

GLOSSARY

Note: The following definitions are offered to provide a common vocabulary for use when considering work on the exterior of historic properties in the City of Holland. If there is a conflict between the definition provided in this document and a definition specifically defined by City Ordinance or usage, the City Ordinance or usage shall prevail.

- Adaptive Reuse** The recycling of an old building for use other than for what it was originally constructed. This can involve a sensitive rehabilitation that retains much of a building's original character, or it can involve extensive remodeling.
- Addition** A new part such as a wing, ell or porch added to an existing building or structure.
- Alignment** The arrangement of objects along a straight line.
- Alteration** Work that changes the detail of a resource but does not change its basic size or shape.
- Appurtenances** An additional object added to a building: typically includes vents, exhaust hoods, air conditioning units, etc.
- Apron** An either plain or decorated piece of trim found directly below the stool of a window.
- Arcade** A series of arches supported by columns or piers; a building or part of a building with a series of arches; a roofed passageway.
- Arch** A structural member shaped in the arc of a curve. Built to support the weight above an opening.
- Architectural Feature** A prominent or significant part or element of a building, structure, or site which is not a portion of the living area. Examples include cornices, awnings, eaves, etc.
- Architectural Style** A definite type of architecture, distinguished by special characteristics of structure and ornament.
- Architrave** The lower part of a classical entablature, resting directly on the capital of a column; the molding around a window or door.
- Asphalt** A brownish-black solid or semi-solid mixture of bitumens used in paving, roofing and waterproofing.
- Asphalt Shingles** A type of roofing material composed of layers of saturated felt, cloth or paper, and coated with a tar or asphalt substance and granules.

- Attic** The room or space in the roof of a building.
- Awning Window** A window that is hinged at the top and swings outward.
- Balcony** A platform extending from the upper-story façade of a building and surrounded by railing, with access from the building.
- Balloon Framing** A type of light-weight construction consisting of two inch boards of varying widths held together by nails and sometimes extending through two stories.
- Baluster** A vertical, often vase-shaped post providing support for a railing on stairs, porches, etc.
- Balustrade** A series of balusters with a top and bottom rail. Can be used as a stair rail and also above the cornice on the outside of a building.
- Bargeboard** A projecting board, often decorated, that acts as trim to cover the ends of the structure where a pitched roof overhangs a gable.
- Barrel Tile** A semi-cylindrical tile used for roofing.
- Base** The lowest portion of a column.
- Bas Relief** Sculptured figures projecting from a wall.
- Battered** A gradual upward and backward slope.
- Bay** One unit of a building that consists of a series of similar units; commonly the number of window and door openings per floor or by the number of spaces between columns or piers. Also, the projected or recessed portion of a building.
- Bay Window** A window or set of windows which project out from a wall, forming an alcove or small space in a room; ordinarily begins at ground level but may be carried out on brackets or corbels.
- Belt Course** A flat, horizontal member of relatively slight projection, marking a division in the wall plane.
- Berm** A bank of earth covered with some type of ground cover or plantings that is usually used as a visual screen and sound barrier.
- Board and Batten** Vertical plank siding with joints covered by narrow wood strips.
- Bond** The laying of bricks or stones in a regular pattern.
- Bond Course** A course of “headers” in a brick wall.

- Bracket** A support element under eaves, shelves, or overhangs, often more decorative than functional.
- Brick** A usually rectangular building or paving unit made of fired clay.
- Broken Pediment** A pediment where the sloping sides do not meet at the apex but instead return, creating an opening that sometimes contains an ornamental vase or similar form on a pedestal.
- Building Bay** The portion of a building between two structural walls or column lines.
- Bulkhead** A roofed box-shape built above and intended to cover a stair well, lift shaft, etc.
- Canopy** An ornamental roof-like structure, or a cloth covering held horizontally over an entrance.
- Cantilever** A projecting beam or part of a structure supported only at one end. Used to support a balcony, cornice, extended eaves or any other extension to a building or structure.
- Capital** The decorated top of a column or pilaster, which supports the entablature.
- Casement Window** A window with the sash hung vertically and opening inward or outward.
- Casing** The finished visible framework around a door or window.
- Cast Iron** Iron shaped in a mold. It is brittle, hard and not weldable.
- Cast Stone** Imitation stone for facing of buildings, generally of a formed concrete in an appearance simulating real stone.
- Cement Mortar** A mixture of cement, lime, sand, or other aggregates with water; used in plastering and bricklaying.
- Certificate of Appropriateness** The written approval of a permit application for work that is appropriate and that does not adversely affect a resource.
- Cinder Block** A hollow, concrete building block made with coal cinders.
- Cladding** The covering of a wall surface. This is sometimes referred to as sheathing or veneering.
- Clapboard** Narrow, horizontal, overlapping wooden boards, usually thicker along the bottom edge, that form the outer skin of the walls of many wood

frame houses. The horizontal lines of the overlaps generally are from four to six inches apart in older houses.

