

Security Bar and Lighting Guidelines

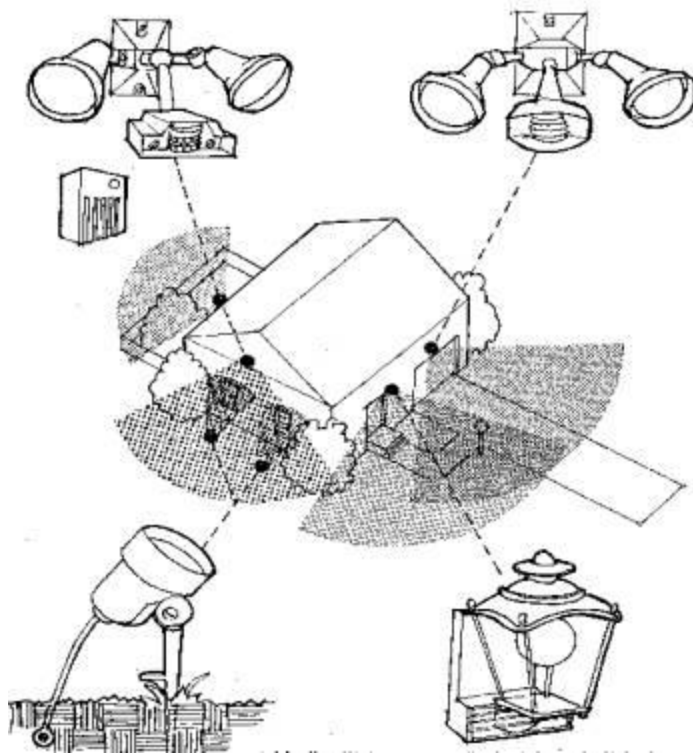
The Historic District Commission is aware that many residents of historic districts are concerned with the security of their home and may be interested in taking measures to improve it. Before investing money in work that may be inappropriate you should obtain a Security Survey and a Building Permit. The Security Survey will advise you of measures that will be most effective in protecting your house. A permit is required to do any work that change the exterior appearance of a building in a historic district. This includes such work as adding security bars, replacing original doors with steel door, installing fencing, flood lighting, etc.

The Historic District Commission is opposed to the use of iron bars and grating on residences in historic districts. In most cases, there is a wide enough selection of security devices and strategies available to afford adequate protection of property without installing such materials. The Commission's opposition to the installation of security bars on historic residences does not mean, though, that the use of this hardware is absolutely prohibited. The point is that the installation of bars will not receive blanket approval.

The commission recommends the following strategies for strengthening window and door security without resorting to the use of security bars. A lighted and locked house is always a good course of action.

*Shrubby should never block the view of the front door because this allows an intruder privacy to gain entrance without detection. You should keep shrubbery trimmed back from doors and windows. In some cases shrubbery with thorny foliage can be used to deter access when planted around the lower level of windows while adding visual beauty to your home. For a list of such plants contact the Historic District Commission.

*In glass paned doors, if the glass is within 40" of the locking hardware, a key-locked deadbolt with double cylinders and hardened cylinder guards should be added for additional security. Tamper proof locks and dead bolt locks should also be considered when reinforcing doors.



*The installation of storm windows is also another security measure. Storm windows can attach to the window or molding. In this case storm windows should match window orientation and the trim in color. Security doors can be added to the façade but shall have minimal framework as not to cover the historic elements of the door. Security doors should fit the opening of the door. Door openings should not be altered to fit a new door.

*Adequate lighting of the entranceway should be provided on the interior as well as the exterior. The best

location for exterior lighting is under the eaves.

If a person was to choose to install exterior lighting you should evaluate where the lighting is needed to illuminate dark areas or areas susceptible to break-ins. **Motion activated lighting** is popular and come in a variety of traditional designs which would be compatible to your historic home style or commercial building. Some motion activated lighting units also come equipped with an indoor audible alarm which will alert the homeowner of a would be perpetrator. When positioning lights, one should take care not to shine lights on surrounding properties or in surrounding houses. Other types of lighting can also focus on the ground level or walking paths.

- A- Rear lighting with possible indoor alarm.
- B- Exterior lighting at the garage with outdoor alarm.
- C- Ground lighting.
- D- Porch lighting.

The installation of security bars across window and door openings that are not directly exposed to public view will be allowed, i.e. side and rear elevations and rear entrances **but** when other measures prove to be inadequate.

* Installation of metal bars in doorways and windows is discouraged where they are not appropriate to the architecture of the building. However, security bars will be aloud over basement windows. For the use of **glass block**, see the **Glass Block Guidelines**.



These security bars in the picture to the **left** are located on the basement window on the facade of a house. They are not original yet pleasing to the eye.

In the picture to the **right** a window screen was added to cover security bars. This also allows for security and proper ventilation if the casement window was to be opened. You can also notice how the bars were painted to match the window frame.

- * Installation of metal bars for security reasons may be permitted providing:
 - * They are not readily visible from the street.
 - * They are installed so as not to damage architectural elements of the building, normally installed inside the window/door is preferable. Installation of interior security bars is not required to be reviewed by the Historic District Commission.
 - * The property owner obtains a Police Department Security Survey prior to applying for approval to install bars. A sergeant will come to your house to perform the survey. Contact the Community Relations Sergeant in the precinct in which you live.

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|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Precinct 1 | 313-596-5111 | Precinct 8 | 313-596-5807 |
| Precinct 2 | 313-596-5216 | Precinct 9 | 313-569-5931 |
| Precinct 3 | 313-596-5370 | Precinct 10 | 313-569-1016 |
| Precinct 4 | 313-596-5421 | Precinct 11 | 313-569-1113 |
| Precinct 5 | 313-596-5518 | Precinct 12 | 313-569-1226 |
| Precinct 6 | 313-596-5647 | Precinct 13 | 313-569-1321 |
| Precinct 7 | 313-596-5725 | | |

* Commission staff is authorized to approve use of security bars that meet the above criteria. Any other requests will be brought to the Commission for consideration.

- * Installation of security bars **must** comply with fire, safety and all other regulations.

AS A REMINDER



Security bars may keep your family safe BUT they may also trap you in. Iron security bars can pose a definite safety hazard to occupants in the event of fire. If security bars are used they should have a quick release device to allow them to be opened immediately in an emergency. The security bar should be easy to open

without the use of a key, detailed knowledge or great physical effort.



This is an example of inappropriate security measures on a residential structure. Notice the roll door completely covering the windows which hides the historic feature.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS Commercial Buildings also suffer security problems. Any changes to the exterior of the building have to be approved by the Historic District Commission.

*Retractable roll down and scissor type (existing) gates are allowed where as the casing in which it is stored is painted to match the building or covered by an awning. These security gates must be retracted or opened during business hours.

*Lighting should be used in alleyways.

*Security cameras are also an idea.



This storefront uses decorative security bars on the inside of the display windows.



This storefront uses the scissor type security gate to protect the entrance and windows at night and is retracted during business hours.