

# CITY OF GALENA, ILLINOIS

101 Green Street, Galena, Illinois 61036



## **Galena, IL Historic District Solar Installation Guidelines**

The City of Galena values both historic preservation and energy conservation. While the goals of historic preservation and energy conservation are important, care must be taken that one is not achieved at the expense of the other. The following guidelines shall be considered for any proposed installation of solar panels in the City of Galena Historic District.

All requests shall be considered by the Building Official and reviewed by the Galena Historic Preservation Commission (GHPC) if the Building Official feels further review is necessary. All requests shall be made on a Certificate of Appropriateness (CA) in accordance with section 151.24 of the City of Galena Code of Ordinances and accompanied by the Galena Historic District Solar Request form. The City of Galena Building Official and GHPC will use the "US Department of the Interior Guidelines for Rehabilitation for Historic Buildings: Incorporating Solar Panels in a Rehabilitation Project" when reviewing any solar CA. The primary concern of the Building Official and GHPC will be to retain the historic character of each property and the historic district as a whole.

1. All proposed solar installations shall be reviewed on the basis of: historic appropriateness, size, visibility, performance, arrangement, design, infrastructure, and color contrast.
2. Any proposed equipment shall be installed in a manner that is screened, or hidden to the greatest possible extent while still achieving maximum function and effectiveness. This shall be demonstrated by the applicant with all requests. The goal shall be to maintain the lowest possible public visibility. A publicly visible location could be permitted if the GHPC determines that the placement does not have an adverse effect on the character of the structure, street, or district as a whole.
  - a. Preferable locations of a proposed solar array should be hidden from the public way. If a proposed array is visible from the public way, it shall not detract from the historic character of the structure and surrounding structures.
  - b. Proposed solar arrays shall be on the rear of the structure whenever possible.
  - c. Flat and/or parapet roofs are preferred.
  - d. If the south side of the property is highly visible from the public way, the east and west side of the structure should be considered.
  - e. When possible, panels should be installed flat or at a low degree when placed on a flat roof to better screen them from the public way.
  - f. Roof, panel, and racking colors should be coordinated as much as feasibly possible.
  - g. Proposed solar installations shall be placed on non-historic additions whenever possible.
  - h. Solar panels shall not project from walls.
3. If a ground array is proposed, the array shall be hidden from the public way and located in the rear of the property.
4. Character defining features of the structure on which the solar installation is being proposed shall not be damaged or obscured when introducing any new solar array.
5. Any CA for new construction that includes solar installation should provide all of the necessary information so that review can be made of the structure and the solar array together.

All solar requests shall be approved by the City of Galena Building Official and/or the GHPC before a building permit may be issued. All permits shall be signed by the building official and fire inspector before work starts. All installations shall meet all state and local building codes and will be inspected and approved by the building official and fire inspector before activation.

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## City of Galena Historic District Solar Request Form

This form is to accompany any Certificate of Appropriateness requesting the installation of Solar Panels in the City of Galena Historic District.

All requests for solar in the historic district shall include the following information, but not limited to, images showing location of the proposed solar array, images of the structure that the proposed solar array will be located on or the site in which it is located at, images from different public ways of the location of the proposed solar array, and answers to the following questions.

Address of Proposed Solar Installation: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### Building and Site Features

1. New Construction or Existing Building: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age of Structure: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Architectural Style (Vernacular, Italianate, French Colonial, Second Empire, Federal, Queen Anne, Greek Revival, Contemporary, Gothic Revival, Other): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Roof type: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Color and type of current or proposed roofing materials: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe any character defining features of the structure: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Solar Array Information

1. Location of solar array: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many panels are to be installed: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Angle of the solar panels after installation: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Color of solar panels and racking: \_\_\_\_\_