

3.2.9. Canopies and Awnings

The Intent of Canopies and Awnings

Canopies and awnings are functional building components, designed with a fixed lifespan and the understanding that they will be replaced over time. As such, standards and guidelines are more flexible for canopies than other building elements.

Maintenance

- (a) Repair damaged historic awning or canopy elements in-kind whenever possible, following accepted preservation practices (*Appendix G*, SOI Standards 6, 7).

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Recommended	Recommended	Recommended

Alterations

- (b) No element of historic canopy or awning should be removed (SOI Standards 2, 5).

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Required if on the front (street-facing) façade	Required if on the front façade	Recommended

Determining if Canopies and Awnings are Historic

Determining whether a canopy or awning is historic-age can be challenging. Given the usefulness of canopies and awnings, many have been added over time. The following steps can be helpful in determining the age of a canopy or awning:

- Investigate how the canopy or awning is attached. Original attachments often are integrated into the masonry walls using metal tie-rods or anchors.
- Compare the hardness and paint layers of the canopy or awning with other painted elements. If they are the same age, they should be similar.
- Look for “ghost” marks or old hardware on the façade or sidewalk documenting the presence of earlier original columns.

If it is unclear whether a canopy or awning is historic or non-historic, consult with the Historic Preservation Officer.

- (c) If replacement is necessary, match the original in design, profile, finish, and texture (SOI Standard 6).

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Required if on the front façade	Required if on the front façade	Recommended

- (d) Do not add ornamentation or details that were not historically present (SOI Standard 3).

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Required if on the front façade	Required if on the front façade	Recommended

- (e) Because awnings and canopies are functional building elements with significant energy efficiency benefits, adding awnings where they did not exist historically may be appropriate in some situations, provided that the new awning or canopy is simple in design, does not conceal or distract from historic character-defining features, and is installed without damaging significant character-defining features (SOI Standard 9).

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Inappropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate

Restoration

- (f) If research documents that a historic canopy or awning is missing, consider replicating and restoring it (SOI Standards 3, 6).

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Recommended	Recommended	Recommended



Figure 3-37. Example of an **appropriate** canopy on a historic building at 121 E. Main Street. Note how the canopy is mounted so that it does not obscure the transom windows above. Also note the metal tie rods anchored into the façade. Source: HHM 2003 Historic Resources Survey.