

Trim and Ornamentation

Staff Letter - No Certificate Necessary:

1. Refurbishing existing trim and/or ornamentation where there is no change in materials, profile, or color.

Staff Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Changing the color of trim and/or ornamentation when colors of an approved color palette are used.
2. Repairing trim and/or ornamentation with a material different from the current material.

Commission Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Replacing trim and/or ornamentation that is different in pattern or material from the existing trim and ornamentation.
2. Painting trim and/or ornamentation a color that is different from its current color and that is not on an approved palette.
3. Putting trim and/or ornamentation in a place where currently there is no trim or ornamentation.
4. Removing trim and/or ornamentation.
5. Covering up original trim and ornamentation details.

Recommended:

1. Repair and preserve the original cornice, trim, and decorative elements, even if worn or damaged. Replace with a replication only if damaged beyond repair or if the material is unsound.
2. Missing decorative details may be added when there is evidence that they existed. Evidence can be found from old photographs, remnants left on the building, paint lines where parts were removed, nail holes, old notches, and cut outs in siding and trim. Observation of details on similar historic buildings can assist but is not always conclusive.
3. New materials should accomplish the same characteristics as the originals.

Not Recommended:

1. Fabricating a history that does not exist by using ornamentation that is foreign to a building or has no evidence of having existed.
2. Removing decorative elements simply because they are not original to the building. They may have significance of their own or are evidence of the evolution of the building.
3. Adding decorative details to parts of a building that never had such details. For example, window and door trim was sometimes different and simpler on one side, either sides, or the rear of a building.
4. Covering up original details.
5. Introducing a new design element or mixing design elements.