



ARCHITECTURAL METALS GUIDELINES

General Principles

Every effort should be made to save and maintain unique, important architectural features of a building to help preserve its original character and history. Repairing and protecting original architectural features and materials is preferable to their replacement.

Removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided. This applies primarily to the exterior of houses, but can also apply to important interior features and spaces.

In some cases, replacement of significant historical materials may be allowed as determined on a case-by-case basis. Any replacement materials may be used *only* with the approval of the Home Preservation Program. These materials shall enhance the building's historic architecture and be compatible with any adjacent historic buildings and streetscapes.

All buildings and sites are to be recognized as products of their time. Any changes that have no historical references or which attempt to seek an earlier appearance are to be discouraged.

Changes which have taken place through the course of time but may represent another style or character are still evidence of historical development and may have historical significance in their own right. These changes are to be recognized and respected.

Limited replacement in kind of extensively damaged metal details and features is preferable to replacing the entire feature.

ARCHITECTURAL METALS

RECOMMENDED:

- Retain the original material whenever possible.
- Identify metal features such as columns, capitals or bases, window hoods, porch balusters, porch cresting, and stairways that are important in defining the architectural and historic character of the building.
- Identify different types of metals used on existing building prior to renovation and repair.
- Stabilize any deteriorated metals prior to renovation work to prevent further damage to significant architectural features.
- Architectural metals can include cast iron, steel, pressed tin, aluminum and zinc. These should be cleaned and treated with the method that is appropriate to each type of metal.
- Any cleaning method should use materials and cleaning agents that do not abrade metal surfaces. Begin with the gentlest cleaning methods first to avoid abrading or damaging the surface.
- Repair or replace any deteriorated or damaged materials with new material that closely resembles the existing materials as closely as possible.
- Once metal surfaces are clean and dry, prime all exposed metal. Priming of metal is very important.
- Any metal details that require painting should be primed and finish-coated in a color that is compatible with the color scheme of the building or matches the building's trim color.
- Staff can help homeowners select appropriate historic paint color combinations.



- Follow manufacturer's instructions when painting or applying protective coatings to new and exposed metal surfaces to decrease corrosion rate of metals.
- When repainting existing metal surfaces, follow manufacturer's instructions for application and compatibility with existing protective finish.

NOT RECOMMENDED:

- Removing architectural features that are an important part of the building's appearance and character is not recommended
- Exposing metals which were intended to be protected from the weather is not recommended.
- Any cleaning method which alters the color, texture or appearance of the metal should be avoided, such as grit blasting.
- Failure to re-apply protective coating of some type to metals soon after they are cleaned accelerates corrosion and is not recommended.

For further information on repair and maintenance of cast iron click on this link:

<https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/27-cast-iron.htm>

For more information on general maintenance on historic houses click on this link:

<https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/47-maintaining-exteriors.htm#projections>

Columbus Register of Historic Properties Architectural Guidelines:

[https://www.columbus.gov/uploadedFiles/Columbus/Departments/Development/Planning_Division/Document_Library/Library_Documents/PDFs/hrc%20\(2010\).pdf](https://www.columbus.gov/uploadedFiles/Columbus/Departments/Development/Planning_Division/Document_Library/Library_Documents/PDFs/hrc%20(2010).pdf)