- Classical** Traditional in style or form, or using methods developed over a long period of time and considered to be of lasting value.
- Column** A vertical structural member, usually long and slender, generally consisting of a cylindrical shaft, base, capital, and pillar. It is usually a supporting or ornamental member in a building.
- Compatibility** Designed and built in a manner that is in harmony with their natural and man-made surroundings and environment. Forms and materials are often cited as determinants of compatibility.
- Compositional Shingle** (see 'Asphalt Shingles")
- Concrete** Made by mixing cement or mortar with water and various aggregates such as sand, gravel, or pebbles.
- Concrete Block** A hollow or solid rectangular block made of Portland cement, aggregates, and water used in the construction of walls, foundations, and piers, etc.
- Conjectural** Design based on or involving guesswork or an unsubstantiated theory.
- Contributing Resource** Those buildings or landscapes built during the district's period of significance that exist in comparatively original condition, or that have been appropriately restored or could reasonably be restored, and clearly contribute to the historic significance of the district. May also include buildings or landscapes which have been constructed prior to or after the period of significance which have acquired significance in their own right or are compatible with the character of the historic district.
- Coping** The protective uppermost course of a wall or parapet.
- Corbelling** A series of projections, each stepped out further than the one below it; most often found on brick walls and chimney stacks.
- Corner Boards** Boards placed at the corners of exterior walls to provide a neater appearance and to protect the ends of the wood siding.
- Cornice** Projecting ornamental molding serving as a crowning member along the top of a building or wall.
- Course** A horizontal row of stones, bricks, or block in a wall.

- Cresting** An ornamental decoration at the ridge of a roof or top of a wall or screen.
- Cultural Landscape** A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.
- Curtain Wall** A non-loadbearing wall used for enclosure, which is applied to or in front of a structural system.
- Deck** An uncovered platform, usually with wood decking and railings, that extends out from the face of a building or sits freestanding and raised above grade.
- Demolition** The razing or destruction, whether entirely or in part, of a resource and includes, but is not limited to, demolition by neglect.
- Demolition by Neglect** Neglect in maintaining, repairing, or securing a resource that results in deterioration of an exterior feature of the resource or the loss of structural integrity of the resource.
- Dentil/Dentil Molding** A molding with a series of small blocks that look like teeth, usually seen under a cornice.
- Design** As related to the determination of “integrity” of a property, design refers to the elements that create the physical form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
- Dormer** A structure projecting from a sloping roof. Usually housing a window or ventilating louvers.
- Dormer Window** A window used for lighting the space of a roof in the same plane as the wall (wall dormer) or projecting from the slope of the roof (roof dormer).
- Double-Hung Window** A window with two sashes, one above the other, arranged to slide vertically past each other.
- Downspout** A pipe that carries water from the gutters to the ground or sewer connection.
- Eave** The underside of a sloping roof overhang projecting beyond the wall at the lower edge of a roof.
- Efflorescence** Powdery white salts left on a wall surface as it dries out. They are unsightly and usually harmless unless they lift paint or plaster. They come mainly from gypsum or pyrite in the clay and coal bricks are fired with or from the mortar.

- Elevation** A mechanically accurate “head-on” drawing of a face of a building or object, without any allowance for the effect of the laws of perspective. Any measurement on an elevation is in fixed proportion, or scale, to the corresponding measurement of the real building.
- Ell** A wing or addition extended from the back of a house at right angles to the length of the building containing full sized rooms.
- Entablature** The part of the building between the roof and the column capital, including the cornice, frieze, and architrave.
- Entasis** A slightly convex curve in the shaft of a column, introduced to correct the visual illusion of concavity produced by a straight shaft.
- Façade** The face or elevation of a building.
- False Front** A front wall which extends beyond the sidewalls of a building to create a more imposing façade.
- Fascia** A flat board with a vertical face that forms the trim along the edge of a flat roof, or along the horizontal, or “eaves”, sides of a pitched roof. Rain gutters are mounted on it.
- Fenestration** The design and placement of windows.
- Finial** The decorative, pointed terminus of a roof or roof form.
- Fishscale Shingles** Also referred to as scalloped wood shingles, fishscale shingles feature a style of cut wood pieces that, when assembled on a roof or siding, give the appearance of a fish’s skin.
- Fixed Sash** A window, or part of a window, that does not open.
- Flashing** Pieces of metal used around wall, roof and chimney junctions and angles as a means of preventing leaks.
- Flat Roof** A roof that has only enough pitch so that water can drain.
- Form** The overall shape of a structure (e.g., most structures are rectangular)
- Frame** A window component.
- Frieze** The middle part of a classical entablature, above the architrave and below the cornice; horizontal member connecting the top row of the siding with the cornice.
- Gable** A triangular wall section at the end of a pitched roof. The term is also sometimes used to refer to the whole end wall.

