

# **DOORS DESIGN GUIDELINES**

**Effective Date: September 1, 2015**

The below Doors Design Guidelines amend the Design Guidelines contained in the Plymouth Historic District Commission Handbook dated January 2008.

## **5. Doors (Page 20)**

Note: These Guidelines apply to residential and commercial doors.

Any building within the Historic District in whole or in part is deemed Historically Significant if so determined by the Commission or its designee to be significant, based on any of the following criteria:

- 1 – The Building is listed on, or is within an area listed on, the National Register of Historic Places; or
- 2 – The Building has been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; or
- 3 – The Building is importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or the Commonwealth; or
- 4 – The Building is historically or architecturally important (in terms of period, style, method of building construction, or associated with a recognized architect or builder) either by itself or on the context of a group of buildings; or
- 5- The building reinforces the character of the Historic District and its streetscape.

Original or Historically Significant Doors shall be repaired and restored.

If the applicant believes that repair and restoration of the original or historic door(s) is not practical, the applicant must provide documentation to the Commission from a reputable restoration contractor that repair and restoration of such door(s) is not practical. If the Commission agrees that repair and restoration of the original or historic door(s) is not practical, door(s) replacement shall be approved provided that the proposed door(s) replacement complies with paragraph a. below.

### **a. Replacement of Original or Historically Significant Doors**

The replacement of wood door(s) must be appropriate to the period and style of the building and match the existing in material, size, design, and location. Replacement of wood doors shall be constructed in a manner consistent with their traditional manufacture: assembled of stiles and rails, with an infill of wood panels and/or glass lites. In most pre-20<sup>th</sup> century structures, large sections of glass should be further divided with muntins into lites to maintain a scale consistent with the structure's windows. In addition to the door(s) itself, original or architecturally significant surround details, such as frames, fanlights, transoms, and other decorative trim shall be preserved or, if necessary, replaced in kind, including material, dimensions, and profiles. Door hardware must compliment the door design and be appropriate to the period of the building. *The use of stainless steel hardware and modern pulls is not acceptable.*

**b. Replacement of Non-Original and Non-Historic Doors on Historically Significant Buildings**

If the existing door(s) are not original or historically significant but the building is deemed to be Historically Significant by the Commission or its designee, the Commission will approve a door(s) replacement that is appropriate to the period and style of the building. The replacement door(s), including design and material, shall be appropriate to the period, style, and use of the building. In addition, the replacement door(s) shall comply with paragraph a. above. *Flush doors (without stiles and rails) are conspicuously modern and are not acceptable.*

**c. Replacement of Non-Original and Non-Historic Doors on Non-Historically Significant Buildings**

For door(s) replacement on Non-Historically Significant Buildings, the door(s) shall reinforce the character-defining features of the building, and the character of the historic buildings within its immediate setting and streetscape. *Flush doors (without stiles and rails) are conspicuously modern and are not acceptable.*

**d. For any Proposed Replacement Door(s), the Applicant must provide the Commission with the following for review and approval:**

- a. Material specifications and test results.
- b. A sample of the proposed replacement door.
- c. A sample of the proposed door color.
- d. Evidence that the proposed door product has been installed for a minimum period of 5 years on a similar type building.

**e. Removal or Relocation of Existing Door(s)**

Removal or relocation of historic doors, or replacement doors in original locations, is generally not permitted. Relocation of non-historic doors may be permissible, provided the relocation does not alter an original or historically significant elevation, including pattern or rhythm of windows and doors.

**f. Addition of New Doors**

The addition of new doors on any elevation of a historic building visible from a public way is not acceptable. New doors may be added on non-visible elevations from a public way provided the original pattern or rhythm of the windows and doors do not detract from the original or architecture of that elevation.

**g. Addition, Relocation or Removal of Doors on Non-Historic Buildings**

Doors on non-historic buildings may be added, relocated, or removed provided such alterations are appropriate to the design of the building.