The Cape May Commission (HPC) has revised its standards for the city’s historic district, and is now publishing an updated version of its guideline document called the Cape May Handbook. The new standards were reviewed by members of the Architectural Heritage Committee, and included revisions that update earlier versions. The HPC standards were updated in 1990 and the first edition of this document was published in 2002. Smolyn said it is the only version that was published in 2002. Smolyn said in the past 20 years, the secretary of the interior has updated standards in April and the final version in May. City Council finalized the standards in April 2022. The regulations are available in a draft of the new standards that update in compliance with the federal standards addresses proper site placement, height, massing, architectural features and materials. The regulations are available in the Cape May’s unique building styles are depicted in the regulations with character-defining fines. "The intent of this is to make sure when someone comes with a Queen Anne property to the Historic District that they don’t make sure they are not altering any of those character-defining features to the point where they are no longer recognizable," he said. The revised handbook includes a general synopsis of information that will be available at City Hall. The project was sponsored by a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

In 2002, the city’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) updated its handbook that was familiar with the previous version of the standards as of 2002. The new standards took effect on Aug. 16. Smolyn said the city’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) website has been revamped.

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