



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Vieux Carré Commission

Appendix A: Glossary

Abat-Vent – A roof extension, almost flat, supported by metal or wood outriggers cantilevered from the façade at the roof line.

AC – See *Architectural Committee*.

Acanthus – A prickly herb of the Mediterranean region; leaves of the acanthus were used for designs in classical ornamentation, particularly Corinthian column capitals.

Accessory Building / Outbuilding or Structure – A structure located on the same lot as, and of a nature and use clearly incidental and subordinate to, the principal structure. See *Ell, Secondary Building/Outbuilding/Service Building/Service Wing*.

Accessory Use – An incidental or subordinate use found on the same parcel as the principal use of the land or structure.

Adaptive Reuse – The renovation of a structure for a different purpose than its current or original use.

Addition or Enlargement – Any construction that increases the size of a structure in terms of site coverage, height, floor area, building depth or width.

Alcove – A recess or niche in a wall.

Alligatoring – Severe cracking and crazing of paint. See *Cracking and Crazing*.

Alteration – Any change due to construction, repair, maintenance or otherwise to a building or site feature.

American Townhouse – A two-story residence, typically three bays wide and two rooms deep, attached or detached residence with an interior hallway and enclosed stairwell placed along a side wall.

Applicant – The project representative who files an application on behalf of and with the approval of record owner of the site and/or building(s) located thereon, the lessee thereof, or a person holding a *bona fide* contract to purchase same.

Apron – A flat piece of trim immediately beneath the stool of a window; also called a skirt.

Appliqué – Applied ornament.

Arcade – A covered passageway with a series of arches on one or both sides supported by columns or piers. Compare *Colonnade and Loggia*.

Arch – A curved structural opening.

Architectural Committee (AC) – A group appointed by the Vieux Carré Commission, comprised primarily of the AIA representatives on the VCC and additional architects and advisors as needed, empowered to preserve, protect and enhance the built environment of the Vieux Carré through the design review process.

Architrave – The lowest part of an entablature.

Asphalt Shingle – A composition shingle having an asphalt impregnated felt base, surfaced on the weather side with colored mineral granules embedded in hot asphaltic coating.

Attention Getting Device – Any pennant, flag, festoon, valance, propeller, pole cover, spinner, streamer, inflatable device, searchlight, flashing light, color changing, rotating or moving display or any similar device or ornamentation designed or used for the purpose of attracting attention, promoting or advertising.

Attic – The space under a pitched roof of a building.

Awning – A roof-like cover with no support extending to the ground; constructed of fabric, metal, glass or other material; designed and intended for protection from the sun or weather or as a decorative embellishment; and attached to the wall of a structure over a window, entryway or walkway.

Back-prime – To apply primer and paint to the unexposed side of millwork before installation.

Balcony – A platform that projects from the exterior wall of a structure; is exposed to the open air and remains unenclosed; is surrounded by a railing or balustrade; has direct access to the interior of the building; and is not supported by posts or columns extending to the ground.

Baluster – A shaft-like element used to support a handrail.

Balustrade – A railing (such as a porch railing) made up of rails, balusters and posts.

Banquette – Sidewalk.

Bargeboard – An ornamental board attached to the projected eave of a gable roof. In New Orleans, large boards salvaged from river barges were used to construct early buildings.

Barrel Tile – A half-cylinder-shaped clay roof tile.

Basket Balcony – A decorative or usable balcony that is one- or two-bays wide.

Batten Shutter – Vertical boards fastened with horizontal boards (battens) at inside face. Commonly found on late-18th and early-19th century Creole-style buildings.

Batt Insulation – Pre-cut insulation panels, typically 16- or 24-inches wide, designed to fit between standard wall studs or floor framing, often made of fiberglass or mineral wool.

