
Door and Entrance

- D1** Front-facing (i.e., street-address façade) doors proposed for replacement should be replaced with the same or in-kind materials. Many options exist for repairing or restoring historic doors and producing historically compatible and durable results. Some of these options may be more economical, in the long run, than replacement. All options should be reviewed with Landmarks staff before replacing historic doors. If replacement is necessary, there are many new products to choose from for economical, compatible replacement doors and building materials.
- D2** Replacing non-original, non-historic doors is recommended when the replacement doors are more appropriate to the period and style of the building, and match the size of the original opening.
- D3** Replacement doors should – whenever possible – duplicate the design, proportion, and arrangement of paneling and glazing of the original door or period of architectural significance. Replacing a missing historic door with one that matches the historic door is preferable if physical, pictorial, or photographic evidence exists to document its appearance. Absent that, the door may be replaced with a new door that is compatible with the style and character of the historic building.
- D4** The character of doors and entrances should be maintained by keeping decorative features and historic elements. Avoid the addition of elements for which there is no historic precedent.
- D5** Creating new entrances on street-address or street-facing facades should be avoided.
- D6** Historically clear-finished (i.e., stained then lacquered or top-coated) doors should be refinished in the same manner and should not be painted. Leave historically clear-finished doors unpainted.
- D7** Replacing historic double-entry (leaf) doors with a single door should be avoided.
- D8** Original entrance or door openings should not be altered to accommodate stock doors. The historic entrance including the door, transom or fanlight, sidelights, pilasters, and entablature should be retained and repaired.
- D9** Architectural features that are proposed for reconstruction or replacement must be photographically documented by the property owner as part of the application submitted to Landmarks for approval of any exterior modification. Historic elements cannot be removed until after approval has been obtained.
- D10** When undertaking the reconstruction of a missing entrance or porch feature, historical, pictorial, and physical documentation should be used. If there is not sufficient information to determine the original design, a new design should be prepared that is compatible with the architectural character of the building and the district. Conjectural or falsely historical designs are not appropriate.
- D11** Screen doors, storm doors and security doors should be simple with a narrow-frame design that enables the inner door to be seen and does not obscure the architectural character of original doors or damage historic fabric.
- D12** Commercial security grilles should retract out of sight during business hours and preferably be mounted inside the glass. Security bars should be painted an unobtrusive color.
- D13** Vestibules should not be added to the street-address or street-facing facade on commercial use or leased buildings unless there is a historic precedent. Such additions alter the character, proportion, and massing of the façade.
- D14** Character-defining features of an historic building should be retained when undertaking work required for ADA accessibility and code compliance.
- D15** ADA-accessibility ramps should be located on secondary elevations wherever possible. If locating a ramp on the primary façade is required, it should be installed in a way that does not damage historic fabric and is as unobtrusive as possible.