

## Doors and Hardware

Historical buildings doors are likely to be solid wood, first growth lumber, hand-crafted and uniquely designed for the building. These doors express the architecture of the building and make an important first impression on the visitor. Anything sold by a building supplier today is of interior quality and won't fit the historic opening. Proper weather stripping and repair of the original doors is usually the more lasting energy saver. If replacement is necessary, try searching for one at a parts warehouse, which stock antique doors and windows salvaged from demolished buildings. The non-profit Historic Albany Foundation operates a warehouse at Lexington Avenue, Albany.

Before painting, careful scraping can determine if your front door was a fine hardwood (mahogany or walnut). Victorian houses of pretense often showed the world a fine hardwood front door with a clear varnished finish. This can handsome and reward the owner with a door that could not be purchased today. Regardless of the original appearance repainting is always an approved option. Stripping and applying a clear finish to a pine door is not encouraged. Historically a pine door would have been painted, and not clear finished.

Most historic district buildings have a secondary set of doors so that storm doors are not necessary. When used, metal storm doors should be painted to match adjacent trim. A wood or metal storm door should conflict as little as possible with the appearance of the primary door. Ornamental motifs on the storm door are not appropriate. In some cases, anodized aluminum is an appropriate choice when it has a dark finish that blends well with existing trim.



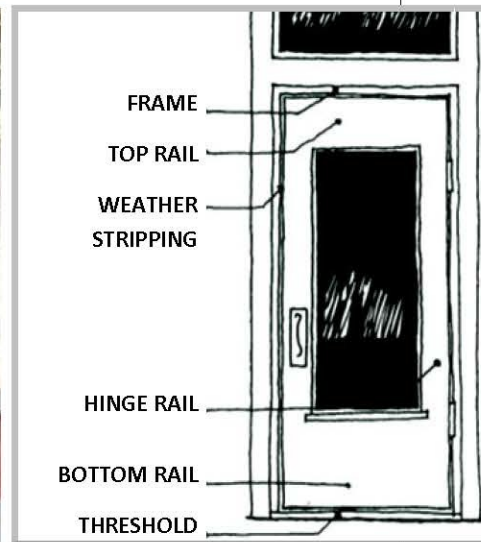
*Downsizing a door is inappropriate and not allowed*



*Brushed aluminum doors are not appropriate*



*Hardware choices are very important for historic doors*



### APPROPRIATE TREATMENT GUIDE

All door and entryway repairs and replacements are subject to HRC review and Planning Commission approval. Submit photos of your doorways with your application for review. Reviewers can help you in determining whether repair or replacement is appropriate.

- Door openings will not be changed in size. Original transoms and sidelights must be retained. They should never be boarded over and painted or sided.
- Replacement doors must be appropriate to the design and style of the building and must match the original in size, shape and design and materials.
- If replacement is truly necessary, try first to find appropriate doors from a salvage vendor
- Decisions to paint or clear finish a door must be approved
- Retain original hardware wherever possible
- Aluminum commercial doors are not preferred but may be allowed with review



*Examples of beautifully maintained doors, entries and hardware are plentiful in Troy's historic districts. The owners of these buildings are to be commended for their stewardship.*



<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/how-to/how-to-refinish-door> This Old House Door Restoration Tips