



APPENDICES

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Glossary **A**

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

ADMINISTRATOR. The town employee who serves as staff to the Board of Historic and Architectural Review and administers town regulations, such as zoning.

ALLIGATORING. (slang) A condition of paint that occurs when the layers crack in a pattern that resembles the skin of an alligator.

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

BALUSTRADE. A railing or parapet supported by a row of short pillars or balusters.

BARGEBOARD. The decorative board along the roof edge of a gable concealing the rafters.

BAY. A part of a structure defined by vertical divisions such as adjacent columns or piers.

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

BOLLARD. A freestanding post to obstruct or direct traffic.

BRACKET. A wooden or stone decorative support beneath a projecting floor, window, or cornice.

BROKEN PEDIMENT. A pediment where the sloping sides do not meet at the apex but instead return, creating an opening that sometimes contains an ornamental vase or similar form on a pedestal.

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.

CAPITAL. The upper portion of a column or pilaster.

CLASSICAL. Pertaining to the architecture of Greece and Rome, or to the styles inspired by this architecture.

CLIPPED GABLE ROOF. A roof type in which the gable ends are cut back at the peaks and a small roof section is added to create an abbreviated hipped form.

COBRA-HEAD LIGHT FIXTURE. A commonly used street light fixture in which the luminaire is suspended from a simple, curved metal arm.

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

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.

CONVERSION. The adaptation of a building or structure to a new use that may or may not result in the preservation of significant architectural forms and features of the building or structure.

COPING. The top course of a wall which covers and protects the wall from the effects of weather.

CORBELING. Courses of masonry that project out in a series of steps

from the wall. In commercial architecture the corbeling is usually brick and is part of the cornice at the top of the facade.

CORNICE. The upper, projecting part of a classical entablature or a decorative treatment of the eaves of a roof.

CRESTING. A decorative ridge for a roof, usually constructed of ornamental metal.

DENTILS. One in a series of small blocks forming a molding in an entablature, often used on cornices.

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 edge of the roof that extends past the walls.

FACADE. The front face or elevation of a building.

FANLIGHT. A semicircular window with radiating muntins, located above a door.

FENESTRATION. The arrangement of the openings of a building.

FINIAL. An ornament at the top of a gable or spire.

FLASHING. Pieces of metal used for waterproofing roof joints.

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FRIEZE. A horizontal band, sometimes decorated with sculpture relief, located immediately below the cornice.

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

GAMBREL ROOF. A roof in which the angle of pitch changes part way between the ridge and eaves.

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

HALF-TIMBERING. A framework of heavy timbers in which the interstices are filled in with plaster or brick.

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

HOOD MOLD. Drip or label molding over a door or window.

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

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.

MODILLION. A block or bracket in the cornice of the classical entablature.

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

MUNTIN. A glazing bar that separates panes of glass.

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.

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

PALLADIAN WINDOW. A neoclassical style window that is divided into three lights. The middle light is larger than the other two and usually arched.

PARGING (or PARGET). Plaster or a similar mixture used to coat walls or chimneys.

PATINA. The appearance of a material's surface that has aged and weathered. It often refers to the green film that forms on copper and bronze.

PEDIMENT. The triangular gable end of a roof, especially as seen in classical architecture such as Greek temples.

PIER. An upright structure of masonry serving as a principal support.

PILASTER. A pier attached to a wall with a shallow depth and sometimes treated as a classical column with a base, shaft, and capital.

PITCH. The degree of slope of a roof.

PORTICO. An entrance porch 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.

QUOINS. The corner stones of a building that are either a different size, texture, or conspicuously jointed for emphasis.

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.

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.

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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.

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

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

SASH. The movable part of a window holding the glass.

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

SIDELIGHTS. Narrow windows flanking a door.

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 horizontal water-shedding member at the bottom of a door or window.

SOFFIT. The finished underside of an overhead spanning member.

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

SPIRE. A tall tower that tapers to a point and is found frequently on churches.

STABILIZATION. The reestablishment 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 ROOF. A roof where long narrow pieces of metal are joined with raised seams.

STILE. A vertical framing member of a paneled door.

STRING COURSE. A projecting horizontal band of masonry set in the exterior wall of a building.

SYNTHETIC SIDING. Any siding made of vinyl, aluminum, or other metallic material to resemble a variety of authentic wood siding types.

TRANSOM. In commercial buildings, the area of windows in the storefront above the display windows and above the door.

TURRET. A small tower, usually corbeled, at the corner of a building and extending above it.

VERGEBOARD. See BARGEBOARD.

VERNACULAR. Indigenous architecture that generally is not designed by an architect and may be characteristic of a particular area. Many of Smithfield's 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.

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References **B**

National Organizations

**The National Alliance of
Preservation Commissions**

Hall of the States, Suite 332
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001
(301) 663-6149

The National Main Street Center

The National Trust for

Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 673-4219

The National Park Service

Preservation Assistance Division
Technical Preservation Services
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127
(202) 343-9573

The National Trust for

Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 673-4000

**The National Trust Mid-Atlantic
Regional Office**

6401 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144
(215) 438-2886

State Organizations

The Preservation Alliance of Virginia

P.O. Box 295
Charlottesville, Virginia 24401
(804) 979-3899

**The Virginia Department of
Historic Resources**

221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-3143

**The Virginia Main Street Program
Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development**

205 North Fourth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-4966

Local Organizations

**Town of Smithfield Board of Historical
and Architectural Review**

c/o Town Hall, P. O. Box 246
Smithfield, Virginia 23430
(804) 357-3247

Isle of Wight Museum

103 Main Street
Smithfield, Virginia 23430
(804) 357-7459

County Building Official

County of Isle of Wight
P.O. Box 80
Isle of Wight, Virginia 23397
(804) 357-3191, ext. 215