



# Leesburg

APPENDIX D:  
GLOSSARY



**ADAPTIVE USE.** Recycling an old building for a use other than that for which it was originally constructed. Adaptive re-use can involve a sensitive rehabilitation that retains much of a building's original character, or it can involve extensive remodeling.

**ADDITION.** A new part such as a wing, ell, or porch added to an existing building or structure.

**ALTERATION.** A visible change to the exterior of a building or structure.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA).** The Americans with Disabilities Act, enacted in 1990, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

**APRON.** The horizontal board or trim located below the window sill, connecting the sill to the wall; the horizontal or angled board or trim member of a deck or stairway, respectively; the curved area between the juncture of a driveway and the street.

**ASHLAR.** Stone that has been dressed so that the face of the stone is smooth; squared building stone.

**BALANCE.** See Chapter VII, Rhythm, Balance, and Proportion.

**BALLOON FRAMING.** A system for framing a wooden building; all vertical structural elements of the exterior bearing walls and partitions consist of single studs that extend the full height of the frame; all floor joists are fastened by nail to studs. This type of framing originated in Chicago in the 1830s.

**BALUSTER.** The post or spindle that supports a hand railing of a balustrade.

**BALUSTRADE.** The entire railing system, for example enclosing a balcony or porch, consisting of the top and bottom rails and balusters.

**BAND COURSE.** Any horizontal flat member or molding or group of moldings projecting slightly from a wall plane and usually marking a division in the wall.

**BARGEBOARD.** A decorative, sometimes richly ornamented, board placed on the verge (incline) or the gable to conceal the ends of rafters; also vergeboard.

**BAY.** A part of a structure defined by vertical divisions such as adjacent columns or piers; a section of one or more stories that projects from the face of a building, usually defined by windows as in a bay window.

**BAY WINDOW.** Fenestration projecting from an exterior wall surface and often forming a recess in the interior space.

**BEAM.** A structural member whose major function is to carry transverse loads, as a joist, girder, rafter, or purlin.

**BELTCOURSE.** A flat, horizontal member that projects slightly and that defines divisions in a wall plane; also stringcourse.

**BLIND ARCADE OF WINDOWS.** A decorative row of arches or windows applied to a wall as an architectural design device to decorate an elevation; also referred to as blank windows or arches.

**BOARD AND BATTEN.** Vertical siding composed of wide boards that do not overlap and narrow strips, or battens, nailed over the joints between the boards.

**BULKHEAD.** In commercial buildings, the structural supporting wall under the display windows of a storefront. Bulkheads are often paneled and are usually constructed of wood.

**BRACKET.** A wooden or stone decorative support extending from the face of the wall, beneath a projecting floor, window, or cornice.

**BRICK.** See Chapter VI: Section B.

**BROKEN PEDIMENT.** A pediment that has been split apart at its apex or at the center of its base.

**CAPITAL.** The uppermost portion of a column or pilaster, usually decorated.

**CASEMENT WINDOW.** Hinged window that is fixed to its frame, usually at the sides.

**CAST IRON.** Iron that has been melted and molded. Beginning in the 1820s American foundries began producing cast-iron fencing and columns for building purposes.



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**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS (COA).** Approval given by an architectural review board for any construction plans that will be done on any building within a historic district. A certificate of appropriateness deems that the work is appropriate, as it will not devalue the historic character of a building or environment.

**CLADDING.** Any exterior wall covering, including masonry.

**CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE.** The architecture of Hellenic Greece and Imperial Rome on which the Italian Renaissance and subsequent styles such as the Classic Revivals based their development. In Leesburg, Classical architecture is represented by Late Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Georgian Revival, and Colonial Revival styles.

**CLASSICAL ORDERS.** A particular style of column with an entablature and standardized details. The greek orders were the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian; the Romans added the Tuscan and Composite orders.

**CLERESTORY WINDOWS.** Windows located on the upper zone of the building wall; windows usually light a lofty interior space.

**COLONIAL REVIVAL.** See Chapter III: Section C-11.

**COLUMN.** A vertical support, usually supporting a member above.

**COA.** See Certificate of Appropriateness.

**COATINGS.** See Chapter VI: Section F, Inappropriate Treatments.

**COMMON (or AMERICAN) BOND.** A brickwork pattern consisting of three, five, or seven rows of stretchers (bricks laid lengthwise with sides exposed) that are separated by a row of headers (bricks laid with the ends exposed); widely used because the bricks could be laid quickly.

