

GLOSSARY OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION TERMS:

Addition: new construction added to an existing building or structure.

Alteration: any act or process that changes any portion of the exterior architectural appearance or exceptionally significant interiors of a building, structure or object, including, but not limited to the erection, construction, reconstruction, or removal of any exterior architectural features or interior architectural design of a structure; treatments such as sand blasting, water blasting, chemical cleaning, chemical stopping, or removal of any architectural feature, but not including changes to the color of exterior paint.

Appropriate: especially suitable or compatible.

Building: a building, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. "Building" may also be used to refer to a historically and functionally related unit, such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn. Examples include: carriage house, church, courthouse, house, library, shed, stable, store, theater, train station, garage, detached kitchen, barn, or privy.

Compatible: in harmony with location, context, setting, and historic character.

Contemporary: reflecting characteristics of the current period. Contemporary denotes characteristics which illustrate that a building, structure, or detail was constructed in the present or recent past rather than being imitative or reflective of a historic design.

Curtilage: the immediate area or context surrounding a historic resource, dwelling, or property. The curtilage will vary depending on the historic context and setting of the property, but generally incorporates up to fifteen acres.

Demolish/Demolition: Any act or process that destroys in part or whole a building, structure, or resource. This definition often refers to deliberate demolition of a building or site or allowing a building to fall into such a state of disrepair that it becomes necessary or desirable to demolish it.

Design Guidelines: the "Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" as adopted by the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, and other guidelines which may be adopted from time to time.

Enlarge: to extend a building, structure, or resource beyond its existing footprint, usually through the construction of an addition or new exterior feature.

Fenestration The arrangement of windows on a building.

Historic Context: patterns or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning and significance within history or prehistory is made clear. Historic contexts are historical patterns that can be identified through consideration of the history of the property and the history of the surrounding area. Historic context may relate to an event or series of events, pattern of development, building form, architectural style, engineering technique, landscape, artistic value, use of materials or methods of construction, or be associated with the life of an important person; also the setting in which a historic element, site, structure, street, or district exists.

Local Historic District: an area designated as a "historic district" by ordinance of the city council and which may contain within definable geographic boundaries one or more landmarks and which

may have within its boundaries other proportions or structures that, while not of such historic or architectural significance to be designated as landmarks, nevertheless contribute to the overall historic or architectural characteristics of the historic district.

Historic Fabric: original or old building materials (masonry, wood, stone, metals, marble) or construction.

Historic Integrity: the ability of a property to convey its significance; the retention of sufficient aspects of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, or association for a property to convey its historic significance.

Historic Preservation: according to the National Historic Preservation Act, includes identification, evaluation, recordation, documentation, curation, acquisition, protection, management, rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization, maintenance, research, interpretation, conservation, and education and training regarding the foregoing activities or a combination of the foregoing activities.

Historic Significance: determines why, where, and when a property is important. Historic significance is the importance of a property with regard to history, architecture, engineering, or the culture of a state, community, or nation. The key to determining whether the characteristics or associations of a property are significant is to consider the property within its historic context. Properties can be significant for their association or linkage to events or persons important in the past, as representatives of manmade expression of culture (design/construction) or technology, or for their ability to yield important information about history or prehistory.

Listing: the formal entry of a property in the National Register of Historic Places; also referred to as registration.

Maintain: to keep in an existing state of preservation or repair.

Mothball (Stabilization): temporarily closing or stabilizing a building to protect it from the weather as well as to secure it from vandalism; the act or process of applying measures essential to the maintenance of a deteriorated building as it exists at present, establishing structural stability and a weather-resistant enclosure.

Nomination: official recommendation for listing a property in the National Register of Places.

Object: the term object is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply constructed. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment. Examples include: boundary markers, mileposts, fountains, monuments, and sculpture.

Obscured: covered, concealed, or hidden from view.

Period of Significance: the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, or person, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for National Register listing. Period of significance usually begins with a date when significant activities or events began giving the property its historic significance; this is often a date of construction. For prehistoric properties, the period of significance is the broad span of time about which the site or district is likely to provide information; it is often the period associated with a particular cultural group.

Portland cement: a strong, inflexible hydraulic cement used to bind mortar. Mortar or patching materials with a high Portland cement content should not be used on pre-1920 buildings. The Portland cement is harder than the masonry, thereby causing serious damage over annual freeze-thaw cycles.)

Preservation: the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Reconstruction: the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Refurbish: to renovate, or make clean, fresh, or functional again through a process of major maintenance or minor repair.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values; also referred to as adaptive reuse.

Remodel: to change a building without regard to its distinctive features or style. Often involves changing the appearance of a structure by removing or covering original details and substituting new materials and forms.

Renovate: To repair a structure and make it usable again, without attempting to restore its historic appearance or duplicate original construction methods or material. *(Note: Although this word is commonly used and widely accepted outside the preservation community, historic preservationists prefer to use the term "rehabilitate" since it incorporates careful retention of historic, architectural, or cultural features).*

Repair: Acts of ordinary maintenance that do not include a change in the design, material, form, or outer appearance of a resource, such as repainting. This includes methods of stabilizing and preventing further decay and may incorporate replacement in kind or refurbishment of materials on a building or structure.

Replication: constructing a building so that it is an exact replica or imitation of an historic architectural style or period.

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Retain: to keep secure and intact. In the guidelines, "retain" and "maintain" describe the act of keeping an element, detail, or structure and continuing the same level of repair to aid in the preservation of elements, sites and structures.

Rhythm: regular occurrence of elements or features such as spacing between buildings.

Scale: proportional elements that demonstrate the size, materials, and style of buildings.

Significant: having particularly important associations within the contexts of architecture, history, and culture.

Site: the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing or ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure. Examples include: battlefield, campsite, designed landscape, shipwreck, ruins of a building or structure, natural feature, trail, rock carvings, ceremonial site.

Stabilization: is defined as the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure, and the existing form and vegetative cover of a site. It may include initial stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing maintenance of the historic building materials.

Streetscape: the distinguishing character of a particular street as created by its width, degree of curvature, paving materials, design of the street furniture, and forms of surrounding buildings.

Structure: the term “structure” is used to distinguish from buildings those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter. Examples include: bandstand, bridge, canal, corncrib, dam, earthwork, fence, gazebo, grain elevator, highway, irrigation system, lighthouse, railroad grade, silo, trolley car, tunnel, and windmill.

Style: a type of architecture distinguished by special characteristics of structure and ornament and often related in time; also a general quality of a distinctive character.

Vernacular: a regional form or adaptation of an architectural style.

Virginia Landmarks Register: official listing of properties important to Virginia’s history; managed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.