

STORM/SCREEN DOORS

Storm doors are generally used to insulate a building’s interior from cold weather. In many buildings this function was achieved through the use of an interior vestibule. The paneled or glazed front door was a decorative element to the front façade and not meant to be hidden by a storm door. If you choose to install a storm/screen door consider an option that hides the historic door the least and compliments your building’s style.

The HARB encourages:

- matching the size and shape of the existing door opening.
- the use of wood frame storm/screen doors. Simple styles with large plain glass or screen inserts are generally most appropriate. Decorative doors can be appropriate for certain building styles that typically have ornamentation.
- painting the storm door frame to match the door trim.
- carefully installing storm doors to avoid damage to door frames.

The HARB discourages:

- the use of metal or vinyl storm/screen doors with large solid areas. If metal or vinyl storm/screen doors are chosen they should have a narrow frame painted to match the door trim.
- choosing bare aluminum finishes.

RHYTHM AND PROPORTION

Rhythm is created by the arrangement of solid and open spaces across a building’s façade and those of its neighbors. When the rhythm of a façade or streetscape is disrupted due to inappropriate opening or closing of, or changes in door openings the architectural and historical character of the building and the historic district is affected.

Proportion is the relationship between the dimensions of a building’s height and width, and of a building’s elements (including doors) to the building as a whole. Altering the size of door openings affects proportion.



TIPS FOR ADDITIONS

Doors installed in additions should compliment those doors located in the historic core of a building. Door openings on a street-facing addition wall should follow the rhythm created by the façade of the historic structure and its neighbors. Door openings on a street-facing addition wall should be sensitive to the proportions of a building and its neighbors.

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DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR DOORS

HARB
HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
North Wales Borough, Pennsylvania

KEEP THESE PRINCIPLES IN MIND

You want your building to be structurally sound and attractive. As a property owner in the North Wales Borough Historic Preservation District you also want to maintain the historical and architectural heritage of your property and your community. You can succeed at both by using the least intrusive method when developing your improvement plans.

MAINTENANCE FIRST • Frequently the easiest, least expensive, and often overlooked way to protect and preserve your building is a regular maintenance plan. Identify and correct potential problems before they become extensive and expensive. Be on the look out for loose or deteriorating building components, signs of water leakage or moisture penetration, and loss of existing protective coatings (such as paint on wood). Spotting these issues early can avoid problems altogether, or keep them to a minimum.



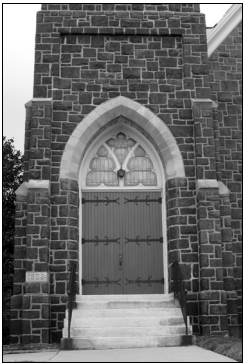
STABILIZATION AND REPAIR • If you review the condition of your property regularly, you will be able to correct potential problems early through stabilization or repair work. Stabilization and repairs do not change the building’s design and involve minimal work to existing materials. Become informed regarding appropriate repair methods and materials so as not to create new long-term problems in exchange for short-term solutions.

REPLACEMENT • When building components are determined too deteriorated to be repaired, consider replacing them using in-kind materials. Replacing a portion of a building element or detail with in-kind materials will retain the original appearance of your building. When replacement in-kind is determined unfeasible due to unavailability of materials or cost issues, use materials that are similar to the original, being sensitive to the original design and workmanship of your building.



ALTERATION • Alterations change the historic design of your building and can impact its historic district setting. If you determine that alterations to your building are necessary due to a change in the building’s use or living needs, again consider those that are the least intrusive. These include projects that are reversible, compatible with existing design elements and materials, and located on sides of the building not seen from public streets and sidewalks. Additionally, avoid alterations to your building that may not be historically accurate. Such alterations are not desirable as they often present a “false” history. Similar considerations should be given when embarking on a renovation project, using original design elements wherever possible for guidance.

