

Accessories

Historic accessories are finishing touches that express a building's personality. Original door knobs, hinges, and mail slots or boxes are usually integral design features of the building exterior. Unless you want to spend a lot of money, today's hardware can barely compare in quality to the original. Consider adding a dead-bolt or other security mechanism to a door instead of replacing the handset on the door. A good locksmith shop can offer smart alternatives.

Shutters and awnings are historic accessories that provide energy savings and should contribute to historic appearances. They are designed to be movable and retractable to allow for solar variations. They can shade windows from solar heat gain in the summer and allow heat in in the winter.

Awnings shelter customers and merchandise; straying from that essential purpose may result in an inappropriate awning. Awnings come in a wide array of shapes, sizes and materials. The standard cloth awning, is a hallmark of traditional Main Street design.

Fabric awnings last only 5 to 10 years. merchants should make sure that an awning is indeed necessary and originally intended for the building. Sometimes you can find evidence like a paint outline for an old shutter or mailbox. Research historic photos to see what features have been removed. The Rensselaer County Historic Society is a good resource for photos.

Shutters were designed to swing closed over a window opening. They are installed on hinges, not fastened flat to the building exterior. Historic shutters are made of wood, not vinyl or aluminum that looks like wood.



Contemporary metal awnings are not appropriate and this awning obscures the architec-



Above: shutters sized and installed inappropriately Below: wood shutters on hinges can cover the window



Signs, and flags, should not hang below 8' 6"



Window box hardware should be dark metal



Decoration must be secure but removable



A boot scraper is designed into this railing



Cast iron cresting is rare now and should be preserved with a good coat of paint



Contemporary architectural accessories that are compatible with the building's architecture are allowable. Involve HRC in early design decisions.



These awnings complement the architecture of the building and give shelter to sidewalk café patrons.

APPROPRIATE TREATMENT GUIDE

All repairs and replacement are subject to HRC review. Submit photos of your property with you application review. Reviewers can help you in determining whether repair or replacement is appropriate.

- Historic accessories should always be preserved in place.
- Awnings should be retractable if they will be damaged by snow load
- Original awning hardware should remain even if the canvas no longer exists.
- Signage incorporated in accessories, like awnings, falls under the jurisdiction of the Signage Ordinance (see Signage section)
- Temporary accessories like flags and sculpture should be placed to complement building features, and should be fixed so as not to create a danger to anyone.
- Keep flower boxes full of plantings. Don't leave dead plants and weeds in the box
- Do not install accessories just because they look historic. Accessories should complement the style of your building
- Awning installers do not necessarily know to comply with Troy's regulations
- Do not install shutters unless there is proof, like hardware, that they once existed
- Shutters are not to be screwed to the face of a building