



## **DOORS, SCREEN & STORM DOORS GUIDELINES**

### General Principals

Every effort should be made to save and maintain original materials of a building to help preserve and define 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 Any changes that have no historical references or which attempt to seek an earlier appearance are to be discouraged.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 details and features is preferable and often more cost-effective to replacing the entire window. Routine maintenance and structural stabilization are essential to the preservation and effectiveness of historic doors.

### **DOORS, SCREENS AND STORM DOORS**

#### RECOMMENDED:

##### Doors:

- The front door creates an important first impression. Retain and repair the original door and door hardware when possible.
- Make old doors weathertight by:
  - Ensuring the door is hung correctly with uniform space between door and casing on all four sides.
  - Properly installing weather stripping for weather tightness and energy efficiency.
  - Properly caulking around door frame
- Repair frames and trim that are in good condition. Repair deteriorated wood with epoxy consolidation to solidify the wood and fill in gaps.
- Match original door style, size and materials as closely as possible; visually duplicate the design and hardware if possible
- Replace missing or badly deteriorated doors with a style traditionally used for your building's architectural style
- Find historical photos or drawings or physical evidence of your front entry to assist in making repairs or replacements. This includes details such as transoms, glass, stained glass, beveled glass, lintels, arches, pediments, architraves, hoods, side lights and all hardware.
- Retain a transom or sidelights in their original size and shape.



- When an entrance will no longer be used, leave the door and transom in place and fix them shut if necessary.

#### Screens & Storm Doors:

- Maintain and preserve historic storm doors and screen doors whenever possible.
- Install visually unobtrusive storm doors where needed that do not damage or alter existing frames.
- Install a new storm door that can be removed in the future.
- If installing a new storm door, choose a simple design with full light glass section that permits viewing as much of the entry door as possible
- An alternative is to have the size and location of new storm door glass match the glass on the entry door.
- Select a wood screen and/or storm door if possible.
- An alternative is a full-view metal screen and/or storm door.
- Paint exterior wood or metal storm doors a color compatible with the color scheme of the building.
  - Paint metal screen and storm doors to match door trim color
  - Paint metal screen and storm doors to match color of door
- Maintain existing historic hardware. If installing a new door, choose hardware to match the new storm door style.

#### NOT RECOMMENDED:

##### Doors:

- Making the original door opening smaller or larger to accommodate the new stock door sizes.
- Eliminating doors and transoms to accommodate modifications to the interior floor plan
- Leaving any bare wood unprotected and exposed to the weather is not recommended.
- Divisions (Mullions) located on the inside of the glass or between layers of glass are not recommended.
- Discarding original doors and door hardware when it is possible to repair and reuse them in place

##### Screens & Storm Doors:

- Installing mill-finish or unfinished metal screen and storm doors without painting them
- Installing doors with decorative features not originally used, such as scalloped edges around window openings and cross-buck panels
- Installing heavy, ornate metal security grille doors that were not originally used
- Installing inappropriate new door features that require removal of original doors

*For more information on caulking windows & doors click on this link:*

<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/caulking-windows-doors.shtml>

*For more information on how to replace historic screen doors click on this link:*

[http://www.oldhousejournal.com/screen\\_savers/magazine/1446](http://www.oldhousejournal.com/screen_savers/magazine/1446)

*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)