



Subject: Entrance Treatments

- Applicable Standards:**
2. Retention of Historic Character
 5. Preservation of Distinctive Features, Finishes and Craftsmanship
 6. Repair/Replacement of Deteriorated or Missing Features Based on Evidence

Issue: The treatment of entrances as part of a historic rehabilitation project is important in retaining the overall architectural character of the building. The entrance is often the focal point of the façade and is an integral component of a historic building's design. It should accurately reflect the building's style, period of significance and use. The historic entrance including the door, transom or fanlight, sidelights, pilasters and entablature should always be retained and repaired if at all possible. If any of these elements is missing, the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings* recommend replacing the missing element to match if physical, pictorial, or photographic evidence exists to document its appearance. The individual components should match the historic entrance in material as well as design. Because the entrance is directly encountered upon entering the building, it is unlikely that a substitute material will adequately duplicate the appearance of a missing element. If no documentation for the historic appearance of the entrance exists, an appropriate design compatible with the building's residential or commercial character must be sought.

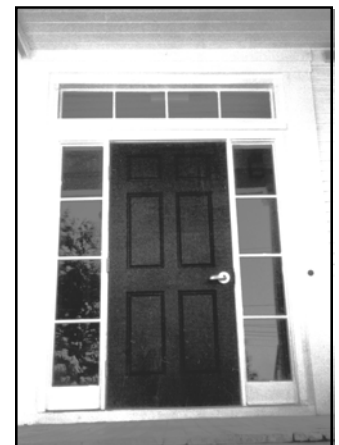
Application 1 (*Incompatible treatments later modified to meet the Standards*): This large three-story, frame building was in continued use as a tavern since 1820 and has now been rehabilitated as an assisted living residence. The interior of the building had undergone a great amount of alteration over the years, but the primary elevation retained its historic form and front entrances with transoms and sidelights. Ornamental steel doors with inappropriate leaded glass panels, sidelights and transom were installed. In order to bring the project into conformance with the Standards, remedial work involved replacing the doors with wood six-panel doors and reproducing the historic configuration of the sidelights and transom based on photographic documentation.



Tavern after rehabilitation before appropriate entrance installed.



LEFT: Inappropriate replacement entrance.



RIGHT: Entrance after remedial work.

Application 2 (*Incompatible treatment*): This two-story brick commercial building, dating from the 1890s, is being rehabilitated for use as law offices. The first floor level was covered with stucco sometime in the past and a compatible storefront, except for the entrance bay, was constructed during a previous rehabilitation. The proposed treatment for the entrance included double doors flanked by multi-paned sidelights, surmounted by a solid stucco panel covered by an awning. The sidelights are residential in design and not compatible with the commercial character of this building. In order to bring the project into conformance with the Standards, the sidelights will be removed and wider double doors installed to fill the central bay. The stucco panel above the doors will be replaced with a glass transom to match those in the adjacent bays, and the awning, which had been proposed only to conceal the stucco panel, will be eliminated.



Commercial building prior to rehabilitation.

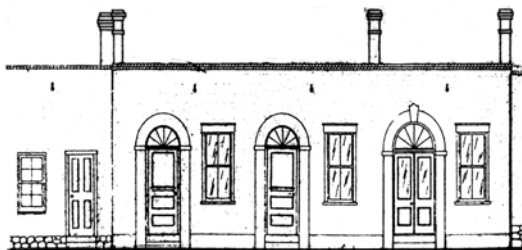


Inappropriate entrance design.

Application 3 (*Incompatible treatment*): This one-story row of vernacular adobe apartments, built and modified prior to 1914, is being rehabilitated to return it to its original residential use. In this case, significant alterations had been made to the front elevations, including filling the arched entrances to create simple rectangular entrance openings. Other than the physical evidence documenting the outline of arched openings, revealed when the stucco coating was removed to repair the adobe structure underneath, no information was available concerning the design of the historic doors and surrounds. The project originally proposed re-establishing the arched entrances, and adding half-glazed doors with ornamental arched surrounds and fanlights. However, this treatment was determined to be too elaborate and, thus, incompatible with the simple character of this adobe building. To meet the Standards, the design for the arched entrances will be simplified and will consist of paneled wood doors surmounted by single light, semi-circular transoms within plain plaster surrounds.



Adobe apartments prior to rehabilitation.



Inappropriate entrance design.



Outline of original arched opening.