
Appendix C. Glossary of Terms

See also "Utah's Historic Architecture" Glossary
<http://utahhistory.sdlhost.com/#/item/000000011019963/view>

Procedural Definitions

Certificate of Appropriateness A document issued by the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) allowing an applicant or owner to proceed with a proposed alteration, demolition, or new construction in Locally-designated historic district or on property listed in the Salt Lake City Register of Cultural Resources, following a determination of the proposal's suitability according to applicable criteria.

Process The established procedures followed by the HLC, Salt Lake City Planning staff and other City departments. These procedures may be established by City ordinance, the Commission, or professional planning practice.

Public notice Notice provided to interested parties before a commission takes action.

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Technical Definitions

Adaptive Use The reuse of a building or structure, usually for purposes different from the original use such as residence converted into offices.

Addition New construction added to an existing building or structure.

Alteration Work that affects the exterior appearance of a property.

Building A structure with a roof, intended for shelter or enclosure such as a dwelling or garage.

Character The qualities and attributes of a building, structure, site, street or district. Character may include individual structures or the relationship between structures.

Configuration The arrangement of elements and details on a building, structure or site which help to define its character.

Compatible In harmony with surroundings.

Context The setting in which a historic element, site, building, structure, street, or district exists.

Demolition Any act which destroys a structure, either partially or entirely.

Demolition by Neglect The destruction of a building or structure through abandonment or lack of maintenance.

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Design Guidelines Criteria which provide direction to projects regarding design and help ensure that rehabilitation projects and new construction respect the character of designated buildings and districts.

Element A material part or detail of a site, building, structure, street, landscape or district.

Elevation Any one of the external vertical planes of a building. (or) An external vertical plane of a structure.

Fabric The physical material of a building, structure, site, or community conveying an interweaving of component parts.

Floor Area Ratio The relationship of the total floor area of a building to the land area of its site, as defined as a ratio in which the numerator is the floor area, and the denominator is the site area.

Historic District A geographically definable area with a significant concentration of buildings, structures, sites, spaces, or objects unified by past events, physical development, design, setting, materials, workmanship, sense of cohesiveness or related historical and aesthetic associations. The significance of a district may be recognized through listing in a local, state, or national landmarks register and may be protected legally through enactment of a local historic district ordinance administered by a historic district board or commission.

Historic Imitation New construction or rehabilitation where elements or components mimic an architectural style but are not of the same historic period as the existing buildings (historic replica).

Historic Landmark Commission The City's governmental entity responsible for administering the criteria set forth in this document and in the Salt Lake City Zoning Ordinance (Section 21A.34.020) as they apply to locally-designated landmark sites and historic districts.

Infill New construction in historic districts on vacant lots or to replace existing buildings.

Landmark Site Any site included on the Salt Lake City Register of Cultural Resources. Such sites are of exceptional importance to the City, State, region or nation and impart high artistic, historic and/or cultural values.

Landscape The totality of the natural, built or human-influenced habitat experienced at any one place. Dominant features may be topography, plant cover, buildings, or other structures and their patterns.

Maintain To keep in an existing state of preservation or repair.

Mothballing Implementing temporary measures to stabilize and protect a building from deterioration and vandalism.

New construction Construction which is characterized by the introduction of new elements, sites, buildings, structures or additions to existing buildings and structures in historic areas and districts.

Preservation Generally, saving from destruction or deterioration old and historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects and providing for their continued use by means of restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive use.

Proportion Harmonious relation of parts to one another or to the whole.

Protection The act or process of applying measures designed to affect the physical condition of a property by defending or guarding it from deterioration, loss or attack, or to cover or shield the property from danger of injury. In the case of buildings and structures, such treatment is generally of a temporary nature and anticipates future historic preservation treatment; in the case of archaeological sites, the protective measure may be temporary or permanent.

Reconstruction The act or process of reproducing by new construction the exact form and detail of a vanished building, structure, or object, or a part thereof, as is appeared at a specific period of time.

Rehabilitation The act or process of returning a property or building to usable condition through repair, alteration, and/or preservation of its features which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

Renovation The act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible a contemporary use.

Restoration The act or process of returning a building's appearance to a specific period of time by removing later work and by replacing missing earlier features to match the original.

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.

Re-use To use again. An element, detail, or structure might be reused in historic districts.