- Gabled Roof** A double-pitched roof with pitches at opposite but equal angles meeting at the roofs ridge.
- Gambrel Roof** A roof having a double slope on two sides of a building.
- Gallery** A porch or veranda.
- Gazebo** An outdoor pavilion or summer house popular for lawns and gardens of rural houses in the Victorian era.
- Gingerbread** An architectural style that consists of elaborately detailed embellishment known as “Gingerbread” trim.
- Glazing** Fitting glass into windows and doors.
- Grille** A framework of cast iron, or other material, in the form of bars.
- Gutter** A channel of wood or metal running along the eaves of the house; used for catching and carrying off water.
- Half-Timbered** Descriptive of 16th and 17th century houses built with exposed timber framing with spaces filled in with plaster or masonry. This style of building was imitated in the 19th and early 20th centuries with the Tudor Revival style.
- Head** The top horizontal member over a door or window opening.
- Hipped Roof** A roof with four uniformly pitched sides.
- Historic Context** An organizing structure for interpreting history that groups information about historic properties that share a common theme, common geographical area, and a common time period. The development of historic contexts is a foundation for decisions about the planning, identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties, based upon comparative historic significance.
- Historic District** An area, or group of areas not necessarily having contiguous boundaries, that contains one resource or a group of resources that are related by history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, culture or significance.
- Historic District Commission** The City of Holland’s Historic District Commission consists of seven volunteer city residents appointed by City Council to consider applications for proposed exterior work on designated properties requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness, promote the identification and protection of historic properties throughout the City, and to make recommendations to City Council for historic district designation.

Historic Integrity	The degree to which a building or landscape has retained its original elements. (see Integrity)
Historic Designated Landscape	A landscape that was consciously designed or laid out according to design principles.
Historic Preservation	The identification, evaluation, establishment, and protection of resources significant in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture.
Historic Resource	A publicly or privately-owned building, structure, site, object, feature, or open space that is significant in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, culture of a community within this State, or of the United States.
Hood	A protective and sometimes decorative cover over doors and windows.
Hopper Window	A window that is hinged on the bottom and swings inward.
Human Scale	The relationship between the dimensions of a building, street, streetscape, or outdoor space to the average dimensions and movement capacity of a human body.
Infill Buildings	A new structure built in a block or row of existing buildings.
In-Kind Replacement	To replace a feature of a building with materials of the same characteristics, such as material, texture, color, dimension, etc.
Integrity	The authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. Seven properties per the National Register Program: location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship, and materials.
Interior Energy Panels	Single pane glass panels affixed to the interior of historic windows in order to reduce conductive heat loss and prevent the infiltration of cold air from outdoors. They are an option for increasing energy efficiency without full window replacement.
Jalousie	A type of window or door with numerous horizontal slats, usually of glass or wood, operated by a crank mechanism.
Keystone	The central stone of an arch.
Lancet Window	A narrow vertical window that ends in a point.
Lap Siding	(See Clapboard)

- Lath** A narrow, thin strip of wood or metal used as a base for plaster or stucco.
- Lattice** A network of interlacing lath or other material used as screening, especially in the base of a porch.
- Leaded Glass Window** A window composed of pieces of glass that are held in place by lead strips; the glass can be clear, colored or stained.
- Light** A window or opening in a wall that admits light; also, a pane of glass.
- Lintel** The horizontal beam over a door or window to support the weight above.
- Louvered** A door or window with a fixed or movable slanted slats.
- Maintenance** To prevent the deterioration or destruction of a historic building or feature, repairs must be done with minimal or no damage to the original building fabric in like materials and- if possible- using the same methods as first were used to create the building or feature.
- Mansard Roof** A roof having two slopes on all four sides, with the lower slope steeper than the upper.
- Massing** The combining of several masses to form a building volume.
- Masonry** Construction materials such as stone, brick, concrete block, or tile.
- Material** As related to the determination of “integrity” of a property, material refers to the physical elements that were combined or placed in a particular pattern or configuration to form an historic property.
- Mechanical Equipment** As related to the determination of “integrity” of a property, material refers to the physical elements that were combined or placed in a particular pattern or configuration to form an historic property.
- Modillion** The projecting decorated bracket used in a series to support a cornice.
- Molded Brick** Brick shaped in a mold for decoration.
- Molding** A continuous decorative band that is either carved into or applied to a surface, generally used in cornices and trim around window and door openings.
- Monolithic** A massive and undifferentiated building design.
- Mullion** A vertical member separating windows, doors, or panels in a series.

