

Glossary

Alignment. The arrangement of objects along a straight line.

Appurtenances. An additional object added to a building; typically includes vents, exhausts hoods, air conditioning units, etc.

Asphalt Shingles. A type of roofing material composed of layers of saturated felt, cloth or paper, and coated with a tar, or asphalt substance, and granules.

Balcony. A platform projecting from the wall of an upper story, enclosed by a railing or balustrade, with an entrance from the building and supported by brackets or columns or cantilevered out. In St. Charles, they were also called a "parade balcony." (See page 39 for an historic photograph of a balcony.)

Baluster. A short, upright column or urn-shaped support of a railing.

Balustrade. A row of balusters and the railing connecting them. Used as a stair rail and also above the cornice on the outside of a building.

Bargeboard. A projecting board, often decorated, that acts as trim to cover the ends of the structure where a pitched roof overhangs a gable.

Board and Batten. Vertical plank siding with joints covered by narrow wood strips.

Bracket. A supporting member for a projecting element or shelf, sometimes in the shape of an inverted L and sometimes as a solid piece or a triangular truss.

Building. A resource created principally to shelter any form of human activity, such as a house.

Building Form. The overall shape of a structure (e.g., most Federal-influenced structures are rectangular in form).

Building Mass. The physical size and bulk of a structure.

Building Module. The appearance of a single facade plane, despite being part of a larger building. One large building can incorporate several building modules.

Building Scale. The size of a structure, as it appears to the pedestrian.

Caning. Metal struts supporting leaded glass.

Canopy. A roofed structure constructed of fabric or other material placed so as to extend outward from a building, providing a protective shield for doors, windows and other openings, supported by the building and supports extended to the ground directly under the canopy, or cantilevered from the building.

Clapboards. Narrow, horizontal, overlapping wooden boards, usually thicker along the bottom edge, that form the outer skin of the walls of many wood-frame houses. The horizontal lines of the overlaps generally are from four to six inches apart in older houses.

Column. A slender upright structure, generally consisting of a cylindrical shaft, a base and a capital; a pillar. It is usually a supporting or ornamental member in a building.

Composition Shingles. (See asphalt shingles.)

Corbelling. A series of projections, each stepped out further than the one below it; most often found on brick walls and chimney stacks.

Cornice. The projection at the top of a wall. The top course or molding of a wall when it serves as a crowning member.

Doorframe. The part of a door opening to which a door is hinged. A doorframe consists of two vertical members called *jamb*s and a horizontal top member called a *lintel*.

Dormer. A window set upright in a sloping roof. The term is also used to refer to the roofed projection in which this window is set.

Double-Hung Window. A window with two sashes (the framework in which window panes are set), each moveable by a means of cords and weights.

Eave. The underside of a sloping roof projecting beyond the wall of a building.

Elevation. A mechanically accurate, "head-on" drawing of a face of a building or object, without any allowance for the effect of the laws of perspective. Any measurement on an elevation will be in a fixed proportion, or scale, to the corresponding measurement on the real building.

Facade. Front or principal face of a building, any side of a building that faces a street or other open space.

Fascia. A flat board with a vertical face that forms the trim along the edge of a flat roof, or along the horizontal, or "eaves," sides of a pitched roof. The rain gutter is often mounted on it.

Fenestration. The arrangement and design of windows in a building.

Floor Area Ratio. The relationship of the total floor area of a building to the land area of its site, as defined in a ratio in which the numerator is the floor area, and the denominator is the site area.

Form. The overall shape of a structure (e.g., most structures are rectangular in form).

Frame. A window component. (See window parts.)

Gable. The portion, above eave level, of an end wall of a building with a pitched roof. In the case of a pitched roof this takes the form of a triangle. The term is also used sometimes to refer to the whole end wall.

Gallery. A raised (i.e., above the first level) veranda or walkway running along the facade of a building. (See pages 12, 39 and 50 for examples of a gallery.)

Glazing. Fitting glass into windows and doors.

Head. The top horizontal member over a door or window opening.

Historic District. A significant concentration of sites, buildings, structures or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

In-Kind Replacement. To replace a feature of a building with materials of the same characteristics, such as material, texture, color, etc.

Kickplate. The horizontal element or assembly at the base of a storefront, parallel to a public walkway. The kickplate provides a transition between the ground and storefront glazing area.

Lap Siding. (See clapboards.)

Masonry. Construction materials such as stone, brick, concrete block or tile.

Molding. A decorative band or strip of material with a constant profile or section designed to cast interesting shadows. It is generally used in cornices and as trim around window and door openings.

Muntin. A bar member supporting and separating panes of glass in a window or door.

Oriel Window. A projecting bay with windows, that emerges from the building at a point above ground level. It is often confused with a bay window which ordinarily begins at ground level.

Parapet. A low wall or railing often used around a balcony or along the edge of a roof.

Pediment. A triangular section framed by a horizontal molding on its base and two sloping moldings on each of its sides. Usually used as a crowning member for doors, windows and mantles.

Period of Significance. Span of time in which a property attained the significance.

Property. Area of land containing a single historic resource or a group of resources.

Post. A piece of wood, metal, etc., usually long and square or cylindrical, set upright to support a building, sign, gate, etc.; pillar; pole.

Preservation. The act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of a building or structure, and the existing form and vegetative cover of a site. It may include initial stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing maintenance of the historic building materials.

Protection. The act or process of applying measures designed to affect the physical condition of a property by defending or guarding it from deterioration, loss or attack or to cover or shield the property from danger of injury. In the case of buildings and structures, such treatment is generally of a temporary nature and anticipates future historic preservation treatment; in the case of archaeological sites, the protective measure may be temporary or permanent.

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

Recessed Entry. A common component of an historic storefront. Display windows, which contained dry goods and other wares for sale, flanked the recessed entry historically.

Rehabilitation. The act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration that makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural and cultural value.

Renovation. The act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration that makes possible a contemporary use.

Restoration. The act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work.

Roof. The top covering of a building (see sketches on page 28).

Sash. See window parts.

Shape. The general outline of a building or its facade.

Side Light. A usually long fixed sash located beside a door or window; often found in pairs.

Siding. The narrow horizontal or vertical wood boards that form the outer face of the walls in a traditional wood-frame house. Horizontal wood siding is also referred to as clapboards. The term "siding" is also more loosely used to describe any material that can be applied to the outside walls of a building as a finish.

Sill. The lowest horizontal member in a frame or opening for a window or door. Also, the lowest horizontal member in a framed wall or partition.

Size. The dimensions, in height and width, of a building's face.

Soffit. The underside of a structural part, as of a beam, arch, etc.

Stile. A vertical piece in a panel or frame, as of a door or window.

Stabilization. The fact or process of applying measures designed to reestablish a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.

Store Front. The street level facade of a commercial building, usually having display windows.

Streetscape. Generally, the streetscape refers to the character of the street, or how elements of the street form a cohesive environment.

Traditional. Based on or established by the history of the area.

Transom Window. A small window or series of panes above a door, or above a casement or double-hung window.

Visual Continuity. A sense of unity or belonging together that elements of the built environment exhibit because of similarities among them.

Window Parts. The moving units of a window are known as *sashes* and move within the fixed frame. The *sash* may consist of one large *pane* of glass or may be subdivided into smaller panes by thin members called *muntins* or *glazing bars*. Sometimes in nineteenth-century houses, windows are arranged side-by-side and divided by heavy vertical wood members called *mullions*. For a diagram of window parts, see page 37.