

DOORS AND ENTRYWAYS

DESIGN GUIDELINES



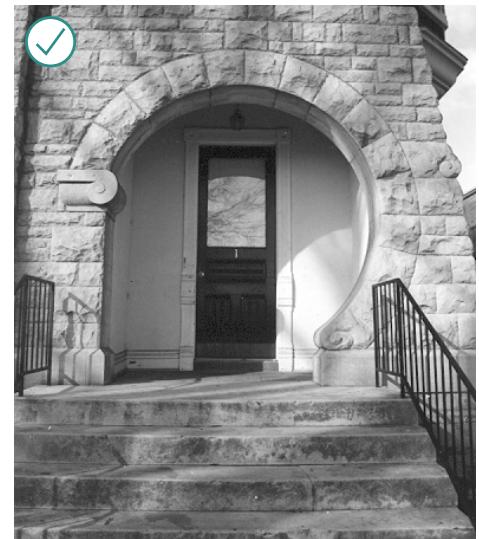
The entryway and door of a historic building are important components to establishing a structure's historic character. Entries also help establish relationships between people and buildings. Whether imposing or inviting, the character of an entry lays the groundwork for how people relate to the structure as a whole. There are many types and styles of doors and entryways throughout Louisville including single and double doors, doors with wood panels, with glass lights, and sidelights, or transoms, among others. The character-defining features of doors and entryways, their distinct materials, and placement should be preserved. When replacement is needed, new doors or elements for an entryway should be in character with the historic building.

Original Doors and Entryways

Maintaining original elements of doors and entryways is crucial to preserving the historic character of a building. Preserving and repairing original features of doors and entryways is preferred. When this is impossible, reconstructing and replacing doors and entryway elements is acceptable. A reconstructed element or a new door should be in character with the building, especially when it is located on a primary wall.

D.1 Preserve the original decorative and functional features of a door and entryway.

- » Consider weather-stripping a door to reduce air flow in and out of a structure, creating a more energy-efficient building.
- » Do not alter the character of entrances and doorways by removing historic elements or adding elements where there is no historic precedent.



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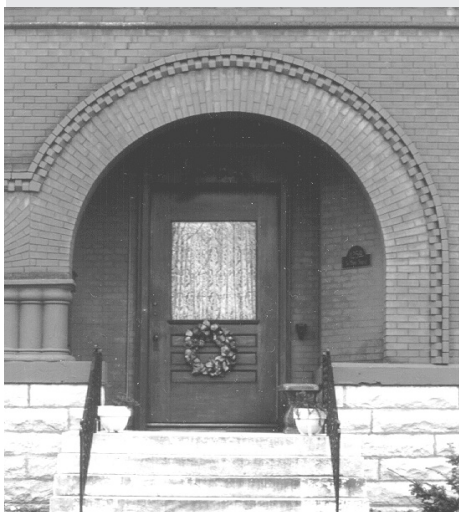
ADDITIONAL TOPIC AREAS

More information regarding topics covered in this chapter, such as porches and windows, can be found in the individual chapters regarding those topics.

Entries of Varying Appropriate Architectural Styles



Italianate



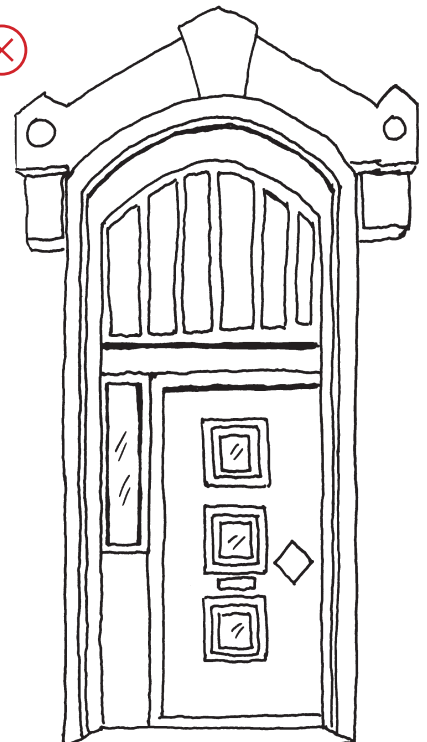
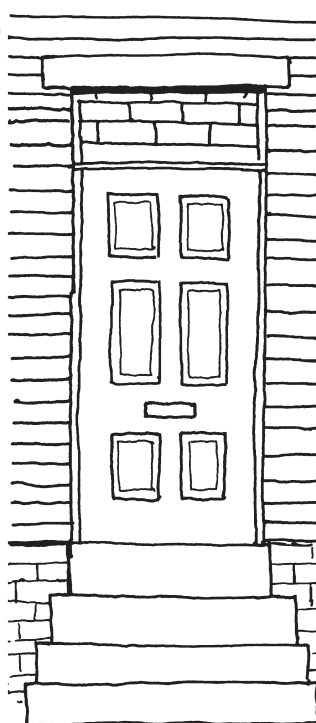
Richardsonian Romanesque



