

**WARRENTON ZONING ORDINANCE**  
**Article 3-5.3.4.2 Certificate of Appropriateness Text Amendment**

**Adopted by Town Council: February 12, 2013**

**3-5.3.4.2.** Certificate of Appropriateness Required for New Construction, Reconstruction, and Substantial Exterior Alteration.

Except as herein provided no building or structure, including signs, shall be refaced, erected, reconstructed, restored, or substantially altered in exterior appearance within a historic district and no permit authorizing same shall be granted unless and until the same is approved by the Architectural Review Board and a Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued by that body, with right of direct appeal to the Town Council as hereinafter provided, as being architecturally compatible with the historical, cultural, and/or architectural aspects of the structure and its surroundings.

"Substantial alterations" shall be defined as any and all work done on buildings, structures, or sites in a historic district other than those specifically exempted herein and other than the general examples of "nonsubstantial" alterations cited herein. Examples of work constituting "substantial alterations" include:

1. Construction of a new building at any location or a new accessory building on a landmark or contributing property or on a site within the Historic District adjacent to a designated landmark site.
2. Any addition to or alteration of a structure which increases the square footage of the structure or otherwise alters substantially its size, height, contour, or outline.
3. Any change or alteration of the exterior architectural style of a contributing or landmark structure, including removal or rebuilding of porches, openings, dormers, window sash, chimneys, columns, structural elements, stairways, terraces, and the like.
4. Addition or removal of one (1) or more stories or alteration of a roof line.
5. Landscaping which involves major changes of grade or walls and fences more than three-and-one-half (3.5) feet in height.
6. All signs on all structures shall be reviewed. Canopies or awnings with the business name or logo upon it are considered signs and shall be reviewed.
  - a. Signs that meet the requirements pre-approved by the ARB with the "Warrenton Historic District Criteria & Standards for Administrative Approval of Signs" may be authorized by permit through the Planning Director's office without ARB approval.
  - b. Pre-approved signs shall be designated by the ARB and shall be in full compliance with the Historic District Guidelines and Zoning Ordinance requirements.
7. Any other major actions not specifically covered by the terms of this section but which would have a substantial effect on the character of the historic district.
8. Erection of awnings, canopies, and similar appurtenances shall be reviewed.

9. Placement of window air conditioners on the front of commercial buildings only shall be reviewed. Central air conditioning units on residential and commercial buildings shall be reviewed. Placement of exhaust fans shall be reviewed.

In any case in which there might be some question as to whether a project may be exempted from review, may constitute a minor action, or may constitute "substantial alteration," the Zoning Administrator shall be contacted for a written determination prior to commencement of work.

"Unsubstantial Alterations" shall include:

1. Work done to prevent deterioration or to replace parts of a structure with similar materials in order to correct any deterioration, decay of, or damage to any structure or on any part thereof, or
2. To restore same as nearly as practical to its condition prior to such deterioration, decay, or damage.
3. Those minor actions exempted from review by Section 3-5.3.4.1.