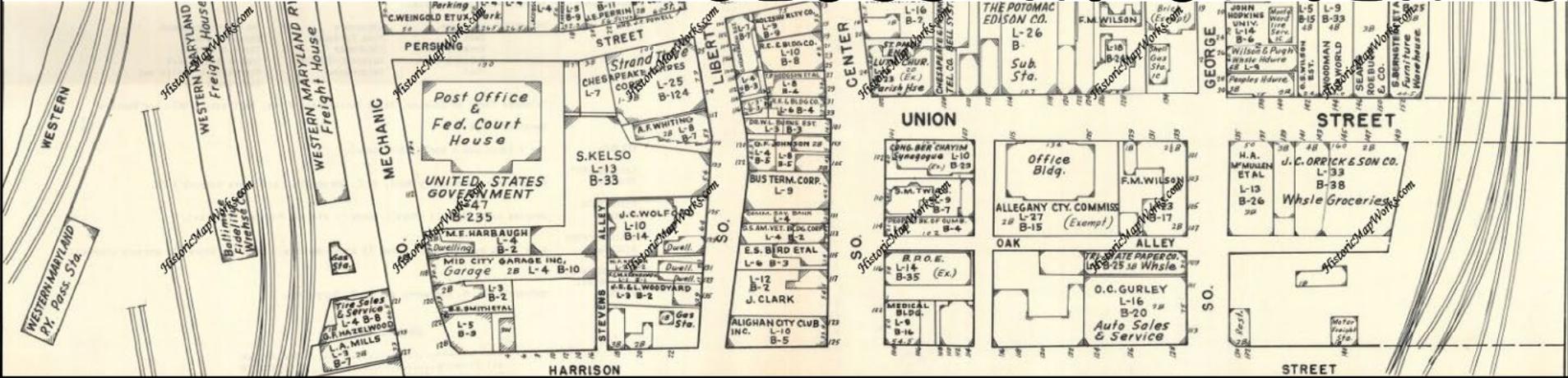


# APPENDIX C GLOSSARY OF TERMS



## PRESERVATION DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

### Glossary of Terms

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#### A

**Art Deco** - A style of decorative design, characterized by asymmetry, geometrical forms, and (in interiors) bold colors. Popular in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

#### B

**Baluster** - An upright, often vase-shaped, support for a handrail (e.g., on a stairway or porch).

**Balustrade** - A series of balusters with a handrail.

**Bargeboard** - An ornately curved board attached to the projecting edges of a gable roof; sometimes referred to as verge boards.

**Bay Window** - An alcove of a room projecting from an outside wall and having its own windows.

**Belt Course** - A narrow horizontal band projecting from the exterior walls of a building, usually defining the interior floor levels.

**Belvedere** - A small tower or turret built on the roof of a house for the sake of the view.

**Bracket** - A support element under eaves, shelves or other overhangs; often more decorative than functional.

**Bungalow** - A small low house, usually one-story, with one or several porches; best known for craftsmanship (as in the Arts and Crafts movement) and for use of natural materials.

**Buttress** - A projecting structure of masonry or wood for supporting or giving stability to a wall or building.

#### C

**Cantilever** - A projecting beam or part of a structure supported only at one end.

**Capital** - The top decorated member of a column or pilaster crowning the shaft and supporting the entablature.

**Carpenter Gothic** - Gothic Revival structures made of wood and elaborately trimmed with “gingerbread” (ornately scrolled woodwork).

**Castellated** - Having battlements or turrets, like a medieval castle.

**Chevron** - A V-shaped decoration generally used as a continuous molding.

**Classical** - Pertaining to the architecture of ancient Rome and Greece.

**Column** - A cylindrical pillar.

**Corbelled** - Furnished with a bracket or block projecting from the face of a wall to bear weight, generally supporting a cornice, beam, or arch.

**Corinthian (order)** - The most ornate of the classical orders of architecture: characterized by a slender fluted column with a bell-shaped capital decorated with stylized acanthus leaves.

**Cornices** - Projecting ornamental molding on top of a building or wall.

**Crenellated** - Indentions for defense or decoration, as along the top of the lower slopes of a gambrel or mansard roof.

## **D**

Dentils - Small rectangular blocks in a series - like teeth - usually on a molding.

Doric (Order) - The oldest and simplest of the classical orders of architecture; characterized by heavy fluted columns with no base, plain saucer-shaped capitals, and a bold simple cornice.

Dormer - A vertically set window on a sloping roof; also, the roofed structure housing such a window.

## **E**

Eaves - The projecting overhang at the lower edge of a roof.

Eclectic - Composed of elements selected or chosen from several sources.

Elliptical - Shaped like a flattened circle.

