



THE LA GRANGE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

GUIDELINES AND REVIEW PROCESS

La Grange, Kentucky



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SECTION I - OVERVIEW

The La Grange Historic Districts Commission was established in 1989 by the La Grange City Council to oversee the regulation of changes to property located in the Historic Districts and to designate future landmarks and Historic Districts within the city. The Mayor appoints the Commission members, subject to City Council approval. All members shall own property or a business in the city or have demonstrated interest or knowledge in preservation.

Please see Appendix A to determine which types of work do/do not require a Certificate of Appropriateness before work can commence or a permit be obtained from the City of La Grange.

A Certificate of Appropriateness is required to apply for City/County permits within the Historic Districts. All new, prefabricated, and demolition work will still require City/County permitting.

To hear applications for Certificates of Appropriateness and to conduct other business, the Commission holds public meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness should be turned in to the City Clerk, not later than 14 calendar days prior to a scheduled meeting for determination of completeness of the application and to give time for public notice. The hearing on the application shall be held within 30 days after determining that application is complete. Applications can be obtained at City Hall or can be downloaded from the city website, www.lagrangeky.net.

All names and telephone numbers of Commission members can be obtained from the City Clerk's office. Feel free to call on members for assistance or to answer questions.

SECTION II - RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS ON CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

1. All applications to the Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be in writing on forms provided by the Commission. Forms can be obtained at City Hall in the Clerk's office or online at www.LaGrangeKY.net. The form indicates the information needed by the Commission to evaluate an application.
2. Notice of all hearings shall be made public by publication in *The Oldham Era*, in accordance with KRS 61.805.
3. Public hearings will be held before a quorum of the Commission. A quorum consists of at least 51% of the Commission Members.
4. Each person who speaks at a public hearing shall identify him or herself, give the address where they live, and be duly sworn by the Chair or presiding officer. This will go into the public record.
5. The public hearing shall be conducted in the following order:
 - a. The chair of the Commission or other presiding officer shall read the notice of the hearing and incorporate said notice into the record.
 - b. If there is a staff report of pertinent data, it shall be read aloud by a staff member.
 - c. A staff member or Member of the Commission shall read any report resulting from consultation with other governmental agencies.
 - d. The applicant, or their legal counsel, shall make an opening statement concerning their application and present relevant evidence in support of the application. The applicant may call upon their agent, architect, or builder to explain the project, however the agent cannot negotiate or argue.
 - e. Commissioners shall present questions or requests for clarification to applicant.
 - f. Other persons in favor of the application shall be heard.
 - g. Those persons opposed to the application shall be heard and present relevant evidence in opposition.
 - h. The applicant, or their legal counsel, shall be heard in rebuttal.
 - i. Cross-examination of any witness by the applicant, or their legal counsel, or by a designated individual representing those opposing the application may be allowed solely at the discretion of the presiding officer.
6. The Commission or the applicant may request the filing of briefs, oral argument, or both at the conclusion of the hearing and thereafter on matters of law or fact or both. A signed original shall be filed with the Commission within 10 days, and the opposition shall have 10 days to respond, thereupon the matter shall be deemed submitted and the Commission shall have until the following meeting to issue its written decision.
7. The hearing shall be conducted fairly and impartially. The Commission may require a preliminary summary of the evidence elicited, or proposed to be elicited, from a witness or their legal counsel. The Commission shall have broad discretion to interpret the guidelines liberally and shall consider the cost and labor of full restoration versus the primary goals and objectives of historic preservation.

8. Prior to the hearing, the applicant may consult with the Commission staff but there shall be no ex parte communications with any Commissioners. During the hearing, the Commissioners may negotiate with the applicant or their legal counsel, or question their agent, to try to find a mutually agreeable method of completing the proposed change at a reasonable cost consistent with the primary objective of preservation of historic properties.
9. The applicant shall be notified of any decision by granting of a Certificate of Appropriateness, or by its denial, at time of the hearing, or if briefs or additional information is requested, the matter may be tabled 30 days until the following meeting, unless the parties agree to different timetable. The Certificate of Appropriateness may include conditions of approval or binding elements that shall be part of the record and run with the land. The applicant and property owner shall accept and fully comply with the conditions and terms of approval, by signature, upon issuance, or the applicant may appeal the decision.
10. The applicant may appeal a decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness or application determination issued by the Historic District Commission to the La Grange Board of Adjustments and Appeals within 30 days of a final decision by the Commission. If the applicant elects to first obtain an opinion from the City Council, an additional 30 days shall be allowed to appeal. Reference La Grange City Ordinances §156.07 Historic Preservation Ordinance.
11. Incomplete applications or applications without all necessary information may be deferred to the following meeting or to date when all required information is available, at the discretion of the Commission or presiding officer.
12. If ADA accommodations are needed, please notify City Hall at the time of your application or at least 48 hours in advance so the proper legal notices may be posted about a change of venue.
13. Certificates of Appropriateness are valid 365 days after issuance. If work has not been completed within that time period, applicants must either reapply for a Certificate of Appropriateness or apply for an extension during a regularly scheduled meeting.
14. Any work performed on a landmark, landmark site or property within a historic district without first obtaining and conforming with a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be a violation of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 156 of the La Grange Code of Ordinances, subject to enforcement by the Code Enforcement Officer and the La Grange Code Enforcement Board, which violation shall be classified as a civil offense subject to the penalty and fines set out in §156.99 of the La Grange Ordinance Code, or remedial orders of the Code Enforcement Board, or both. The applicant shall have 30 days to appeal final orders of the Code Enforcement Board to the Oldham District Court.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Within the remodeling guidelines the phrases “not desirable” and “not encouraged” or “discouraged” are used to describe remodeling that should only be done when other, more historically accurate, methods are not possible. It is the burden of the applicant to show that their plan is most appropriate; provided, however, the Commission has discretion to interpret these guidelines flexibly and to consider costs to the applicant.

SECTION III - CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS INFORMATION NEEDED WHEN APPLYING

The more information supplied to the Commission, or its staff, for its review process the better it is for the applicant. The Commission or its staff cannot make a decision on incomplete information. It must understand a project completely to make a fair decision. The following describes a minimum of information and documentation needed to support an application for differing situations.

Applicants should contact the Historic District Commission well in advance of the time they wish to start a project. Doing so will help speed the project along and make the hearing process faster and less confusing.

SECTION IV - STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

The LaGrange Historic Districts Commission has adopted the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation as part of its guidelines. The ten standards here are a summary of the complete text. The complete text may be obtained from:

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Preservation Assistance Division
Washington, D.C.

National Parks Website

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/index.htm>

Inventory of Historic Properties

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/4dd48cb3-d471-4a6c-9191-6d2bc616b2a8>

A reference copy can be viewed during normal business hours at City Hall.

The United States Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards for Rehabilitation” will be used to determine if a rehabilitation project qualifies as a “certified rehabilitation” pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976 and the Economic Recovery Act of 1990, as amended.

If planning a substantial rehabilitation project, please contact the Commission as early as possible for advice.

The word "color" does not apply to paint, but to the natural color of building materials, i.e., brick, stone, tile, etc.

The Standards for Rehabilitation are as follows:

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be taken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

SECTION V - RESOURCES

It is understood that every project has its own special needs and that every project is different in scope and complexity. It is the intent of this document to be a guide to help in the completion of a project in a manner that is compatible with the historic nature of La Grange. Good building and renovation practices add value to property and at the same time usually saves energy and money. The members of the Historic District Commission will assist in every way to help applicants comply with these guidelines and make projects something that will add value and livability to homes or make businesses more engaging for customers and clients.

The state of Kentucky may offer a tax credit to properties inside the Historic Districts. Contact the Kentucky Heritage Council for details.

The La Grange Main Street Program has a façade and roofing grant program that may provide funds for the renovation of homes and commercial buildings that are in the Historic Districts. The renovation must follow the Historic Districts guidelines for renovation and repair.

The United States Government may have an investment tax credit for commercial properties that undertake major renovation and follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Contact the Kentucky Heritage Council for details.

