

Barns, Garages and Outbuildings



Attached barn



Carriage house mimicking the shape and massing of house

The District has two types of secondary structures, attached barns, and detached garages and outbuildings. The primary structure, the house, was attached to a connecting barn with little ornamentation until the mid nineteenth century. About 1850 the first detached barns or carriage houses were constructed in the District. On Summer Street the carriage houses often mimicked the shape and massing of the house, such as the detached carriage house of the 1854 Joseph Titcomb house. Many barns have been converted into garages, and contemporary garages have been constructed in place of original barns on some properties. Outbuildings are modest in scale and usually have little ornamentation. Most of the detached barns, carriage houses, garages and outbuildings in the District are set behind the primary structure on the site.

Recommendations

- Every effort should be made to retain historic barns, garages and outbuildings, including original doors, windows, siding, and roofing materials. If replacement of deteriorated features is necessary, repairs should be made in-kind, matching materials and finishes as closely as possible to the original.

- Preservation and reuse of existing historic barns, garages and outbuildings is recommended instead of demolition and new construction to replace the original structure. Deteriorated structures may have sufficient integrity to be rehabilitated economically.
- The replacement of garage doors will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The use of metal replacement doors is not recommended on historic structures.