

Design Guidelines - Siding & Trim

ST1 Historic siding and trim should be retained and preserved.

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. Projecting details around windows or doors become inset, and often molding, trim and other details must be removed to accommodate artificial siding.

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.

ST5 If wooden features are missing or damaged beyond repair, they should be replaced in kind. Use wood of the same species, size, shape and configuration for the replacement.

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.

ST7 Removal of artificial siding and trim is encouraged in the district. Remove later siding carefully, to avoid damage to the original fabric.

ST8 Some types of artificial siding 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.



These fishscale shingles are an important detail on this Silver Hills house, and should be preserved.

ST9 Inspect wood siding on a regular basis. Correct any problems, ensuring that structural integrity is not compromised.

ST10 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.

ST11 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.

ST12 Replacement siding should be installed without irreversibly damaging, removing or obscuring the architectural features and historic materials of a building.

ST13 Siding should only cover areas that were originally covered by siding.

ST14 Avoid the use of blown-in insulation in exterior walls, as it often leads to moisture build-up and rot.

As the example below from Indianapolis illustrates, the addition or removal of artificial siding can make a huge difference in a building's appearance.



The addition of vinyl siding has caused the window trim to become inset, rather than projecting. The rot that is apparent will be worsened by covering the wood.

ST15 Replacement of missing features should be based on written, pictorial or physical evidence, rather than conjecture.

ST16 Orient all replacement siding horizontally, unless there is sound historic documentation of a different original orientation. Textured plywood (T-111) vertical siding is not an appropriate siding material for historic buildings.