- Batten Roof** – Sheet-metal roof in which the vertical panels are divided by metal-covered wood ribs or battens.
- Bay** – Repetitive section into which a building is divided, a door or window opening in a façade.
- Beaded Board** – A board with a rounded edge separated from the rest of the board by a small groove or depression.
- Beam** – A horizontal supporting member.
- Beveled Glass** – Glass with beveled edges, held together by lead strips. Popular in the Victorian era.
- Billboard** – A permanent sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises where the sign is located. A billboard is also called an outdoor general advertising sign.
- Bituminous Coating** – A thick, bitumen coating material used for waterproofing, damp-proofing and roof patching.
- Blanket Insulation** – *See Batt Insulation.*
- Blistering** – Air bubbles under paint.
- Blockface** – One side of a given street between two consecutive intersecting streets.
- Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA)** – The City board that considers applications for waivers and variances from the requirements of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and appeals by the Director of Safety & Permits.
- Bollard** – A short post used to restrict vehicular traffic from an area; typically metal and/or concrete and installed along a sidewalk edge; may be ornamental.
- Bolted Plate** – A flat metal plate against a masonry wall with a threaded rod secured to the internal structure used to stabilize or pull back a bowing masonry wall. Plates are approximately 8- to 10-inches wide and can be square, round or decorative.
- Bond Course** – A horizontal row containing brick headers or bond stones in a masonry structure. Also known as heading course.
- Borate** – A salt of boric acid used as a wood preservative to prevent growth of fungi and termite infestation.
- Bousillage** – A construction method for walls using a mixture of mud, moss and animal hair as infill between heavy timber posts. *See Briquette-Entre-Poteaux.*
- Bracket** – A support element under an eave, balcony or other overhang. Frequently used as ornamentation rather than for structural support.
- Breaking Shutters** – A pair of shutters set back 8- to 10-inches into the opening with a double-knuckle hinge that allows the small section to open parallel to the jamb and the larger section to fold back against the building wall.
- Brick-Between-Posts** – *See Briquette-Entre-Poteaux.*
- Brick Masonry** – Construction technique using bricks held together by mortar.
- Brick Veneer** – A wall of brick covering an inner wall such as a wood frame.
- Briquette-Entre-Poteaux** – A construction method for walls using brick as infill between heavy timber posts. Also known as brick-between-posts. *See Bousillage.*
- Brown Coat** – A roughly finished, leveling coat of plaster; either the second coat in three-coat plaster or the base coat in two-coat plaster applied over gypsum lath or masonry. *See Stucco.*
- Buildable Area** – The area of a lot where a structure may be built once the minimum yard and open space requirements of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) have been met.
- Building** – Any structure, place or construction built for the shelter or enclosure of a person, animal or chattel, or any part of such structure when subdivided by a division wall or party wall extending to or above the roof and without an opening in such separate wall.
- Bulkhead** – The exterior base of a display window.
- Cabinet** – One of a pair of small rooms located at the rear of a Creole cottage flanking an open loggia or gallery. These rooms were typically used as bedrooms, storage, or housed a stairwell to the attic.
- Camelback Shotgun** – A shotgun-type house with a two-story rear portion, either added or original.
- Canopy** – A roof-like cover supported by brackets or ties; constructed of fabric, metal, glass or other material; designed and intended for protection from the weather or as a decorative embellishment; and projects from the wall of a structure over an entryway. *Compare Marquee.*
- Capital** – The uppermost part of a column or pilaster.
- Carport** – An open-sided shelter for an automobile(s).
- Carriageway** – A bricked or flagged passage, wide enough for a carriage, leading to a courtyard in the rear of a townhouse. The entrance is normally arched and placed to one side of the façade.
- Casement Window** – A window that opens on hinges like a door; a common window type in colonial New Orleans.
- Casing** – An enclosing frame around a door or window opening.
- Cast Iron** – Mass-produced decorative or structural iron shaped by placement in a mold; used for railings, fences, balconies and galleries.
- Caulk** – Flexible sealant material used to close joints between materials; made of various substances including tar, oakum, lead, putty and modern elastomers such as silicone and polyurethane.
- CDs** – *See Construction Documents.*
- Center-Hall Cottage** – A one- to one-and-a-half story residence with a central hall flanked by symmetrical rooms; typically five bays wide and two rooms deep, and commonly raised.

