## INFORMATION FOR EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS

If you are informed by the Building Department that your proposed project is governed by the city’s ordinance on exterior construction in a historic district (which was originally passed in the 1980s and modified in later years), you MUST file an application with the Historic Preservation Commission to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness in order for a building permit to be issued for your job.

This procedure is designed to protect both the character of and the investment in the districts which contain hundreds of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is highly desirable that you contact the HPC Coordinator, David Breland, for assistance and advice BEFORE large expenditures are made. The HPC wants you to be successful with your application, but please understand that they must carry out the law regarding this work including compliance with design standards set both by the City Council and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The very reason that our historic neighborhoods are architecturally special was insistence that previous residents comply with these standards, an insistence that continues today.

For advice and informal review and opinions on how to successfully work within these standards, contact [dbreland@decatur-al.gov](mailto:dbreland@decatur-al.gov) or call 256-341-4818 or 256-565-3788. (Additional information can be accessed at the city’s website decaturalabamausa.com Click on Departments and then Historic Preservation Commission). Please leave a message if you do not receive an answer and your inquiry will be addressed promptly. Again, making this contact EARLY in the process can save you both time and expense and can therefore lead to a more satisfactory result if you comply with the furnished design standards as well as the mandates of the city ordinance and the HPC’s policies and procedures. Contact me—I am here to help!

David Breland, Coordinator

The Historic Preservation Commission of Decatur, AL