

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Alignment.** The arrangement of objects along a straight line.

**Appropriate.** Suitable for a particular condition, occasion, or place, compatible, fitting.

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

**Architrave.** The lowest part of an entablature that rests on the capitals of the columns.

**Awning.** An architectural projection, which provides weather protection, identity, or decoration, and is supported by the building to which it is attached. It is composed of a lightweight rigid or retractable skeleton structure over which another cover is attached that may be of fabric or other materials. Awnings are typically sloped.

**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.

**Canopy.** A projecting, rigid structure with a roof generally mounted to the ground and/or suspended with tie rods.

**Character/Characteristic.** The aggregate of distinctive qualities, attributes, or features that make up and distinguish a particular structure, neighborhood, street, etc. from another.

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

**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.

**Demolition.** The complete destruction of a building or structure; or removal of more than 30 percent of the perimeter walls; or removal of any portion of a street-facing facade.

**Demolition by Deconstruction.** The selective dismantlement of building components, specifically for re-use, recycling, and waste management.

**Demolition by Neglect.** Allowing a property to fall into a serious state of disrepair so as to result in deterioration, which would produce a detrimental effect upon the life and character of the property itself. For Demolition by Neglect standards see Chapter 4 of Unified Development Code.

**Deteriorate.** To diminish or impair in quality, character, function, or value, also to fall into decay or ruin.

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

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

**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.

**Entablature.** Refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands that lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals. It is the upper section of a classical building, resting on the columns and constituting the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

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

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

**Fenestration.** The arrangement of windows and other exterior openings on a building.

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

**Frame.** A window component. See window parts.

**Frieze.** A horizontal band that runs above doorways and windows or below the cornice. It may be decorated with designs or carvings. In classic architecture, architectural ornament consisting of a horizontal sculptured band between the architrave and the cornice.

**Glazing.** Fitting/securing glass into windows and doors.

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

**Historic Resource.** Properties, structures, features, objects, and districts that are determined to be of historical significance.

**In-Kind.** In the same manner and material.

**Maintenance.** The work of keeping something in proper condition, upkeep. Activities required or undertaken to conserve as nearly, and as long, as possible the original condition of an asset or resource while compensating for normal wear and tear. The needed replacement of materials is done in-kind.

**Mass/Massing.** The physical size and bulk of a structure. A building’s massing is derived from the articulation of its façade through the use of dormers, towers, bays, porches, steps, and other projections. These projections significantly contribute to the character of the building and, in town, the character of a street.

**Masonry.** Construction materials, typically bound together by mortar, 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.

**Module.** The appearance of a single façade 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.

**Mothballing.** The process of temporarily closing up a building to protect it from the weather as well as to secure it from vandalism.

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

**Ordinary Maintenance and Repair.** Any work, the sole purpose of which is to prevent or correct deterioration, decay, or damage, including repair of damage caused by fire or other disaster and which does not result in a change in the existing appearance and materials of a property.

**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; whereas, it should face the street.

**Original.** Belonging or pertaining to the origin or beginning of something, or to a thing at its beginning.

**Panel.** A sunken or raised portion of a door with a frame-like border.

**Parapet.** A low protective wall or railing or wall-like barrier along the edge of a raised structure such as a roof, bridge, terrace, or balcony. Where extending above a roof, it may simply be the portion of an exterior wall that continues above the line of the roof surface, or may be a continuation of a vertical feature beneath the roof such as a fire wall or party wall.

**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.

**Preservation.** The act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

**Proportion.** The relationship between actual dimensions of elements to each other and to the overall façade. Often proportions are expressed as mathematical ratios drawn from architectural theories of ancient Greece and Renaissance Italy. A design element such as a window may have the same shape as adjacent windows, but may appear out of proportion because the dimensional relationships are not the same.

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

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

**Quoin.** (pronounced 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 a masonry wall, later used decoratively.

**Reconstruction.** The act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

**Rehabilitation.** The act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

**Restoration.** The act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

**Rhythm.** The spacing and repetition of building façade elements, such as windows, doors, belt courses, and the like, give an elevation its rhythm. The space between freestanding buildings in towns, as well as the height of roofs, cornices, towers, and other roof projections establishes the rhythm of a street.

**Sash.** See window parts.

**Scale.** a. The perceived size of a building relative to the size of its elements and to the size of elements in neighboring buildings. The overall shape and massing of buildings is significant to defining character. In order to retain the character of a community, maintaining a balance between landscaping and building scale in relation to space available is essential. A building built to the legal limits established for height, building scale, and setbacks may result in a building, which is not compatible with the character of its neighborhood.  
b. An indication of the relationship between the distances or measurements on a map or drawing and the corresponding actual distances or measurements.

**Sconce.** A decorative wall bracket for holding lights, and other sources of illumination. A light fixture patterned on a candle sconce.

**Seasonal Banner.** Any sign generally designed for temporary, long-term, or seasonal use mounted to a light standard.

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

**Should.** For the purposes of these Design Guidelines should means shall.

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

**Sidewalk Furniture.** Any item used to embellish the facade of a building or the streetscape (including statues, planter boxes, pots or vases, benches, trash receptacles, art, or signs).