- Chain Wall** – A continuous foundation raising a house or metal picket fencing off the ground.
- Chamfer** – A 45-degree bevel cut at the outside corner of a building element, often found at wood posts.
- Channel Letter** – Three-dimensional individually cut letters or figures, illuminated or unilluminated, affixed to a building or structure.
- Checking** – The cracking of wood along the grain caused by rapid drying.
- Cheek Wall** – Either of two sides of a projection, such as a dormer or stoop.
- Chimney** – A vertical shaft of reinforced concrete, masonry or other material enclosing one or more flues; originally designed for the purpose of removing products of combustion.
- Chinese Cap** – A traditional, metal, ornamental roof vent.
- Cistern** – A permanent artificial reservoir built to catch and store rainwater, typically located underground but may be located above ground.
- City of New Orleans (City)** – The local municipal governmental body.
- City Planning Commission (CPC)** – The City board with authority over planning and zoning matters as set forth by the Home Rule and State Law. The CPC makes recommendations to the City Council regarding the Master Plan, map changes, planned developments, amendments to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. The CPC may approve, modify or deny applications. Other responsibilities include preparing a Master Plan for future development of the City and recommending amendments to that plan as needed; disposition/acquisition of public property; street renaming requests; and preparation of a capital improvement budget.
- Clapboard** – *See Weatherboard.*
- Classical Architecture** – The architecture of Greece and Rome during the pre-Christian era.
- Colombage** – Construction consisting of heavy timber framework with mortise and tenon joints covered with wide horizontal boards. A common construction method in New Orleans during the early colonial period.
- Colonnade** – A series of columns at regular intervals, supporting a covered passageway. *Compare Arcade and Loggia.*
- Colonnettes** – Slender, turned wooden columns.
- Column** – A vertical support normally consisting of a base, a round shaft and a capital. The Greek Doric order is exceptional in that it has no base.
- Commission (Vieux Carré Commission)** – The legally mandated body charged with preserving, protecting and enhancing the Vieux Carré.
- Common Bond** – A brickwork or masonry pattern having a course of headers between every five or six courses of stretchers.
- Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO)** – Document with the force of law that guides and regulates development and property use within the City of New Orleans.
- Conceptual Review** – A review leading to the sanctioning, commendation or favorable regard of a general idea or the non-specific notion of proposed work. Conceptual approval by the AC or the Commission does not automatically guarantee final approval of any subsequent submission.
- Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU)** – Formed structural blocks made from water, cement, sand and aggregate. Also known as concrete block.
- Console** – An ornamental supporting bracket, typically found under a balcony. *See Spanish Console.*
- Consolidant** – A material infused in a deteriorated material to stabilize it, such as epoxy resin into wood or chemicals into stone.
- Construction** – The erection of any on-site improvement on any parcel of ground, whether the site is presently improved, unimproved, or hereafter becomes unimproved by “demolition,” “demolition by neglect,” destruction of the improvement located thereon by fire, windstorm, or other casualty or otherwise (hereafter such a parcel of ground shall be referred to as “site”).
- Construction Documents (CDs)** – The documentation that sets forth the detailed requirements of a construction project including a restoration, renovation, new construction or addition project; typically includes detailed drawings and specifications produced by a design professional.
- Context** – The buildings, structures, landscape elements and features immediately surrounding a historic resource.
- Corinthian Order** – The most ornate of the classical Greek orders, characterized by a bell-shaped capital decorated with acanthus leaves. *See Acanthus.*
- Cornerboard** – One of a pair of vertical boards installed on the outside corner of a building with wood siding or shingles, with clapboard or shingles usually abutting the side.
- Cornice** – The projecting horizontal moldings towards the top of a building wall, window or door.
- Countersink** – To make a recess to receive a fastener, such as a screw, or a piece of hardware, so that when installed, it will be flush with or below the adjacent surface.
- Course** – A horizontal row of repetitive elements, especially masonry, tile or roofing units.
- Courtyard** – An enclosed open-air space next to a building.
- Crawl Space** – A low-height space between the bottom of the lowest floor of a structure and the grade; may have an earthen or paved surface.
- Crazing** – A network of hairline cracks on the surface of a material; typically found at glazed brick, tile and paint. *See Alligatoring.*

Creole – A person born in Louisiana who is a descendent of a French, Spanish, Haitian and/or African colonist or a slave. Also a style of architecture prevalent during the post-colonial period in New Orleans.

