

# SECTION 8: DEFINITIONS

## Procedural, technical, architectural

### PROCEDURAL DEFINITIONS

Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) A document awarded by a preservation commission allowing an applicant to proceed with a proposed alteration, demolition, or new construction in a designated area or site, following a determination of the proposal's suitability according to applicable criteria.

Certified Local Government Any city, county, parish, township, municipality, or borough or any other general purpose subdivision which may participate in the activities outlined in the National Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 to further delegate responsibilities and funding to the local level.

Due process The established procedure by which legal action is carried out.

Economic Hardship: A case where the denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness application would result in a denial of "reasonable beneficial use" of the property. It does not refer to the economic status of the property owner.

Public notice The classified advertisement of an event, such as a preservation commission meeting, that is published in the local newspaper and posted in the city government building in order to notify the general public of the upcoming event.

### TECHNICAL DEFINITIONS

Addition New construction added to an existing building or structure.

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

Appropriate Compatible with the historic context.

Appurtenances The visible, functional objects accessory to and part of buildings.

Building A structure used to house human activity such as a dwelling or garage.

Character The qualities and attributes of any structure, site, street or district.

Configuration The arrangement of elements and details on a building or structure which help to define its character.

Contemporary Reflecting characteristics of the current period. Contemporary denotes characteristics which illustrate that a building, structure, or detail was constructed in the recent past rather than being imitative or reflective of a historic design.

Compatible In harmony with location and surroundings.

Context The setting in which a historic element, site, structure, street, or district exists.

Demolition Any act which destroys in whole or in part a building or structure.

Demolition by Neglect The destruction of a building or structure through abandonment or lack of maintenance.

Design Guidelines Criteria developed by preservation commissions to identify design concerns in an area and to help property owners ensure that rehabilitation and new construction respect the character of designated buildings and districts.

Element A material part or detail of a site, structure, street, or district.

## *Definitions*

Elevation Any one of the external faces or facades of a building.

Fabric The physical material of a building, structure, or community, connoting an interweaving of component parts.

Harmony Pleasing or congruent arrangement.

Height The distance from the bottom to the top of a building or structure.

Historic District A geographically definable area with a significant concentration of buildings, structures, sites, spaces, or objects unified by past events, physical development, and design. setting, materials, workmanship, sense of cohesiveness or related historical and aesthetic associations. The significance of a district may be recognized through listing in a local, state, or national landmarks register and may be protected legally through enactment of a local historic district ordinance administered by a historic district board or commission.

Historic Imitation New construction or rehabilitation where elements or components mimic an architectural style but are not of the same historic period as the existing buildings.

Infill New construction in historic districts on vacant lots or to replace existing buildings.

Landscape The totality of the built or human-influenced habitat experienced at anyone place. Dominant features are topography, plant cover, buildings, or other structures and their patterns.

Local Historic Site A building, structure, object or site which is identified as a historic resource of particular significance.

Maintain To keep in an existing state of preservation or repair.

New construction Construction that is characterized by the introduction of new elements, sites, buildings, or structures or additions to existing buildings and structures in historic areas and districts.

Obscured Covered, concealed, or hidden from view.

Preservation Generally, saving from destruction or deterioration old and historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects and providing for their continued use by means of restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive use.

Proportion Harmonious relation of parts to one another or to the whole.

Recommendation An action or activity advised but not required by the Historic Preservation Board.

Reconstruction The act or process of reproducing by new construction the exact form and detail of a vanished building, structure, or object, or a part thereof, as it appeared at a specific period of time.

Rehabilitation The act or process of returning a property or building to usable condition through repair, alteration, and/or preservation of its features which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

Restoration The act or process of accurately taking a building's appearance back to a specific period of time by removing later work and by replacing missing earlier features to match the original.

Retain To keep secure and intact. In the guidelines, "retain" and "maintain" describe the act of keeping an element, detail, or structure and continuing the same level of repair to aid in the preservation of elements, sites and structures.

## *Definitions*

Re-use To use again. An element, detail, or structure might be reused in historic districts.

Rhythm Movement or fluctuation marked by the regular occurrence or natural flow of related elements.

Scale Proportional elements that demonstrate the size, materials, and style of buildings.

Setting The sum of attributes of a locality, neighborhood, or property that defines its character.

Significant Having particularly important associations within the contexts of architecture, history, or culture.

Stabilization The act or process of applying measures essential to the maintenance of a deteriorated building as it exists at present, establishing structural stability and a weather-resistant enclosure.

Streetscape The distinguishing character of a particular street as created by its width, degree of curvature, paving materials, design of the street furniture, and forms of surrounding buildings.

Style A type of architecture distinguished by special characteristics of structure and ornament and often related in time; also a general quality of a distinctive character.

