C.1 Exterior Residential Doors

The Preservation Board strongly prefers to retain original doors and their decorative elements such as glazing, trim, columns, pilasters, hood moldings and pediments. Doors and their decorative elements are very particular to building styles, as shown below. A new door should fit with the style of the building.

- Gothic Revival
- Greek Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Greek Revival
- Italianate
- Arts and Crafts or Craftsman
- Georgian
- Colonial Revival
- Regency
C.2 Replacement Doors

The Preservation Board strongly prefers that historic doors be retained. If the Board determines that a door is beyond repair and that it should be replaced, the new door should fit with the style of the building. Wood doors are preferred, rather than ones of metal, vinyl or composite material. In some cases, non-wood doors may be acceptable for rear or side doors.

The decorative elements around doors are as important as the door itself. Every effort should be made to retain these elements or to replace them if missing or irreplaceably damaged.

None of the doors shown below is appropriate to a traditional building, though the one on the right may be appropriate to a Moderne or International style building or for a back service entrance.

Pairs of doors, commonly called French doors, can be appropriate on certain styles of buildings, primarily Tudor Revival, Greek Revival, American Four Square and Bungalow. They are less common on unaltered houses of the Queen Anne, Eastlake, Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival styles. Appropriate French doors are typically rather narrow, with each leaf no more than 24” wide. Doors of greater width should be proportionately taller. The French doors shown below, drawn as 6 ft. wide x 7 ft high, would be uncommonly squat for a historic home. The sliding glass doors shown here are inappropriate to any traditional style. As with windows, most doors in traditional buildings had smaller panes of glass, with true muntins.
C.3 Storm and Screen Doors

Storm and screen doors are appropriate for all styles of buildings. As with other doors, the Board prefers the look of traditional storm and screen doors, such as those shown below. For the most part, these have wood stiles and rails. Doors made of pressed aluminum or steel are inappropriate for a primary façade, but may be appropriate on side or rear facades.
C.4 Garage Doors

As with doors and windows, the Preservation Board strongly prefers to retain traditional garage doors. However, if the Board determines that a garage door is beyond repair, or if an original door had been replaced with one of an improper style, the new door should fit the style of the garage and/or residence. Doors like those on traditional carriage houses, such as those shown below, would be the most appropriate. There are many of these on the market, all of which are sectional overhead doors that operate just like any common garage door. Appropriate materials are wood and certain wood-like composites. Stamped metal doors are inappropriate.

Wide carriage style doors, like that above, are appropriate for 2-car openings. Doors like that below, typical on a modern garage, and typically of stamped metal or vinyl, are not appropriate.