Creole Cottage – A one- to one-and-a-half-story residence that is two- or four-bays wide and two rooms deep with a hipped or side-gabled roof and no interior hallway.

Creole Townhouse – A two-story detached or undetached residence with a passageway or carriageway at the ground floor that leads to a rear courtyard with no interior hallway.

Cresting – Ornamentation occurring at an upper limit, such as the ridge of a roof.

Cricket – A ridge structure designed to divert water on a roof. Generally found on the high side of a chimney or the transition from one roof area to another, the cricket is normally the same pitch as the rest of the roof, but not always. Smaller crickets are covered with metal flashing, and larger ones can be covered with the same material as the rest of the roof.

Cupola – A small structure projecting above a roof that provides ventilation and/or is used as a lookout. *Compare Monitor.*

Cut Sheet – Product information from the manufacturer or fabricator.

CZO – *See Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.*

DD – *See Design Development.*

Deck – A raised platform, often of wood, built above grade on a support structure; it is open to the sky and attached to the principal building. A deck is distinguished from a terrace in that a terrace is a raised surface constructed above grade built upon a solid base and is distinguished from a porch in that a porch is related to the architectural design of the building.

Delamination – Separation of layers of a material parallel to the surface.

Demolition – The complete or constructive removal of a building on any site.

Demolition by Neglect – Neglect in the maintenance of any building that can result in any one or more of the following: (1) The deterioration of a building to the extent that it creates or permits a hazardous or unsafe condition as determined by the Department of Safety and Permits; (2) An unintended opening that has the potential to result in water damage to the building or its materials; (3) A potential hazard that could fall and cause injury or a structural element that may no longer safely carry an imposed load; (4) A case of deteriorating exterior elements such as missing mortar or rotting wooden elements that allow deteriorating conditions to develop further or cause other internal problems; and (5) Any condition that allows or harbors vegetation to grow on or into an architectural element.

Density – The number of dwelling units per area of land.

Dentils – Closely spaced blocks in a Greek Ionic or Corinthian cornice.

Design Development (DD) – An intermediate representation and review of a proposed construction project that is more detailed than a conceptual design, but not as fully developed as construction documents.

Design Guidelines – Standards and/or recommendations for control of new construction, as well as an alteration or addition to an existing building, structure or property in a historic district or town; typically adopted and published by the local regulating agency or municipality.

Dimensional Lumber – Wood cut at a sawmill in a regular size and shape.

District – *See Historic District.*

Door Hood – A projecting roof structure over a door, typically supported by brackets.

Door Surround – *See Casing.*

Doric Order – The most plain of the classical Greek orders, distinguished by columns with an unadorned capital and no base.

Dormer – A projection from a wall or roof structure that includes a window. When it rises from a roof it is called a roof dormer and when it is an extension of a wall it is called a wall dormer.

Dormer Cheek – *See Cheek Wall.*

Double – *See Shotgun Double.*

Double-Gallery – A two-story building, particularly the sidehall American townhouse, with its distinguishing feature being broad galleries across the front façade at both levels, supported by either pillars or columns.

Double-Hung Window – A window type introduced to New Orleans in the early 1800s, consisting of two sashes that operate through vertical movement, i.e. the lower sash can be raised and the upper sash lowered.

Double-Knuckle Hinge – A hinge with two pivot locations that holds the two leaves of a breaking shutter. *See Breaking Shutter.*

Downspout – A rainwater leader, typically surface mounted to a building, which directs storm water from a gutter down towards the ground. Often fabricated from sheet metal including copper, galvanized metal or aluminum.

Drip Edge – A projecting molding over an exterior door or window opening for catching and shedding rainwater.

Drop Awning – A single piece of fabric suspended either at the front or on the side of a gallery or porch.

Drop Lap Siding – A type of weatherboard with a depression in the upper part of each board.

