



# METAL

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

**MT1** Do not remove deteriorated metal features and replace them with elements that do not convey the same visual appearance. Do not remove such a feature and not replace it at all.

**MT2** Photographically document architectural features that are slated for reconstruction prior to the removal of any historic fabric.

**MT3** Clean metal features only where such cleaning will not damage historic color, texture, or patina. Any cleaning treatment should use the gentlest means possible and first be tested in an inconspicuous location to determine potential adverse effects.

*Top left—apartment gate Old Louisville; top right—column capital West Main Street; above—newel post Cherokee Triangle.*

**MT4** Use only those cleaning treatments that are appropriate to the type of metal being cleaned.

**MT5** Clean soft metals, such as tin, lead, copper, terneplate, and zinc, using appropriate chemical methods, since blasting methods damage and pit their surfaces.



**MT6** Clean hard metals, such as cast iron, wrought iron, and steel, with handscraping or wirebrushing to remove corrosion and paint buildup. Low-pressure grit blasting may be used only if additional cleaning is required.

**MT7** Make sure that cleaning treatments are in compliance with Louisville's municipal air pollution controls.

**MT8** Do not expose metal types that require protection from the elements or apply paint or other coatings to metals that were historically meant to be exposed, such as copper, bronze, or stainless steel.



*Top left—rust-induced railing deterioration; top right—cast-iron piers; above left—decorative metal lantern; above right—attached foliate cast-iron ornament.*

**MT9** Reapply an appropriate paint or other coating system to previously painted metal features after cleaning. Failure to do so will result in accelerated corrosion of the metal or alloys.

**MT10** Do not place incompatible metals together without a protective barrier since this can result in galvanic corrosion, such as copper corroding cast iron, steel, tin, or aluminum.