

Historic Buildings – Exterior Doors

Supplementary Planning Guidance – PG11

Approved November 1995

MAIN POINTS OF GUIDANCE

- 1 Listing Buildings
- 1 Conservation Areas
- 2 Fan Lights
- 2 Grants

Planning Guidelines – Historic Buildings, Sash Windows.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The main doorway is often an important elevational feature of a historic building. The detailed design of the door can give an indication of the age and origins of the building. The arrangement of panels and the profile of mouldings vary with the different architectural styles. Original doors are of value, and are important in preserving period character. This particularly applies to buildings which are 'listed' as being of architectural or historic value, buildings in Conservation Areas and comparable buildings (usually built before 1914) outside Conservation Areas. (See Fig. 1).

2.0 REPAIRS

An original door to a historic building should be repaired whenever possible. A competent joiner will normally be able to restore an old door to good working order. If the door is irreparable, it is possible to have a copy of the original made by a joiner. Although it may be more expensive than an off the peg door, a replacement copy will enhance the character and the value of a historic building. If an original door survives on a neighbour's house it is possible to copy the measurement and moulding profiles to produce a replica.

Few 'off the peg' doors would match the quality of the original design or reflect the character of the property. Architectural "salvage" outlets can be a useful source of original doors provided that you buy with care. It is important to consult an architect or contact the Senior Planning Officer (Conservation) for advice and further information.

3.0 REPLACEMENT

When replacing a door on a historic building, a design which is appropriate to the character of the building should be chosen. All too often inappropriate doors have been used which do not match the quality of design of the building. (See Fig. 2).

The following guidelines have been drawn up to assist owners when considering door replacement.

4.0 LISTED BUILDINGS

If replacement of a door on a listed building is to be allowed, it should be shown to be necessary. The new door should be an exact replica of the original, painted, timber door, in traditional framed and panelled construction, including the original arrangement of panels and their different mouldings.

Listed Building Consent is required for all alterations to an exterior door or doorway on a listed building (it may also be required for any other period doors). (See Fig.3).

5.0 CONSERVATION AREAS

For historic buildings in Conservation Areas, especially areas of formal townscape such as terraces, the detailing of doorways is very important in maintaining the character. New doors may not necessarily need planning permission, but it is still very desirable for any door replacement to respect the original or neighbouring styles of door. Where planning permission is required the Council will expect this.

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In Warburton, Dunham Town and Dunham Woodhouses simple traditional doors should be used to blend in with the rural character.

In urban Conservation Areas the type of door is more formal and should respect the style and age of the property. If the original door has been removed or altered, examples of original doors may be present on similar houses nearby. Otherwise there are books which give examples of styles which were in use at the period. (See Fig.4).

6.0 OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Doorways of other historic buildings, including shops, which are not listed or within Conservation Areas, should be repaired wherever possible, and any necessary replacements should be carefully designed to be appropriate to the period character. This will enhance the character of the property.

7.0 DOOR FURNITURE

The appearance of a door can be greatly enhanced by its door furniture, such as handles, knobs, knockers and letter boxes. These would have originally been brass or cast iron.

If the door furniture is missing or cannot be retained, new door furniture should be provided of the same materials and design as would have been normal for the period and design of the building. More information is available from the Senior Planning Officer (Conservation).

8.0 FANLIGHTS

It is always better to repair a damaged fanlight than to insert a lifeless modern reproduction.

Fanlights are still made in the traditional fashion and where fanlights are missing it is preferable to reinstate a traditional design. When repairing a fanlight the glass should be integrated with the glazing bars. Fake bars should not be stuck on the outside. Fanlights should not be incorporated in to a door. (See Fig. 5).

9.0 FINISHES AND MATERIALS

It is always preferable to use solid wooden doors as glass tends to look weak and inappropriate.

