

Woodwork and Exposed Structural Supports

The Historic District's character is greatly enhanced by its decorative elements such as cornices, railings, columns, brackets and beams. The use of trim accentuates and softens the outline of the façades and imparts an individual character.

Simple classical columns throughout the district are usually round with a slight taper below a simple capital. Square tapered pylon columns, or round spool columns (called "elephantine") are especially prevalent in Hyde Park. These wooden or concrete, truncated columns usually sit on masonry porch piers, often in an asymmetrical configuration.

Exposed structural elements, such as beams and rafter tails, become decorative elements in the bungalow style. More complex woodwork is represented in elaborate classical details, intricate brackets and cornices and decorative balustrades.



Porch Columns as Structural Supports

These and other details are perhaps the most distinctive parts of the buildings in the district, and their removal would constitute a significant departure from the unique architectural character of the district. If at all possible, the original details should be maintained or repaired. Replacements, when necessary, should appear similar in shape and character to the original. Do not replace columns or rails with decorative wrought iron. These are incompatible with the original design elements within the district.

A modification, repair or replacement of woodwork or exposed structural supports will require a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to the commencement of the construction. The Administrator of the A.R.C. shall review the application for compliance with the design guidelines. If the application is deemed by the Administrator to contain minor modifications, repairs or appropriate replacements, the Administrator may issue the Certificate of Appropriateness. If the application includes work other than minor modifications, repairs or appropriate replacements, the A.R.C. shall review the application at the regular A.R.C. public hearing for a decision on the Certificate of Appropriateness.



Exposed Beams and Rafter Tails

It is Permissible to...

Maintain or repair original woodwork and details.

When necessary, replace original woodwork or details with similar elements which match the original as closely as possible in size, proportion and material.

It is Not Permissible to...

Remove or cover original woodwork and detail.

Replace original woodwork and detail with materials or with uncharacteristic details such as wrought iron.

Replace exposed original structural, decorative columns with new columns manufactured from obtrusive materials.

Replace exposed original structural, decorative columns with new columns manufactured from intrusive materials.