The Kentucky Heritage Council
The Barstow House
410 High Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 564-7005
Website: <https://heritage.ky.gov>

La Grange Kentucky Main Street Program
120 East Main Street
La Grange, KY 40031
Phone: (502) 269-0126
Website: <https://www.lagrangemainstreet.org/>

La Grange City Hall
307 West Jefferson Street
La Grange, KY 40031
Phone: (502) 222-1433
Website: <https://www.lagrangeky.net/>

SECTION VI – GUIDELINES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

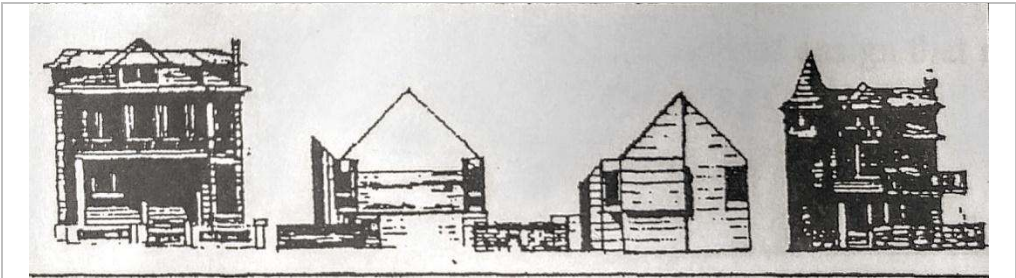
Information Required When Applying

1. Scaled plans and elevations of all sides of the new building and scaled drawings to include porches, decks, and height of floor above grade.
2. A list of exterior materials. A sample of these materials may be needed to convey complete understanding. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples may be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
3. A scaled site plan including landscaping and on premises parking. The site plan must show the Commission how the building relates to the buildings around it, including side and front yard setbacks.
4. Photographs of the building site plus photos of adjoining property. Also, photos viewing the site from up and down the street.
5. Construction that is not within but is adjacent to a Historic District must be reviewed, and approved, by the Commission for any impact that may negatively affect a District. Should it be determined that a negative impact would occur to a District, the Commission may contact the appropriate governing bodies for input and advice prior to the start of construction. Ultimately, the Commission will determine whether the construction is approved. No construction shall begin prior to Commission approval.
6. Items 1 & 3 will also be required for a County Building Permit.

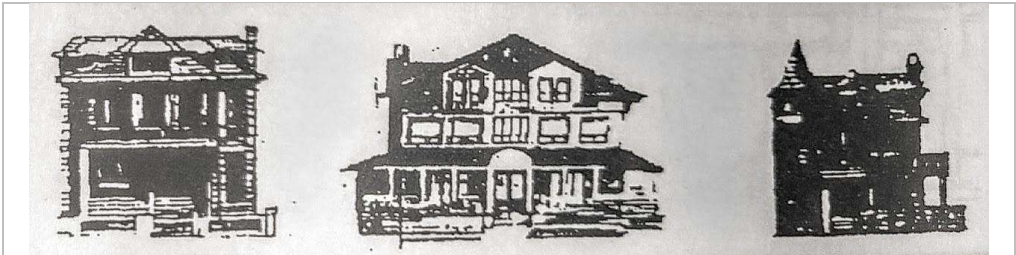
Guidelines

1. All new buildings in the Historic Districts shall compliment older architecture and shall be sensitive to design, height, width, mass, proportion, material, texture, voids to solids, and setbacks.
2. New building materials that compliment those used in comparable historically appropriate buildings should be utilized.
3. Architectural details that are historically inaccurate for the time period of the building or neighborhood should not be added to an existing building.
4. The use of materials, textures, or styles that are not reflective of the Historic District shall be discouraged.
5. Newer homes and buildings in the districts shall not be the example on which to base design, massing, height, width, and setback, nor will improvements made that precede the establishment of the Historic Districts, nor those that have been made illegally or without Commission approval.
6. In most parts of the Historic Districts, garages are not attached to the home and front on an alley. If in a neighborhood with this type of garage orientation, the design must follow the garage alley orientation.

Residential Examples

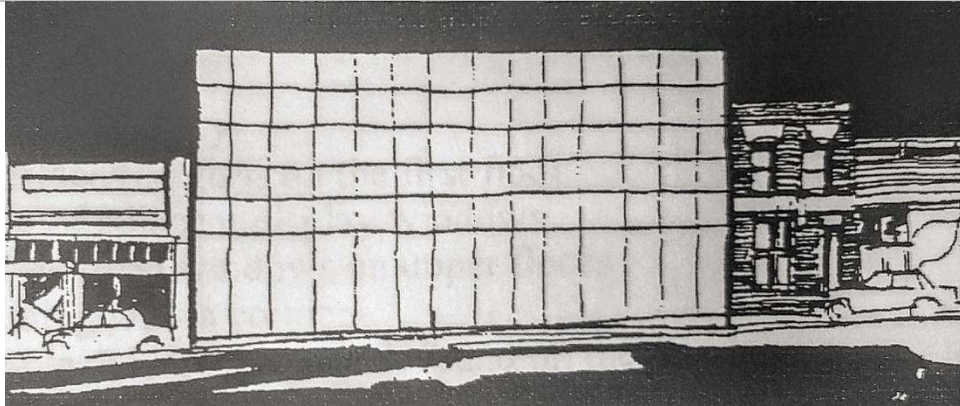


This is an example of a proposal for a new home that would probably not be given a certificate of appropriateness. Not because it is a contemporary design but because of how its massing and solids to voids relationship compare to adjoining homes.



This is an example of a structure that would be more suitable to the district. It is still contemporary in design, but its mass is more in keeping with, and its solids to voids relationship match more closely, to its neighbor's design.

Commercial Examples



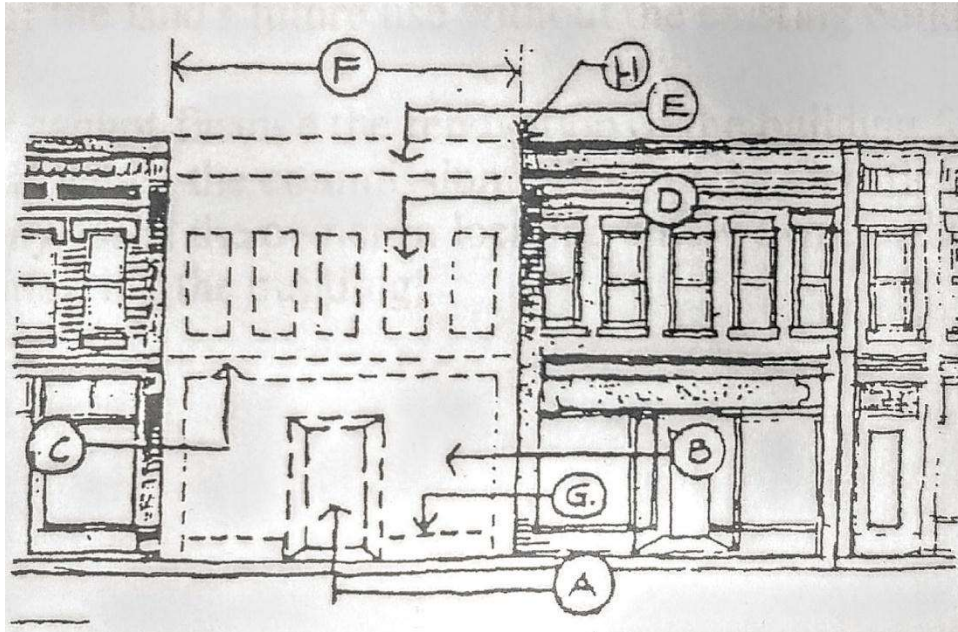
This is an example of a new commercial building that would probably not qualify for a certificate of appropriateness. It is not responsive or complementary to the surrounding buildings.



This building is contemporary in design, but it has all the elements of design that make it fit in well with La Grange's Main Street buildings.

Typical Façade Components in New Design of Commercial Structures

- A. Provide a recessed entry
- B. Use large surfaces of glass on the first floor
- C. Match height of adjacent display windows
- D. Use smaller, vertical windows on upper floors
- E. Cap the building with a cornice
- F. Express the typical building width found on the street
- G. Match the height of kickplates
- H. Match the cornice height of adjacent buildings



Commercial Façade Components

SECTION VII - ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING PROPERTY

(A) EXTERIOR REMODELING

Information Required When Applying

1. All additions and alterations will require scaled plans and all appropriate elevations.
2. Photos of the building and the adjoining properties. Including photos up and down the street.
3. A list of exterior materials and samples will be needed for all additions and alterations. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples should be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
4. A scaled site plan will also be needed showing the addition or alteration as it relates to the site.
5. Items 1 & 4 will also be required for a County Building Permit.

