
Porch

- PO1** Reconstructed entrance or porch features should be replaced with in-kind materials. If not economically or technically feasible, a compatible substitute material may be used including composite or other synthetic materials, columns, or trim designed to reflect the appropriate style of the house. Design elements should match the proportion, detailing, and size of the original style.
- PO2** 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.
- PO3** Replacement porch railings and balusters should match the originals as closely as possible. If it is technically or economically unfeasible to accomplish this, then pre-fab wood or synthetic materials may be purchased that are similar to the originals. Wood railings should be finished with paint or an opaque stain.
- PO4** Cast or wrought iron columns, railings, or balusters should not be used as a replacement for brick or wood porch elements.
- PO5** When installing a new code-required handrail or railing to porch steps or from the street where not originally installed, select a design that is simple and stylistically appropriate or artistic.
- PO6** Conjectural porch ornament should not be added; often its style conflicts with the style of the house. For example, do not add gingerbread spindles or Corinthian columns to a Craftsman-style house.
- PO7** Over-sized boards (2" thick) should not be used for porch floors. 3/4" to 1" tongue-and-groove boards are generally appropriate. Deck boards are not appropriate for street façade porch floors.
- PO8** Replacement porch flooring should be installed that closely matches the original tongue-and-groove flooring dimensions. The proper installation of tongue and groove for outdoor flooring provides for a maximum gap of 1/16" between boards to allow for expansion. Wood edging should be applied to the exposed ends of floorboards to prevent moisture infiltration into the grain.
- PO9** Porch or cornice elements or any architectural-defining feature on the street façade should not be covered with vinyl or aluminum siding.
- PO10** Porch ceilings should not be installed, nor exposed eaves enclosed, where no such covering existed previously. Exposed rafters and roof decks are character-defining features for certain architectural styles, such as the Craftsman style.
- PO11** Deteriorated porch steps should be replaced with in-kind materials. Replacement steps should be of the same scale and dimensions as the original. 5/4" deck boards should not be used for stair treads. Stone steps may be patched with concrete that is tinted a visually compatible color.
- PO12** Historic stone steps should not be replaced unless the stone itself is unsafe or no longer useable. Resetting stones on a firm foundation and re-pointing or applying appropriate sealant can address most problems (contact Landmarks for advice on sealant product choices).
- PO13** Front porches can be enclosed with screen panels (not glass panels) provided the construction is reversible and no alterations are made to the original façade. Screen panels that can be removed seasonally when they are set behind porch elements are preferred. The porch enclosure shall not be made into a conditioned living space.
- PO14** When undertaking a non-street front-facing or rear porch enclosure project, do not obscure the design or detailing of original porch elements. The enclosure shall not become a room addition. See the Addition guidelines if a room addition is desired.
- PO15** A porch may be added to a structure's primary façade only if the porch design is appropriate to the style of the house.