

Design Guidelines - Storefronts

Sf1 Retain and preserve historic storefront features such as display windows, bulkheads, transoms, entry doors, decorative entrance floor tiles and name plates, cast iron columns and pilasters, etc.

Sf2 Historic ornamentation should be retained and repaired. If missing or deteriorated beyond repair, replacements should match the original in design, dimension, texture, material and color. Consider substitute materials only if it is not feasible to use the original material.

Sf3 Storefronts that are later additions but that have acquired historic significance in their own right should be retained and preserved.

Sf4 A new storefront's configuration and proportion should be based on historic documentation or appropriate historic designs relating to the building

façade. For example, the traditional storefront was composed almost entirely of window, providing maximum light and display area. Think less wall and more glass.

Sf5 A storefront in a new building should not be a replica of an historic storefront. It should be based upon and complement the historic storefronts around it, but should be distinguishable as a product of its own time.

Sf6 When designing a new storefront, the following elements should be included: large display windows and doors, transoms, relatively thin framing elements, a cornice element separating the storefront from the upper stories, low bulkheads, and decorative entry flooring.

Sf7 A storefront should fit inside the original opening and should not extend beyond it.



This State Street storefront maintains many of its historic features, including limestone columns, transom windows and historic doors.

Sf8 A storefront should not be ‘closed down’ or subdivided.

Sf9 Appropriate materials include wood, cast iron, or anodized aluminum frames. Bulkheads can be wood panels, polished stone, glass, tile or aluminum-clad plywood panels. Inappropriate materials include stone, PermaStone, fake bricks and gravel aggregate.

Sf10 Theme designs that create a false sense of history, such as ‘wild west’ or ‘colonial’ designs, are inappropriate for use in the historic district.

Sf11 Do not use smoked, tinted, or reflective glass in storefront windows. Use window coverings, such as blinds, if the use of the building no longer requires merchandise display.

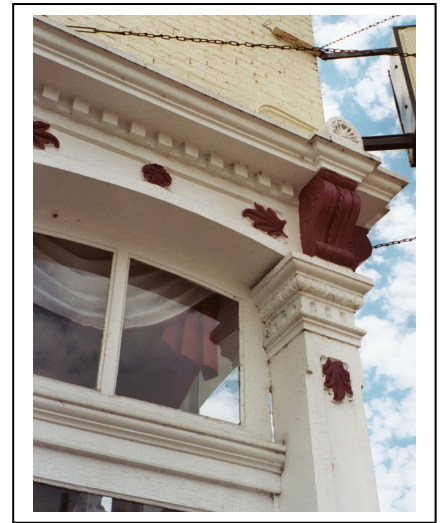
Sf12 Awnings and canopies should complement the façade, not overwhelm it. See ‘Awnings & Canopies’ section of the Design Guidelines for more information, if a canopy is to be added.

Although the Market Street storefront to the right is not historic, its use of large display windows and polished stone bulkheads helps it fit into the downtown district.

This State Street business is long closed, but this decorative tile entryway helps add to the character of downtown.



Many historic storefronts have fine decorative detailing that should be preserved and maintained, as seen at this building at Bank and Market Streets.



Sf13 New doors should reflect the storefront’s historic character. Doors should be made of wood or painted metal and should have large glass panels. See ‘Doors’ section of the Design Guidelines for more information if a door is to be replaced.

Sf14 Do not change or re-orient the location of the main entrance of a storefront.