Guidelines

7. Building materials used in the exterior renovation of a building should be comparable with the building's original material.
8. Color, size, and shape of masonry should match existing. Color, surfacing (sand, etc.), and tooling of mortar should also duplicate the original.
9. The original shapes and slopes of the existing building's roof should be maintained. Do not install or enlarge dormers that would be incompatible with the building's façade.
10. Uncharacteristic architectural details should not be added to an existing building.
11. Original architectural detailing should be retained. If deteriorated, it is desirable to reproduce the detailing in the same, or comparable, material.
12. Vinyl siding is discouraged as it has no historic value and can cause or hide rot and other problems.
13. Covering trims and cornice with vinyl or aluminum is not permitted.

(B) DOORS AND WINDOWS

Information Required When Applying

1. All additions and alterations will require scaled plans and all appropriate elevations.
2. Photos of the building and the adjoining properties. Including photos up and down the street.
3. A list of exterior materials and samples will be needed for all additions and alterations. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples should be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
4. A scaled site plan will also be needed showing the addition or alteration as it relates to the site.

Guidelines

1. Closing, or covering over, of openings such as windows or doors is not desirable. Changing of size or shapes is not allowed.
2. Doors with similar material to original and glass area or layout are preferred. Solid doors are discouraged unless original to the structure.
3. Storm doors or security doors that are not original to the structure or period require approval. Example of acceptable replacements are storm doors that have less visual impact, such as full glass panels.

4. Only replacement sash and replacement windows that have the same glass size as the original windows are allowed.
5. Replacement windows may be of wood, clad aluminum, vinyl clad wood, or vinyl. Vinyl replacement windows are discouraged.
6. Muntions should be on the exterior of the glass and the pattern and scale shall match original.

(C) REPOINTING OF BRICK

Information Required When Applying

1. All additions and alterations will require scaled plans and all appropriate elevations.
2. Photos of the building and the adjoining properties. Including photos up and down the street.
3. A list of exterior materials and samples will be needed for all additions and alterations. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples should be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
4. A scaled site plan will also be needed showing the addition or alteration as it relates to the site.
5. Items 1 & 4 will also be required for a County Building Permit.

Guidelines

1. For all old brick that needs to be re-pointed, a special mortar mixture shall be used that will not damage older, softer bricks (Reference Appendix B).
2. No re-pointing, brick repair, or replacement shall take place without the prior knowledge and approval of the Historic Districts Commission.
3. Color, size, and shape of masonry should match existing. Color, surfacing (sand, etc.), and tooling of mortar should also duplicate the original.

(D) FENCING AND GARDEN WALLS

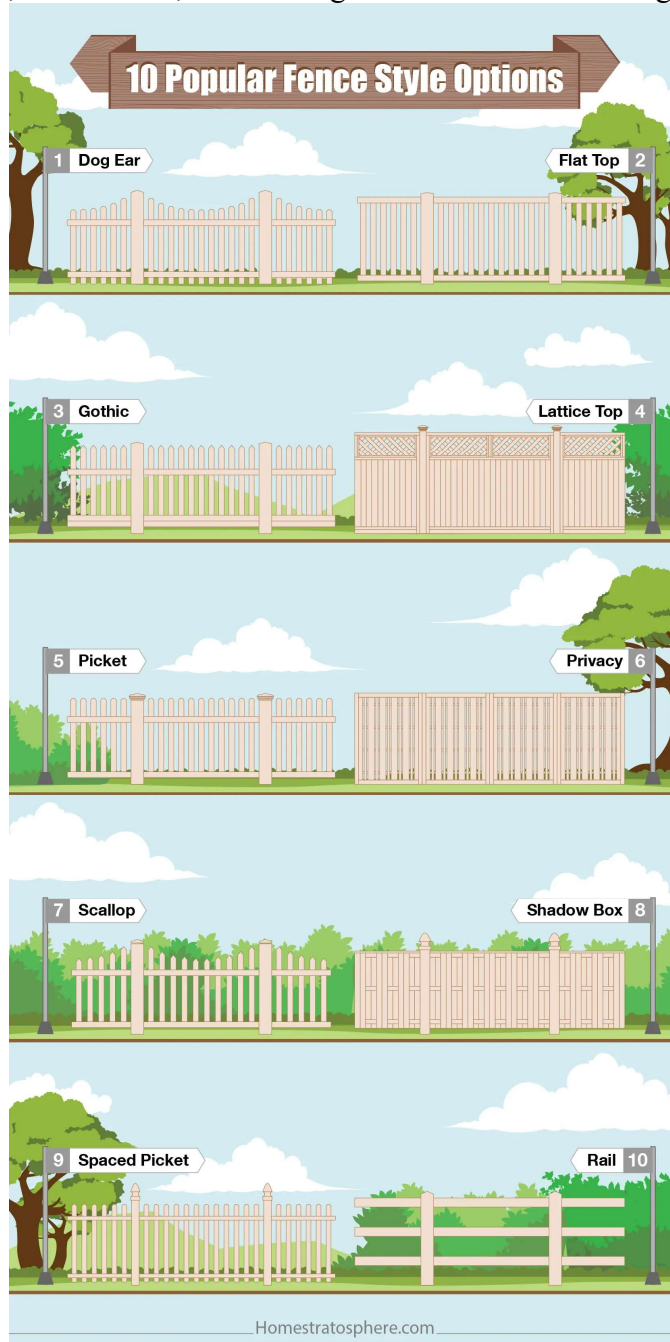
Information Required When Applying

1. All additions and alterations will require scaled plans and all appropriate elevations.
2. Photos of the building and the adjoining properties. Including photos up and down the street.
3. A list of exterior materials and samples will be needed for all additions and alterations. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples should be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
4. A scaled site plan will also be needed showing the addition or alteration as it relates to the site.
5. Items 1 & 4 will also be required for a County Building Permit.

Guidelines

1. All fencing, garden walls, and gates that are adjacent to a public right of way, including the street sides of corner lots but excluding alleyways, shall be no higher than 4' and will need a Certificate of Appropriateness.
2. Totally solid privacy fencing taller than 4' from the ground is prohibited.
3. No rear yard fencing shall be over 6'0" in height above grade and cannot extend forward past the rear corners of the house.

4. From the rear corner of the house to the front walk, fencing no higher than 4' will be used.
5. Wood picket, iron, and fencing of a historical design is preferred
6. Vinyl, chain link, barbed wire, and above grade electric wire fencing is not allowed.



Please note that the highest point of the fence is the measurement which must adhere to the Ordinance's fence height.

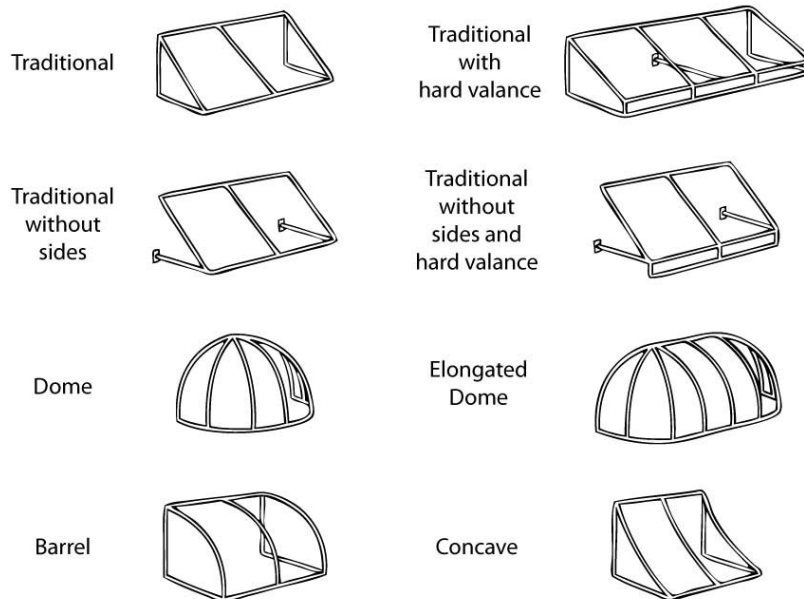
(E) AWNINGS

Information Required When Applying

1. All additions and alterations will require scaled plans and all appropriate elevations.
2. Photos of the building and the adjoining properties. Including photos up and down the street.
3. A list of exterior materials and samples will be needed for all additions and alterations. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples should be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
4. A scaled site plan will also be needed showing the addition or alteration as it relates to the site.
5. Items 1 & 4 will also be required for a County Building Permit.