**COMPATIBLE.** The general design, arrangement, texture, material and color of the elements or features, and the relationship of such to similar elements and features buildings and structures in the neighborhood.

**COMPLEX ROOF.** A roof that is a combination of hipped and gable forms and may contain turrets or towers. The majority of these occur on Queen Anne style houses.

**COMPOSITE MATERIAL.** Any of a number of newer materials that may use wood, wood resins, fiber reinforced cement, urethane, and cellular PVC.

**COMPOSITE WINDOW.** A multi-part window or group of windows unified into one element, such as a Palladian window.

**CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES.** Contributes to the historic character and integrity of the Old and Historic District.

**COPING.** The top course of a wall which forms a protective cap and protects the wall from the effects of weather. It may be flat, beveled, or curved and may cap a wall, parapet, pilaster or chimney. Typical materials include stone, terra-cotta, concrete, metal or wood.

**CORBELING.** Courses of masonry anchored in a wall, story, column, or chimney that project out in a series of steps for supporting an overhanging member or for ornamentation.

**CORNER BOARD.** A trim board located on the external corner of a wood-framed structure; the ends of the siding are fitted against the vertical trim member.

**CORNICE.** Any continuous, molded projecting cap to a wall, window or door opening. In Classical architecture it is the upper, projecting part of a classical entablature resting on the frieze. Often found as a decorative treatment under the eaves of a roof.

**CORNICE RETURN.** The continuation of a cornice in a changed direction often making a 90 degree turn to continue along the gable end of a building.

**CRESTING.** A roof ornament, usually rhythmic, highly decorative and frequently perforated as in cast-iron fencing.

**CUPOLA.** A small structure crowning a roof or tower.

**DENTILS.** Small, square, tooth-like blocks located in the frieze portion of a classical entablature as often incorporated into cornices, moldings, etc. Characteristic of the Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite orders.

**DOG'S TOOTH COURSE.** A series of bricks laid with their corners projecting from the wall face for decorative effect.

**DORMER.** A small window with its own roof projecting from a sloping roof.



**DOUBLE-HUNG SASH.** A type of window with lights (or windowpanes) on both upper and lower sashes, which move up and down in vertical grooves one in front of the other.

**DOWNSPOUT.** A pipe for directing rain water from the roof to the ground.

**EAVE.** The lower edge of a sloping roof that extends past the wall face.

**ELEVATION.** A mechanically accurate, “head-on” drawing of a face of a building without perspective. Any measurement on an elevation drawing which is in a fixed proportion, or scale, to the corresponding measurement on the actual building.

**ENGLISH BOND.** A brickwork pattern consisting of alternating rows of headers and stretchers.

**ENTABLATURE.** In Classical architecture, the horizontal beam member carried by the columns, divided into three horizontal sections of architrave (below), frieze, and cornice. The proportions are different for each Classical order.

**FACADE.** The front face, elevation, or principal view of the exterior face of a building.

**FANLIGHT.** A semicircular or elliptical shaped window with radiating muntins in the form of a fan, located above a door.

**FASCIA.** A flat board with a vertical face that extends horizontally along the eave covering the ends of the rafters, or any flat horizontal member or molding with little projection.

**FEDERAL STYLE.** An architectural style popular in the United States from 1780 to 1820; locally popular to 1840. The style is characterized by simple rectangular massing with a symmetrical composition. The proportions of this style are more delicate in scale than the previous Georgian style owing to the influence of the Adam style.

**FENCING.** Refer to illustrations in Chapter IV: Section B.

**FENESTRATION.** The arrangement of the openings of a building.

**FINIAL.** A top or finishing ornament that caps a gable, hip, pinnacle, or other architectural feature.

**FLASHING.** Pieces of metal used for waterproofing roof joints.

**FLAT or JACK ARCH.** An architectural element located over a window or door opening; consisting of a horizontal member that, if functional, is carrying the load of the wall above over the opening below. In Leesburg, the flat or jack arch can be found on Federal and Colonial Revival buildings.

**FLEMISH BOND.** A brickwork pattern consisting of alternating courses of headers and stretchers with each header centered on the stretcher above and below.

**FORM-BASED CODE.** A method of regulating development to achieve a specific urban form.

**FRIEZE.** A horizontal band, sometimes decorated with sculpture relief or other ornamentation, located immediately below the cornice. The middle horizontal member of a Classical entablature.

