a building or structure.
 - f. The demolition and alteration of rear and secondary facades to accommodate utilities, refuse disposal and storage, provided the degree of demolition proposed does not require the demolition or alteration of architecturally significant portions of a building or structure.
 - g. The demolition of non-architecturally significant accessory buildings.
- (f) *Issuance of demolition permits for architecturally significant single-family homes.*
- (1) Emergency demolition orders. This section shall not supersede the requirements of the applicable building code with regard to unsafe structures and the issuance of emergency demolition orders, as determined by the building official.
 - (2) A demolition permit for the total demolition of an architecturally significant single-family home constructed prior to 1942, shall not be issued unless all of the following criteria are satisfied:
 - a. Approval of the Design Review Board has been obtained for the replacement construction. However, if a new home is proposed with a lot coverage of 25% or less and unit size of 40% or less, Design Review Board approval shall not be required.
 - b. The issuance of a building permit process number for new construction;
 - ~~b-c.~~ The building permit application and all required plans for the new construction shall be reviewed and approved by the planning department;
 - ~~c-d.~~ All applicable fees for the new construction shall be paid, including, but not limited to, building permit and impact fees, as well as applicable concurrency and parking impact fees;

- ~~d.e.~~ A tree survey, if required, shall be submitted and a replacement plan, if required, shall be reviewed and approved by urban forestry in the environment and sustainability department.
- (3) The demolition permit shall require that all debris associated with the demolition of the structure shall be re-cycled, in accordance with the applicable requirements of the Florida Building Code.
- (g) *New construction requirements for properties containing a single-family home constructed prior to 1942.*
- (1) In addition to the development regulations and area requirements of section 142-105, as well as section 118-252, of the land development regulations of the City Code, the following regulations shall apply in the event the owner proposes to fully or substantially demolish an architecturally significant single-family home constructed prior to 1942, inclusive of those portions of a structure fronting a street or waterway. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of section 142-105 and section 118-252, and the regulations below, the provisions herein shall control:
- a. The design review board (DRB) shall review and approve all new construction on the subject site, in accordance with the applicable criteria and requirements of chapter 118, article VI, section 118-251(a)1—12 of the land development regulations of the City Code.
 - b. The DRB review of any new structure, in accordance with the requirements of chapter 118, article VI, shall include consideration of the scale, massing, building orientation and siting of the existing structure on the subject site, as well as the established building context within the immediate area.
 - c. The overall lot coverage of proposed new buildings or structures shall not exceed the maximum limits set forth in section 142-105.
 - d. Lot coverage requirements for a single story home. In the event a new home does not exceed one-story in height, the lot coverage shall not exceed 35 percent of the lot area; at the discretion of the DRB, the lot coverage may be increased to a maximum of 50 percent of the lot area, if the DRB concludes that the one-story structure proposed results in a more contextually compatible new home. For purposes of this section, a one-story structure shall not exceed 18 feet in height as measured from minimum flood elevation. A restrictive covenant, in a form acceptable to the city attorney, shall be required, ensuring, for the life of the structure, that a second story is not added.
 - e. Lot coverage requirements for lot splits and lot aggregations. The above regulations shall also be a limitation on development in all lots within a single site that may be split into multiple lots or multiple lots that are aggregated into a single site, at a future date. When lots are aggregated, the greater of the footprint permitted by the lot coverage regulations, or the footprint of the larger home, shall apply.
 - f. Notwithstanding the above, if a new home is proposed with a lot coverage of 25% or less and a unit size of 40% or less, the design of the replacement home may be reviewed and approved by the planning director or designee, and Design Review Board approval shall not be required for the new home. However, any subsequent addition exceeding 25% lot coverage and /or 40% unit size shall require the review and approval of the DRB.
- (2) *Regulations for additions to architecturally significant homes which are substantially retained and preserved.* In addition to the development regulations and area requirements of section 142-105, of the land development regulations of the City Code, the following shall apply in the event an architecturally significant single-family home

constructed prior to 1942 is substantially retained and preserved. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of section 142-105, 142-106 and section 118-252, and the regulations below, the provisions herein shall control:

- a. *Review criteria.* The proposed addition and modifications to the existing structure may be reviewed at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee. The design of any addition to the existing structure shall take into consideration the scale, massing, building orientation and siting of the original structure on the subject site.
- b. *Lot coverage.* The total lot coverage may be increased to, but shall not exceed 40 percent, and may be approved at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee. In the event the lot coverage of the existing structure exceeds 40 percent, no variance shall be required to retain and preserve the existing lot coverage and a second level addition shall be permitted, provided it does not exceed 60 percent of the footprint of the existing structure; no lot coverage variance shall be required for such addition.
- c. *Unit size.* The total unit size may be increased to, but shall not exceed 60 percent, and may be approved at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee.
- d. *Heights for RS-3 and RS-4.* For lots zoned RS-4 with a minimum lot width of 60 feet, or lots zoned RS-3, the height for ground level additions not to exceed 50 percent of the lot coverage proposed, may be increased up to 26 feet for a flat roofed structure and 29 feet for a sloped roof structure (as measured to the mid-point of the slope) above the minimum required flood elevation, and may be approved at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee.
- e. *Heights for RS-1 and RS-2.* For lots zoned RS-1 or RS-2, the height for ground level additions not to exceed 50 percent of the lot coverage proposed may be increased up to 30 feet for a flat roofed structure and 33 feet for a sloped roof structure (as measured to the mid-point of the slope) above the minimum required flood elevation, and may be approved at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee.
- f. *Courtyards.* The minimum courtyard requirements specified in subsection 142-106(2)d. may be waived at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee.
- g. *Front setback.* Two-story structures or the second floor may encroach forward to the 20-foot front setback line, and may be approved at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee.
- h. *Second floor requirements.* The maximum second floor area of 70 percent specified in subsection 142-105(b)(3)c may be waived at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee.

- i. *Two-story ground level additions.* The construction of a ground floor addition of more than one story shall be allowed to follow the existing interior building lines, provided a minimum side setback of five feet is met, and may be approved at the administrative level, provided that the review criteria in section 142-105 have been satisfied, as determined by the planning director or designee.
 - j. *Projections.* Habitable additions to, as well as the relocation of, architecturally significant structures, may project into a required rear or side yard for a distance not to exceed 25 percent of the required yard, up to the following maximum projections:
 - 1. Interior side yard: Five feet.
 - 2. Street side yard: Seven feet six inches.
 - 3. Rear yard: Fifteen feet.
 - k. *Fees.* The property owner shall not be required to pay any city planning or public works department fees associated with the renovation and restoration of the existing single-family home; except that any and all non-city impact fees and other fees shall still be required.
 - l. *[Applicability.]* The above regulations shall also be applicable to:
 - 1. Any single-family home designated as an historic structure by the historic preservation board, and not located within a locally designated historic district.
 - 2. Any single-family home constructed prior to 1966, if the owner voluntarily seeks a determination of architectural significance and if such home has been determined to be architecturally significant in accordance with section 142-108(a).
- (3) *Appeals.* An appeal of any decision of the DRB shall be to a special master appointed by the city commission, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection 118-537(b) of these land development regulations. Thereafter review shall be by certiorari to the circuit court.
- (h) *Exceptions.* The following areas of work shall not require determinations of the planning director, or designee, under this section: interior demolitions including plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems, and renovations to the exterior of nonarchitecturally significant structures.