## **ARCHITECTURAL TERMS**

Apron A decorative, horizontal trim piece on the lower portion of an architectural element.

Arch A curved construction of wedge-shaped stones or bricks which spans an opening and supports the weight above it. (see flat arch, jack arch, segmental arch and semi-circular arch)

Architrave The lowest section of the entablature that rests on the capital of a column. It also refers to the decorative molding around a door or window.

Attic The upper level of a building, not of full ceiling height, directly beneath the roof.

Baluster One of a series of short, vertical, often vase-shaped members used to support a stair or porch handrail, forming a balustrade.

Balustrade An entire rail system with top rail and balusters.

Bargeboard A board which hangs from the projecting end of a gable roof, covering the end rafters, and often sawn into a decorative pattern. Also called a vergeboard.

Battered Having sloped sides, in reference to piers and columns in the bungalow style.

Bay The portion of a facade between columns or piers providing regular divisions and usually marked by windows.

Bay window A projecting window that forms an extension to the floor space of the internal rooms; usually extends to the ground level.

Belt course A horizontal band usually marking the floor levels on the exterior facade of a building.

Board and batten Siding fashioned of boards set vertically and covered where their edges join by narrow strips called battens.

## *Definitions*

Bond A term used to describe the various patterns in which brick (or stone) is laid, see: "common bond," "English bond," "Flemish bond," "running bond," and "stack bond."

Brace An essential structural member placed diagonally as a support between horizontal and vertical surfaces, as under the eaves of a roof.

Bracket A projecting element of wood, stone or metal which spans between horizontal and vertical surfaces (eaves, shelves, overhangs) as decorative support.

Canopy A projecting awning suspended above an opening.

Capital The head of a column or pilaster.

Casement window A window with one or two sashes which are hinged at the sides and usually open outward.

Clapboards Horizontal wooden boards, thinner at the top edge, which are overlapped to provide a weatherproof exterior wall surface.

Classical order Derived from Greek and Roman architecture, a column with its base, shaft, capital and entablature having standardized details and proportions, according to one of the five canonized modes: Doric, Tuscan, Ionic, Corinthian, or Composite.

Clipped gable A gable roof where the ends of the ridge are terminated in a small, diagonal roof surface.

Column A circular or square vertical structural member.

Common bond PL brickwork pattern where most courses are laid flat, with the long "stretcher" edge exposed, but every fifth to eighth course is laid perpendicularly with the small "header" end exposed, to structurally tie the wall together.

Corbel In masonry, a projection, or one of a series of projections, each stepped progressively farther forward with height and articulating a cornice or supporting an overhanging member.

Corinthian order Most ornate classical order characterized by a capital with ornamental acanthus leaves and curled fern shoots.

Cornice The uppermost, projecting part of an entablature, or feature resembling it. Any projecting ornamental molding along the top of a wall, building, etc.

Cresting A decorated ornamental finish along the top of a wall or roof, often made of ornamental metal.

Cross-gable A secondary gable roof which meets the primary roof at right angles.

Cupola Adorned roof set on a circular base, often set on the ridge of a roof.

Dentils A row of small tooth-like blocks in a classical cornice.

Doric order A classical order with simple, unadorned capitals, and with no base.

Dormer A small window with its own roof that projects from a sloping roof.

Dormer window A window that projects from a roof.

Double-hung window A window with two sashes, one sliding vertically over the other.

EFIS Stands for Exterior Finish and Insulating Systems and is a synthetic form up stucco. A common brand is Dryvit.

Eave The edge of a roof that projects beyond the face of a wall.

Elevation Any of the external faces of a building.

## Definitions

Ell The rear wing of a house, generally one room wide and running perpendicular to the principal building.

Engaged column A round column attached to a wall.

Entablature A part of a building of classical order resting on the column capital; consists of an architrave, frieze, and cornice.

Facade The face or front elevation of a building.

Fanlight A semi-circular window usually over a door 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 windows on a building.

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

Fishscale shingles A decorative pattern of wall shingles composed of staggered horizontal rows of wooden shingles with half-round ends.

Flashing Thin metal sheets used to prevent moisture infiltration at joints of roof planes and between the roof and vertical surfaces.

Flat arch An arch whose wedge-shaped stones or bricks are set in a straight horizontal line; also called a jack arch.

Flemish bond A brickwork pattern where the long "stretcher" edge of the brick is alternated with the small "header" end for decorative as well as structural effectiveness.

Fluting Shallow, concave grooves running vertically on the shaft of a column, pilaster, or other surface.

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

Fretwork Ornamental woodwork, cut into a pattern, often elaborate.

Frieze The middle portion of a classical cornice; also applied decorative elements on an entablature or parapet wall.

Frieze Board Flat board at top of wall directly beneath the cornice.

Gable The triangular section of a wall to carry a pitched roof.