Easement – A deed restriction on a property giving someone besides the owner the right to enjoy all or a portion of the property in perpetuity; may also include its use or development. *Compare Façade Easement.*

- Eave** – The projecting overhang of a roof.
- Efflorescence** – Water-soluble salts leached out of masonry or concrete by capillary action and deposited on a surface by evaporation, usually as a white, powdery surface.
- EIFS** – *See Exterior Insulation and Finish System.*
- Egg-and-Dart** – Decorative molding consisting of alternating egg and dart-shaped elements; found in Greek Revival-style architecture.
- Egress** – Exiting or going out of a building. *Compare Ingress.*
- Elastomeric Coating** – A flexible coating that is in a plastic state during application; used for waterproofing and dampproofing.
- Elevation** – A face of a building, usually drawn to scale. *Compare Floor Plan and Section.*
- Ell** – An addition to a building that creates an L-shaped floor plan; usually added to the rear of an existing building. *See Service Wing.*
- Encroachment** – The extension or placement of any structure or component of a structure into a yard or, when allowed by the City, into the public right-of-way.
- Entablature** – In classical architecture, the horizontal part of a classical order supported by columns or pilasters and consisting of the architrave, frieze and cornice.
- Entresol** – A low-ceiling floor used for storage between the ground floor and an upper floor; a Spanish colonial feature.
- EPA** – The US Environmental Protection Agency.
- Etched Glass** – Decorative glass with a design produced by the process of exposure to acid.
- Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS)** – A synthetic stucco system popularized in the United States in the late-20th century.
- Eye-brow Roof Dormer** – A low, curvilinear roof dormer resembling the shape of an eye.
- Façade** – The front or face of a building. *Compare Elevation.*
- Façade Easement** – A preservation easement that restricts future changes to the exterior appearance of a building; may apply to an entire building or a designated portion. *Compare Easement.*
- Fanlight** – A fan-shaped or semicircular window over a door or window with radiating muntins; found in Georgian and Federal-style architecture.
- Fenestration** – The window and door openings in a building.
- Fiber Cement Siding** – A lightweight, solid material that is manufactured in similar sizes and shapes to wood products. Resistant to rot, termites, fire and delamination and dimensionally stable.
- Fiberglass Shingle** – A composition roof shingle having an inorganic fiberglass base, saturated with asphalt and surfaced on the weather side with colored ceramic granules.
- Finial** – The topping ornament of a roof gable, turret, baluster, post, etc.
- Finish Coat** – The final coat of stucco, serving either as a finished surface or as a base for decoration. *See Stucco.*
- Fire Wall** – A brick wall extending above the roof line between attached buildings, intended to prevent a fire from spreading from one building to another.
- Fish-Scale Shingles** – Wood shingles cut in a shape to resemble fish scales; popular during the Victorian era.
- Fixed Glass** – A glass pane that is stationary, rather than operable.
- Flag** – A usually rectangular piece of fabric of distinctive design that is used as a symbol (as of a nation), as a signaling device or as a decoration.
- Flagged** – Paved with flagstone.
- Flashing** – Pieces of sheet metal or other thin, impervious material installed to prevent the passage of water into a structure from an angle or joint.
- Flat-Headed Window** – A window with a horizontal uppermost part.
- Flemish Bond** – A brickwork pattern having alternating headers and stretchers in each course, each header being centered above and below a stretcher.
- Floor Area Ratio (FAR)** – The gross floor area of a structure on a lot divided by the area of the lot.
- Floor Plan** – A plan of a room, suite or entire floor of a building as seen from above after a horizontal section is cut and the upper portion is removed, typically showing the form and arrangement of interior spaces and their enclosing walls, windows and doors, etc. *Compare Elevation, Section and Site Plan.*
- Flue** – A vent passage for chimney gases; may be masonry, terra cotta or metal.
- Flush Siding** – Flat-faced boards nailed edge to edge to form the appearance of a flat wall; typically found on a Greek Revival style building and installed on a front wall and/or under a protective porch or gallery.
- Fluting** – Closely spaced and parallel vertical channeling on the shaft of a column or pilaster.
- Footcandle** – A unit of illumination equivalent to the illumination at all points that are one foot distant from a uniform source of one candlepower.
- Footprint** – The form of a building on a site.
- French Doors** – A pair of hinged doors, generally with glass lights, found in Creole buildings.
- French Drain** – A trench lined with flagstone, concrete or gravel that redirects surface and groundwater away from a building, structure, street or sidewalk; often bridged by flagstone slabs or a metal grate.
- Fretwork** – A screen or lattice composed of intricate, interlaced openwork; found in Eastlake style buildings.

