

Glendale Design Guidelines for Residential Buildings in Adopted Historic Districts

Porches

Porches are common features of many 19th- and 20th-century residential styles. In many houses the porch is the most distinctive stylistic element of the design. Porches vary greatly in structure and design but invariably create an important relationship between indoor and outdoor space. Porches, and alternatively porticos, often define the entry to a house. Placement of porches may be symmetrical, asymmetrical, wraparound or courtyard-oriented. Porches may share characteristics, such as balustrade and column form, with balconies.



Left: The porch in this Craftsman is a prominent feature in the design.

Right: The neoclassical balustrade and column on this porch are inappropriate to this house's Minimal Traditional aesthetic.

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Porches

character - defining features

Determine original porch configuration, for example:

- Was there a porch historically?
- Is the porch partial or full-width?
- How tall is the porch?
- Does the porch project from the wall plane?
- Is the porch cut into the façade and incorporated under the main roof?
- Is it a wraparound or side porch?

What are the primary materials of the porch?

- Wood
- Stone
- Stucco
- Brick

Identify subordinate details of the porch design or construction, such as:

- Solid or open balustrade
- Battered piers
- Chamfered supports
- Classical columns with capitals
- Turned spindlework

Identify the type of roof, eave and any related detail

- Is the porch roof flat, gabled, or hipped?
- Does the roofline mimic or contrast with the main roof?
- Are there any elements above the porch's eave line such as a balustrade or pediment?



Above: The enclosed porch on this house detracts from the structure's historic value.

Below: The flagstone supports of this porch are inappropriate to the Craftsman style and should be replaced with its original materials.



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Above: In some cases, the use of glazing can be an appropriate design solution for enclosing a historic porch.

Below: The porch of this Foursquare adds to the historic character of this house.



Porches design guidelines

- The original porch form should be preserved.
- The existing location, shape, details and posts of the porch should be preserved.
- Missing or deteriorated decorative elements should be replaced to match existing elements or replaced based on documentation or physical evidence.
- Avoid using a porch support that would be substantially smaller than the existing supports.
- Original porches should not be removed from the primary façade.
- Original porch details should not be removed.
- Enclosing a porch with opaque materials that destroy the openness and transparency of the porch is not appropriate.
- When a porch must be enclosed, transparent materials, such as glass, should be used and carefully placed in order to preserve the visual character of the porch.
- Adding porch details, such as rails, balustrade, scrollwork, where they did not exist historically is generally inappropriate.
- Any replacement or addition of ornament should be in a style consistent with the original architectural style.

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porches

Porches

design guidelines (continued)

- Where additional porch rail height is desired or required by code, consider providing a smaller rail above the historic railing to achieve the additional height.
- Restoring an altered porch to its original design and configuration is encouraged.
- When porch replacement is necessary, it should be similar in character, design, scale and materials to those used historically.
- The design of a replacement should be based on available historical documentation, such as original plans, Sanborn maps, or historic photos or physical evidence.
- When no physical or visual evidence of the porch exists, a new porch may be considered that is similar in character to those found on comparable buildings.
- Unless reconstructing a porch from historical documentation, it is not necessary to replicate the details of the original porch.
- The height of the railing and the spacing of the balusters should be similar to those used historically.
- While matching original materials is preferred, fiberglass columns may be considered when detailed correctly and painted appropriately.



Above: The portico for this Colonial Revival house uses classical elements in its design.

Below: The porch on this Victorian has elaborate details which provides a great deal of character.

