Chapter 9: Design Standards for Awnings and Canopies

This chapter presents design guidelines for the use of awnings and canopies in the Historic Business District.

Types of Awnings and Canopies Permitted

9.1 A fixed metal frame canopy may be considered.
   • Appropriate supporting mechanisms are wall-mounted brackets, chains and posts.
   • Consider using a contemporary interpretation of those canopies seen historically on new infill buildings.

Materials for Awnings and Canopies

9.2 An awning compatible in material and construction to the style of the building is encouraged.
   • Operable awnings are encouraged on historic buildings.
   • Use colors that are compatible with the overall color scheme of the facade. Solid colors or simple muted-stripe patterns are appropriate.
   • The awning should fit the opening of the building.
   • Simple shed shapes are appropriate for rectangular openings.
   • Odd shapes, bullnose awnings and bubble awnings are inappropriate on most historic structures.
   • A summary of acceptable exterior color considerations is reviewed in Appendix D.

9.3 Maintain awnings and canopies.
   • Replace worn fabric awnings or damaged metal canopies.
   • Re-secure loose hardware.
   • Wash fabric awnings regularly. This will help extend the life of the fabric. Spray with water from the underside first, to lift dirt particles, then rinse them off.
   • Paint metal canopies regularly to reduce the potential for rust. This will extend the life of the canopy.
Awning and Canopy Illumination

9.4 Internal illumination in an awning is inappropriate.

Composition of Awnings and Canopies

9.5 Mount an awning or canopy to accentuate character-defining features.
  • It should be mounted to highlight moldings that may be found above the storefront and should not hide character-defining features.
  • Its mounting should not damage significant features and historic details.

The shape, size and location of these awnings obscures too much of the window trim. (Pagosa Springs, CO)