

## APPENDIX C—GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Aluminum Siding:** sheets of exterior architectural covering, usually with a colored finish, fabricated to approximate the appearance of wooden siding. Aluminum siding was developed in the early 1940s and became increasingly common in the 1950s and the 1960s.

**Applied Woodwork:** plain, carved, milled, or turned woodwork applied in decorative patterns to wall surfaces.

**Arcade:** a series of regularly spaced arches or arched openings supported on piers or columns attached to or detached from a wall.

**Arch:** a self-supporting structure that spans an opening, usually formed of wedge-shaped stones, bricks, or other objects laid so as to maintain one another firmly in position. A rounded arch generally represents Classical or Romanesque influence whereas a pointed arch denotes Gothic influences.

**Archaeological Resources:** man-made artifacts, deposits, features or objects made by people or materials altered by human activity; usually recovered from or found at a historic or prehistoric site.

**Architectural Integrity:** an evaluation of the intactness and completeness of a property's architectural identity.

**Architrave:** the lowest part of an entablature, sometimes used by itself as a casing for a window or door.

**Asbestos Siding:** dense, rigid material containing a high proportion of asbestos fibers bonded with Portland cement; resistant to fire, flame, or weathering and having a high resistance to heat flow. It is usually applied as large overlapping shingles.

**Ashlar:** squared, but rough-hewn, block of stone masonry set in horizontal or random courses.

**Asphalt Shingle:** a shingle manufactured from saturated construction felts (rag, asbestos, or fiberglass) coated with asphalt and finished with mineral granules on the side exposed to the weather.

**Asphalt Siding:** siding manufactured from saturated constructed felts (rag, asbestos, or fiberglass) coated with asphalt and finished with mineral granules on the side exposed to the weather. It sometimes displays designs seeking to imitate brick or stone. Asphalt siding was applied to many buildings in the early twentieth century.

**Attic:** the upper level of a building, not of full ceiling height, directly beneath the roof.

**Awning:** a roof-like covering of canvas, often adjustable, over a window, a door, etc., to provide protection against the sun, rain, and wind. Aluminum awnings were developed in the mid-twentieth century.

**Balloon Framing:** a method of wood-frame construction, referring to the skeletal framework of a building. Studs or uprights run from sills to eaves, and horizontal bracing members are nailed to them.

**Balustrade:** a row of vertical balusters topped by a handrail applied to stairways, porches, and rooflines.

**Band** (Band Course, Bandmold, Belt): flat trim running horizontally in the wall to denote a division in the wall plane or a change in level.

**Bargeboard** (also Vergeboard): a wooden member, usually decorative, suspended from and following the slope of a gable roof. Bargeboards are used on buildings inspired by Gothic forms.

**Bay:** an opening or division along the face of a structure. For example, a wall with a door and two windows is three bays wide.

**Bay Window:** multi-sided, projecting window structure that has its base on the ground, forming an extension of interior floor space.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Belt Course:** a projecting course of bricks or other material forming a narrow horizontal strip across the wall of the building, usually to delineate the line between stories, also referred to as a stringcourse.

**Belvedere:** rooftop structure (i.e., small lookout tower), usually with windows on all sides.

**Bond:** the pattern in which bricks are laid in the formation of a wall, also referred to as brick bonding pattern.

**Box Cornice:** a hollow, built-up cornice usually made up of boards and molding.

**Boxed Gutter:** a gutter enclosed within a soffit or cornice trim and thus concealed from view.

**Bracket:** a decorative support feature, either plain or ornamental, located under eaves or overhangs.

**Bulkhead:** the panel below a storefront display window, usually of frame or brick.

**Buttress:** a vertical mass of masonry projecting from or built against a wall to counteract the thrust of an arch, roof, vault, or other structure. Sometimes wooden buttresses are added to the frame Gothic Revival-style buildings as decorative, but not supporting features.

**Ca. or Circa:** used before a date to indicate “approximate.”

**Capital:** the topmost member, usually decorated or molded, of a column or pilaster.

**Casement Window:** a side-hinged window which opens out from a building.

**Character-Defining:** architecturally refers to features or details of a building that are significant in defining its architectural or historic character.

**Clapboard:** horizontal wooden siding boards, tapered at the upper end and applied so as to cover a portion of a similar board underneath and to be covered by a similar one above. The exposed face of clapboard is usually less than six inches wide. This was the common outer face in the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings.

**Clerestory:** windows located relatively high in a wall, often forming a continuous band. This was a feature of many Gothic cathedrals and was later adapted to many of the Revival styles found here.