Muntin	The wood or metal strips separating the panes of glass within a window.
Newel Post	The post supporting the handrail at the top and bottom of a stairway.
Non-Contributing Resource	Those buildings and landscapes built during the district's period of significance that have been altered to such an extent that original historic elements are not interpretable, and restoration is not possible; and also buildings erected outside the period of significance that are not individually significant nor have gained significance with the passage of time.
Notice to Proceed	Authorization to perform work that does not qualify for a Certificate of Appropriateness but may be legally accomplished following conferral of the City of Holland's Preservation Ordinance, Article XV, Section 2-102.4(a-d).
Ordinary Maintenance	Keeping a resource unimpaired and in good condition through ongoing minor intervention, undertaken from time to time. Ordinary maintenance does not change the external appearance of the resource except through the elimination of the usual and expected effects of weathering. Ordinary maintenance does not constitute work under the ordinance.
Oriel Window	A projecting bay with windows, which emerge from the building at a point above ground level. It is often confused with a bay window which ordinarily begins at ground level.
Orientation	Generally, orientation refers to the manner in which a building relates to the street. The entrance to the building plays a large role in the orientation of a building. Generally the entrance, and thus the orientation, faces the street.
Pale	A pointed stick or picket used in a fence.
Parapet	A low, solid, protective wall or railing along the edge of a roof or balcony, usually used to surround a flat or built-up roof.
Patina	The appearance of a material's surface that has aged and weathered. It often refers to the green film that forms on copper and bronze.
Patio	A usually paved and shaded area adjoining or enclosed by the walls of the house.
Pediment	A wide low-pitched gable end of the roof; also the triangular crowning element used over doors and windows.

Period of Significance	The time period during which the majority of contributing buildings in a historic district were constructed.
Pier	The part of a wall between windows or other openings. The term is also used sometimes to refer to a reinforcing part built out from the surface of a wall; a buttress.
Pilaster	A shallow pier attached to a wall.
Pitch	The slope of a building element, typically expressed as the ratio of vertical rise per horizontal run. E.g., a 3/12 pitch indicates a rise of 3" for every 12" of horizontal run.
Plate Height	The distance between the foundation or the topmost horizontal piece of framing at the top of a wall and where the next floor framing begins or where the roof form starts.
Porch	A covered entrance or semi-enclosed space usually projecting from the façade of a building. May be open-sided, screened or glass enclosed.
Porte Cochere	A roofed structure extending from the entrance of the building over an adjacent driveway and sheltering those getting in or out of vehicles.
Portico	An entrance porch often supported by columns and sometimes topped by a pedimented roof; can be open or partially enclosed.
Portland Cement	A hydraulic cement binder for concrete.
Post	A piece of wood, metal, etc., usually long and square or cylindrical, set upright to support a building, sign, gate, etc., pillar; pole.
Preservation	Keeping an existing building in its current state by a careful program of maintenance and repair.
Proportion	A central principle of architectural theory, proportion is the visual effect of the relationships of the various objects and spaces that make up a structure, between structures, and to the whole.
Protection	The act or process of applying measures designed to affect the physical condition of a property by defending or guarding it from deterioration, loss of attack or to cover or shield the property from danger or injury. In the case of buildings and structures, such treatment is generally of a temporary nature and anticipates future historic preservation treatment.
Pyramidal Hipped Roof	A pyramid-shaped roof with four sides of equal slope and shape.

- Quoin** Dressed stones or bricks at the corners of buildings, laid so that their faces are alternately large and small. Originally used to add strength to the masonry wall, and later used decoratively.
- Rafter** Part of a wooden roof frame, sloping down from the ridge to the eaves and establishing the pitch, upon which the roof covering is placed.
- Recessed Entry** A common component of an historic storefront. Historically display windows, which contained dry goods and other wares for sale, flanked the recessed entry.
- Reconstruction** Involves recreating an historic building that has been damaged or destroyed by erecting a new structure that resembles the original as closely as possible. A reconstruction may be built with new or recycled building materials.
- Rehabilitation** A process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of a property, which are significant to its historical, architectural, engineering, and cultural values.
- Remodeling** Changing the appearance and style of a structure, inside and out, by removing or covering over original details and substituting new materials and forms. Also called “modernizing”.
- Renovation** Similar to rehabilitation, except that in renovation work there is a greater proportion of new materials and elements introduced into the building.
- Repair** To restore a decayed or damaged resource to good or sound condition by any process. A repair that changes the external appearance of a resource constitutes work under the ordinance.
- Repoint** To remove old mortar from courses of masonry and replace it with new mortar.
- Resource** A district, site, building, structure or object that is significant in the history, architecture, engineering, archaeology or culture of this community, state or nation.
- Restoration** A process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work.
- Retaining Wall** A braced or freestanding wall that bears against an earthen backing.
- Rhythm** An ordered recurrent alternation of strong and weak elements.

