

6.0 ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

Policy:

Architectural details help establish a historic building's distinct visual character; thus, they should be preserved whenever feasible. If architectural details are damaged beyond repair, their replacement, matching the original detailing, is recommended.

Background

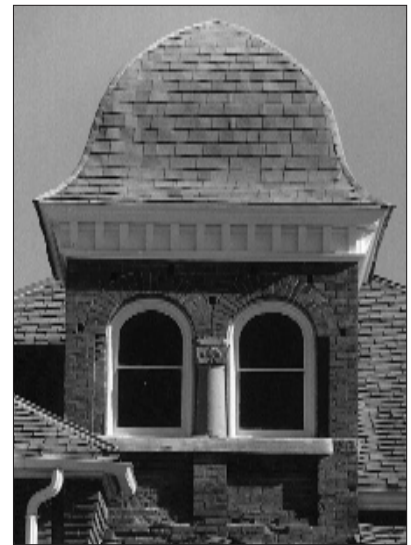
Architectural details play several roles in defining the character of a historic structure; they add visual interest, define certain building styles and types, and often showcase superior craftsmanship and architectural design. Features such as window hoods, brackets and columns exhibit materials and finishes often associated with particular styles and therefore their preservation is important.

Treatment of Architectural Features

Preserving original architectural details is critical to the integrity of the building, and its context. Where replacement is required, one should remove only those portions that are deteriorated beyond repair. Even if an architectural detail is replaced with an exact replica of the original detail, the integrity of the building as a historic resource is diminished and therefore preservation of the original material is preferred.



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ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS, continued...

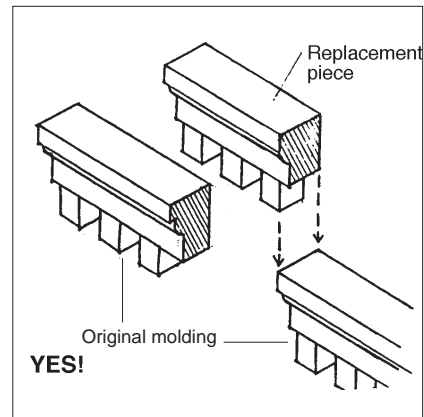
Replacement materials

Using a material to match that employed historically is always the best approach. However, a substitute material may be considered when it appears similar in composition, design, color, texture to the original.

In the past, substitute materials were employed as cheaper, quicker methods of producing architectural features. For example, in the late nineteenth century cast metal window hoods replaced those previously constructed of wood or stone. Many of these historic "substitutes" are now referred to as traditional materials. Just as these historic substitutes offered advantages over their predecessors, many new materials today hold promise. However, these substitute materials should not be used wholesale, but only when it is absolutely necessary to replace original materials with stronger, more durable substitutes. In *Preservation Brief 16* titled *The Use of Substitute Material*, the National Park Service comments that "some preservationists advocate that substitute materials should be avoided in all but limited cases. The fact is, however, that substitute materials are being used more frequently than ever. They can be cost-effective, can permit the accurate visual duplication of historic materials, and last a reasonable time."

Substitute materials may be considered when the original is not easily available, where the original is known to be susceptible to decay, or where maintenance may be difficult (such as on a church spire).

Another factor which may determine the appropriateness of using substitute materials for architectural details depends on their location and degree of exposure. For example, lighter weight materials may be inappropriate for an architectural detail that would be exposed to intense wear. In this case, it may be wise to avoid using a fiberglass column on a front porch where it may be accidentally damaged. Conversely, the use of fiberglass to reproduce a cornice on a second story may be successful.



Where replacement of a detail is required, one should remove only those portions that are deteriorated beyond repair.



Moldings and eaves around fascias are important details; this is why they should not be obscured by coverings of synthetic materials.

STANDARDS FOR ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

6.1 Protect and maintain significant stylistic elements.

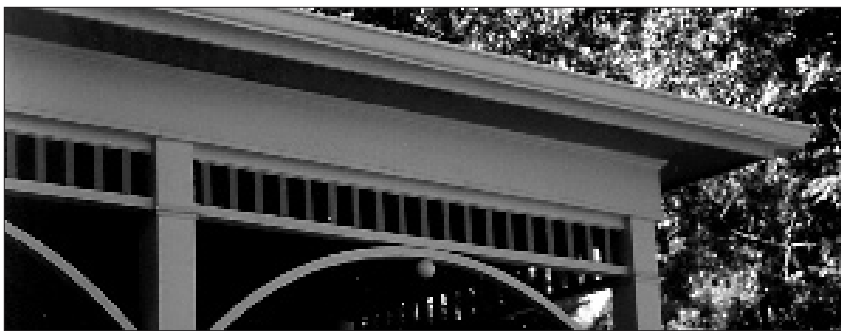
Distinctive stylistic features and examples of skilled craftsmanship should be treated with sensitivity. The best preservation procedure is to maintain historic features from the outset so that intervention is not required. Protection includes maintenance through rust removal, caulking, limited paint removal and reapplication of paint.

6.2 If replacement is necessary, design the new element using accurate information about original features.

The design should be substantiated by physical or pictorial evidence. One of the best sources for historic photographs is Salt Lake County Records Management, which maintains early tax photographs for thousands of buildings. In historic districts, intact structures of similar age may offer clues about the appearance of specific architectural details or features. Speculative reconstruction is not appropriate for individual landmarks, as these structures have achieved significance because of their historical and architectural integrity. This integrity may be jeopardized by speculative reconstruction. Replacement details should match the original in scale, proportion, finish and appearance

6.3 Develop a new design for the replacement feature that is a simplified interpretation when the original element is missing and cannot be documented.

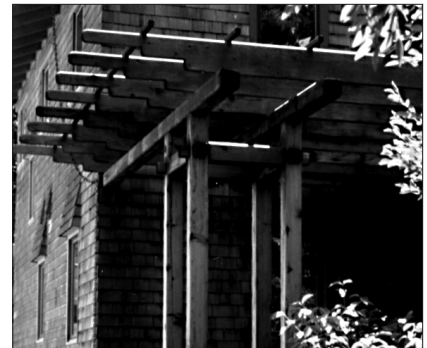
The new element should relate to comparable features in general size, shape, scale and finish. Such a replacement should be identifiable as being new. Use materials similar to those that were used historically, if feasible.



Develop a new design for a replacement feature that is a simplified interpretation of a similar feature when the original element is missing and cannot be documented.



Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship should be treated with sensitivity.



Protect and maintain significant stylistic elements.