Guidelines

1. Only awnings of a historical design will be permitted. In La Grange, Barrel, Domed, or Hipped awning styles are not historic.
2. Signage on awnings may be appropriate for the Main Street District but must be included in the design when submitted for a Certificate of Appropriateness. (see Section X – Signs, item E – Awnings)



Awning Styles

(F) PORCH COLUMNS AND POSTS

Information Required When Applying

1. All additions and alterations will require scaled plans and all appropriate elevations.
2. Photos of the building and the adjoining properties. Including photos up and down the street.
3. A list of exterior materials and samples will be needed for all additions and alterations. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples should be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
4. A scaled site plan will also be needed showing the addition or alteration as it relates to the site.
5. Items 1 & 4 will also be required for a County Building Permit.

Guidelines

1. Replacement posts and columns should match what would be historically correct for the period and style of house or building.
2. If replacing a single column, the replacement column shall match in design and material as the other architecturally appropriate columns in place.
3. If replacing more than one column, all columns shall be architecturally appropriate in both design and profile.
4. Covering up rot by nailing boards around the post base and plinth is not an acceptable way to repair posts and can be dangerous.
5. Non-Contributing structures may be approved by Staff.

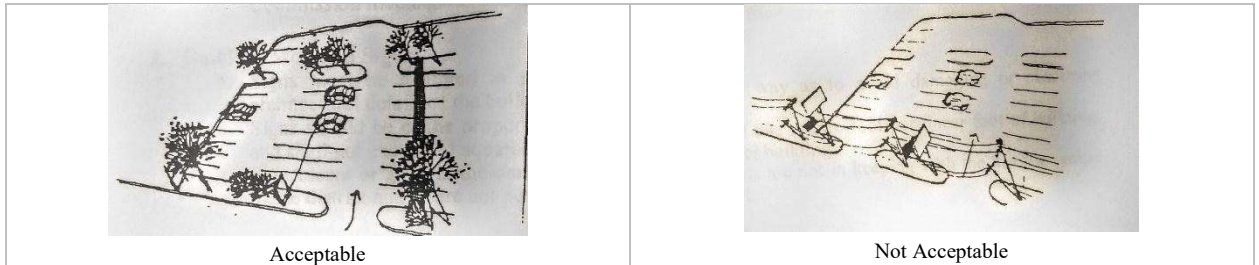
(G) COMMERCIAL SITE DESIGN

Information Required When Applying

1. All additions and alterations will require scaled plans and all appropriate elevations.
2. Photos of the building and the adjoining properties. Including photos up and down the street.
3. A list of exterior materials and samples will be needed for all additions and alterations. Pictures, vendor pamphlets, and material samples should be used to show designs and styles of materials, doors, and windows.
4. A scaled site plan will also be needed showing the addition or alteration as it relates to the site.
5. Items 1 & 4 will also be required for a County Building Permit.

Guidelines

1. Use landscape elements to screen edges of open sites.
2. Orient the building to the street and place the building forward and parking to rear.
3. Break up parking area with landscaping and accent paving. A minimum of 7% of the parking area should be landscaped.
4. All parking lots exposed to public streets shall apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness.
5. *See also:* Section VI – Guidelines for New Construction for more examples of Commercial Sites.



SECTION VIII - GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL LOCATIONS

(A) Temporary Buildings

1. Temporary buildings are those structures (regardless of size or material) that are intended by design to be of short-term use and shall be removed when no longer of service, or the permitted time is reached.
2. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required for temporary structures. Any structure that remains on site within the Historic Districts in excess of 12 months will be considered permanent and will therefore require a new Certificate of Appropriateness. Extensions to the 12-month term will be considered by the Commission on a case-by-case basis.
3. Placement of any temporary building must be done with best consideration to the visual impact it will have on the Historic Districts. Unless approved by the Commission, all temporary buildings that will be on site for more than 48 hours must be located on the property behind the rear-most structural wall of the building, all attempts should be made to keep the temporary structure as visually unobtrusive as possible to the passing public.

(B) Koi Ponds, Fountains, Other Water Features, or Yard Ornaments

1. Approval is required for fountains and other water features over 3'0" tall and ponds if the desired location is forward of a street facing façade. For approval, consideration must be given to size, intended location, style and design, and materials used. Water features attached to a structure must be approved.
2. Temporary, seasonal, or holiday type yard ornaments do not normally require approval regardless of size or location on the property.

SECTION IX - SIGNS

Information Required When Applying

1. Photo of building and/or area of placement and adjacent properties.
2. A scaled drawing of the sign and its bracket or mounting posts must be part of the application.
3. A site plan, including setbacks, for free-standing signs is required.
4. Window signage applications should contain square footage of sign and the window it will be placed on. Measurements of facade and/or windows as City ordinances mandate size ratios.
5. Proposed lighting, if any, of sign(s). Include catalog cuts, specification pages, or material sample.

Guidelines

The guidelines in this section apply to all signs within the La Grange Historic Districts. All signage requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness must receive that Certificate PRIOR to being installed. To ensure compliance, a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage application should be obtained BEFORE purchase of the sign.

Definition of a sign:

For the purpose of these guidelines: Any object that is meant to advertise, draw attention, convey information, or give guidance to any person outside of a building shall be considered a sign. All signs placed inside or in a window or store glass that can be viewed or understood from outside the building will also be considered a sign.

General guidelines:

Design of signs should complement the historic nature of the Districts. Commission approval is also required for any public directional or neighborhood signage. All sign requests must have an Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness signed and dated by both the party making the request and the Commission in order to apply for a City sign permit.

Any sign may be submitted to the entire Commission and supporting documentation must accompany the request and must be presented at a regular Commission meeting for consideration. A regular meeting is one that occurs monthly and has been publicized and scheduled in advance. Applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness may be obtained at La Grange City Hall or downloaded from the City website, www.lagrangeky.net. A signage permit from the City of La Grange is also required prior to installation.

Specific Guidelines:

(A) Temporary Signage

1. Temporary signs do not require approval or application submission within these parameters:
 - a. Signs must be placed on your property and not in an easement or right of way.
 - b. Signs shall not have more than two faces; each a maximum of 6 square feet.
 - c. Signs are allowed for up to 30 days; Temporary signs that are displayed for longer than 30 days require the approval of the Commission.
2. Real Estate signs that fit these parameters do not require Commission approval and are allowed for more than 30 days.

(B) Window and Door Glass or Vinyl Cut-Out Signs

1. No more than 30% of total glass space of first floor may be used for signage regardless of total per building. This includes leaded, stained, or other decorative glass panes, panels, or transoms.
2. Any etching or sandblasting must be reviewed at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
3. Signs should not be placed higher than the second-floor windowsills.

(C) Building Mounted Signs

1. Signs must be mounted in such a way as to avoid damaging or obscuring architectural details of the building. For example, screws should be placed into mortar joints instead of brick
2. Signs should be of the proportion of one square foot per linear foot of the building but shall not exceed 24 square feet per building.

(D) Projecting Signs

1. Projecting signs may be erected only on existing brackets or poles. Existing may be removed but once removed, cannot be replaced without Commission approval. New brackets must be anchored in mortar, not brick.
2. Up to 12 square feet per side may be used for two-sided signs. No single sign shall exceed 24 square feet in total considering all sides.
3. Locate sign brackets for projecting signs no higher than second floor windowsills.
4. Hanging signs should be secured/anchored to prevent damage.

(E) Awnings

1. The Commission will review all requests for awnings at a regularly scheduled meeting.
2. Backlighting will not be permitted.
3. Existing awnings may be removed but once removed cannot be replaced without Commission approval. Awning may be removed temporarily for cleaning or repairs.
4. Barrel or Domed awnings are not historically accurate for La Grange. (see diagram in Section VII – Additions and Alterations to Existing Property, item D - Awnings)

(F) Lighting

1. Indirect light sources that are shielded and shine on a sign may be permitted.

2. Exterior lighting fixtures must not cause damage to the building.
3. Internally illuminated signs do not compliment the historic nature of the Districts and so are not permitted.
4. Neon signs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Flashing neon is never appropriate.
5. All lighting must be shielded from shining into the sky or onto the public way.
6. LED lights are discouraged and must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the full Commission. In these situations, style, color tone, and location are relevant. Super bright or blue-toned lights are not historic but soft white lights can mimic historic models.