- Ridge** The highest part of a roof, running from end to end.
- Riser** The upright face of the step.
- Roof** The top covering of a building. Various types identified within this glossary.
- Sash** A frame in which the panes of glass in a window or door are set.
- Screen Door** A door intended to allow ventilation but exclude insects, usually consisting of a lightweight frame and screening.
- Setback** The distance from the lot line to the building.
- Shape** The general outline of a building or its façade.
- Shed Roof** A single-pitched roof over a small room or porch; usually attached to a main structure.
- Shutter** A hipped cover or screen for a door or window.
- Sidelight** A framed area of fixed glass along the side of a door or window opening, often found in pairs.
- Siding** Building material used for surfacing a frame building.
- Sill** The lowest horizontal member in a frame or opening for a window, door, or framed wall or partition.
- Simulated Divided Light Window** Windows that have muntins affixed to the inside and outside of the panes of glass to simulate the look of a true divided light window.
- Size** The dimensions in height and width of a building's face.
- Sliding Window** A window that moves horizontally in grooves, on strips, or between runners.
- Soffit** The exposed under-face of an overhead component of a building structure.
- Spalling** The flaking of brickwork due to movement of the building structure or other cause.
- Spandrel** The triangular space between the exterior curves of two arches.
- Spindle** A turned wood element used in stair railings and porch trim.

Stabilization	The fact or process of applying measures designed to reestablish a weather resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.
Standing Seam Metal Roof	A roof with vertical panels. Historically, the panels were fitted together with hand rolled seams.
Stile	A vertical piece in a panel or frame, as of a door or window.
Stockade Fence	A fence made of upright, tightly spaced wooden slats.
Streetscape	Generally, the streetscape refers to the character of the street, or how elements of the street form a cohesive environment. Elements may include: sidewalks, lights, site furniture, street trees/plantings, signs, utilities, etc.
String Course	A narrow continuous ornamental band set in the face of a building as a design element.
Structure	Anything that is constructed or built from different interrelated parts with a fixed location on the ground, with a permanent foundation.
Stucco	A type of plasterwork, coarse or fine, used for surfacing exterior or interior walls. Typically, Portland cement mixed with lime, applied over a wood or metal lath. It is usually applied in three coats.
Synthetic Siding	Any siding made of vinyl, cement, aluminum or other metallic material to resemble a variety of authentic wood siding types (clapboards, shingles, etc.).
Terra Cotta	A fine-grained, often brownish-red fired clay used for roof tiles and decorations.
Traditional	Based on or established by the history of the area.
Transom Window	A small window over a door or another window.
Tread	The level part of a step, or its length. The “run.”
Trellis	A frame of latticework often used as a screen or as a support for climbing plants.
True Divided Light Window	Windows that use muntins to form multiple individual panes of glass in the sash.

- Turned Work** In stone and wood cutting, pieces have a circular outline, such as columns, balusters, etc. usually cut on a lathe, although some shapes are cut by hand.
- Turret** A small, slender tower usually at a corner of a building, sometimes containing a circular stair.
- Valley** The depressed angle formed at the meeting of two roof slopes.
- Vernacular** Buildings in indigenous (local and regional) styles constructed from locally available materials following traditional building practice and patterns and not architect designed.
- Visual Continuity** A sense of unity or belonging together exhibited by elements of the built environment because of similarities among them.
- Wainscot** The lower part of an interior wall when finished in a material different from the upper part.
- Wall Plane** The flat vertical surface of a wall in relation to other such elements.
- Water Table** A projecting course of masonry near a foundation that is beveled for weathering.
- Window Parts** The moving units of a window are known as sashes and move within the frame. The sash may consist of one large pane of glass or may be subdivided into smaller panes by thin members called muntins or glazing bars. Sometimes in 19th Century houses, windows were arranged side-by-side and divided by heavy vertical wood members called mullions.
- Wing** A parallel extension (often subordinate) to a building.
- Work** Construction, addition, alteration, repair, moving, excavation, or demolition.