**GABLE.** The triangular portion of the end of a building created by the angle of a double-sloping roof.

**GABLE RAKE/RETURN.** See CORNICE RETURN.

**GABLE ROOF.** A pitched roof in the shape of a triangle.

**GALLERY.** A long covered area acting as a corridor inside or on the exterior of a building or between buildings.

**GAMBREL ROOF.** A roof form that slopes at two different angles.

**GLASS.** See Chapter VI: Section E.

**GLAZING.** Another term for glass or other transparent material used in windows.

**GOTHIC ARCH.** A pointed arch.

**GOTHIC REVIVAL.** An architectural style popular in the United States from 1820 to 1880 that aimed to reviving the spirit and forms of Gothic architecture. The style is characterized by steeply pitched, highly ornamented bargeboard gables, pointed-arch windows and four-over-four or two-over-two sash windows. The porches and friezes as well as door and window heads may be highly ornamented. Major proponents of the style were Alexander Jackson Davis in 1837 in his book *Rural Residences* and Andrew Jackson Downing in 1842 and 1850 with his books *Cottage Residences* and *The Architecture of Country Houses*.

**GUTTER TYPES.** See Chapter V: Section C.



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**HALF-TIMBERING.** A method of construction that originated in the sixteenth century that uses a framework of exposed heavy timber structural members in which the interstices are filled in with plaster or brick.

**HEADER.** The small end of a brick that is sometimes exposed in masonry construction.

**HIPPED ROOF.** A roof with slopes on all four sides. They are more common on older houses than on those built after 1940.

**HOOD MOLDING.** Projecting molding of the arch opening above a door or window.

**INFILL BUILDING.** A new structure built in a block or row of existing buildings.

**IN-KIND.** A replacement or “new” feature that matches the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials.

**INTEGRITY.** Authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic period.

**ITALIANATE.** See Chapter III, Section C-6.

**JAMB.** The vertical members which frame an opening.

**JERKINHEAD (or CLIPPED GABLE) ROOF.** The end of a roof that is truncated so that the shape is inclined backwards in a form that is an intermediate between gable and hip.

**JOIST.** One of a series of parallel timber beams used to support floor and ceiling loads that is supported in turn by larger beams, girder, or bearing walls.

**KEystone.** The central stone, often embellished, of an arch.

**KING POST TRUSS.** A triangular frame formed by two inclined members joined at their apex and a horizontal tie beam that connects their lower ends.

**LATH.** Narrowly spaced strips of wood upon which plaster is spread. Lath in modern construction is metal mesh.

**LEADED GLASS.** Glass set in pieces of lead.

**LIGHT.** A section of a window; the glass or pane.

**LINTEL.** A horizontal beam over an opening carrying the weight of the wall and forming a square or rectangular opening.

**LOGGIA.** An arcaded or colonnaded structure, open on one or more sides, sometimes with an upper story. Also an arcaded or colonnaded porch or gallery attached to a larger structure.

**LUNETTE.** A crescent-shaped or semi-circular area on a wall or vaulted ceiling; framed by an arch or vault. Also, a semi-circular window.

**MANSARD ROOF.** A roof form that has a double slope; the lower sloped area is usually at a steeper pitch or angle. This roof form is characteristic of the Second Empire style.

**MASONRY JOINTS.** See Chapter VI: Section B for illustrations.

**MODILLION.** An ornamental horizontal block (blocked modillion) or bracket or console placed under the overhang of an eave.

**MONOLITHIC.** A term denoting massiveness and complete uniformity; shaped from a single block of stone.

**MOLDING.** Horizontal bands having either rectangular or curved profiles, or both, used for transition or decorative relief.

**MUNTIN/MULLIONS.** A glazing bar that separates and supports the panes of glass in the window sash. Mullions may also describe the thicker vertical member separating and often supporting window, door, and panels set in a series.

**NEIGHBORHOOD.** A defined geographical area, characterized by a unique combination of historic building forms, architectural styles, and site features.

**NOGGING.** Brick infill located between timber framing members.

**OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT.** A set of legal regulations that are imposed on properties in a particular area or district that are additional requirements to the existing zoning regulations in effect for those properties.

**PALLADIAN WINDOW.** A window design composed of three openings separated by posts and consisting of windows with lintel or square heads flanking a central window with an arched head.



**PARAPET.** A low wall that rises above a roof line, terrace, or porch and may be decorated.

**PARGING.** Plasterwork that provides a smooth surface which may be decorated.

**PATCHABILITY.** Ability of a material to be patched.

**PATINA.** Usually a green film that forms naturally on copper and bronze by long exposure or artificially (as by acids) and often values aesthetically for its color.