**Clipped Gable:** a gable in which the peak at either end is truncated and angled back to the ridge to form a small hip. See “Jerkinhead.”

**Colonnade:** a series of columns supporting an entablature.

**Colonnette:** a small-scale column, generally employed as a decorative element on mantels, overmantels, and porticoes.

**Column:** a vertical support that consists of a base, shaft, and capital. They are circular in plan and usually slightly tapering. Columns, along with their corresponding entablatures are classified into five orders: Doric, Tuscan, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite.

**Common Bond:** a method of laying brick wherein one course of headers is laid for every three, five, or seven courses of stretchers.

**Contributing Structure:** a structure determined by the DRB to possess historical or architectural significance that contributes to one of the historic districts.

**Coping:** the cap or the top course of a masonry wall or chimney.

**Corbel:** a stepped series of stone blocks or bricks that project outward and upward from a wall surface, sometimes to support a load and sometimes for decorative effect.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Corner Boards:** vertical boards nailed on the exterior corners of frame buildings to provide a method of finishing and joining the ends of the weatherboards.

**Corner Block:** decorative square block located on the upper corner of door and window surrounds.

**Cornice:** the uppermost part of an entablature usually used to crown the wall of a building, portico, or ornamental doorway. The term is loosely applied to almost any horizontal molding forming a main decorative feature, especially to a molding at the junction of walls and ceiling in a room.

**Cresting:** ornamental ironwork or woodwork, often highly decorative, used to embellish the ridge of a roof or the curb or upper portion of a mansard roof.

**Crown Molding:** the upper molding of a cornice, often serving to cap or crown the vertical facing of fascia of a boxed cornice. Also, the term is frequently given to the molding used to decorate the joints between walls and a ceiling.

**Cupola:** a roof-top structure, having a domed or hipped roof.

### **Demolition**

The complete removal or destruction of any structure excluding its foundation

**Dentil:** one of a series of small, closely spaced blocks, often tooth-like, used as ornamental element of a classical cornice.

**Doric Order:** a classical order characterized by simple unadorned capitals supporting a frieze of vertically grooved tablets or triglyphs set at intervals.

**Dormer:** a window built into a sloping roof with a roof of its own.

**Door Hood:** a small, roofed projection over a doorway, usually supported by brackets.

**Double-Hung Window:** a window with two sashes that open and close by sliding up and down in a cased frame.

**Downspout:** a vertical pipe, often of sheet metal, used to conduct water from a roof drain or gutter to the ground or cistern.

**Eave:** the part of the sloping roof that projects beyond the wall.

**Elevation:** the exterior face of a building, usually denoted by the direction it faces (such as, the west elevation). Also denotes a drawing showing the vertical elements of a building, either exterior or interior, as a direct projection to a vertical plane.

**Ell:** a secondary wing or extension of a building, often a rear addition, positioned at right angles to the principal mass.

**Engaged Porch:** a porch the roof of which is continuous structurally with that of the main roof of the building.

**Entablature:** the horizontal part of a Classical order of architecture, usually positioned above columns of pilasters. It consists of three parts: the lowest molded portion is the architrave; the middle band is the frieze; the uppermost is the cornice.

**Fabric:** the physical material of a building, structure, or city, connoting an interweaving of component parts.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Façade:** front or principal elevation of a building. May also refer to other prominent exterior faces.

**Fan:** a semicircular or elliptical frame above a door or window, or in the gable ends of a building; usually filled with radiating wood louvers.

**Fanlight:** a semicircular window, usually above a door or window, with radiating muntins or tracery.

**Fascia:** a flat board with a vertical face that forms the trim along the edge of the roof, or along the horizontal, or eave side of a pitched roof. The rain gutter is often mounted on it.

**Fenestration:** the arrangement of windows, doors, and other exterior openings on a building.

**Finial:** an ornament, usually turned on a lathe, placed on the apex of an architectural feature such as gable, turret, or pediment.

**Flashing:** a thin impervious material placed during construction to prevent water penetration, to provide water drainage, or both, especially between a roof and a wall.

**Flush Siding:** an exterior wall treatment consisting of closely fitted horizontal boards with joints that are carefully to be hidden and flush, giving a very uniform, flat siding appearance.

**Fluted:** having regularly spaced vertical grooves or flutes, such as on the shaft of a column.

**Foundation:** the supporting portion of a structure below the first-floor construction, or below grade, including footings.

**French Window:** a long window reaching to the floor level and opening in two leaves like a pair of doors.

**Frieze:** the middle portion of a Classical entablature, located above the architrave and below the cornice. The term is usually used to describe the flat, horizontal board located above the weatherboards of most houses.