Craftsman

- D.2 Repair an original door or entryway element when feasible.**
- D.3 Reconstruct a missing entrance element when possible, using historical, pictorial, or physical documentation.**
 - » Do not add a vestibule to a primary facade without historic precedent.
- D.4 Choose a replacement door that fits the original opening and is of similar style and material to the original door.**
 - » Use only a replacement door that duplicates the design, proportion, and arrangement of paneling and glazing of the original door. A new door that is appropriate to the period and style of the building is recommended over a non-original, non-historic door that is out of character.
 - » Do not replace a historic double-leaf door with a single door.
 - » Do not alter the original door opening to accommodate a stock door.

Replacement Doors Must Fit Original Openings



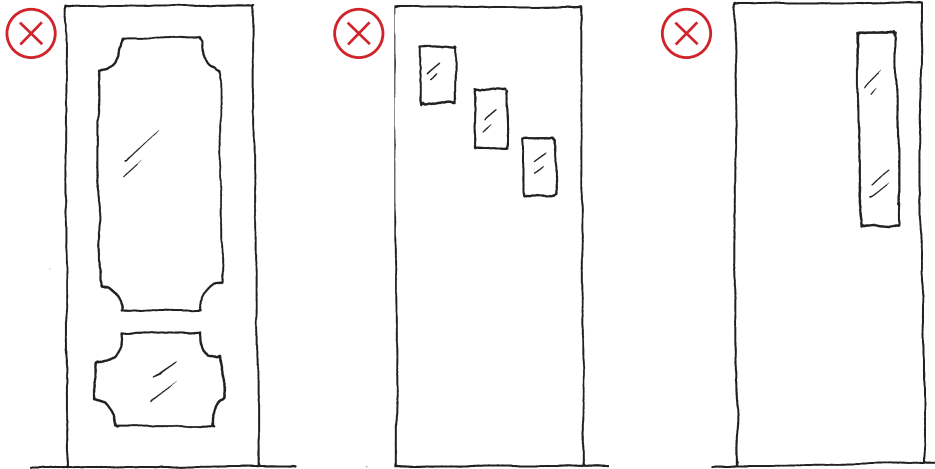
Choose a replacement door that fits the original opening and is of similar style and material to the original door.

Constructing New Doors and Entryways

In some cases, it is necessary to create an additional entrance to a historic property. When doing so, an additional entrance should be respectful of the historic style and character of the building and should be sensitive to the surrounding context.

- D.5 Create a new entrance on a secondary or tertiary facade, in a location that cannot be seen from the public right-of-way.**
- D.6 Utilize detailing of a door or entryway to distinguish between a secondary entryway and the primary, historic entryway.**

Inappropriate Replacements for Historic Doors



Choose a replacement door that fits the original opening and is of similar style and material to the original door. Modern flush doors without paneling or with modern glazing configurations are not permitted. Six-panel doors are also not appropriate for most local preservation districts or landmarks.

Preserving Entrance Trim



Utilize detailing of a door or entryway to distinguish between a secondary entryway and the primary, historic entryway. The original door surround frames the entry, giving it a feeling of substance and solidity.



Removal of the door surround disrupts the historic proportion of the entrance. The door appears to be ungrounded, "floating" within the facade.