Rhythm Movement or fluctuation marked by the regular occurrence or natural flow of related elements.

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

Setting The sum of attributes of a locality, neighborhood, or property that defines its character.

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

Stabilization The act or process of applying measures to reestablish a weather resistant enclosure and the structural stability of a deteriorated property while maintaining its present form.

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.

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.

Visual Continuity A sense of unity or belonging together that elements of the built environment exhibit because of similarities among them.

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Architectural Terms

Alignment The arrangement of objects along a straight line.

Apron A decorative, horizontal trim piece on the lower portion of an architectural element.

Arch A construction which spans an opening and supports the weight above it. (see flat arch, jack arch, segmental arch and semi-circular arch).

Ashlar A square, hewn stone used in building. It also refers to a thick dressed, square stone used for facing brick walls, etc.

Attic The upper level of a building, not of full ceiling height, directly beneath the roof.

Balcony A platform projecting from the wall of an upper story, enclosed by a railing or balustrade, with an entrance from the building and supported by brackets, columns, or cantilevered out.

Baluster One of a series of short, vertical, often vase-shaped members, used to support a stair or porch handrail, forming a balustrade.

Balustrade An entire rail system with top rail and balusters.

Bargeboard A board which hangs from the projecting end of a gable roof, covering the end rafters, and often sawn into a decorative pattern.

Bay The portion of a facade between columns or piers providing regular divisions and usually marked by windows.

Bay window A projecting window that forms an extension to the floor space of the internal rooms; usually extends to the ground level.

Belt course A horizontal band usually marking the floor levels on the exterior facade of a building.

Board and batten Siding fashioned of boards set vertically and covered where their edges join by narrow strips called battens.

Bond A term used to describe the various patterns in which brick (or stone) is laid, such as “common bond” or “Flemish bond.”

Bracket A projecting element of wood, stone or metal which spans between horizontal and vertical surfaces (eaves, shelves, overhangs) as decorative support.

Bulkhead The structural panels just below display windows on storefronts. Bulkheads can be both supportive and decorative in design. 19th century bulkheads are often of wood construction with rectangular raised panels. 20th century bulkheads may be of wood, brick, tile, or marble construction. Bulkheads are also referred to as kickplates.

Came Metal struts supporting leaded glass.

Canopy A roofed structure constructed of fabric or other material placed so as to extend outward from a building providing a protective shield for doors, windows and other openings, supported by the building and supports extended to the ground directly under the canopy or cantilevered from the building.

Capital The head of a column or pilaster.

Carrara Glass Tinted glass widely used for storefront remodeling during the 1930s and 1940s. Carrara glass usually came in black, tan, or dark red colors.

Casement window A window with one or two sashes which are hinged at the sides and usually open outward.

Clapboards Horizontal wooden boards, thinner at the top edge, which are overlapped to provide a weather-proof exterior wall surface.

Classical order Derived from Greek and Roman architecture, a column with its base, shaft, capital and entablature having standardized details and proportions, according to one of the five canonized modes Doric, Tuscan, Ionic, Corinthian, or Composite.

Clipped gable A gable roof where the ends of the ridge are terminated in a small, diagonal roof surface.

Column A cylindrical or square vertical structural or ornamental member.

Common bond A brickwork pattern where most courses are laid flat, with the long “stretcher” edge exposed, but every fifth to eighth course is laid perpendicularly with the small “header” end exposes, to structurally tie the wall together.

Corbel In masonry, a projection, or one of a series of projections, each stepped progressively farther forward with height and articulating a cornice or supporting an overhanging member.

Corinthian order Most ornate classical order characterized by a capital with ornamental acanthus leaves and curled fern shoots.

Cornice The uppermost, projecting part of an entablature, or feature resembling it. Any projecting ornamental molding along the top of a wall, building, etc.

Cresting A decorated ornamental finish along the top of a wall or roof, often made of ornamental metal.

Cross-gable A secondary gable roof which meets the primary roof at right angles.

Dentils A row of small tooth-like blocks in a classical cornice.

Doric order A classical order with simple, unadorned capitals, and with no base.

Dormer window A window that projects from a roof.

Double-hung window A window with two sashes, one sliding vertically over the other.

Eave The edge of a roof that projects beyond the face of a wall.