**Gable:** the vertical, triangular part of a building with a double sloping roof, from the cornice or eaves up to the ridge of the roof and forming a triangle.

**Gable Roof:** pitched roof with two sloping sides that meet at a ridge.

**Gambrel Roof:** a gable roof with two pitches on each side, the lower pitch being steeper.

**German Siding:** wooden siding with a concave upper edge that fits into a corresponding rabbet in the siding above, also called “drop siding.”

**Gutter:** a shallow channel of metal or wood set immediately below or built in along the eaves of a building to catch and carry off rainwater.

**Header:** the short end of a brick, sometimes glazed.

**Hip, or Hipped, Roof:** a roof that slopes back equally from each side of a building. A hip roof can have a pyramidal form or have a slight ridge.

**Historic:** At least fifty or more years old or may have other architectural significance.

**Hood Molding:** projecting molding over a window or door opening.

**Jamb:** the vertical sides of an opening, usually for a door or window.

**Jerkinhead Roof:** see “Clipped Gable.”

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Joist:** one of a series of parallel timbers or beams, usually set on edge, that span a room from wall to wall to support a floor or ceiling; a beam to which floorboards, ceiling boards, or plaster lathes are nailed.

**Knee Brace:** a wooden, triangular brace that supports the eaves of a building. Frequently used in the construction of Craftsman style residences.

**Knee Window:** a small, horizontal attic window, just below the roofline.

**Label Lintel:** molded lintelboard that extends downward part way along the sides of an opening and then outward at the ends.

**Lattice:** a network, often diagonal, of interlocking lath or other thin strips that cross each other at regular intervals, used as screening, especially in the base of a porch.

**Light:** a single pane of glass.

**Lintel:** a horizontal stone, brick, cast iron, or wooden beam that spans the top of a door or window opening, carrying the weight of the structure above.

**Lintelboard:** a wooden board above window or door openings; sometimes ornamental.

**Louver:** a series of horizontal, overlapping, downward-sloping slats, which shed rain while admitting light and air.

**Lunette:** a semicircular or crescent shaped opening.

**Masonry:** brick, block, or stone which is secured with mortar.

**Massing:** the overall configuration or composition of the major volumes of a building exterior.

**Modillion:** a small horizontal, scrolled, block(s) or bracket(s), used in regularly spaced series to support the overhanging section of a cornice.

**Molding:** a decorative band having a constant profile or having a pattern in low relief, generally used in cornices or as trim around openings.

**Monumental Portico:** large, two-story high porch supported by massive freestanding columns.

**Mullion:** a vertical member dividing a window area and forming part of the window frame.

**Muntin:** a horizontal, vertical or diagonal bar or member supporting and separating panes of glass in a sash or door.

**Newel Post:** the principal post used to terminate the railing or balustrade of a flight of stairs.

**Ogee:** a double curve formed by the combination of a convex and concave line, similar to an S-shape.

**Order:** in classical architecture, the specific configuration and proportions of a column, including the base, shaft, capital, and entablature.

**Oriel Window:** multi-sided projecting window on a building that does not extend to the ground.

**Palladian Window:** a window design featuring a central arched opening flanked by lower square-headed openings separated from them by columns, pilasters, piers, or narrow vertical panels.

**Panel:** a portion of a flat surface set off by molding or some other decorative device.

**Parapet:** a low wall along a roof, or terrace directly above an outer wall that is used as decoration or protection.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Pavilion:** section of a building façade that projects forward from the main wall.

**Pedestal:** a support for a column, pilaster, or urn.

**Pediment:** a crowning element of porticos, pavilions, doorways, and other architectural features, usually of low triangular form, with a cornice extending across its base and carried up the raking sides; sometimes broken in the center as if to accommodate an ornament; sometimes of segmental, elliptical, or serpentine form.

**Pier:** a masonry structure which elevates and supports a building or part of a building.

**Pilaster:** a shallow pier or rectangular column projecting only slightly from a wall, also called an engaged column. Pilasters are usually decorated like columns with a base, shaft, and capital.

**Pinnacle:** small, pointed ornament with square or rounded sides. Usually found crowning rooftop features.

**Pitch:** the slope of a building element, such as a roof, in relation to the horizontal.

**Porte Cochere:** a projecting porch that provides protection for vehicles and an entrance to a building; a common feature of the early twentieth century Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles.

**Portico:** a colonnade supporting a roof at the entrance to a building together with an entablature and often a pediment.

**Portland Cement:** a very hard and strong hydraulic cement (that hardens under water) made by heating a slurry of clay and limestone in a kiln. This type of cement is usually not appropriate for repairing or repointing nineteenth century buildings as it is too hard for historic bricks, causing damage over time.

