

## ◆ Glossary ◆

**Addition.** New construction added to an existing building or structure.

**Alteration.** Work which impacts any exterior architectural feature including construction, reconstruction, or removal of any building or building element.

**Arch.** A curved construction which spans an opening and supports the weight above it.

**Awning.** A sloped projection supported by a frame attached to the building facade or by simple metal posts anchored to the sidewalk.

**Barrier free access.** The provision of appropriate accommodations to ensure use of buildings by persons with disabilities.

**Bay.** The horizontal divisions of a building, defined by windows, columns, pilasters, etc.

**Beyond repair.** When such a large portion of an element is damaged that repair becomes infeasible, generally, but not specifically, more than 50%.

**Bond.** A term used to describe the various patterns in which brick is laid.

**Bracket.** A decorative support feature located under eaves or overhangs.

**Bulkhead.** The panel between framing members and beneath the display windows in a storefront; also known as a kickpanel or kickplate.

**Canopy.** A flat projection from the building facade or attached to the building facade to shelter the storefront and pedestrian traffic.

**Capital.** Topmost member of a column or pilaster.

**Cast iron front.** A storefront made of glass and pieces of utilitarian and decorative iron cast in easily assembled parts.

**Character defining.** An element whose design and material is associated with the age and style of a building and helps define its architectural style (e.g. tile roofing on Mission Style buildings).

**Clapboard.** A wood exterior siding applied horizontally and overlapped with the lower edge thicker than the upper.

**Column.** A vertical, cylindrical or square supporting member, usually with a classical capital.

**Coping.** The capping member of a wall or parapet.

**Corbeling.** A series of stepped or overlapped pieces of brick or stone forming a projection from the wall surface.

**Cornice.** The uppermost, projecting part of an entablature, or feature resembling it.

**Course.** A horizontal layer or row of stones or bricks in a wall.

**Dentil.** One of a series of small, square, tooth or block-like projections forming a molding.

**Documentation.** Evidence of missing elements or configurations of buildings such as architectural plans, historic photographs, or “ghosts” of missing elements.

**Double hung window.** A window having two sashes, one sliding vertically over the other.

**Elevation.** Any of the external faces of a building.

**Entablature.** The horizontal group of members supported by the columns, divided into three major parts, it consists of architrave, frieze, and cornice.

**Evergreen vegetation.** Vegetation which retains foliage through the winter months maintaining its screening property.

**Facade.** The front elevation or “face” of a building.

**Facade line.** An imaginary line established by the fronts of buildings on a block.

**Fanlight.** An semicircular or semi-elliptical window with radiating muntins suggesting a fan.

**Fascia.** A projecting flat horizontal member or molding; forms the trim of a flat roof or a pitched roof; also part of a classical entablature.

**Fenestration.** The arrangement of window openings in a building.

**Finial.** A projecting decorative element at the top of a roof, turret or gable.

**Flashing.** Thin metal sheets used to make the intersections of roof planes and roof/wall junctures watertight.

**Footprint.** The outline of a building’s ground plan from a top view.

**Foundation.** The lowest exposed portion of the building wall, which supports the structure above.

**Frame construction.** A method of construction in which the major parts consist of wood.

**French door.** A door made of many glass panes, usually used in pairs and attached by hinges to the sides of the opening in which it stands.

**Frieze.** The middle horizontal member of a classical entablature, above the architrave and below the cornice.

**Gable roof.** A pitched roof with one downward slope on either side of a central, horizontal ridge.

**Gentlest means possible.** The least abrasive, intrusive, damaging means of preserving historic material.

**Hood molding.** A projecting molding above an arch, doorway, or window, originally designed to direct water away from the opening; also called a drip mold.

**Infill.** New construction where there had been an opening before. Applies to a new structure such as a new building between two older structures or new material such as block infill in an original window opening.

**In-kind.** Using the exact same material when replacing a damaged element (e.g. using a wood element to replace a wood element).

**Jack arch.** An arch with wedge shaped stones or bricks set in a straight line; also known as a flat arch.

**Jamb.** The vertical side of a doorway or window.

**Keystone.** The top or center member of an arch.

**Light.** A single pane of glass.

**Lintel.** A horizontal beam over a door or window which carries the weight of the wall above; usually made of stone or wood.