**PAVILION.** A detached or semi-detached structure; on a face, a prominent portion of a design that is centrally or terminally located and that is distinct in projection, height, and special roof forms. Also a garden structure or tent.

**PEDIMENT.** In Classical design, a triangular section or gable end framed by a horizontal molding on its base and two raking (sloping) moldings on each of its sides. Used as a crowning element for doors, windows, over-mantels, and niches.

**PERGOLA.** A garden structure with open sides and a latticed roof, usually wooden framed. Also a colonnade that has a lattice roof.

**PIER.** An upright vertical support structure, such as a column, constructed of masonry and designed to take a concentrated load.

**PILASTER.** A flat-faced or half-round pier attached to a wall with a shallow depth projecting from the wall plane and sometimes treated as a classical column with a base, shaft, and capital. These are decorative features that are not support members.

**PITCH.** The degree of slope of a roof.

**POINTING.** In masonry, the troweling or mortar or filler in the joints between masonry and the outer finish of mortar.

**PORTE-COCHERE.** An exterior shelter or carriage porch that is semi-attached to the main structure and is often used to shelter a driveway area in front or on the side of a building.

**PORTICO.** A one- or two-story entrance porch with a roof often supported by columns and sometimes topped by a pedimented roof; can be open or partially enclosed.

**PRESERVATION.** The sustaining of the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure and the existing form and vegetation of a site.

**PROPORTION.** See Chapter VII, *Rhythm, Balance, and Proportion*.

**QUEEN ANNE STYLE.** An architectural style popular in the United States from approximately 1880 to 1920. The American Queen Anne style can be characterized by asymmetrical composition and complex massing that is highly ornamented. Architectural features of the style include spindlework, textured shingles, one-story porches that extend along one or two sides of the building, patterned masonry, cresting, turrets, oriel windows, and Classical details. Originally, nineteenth century English architects popularized the style, but the American version has little to do with the Renaissance architecture of the Queen Anne period.

**QUEEN POST TRUSSES.** A truss system that consists of two vertical posts between the rafters and tie beam (below); a tie rod connects the upper end of the posts.

**QUOINS.** Large stones or rectangular pieces of wood or brick, used consistently along the entire height of the front or all corners of a building to decorate, accentuate and reinforce the corners of a building; laid in vertical series with, usually, alternately large and small blocks.

**RAFTER (common).** One of a series of sloping joists in a pitched roof. The jack rafter is any rafter that is shorter than the length of the other rafter of the same roof. Jack rafters are found particularly in hipped roofs.

**RAKED CORNICE.** A cornice following the slope of a gable, pediment, or roof.

**RANDOM ASHLAR BOND.** Dressed or squared building stone that does not appear to be laid in any particular pattern although the pattern may be repeated; masonry without continuous joints.

**REHABILITATION.** Returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features that are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

**RELIEF.** Carving or ornamentation that is raised above a background plane.



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**REMODEL.** To alter a structure in a way that may or may not be sensitive to the preservation of its significant architectural forms and features.

**RENOVATION.** See **REHABILITATION**

**RESTORATION.** Accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time, by removing later work and/or replacing missing earlier work.

**RETROFIT.** To furnish a building with new parts or equipment not available at the time of original construction.

**REPOINT.** To remove old mortar from courses of masonry and replace it with new mortar.

**RETURN.** The continuation of a molding, building member, or cornice in a different direction, usually ninety degrees.

**REVEAL.** The depth of wall thickness between its outer face and a window or door set in an opening.

**RHYTHM.** See Chapter VII, *Rhythm, Balance, and Proportion*.

**RISER.** The vertical face of a stair step.

**RISING DAMP.** A condition in which moisture from the ground rises into the walls of a building.

**ROOF FORMS.** See Chapter VII: Section I.

**RUBBLE ASHLAR.** Masonry construction of rough stones of irregular shapes and sizes that are laid without pattern and whose faces have been dressed or made smooth.

**RUSTICATION.** Stone having strongly emphasized recessed joints and smooth or roughly textured block faces.

**SASH.** The movable part of the framework of a window, which may be fixed or movable, and which holds the glass. Sash may be single-, double-, or triple-hung, slide along a vertical plane, or pivot.

**SCROLL.** Ornament that consists of a spirally wood band, such as in the design of modillions or brackets.

**SECTION DRAWING.** A drawing in which, theoretically, a part of the building has been sliced through along a vertical plane revealing a view of the mechanics of the structure.