- Frieze** – The middle part of a classical entablature.
- Frieze Window** – A window located within a frieze; typically associated with Greek Revival-style buildings.
- Frontage** – The property abutting on one side of a street between two consecutive, intersecting streets. *See Blockface.*
- Gable** – The triangular upper part of a wall formed by a pitched roof.
- Gallery** – An exterior platform supported by columns; can be under the main roof of a building. Where a building is constructed at a front and/or side property line, the gallery extends over the sidewalk and is supported by posts and/or columns along the curb.
- Galvanic Action** – A type of corrosion caused by an electric current generated by two different metals touching in the presence of moisture, with the less noble metal being corroded.
- Garçonnière** – A dependency unit for males; often located within a service wing or building.
- Glazing** – The clear or translucent material through which light passes into a building; most often glass.
- Grade** – Ground level.
- Greek Key** – An overlapping lintel over a doorway with a slight flaring out of the face of the doorway surround from the top to the bottom.
- Greek Revival** – A style of architecture based on classic Greek temples; used for both public buildings and houses; typical elements include a low-pitch gable or hipped roof, pedimented gable ends, a simple architrave band at the eaves, an entry porch with Doric style columns and entablature, and a front door with narrow sidelights and rectangular transom.
- Grille** – A grating forming a barrier or screen.
- Gross Floor Area** – The sum of the gross horizontal area of all floors of a structure, measured from the exterior face of exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating two attached buildings.
- Guidelines** – *See Design Guidelines.*
- Gutter** – A horizontal or slightly sloped trough that collects rainwater; may be located at the bottom of a roof slope or a channel cut into the ground.
- Half-Timbering** – A method of wall construction in which the wooden structural members are exposed on the exterior wall with stucco infill between.
- Hardware** – The metal fittings and connectors used for framing a building and constructing millwork.
- Header** – A brick or stone with its shortest dimension laid horizontally in a wall; typically used to bond the two wythes of a brick wall together.
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)** – The system is used to provide heating and cooling services to a building.
- High-Style** – A building that's type, form and details exemplify a specific architectural style.
- Hinge** – Hardware that supports a door, window or shutter and allows it to open and close. *Compare Double-Knuckle Hinge and Strap Hinge.*
- Hip** – An inclined line formed at the intersection of two sloping roof surfaces at an outside building corner.
- Hipped Roof** – A roof with four sloped sides.
- Historic Preservation** – A broad range of activities related to the protection, maintenance and care of elements of the built environment that reflect its cultural heritage.
- Historic District** – An area that contains a major concentration of historic resources; listed on the national and/or local level, such as the Vieux Carré Historic District, which can include legal protection.
- Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC)** – A city agency responsible for the regulation of all historic properties and districts in New Orleans outside of the Vieux Carré.
- Historicize** – To make appear historical, typically using historical details and materials or facsimiles.
- Historic Resource** – An individual building, site, monument, structure or area that has been determined to have historical significance and a distinctive character conveying unique architectural and/or cultural heritage.
- Hood Molds** – A shallow projected covering used over doors and windows in the Italianate style.
- Imminent Danger of Collapse** – A structure that is likely to collapse without warning.
- Impervious Coating** – An applied barrier that prevents the passage of moisture.
- Incompatible Use** – A use that is incapable of direct association with certain other uses in its immediate vicinity because it is contradictory, incongruous or discordant with surrounding uses, or will change the essential character of the district.
- Increase in Intensity** – A growth in the concentration of activity on a property. In the case of a nonconforming use, any growth above and beyond the status quo is considered an increase in the intensity of use including an expansion in gross floor area or number of dwelling units.
- Ingress** – An entrance. *Compare Egress.*
- Ionic Order** – An order of classical Greek architecture, characterized by columns with a scroll-like capital.
- Jamb** – The facing side of a wall opening at a window or door.
- Jamb Liner** – A material added to the inside face of a single-, double-, or triple-hung window to facilitate the raising and lowering of an individual sash.
- Jigsaw Work** – Decorative woodwork, generally curvilinear in shape, common in the Victorian era and produced by the use of a jigsaw.
- Joist** – A beam supporting a floor or a ceiling.

