

Porches and Decks Design Guidelines Analysis

Current Standard Guidelines	Nore' Winter's Draft	Staff Suggestions
PO1 Replace reconstructed entrance or porch features with in-kind materials. If that is not economically or technically feasible, a compatible substitute material may be considered. Composition and plastic moldings, however, should not be used due to their unproven longevity.	P.2 Repair a porch in a way that maintains the original character. • Use a material that is similar to the historic building material in style, texture, finish, composition, and proportion. • An alternative material may be considered for a porch when the appearance is similar to that of the original. Consult the "Alternative Materials" chapter for more information.	Staff recommends adding with the following changes: P.2 Repair a porch in a way that maintains the original character. • Use a material that is similar to the historic building material in style, texture, finish, composition, and proportion. • <u>Do not cover porch or cornice elements with vinyl or aluminum siding.</u> • <u>Do not install porch ceilings or close in exposed eaves where none existed previously. Exposed rafters and roof decks are character-defining features for certain architectural styles.</u> • An alternative material may be considered for a porch when the appearance is similar to that of the original. Consult the "Alternative Materials" chapter for more information.
PO2 Photographically document architectural porch features that are slated for reconstruction prior to the removal of any historic fabric.	**Not incorporated**	Staff believes this to be implied and a part of the application process in general.
PO3 Design replacement porch railings and balusters to match the originals as closely as possible. If it is technically or economically unfeasible to accomplish this, a simplified porch rail and baluster design may be used of 2" x 4" rails and 2" x 2" pickets, set between top and bottom rails, and nailed to the inside face of the rail. Railings should be finished with paint or an	P.6 Design a replacement railing or baluster to match the original as closely as possible. • If matching the original design is technically or economically unfeasible, a simplified porch rail and baluster may be used. Consult the diagram below for more details about typical dimensions for brackets, railings, and balusters.	

Current Standard Guidelines	Nore' Winter's Draft	Staff Suggestions
opaque stain. Plans are available from the Landmarks Commission.	• When installing a code-required handrail or railing, select a design that is simple and stylistically compatible with a historic railing. • Use a replacement material appropriate to the material of the historic structure. For example, a cast- or wrought-iron column, railing, or baluster should not be used to place a brick or wood porch element.	
PO4 Do not use cast- or wrought-iron columns, railings, or balusters as a replacement for brick or wood porch elements. Columns should match the proportion, detailing, and size of the original.	**Incorporated in P.6**	
PO5 When installing a new code-required handrail or railing, select a design that is simple and stylistically appropriate. Generally, metal is appropriate for masonry buildings and wood for frame buildings.	**Incorporated in P.6**	
PO6 Do not add conjectural porch ornament; often its style conflicts with the style of the house.	P.1 Preserve an original porch in its original location. • Do not move, screen, enclose, or demolish an original porch. • Do not add new ornament to a historic porch that did not exist historically or cover architectural details. • Do not add a front porch to the primary facade of a historic structure that has never had a porch.	Staff recommends adding with the following changes: P.1 Preserve an original porch in its original location. • Do not move, screen, enclose, or demolish an original porch. • Do not add new ornament to a historic porch that did not exist historically or cover architectural details. • Do not add a front porch to the primary facade of a historic structure that has never had a porch. • <u>Screen panels that can be removed seasonally, are set behind porch elements, and do not damage historic fabric may be permitted.</u>

Current Standard Guidelines	Nore' Winter's Draft	Staff Suggestions
PO7 Do not use over-sized boards (2" thick) for porch floors. 3/4" to 1" tongue-and-groove boards are generally appropriate.	P.3 If reconstruction is required, design porch elements in a way that reflects the time period of the historic structure and use in-kind materials. Consult the "Alternative Materials" chapter for more information. • Install replacement flooring that closely matches the original tongue and groove flooring dimensions. • Match the dimensions of the original material. • Do not use over-sized boards for a porch floor. • Do not replace historic stone steps unless the stone is no longer usable.	Staff recommends adding with the following changes: P.3 If reconstruction is required, design porch elements in a way that reflects the time period of the historic structure and use in-kind materials. Consult the "Alternative Materials" chapter for more information. • Install replacement flooring that closely matches the original tongue and groove flooring dimensions. • Match the dimensions of the original material. • Do not use over-sized boards for a porch floor. • Do not replace historic stone steps unless the stone is no longer usable. • <u>Replace deteriorated porch steps with in-kind materials. Replacement steps should be of the same scale and dimensions as the original.</u>
PO8 Install replacement porch flooring that closely matches the original tongue-and-groove flooring dimensions. A maximum gap of 1/16" should be left between boards to allow for expansion. Wood edging should be applied to the exposed ends of floorboards to prevent moisture infiltration into the grain.	**Incorporated in P.3**	
PO9 Do not cover porch or cornice elements with vinyl or aluminum siding.	**Not Incorporated**	Staff recommends adding (see P.2 above)
PO10 Do not install porch ceilings or close in exposed eaves where none existed previously. Exposed rafters and roof decks are character-defining features for certain architectural styles.	**Not Incorporated**	Staff recommends adding (see P.2 above)
PO11 Replace deteriorated porch steps with in-kind materials. Replacement steps should be of	**Incorporated in P.3**	

Current Standard Guidelines	Nore' Winter's Draft	Staff Suggestions
the same scale and dimensions as the original. Stone steps may be patched with concrete that is tinted a visually-compatible color.		
PO12 Do not replace historic stone steps unless the stone itself is no longer useable. Resetting stones on a firm foundation and repointing or applying sealant can address most problems.	**Incorporated in P.3**	
PO13 Do not enclose front porches. Screen panels that can be removed seasonally, are set behind porch elements, and do not damage historic fabric may be permitted.	**Incorporated in P.1**	
PO14 Do not obscure the design or detailing of original porch elements when undertaking a side or rear porch enclosure project. Large sheets of glass recessed behind original porch features should be used rather than solid materials such as wood, stucco, or masonry.	P.4 When enclosing a side or rear porch, preserve the design and detailing of original porch elements. Use large sheets of recessed glass rather than solid materials for the enclosure.	
PO15 Do not add porches to the primary façades of structures that never had porches.	**Incorporated in P.1**	
Not Previously Incorporated	P.5 Preserve an original railing or baluster.	
Not Previously Incorporated	P.7 Minimize visibility of a new deck. - Construct a new deck at the rear of a historic structure but not extending beyond the side walls of the historic structure. - Do not construct a new deck along a front or side facade.	
Not Previously Incorporated	P.8 Minimize damage to the original historic structure and maintain the ability to remove the new deck.	
Not Previously Incorporated	P.9 Use wood when constructing a new deck. - Choose a wood material that is opaque, stained, or painted when constructing a new deck. - Alternative materials may be allowed on certain portions of a new deck. Consult	Staff recommends adding with the following changes: P.9 Use wood when constructing a new deck.

Current Standard Guidelines	Nore' Winter's Draft	Staff Suggestions
	the “Alternative Materials” chapter for more information, and contact Metro Staff in Louisville’s Planning and Design Services Office for more information.	• Choose a wood material that is <u>All wood will be opaque stained or painted when constructing a new deck.</u> • Alternative materials may be allowed on certain portions of a new deck. Consult the “Alternative Materials” chapter for more information, and contact Metro Staff in Louisville’s Planning and Design Services Office for more information.