

Changes to the Building Exterior

2.9 ARCHITECTURAL METALS

Covington has a strong history of the production of architectural and decorative metal work, in large part due to Stewart Iron Works making its home in Covington. Architectural metals are commonly used for roofing and gutter applications, including standing-seam roofs, flashing, gutters, downspouts, finials, cornices, coping, and cresting. Other architectural metal elements common throughout Covington include crafted and detailed metal in storm doors and windows, vents, grates, railings, storefronts, hardware, and trim work. The most common examples of detailed iron work are found in fences, gates, porches, balconies, window hoods, streetlights, signs, signposts, statuary, fountains, and tree guards.

The metals that are used for these elements include copper, tin, cast iron, wrought iron, lead, and brass. Some examples feature more contemporary metals, such as stainless steel and aluminum.



Example of decorative iron work fencing

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Example of decorative iron work fencing and a metal balcony



Metal roof cresting that was replicated to replace a missing element

GUIDELINES:

1. Retain and preserve architectural metal features that contribute to the overall historic character of a building and site. These include such functional and decorative elements as roofing, flashing, storefronts, cornices, railings, hardware, casement windows, and fences.
2. Retain and preserve architectural metals, such as copper, tin, brass, cast iron, and wrought iron that contribute to the overall character of a building and neighborhood.
3. If replacement of a deteriorative detail or element of an architectural metal feature is necessary, replace only the deteriorated portion in kind rather than the entire feature. Match the original detail or element in design, dimension, texture, and material. Consider compatible substitute materials only if using the original material is not technically feasible.
4. If replacement of an entire architectural feature is necessary, replace it in kind, matching the original feature in design, dimension, detail, texture, and material. Consider compatible substitute materials only if using the original material is not technically feasible.
5. If an architectural metal feature is missing, replace it with a new feature based on accurate documentation of the original design or a new design compatible in scale, size, material, and color.
6. Clean soft metals, including lead, tin, and copper with chemical solutions only after pretesting them to ensure they do not damage the surface or color. It is not appropriate to clean soft metals with abrasive methods such as grit blasting.
7. Clean hard metals such as cast iron, wrought iron, and steel using the gentlest means possible. Consider low-pressure glass bead blasting only if hand scraping and wire brushing have been ineffective.