

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Alignment.** The arrangement of objects along a straight line.

**Appurtenances.** An additional object added to a building; typically includes vents, exhausts hoods, air conditioning units, etc.

**Awning Sign.** Any sign painted or applied to the face, valance, side or top panel of an awning, or any sign made by removing material from an awning.

**Bracket.** A supporting member for a projecting element or shelf, sometimes in the shape of an inverted L and sometimes as a solid piece or a triangular truss.

**Building.** A resource created principally to shelter any form of human activity, such as a house.

**Column.** A slender upright structure, generally consisting of a cylindrical shaft, a base and a capital; pillar: It is usually a supporting or ornamental member in a building.

**Cornice.** The continuous projection at the top of a wall. The top course or molding of a wall when it serves as a crowning member.

**Doorframe.** The part of a door opening to which a door is hinged. A doorframe consists of two vertical members called *jamb*s and a horizontal top member called a *lintel*.

**Double-Hung Window.** A window with two sashes (the framework in which window panes are set), each moveable by a means of cords and weights.

**Elevation.** A mechanically accurate, “head-on” drawing of a face of a building or object, without any allowance for the effect of the laws of perspective. Any measurement on an elevation will be in a fixed proportion, or scale, to the corresponding measurement on the real building.

**Facade.** Front or principal face of a building, any side of a building that faces a street or other open space.

**Fascia.** A flat board with a vertical face that forms the trim along the edge of a flat roof, or along the horizontal, or “eaves,” sides of a pitched roof. The rain gutter is often mounted on it.

**Fenestration.** The arrangement of windows and other exterior openings on a building.

**Flush-mounted Sign.** Any flat sign mounted or applied to a building facade.

**Form.** The overall shape of a structure (i.e., most structures are rectangular in form).

**Frame.** A window component. See window parts.

**Glazing.** Fitting glass into windows and doors.

**Hanging Sign.** Any sign suspended from an awning, canopy, bracket or brace.

**Head.** The top horizontal member over a door or window opening.

**Interior Illuminated Sign.** Any sign designed to be lit from the inside (including awning, canopy, hanging or flush-mounted signs).

**Mass.** The physical size and bulk of a structure.

**Masonry.** Construction materials such as stone, brick, concrete block or tile.

**Material.** As related to the determination of “integrity” of a property, *material* refers to the physical elements that were combined or deposited in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

**Module.** The appearance of a single facade plane, despite being part of a larger building. One large building can incorporate several building modules.

**Molding.** A decorative band or strip of material with a constant profile or section designed to cast interesting shadows. It is generally used in cornices and as trim around window and door openings.

**Muntin.** A bar member supporting and separating panes of glass in a window or door.

**Orientation.** Generally, orientation refers to the manner in which a building relates to the street. The entrance to the building plays a large role in the orientation of a building; whereas, it should face the street.

**Panel.** A sunken or raised portion of a door with a frame-like border.

**Pedestrian Sign.** Any sign oriented to pedestrians at street level visibility (including window, awning or hanging signs, as well as nameplates, plaques or sandwich boards).

**Pediment.** A triangular section framed by a horizontal molding on its base and two sloping moldings on each of its sides. Usually used as a crowning member for doors, windows and mantles.

**Post.** A piece of wood, metal, etc., usually long and square or cylindrical, set upright to support a building, sign, gate, etc.; pillar; pole.

**Projecting Sign.** Any sign attached to and placed perpendicular to or at an angle to a building facade.

**Property.** Area of land containing a single historic resource or a group of resources.

**Quoin.** (pronounced *koin*) Dressed stones or bricks at the corners of buildings, laid so that their faces are alternately large and small. Originally used to add strength to a masonry wall, later used decoratively.

**Sandwich Board.** Any sign designed for placement on the sidewalk, of A-frame construction, generally two-sided.

**Sash.** See window parts.

**Seasonal Banner.** Any sign generally designed for temporary, long-term or seasonal use mounted to a light standard.

**Scale.** The size of structure as it appears to the pedestrian.

**Shape.** The general outline of a building or its facade.

**Side Light.** A usually long fixed sash located beside a door or window; often found in pairs.

**Sidewalk Furniture.** Any item used to embellish the facade of a building or the streetscape (including statues, planter boxes, pots or vases, benches, trash receptacles, art or signs).

**Siding.** The narrow horizontal or vertical wood boards that form the outer face of the walls in a traditional wood frame house. Horizontal wood siding is also referred to as clapboards. The term "siding" is also more loosely used to describe any material that can be applied to the outside of a building as a finish.

**Sign.** Any structure or display used as announcement or business identification.

**Sill.** The lowest horizontal member in a frame or opening for a window or door. Also, the lowest horizontal member in a framed wall or partition.

**Size.** The dimensions in height and width of a building's face.

**Special Event Banner.** Same as *Seasonal Banner*.

**Stile.** A vertical piece in a panel or frame, as of a door or window.

**Streetscape.** Generally, the streetscape refers to the character of the street, or how elements of the street form a cohesive environment.

**Thematic Banner.** Same as *Seasonal Banner*.

**Traditional.** Based on or established by the history of the area.

**Transom Window.** A small window or series of panes above a door, or above a casement or double hung window.

**Visual Continuity.** A sense of unity or belonging together that elements of the built environment exhibit because of similarities among them.

**Window Parts.** The moving units of a window are known as *sashes* and move within the fixed Frame. The *sash* may consist of one large *pane* of glass or may be subdivided into smaller panes by thin members called *muntings* or *glazing bars*. Sometimes in nineteenth-century houses windows are arranged side by side and divided by heavy vertical wood members called *mullions*.

**Window Sign.** Any sign painted, applied to, hung inside or intended to be viewed through window glass.

