



DOORS AND ENTRANCES

Because they were built over a long period of time, buildings in Old Orland have many different kinds of doors and entrances. They include doors and entrances that are flush with the building, slightly and deeply recessed, off-centered and centered, elevated, stone framed and wood framed, some with transoms others without, doors with sidelights, ornate and paneled doors and the list goes on.

Doors and entrances often are major architectural elements because they are a focal point in the design of a building—the point of entry and exit. Some architectural styles treat doors and entrances plainly, with little or no ornamentation or attention-getters. Other styles, like Victorian, draw attention to doors and entrances through use of carved and paneled wood doors; sidelights and transoms, sometimes with frosted or colored glass; and entrance ornamentation such as columns, pilasters, brackets, and other elements of fancy woodwork.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Avoid removing historic doors and/or entrance elements. Major alteration of original doors and entrances should not be made, since such work can significantly change a building's character. This is true for both primary and secondary entrances. Deteriorated or damaged elements should be replaced with new ones that match the originals as closely as possible.
2. If interior alterations make an existing entrance redundant, do not remove the door and entrance. This could cause a major change in a building's character. A more appropriate approach is to leave the door and entrance intact on the exterior while covering it over with drywall or other material on the interior—a material that can easily be removed in the future for entrance reuse.
3. Avoid treatments that attempt to “dress up” a door or entrance or give it a character it never had. Applied ornamentation, window glazing using stained or patterned glass or creating a multi-paned effect, and salvaged older doors of inappropriate design all can change the character of a building.
4. Retain any surviving historic storm doors; these typically were made of wood and had some areas of glazing that sometimes could be removed and replaced with screens in the summer months. Such doors usually are either original to a building or were designed to be compatible with the building's architecture.
5. When installing new storm doors, select ones of simple design and made of wood, if possible. The most appropriate design is one with a full-height glass section that permits viewing the main door. Avoid storm doors with decorative features scalloped window edges and “crossbuck” designs. Choose a color compatible with historically appropriate colors already on the building.

6. For more information on appropriate designs for doors and entrances please visit Section 6-209 of the Land Development Code on the web at www.orland-park.il.us.