(G) Yard Signs and Freestanding Signs

1. All yard signs and freestanding signs must be presented to the Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting. Yard signs should measure no more than 5'0" when measured from the ground. While discouraged, yard signs may be over 5'0" feet tall measured from the ground in circumstances found necessary for visibility or cohesiveness with adjacent properties.
2. No yard sign can be larger than 12 square feet per side and can have only 2 sides.
3. Yard signs cannot be lighted internally but may have indirect lighting shining on them. A 12 square foot sign will have no more than 150 watts of lighting per side.
4. The light will be shielded from shining into the sky or onto the public way.
5. No yard sign will have a dimension larger than 4'0" on any one plane.

(H) A-Frame and Other Non-Affixed Signs

1. For this definition, any sign that is A-Frame or flat and not attached to a building or the ground shall be considered non-permanent. Even though the signs do not alter or affect the historic structure(s), they do impact the appearance of the Historic Districts and therefore must meet the following guidelines.
2. No sign can be over 2'0" x 4'0" on any plane or direction. Signs must not impede foot traffic, block passage to or from any building, or cause hardship on wheelchair maneuverability.
3. Sidewalk display type signs, regardless of design, must be removed at night or after closing. Signs not removed at night will be considered a pedestrian safety hazard and will be subject to removal by the La Grange Police or a member of the Historic Districts Commission and given to the La Grange Code Enforcement Officer for disposition.

(I) Other Prohibited Signs

1. Electronic, flashing neon, and running signs are not allowed.
2. No sign shall be higher than the roof, cornice, or parapet.
3. Flags and/or banners, even temporarily, for commercial or promotional purposes are not allowed. Pennants and hung cloth or vinyl to attract attention (for any purpose) are not allowed. Flags that do not have a commercial purpose, such as United States, State, or County flags, are exempt from these guidelines.
4. Billboards, chalkboards, and/or posters or placards displayed with the primary purpose of public viewing from outside of the building are not allowed.
5. No sign or notice may be painted on a structure.
6. Murals directly on brick are prohibited due to the soft and porous composition of historic brick which is damaged by paint, or other materials, that prevent its ability to fluctuate

with temperature and humidity variances; in turn, leading to deterioration and structure failure. Murals may be approved if design is applied to a substrate then affixed appropriately to the mortar of brick structures. All murals must be approved by the Commission. The City Ordinances do not provide for murals and they require special permit application outside the Commission's decision.

7. Per City Ordinance, off-premises signs are not allowed.
8. Decorative non-permanent yard flags 24" x 24" or smaller are allowed.

Any display that could be considered signage but not specifically detailed within this section must be submitted to the Historic Districts Commission for consideration.

SECTION X - DEMOLITION

Information Required When Applying

1. The historic significance shall be considered, and certain requirements may be waived by the commission if good cause is shown by the applicant, legal counsel, or their agent.
2. Photographs of the structure to illustrate the general condition of the property.
3. If replacing the structure, estimated cost of renovation of the property by two contractors that are proficient in historic restoration and renovation. The two estimates will be averaged to determine the estimated cost of a restoration that would be consistent with renovations in these Guidelines.
4. Cost of demolition, removal of debris, and finish grading of property.

Guidelines

Demolition of any building within the Historic Districts, whether in whole or part, must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to applying for City/County permits. To apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness the following shall be determined by the Commission based upon information provided by the applicant and independent investigation by the Commission:

1. The importance of the building to the history and character of the district.
2. The physical condition of the building as determined by the County Building Inspector and the City Code Enforcement official or their designated representative.
3. The costs of renovation and demolition as described in Section 1, Paragraph C of these Guidelines.
4. The potential and existing usefulness of the building.
5. The feasibility of the land's future use with or without the existing building, if not rebuilding.
6. If the current owner cannot finance the renovation of the building for reuse but renovation is found to be economically feasible, the Commission shall deny the Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition.

Properties in Disrepair/Neglect/Blight

Should a property appear to have nuisance issues that render it unfit for habitation or use, or found to have safety issues, including, but not limited to, those that arose due to neglect, fire, disasters including natural or the malicious act of others, vandalism, or collapse, the matter may be referred to the Code Enforcement Board for appropriate action.

SECTION XI – EMERGENCY HEARINGS

In the event of damage, catastrophe, property purchase clause, or insurance obligations and/or deadlines, the next regularly scheduled meeting may fall outside project date parameters. City Ordinances require the public posting of any public meeting at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting. Inquire at City Hall to determine feasibility of an emergency meeting. Meetings must have enough members to constitute a quorum to be legally viable.

APPENDIX A – QUICK REFERENCE

TYPES OF WORK	NO APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR:	STAFF APPROVAL MAY BE GIVEN FOR:	COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR:
AWNINGS	Repair or maintenance		All awnings, new or replacement
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS OR ADDITIONS			All new buildings or additions, including garages, porches, storage sheds, gazebo, enclosures, and miscellaneous permanent structures
CORNICES	Repair using original material and duplicating design		Any work which does not duplicate original appearance and materials
DECKS	Repair or maintenance	Decks and ramps on rear of homes	New decks and ramps need Commission approval
DEMOLITION		Non-Contributing Structures	All demolition: site, building, shed, and fencing
DOORS, SIDELIGHTS, AND TRANSOMS			All changes visible from the exterior or that require structural or sizing alterations
FENCING AND GATE ENTRY STRUCTURE (See also Retaining Walls)	Repair or maintenance using original materials and duplicating design		All new fences or changes to existing, including gates and/or integrated trellises
FIRE ESCAPES			All new fire escapes or changes to existing

TYPES OF WORK	NO APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR:	STAFF APPROVAL MAY BE GIVEN FOR:	COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR:
GUTTERS	Repairs matching original profile without changing design		Adding new or roofing over built-in gutters or changes in original materials or design
MASONRY CLEANING, TUCKPOINTING, and PAINTING	Approved fixtures must be anchored in mortar joints.	Repainting, Chemical or water re-pointing (see Appendix B for formula for mortar)	Chemical cleaning. Waterproofing. Painting of masonry. No power blasting is permitted. (see Appendix B for formula for mortar)
PARKING LOTS, SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, and PAVED AREAS	Repaving with existing material. Seal Coating.		All new and changes to existing
PORCH FIXTURES (See also Masonry)	Flag brackets. House Numbers. Mailboxes. Porch lights or door hardware not altering structure.		Removal or alteration of porch features including post and decorative trim or porch enclosure
RETAINING WALLS			All retaining walls in front of property or over 3' tall
ROOFS	Replace current materials		Alteration of roof line or other details and replacement with different materials
SIDING	Repair of wood siding with wood duplicating original appearance		Applying simulated materials or covering/cladding exterior surface
SIGNS* (See also Masonry)	Removal of sign faces. Same size replacement of sign faces	Non-affixed signs (not attached to building or post)	All, other than non-affixed signs, and/or bracket supports
SKYLIGHTS	Removal, to be replaced with original roofing material		All new or changes/replacement to existing
STORM DOORS AND WINDOWS	Removal or repair		Any changes that visually affects the structure

TYPES OF WORK	NO APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR:	STAFF APPROVAL MAY BE GIVEN FOR:	COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR:
WINDOWS, SIDELIGHTS, AND TRANSOMS	Repairs with original materials and trim		All, including removal or installation of replacement windows/materials
SOLAR PANELS			All new or changes to existing
TEMPORARY STRUCTURES			All temporary structures

*Permit required from the City of La Grange.
Verify permit requirements with City and County
authorities *before* commencing any construction project.