**SETBACK.** The distance between a building and the front of the property line.

**SHINGLE PATTERNS.** See Chapter VI: Section A.

**SIDELIGHTS.** Narrow windows flanking a door.

**SIDING PROFILE.** See Chapter VI: Section A.

**SIGN BAND.** The area that is incorporated within or directly under the cornice of a storefront and that contains the sign of the business in the building.

**SILL.** The lowest horizontal member in a frame which sheds water at the bottom of a door or window.

**SOFFIT.** The exposed underside of any overhead element, such as a cornice, arch, balcony, or beam.

**SOLDIER COURSE.** A horizontal row of bricks laid upright for decorative effect.

**SPALLING.** A condition in which pieces of masonry split off from the surface, usually caused by weather.

**SPANDREL.** The triangular space between an arch and the frame enclosing it.

**SPRINGING.** The point at which an arch rises from its supports; the point at which the arch springs from its supports may be emphasized through ornamentation.

**STABILIZATION.** The re-establishment of a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it currently exists.

**STANDING-SEAM METAL ROOFS.** A roof where long narrow pieces of metal are joined with raised seams.

**STEP BACK.** A method of reducing perceived mass, especially of a commercial building, by recessing the wall plane of any story of the structure that exceeds the typical height of adjacent structures.

**STILE.** A vertical framing member of a paneled door.

**STRETCHER.** In masonry construction, the longest side of a brick, which is laid horizontally and is exposed.



**STREETSCAPE.** Features such as streetlights, street trees, paving, street furniture, plantings and signage that contribute to, enhance, and help to define the unique character of a neighborhood.

**STRING COURSE (also BELT COURSE).** A projecting horizontal band of masonry set in the exterior wall and extending across the elevation of a building to delineate horizontal sections of the structure.

**STRUCTURE WALL.** A wall that helps support the load of upper stories; the structural wall extends down to the footing or foundation or rests on a substantial beam.

**STUCCO.** A textured exterior finish consisting of sand, lime, and portland cement. Andrew Jackson Downing in the *Architecture of Country Houses* recommended two parts sand to one part lime for nineteenth-century stucco.

**STUD.** One of the upright members that extend from floor to ceiling in a frame structure.

**SUNSET PROVISION.** Wording in a statute or regulation that contains a date after which all or a part of the law is repealed or terminated.

**SURROUND.** The molded trim around a window or doorway.

**SYNTHETIC SIDING.** Any siding made of vinyl, aluminum, cementitious or other materials that resembles a variety of authentic wood siding types.

**THRESHOLD.** At the floor of a doorway, a material covering the joint where two types of materials meet. The threshold also symbolizes the entry to a house as the member forms the bottom of a doorway over which one must cross to enter a building.

**TIE BEAM.** In roof framing, a beam that connects two opposite common rafters at the bottom to prevent the rafters from spreading.

**TRANSOM.** A bar across the top of a door with a small window above; the window is referred to as the transom window. In commercial buildings, the area of windows in the storefront above the display windows and above the door.

**TREAD.** The horizontal surface of a step.

**TURRET.** A small tower, usually corbeled, at the corner of a building and extending above it. A turret often contains a stairway.

**TYMPANUM.** The triangular or segmental space that is created from the enclosure of a pediment or arch.

**VALLEY.** The gutter formed by the intersection of two sloping sides of a building's roof.

**VERGEBOARD.** See BARGEBOARD.

**VERNACULAR.** Indigenous architecture that generally is not designed by an architect and may be characteristic of a particular area. Many simpler buildings that were constructed in the late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century are considered vernacular because they do not exhibit enough characteristics to relate to a particular architectural style.

**VICTORIAN.** A general term used in the United States to refer to architectural styles that were popular in the second half of the nineteenth century. Originally the term related to the reign of Queen Victoria, which lasted from 1837 until 1901.

**VOLUTE.** A spiral scroll characteristic of Ionic, Corinthian or Composite capitals.

**VOUSSOIR.** A wedge-shaped masonry unit of an arch or vault.

**WATER TABLE.** A projecting section at the base of a building. "The walls of Georgian houses usually had moldings that served to emphasize and to mark floor levels. If there was a visible basement... it was usually set forward a few inches and topped by a course of molded bricks, called the water table."

**WEATHERBOARD.** A horizontal board that tapers from bottom to top; often used as exterior cladding on timber-framed buildings.

**WROUGHT IRON.** Iron that is hammered or forged into the desired shape. The use of iron as a structural material dates from Classical antiquity.