Mobile Historic Development Commission

At its February meeting the Mobile Historic Development Commission overwhelmingly voted to adopt the following guideline.

GUIDELINE FOR SATELLITE DISHES IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS

All satellite dishes require a Certificate of Appropriateness. Satellite dishes are not allowed in the front yards or mounted to the face or roof of a building within the historic districts. All satellite dishes must be placed a minimum of ten (10) feet back from the front corner of the house. The corner of the house is defined as the closest front corner of the main part of the building, not including porches. An exception to these rules will be granted if the proposed placement of the dish is not visible from the public right of way. The property owner should make every attempt to locate the dish in the most inconspicuous place possible. Inconspicuous means the least visible location from the public right of way.

The Commission also adopted the following enforcement policy for existing satellite dishes.

EXISTING SATELLITE DISHES

All currently placed satellite dishes may remain for a period of three years from adoption of this guideline. Any repair work necessitating the replacement of the dish will require a Certificate of Appropriateness and must come into compliance with the newly adopted guideline. At the end of the three year period, all dishes must be in compliance with the guidelines.

All current owners of satellite dishes are encouraged to notify the offices of the Mobile Historic Development Commission of the existence of their equipment by sending an email to arb@cityofmobile.org. The title of the email should say "Satellite" followed by the property address. If there is a question later about the date of the dish installation it will be the responsibility of the property owner to show the date predates the new guideline.

These guidelines were rewritten at the request of City Council following an appeal from a resident of the Oakleigh Garden District. This immediately replaces the previous design guideline adopted by the Mobile Historic Development Commission.