

PART III

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

SOUTH PASADENA RESIDENTIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary

The following Glossary is intended as a useful tool for architectural, building, and construction terms used in the document. The selections included are common terms used to refer to features and elements on residential properties. However, this is not a comprehensive glossary of terms. There are several excellent architectural and construction dictionaries available that could be referenced for more complete definitions and information.

Alteration Changes made through the removal and / or addition of building material.

American bond Also called common bond. A brick masonry bonding pattern where every seventh course consists of headers, with all other courses consisting of stretchers.

Arcade A series of arches supported by columns or pillars; a covered passageway.

Arch A construction technique and structural member, usually curved and made of masonry. Composed of individual wedge-shaped members that span an opening and support the weight above by resolving vertical pressure into horizontal or diagonal thrust.

Architrave The lowest part of an entablature, or the molded frame above a door or window opening.

Balconet A low, slightly projecting, ornamental railing around the lower portion of a window; a false balcony.

Balcony A platform projecting from the wall or window of a building, usually enclosed by a railing

Baluster One of a series of small pillars or units of a balustrade; also an upright support of the railing for a stair; balusters can often be decoratively designed.

Balustrade A railing or parapet consisting of a top rail on balusters, sometimes on a base member and sometimes interrupted by posts.

Battered pier A pier that is inclined with respect to the surface of the wall on the face that is not perpendicular to the walls.

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Clapboards Narrow, horizontal, overlapping wooden boards that form the outer skin of the walls of many wood-frame houses. In older houses, the exposure (the exposed area of each board not overlapped by another board) ranges from four to six inches.

Clerestory An elevated range of windows in a wall that rises above the ridgeline of the primary roof.

Clinker brick A brick that has been deformed in the firing process.

Colonnade A row of columns supporting a beam or entablature.

Column An upright supporting member, either attached or freestanding, such as a pillar or a post; generally composed of a capital, shaft, and base.

Contributing resource Adds to the historic association, historic architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which an historic district is significant because the resource was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significant contexts, and possesses integrity.

Corbel A projection from a masonry wall, sometimes supporting a load and sometimes for decorative effect.

Corbeled cap The termination of a brick chimney that projects outward in one or more courses.

Corner board A board which is used as trim on the external corner of a wood-frame structure and against which the ends of the siding are fitted.

Cornice The exterior trim of a structure at the meeting of the roof and wall; usually consists of bed molding, soffit, fascia, and crown molding.

Course In masonry, a layer of bricks or stones running horizontally in a wall.

Cresting Decorative grillework or trim applied to the ridgecrest of a roof, common on Queen Anne style buildings.

Cross gable A gable that is perpendicular to the main axis or ridge of a roof.

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Frieze A horizontal member of a classical entablature, often decorated, located above the architrave and below the cornice.

Gable The vertical triangular portion of the end of a building having a double-sloping roof, usually with the base of the triangle sitting at the level of the eaves, and the apex at the ridge of the roof. The term sometimes refers to the entire end wall.

Gable-on-hip A roof that has a hip as the primary roof form and a gabled element that caps the roof at the ridge line. Also referred to as a Gablet, this element is typical of the Ranch style.

Gambrel roof A roof having two pitches on each side, typical of Dutch Colonial and Colonial Revival architecture.

Gingerbread Highly decorative woodwork with cut out ornament, made with a jigsaw or scroll saw, prominent in Gothic Revival architecture

Glazing A transparent material (such as glass) used to enclose windows.

Header Bricks laid horizontally with their lengths perpendicular to the face of the wall.

Half-timbering In late medieval architecture, a type of construction in which the heavy timber framework is exposed, and the spaces between the timbers are filled with wattle-and daub, plaster, or brickwork.

Hipped roof A roof which slopes upward on all four sides.

Historic district An ensemble of buildings and their surroundings given a designation due to their significance as a whole; a geographically definable area (urban or rural, small or large) possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, and/or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically, but linked by association or history.

