

E. Guidelines: Maintaining Traditional Character

Objective: Preserve the attitude and personality of the City.

Most residents would probably define Atlantic Beach as being as much a lifestyle as it is a place. People stay here and move here to embrace and be part of that lifestyle. The natural environment and the built environment are both integral components of this quality and character of Atlantic Beach.



Diversity in architectural design is a part of the heritage of the established neighborhoods in Atlantic Beach. It is important to note that the majority of buildings, although diverse in design, are compatible with their neighbors. They share fundamental relationships of building mass and scale, orientation and setback.

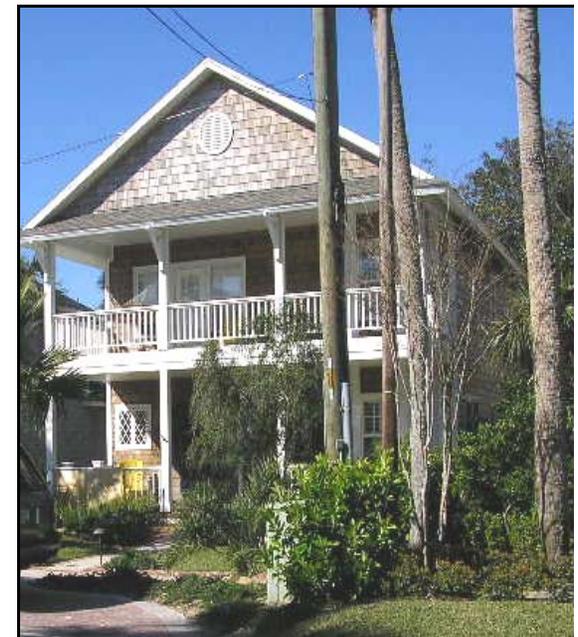
In the traditional residential neighborhoods a variety in forms, materials and details reflect diversity. Many buildings are more recent. These reflect changing approaches to style, building form and site planning, which is welcomed.

It is the intent to promote new designs and additions that are compatible with the traditional character of these neighborhoods, while also accommodating diversity in design. New, creative designs therefore are encouraged, when they also respect the basic development patterns of these neighborhoods.

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Objective: Maintain a sense of the traditional Atlantic Beach neighborhood by encouraging architectural diversity that reflects the eclectic but compatible styles that have evolved over decades.

A variety of building types and styles are seen throughout Atlantic Beach. These include Shingle styles, Bungalow and Prairie styles, Dutch Colonial, Post-War Ranch and variations of all of these including many fine custom homes that defy neat architectural descriptions. Historically, these varied styles have co-existed peacefully among one another to provide a rich and interesting fabric that creates the distinctiveness within the City's older neighborhoods. The unifying feature within these neighborhoods has traditionally been a general consistency in the height and scale of homes, a sense of green space, an unbroken tree canopy and the orientation of houses along a street, which all combine to say "come out and play."



A variety of building types and styles are seen in Atlantic Beach. These combine to create a rich and diverse architectural fabric that helps to define the history and character of Atlantic Beach. One of the objectives is to maintain this traditional sense of place.

While there may be only a few historically significant buildings in the City as such are typically defined, there is wide variety of building types and styles throughout Atlantic Beach. This diversity has evolved over many years and includes features reminiscent of Shingle Styles, Bungalow Styles, Prairie Styles, Dutch Colonial, and Post-War Ranch. These traditional buildings help create an atmosphere and character closely associated with Atlantic Beach. Newer buildings and remodeled buildings, which incorporate elements from these styles, help the community to maintain this traditional feel.



While not a residential building, the rebuilt Adele Grage Community Center, which once served as City Hall is a focal point of the City and well represents the traditional feel of the City.