**Post:** wooden porch member, usually square, turned, or chamfered.

**Pyramid Roof:** a hipped roof over a square structure, the roof having four sides and no ridge, the slopes culminating in a peak, also called a pavilion roof.

**Quoin:** ornamental blocks of wood, stone, brick, or stucco placed at the corners of a building and projecting slightly from the front of the façade.

**Rafter Tails:** eave rafter ends that are exposed.

**Rafters:** structural timbers rising from the plate at the top of the wall to the ridge of the roof and supporting the roof covering.

**Rake Board:** trim members that run parallel to a roof slope and form the finish between the wall and a gable roof extension.

**Returns:** horizontal portions of a cornice that extend part of the way across the gable end of a structure at eave level.

**Restoration:** the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

**Reveal:** the side of a recessed door or window opening.

**Ridge:** the horizontal junction between two opposite sides of a roof, located at the highest point of the roof.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Rustication:** masonry or wood in which each principal face is rough or highly patterned with strongly emphasized joints to give a bold effect.

**Sash:** the frame, usually of wood, that holds the pane(s) of glass in a window; may be moveable or fixed; may slide vertically or may be pivoted.

**Scale:** the proportions of a building in relation to its surroundings, particularly other buildings in the surrounding context.

**Segmental Arch:** an arch formed on a segment of a circle or an ellipse; radius is less than a semicircle.

**Shaft:** the principal vertical part of a column, between the base and the capital.

**Shed Roof:** a roof shape having only one sloping plane.

**Shingle:** a roofing unit of wood, asphalt, slate, tile, or other material cut to stock lengths, widths, and thicknesses; used as an exterior covering on roofs and applied in an overlapping fashion. Shingles are sometimes used in place of siding on walls, gables, or dormers.

**Shutters:** wooden louvered or solid panels hinged on the exterior of windows, and sometimes doors to cover and protect the opening.

**Sidelight:** a framed area of fixed glass of one or more panes positioned to either side of a door or window opening.

**Sill:** a heavy horizontal timber positioned at the bottom of the frame of a wood structure that rests on the top of the foundation; also, the horizontal member below a door or window frame.

**Slab-on-Grade Construction:** a poured concrete foundation built directly on the graded plot.

**Soffit:** the exposed undersurface of any overhead component of a building, such as an arch, balcony, beam, cornice, lintel, or vault.

**Spayed Lintel:** a lintel whose ends are angled inward, such as the top is wider than the bottom.

**Standing Seam:** a type of metal roof that has raised interlocking seams which join one panel to the next.

**Stretcher:** the long face of a brick when laid horizontally.

**String Course:** a projecting course of bricks or other material forming a narrow horizontal strip across the wall of a building, usually to delineate the line between stories, also called a belt course.

**Stucco:** an exterior finish, usually textured, composed of Portland cement, lime, and sand mixed with water. Older-type stucco may be mixed from softer masonry cement rather than Portland cement.

**Surround:** the frame and trim surrounding the sides and top of a window or door opening, sometimes molded.

**Tabby:** Tabby is a type of concrete which uses crushed oyster shells as a binder. It is used for walls and foundations for historic and modern buildings.

**Terra Cotta:** a ceramic material, molded decoratively and often glazed, used for facings for buildings or as inset ornament.

**Tongue and Groove:** a joinery system in which boards are milled with a tongue on one side and a tightly joined groove on the other so that they can create a flush surface alignment.

**Tracery:** an ornamental division of an opening, especially a large window, usually made with wood or stone. Tracery is found in buildings of Gothic influence.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Transom** (Over-Door Light): a narrow horizontal window unit above a door or window.

**Trim:** the decorative framing of openings and other features on a façade.

**Turned:** fashioned on a lathe, as in baluster, newel, or porch post.

**Turret:** a small tower, often located at a corner.

**Valance:** decorative band of open woodwork running under the roofline of a porch.

**Verandah:** a roofed, open porch, usually covering an extensive area.

**Vernacular:** in architecture, as in language, the nonacademic local expressions of a particular region. Reflecting native or popular taste as opposed to a formal style. For example, a vernacular Greek Revival structure may exhibit forms and details that are derived from the principals of formal Classical architecture but are executed by local builders in an individual way that reflects both local or regional needs, tastes, climactic conditions, technology, and craftsmanship.

**Wall Dormer:** dormer created by the upward extension of a wall and a breaking of the roofline.

**Water Table:** a belt course differentiating the foundation of a masonry building from its exterior walls.

**Weatherboard:** wood siding consisting of overlapping horizontal boards usually thicker at one edge than the other.