Historic fabric Materials or elements of a building or place, which contribute to its historic character.

Hood molding A decorative molding over a window or door frame, commonly found on Italianate style buildings.

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Non-contributing resource Does not add to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which an historic district is significant because the resource was not present during the period of significance, does not relate to the documented significant contexts, and does not possess integrity.

Oriel window A window bay that projects from the building beginning above the ground level.

Order In classical architecture, a particular style of column with its entablature, having standardized details generally called Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.

Palladian window A window divided into three parts: a large arched central window, flanked by two smaller rectangular windows. These are found in Colonial Revival as well as Italianate buildings.

Parapet A wall that extends above the roofline. Common in California Mission style buildings.

Pediment In classical vocabulary, the triangular gable end of the roof above a cornice; also a similar decorative element above a window or door.

Pent roof A small, sloping roof, the upper end of which butts against a wall of a house, usually above the first-floor windows.

Picture window A large, single-pane window, commonly set in a metal frame, that was a common building element of the mid-twentieth century. Unmarred by vertical or horizontal members, the window created a "picture" view from the building's interior.

Pier A member, usually in the form of a thickened wall section, placed at intervals. Provides lateral support or takes concentrated vertical loads.

Pilaster A shallow rectangular column or pier attached to a wall, often modeled on a classical order; frequently found flanking doors or windows.

Pillar A post or column-like support.

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features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration period.

Reversibility A condition which allows removal of an added material or feature and return to the original, without damage to the original.

Ribbon window A continuous horizontal row, or band, of windows separated only by mullions. Used to some extent in Craftsman designs, but more commonly on post-war modern buildings.

Round arch A semicircular arch, often called a Roman arch.

Rusticated The treatment of masonry to create a rough appearance, usually through sinking joints, beveling edges and artificial texturing of the stone's surface.

Sash Window framework that may be fixed or moveable. If moveable, it may slide, as in a double-hung window; or it may pivot, as in a casement window.

Scale The relationship of parts, their relative size and proportions, to one another and to the human figure.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties A set of standards and guidelines, issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for the acquisition, protection, stabilization, preservation, restoration, and reconstruction of historic properties. The Standards, written in 1976, and revised and expanded in 1983, 1990, and 1995 were developed pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and make available information concerning historic properties. The Standards are neither technical, nor prescriptive, but are intended to promote responsible preservation practices. There are four treatments: preservation, rehabilitation, reconstruction and restoration.

Setback The distance between the property line, road, or sidewalk, and the facade of the building.

Shiplap siding Wooden siding tapered along its upper edge where it is overlapped by the next higher courses of siding.

Sidelights The commonly vertical oriented glazed openings surrounding an entry or doorway.

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commonly used for flooring and siding.

Tooling The finish of a mortar joint, composed of depth and angle as well as any decorative pattern.

Transom Horizontal window opening above a door or window.

Tudor arch A four centered pointed arch, characteristic of Tudor style architecture in England in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Turret A small, slender tower, usually corbeled from a corner of a building

Veranda A covered porch or balcony, running alongside a house; the roof is often supported by columns.

Vergeboard An ornamental board, sometimes jigsaw cut, that serves as trim and is attached to the overhanging eaves of a gable roof; sometimes called a bargeboard.

Vertical Rhythm The pattern of solids and voids created by the openings (such as doors and windows) or decorative elements from floor to floor

Water table A projecting ledge, molding, or string course along the bottom side of a building, designed to throw off rainwater; it usually divides the foundation of a building from the first floor.

Weatherboard siding Siding, usually wooden, consisting of overlapping, narrow boards usually thicker at one edge; also called clapboard siding.

Window Head The upper horizontal cross member or decorative element of a window frame.

Window Lintel The horizontal structural member above a window opening, which carries the load of the wall above it.

Wing A parallel extension to a building.