

CITY OF PENSACOLA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

POLICY ON THE REVIEW OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS
IN PENSACOLA HISTORIC DISTRICTS

This policy is adopted by the Architectural Review Board [herein “ARB” or “Board”] and supersedes all previous policies concerning the review and installation of miscellaneous mechanical equipment as it pertains to solar energy systems.

The Board acknowledges the City of Pensacola’s efforts to encourage environmental sustainability, including the use of solar energy systems. The Board also acknowledges Florida’s Solar Rights Law (Florida Statute - Section 163.04) which prohibits governing bodies from proposing certain restrictions on the installation of solar collectors on roofs. Under Florida’s Solar Rights Law, however, the Board may still review the placement of solar energy systems, so long as the installation is within the area required for its effective operation, that is, south, or east or west of due south. The Board may also prescribe requirements for screening solutions so long as the result does not impair the efficiency of the system.

- 1) Any request for application of solar energy systems in the Pensacola historic districts may be reviewed by abbreviated review.
- 2) All applications shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the historical appearance, architectural integrity, and character-defining features of the subject property are preserved as much as possible during and after the installation of equipment. Appropriate installations should not damage historic roof materials, require the removal of historic roof materials, or require any architectural features to be altered.
- 3) Submission materials for abbreviated review should include (but not be limited to) an abbreviated review application and fee, a site plan showing the layout and position of all equipment (including any equipment placed on exterior walls), product details and specifications on all materials and equipment, and photographs of the project areas.
- 4) Any equipment mounted on exterior walls shall be in side yards or rear yards only. No equipment shall be installed in a front yard. Visual screening consisting of ornamental fencing or landscaping shall be installed around any equipment installed on an exterior wall to conceal it from view from any adjacent street.

This policy was adopted by the Architectural Review Board of the City of Pensacola, Florida, on June 17, 2021.