

City of Mesa - Historic Preservation Design Guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are Historic Preservation Design Guidelines and why is the City updating them?

What they are: The Historic Preservation Design Guidelines serve as a basis for what modifications to locally designated historic resources can be approved by the City of Mesa Historic Preservation Office. The Historic Preservation Design Guidelines aim to clarify what modifications to locally designated historic properties are appropriate and may receive approval in the form of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Why are they being updated? The guidelines are an update to the City's existing design guidelines which were adopted in 1996 and updated in 2001. Since 2001, the City has added six locally designated Historic Districts and eight locally designated Historic Landmarks. Descriptions and profiles for each locally designated historic resource has been included in this updated version.

How will they be used? The guidelines will serve many purposes. The guidelines should be referenced by property owners, real estate professionals, designers, and contractors for guidance as they plan projects to their historic properties.

The guidelines are also referred to in the MZO and therefore the practices outlined in the guidelines document will serve as review criteria when determining the appropriateness of proposed work and the subsequent issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Also, by spotlighting Mesa's historic resources, the design guidelines document will help increase the public's overall awareness of Mesa's historic resources.

2. Why isn't the Midcentury Modern architectural style profiled in the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines?

Since this document is intended to assist property owners and staff on appropriate treatments for locally designated historic resources it was decided that only the architectural styles commonly found within Mesa's Historic Districts be featured in Chapter 4 (Historic Building Types & Architectural Styles) of the Design Guidelines document. While Midcentury Modern is an architectural style found in Mesa, this style is not common within any of the designated Historic Districts and therefore is not profiled. If/when Historic Districts featuring Mid century Modern architecture are established, the Midcentury Modern style will be profiled.

3. Why are the Heritage Neighborhoods not profiled in the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines?

The designation of a Heritage Neighborhood is an honorary designation that recognizes the historic and cultural significance of an area that may not be eligible for the Historic District designation. Heritage Neighborhoods are not regulated by the Mesa Zoning Ordinance and therefore, do not need to abide by the processes and guidance provided in the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines.

For additional questions or comments, please contact
the Mesa Historic Preservation Office at 480.644.2021 or
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