

# Design Guidelines - Metals

**Me1** Retain and preserve original architectural metal features on historic buildings and sites, such as cornices, cresting, finials, balustrades, balconies, gutters, downspouts, fences, hitching posts, hardware, etc.

**Me2** Retain and preserve the finishes and colors of original architectural metals whenever possible.

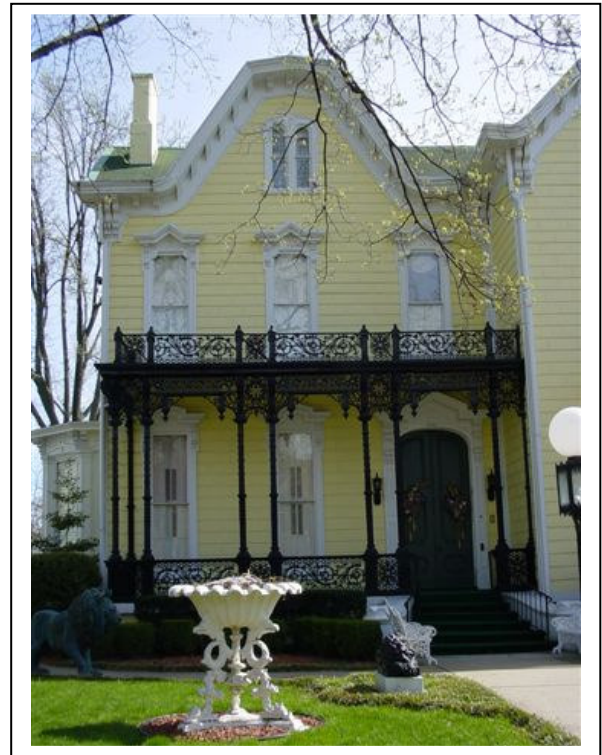
**Me3** Repair original architectural metal features by patching, splicing, consolidating or reinforcing deteriorated sections.

**Me4** If a metal element is deteriorated beyond repair, it should be replaced in kind. The new material should match the historic in size, style, profile, and material.

**Me5** Maintain a sound coat of paint or other compatible coating on materials that rust or corrode. Do not apply paint or other coatings to metals that were historically meant to be exposed, such as copper, bronze or stainless steel.

**Me6** Clean metals to remove corrosion prior to repainting. Use the gentlest means possible, including appropriate chemical solutions/strippers for soft metals such as tin, lead, copper, terne and zinc. Ensure that chemicals are properly neutralized at the end of the cleaning process to avoid deterioration.

**Me7** Hard metals, such as cast iron, wrought iron and steel, should be cleaned by hand sanding or wire brushing. Low-pressure grit blasting may be used only if other methods are ineffective and if a small test patch shows that it will not damage the metal surface.



*The ironwork on this porch on East Main Street is a significant architectural feature that should be maintained and preserved.*

**Me8** Do not use sandblasting to clean architectural metals.

**Me9** Clean metals only if doing so will not damage a historic color, texture or patina. Test any proposed treatment in a small, inconspicuous patch prior to undertaking any large-scale cleaning.

**Me10** Avoid replacing wooden porch supports and railings with metal supports and railings.

**Me11** Do not place incompatible metals together without a protective barrier, as this can lead to galvanic corrosion (i.e. copper will corrode cast iron, steel, tin or aluminum).



*Cast iron is very susceptible to water damage, which can lead to rust and cracking.*

*This ornamental iron balcony is an important element of the streetscape along Pearl Street.*

