

Cornices, Friezes & Parapets

C1 Original cornice and frieze elements should be preserved and maintained. Removal of these results in a blank, unfinished look on an historic building.

C2 Repair damaged or deteriorated portions of a cornice or frieze in kind. New work should match the existing in materials, size, texture, details and other design elements.



Both the metal cornice and the brick corbelling below contribute to the architectural interest of this East Market Street building. The multi-color paint scheme helps to show off the details.

C3 If a cornice has deteriorated beyond repair or has been removed, a new cornice should match the original or the style of the building in size, proportion, detailing, massing and materials.

C4 Avoid adding a new cornice or frieze detailing to a building without physical or pictorial evidence that such elements existed historically on the building.

C5 Wood, cast-iron and metal were traditional cornice materials, and should be used for repair or replacement work. New materials such as fiberglass may be considered if it can be demonstrated that the new cornice would be visually compatible with existing building materials.

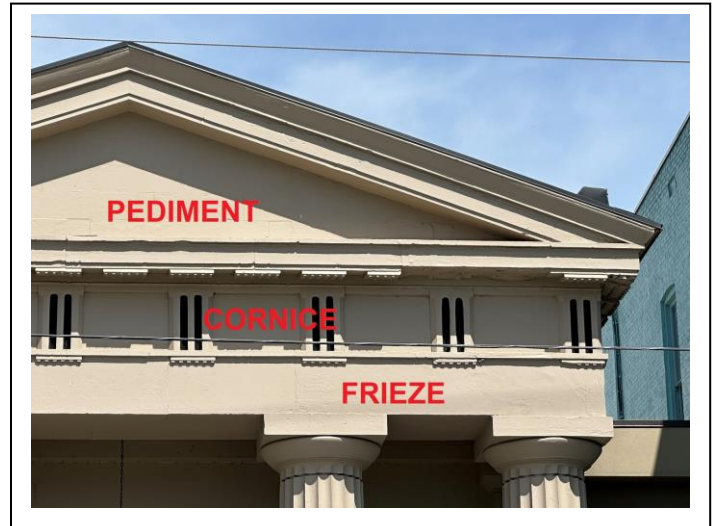
C6 When it is cost prohibitive to replicate a missing cornice, consider using paint to give a similar visual 'cap' to the building.

C7 Maintain and preserve existing eave trim such as decorative brackets or braces.

C8 Avoid covering cornice areas with aluminum or vinyl siding or other applied materials.

C9 Protect historic cornice or frieze details during roof or siding work.

C10 Parapet walls should remain in place and maintain an adequate cap to prevent water infiltration. Parapet wall caps may be covered in aluminum, but the color used should match the existing wall cap or masonry to avoid introducing a new design element to the building.



Elements visible on the former Indiana State Bank include pediment (top), cornice (middle) and frieze (bottom)

Left: The cornice of the Reibel House not only is an important architectural element but also provides information about the building's history.

Built in 1909, the Grand Theater had a much different appearance – including a prominent cornice and decorative parapet – prior to its 1951 remodeling in the Art Moderne style.