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

Gambrel roof A ridged roof with two symmetric slopes on either side.

Gingerbread Pierced curvilinear ornament made with a jig or scroll saw.

HVAC Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

Hipped roof A roof with uniform slopes on all sides. (All eaves are at the same level)

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.

Ionic order One of the five classical orders used to describe decorative scroll capitals.

Infill New construction where there had been open space before, such as a new building between two older structures; or block infill between porch piers or in an original window opening.

## *Definitions*

Jack arch (see Flat arch)

Light A section of a window, the pane of glass.

Keystone The wedge-shaped top or center member of an arch.

Kneebrace An oversize bracket supporting a cantilevered or projecting element.

Lattice An openwork grill of interlacing wood strips used as screening.

Lintel The horizontal top member of a window, door, or other opening.

Mansard roof A roof with a double slope on all four sides, with the lower slope being almost vertical and the upper almost horizontal.

Masonry Exterior wall construction of brick, stone or adobe laid up in small units.

Massing The three-dimensional form of a building.

Metal standing seam roof A roof composed of overlapping sections of metal such as copper-bearing steel or iron coated with a thin alloy of lead and tin. These roofs were attached or crimped together in various raised seams for which the roof is named.

Modillion A bracket projecting outward horizontally, 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.

Multi-light window A window sash composed of more than one pane of glass.

Muntin A secondary framing member to divide and hold the panes of glass in multi-light window or glazed door.

Neo-classical style Early twentieth century style that combines features of ancient, Renaissance, and Colonial architecture; characterized by imposing buildings with large columned porches.

Oriel window A bay window which emerges above the ground floor level.

Paired columns Two columns supported by one pier, as on a porch.

Palladian window A window with three openings, the central one arched and wider than the flanking ones.

Paneled door A door composed of solid panels (either raised or recessed) held within a framework of rails and stiles.

Parapet A low horizontal wall at the edge of a flat roof.

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 square pillar attached, but projecting from a wall, resembling a classical column.

Pitch The degree of the slope of a roof.

Porte-cochere A porch large enough to extend over a driveway.

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.

## Definitions

Portland cement strong, inflexible cement used to bind mortar. (Mortar or patching materials with a high Portland cement content should not be used on old buildings. The Portland cement is harder than the masonry, thereby causing serious

damage over annual freeze-thaw cycles)

Pressed tin Decorative and functional metalwork made of molded tin used to sheath roofs, bays, and cornices.

Pyramidal roof A roof with four identical sides rising to a central peak.

Quoins Larger stones that mark the corner of a building of brick or stone.

Ridge The top horizontal member of a roof where the sloping surfaces meet.

Rusticated Masonry roughened stonework or concrete blocks to give greater articulation to each block.

Sailor course A row of horizontal brick headers used as a lintel, sill, or as a belt course.

Sash The moveable framework containing the glass in a window.

Segmental arch An arch whose profile or radius is less than a semicircle.

Semi-circular arch An arch whose profile or radius is a half-circle the diameter of which equals the opening width.

Sheathing An exterior covering of boards or other surface applied to the frame of the structure, (see Siding)

Shed roof A gently pitched, almost flat roof with only one slope.

Sidelight A vertical area of fixed glass on either side of a door or window.

Siding The exterior wall covering or sheathing of a structure.

Sill The bottom crosspiece of a window frame.

Soldier course A row of vertical brick headers used as a lintel, sill, or belt course.

Spoiling Loss of fragments (such as; stone, metal, concrete, glass, or a ceramic product) from a face or edge due to weathering.

Spindles Slender, elaborately turned wood dowels or rods often used in screens and porch trim.

Stack bond Stack bond in brickwork, a bond in which the facing brick is laid with all vertical joints continuously aligned. In stone veneer masonry, a pattern in which units of a single size are set with continuous vertical and horizontal joints.

Streetscape The overall facade, not of a single structure, but of the many buildings that define the street.

Surround An encircling border or decorative frame, usually at windows or doors.

Swag Carved ornament in the form of a cloth draped over supports, or in the form of a garland of fruits and flowers.

Terra Cotta Cast and fired clay units, used as ornamentation and set in the masonry construction of a building

Transom A horizontal opening (or window) over a door or window.

Trim The decorative framing of openings and other features on a facade.

Turret A small slender tower.

Veranda A covered porch or balcony on a building's exterior.

Vergeboard The horizontal face board following and set under the roof edge of a gable, sometimes decorated by carving.

Vernacular A regional form or adaptation of an architectural style.

*Definitions*

Wall dormer Dormer created by the upward extension of a wall and a breaking of the roofline.

Water table A projecting horizontal ledge, intended to prevent water from running down the face of a wall's lower section.

Weatherboard Wood siding consisting of overlapping boards usually thicker at the lower edge than the upper (clapboard).