EIFS Stands for “Exterior Insulating and Finish System.” This is a process by which a styrene board is adhered to wall sheathing and an elastomeric, synthetic stucco is applied. At this writing EIFS is generally referred to as “dryvit,” but this is a brand name.

Ell The rear wing of a house, generally one room wide and running perpendicular to the principal building.

Engaged column A column that is in direct contact with a wall; at least half of the column extends beyond the plane of the wall to which it is attached.

Entablature A part of a building of classical order resting on the column capital; consists of an architrave, frieze, and cornice.

Facade Any of the exterior faces of a building.

False Front A front wall which extends beyond the sidewalls of a building to create a more imposing facade.

Fanlight A semi-circular window usually over a door with radiating muntins suggesting a fan.

Fascia A projecting flat horizontal member or molding; forms the trim of a flat roof or a pitched roof; also a part of a classical entablature.

Fenestration The arrangement of windows and other exterior openings on a building.

Finial A projecting decorative element at the top of a roof turret or gable.

Fishscale shingles A decorative pattern of wall shingles composed of staggered horizontal rows of wooden shingles with half-round ends.

Flashing Thin metal sheets used to prevent moisture infiltration at joints of roof planes and between the roof and vertical surfaces.

Flat arch An arch whose wedge-shaped stones or bricks are set in a straight line; also called a jack arch.

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Flemish bond A brick-work pattern where the long “stretcher” edge of the brick is alternated with the small “header” end for decorative as well as structural effectiveness.

Fluting Shallow, concave grooves running vertically on the shaft of a column, pilaster, or other surface.

Foundation The lowest exposed portion of the building wall, which supports the structure above.

Frieze The middle portion of a classical cornice; also applied decorative elements on an entablature or parapet wall.

Gable The triangular section of a wall to carry a pitched roof.

Gable roof A pitched roof with one downward slope on either side of a central, horizontal ridge.

Gambrel roof A ridged roof with two slopes on either side.

Ghosts Outlines or profiles of missing buildings or building details. These outlines may be visible through stains, paint, weathering, or other residue on a building’s facade or side elevation.

Guardrail A building component or a system of building components located at or near the open sides of elevated walking surfaces that minimizes the possibilities of a fall from the walking surface to a lower level.

Handrail A horizontal or sloping rail intended for grasping by the hand for guidance or support.

Hipped roof A roof with uniform slopes on all sides.

Hood molding A projecting molding above an arch, doorway, or window, originally designed to direct water away from the opening; also called a drip mold.

Ionic order One of the five classical orders used to describe decorative scroll capitals.

Jack arch (see Flat arch)

Joist One of the horizontal wood beams that support the floors or ceilings of a house. They are set parallel to one another—usually from 1’0” to 2’0” apart—and span between supporting walls or larger wood beams.

Keystone The wedge-shaped top or center member of an arch.

Knee brace An oversize bracket supporting a cantilevered or projecting element.

Lancet Window A narrow, vertical window that ends in a point.

Lap Siding See clapboards.

Lintel The horizontal top member of a window, door, or other opening.

Luxfer glass A glass panel made up of small leaded glass lights either clear or tinted purple. These panels were widely used for storefront transoms during the early 20th century.

Mansard roof A roof with a double slope on all sides, with the lower slope being almost vertical and the upper almost horizontal.

Masonry Work using brick, stone, concrete block, tile, adobe or similar materials.

Massing The three-dimensional form of a building.

Metal standing seam roof A roof composed of overlapping sections of metal such as copper-bearing steel or iron coated with a terne alloy of lead and tin. These roofs were attached or crimped together in various raised seams for which the roof are named.

Modillion A horizontal bracket, often in the form of a plain block, ornamenting, or sometimes supporting, the underside of a cornice.

Mortar A mixture of sand, lime, (and in more modern structures, cement), and water used as a binding agent in masonry construction.

Molding A decorative band or strip of material with a constant profile or section designed to cast interesting shadows. It is generally used in cornices and as trim around window and door openings.

Mullion A heavy vertical divider between windows or doors.

Multi-light window A window sash composed of more than one pane of glass.

Muntin A secondary framing member to divide and hold the panes of glass in multi-light window or glazed door.

Oriel window A bay window which emerges above the ground floor level, generally supported by brackets or corbels.

Paired columns Two columns supported by one pier, as on a porch.