APPENDIX B – BRICK MORTAR

Mortar Types

Type	Strength	Mixture (by volume)
K	75 psi	1 Cement + 3 Lime + 10 Sand or 2 Lime + 5 Sand
O	350 psi	1 Cement + 2 Lime + 10 Sand
N	750 psi	1 Cement + 1 Lime + 5 Sand
S	1800 psi	1 Cement + ½ Lime + 4 Sand
M	2500 psi	1 Cement + ¼ Lime + 4 Sand

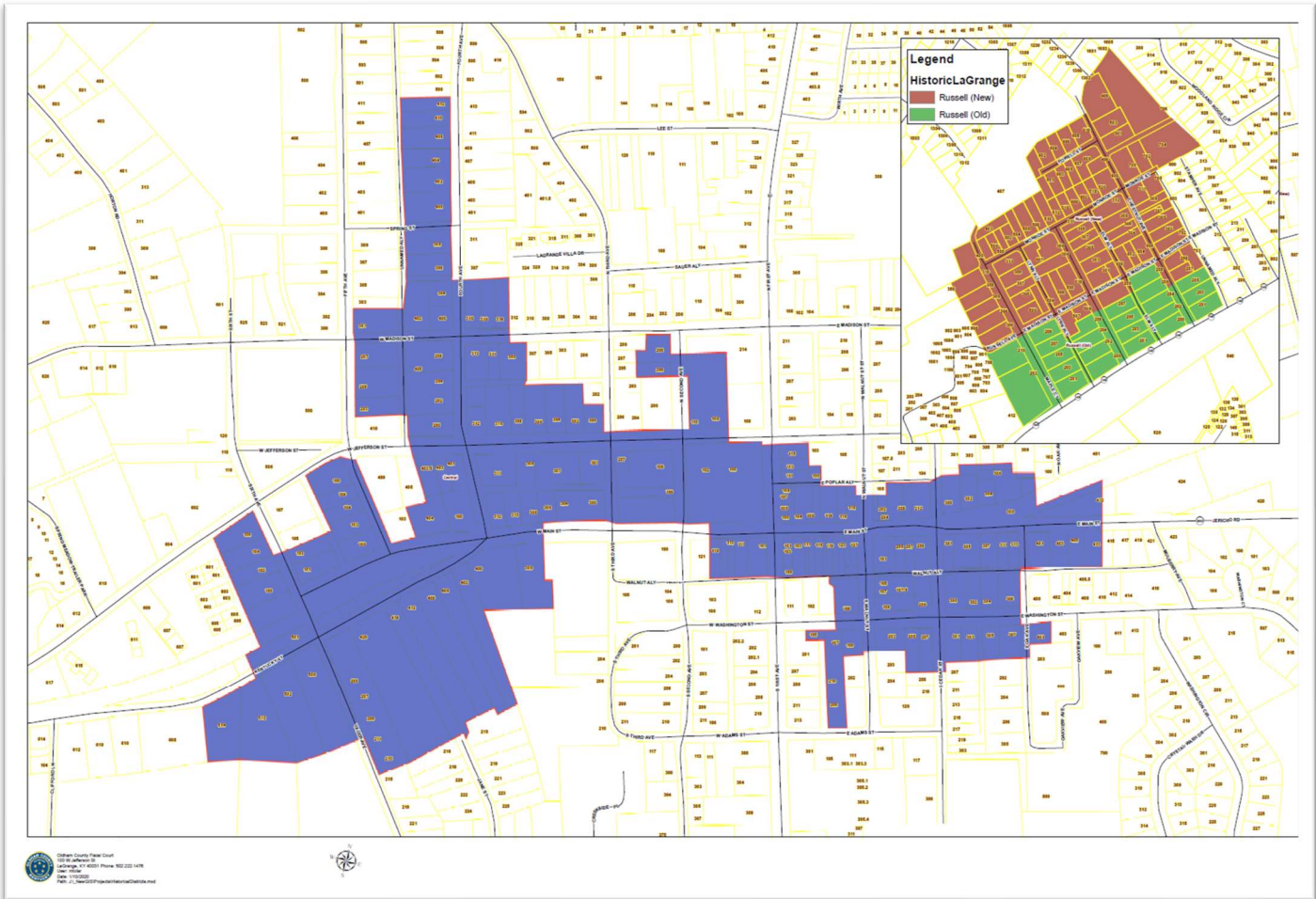
Mortar Applications

Masonry Material	Sheltered Exposure	Moderate Exposure	Severe Exposure
Very durable hard brick, granite	O	N	S
Moderately durable most brick limestone	K	O	N
Poorly durable soft brick friable stone	Lime & Sand	K	O

Source: UVM Historic Preservation Program, Professor Thomas Visser,
www.uvm.edu/~histpres/203/mortartable.html

APPENDIX C – MAP OF DISTRICTS

For an index listing of individual properties, see Section IV for details about the National Register of Historic Places. A larger map may be accessed at City Hall and/or on the City's website: <https://www.lagrangeky.net>



APPENDIX D – DEFINITIONS OF COMMON ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Adobe Bricks - Bricks formed out of mud or clay and baked in a kiln or under the sun. Adobe bricks are often bonded together with mud- or lime-mortar joints, and coats of lime-and-sand stucco often cover adobe walls to prevent them from eroding in the rain. The use of adobe bricks dates to prehistoric times and continues today. Adobe buildings are particularly common in the southwestern United States, where they are indigenous.

Arcade - A series of arches supported by columns or other vertical elements.

Arch - A curved or pointed structural element that is supported at its sides.

Architectural Symmetry - A characteristic (particularly of classical architecture) by which the two sides of a facade or architectural floor plan of a building present mirror images of one another.

Archway - An opening with a curved or pointed top.

Attic Window Arch - A window lighting an attic story, and often located in a cornice. Attic windows are common to ancient Greek and Greek Revival architecture.

Bake Oven Arch - An enclosed brick or stone oven built adjacent to a hearth in early Dutch Colonial houses. As a bake oven's walls are made of solid, insulating materials, it can maintain an even temperature for many hours.

Balcony Arch - A platform that projects from the wall of a building, and which is enclosed on its outer three sides by a balustrade, railing, or parapet.

Baluster - A vertical supporting element, similar to a small column.

Balustrade - A railing consisting of a row of balusters supporting a rail.

Bay - A section of a building distinguished by vertical elements such as columns or pillars. Often, a bay will protrude from the surface of the wall in which it is situated, thus creating a small, nook-like interior space, often of a rectangular or semi-hexagonal outline. See bay window.

Bay Window - A projecting bay that is lit on all its projecting sides by windows. See bay.

Board-and-batten - A wooden siding treatment in which wide, vertically oriented boards are separated by narrower strips of wood called "battens," which form the joints between the boards. This is a technique common to American folk architecture.

Bow Window - A curved bay window. See bay window and bay.

Bell Roof - A roof shaped like a bell, and typically situated on top of a round tower. The bell roof has origins in Normandy, toured extensively by Stanford White, who incorporated bell roofs into many of his Shingle Style houses and buildings.

Belvedere - A small, square cupola that functions as a lookout tower, located at the top of a building. Belvederes are characteristic of Italianate houses.

Bousillage - A form of plaster made of mud, clay and moss used in poteaux-en-terre construction in French Colonial architecture, particularly in Louisiana.

Brace - A reinforcing and/or stabilizing element of an architectural frame.

Bracket - A projection from a vertical surface that provides structural and/or visual support for overhanging elements such as cornices, balconies, and eaves.

Casement Window - A window frame that is hinged on one vertical side, and which swings open to either the inside or the outside of the building. Casement windows often occur in pairs.

Central Hallway - A passageway that cuts through the center of a building, from front to back, and off which rooms open to the sides.

Chalet - A timber dwelling, cottage, or lodge with a gable roof and wide eaves, indigenous to the Swiss Alps, but now found worldwide.

Chevron - A design that incorporates a pointed shape similar to an accent mark, common to Art Deco architecture.

Chimney Stacks and Bundles - Chimney flues visible from the exterior of a house, and sometimes very decorative.

Classical Architecture - Architecture modeled after the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome.

Classical Figurative Statuary - Statues of men and women dressed in ancient Grecian or Roman attire.

Colonial Kitchen - In the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries, a kitchen inspired by the kitchens of Colonial America. A colonial kitchen is usually large, with a wide, open hearth, and contains no modern conveniences (or else contains modern conveniences contrived to look pre-modern). Colonial revivalists of the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries looked back upon colonial dwellings, especially colonial kitchens, with nostalgia for earlier, pre-industrial times. The colonial kitchen display of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago was exceedingly popular amongst Colonial Revival enthusiasts.

Colonnade - A range of columns that supports a string of continuous arches or a horizontal entablature.

Column - A supporting pillar consisting of a base, a cylindrical shaft, and a capital on top of the shaft. Columns may be plain or ornamental.

Composite Order - See Corinthian Order.

Cone-shaped Roof - A roof shaped like a cone.

Corinthian Order - A variation of the Ionic order, and the youngest (dating from the 4th century B.C.E.) of the three basic orders of classical Greek architecture (the others being the Doric and the Ionic orders). The Corinthian column was the showiest of the three basic columns, with a tall acanthus leaf capital, a molded base, and a slender, fluted shaft. The Corinthian order was utilized in ancient Greece almost exclusively for temple interiors, but became very prominent in ancient Rome, due to the ancient Romans' taste for excessive ornamentation, particularly in architecture. Ever the imitators, but rarely the inventors, the ancient Romans grafted the volute scrolls of the Ionic order onto the capitals of the Corinthian order to result in the Composite Order.

