

## Example Historic District Handbooks

Town of Fairfield Connecticut

Historic District Handbook

Year: 2020

[https://www.fairfieldct.org/filestorage/10736/12067/17051/20861/63890/141113\\_FHDC\\_HANDBOOK.pdf](https://www.fairfieldct.org/filestorage/10736/12067/17051/20861/63890/141113_FHDC_HANDBOOK.pdf)

What was successful:

- Straightforward and user friendly
- Guide to the Review Process section (Page 3)
- Clear, parcel-based mapping of districts
- Included design guidelines for landscaping, driveways, lighting, etc.
- Discussion of new construction and guidelines
- Discussion of window replacement which is often an issue in historic homes when owners wish to update and install using newer, more efficient windows

What we might do differently:

- More streamlined, maybe incorporate the use of matrixes and simplified tables in the front, with accompanying text afterwards
- Strive to make the document as user friendly as possible

Town of Windsor, Connecticut

Historic District Handbook

Year: 2016

[https://townofwindsorct.com/app/uploads/sites/6/2017/08/Handbook\\_Adopted\\_Sept\\_2016.pdf](https://townofwindsorct.com/app/uploads/sites/6/2017/08/Handbook_Adopted_Sept_2016.pdf)

What was successful:

- “Guide to this handbook” section
- What the National Register Does, and What the National Register Does Not, clearly called out
- Simplified design guidelines include Character-Defining Features, Inappropriate Modifications, More Appropriate Modifications
- Discussion of solar panels and other utilities

What we might do differently:

- More visuals

Town of Madison, Connecticut

Historic District Handbook

Year: 2010

<https://www.madisonct.org/DocumentCenter/View/95/Regulations-and-Guidelines-PDF>

What was successful:

- Clear list of all regulated activities
- Application procedures - supporting materials section was straightforward and easy to interpret
- Permit process diagram in appendix

What we might do differently

- More clear mapping of district
- Simplify the permit process diagram and move to body of handbook

National Example:

Savannah, Georgia

Historic District Handbook

Year: 2012

<https://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/hist/designmanual.pdf>

What was successful:

- Many photos and graphics
- Visual compatibility factors section

What we might do differently:

- Simplify the design standards section

Nashville and Davidson County, Metro Historic Zoning Handbook

Year: 2018

<https://www.nashville.gov/Portals/0/SiteContent/MHZC/docs/Design%20guidelines%20and%20HB/HANDBOOK.pdf>

What was successful:

- Very streamlined

- Permit process and meeting guidelines section
- Glossary of key terms

#### What we might do differently

- More descriptions/photos of design guidelines