

## Chapter 15

# Glossary of Terms

**Adaptive reuse.** Refers to the recycling of an old building for use other than that for which it was originally constructed. This can involve a sensitive rehabilitation that retains much of a building's original character, or it can involve extensive remodeling.

**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.

**Arch.** A structure built to support the weight above an opening. A true arch is curved. It consists of wedge-shaped stones or bricks called Voussoirs (vu-swar'), put together to make a curved bridge that spans the opening.

**Ashlar.** A square, hewn stone used in building. It also refers to a thick, dressed, square stone used for facing brick walls.

**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.

**Association.** As related to the determination of "integrity" of a property, *association* refers to a link of a historic property with a historic event, activity or person. Also, it refers to the quality of integrity through which a historic property is linked to a particular past time and place.

**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, columns or cantilevered out.

**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 or porch rail.

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

**Bay Window.** A window or set of windows which project out from a wall, forming an alcove or small space in a room; ordinarily begins at ground level, but may be carried out on brackets or corbels.

**Beltcourse.** A flat, horizontal member of relatively slight projection, marking a division in the wall plane.

**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.

**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. Usually a supporting or ornamental member in a building.

**Composition Shingles.** (See "asphalt shingles.")

**Conjectural.** Design based on or involving guesswork or an unsubstantiated theory.



**Contributing Resource.** A building, site, structure, or object adding to the significance of a historic district.

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

**Design.** As related to the determination of "integrity" of a property, *design* refers to the elements that create the physical form, plan, space, structure and style of a property.

**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.

**Dentil Molding.** A molding with a series of small blocks that look like teeth, usually seen under a cornice.

**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.

**False Front.** A front wall which extends beyond the sidewalls of a building to create a more imposing facade.

**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. Rain gutters are often mounted on it.

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

**Finial.** The decorative, pointed terminus of a roof or roof form.

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

**Frame.** A window component. (See also "window parts.")

**Gable.** The portion that is above eave level, on an end wall of a building with a pitched or gambrel 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 entire end wall.

**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 and so designated by the City.

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

**Lancet Window.** A narrow, vertical window that ends in a point.

**Lap Siding.** (See "clapboards.")

**Lintel.** A heavy horizontal beam of wood or stone over an opening of a door or window to support the weight above it.

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

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



**Material.** As related to the determination of “integrity” of a property, *material* refers to the physical elements that were combined or deposited in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

**Modillion.** The projecting decorated bracket used in a series to support a cornice.

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

**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.

**Non-contributing Resource.** A building, site, structure or object that does not add to the historic significance of a property.

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

**Orientation.** Generally, orientation refers to the manner in which a building relates to the street. The entrance to the building plays a large role in the orientation of a building. Generally the entrance, and thus the orientation, faces the street.

**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.

**Pier.** The part of a wall between windows or other openings. The term is also used sometimes to refer to a reinforcing part built out from the surface of a wall; a buttress.

**Pilaster.** A support or pier treated architecturally as a column, with a base, shaft and capital that is attached to a wall surface.

**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.** Keeping an existing building in its current state by a careful program of maintenance and repair.

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

**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.

**Quoin.** (koin) Dressed stones or bricks at the corners of buildings, laid so that their faces are alternately large and small. Originally used to add strength to the masonry wall, and later used decoratively.

**Rafter.** Any of the beams that slope from the ridge of a roof to the eaves and serve to support the roof.

**Reconstruction.** Involves recreating a historic building that has been damaged or destroyed by erecting a new structure that resembles the original as closely as possible. A reconstruction



may be built with new or recycled building materials.

**Recessed Entry.** A common component of a historic storefront. Historically display windows, which contained dry goods and other wares for sale, flanked the recessed entry.

**Rehabilitation.** Making a structure sound and usable again, without attempting to restore any particular period appearance. Rehabilitation respects the original architectural elements of a building and retains them whenever possible. Sometimes also called "reconditioning."

**Remodeling.** Changing the appearance and style of a structure, inside or out, by removing or covering over original details and substituting new materials and forms. Also called "modernizing."

**Renovation.** Similar to rehabilitation, except that in renovation work there is a greater proportion of new materials and elements introduced into the building.

**Repair.** To restore to a sound or good state after decay, dilapidation, or partial destruction; to mend.

**Restoration.** The repair or recreating of the original architectural elements in a building so that it closely resembles the appearance it had at some previous point in time. As compared with rehabilitation, restoration implies a more active approach to reproducing architectural features that may have been removed.

**Roof.** The top covering of a building.

**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 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.

**Standing Seam Metal Roof.** A roof with vertical panels. Historically, the panels were fitted together with hand rolled seams.

**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.

**Stucco.** An exterior wall covering that consists of Portland cement mixed with lime, applied over a wood or metal lath. It is usually applied in three coats.



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

**Transom.** A window located above a door or larger window.

**Vernacular.** This means a building that has details associated with common regional characteristics—generally a simple building with modest detailing and form. Historically, factors often influencing vernacular building were things such as local building materials, local climate and building forms used by successive generations.

**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 larger window divisions called *mullions* are used.