Cornice - A crowning projection at a roof line, often with molding or other classical detail.

Cornice Molding - A decorative strip of wood running just below the eaves of a building. A cornice molding is a cross between a cornice and a molding – a cornice is a crowning projection at a roof line, while a molding is a decorative strip of wood.

Courtyard - An open space, usually open to the sky, enclosed by a building, often with an arcade or colonnade.

Crenellation - A sequence of alternating raised and lowered wall sections at the top of a high exterior wall or parapet. Crenellations were originally employed for defensive purposes (one could hide behind a raised wall section, while shooting down at enemies from over a lowered wall section) but were later used for decoration. Also known as a battlement.

Cupola - A small dome, or hexagonal or octagonal tower, located at the top of a building. A cupola is sometimes topped with a lantern. A belvedere is a square-shaped cupola.

Curlicue - A spiral or looping line.

Decorative Motif - A repeated pattern, image, idea, or theme. In classical architecture, series of urns and continuous or repeated swags of garlands are common decorative motifs.

Dentils - Small rectangular blocks that, when placed together in a row abutting a molding, suggest a row of teeth.

Diamond-paned Windows - Windows that are made up of many small, diamond-shaped panes of glass, common in Colonial and Colonial Revival buildings.

Doric Order - The oldest (dating to the 6th-century B.C.E.) and plainest of the three basic orders of classical Greek architecture (the others being the Ionic and the Corinthian orders). In ancient Greece, the Doric order was the masculine, and the most preferred, order. A Doric column is stout, with a fluted shaft (ideally, with 20 flutes), a plain capital, and no base. In ancient Rome, the Doric order was often replaced with the “Tuscan” order indigenous to the Italian peninsula; it consisted of an unfluted shaft, a simply molded capital, and a base.

Dormer Window - A perpendicular window located in a sloping roof; triangular walls join the window to the roof. Dormer windows are sometimes crowned with pediments, and they often light attic sleeping rooms; “dormer” derives from “dormir,” French for “to sleep.”

Double Doors - Two adjacent doors that share the same door frame, and between which there is no separating vertical member. Double doors are often referred to as “French doors”, due to their preponderance in French architecture.

Double-hung Sash Windows - A window with two sashes that move independently of each other.

Eaves - The projecting edge of a roof that overhangs an exterior wall to protect it from the rain.

Eclecticism - A mixing of various architectural styles and ornamentation of the past and present, including ornamentation from Asia. Eclecticism in architecture was very popular in both Victorian England and in the United States during the second half of the 19th century.

Elizabethan Architecture - Architecture constructed in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603); Elizabethan architecture followed Tudor architecture and preceded Jacobean architecture. Elizabethan architecture resulted from the English debut of French and Italian Renaissance architecture, whose classical order and symmetry transformed the asymmetrical and rambling medieval English castle. Elizabethan architecture was revived in the United States in the early 20th century.

Exposed Rafters - Rafters that are exposed to the outside of a building. Rafters are the inclined, sloping framing members of a roof, and to which the roof covering is affixed.

Façade - An exterior wall, or face, of a building. The front facade of a building contains the building’s main entrance, the rear facade is the building’s rear exterior wall, and the side facades are a building’s side exterior walls.

Fan Light - A semi-circular or semi-elliptical window, with wedge-shaped panes of glass separated by mullions arranged like the spokes of a wagon wheel. Fan lights are usually found over entrance doors and windows, particularly in Federal and Greek Revival homes.

Fireplace Surround - A molding about a fireplace, often highly decorated.

Flared Roof - A roof with a bell-shaped profile. It is sloped with concave curves at the top, and with convex curves at the bottom.

Floor Plan - The arrangement of rooms in a building.

Fluting - Shallow, vertical grooves in the shaft of a column or pilaster.

Free-flowing Floor Plan - A floor plan in which there are no (or few) hallways, and rooms open directly onto one another, often through wide doorways. Sliding doors are popular in such a plan, as are central living rooms. The free-flowing floor plans of the Shingle and Prairie Styles are precursors to the modern floor plans of the 1930s onward, which emphasize a great deal of open space.

French Baroque Architecture - A form of Baroque architecture that evolved in France during the reigns of Louis XIII (1610-43), Louis XIV (1643-1714), and Louis XV (1714-74). French Baroque architecture melded traditional French architectural forms (such as steep roofs and irregular rooflines) with classical Italian elements (such as columns, porticos, and segmental pediments), and greatly influenced the non-religious architecture of 18th-century Europe.

French Doors - Two adjacent doors that share the same door frame, and between which there is no separating vertical member. French doors are often referred to as “double doors.”

Frieze - A band of richly sculpted ornamentation on a building.

Gable Roof - A roof with two slopes – front and rear– joining at a single ridge line parallel to the entrance façade. When the ridge line of a gable-roofed house is perpendicular to the street, the roof is said to be a “gable-end roof.”

Gallerie - A wide, wrap-around covered porch lined with columns on one side, and common to French Colonial architecture of Louisiana. A gallerie connects interior rooms together, much like a hallway.

Gambrel Roof - A ridged roof with two slopes at each side, the lower slopes being steeper than the upper slopes.

Gingerbreading - Wooden architectural ornament popular with American folk houses in the late-19th and early 20th centuries, particularly in the Stick Style. Gingerbreading often took the form of scalloped or zig-zag-edged clapboards, which were often painted in contrasting colors. At times, gingerbreading could be superfluous and almost gaudy, with excessive frills and curlicues. The widespread use in the mid-19th century of the jigsaw – a hand tool consisting of a handle attached to a small, thin blade – made gingerbread decorations readily available to home builders.

Grilles - Ventilation panels, often highly decorative.

Half-timbering - A timber framework of Medieval European derivative whose timbers are in-filled with masonry or plaster.

Hansel-and-Gretel House - A house associated with fairy tales of Germanic origin. The story of Hansel and Gretel is a fairy tale in which two children lost in a forest come upon a gingerbread house trimmed with candy, but which is presided over by a child-eating witch.

Hardware - The metal fittings of a building, such as locks, latches, hinges, handles, and knobs.

Herculaneum and Pompeii - Ancient Roman cities buried by volcanic rock with the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Discovered by excavation in 1748, they provided much insight into the life, times, and architecture of the ancient Romans of the 1st century. The architecture, interior decoration, and regal colors (“Pompeian red,” in particular) of these ancient cities influenced the Federal Style of the early 19th century.

Hipped Roof - A roof with four sloped sides. The sides meet at a ridge at the center of the roof. Two of the sides are trapezoidal in shape, while the remaining two sides are triangular, and thus meet the ridge at its endpoints.

Hood Molding - A molding that projects above a door, window, or archway to throw off rain. A hood molding is also referred to as a “drip molding.”

Incised Linear Shapes - Shapes demarcated upon masonry by scored lines.

Ionic Order - The second oldest (mid-6th – 5th century B.C.E.) of the three basic orders of classical Greek architecture (the others being the Doric and the Corinthian orders). In ancient Greece, the Ionic order was the feminine order, and the most appropriate for temples constructed in homage to goddesses. In ancient Rome, the Ionic order was much more prominently utilized than the Doric order. An Ionic column is tall and slender, with a fluted shaft of 24 flutes, a capital with prominent volute scrolls, and an elegantly molded base.

Jack Arch - A structural element that provides support over an opening in a masonry wall (i.e., made of brick or stone). Jack arches are not actually arch-shaped, but are, instead, flat, and made of individual wedge-shaped bricks or stones held in place through compression.

Jacobean Architecture - Architecture constructed in England during the reigns of James I, Charles I, Charles II, and James II (1603-1688); Jacobean architecture followed Elizabethan architecture and preceded the English Renaissance architecture of Inigo Jones. Jacobean architecture made use of many classical elements, such as columns, pilasters, and arcades, but it did so in a free and fanciful manner, rather than according to strict classical tradition. Jacobean architecture was revived in the United States the early 20th century.

Jettied Story - An upper story of a building that projects out over the story beneath it, common in Colonial American architecture.

Jigsaw - A saw with a small, thin blade used for cutting curves and curlicues in wooden boards. See gingerbreading.

Joinery - Woodworking joints in carpentry.

Lattice-work - A wooden grid of boards overlaid atop an exterior surface. See stick-work.