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**Main block.** The central mass of a building, generally excluding secondary blocks such as additional wings, projections, dormers, or porches.

**Masonry.** Brick, block, or stone which is secured with mortar.

**Massing.** A term used to define the overall volume of a building.

**Modillion.** A horizontal bracket, often in the form of a plain block, ornamenting, or sometimes supporting, the underside of a cornice.

**Mortar.** A mixture of sand, lime, cement, and water used as a binding agent in masonry construction.

**Mullion.** A heavy vertical divider between windows or doors.

**Muntin.** A secondary framing member to divide and hold the panes of glass in a window.

**National Register of Historic Places.** The nation's official list of buildings, sites, and districts which are important in our history or culture. Created by Congress in 1966 and administered by the states.

**Nearby historic homes/buildings.** The closest possible examples: 1) adjacent historic buildings, 2) historic buildings along the same street, 3) historic buildings within the immediate area, 4) historic buildings within the district.

**Orientation.** The direction that the building (usually includes the primary entrance) faces.

**Parapet.** A low protective wall located at the edge of a roof.

**Parking.** Areas, generally paved, provided for the storage of automobiles.

**Party wall.** A common, shared wall between two buildings; typical of downtown brick buildings.

**Paving.** Any material used for pavement such as asphalt, brick, concrete, gravel, or pavers.

**Pediment.** A triangular crowning element forming the gable of a roof; any similar triangular element used over windows, doors, etc.

**Pier.** A vertical structural element, square or rectangular in cross section.

**Pilaster.** A pier attached to a wall, often with capital and base.

**Pitch.** A term which refers to the steepness of roof slope.

**Portico.** A roofed space, open or partly enclosed, forming the entrance and centerpiece of the facade of a building, often with columns and a pediment.

**Portland cement.** A strong, inflexible (too much so for historic buildings) hydraulic cement used to bind mortar.

**Proper repointing.** Hand raking deteriorated mortar and duplicating old mortar in strength, composition, color, and texture as well as joint width and joint profile.

**Public view.** That which can be seen from any public right-of-way.

**Quoins.** Decorative blocks of stone or wood used on the corners of buildings.

**Recessed panel.** A decorative element that often functions as an area for signage.

**Reveal.** The vertical profile created by the lap of siding, window casings, muntins, door surrounds, etc.

**Reversible.** Constructing additions or new elements in such a manner that if removed in the future original form and material would be largely unchanged.

**Routine maintenance.** Any action performed in order to preserve historic including minor replacement of material in-kind providing no change is made to the appearance of the structure or grounds.

**Rhythm.** The pattern created by the relationship of elements along a street or on individual buildings (e.g. buildings to the open space or windows to wall space).

**Sash.** The portion of a window that holds the glass and which moves.

**Scale.** A term used to define the proportions of a building in relation to its surroundings.

**Secondary blocks.** Portions of the building attached to the central mass of a building, generally such as additional wings, projections, dormers, or porches.

**Setback.** A term used to define the distance a building is located from a street or sidewalk.

**Sidelight.** A glass window pane located at the side of a main entrance way.

**Siding.** The exterior wall covering or sheathing of a structure.

**Sill.** The horizontal member located at the top of a foundation supporting the structure above; also the horizontal member at the bottom of a window or door.

**Solid-to-void.** The total area of wall in comparison to the total area of openings on an elevation.

**Spacing.** The distance between adjacent buildings.

**Storefront.** The street-level facade of a commercial building, usually having display windows.

**Streetscape.** The combination of building facades, sidewalks, street furniture, etc. that define the street.

**Stucco.** Any kind of plasterwork, but usually an outside covering of portland cement, lime, and sand mixture with water.

**Surround.** An encircling border or decorative frame, usually around a window or door.

**Synthetic stucco (EIFS).** Exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) are multi-component exterior wall systems which generally consist of: an insulation board; a base coat reinforced with glass fiber mesh; and a finish coat.

**Transom.** A small operable or fixed window located above a window or door.

**Variiegated brick.** Multi-colored brick used in an attempt to create an antique look.

**Vernacular.** Indigenous architecture that generally is not designed by an architect and may be characteristic of a particular area. Any local adaptation of popular architectural forms.

**Wrought iron.** Decorative iron that is hammered or forged into shape by hand, as opposed to cast iron which is formed in a mold.