**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.

**Sign.** Any device that uses letters, numerals, emblems, pictures, outlines, characters, spectacle delineation, announcement, trademark, logo, illustrations, designs, figures, or symbols for advertising purposes. The term “sign” shall also include any use of color such as bands, stripes, patterns, outlines, or delineations displayed for the purpose of commercial identification (corporate colors) that comprises more than twenty percent (20%) of any facade or visible roof face. This term shall also include all flags other than Governmental Flags.

**Sign Area.** The area of a sign inclusive of the sign face, sign base, and sign cabinet.

**Sign, Awning.** Any sign painted or applied to the face, valance, side, or top panel of an awning, or any sign made by removing material from an awning.

**Sign Base.** The structure supporting a sign. The sign base is a part of the sign, unless otherwise specified in Chapter 10 of the UDC.

**Sign Cabinet.** The sign cabinet is the structure or border used to differentiate a sign face from the structure on or against which a sign face is placed.

**Sign, Changeable Copy.** A sign designed to allow the manipulation of messages through manual or mechanical means.

**Sign, Canopy.** Any type of sign attached to in any manner or made a part of a canopy.

**Sign, External Illumination.** A sign utilizing an artificial or reflective light source mounted or operated from the outside of the frame of the sign, for the purpose of lighting the sign.

**Sign Face.** The area of a sign where the name of the business or facility is advertised and the background on which it is placed. Does not include the sign cabinet or frame.

**Sign, Flush-mounted.** Any flat sign mounted or applied to a building facade.

**Sign, Hanging.** Any sign suspended from an awning, canopy, bracket, or brace.

**Sign, Identification.** An incidental sign of identification or of informational nature bearing no advertising, unless otherwise specified in Chapter 10 of this Code.

**Sign, Illuminated.** A sign utilizing an artificial or a reflective light source.

**Sign, Interior Illuminated.** Any sign designed to be lit from the inside (including awning, canopy, hanging, or flush-mounted signs).

**Sign, Incidental.** A sign, generally informational, that has a purpose secondary to the use of the lot on which it is located, such as “no parking,” “entrance,” “loading only,” “telephone,” an address, and other similar directives.

**Sign, Internal Illumination.** A sign utilizing an artificial or a reflective light source mounted or operated from the inside of the frame of the sign, for the purpose of lighting the sign.

**Sign, Low Profile Pole.** A sign that is mounted on one or more freestanding poles or other support so that the bottom edge of the sign face is not in direct contact with a solid base or the ground.

**Sign, Marquee.** Any sign attached to, in any manner, or made a part of a marquee.

**Sign, Monument.** A sign which is attached directly to the ground or is supported by a sign structure that is placed on or anchored in the ground and is independent from any building or other structure.

**Sign, Pedestrian.** Any sign oriented to pedestrians at street level visibility (including window, awning, or hanging signs, as well as nameplates, plaques, or sandwich boards).

**Sign, Pole.** A sign that is mounted on one or more freestanding poles or other support so that the bottom edge of the sign face is not in direct contact with a solid base or the ground.

**Sign, Portable.** Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed to be transported, including, but not limited to, signs designed to be transported by means of wheels; signs converted to A or T frames; sandwich board signs; balloons used as signs; umbrellas used for advertising; and signs attached to or painted on vehicles parked and visible from the public right of way, unless said vehicle is used in the normal day to day operations of the business.

**Sign, Primary.** A medium to large-size, horizontally oriented sign attached flat against the building, above the awning, printed on one side only. Or, a medium-size sign that projects from the building above the awning(s) or canopy(es), printed on both sides. Or, a medium-size sign that is mounted on a free-standing pole or post.

**Sign, Projecting.** Any sign affixed to a building wall in a nonparallel manner

**Sign, Sandwich Board.** Any sign designed for placement on the sidewalk, of A-frame construction, generally two-sided.

**Sign, Secondary.** A small, horizontally-oriented, rectangular sign that protrudes from a building below the awnings or canopies but above pedestrian's heads, and is printed on both sides. Or, a small to medium, free-standing sign mounted on a pole or post.

**Sign, Temporary.** Any sign that is not intended to be permanent.

**Sign, Wall.** A sign which is fastened to or painted on the wall of a building or structure in such a manner that the wall becomes the supporting structure for, or forms the background surface of, the sign. Wall signs shall not project more than eight (8) inches from the building or structure, may have only one (1) sign face, and must be parallel to the wall on which it is attached.

**Sign, Window.** Any sign that is placed inside a window or upon the window or upon the window panes or glass and is intended to be visible from the exterior of the window. Merchandise displays shall not be considered window signs.

**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.

**Special Event Banner.** Same as Seasonal Banner.

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

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

**Thematic Banner.** Same as Seasonal Banner.

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

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

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

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

**Yard, Front.** The area that lies between the established front building line of the principal building and the front lot line.