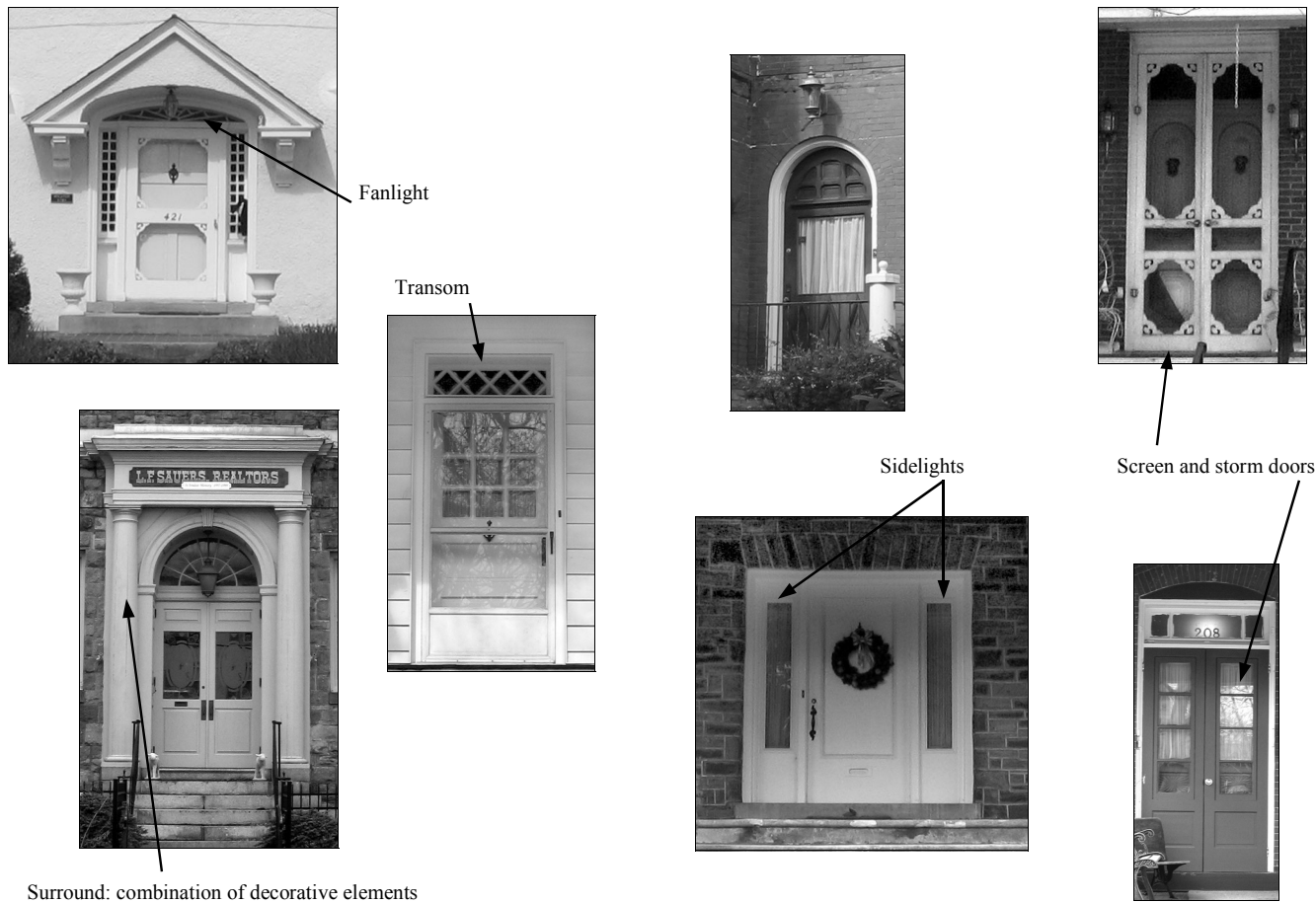
ADDITION • Additions have the potential to impact a historic building and its historic district setting most significantly. Consider all other options carefully prior to planning an addition, such as reconfiguring the building’s interior spaces. If an addition is determined necessary, strive to create a design that is least intrusive to the historic building and the historic district. Projects that are reversible and located on sides of the building not seen from public streets and sidewalks are recommended, as are additions that retain the historic building’s form, profile, and design elements and materials. New additions should compliment the historic building. It is not necessary to match the original building. Additions that compliment, but not match, allow the original elements to be recognized and appreciated.