Mansard Roof - A four-sided hipped roof featuring two slopes on each side, the lower slopes being very steep, almost vertical, and the upper slopes sometimes being so horizontal that they are not visible from the ground. The Mansard roof was named after the French 17th-century architect Francois Mansart (1598-1666), who popularized the form.

Masonry - Being of stone, brick, or concrete.

Molding - A decorative strip of wood.

Mullions - The structural units that divide adjacent windows.

Muntins - Dividing bars between panes of glass.

Ogee Arch - An arch consisting of two opposing “S”-curves meeting in a point at the apex. An “S”-curve is itself made up of two curves: a concave curve in its lower half, and a convex curve in its upper half.

Order - A classical style of architecture. The three primary orders, used in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, are, chronologically: the Doric order, the Ionic order, and the Corinthian order.

Oriel - A projecting window of an upper floor, supported from below by a bracket.

Over-hanging Rafters - Rafters that extend beyond the eaves of a roof. Rafters are the inclined, sloping framing members of a roof, to which the roof covering is affixed.

Pagoda - A tiered tower with multiple roof layers, constructed about a central axis pole. Indigenous to Asia (particularly to China, Japan, and Korea), and typically located there within Buddhist temple precincts, pagodas were built as decorative garden structures in the United States and Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries, when exoticism in architectural ornament was highly fashionable. See eclecticism.

Palazzo (pl. pallazi) - The Italian word for “palace.”

Palladian Window - An arched window immediately flanked by two smaller, non-arched windows, popularized by Andrea Palladio in northern Italy in the 16th century, and frequently deployed by American architects working in the American Georgian and American Palladian styles in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Panel - A smooth surface, usually rectangular (or sometimes circular) in shape and framed by a molding, and often featuring decorative, sculptural carving.

Parapet - A low wall, located at the top of any sudden drop, such as at the top of the facade of a building.

Parthenon - One of the most iconic buildings of the classical world, erected in Athens around 440 B.C.E. The Parthenon temple was built in honor of the Greek goddess Athena; it was ringed with 46 columns and crowned by two pediments containing a wealth of sculptural detail. Its stonework was originally brightly colored, but its paint has long since worn away. A large gilt statue of Athena once stood inside the temple.

Patio - Similar to a terrace, a patio is an outdoor extension of a building, situated above the ground level, and open to the sky. Colloquially, a patio is a more informal space than a terrace.

Pavilion - A small but prominent portion of a building that juts out from a main building, either above its roof line, or to the side, and which is identified by a unique (usually diminutive) height and individual roof type. A pavilion may also stand alone, separate from a larger building, or may be connected to a main building by a terrace or path.

Pediment - A decorative triangular piece situated over a portico, door, window, fireplace, etc. The space inside the triangular piece is called the “tympanum,” and is often decorated.

Peek-a-boo Window - A very small window, often circular.

Pergola - A garden structure built up over a path or narrow terrace, lined with evenly spaced columns or posts that support a wooden-framed roof without sheathing. Often, vines are trained around the wooden framework of a pergola, and the pergola may lead from one building to another.

Picturesque - Like-a-picture, charming, quaint. Picturesque architecture and landscape architecture evolved in England in the 18th and 19th centuries and influenced American architecture and landscapes in the 19th century; winding paths, asymmetrical compositions, rustic, or exotic elements (see pagoda), and faux ruins were characteristic of picturesque architecture and landscapes. Picturesque settings were favored for their emotional associations.

Pilaster - A shallow, non-structural rectangular column, attached to, and projecting only slightly from, a wall surface.

Pillar - A structural support, similar to a column, but larger and more massive, and often without ornamentation. Pillars can be round or square in section, and are most often made of brick, stone, cement, or other masonry, although substantial wooden timbers can be formed into pillars.

Pointed Arch - An arch that is pointed at its apex, rather than rounded, common in Gothic and Gothic Revival architecture.

Portico - An entrance porch with columns or pilasters and a roof, and often crowned by a triangular pediment.

Poteaux-en-terre - A mode of wall construction in French Colonial America in which tall posts are rammed into the ground, and the spaces between them are filled with mud plaster, also known as bousillage. Due to the impermanent nature of this construction, very few Poteau- en-terre buildings remain.

Projection - A side wing, tower, or window bay that protrudes from a building.

Pueblo - A traditional community of Native Americans living in the southwestern United States. Pueblos consist of many adjacent houses made of adobe brick, although these houses are often, themselves, called pueblos.

Quoins - Large, prominent masonry units outlining windows, doorways, segments, and corners of buildings.

Rafters - The inclined, sloping framing members of a roof, and to which the roof covering is affixed.

Roof Ridge - The horizontal intersection of two roof slopes at the top of a roof.

Roofline - The part of a building that rises above the building's eaves. Rooflines can be highly decorative, with balustrades, pediments, statuary, dormer windows, cross gables, etc.

Round-arched Window - A window that is fully arched at its top.

Roundel - A small, circular panel or window.

Rubble Brick - Rough-edged brick, often of variegated colors.

Saltbox Roof - A gable roof whose rear slope is longer than its front slope. The rear slope often very nearly meets the ground. Saltbox roofs are common to the architecture of Colonial New England.

Sculptural Forms - Architectural elements that have the appearance of having been sculpted.

Segmental Arch - An arch whose arc is shorter than that of a full semi-circle.

Setback - A step-like recession in a wall.

Shutters - Pairs of solid or slatted window coverings, traditionally hinged to the exterior of a building to either side of a window, used to block light or wind from the interior of a building.

Side Light - A fixed window positioned to the side of a doorway or window.

Slate - A finely grained, foliated rock, native to Pennsylvania, Vermont, and New York, and found in many colors. Slate has been used to roof buildings in the United States since the colonial era.

Spire - A slender, pointed construction atop a building, often a church.

Stained Glass - Colored glass. Stained glass windows are fitted with pieces of colored glass, which often depict a picture or scene.

Stick-work - A wooden grid of boards overlaid atop an exterior surface. See latticework.

Striated Brick - Brickwork made up of rows of bricks of alternating colors, typically red and white.

Stucco - A plaster used as a coating for walls and ceilings, and often used for decoration; it is common to many parts of the world, particularly to the Mediterranean region and to the regions of the United States once colonized by Spain (i.e., Florida and California).

Terrace - An outdoor extension of a building, situated above the ground level, and open to the sky. See patio.

Thatched Roof - A roof covered with straw, which is layered so as to shed rain quickly and effectively.

Tile Roof - A roof covered with tiles that are usually hollow and half-cylindrical in shape and made out of clay. Tile roofs are common in many parts of the world, including the Mediterranean and the Southwestern United States.

Tile Inset - A panel of clay or ceramic tile.

Tower - An exceptionally tall portion of a building.

Traditional Ethos - A spirit, character, custom, etc. shared throughout a common people. A traditional ethos encompasses folk lore, music, art, dress, and building methods, among other things.

Transom Light - A narrow window, sometimes hinged at the top, positioned over a doorway or larger window.

Truss - A rigid framework, as of wooden beams or metal bars, which supports a structure, such as a roof.

Turret - A small tower that pierces a roofline. A turret is usually cylindrical and is topped by a conical roof.

Tuscan Order - See Doric Order.

Veranda - An open, roofed porch, usually enclosed on the outside by a railing or balustrade, and often wrapping around two or more (or all of the) sides of a building.

Vernacular Architecture - Architecture created from mostly local materials, by and for the use of local people. Vernacular architecture responds to local methods of building construction, local climates, and local living needs and traditions. As local environments evolve over time, so too does vernacular architecture. Vernacular architecture typically exhibits the traditional ethos of its builders. See Traditional Ethos.

Victorian Era - The reign of Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, which commenced upon the coronation of Queen Victoria on June 20, 1837 and concluded upon her death on January 22, 1901 (Victoria was also crowned the Empress of India on May 1, 1876). These years marked the height of both the British Empire and the Industrial Revolution, when the United Kingdom became a global power, and its culture, including its architecture, assimilated influences from all over the world.

Window Sash - The movable frames in a window in which windowpanes are set.

Wooden Clapboards - Long slats of wood that are nailed to an exterior surface in a horizontal fashion, overlapping one another from top to bottom. Clapboards are a traditional weather-proofing device.

Wooden Shingles - Small, rectangular-shaped slats of wood that are nailed to an exterior surface, overlapping one another from top to bottom. Shingling is a traditional weather-proofing method for building.

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