Entries help establish relationships between people and buildings. Whether imposing or inviting, the character of an entry lays the groundwork for how people relate to the structure as a whole.

Door

Design Guidelines

D1 Do not alter the character of entrances by either removing historic elements or through the addition of elements for which there is no historic precedent.

D2 Photographically document architectural features that are slated for reconstruction prior to the removal of any historic fabric.

D3 Use historical, pictorial, and physical documentation when undertaking the reconstruction of a missing entrance or porch feature. If there is not sufficient information to determine the original design, a new design should be prepared that is compatible with the architectural character of the building and the district. Conjectural or falsely-historical designs are not appropriate.

D4 Use only those replacement doors that duplicate the design, proportion, and arrangement of paneling and glazing of the original.

D5 Do not replace historic double-leaf doors with a single door.

D6 Do not alter original openings to accommodate stock doors.

D7 Install only screen doors or storm doors that are simple with a narrow-frame design that enables the inner door to be seen. Metal screen and storm doors should be painted or finished to match the inner door.

D8 Install any security bars in such a way that they do not obscure the architectural character of original doors or damage historic fabric. Commercial security grilles should retract out of sight during business hours and preferably be mounted inside the glass. Painting security bars an unobtrusive color is recommended.

D9 Differentiate between primary and secondary doors, using the detailing of the doors or the articulation of the frame.

D10 Do not add vestibules to primary facades unless there is a historic precedent. Such additions alter the character, proportion, and massing of the facade.

D11 Do not create new entrances on facades that can be seen from a public way.

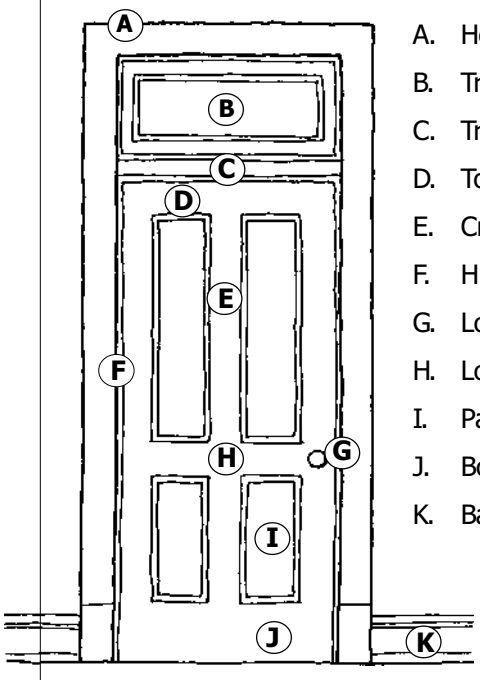
D12 Replacement of non-original, non-historic doors with new doors that are appropriate to the period and style of the building and are the size of the original opening is recommended.

Entries of Varying Architectural Styles

Italianate

Richardsonian Romanesque

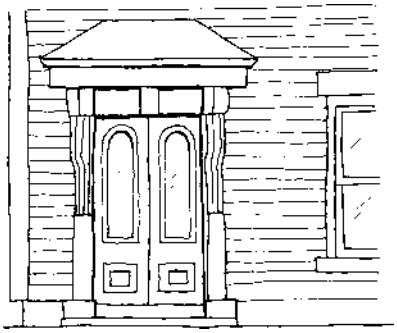
Parts of an Interior Door



A. Head Casing
B. Transom
C. Transom Bar
D. Top Rail
E. Cross Rail
F. Hinge Stile
G. Lock Stile
H. Lock Rail
I. Panel
J. Bottom Rail
K. Base

Craftsman

Entrance Trim Maintains Architectural Balance—It Should Not Be Removed



The original door surround frames the entry, giving it a feeling of substance and solidity.

Removal of the door surround disrupts the historic proportion of the entrance. The door appears to be ungrounded, "floating" within the facade.

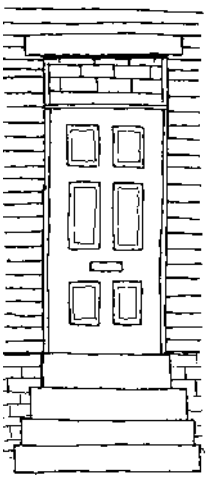
Character Is Not Established by Doors Alone

An ornate canopy with elaborate metal braces adds considerable grandeur to an Old Louisville apartment building entrance. Take a moment to imagine how different the entry would look if the canopy were removed.

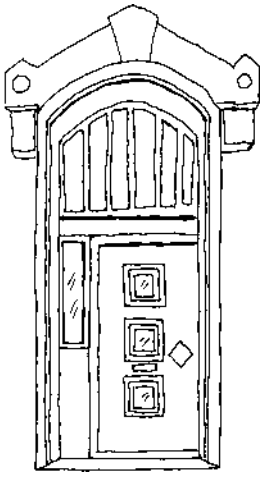
New Construction Should Look to Neighbors For Entry Design Features

Use of a raised entry sheltered by a small, bracketed porch helps this modern building fit in with its historic neighbors. The design is simple and traditional, yet does not attempt to appear older than it really is.

Replacement Doors Must Fit Original Openings



Inappropriate



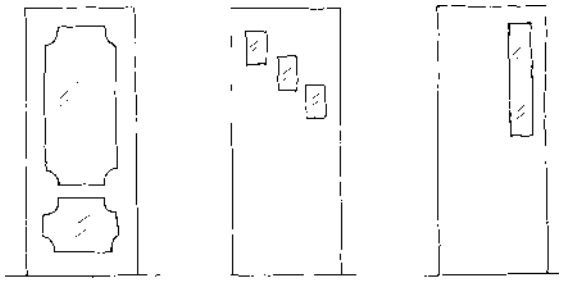
Inappropriate

Blocking-in door openings to accommodate stock doors is not permitted.

Look Behind!

Historic garage doors are features that contribute to the character of Louisville's alleys.

Historic Panel and Glass Configurations Should Be Considered



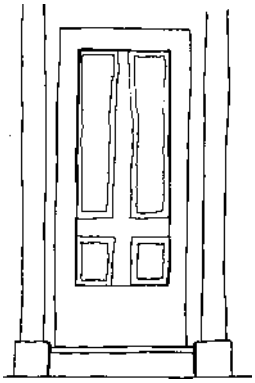
Inappropriate Replacements for Historic Doors

Replacement doors should have the same visual appearance as the original. Modern flush doors without paneling or with modern glazing configurations are not permitted. Six-panel doors are also not appropriate for most local preservation districts or landmarks.

Do Not Disregard Porches

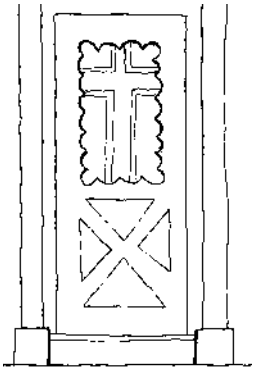
Porches, some modest and some commanding, are important entrance elements that complement door designs.

Storms and Screens Should Not Conceal



Appropriate

The historic door's appearance can be seen.



Inappropriate

The historic door's appearance is obscured.

If needed, storm doors and screen doors that have a narrow frame, which allow the door behind it to be seen, are preferred.

Security

A historic metalwork door secures an Old Louisville entrance. When installing contemporary security bars, select simple designs that do not overwhelm the character of historic entrances.