- Key** – The portion of a stucco or plaster base coat that extends between and beyond the lath or between the masonry units that holds it in place.
- Lake Brick** – Locally produced soft bricks made by pressing wet clay into a wood or metal mold and made with sand taken from Lake Pontchartrain; also known as mud bricks.
- Lath** – A base material with small openings used to support plaster or stucco, typically found on wood framing; types include split and cut wood lath and expanded metal lath. A wood strip used to support roofing slates or tiles.
- Lathe** – A machine tool for shaping a piece of material, such as wood or metal, by rotating it rapidly along its axis while pressing a fixed cutting or abrading tool against it; used to produce spindles and balusters.
- Leaded Glass** – Small panes of glass (clear, beveled or stained) held together by lead strips.
- Leaf** – One of the folds of a folding door or shutter.
- Levee** – An embankment to prevent flooding.
- Light** – A glass pane in a window or door.
- Lime** – A white or grayish-white, caustic, odorless solid obtained by heating forms of calcium carbonate, such as shells or limestone, at a high temperature.
- Lime Mortar** – A mixture of lime, sand and water.
- Lintel** – The horizontal structural element above a window or door, usually carrying the wall load above.
- Load Bearing** – Structural element, carrying load or weight.
- Lock Rail** – The middle rail of a paneled door where the lock is typically mounted.
- Loggia** – An open-sided, roofed space of a building found on the rear of Creole buildings. *Compare Arcade and Colonnade.*
- Louvered Shutter** – Shutter with a frame of rails and stiles supporting either fixed or operable wood slats.
- Low-E Film** (Low thermal emissivity) – A film or coating applied to window or door glazing to reduce the transmission of radiant heat gain from the sun.
- Mansard Roof** – A roof with a double slope on all four sides, the lower slope much steeper than the upper.
- Marquee** – A permanent roof-like structure constructed of durable material extending from the wall of a building with no supports extending to the ground. *Compare Canopy.*
- Massing** – The overall composition of major volumes of a building, especially when the structure has major and minor elements.
- Menu Box** – A wall-mounted box with an operable door and a clear glass face to facilitate changing menus or entertainment notices.
- Millwork** – Woodwork shaped or dressed by means of a rotary cutter.
- Millwork Drawings** – Detailed, scaled, dimensioned drawings depicting the components, profiles and joinery for wood elements such as doors, windows, built-in cabinetry and paneling.
- Modillions** – Small bracket-like ornamentation under the cornice of a classical entablature.
- Molding** – A linear decorative element or curved strip used for ornamentation or trimwork.
- Monitor** – Structure that projects up from the roof, used for ventilation with louvers or for light on a warehouse. *Compare Cupola.*
- Monolithic Column** – A column that extends uninterrupted for two or more stories.
- Mortar** – A malleable mixture of lime or cement (or a combination of both), sand and water, used as a bonding agent in masonry construction.
- Mortar Joints** – The exposed joints of mortar in masonry.
- Mortise and Tenon** – A construction technique that joins two wooden members by the projection of one member to fit securely into a corresponding cavity cut in the other.
- Mullion** – The vertical framing element separating two window or door frames.
- Multi-light** – Having many lights or glass panes, as a window or door.
- Muntin** – The narrow molding separating individual panes of glass in a multi-paned window sash or door.
- Mural** – A work of art painted or otherwise applied or affixed to an exterior wall surface that does not include any on- or off-premise commercial advertising.
- Newel Post** – A post supporting one end of a handrail at the top or bottom of a flight of stairs.
- Night Blind** – Removable wood panels installed over the glass of 19th century bi-fold and tri-fold doors to provide security.
- Nonconforming Structure** – A lawfully erected structure that does not meet the current bulk, yard or parking requirements of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO).
- Nonconforming Use** – A lawfully established use that does not meet the current use requirements of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO).
- Non-Ionic Detergent** – A cleaning agent, such as dish washing detergent, that does not contain any metal ions that could deposit and leave a conductive residue on a surface.
- Off-Street Parking** – A parking space for a motor vehicle on a lot and not on a street, alley or right-of way.
- One Stop Shop** – The single resource for all city permits and licenses.
- On-Street Parking** – A designated, lawful parking space for a motor vehicle that is located on a public street or right-of-way in a parking lane.

