

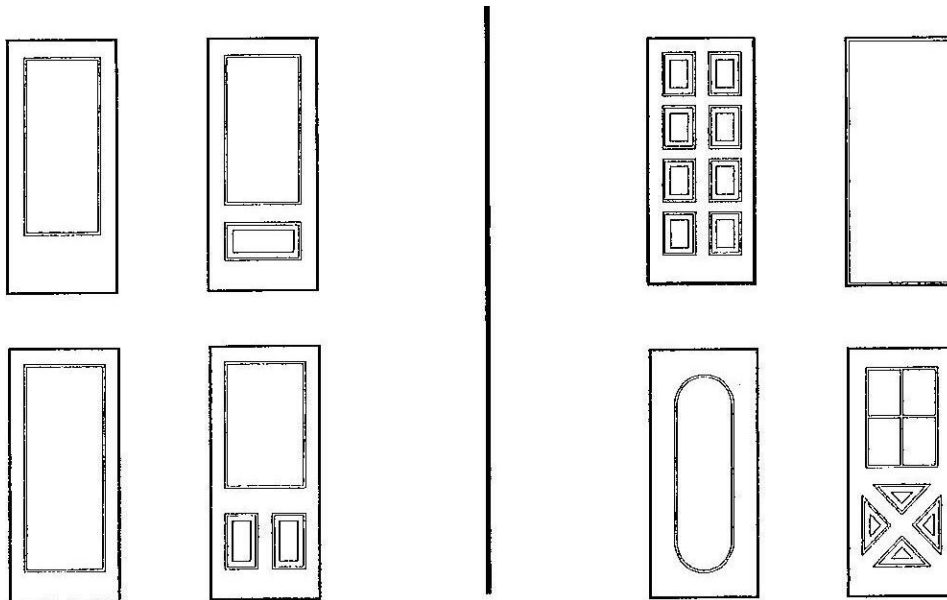
Rehabilitation and Preservation Guidelines for Commercial Structures

Storefront



The original storefront shape may be buried under later renovations, or it may have been destroyed. It may be possible to find original photos in the Lisbon History Center to help in restoration, but it is not necessary to recreate the original façade if it is gone. The 19th Century storefront was essentially “pedestrian friendly” and window shopping was fundamental to the organization of the structure.

Doors



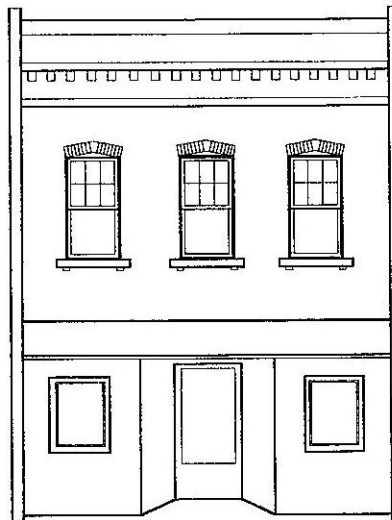
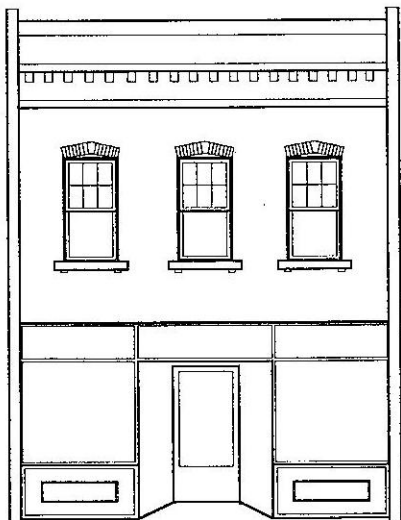
Recommended:

- * Preserve and reuse as much original ornament as possible.
- *The pane on the door should be a clear Window into the store.
- *Usually a simple glass-paneled wood door is best.

Not recommended:

- *Over decoration; it can distract the customer from the window display.
- *All glass aluminum door.
- *“Residential” designs.

Display Windows



Originally, storefronts were composed almost entirely of glass. This was to get as much light as possible into the windowless space and allowed customers to see the window displays and the interior.

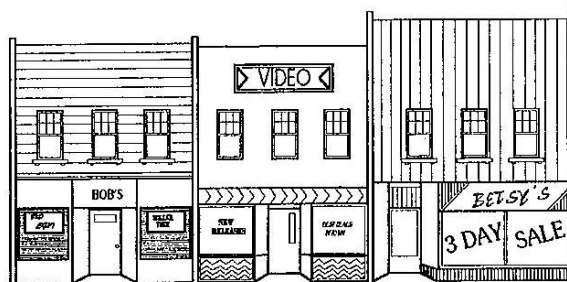
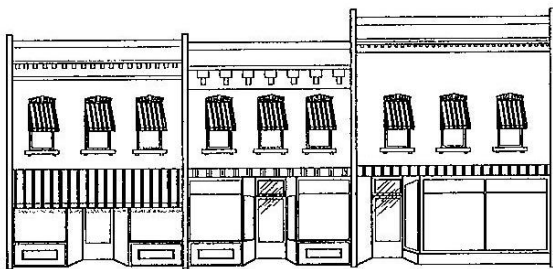
Recommended:

- *Maintain original large glass front windows.
- *Think of the window as a large picture framed by the storefront.

Not Recommended:

- *Downsizing the original window openings.

Decoration



The emphasis on the traditional storefront was on the display window and entry door, so the decoration was simple, but today's decoration often appears tacked onto the building. It destroys the feeling of compatible, high-quality presentation of goods and services along the street.

Recommended:

- *Decoration on outside walls should be simple in order to direct customers to the display inside.
- *Emphasize the windows and use decoration to enhance the window's effect.

Not Recommended:

- *Loud colors, patterns, and textures that extend well above the storefront façade.
- *Metal or other forms of siding material, vertical or horizontal.

Awnings



Awnings play an important role in attracting customers. They help catch their eye and give them a better look at the display, and help protect the storefront from damaging ultraviolet rays.

Recommended:

- * Operable or permanent awning
- * Canvas or vinyl
- * Simple awning with a strongly decorated building.
- * Brightly accented awning with a drab building.
- * Name of store on awning flap.

Not Recommended:

- * Aluminum – they look out of place on a commercial street.
- * Non weather-resistant materials.
- * Internally-lit awning and sign combination.
- * Barrel-vault shaped – should be sloped, with or without side closures and flap.

Upper Story Windows



Visually, the traditional upper story windows help tie the different facades together. The regular repetition of openings provide a pattern along the street. Inappropriate windows interrupt the continuity of the street. Windows are especially significant to the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommended:

- * Keep original windows in good condition.
- * Scraping and repainting.
- * Check that seals are in place and look for rot.
- * Storm windows installed on the interior.
- * Save original material where possible and reuse.

Not Recommended:

- * Boarded-up or replaced windows with standard size fill-ins.
- * Inappropriate type such as casement.
- * Aluminum, vinyl. If necessary, use darker colors rather than lighter.
- * Storm windows installed on the outside.