Additional Elements That Establish the Character of an Entryway

In addition to the character of the historic door and the surrounding elements, a variety of components can compliment the doorway, making the entryway a distinguished component of the primary facade. Whether decorative or functional in nature, these elements are important to preserve and repair, where possible.

- D.7 Preserve and repair original porches, canopies, and awnings.**
- D.8 Where historical, pictorial, or physical documentation exists, reconstruct an original historic porch, canopy, or awning to reflect the original historic nature of the property.**
- D.9 Do not remove original porches, canopies, awnings, or other entryway elements.**



Preserve and repair original porches, canopies, and awnings.

Storm, Screen, and Security Doors

Storm doors, screen doors, and security bars are sometimes necessary elements for weather and security purposes. While historic doors generally perform well as thermal insulators, installing a storm door is sometimes necessary and appropriate for a historic structure. These secondary doors should be as unobtrusive as possible so that the historic style and details of the original door can be seen through the secondary door.

D.10 Install a screen or storm door with a simple, narrow-frame design that does not conceal or distract from the historic door.

- » Paint or finish a metal screen or storm door to match the inner door.
- » Install an interior storm door if possible.

D.11 If given the chance between a primary and secondary entrance, install a storm door on a secondary entrance.

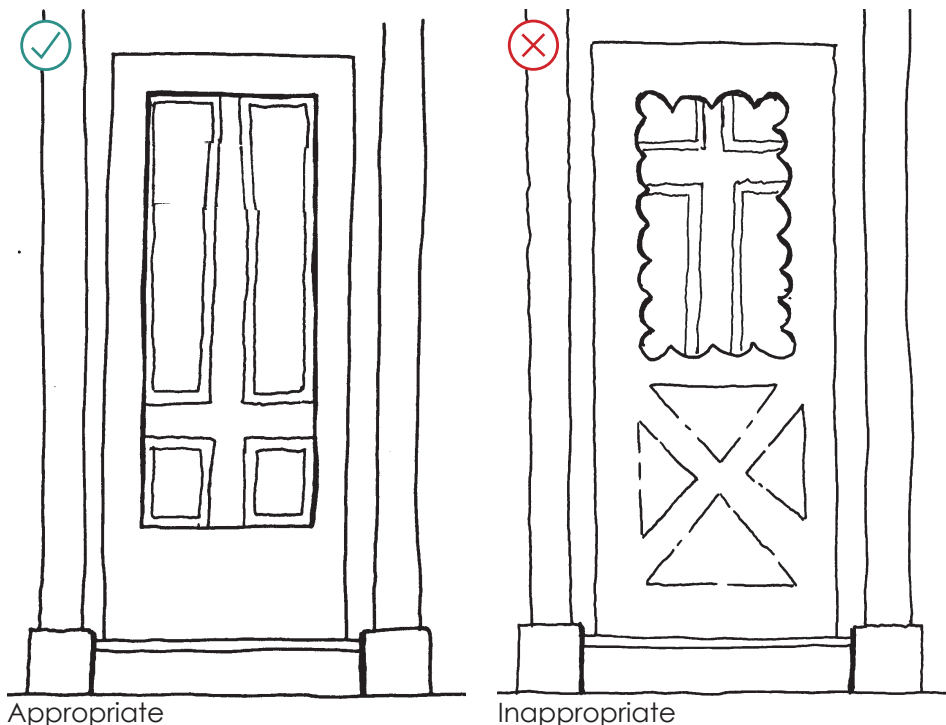
D.12 Install security bars of simple design that do not obscure the architectural character of the original doors or damage historic fabric.

- » Mount commercial security bars inside the glass and so that they can retract out of sight during business hours.
- » Paint security bars an unobtrusive color that does not detract from the historic door.



Install security bars of simple design that do not obscure the architectural character of the original doors or damage historic fabric. Here, a historic metalwork door secures an Old Louisville entrance.

Storms and Screens Should Not Conceal a Historic Feature



Appropriate

- » The historic door's appearance can be seen.

Inappropriate

- » The historic door's appearance is obscured.

Install a screen or storm door that is simple with a narrow-frame design that does not conceal or distract from the historic door.