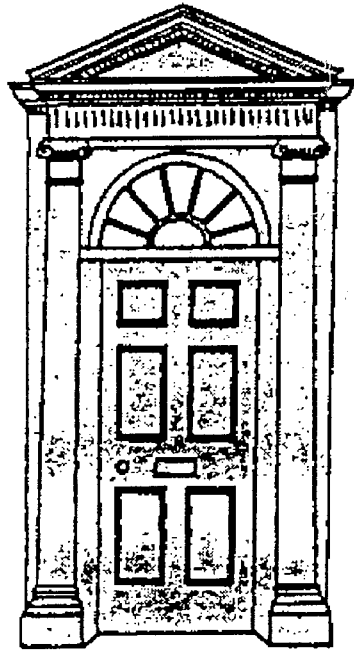
Replacement doors should have a painted, not a timber or varnish finish. Despite the current fashion, varnished wood was not a traditional finish on doors of period properties in this area and should be avoided.

Painting can have a significant effect on appearance and will particularly affect a terrace. Colour requires careful selection. Very bright colours are unlikely to be successful. It is best to stick to dark colours, pastel shades, white or cream.

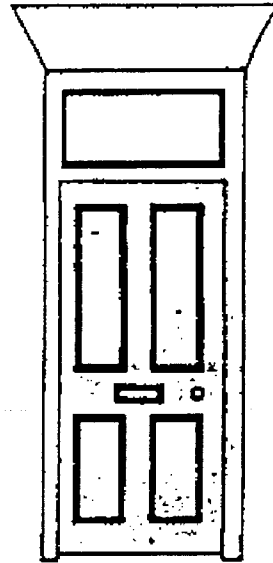
10.0 GRANTS

There are selective opportunities for grant aid to encourage the restoration of doorways of listed buildings and buildings situated in Conservation Areas.

Figure 1

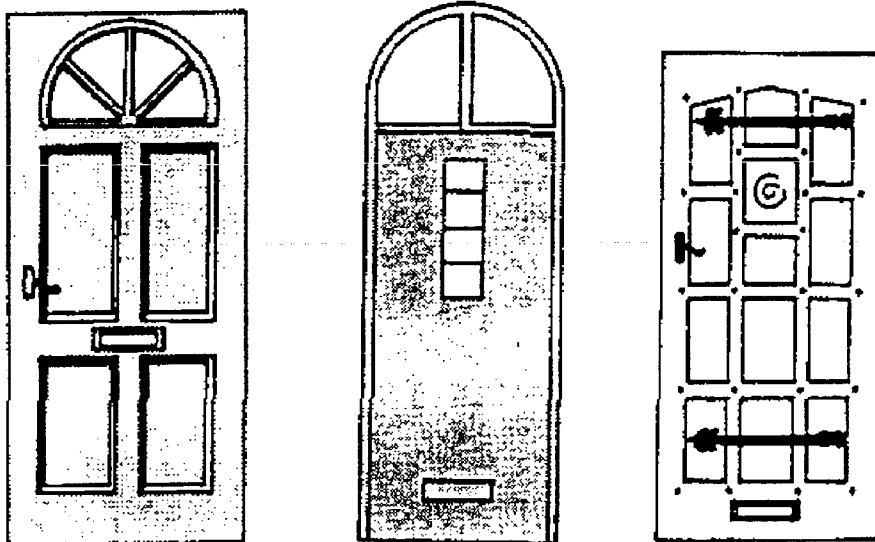


Georgian triangular pediment door surround with fanlight.



