

Siding & Trim

ST1 Historic siding and trim should be retained and preserved, including ornament such as fish scale shingles, window casings, sills, hoods, brackets, or corner boards.

ST2 Artificial siding is not appropriate for use on a historic building. When historic materials are replaced or covered with artificial siding, the character of the building is altered through the change in width and profile of the siding and the reduction of shadows. Any replacement siding must be completed with respect for historic projecting trim and ornament, and maintain the existing projection of those elements.

ST3 Do not cover wood siding with impervious materials (i.e. aluminum or vinyl siding, stucco, impervious paint, etc.), as it limits the wood's ability to 'breathe,' trapping moisture that will eventually lead to rot.

ST4 If historic siding or trim is damaged, use epoxies and other maintenance and repair techniques such as splicing or patching to preserve original fabric. Retention of original fabric is preferred to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the historic resource.

The scalloped siding and detailed gable trim on this State Street home are hallmarks of its Queen Anne architectural style.

ST5 If wooden features are missing or damaged beyond repair, they should be replaced in kind, matching the profile, exposure and thickness of the existing wooden features. Clear cedar is recommended for use, or thermally treated wood.

ST6 Use the gentlest means possible for cleaning, scraping or stripping wood surfaces. Avoid sandblasting, water blasting, heat machines or chemicals that are designed to dissolve paint. Be aware that paint applied before 1978 likely contains lead and should be treated accordingly, with the ground cleaned of any paint chips and the chips disposed of safely.

ST7 Removal of artificial siding and trim is highly encouraged in the district. Remove later siding carefully, to avoid damage to any historic building materials.



ST8 Some types of artificial siding – such as cementitious siding or composites – can be appropriate on new buildings in the district or on additions. Special design considerations such as width, texture, orientation, trim, etc. will apply, to ensure that the application conforms with the historic character of the district. All new siding should have a smooth finish rather than a wood-grained texture.

ST9 Replacement siding should be installed without irreversibly damaging, removing or obscuring the architectural features and historic materials of a building.

ST10 Siding should only cover areas that were originally covered by siding.

ST11 Avoid the use of blown-in insulation in exterior walls without a proper interior moisture barrier, as it often leads to moisture build-up and rot. Foam insulation is also not recommended on interior masonry walls, as it impacts the walls' ability to breathe.

ST12 Replacement of missing features should be based on written, pictorial or physical evidence, rather than conjecture.

ST13 Orient all replacement siding horizontally unless there is sound historic documentation of a different original orientation. Textured plywood (T1-11) vertical siding is not an appropriate siding material for historic buildings.

SIDING & TRIM MAINTENANCE:

* Undertake a program of routine inspection, maintenance and repair of wood siding and trim. Elements that have greater exposure to the weather – often on the west or south side of a building, or in an area that receives rain directly – should be monitored especially closely. Correct any problems as soon as possible, before the structural integrity of the wood is compromised.

* Also inspect paint regularly, searching for signs of failure such as checking, crazing, blistering or peeling. Scrape, sand, clean, splice, fill, prime and paint according to traditional methods to match existing siding.

* Maintain a sound coat of paint on wood siding and trim. If it won't hold paint (often because of excessive moisture), find and address the problem – don't just cover it up with new materials.



Removing the aluminum siding - and recreating the missing brackets based on ghost marks - helped to restore the character of this East Elm Street bungalow.