

Cornice, Parapet, and Roof



In the Ridgewood Village Center Historic District, distinguishing characteristics are the hiding of rooflines for most commercial buildings and the use of visually important roofs on major corner buildings and on cultural and civic buildings. Most roofs tend to be low and hidden behind cornices and/ or raised parapets which may be shaped or have center projections. Often the strong horizontal lines due to cornices and parapets are important to the solid block-like spatial enclosure of the streetscapes. Colored clay tile main or pent roofs supply additional visual variety. The wide diversity of cornices – including some classically inspired, some displaying intricate brickwork, and some bracketed-- further contribute to the District's pedestrian scale and to its visual interest.

Guidelines

Maintain and preserve important design features of cornice, parapet, roofline, and roofs.



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Recommended

For Contributing Historic Buildings

- Preserve and maintain original cornices, parapets, chimneys, and rooflines.
- Repair, rather than replace cornices and parapets. If replacement is necessary, replicate the original.
- If the building has lost its original cornice or parapet, if documentary or physical evidence is available, replicate the design and size of the original using visually compatible materials.
- Preserve and repair architecturally distinctive roofing material such as clay tiles and slates whenever possible. Try to carefully remove and reuse loose clay tiles and slates. If using original material is not technically or economically feasible, use replacement materials that match original in size, shape, color, pattern, and texture.
- If the roof is visible from the street and is an important architectural feature and the original roofing material is not known, use roofing material that is compatible in size, shape, color, pattern, and texture with the architecture of the building and with visually related buildings.
- When the roofing material is not visible from the street or where the roof is not an important architectural feature, unobtrusive modern roofing materials may be used.



Recommended: Preserve and maintain original parapets and rooflines.



Recommended: Preserve or repair with matching materials roofs that are important architectural features.

For Non-Contributing Buildings

- Design cornices, parapets, and rooflines that are compatible with others in the streetscape. When the streetscape has a continuous unbroken cornice and/or parapet line, maintain them. When the streetscape has a pattern of separate cornices and parapets of differing design maintain this.
- Except for major corner buildings and cultural and civic buildings, use flat or very slightly sloping roofs hidden behind parapets.

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Recommended (Continued)

For All Buildings:

- Hide mechanical equipment behind parapet wall or cornice or other screening device so it is not visible from the pedestrian level.

Resources

Hopewell, New Jersey, Historic Preservation Commission, *Design Guidelines: Guidelines for Exterior Maintenance, Roofing*, <http://208.55.240.96/Guidelines-Historic-Properties.html>

National Park Service, *From Asbestos to Zinc: Roofing for Historic Buildings*, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/roofingexhibit/introduction.htm>

NPS, *Preservation Brief 4: Roofing for Historic Building*, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief04.htm>

NPS, *Preservation Brief 29: The Repair, Replacement, and Maintenance of Historic Slate Roofs*, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief29.htm>

NPS, *Preservation Brief 3: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Clay Tile Roofs*, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief30.htm>

NPS, *Preservation Tech Notes: Restoring Metal Roof Cornices*, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/technotes/PTN32/intro.htm>

