

# Preservation Guidelines: Demolition

## Demolition

Destroying significant buildings is the ultimate damage possible in any historic district. Parking lots and inappropriate new buildings are evidence that Bennington has had its share of such damage in recent history. Demolition of historic buildings is never appropriate except where a building's character and integrity have been damaged beyond recovery by catastrophe, long-term deterioration, or radical alteration; or when documented economic hardship is so serious as to make it absolutely impossible to retain a building. Demolition may also be appropriate for buildings which are recent in date and make no contribution to a district's character. There are some such cases in Bennington, where demolishing recent or heavily altered buildings and replacing them with appropriately designed new structures could actually enhance historic character.

### Basic Guideline

Do not demolish any building in the historic district without certification from the Town of Bennington Historic Preservation Commission and all other appropriate town government authorities as required by Article 4 of the Bennington Land Use & Development Regulations.

<p><b>Appropriate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>A</b> Retaining all existing buildings which contribute to historic character.</li><li><b>B</b> Demolishing recent or heavily altered buildings with proper approvals as outlined in Article 4 of Bennington's Land Use &amp; Development Regulations.</li></ul> <p><b>Not Appropriate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> Demolishing any existing building without proper approval as described above.</li></ul>
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