

APPENDIX B – ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Awning window: A window in which the opening sash is hinged at the top; when the window is open, the bottom of the sash projects out at an angle.

Baluster: One of several small columns or rods that support a railing or balustrade.

Balustrade: A railing with upper and lower rails, balusters, and pedestals.

Casement window: A window with one or more sashes that are hinged on one side so that the sash opens by swinging in or out; the most common type of window in North America until the early eighteenth century.

Character-defining Feature: A prominent or distinctive aspect, quality, or physical component of a property that contributes significantly to its historic character.

Cornice: The projecting moldings forming the top band of an entablature, wall, or other element. The architectural details that decorate a roofline.

Cresting: Decoration in the form of a series of ornate pointed shapes located at the top of a parapet or roof ridge.

Cupola: A small structure projecting above a roof that provides ventilation or is used as a lookout, especially with a hemispherical roof on a circular or polygonal drum.

Dormer: A small structure that projects from a sloping roof with a window in the down slope end; used to light an attic space and to provide headroom; may have a gabled, shed, or other shaped roof.

Double-hung window: A window with two sashes that slide past each other vertically; typically hung with cord, pulley, and counterweights on each side.

Eave: The projection of a roof beyond the wall; most often used to refer to the edge and underside of a roof.

Entablature: In classical architecture, the entire band of horizontal elements above the column capitals; from bottom to top, the entablature is composed of the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

Fanlight: A window in the arched opening over an entry door.

Fascia: A flat, wide, horizontal band on a wall surface, especially the bands of an architrave.

Fenestration: The arrangement of windows in a building façade.

Finial: A pointed ornament typically used at the peak of a roof.

Fixed window: Any type of window held in a frame or sash that does not open.

Flashing: Sheet metal or other flexible material formed to prevent water from entering a building or structure at joints or intersections, such as where a roof intersects a wall or chimney.

Gable roof: A pitched roof with two inclined planes that meet at a peak in the center and terminate at a vertical grade.

Glazing: The clear or translucent material, usually glass, through which light passes into a building.

Mansard: A two-pitched roof with a steep lower slope that rises from all of the formal facades of a building, hipped when used on a detached building.

Low Pressure Wash: A cleaning method using water that does not damage historic material, typically defined as ranging from 100 to 400 psi as registered on cleaning equipment fitted with an adjustable pressure gauge.

Massing: The overall composition of the exterior of the major volumes of a building.

Proportion: The relationship of the size, shape, and location of one building element to all the other elements; each architectural style typically has its own rules of proportion.

Reflective Glazing: Window glass which has been coated on the outside with a transparent metallic coating to reflect a significant fraction of the light and radiant heat which strikes it.

Sash: The part of a window frame that holds the glazing, especially when movable.

Sidelight: A narrow window adjacent to a door or wider window that is the same height as the door or window; most often one of a pair flanking an entrance door.

Turret: A small, projecting tower at the corner of a building, or above the roof; typically circular or octagonal in plan.

Vertical Circulation: Term used to describe any method of moving from one floor to another within a building, may include stairs, elevators, or escalators.

Definitions were provided by the following references:

Dictionary of Building Preservation. Ed. by Ward Bucher. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1996.

Dictionary of Architecture & Construction. Second Edition. Ed. by Cyril M. Harris. New York: McGraw Hill, 1993.

Weeks, K.D., and Anne E. Grimmer. 1995. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: With Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.* Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.