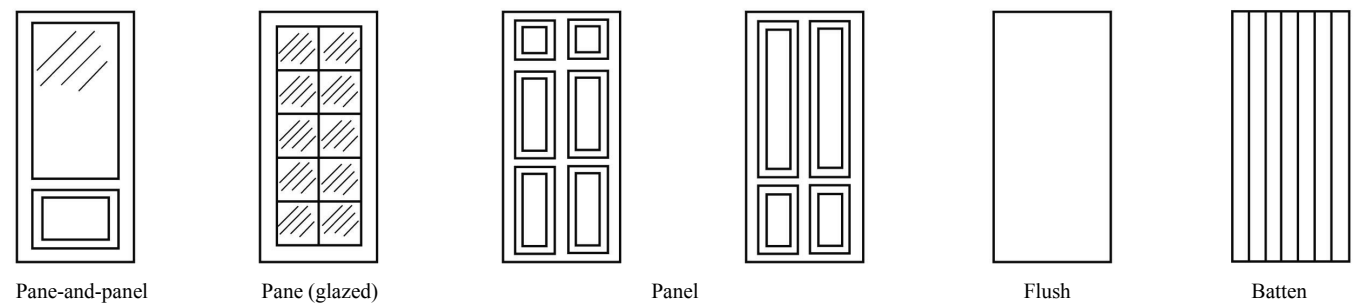
THE MAIN ENTRANCE of a building is one of its most significant features contributing to its style and character and an integral element of a building’s façade. As front doors are heavily used by everyone from the property owner to the most infrequent visitor, they are subjected to a scrutiny unlike many other building elements. They also provide the building and streetscape with a distinctive rhythm that contributes to the character of the historic district.

ELEMENTS OF AN ENTRANCE

Entrances contain many different components that contribute to its style. These can include decorative surrounds, transoms, and sidelights; in addition to a single or double door. Different combinations of these components create an entrance’s design.



Common door types include:



MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF DETERIORATED DOOR COMPONENTS

The HARB encourages:

- on-going review and regular maintenance of existing door components, as well as maintenance of caulking, glazing putty, weather-stripping, and paint, if appropriate.
- immediate repair of deteriorating door and entrance components. Wood in the early stages of deterioration can be treated for insect or fungus infestation. Wood can also be patched with putty or repaired with small sections of similar materials with sharp-edged mortise joints. Glazing can be replaced.

The HARB discourages:

- replacement of a deteriorated door or entrance component *unless* the majority of the component is deteriorated.
- replacement of an entire entrance.

REPLACEMENT DOORS

If the replacement of a door (or two) is deemed necessary, choices can be made that would alleviate the loss of the historic door. The size and pattern of doors and the elements that surround them are critical features of an entry’s design. Retaining character-defining elements is crucial.

The HARB encourages:

- choosing wood replacement doors. Historic doors are generally constructed of wood and should be replaced with similar materials.
- matching the original size, shape, type, and design features as the original door. Double doors should be replaced with double doors. Doors with glazing (glass panes) should be replaced with doors with similar glazing patterns.
- retaining original transoms, sidelights, and decorative surround elements when a door needs replacement.

The HARB discourages:

- choosing steel replacement doors. These are often either flush (inappropriate) or available in modern glazing patterns unsympathetic to historic building styles.
- altering door openings to fit different types of doors, such as modern sliding glass doors.
- installing new door openings.
- infilling existing door openings or any portion of an entrance opening, such as a transom, sidelight, or half of a double door set.



Inappropriate entrance alteration: double door to single door; closure of transom and doorway; removal of decorative lintel.

Inappropriate entrance alteration: paneled door to flush door; closure of sidelights.