Palladian window A window with three openings, the central one arched and wider than the flanking ones.

Paneled door A door composed of solid panels (either raised or recessed) held within a framework of rails and stiles.

Parapet A low horizontal wall at the edge of a roof.

Pediment A triangular crowning element forming the gable of a roof; any similar triangular element used over windows, doors, etc.

Pier A vertical structural element, square or rectangular in cross-section.

Pilaster A rectangular pillar attached, but projecting from a wall, resembling a classical column.

Pitch The degree of the slope of a roof.

Pony wall Low wall, between 24" to 36" high, that are used to enclose porches or balconies. Also known as "wing" walls.

Portico A roofed space, open or partly enclosed, forming the entrance and centerpiece of the facade of a building, often with columns and a pediment.

Portland cement A strong, inflexible hydraulic cement used to bind mortar.

Post A piece of wood, metal, etc., usually long and square or cylindrical, set upright to support a building, sign, gate, etc.; pillar; pole.

Pressed tin Decorative and functional metalwork made of molded tin used to sheath roofs, bays, and cornices.

Pyramidal roof A roof with four identical sides rising to a central peak.

Quoins A series of stone, bricks, or wood panels ornamenting the outside of a wall.

Rafter Any of the beams that slope from the ridge of a roof to the eaves and serve to support the roof.

Ridge The top horizontal member of a roof where the sloping surfaces meet.

Roof The top covering of a building. Following are some types:

- **Gable** roof has a pitched roof with ridge and vertical ends.
- **Hip** roof has sloped ends instead of vertical ends.
- **Shed** roof (lean-to) has one slope only and is built against a higher wall.
- **Clipped gable or hipped gable** is similar to gable but with the end clipped back.
- **Gambrel** roof is a variation of a gable roof, each side of which has a shallower slope above a steeper one.
- **Mansard** roof is a roof with a double slope; the lower slope is steeper than the upper.

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Rusticated Roughening of stonework of concrete blocks to give greater articulation to each block.

Sash The moveable framework containing the glass in a window.

Segmental arch An arch whose profile or radius is less than a semicircle.

Semi-circular arch An arch whose profile or radius is a half-circle the diameter of which equals the opening width.

Shape The general outline of a building or its facade.

Sheathing An exterior covering of boards of other surface applied to the frame of the structure. (see Siding)

Shed roof A gently-pitched, almost flat roof with only one slope.

Sidelight A vertical area of fixed glass on either side of a door or window.

Siding The exterior wall covering or sheathing of a structure.

Sill The bottom crosspiece of a window frame.

Soffit The underside of a structural part, as of a beam, arch, etc.

Spindles Slender, elaborately turned wood dowels or rods often used in screens and porch trim.

Stile A vertical piece in a panel or frame, as of a door or window.

Stretcher bond A brickwork pattern where courses are laid flat with the long “stretcher” edge exposed.

Stucco An exterior wall covering that consists of lime, cement and sand, applied directly or over a wood or metal lath. It is usually applied in three coats.

Surround An encircling border or decorative frame, usually at windows or doors.

Swag Carved ornament on the form of a cloth draped over supports, or in the form of a garland of fruits and flowers,

Terra-cotta Decorative building material of baked clay. Terra-cotta was often glazed in various colors and textures. Terra-cotta was widely used for cornices, inset panels, and other decorative facade elements from ca. 1880 to 1930.

Transom A horizontal opening (or bar) over a door or window.

Trim The decorative framing of openings and other features on a facade.

Turret A small slender tower.

Veranda A covered porch or balcony on a building’s exterior.

Vergeboard The vertical face board following and set under the roof edge of a gable, sometimes decorated by carving.

Vernacular A regional form or adaptation of an architectural style.

Wall dormer Dormer created by the upward extension of a wall and a breaking of the roofline.

Water table A projecting horizontal ledge, intended to prevent water from running down the face of a wall’s lower section.

Weatherboard Wood siding consisting of overlapping boards usually thicker at one edge than the other.

Window Parts The moving units of a window are known as sashes and move within the fixed frame. The sash may consist of one large pane of glass or may be subdivided into smaller panes by thin members called muntins or glazing bars. Sometimes in nineteenth-century houses windows are arranged side by side and divided by heavy vertical wood members called mullions. For a diagram of window parts, see PART II 3 : 5.