Entablature - In classical architecture, the part of a structure between the column capital and the roof or pediment; comprised of the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

Eyebrow Window - A small window in an attic story.

## **F**

Facade - The outward architectural features of a structure.

Fanlight - A semicircular or semielliptical window above a door.

Fascia - The flat band or board around the edge of a roof or a part of the entablature.

Fenestration - The arrangement of windows in a wall.

Finial - An ornament at the top of a spire, gable, or pinnacle.

## **G**

Gable - The triangular wall segment at the end of a ridged roof.

Gambrel - A ridged roof with two slopes on each side, the lower slope having the steeper pitch.

Gingerbread - Pierced curvilinear ornament executed with the jig saw or scroll saw, used under the eaves of roof. So called after the sugar frosting on German gingerbread houses.

## **H**

Half-Timbering - A wall construction in which the spaces between members of the timber frame are filled with brick, stone, or other material.

Hipped roof - A roof with four uniformly pitched sides.

Hood molding - A large molding over a window, originally designed to direct water away from the wall; also called a drip molding.

## **I**

Integrity - The ability of a property to convey its historic significance through the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Ionic (Order) - An order of classical architecture characterized by a capital with spirals used for ornament.

Iron lace - Decorative, lacy patterns formed in cast iron and used for railing.

## PRESERVATION DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

### Glossary of Terms

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#### L

Lancet - A narrow pointed arch.

Leaded glass - Small panes of glass which are held in place with lead strips; the glass may be clear or stained.

Lintel - A beam over an opening in a wall or over two or more pillars.

Loggia - The Italian word for veranda.

Low-relief - Sculpture in which the figures project only slightly from the background (also known as bas-relief).

#### M

Mansard roof - A roof that has two slopes on all four sides.

Medallion - An oval or circular design or carving.

Modillion - An ornamental bracket or console used in series under the cornice of the Corinthian order and others.

Molding - A continuous decorative band that is either carved into or applied to a surface.

Mullion - A vertical member separating (and often supporting) windows, doors, or panels set in a series.

#### N

Neoclassic - A revival or adaptation of a classic style of architecture.

#### O

Order - Any of several specific styles of classical and Renaissance architecture characterized by the type of column used (e.g., Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Composite, Tuscan).

Oriel - A large bay window, usually supported by a corbel or bracket.

#### P

Palladian window - A three-part window opening with a large arched central light and flanking rectangular side lights.

Pediment - A wide, low pitched gable surmounting the facade of a building in a classical style; also, any similar triangular crowning element used over doors, windows, and niches.

Pilaster - A shallow column attached to a wall.

Pitch - The angle of slope.

Porte cochere - A large covered entrance porch through which vehicles can drive.

Portico - A large porch having a roof, often with a pediment supported by columns or pillars.

Pressed metal - Thin sheets of metal molded into decorative designs and used to cover interior walls and ceilings.

#### Q

Quoin - Units of stone or brick used to accentuate the corners of a building.

#### R

Reveal - The vertical side of a door or window opening between the frame and the wall surface.

Rustication - Masonry cut in massive blocks separated from each other by deep joints.

## PRESERVATION DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

### Glossary of Terms

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#### S

Sash - A frame in which the panes of a window are set.

Setback - An architectural expedient in which the upper stories of a tall building are stepped back from the lower stories, designed to permit more light to reach street level. Also, the line drawn parallel to the street or lot line and at the required depth as defined in the municipal zoning ordinance.

Shaft - The main part of a column between the base and the capital.

Sidelight - Narrow windows on either side of a door to admit light.

Spandrel - The triangular space between adjacent arches and the horizontal molding, cornice or framework above them; in skeleton frame construction, the horizontal panels below and above windows between the continuous vertical piers.

Stained glass - Colored glass.

#### T

Terra-cotta - A fine-grained, brown-red fired clay used for roof tiles and decoration.

Tracery - The cured mullions or bars of a stone-framed window. Also, ornamental work of pierced patterns in or on a screen or window.

Transom - A narrow horizontal window over a door or part of a door. Turret - A small, slender tower usually at the corner of a building.

#### V

Veranda - A roofed open gallery or porch. Verge board - See bargeboard.

#### W

Wattle and daub - A method of construction with thin branches (wattles) plastered over with clay mud (daub).

Weatherboard - Clapboard; wooden siding.

Glossary taken from the following sources:

Baldwin, Helene, and Joy Douglas, *The ABCs of American Architecture: A Study of the Washington Street Historic District, Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland*, Produced by Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission, Cumberland, Maryland, through a grant by National Endowment for the Humanities, 1983.

Poppeliers, John, et al. *What Style is it?* Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1983.