

Montgomery's Guidelines for Awarding Historic Building Signs

Historic Sign applications will be evaluated based on the historic documentation provided, as well as on the historic integrity—essentially the physical merits—of the property. Historic integrity is the sum total of factors that contribute to the overall historic look and feel of a property. These factors include: **setting, location, association, feeling, materials, workmanship, and design.**

As changes to properties are made over time, they may diminish the historic character of a building. While each change by itself may be small, the accumulation of changes can have a dramatic visual impact on a property. In the words of Huntsville preservation architect Harvie Jones, “All preservation should look good, but not everything that looks good is preservation.”

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

All facades of a building visible from the street are subject to review. The building should represent the architectural style in which it was constructed.

- Original materials must be maintained or duplicated where necessary.
- Exterior finish materials should be appropriate to the building's style and period.
- All exterior finishes should be kept in good condition.
- Mechanical equipment should be unobtrusively located.
- Landscaping including trees, shrubs, driveways and sidewalks should be kept in good condition. Expanded front parking areas should not detract from the residential feel of a residential property

ROOF:

The original form and pitch of the main building should be maintained. Roofing materials should be consistent.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
- slate	- corrugated fiberglass
- tile	- asphalt roll roofing
- wood shingles	- corrugated metal
- asbestos shingles	- skylights visible from the ROW
- asphalt or fiberglass shingles	with high profile
- standing seam metal or 5 v crimp	
- pressed metal shingles	

PORCH:

The porch is an important aspect of Montgomery's vernacular architectural tradition and must retain its original configuration, height and details. A screened or in-filled porch may be acceptable providing the original details of the porch can be read and the new materials are appropriate.

COLUMNS:

Columns detail, material and proportions should be appropriate to the building's style. Where known, they should match the original.

BALUSTRADE:

A balustrade consists of a top rail, bottom rail and intermediate members. A balustrade should be consistent with the architectural style of the building and appropriately scaled for a porch, not a deck. Porch rails should look like porch rails and not deck rails or “playpens”.

ENTRANCE STEPS/HANDICAPPED ACCESS RAMPS:

Steps should be appropriately scaled to the building. Ramps should be unobtrusive.

Acceptable

- wood steps with closed risers & sides
- brick steps
- stuccoed masonry steps
- stone steps

Unacceptable

- pre-fabricated concrete steps
- wood steps with open sides and risers (e.g. deck steps)
- stacked concrete block steps

STAIR RAILS:

The design of the stair rails should be consistent with the design of the balustrade and the style of the building. (Painted pipe rails, simple in design and appropriately scaled are acceptable).

DOORS:

The entranceway shall be consistent with the architectural style of the building. Screen doors on the front should be of wood and should not detract from the building’s appearance. All other exterior doors should be consistent with the style of the building. Security doors, while not ideal, are a reversible condition.

WINDOWS:

Windows must reflect the architectural style of the building. The original window openings, sash and muntin patterns shall be retained. Replacement windows must meet ARB standards (no vinyl, no grid between the glass)

STORM WINDOWS:

Interior storm windows are recommended. When used, storm windows should be single pane or match the sash pattern of historic windows. When used, storm window frames must have an anodized finish to match the sash color. Mill (silver) finish storm window frames are unacceptable.

SCREENS:

Screen frames may be of wood or anodized metal to match the window sash color. Mill (silver) finish screen frames are unacceptable.

SHUTTERS AND AWNINGS:

Shutters must be of wood. Shutters may be operable or fixed but must fit the window openings as if they are operable. They also need to be appropriate for the style of architecture.

Acceptable

- shutters with fixed or operable louvers
- shutters with panels
- fabric awnings properly scaled

Unacceptable

- vinyl shutters
- metal shutters
- shutters on casement windows
- metal awnings
- Bermuda shutters
- decorative shutters unless historic precedent can be shown

BURGLAR BARS:

It is preferred that burglar bars not be used. When used, they should be simple in design.

FOUNDATION:

Foundation treatment should be consistent.

Acceptable

- framed lattice hung between piers and recessed from the face of the pier
- brick recessed behind piers with appropriate venting
- stuccoed concrete block recessed behind piers with appropriate venting
- open foundation

Unacceptable

- fiberglass sheets
- tar paper
- polyurethane sheeting
- plywood
- exposed concrete block
- Mobile home skirting

ADDITIONS:

Additions may mimic the historic structure or comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. These standards require differentiation between the historic structure and the addition.

DRIVEWAYS/PARKING

Of particular concern is larger parking areas in front yards. Petitions will be evaluated on a ration of lawn to pavement, screening, and design to determine if the additional paving undermines a residential “feel” of a property.

FENCES AND WALLS:

Front yard fences and walls on the property shall be designed and constructed of materials to reflect the style, period and character of the building they abut or enclose.