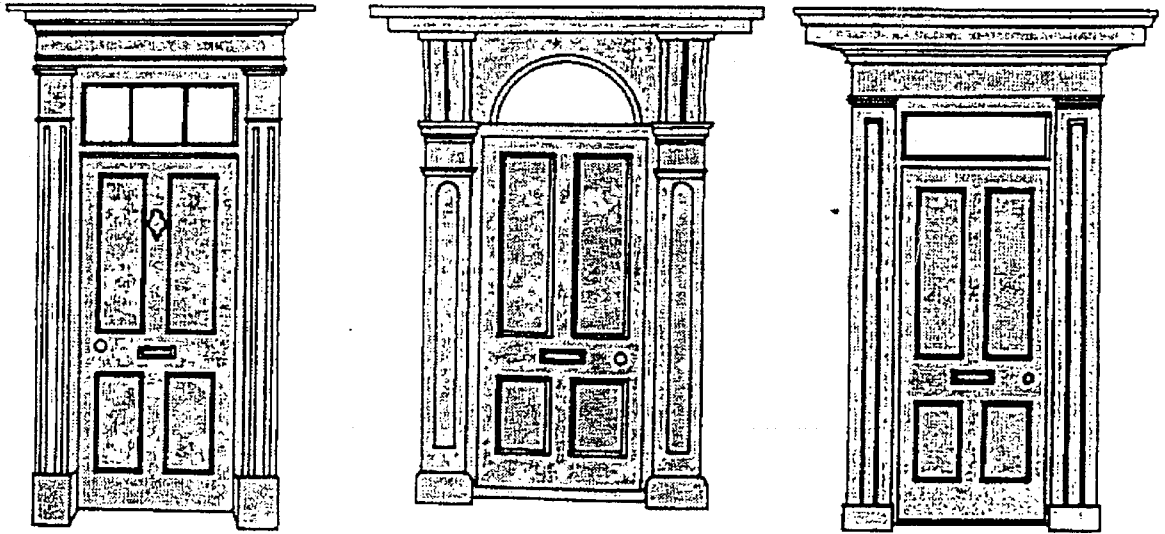
Simple Victorian style doorway.

Figure 2



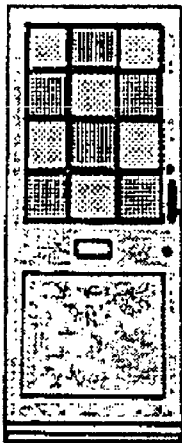
Inaccurate imitation doors should be avoided. Features such as "mock Georgian" fanlights within the door, bullseye glazing and extravagant studs and hinges are inappropriate on period properties.

Figure 3



Variations on Georgian pedimented door surrounds, fanlights and four panelled Victorian doors.

Figure 4



Cottage style doors suitable for the Linotype Estate (left) and the more rural locations (right).

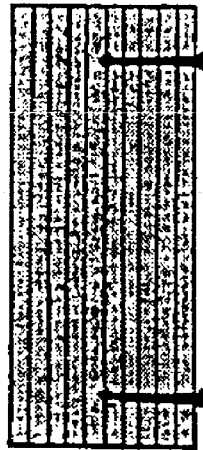
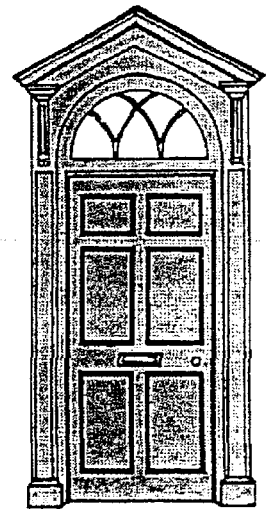


Figure 5



Late Georgian open triangular pedimented door surround with fanlight and six panelled Georgian door

Contacts

Planning Service

Trafford MBC
PO Box 96
Waterside House
Sale Waterside
Sale M33 7ZF

Development Control

Telephone: 0161 912 3149
Fax: 0161 912 3128
Email: development.control@trafford.gov.uk

Strategic Planning

Telephone: 0161 912 4475
Fax: 0161 912 3128
Minicom: 0161 912 1453
Email: strategic.planning@trafford.gov.uk

Building Control

Telephone: 0161 912 3015 / 5870
Fax: 0161 912 3179
Email: building.control@trafford.gov.uk

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