

PORCHES & ENTRIES

Porches often mark the main and/or side entrance to a house and serve as a semi-private transition area between the public space (sidewalk/street) and the private space (house). Porches are often added to a house to help screen it from the weather and, in some cases, to provide additional living space. There is ample opportunity for architectural expression on porches with details such as columns, pilasters, decorative brackets, railings, and balustrades.

Porches are found in various locations on buildings, and one building may have several porches. The steps and railings leading up to a porch are an equally important character-defining feature. A variety of porch configurations can be found in Brunswick, including the following:

- one-story attached entry porch;
- one-story attached wrap-around porch;
- one-story attached porch that spans the full width of the front façade;
- one-story attached side porch;
- double porch (porches stacked over each other).

Right: Several houses in the district, like this one on School Street, (particularly double houses) have stacked or double porches.



The majority of Federal and Greek Revival style houses in Brunswick did not originally have entry porches; however, porches were often added to these houses. There are many properties with a small roof pediment over the main entry, which is supported by decorative brackets. This detail was common during the mid-to-late 1800s and is characteristic of the Italianate style.

Right: Small entry porches are common throughout the district. Porches were often added to a house with a much earlier date of construction in an effort to up-date the house.

Wood is the most common material used for entry steps.



GUIDELINES:

1. Existing porches and their character-defining elements should be maintained and preserved.
2. Every reasonable effort should be made to repair the existing porch and any character-defining architectural features of the porch (brackets, columns, balustrade or railing, flooring, ceiling, roof, and steps). 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 porch.

3. The porch and any other related features should be photographically documented prior to any repair or rehabilitation work.
4. If it is necessary to replace any element of a porch, the replacement should be made from the same material as the existing porch and should match the historic feature in size, scale, shape, and detail. In the event that it is not possible to match the material, a compatible substitute material is acceptable.
5. Covering porch details with vinyl or aluminum siding should be avoided.
6. Enclosing an existing porch on the primary building façade should be avoided.
7. Historic stone steps should be maintained and preserved. In many instances, resetting stone steps and repointing can solve many related problems.
8. Screens may be added to a porch if they can be attached in such a manner that will not cause damage to historic fabric and the modification is completely reversible.
9. New porches should be compatible with the overall scale, shape and detail of the building, as well as the prevailing streetscape.
10. Ornamentation should not be added to a porch that is not compatible with the stylistic period of the house.
11. The addition of decks, glass enclosed rooms, or sun porches where they will be visible from the public way should be avoided.

Important entry features:

Brackets

Small pediment

Steps and side walls



Right: This distinctive entry pediment is found on a few houses in the district. It appears to be most frequently used on cape houses.



Left: Corner porches carved out of the main body of the house are also found in the district. This example is on Franklin Street. Typically, this porch configuration is found on Greek Revival style houses.