

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.

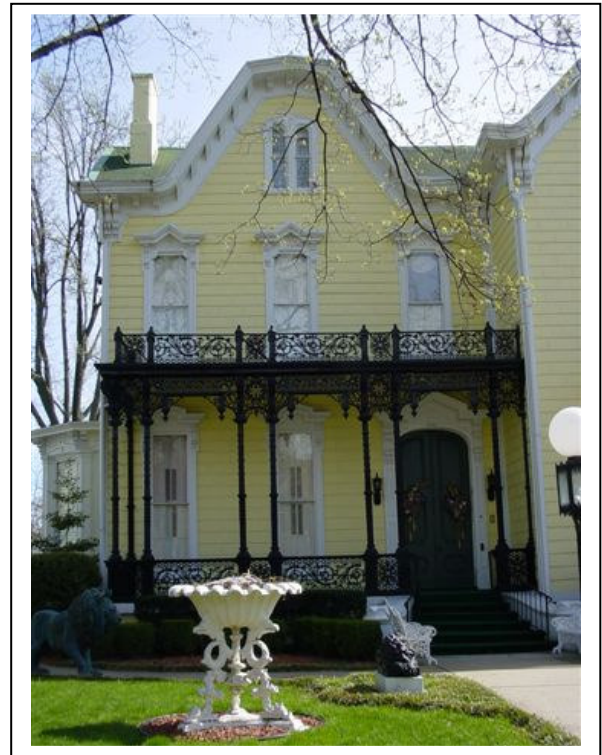
Me3 Repair original architectural metal features by patching, splicing, consolidating or reinforcing deteriorated sections.

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.

