

## DOORS

Doors and door openings are important character-defining features of any property. The size, placement, and architectural detailing of a doorway contribute to the pattern and rhythm of a building's façade. The door itself is also important. Is it wood? Paneled? Panes of glass? Single or double doors?

Doors are normally subjected to a great deal of weathering, so routine maintenance is essential. The main entry is typically a focal point on a façade, and it is where one looks for clues about a building's architectural style.

Typical door characteristics include:

- Paneled wood.
- Paneled wood with fixed panes of glass.
- Single or paired (double) doors.
- Small roof or pediment over the main entry and supported by brackets. This doorway treatment is often associated with the Italianate style and can be found on both vernacular and high style houses.
- Decorative door surround (trim).
- Sidelights.
- Transom.



*Left:* Single wood paneled doors like this one are found throughout the district. The brackets supporting the roof, or pediment, over the doorway are also a common feature.

*Right:* Paired or double doors are common in the district. Typically, the doors have wood panels on the lower half with rectangular or rounded arch glass panels above.

Occasionally, decorative glass panels are intact and should be preserved wherever possible.



### GUIDELINES:

1. Every reasonable effort should be made to repair the original door and door opening. Repairs should be made with as little intervention as possible by patching, piecing-in, splicing, consolidating, or otherwise reinforcing the deteriorating material using the same material as the existing door.
2. Entry pediments should be maintained and preserved. Supporting brackets should not be covered with vinyl or aluminum.
3. The door and any other related features should be photographically documented prior to any repair or rehabilitation work.
4. If it is necessary to replace any section of a door or a door surround, the replacement should be made from the same material as the original and should match the original in size, scale, shape, and detail. Any details such as paneling, glass pattern, and door surround molding should be duplicated in the replacement. In the event that it is not possible to match the material, a compatible substitute material is acceptable.

5. If an existing door or door surround is deteriorated or damaged beyond repair, the new door and/or surround should match the original in configuration and material. In the event that it is not possible to match the material, a compatible substitute material is acceptable.
6. The design for a new door and/or door surround should be compatible with other doors and surrounds on the property and/or with adjacent properties.
7. Original door openings should not be altered to accommodate stock doors.
8. If a door has any decorative windows such as sidelights, fanlights or transoms, these should be maintained and preserved.
9. Storm doors should be compatible with the existing door in material and color. Storm doors should be mounted so that they will not permanently damage the original door surround and trim. Storm doors should be designed in such a way that they do not completely obscure the historic door.
10. The character of an entrance should not be altered by either the removal or addition of historic elements that never existed on the property.
11. Paired or double doors should not be replaced with a single door or vice versa.
12. Exterior lighting fixtures should be mounted in a manner that does not obscure or damage the door surround.



*Left:* This Greek Revival entryway represents a common doorway configuration found on Greek Revival houses in the district. The setback of the door within the framed opening is an important relationship to maintain.

*Right:* Numerous double houses in the district have two single doors grouped together under one entry pediment like the one pictured to the right.

Storm doors often obscure large portions of a historic door. Here the white storm door does not obscure the glass in the upper part of the door, but would be more appropriate if the color were darker or matched the door color.