- Open Space** – Those areas of a lot open and unobstructed from grade level upward, unless otherwise permitted. For townhouse and multi-family dwellings that are required to provide open space for each dwelling unit, open space may include areas on a deck, balcony, porch and/or roof that is accessible and usable by an occupant.
- Open Space Ratio** – The open space on a lot divided by the floor area of any structures on the lot.
- Ornament** – An object or series of objects, often sculptural, added to a building form to enhance its visual appearance.
- Outbuilding** – A detached building that has a secondary use to the main building or structure on a site.
- Outrigger** – A flat, metal bar cantilevered from a building supporting a projecting balcony or canopy from below.
- Palladian Window** – A window consisting of three parts; a central semicircular window flanked by smaller, square-headed windows on each side.
- Paneled Shutter** – Shutter with a frame of rails and stiles that support panels of wood held in place by moldings.
- Parapet** – The portion of a wall that projects above an adjacent roof surface.
- Paris Green** – A color resembling green, oxidized copper; can be referred to locally as French Quarter green.
- Parting Bead** – A strip, typically wood, with a beaded edge, used at the jamb to separate a double- or triple-hung window sash.
- Party Wall** – A wall starting from the foundation and extending continuously through all stories to or above the roof, which separates one structure from another, but is in joint use by both structures. *See Fire Wall.*
- Passageway** – A covered walkway, typically found in a Creole townhouse, open at the front and rear, two- to four-feet wide, providing access to a rear courtyard.
- Paving** – A hard, finished walkway, patio, driveway or roadway laid directly onto the earth.
- Peak Finial** – An ornament at the peak of a roof. *Compare Finial.*
- Pedestal** – A support for a column.
- Pediment** – A low-pitched gable in the classical manner; also used in miniature over doors or windows.
- Penthouse** – An enclosed secondary structure above the roof of a building, that covers the top of a stairway, elevator shaft or mechanical equipment.
- Pergola** – A free-standing shaded walk or passageway of columns with crossbeams and a sturdy open lattice to support vines or climbing plants.
- Permit** – A document evidencing approval of the VCC and the City for work proposed by an applicant.
- Picture Window** – A large, fixed-glass window in the façade of commercial buildings.
- Pier** – A square support for a house, wall or fence.
- Piercework** – Ornamentation common in the late Victorian period, created by cutting openings in various shapes in a solid piece of wood, common in the Eastlake style.
- Pilaster** – A column attached to a wall.
- Pillar** – A square or rectangular upright support; a post.
- Pintle** – The vertical pin that is the fixed pivot of a hinge, typically mounted at the jamb of a door, casement window or shutter.
- Pitch** – The angle or slope of a roof.
- Plaster** – A composition of lime, water and sand that is soft when applied and hardens upon drying; used for coating and finishing interior walls and ceilings. *Compare Stucco.*
- Plinth** – A rectilinear block located at the base of column, pilaster or pedestal.
- Plumb** – Being vertical, perpendicular to the ground plane.
- Pointing** – The process of placing mortar in a masonry joint. *Compare Repointing.*
- Porch** – A structure, enclosed or unenclosed, that projects from the exterior wall of a building, has direct access to the street level, and is covered by a roof or eave. An unenclosed porch is a porch that is open on all sides. *Compare Gallery.*
- Porte Cochere** – A covered entrance for the passage of vehicles.
- Portico** – A covered entrance to a building.
- Post** – A structural member, usually wood, set in an upright position and used as a support; a pillar; the structural element supporting a balustrade.
- Power Roof Vent** – A roof vent with a fan that can quickly exhaust heat or humidity from an attic when activated by a thermostat.
- Preservation** – The act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.
- Primary Elevation** – The main or most important façade or face of a building. *Compare Elevation and Secondary Elevation.*
- Principal Façade** – The main or most important elevation of a building. *Compare Primary Elevation.*
- Principal Use** – The main or primary purpose for which a structure or lot is designed, arranged or intended. *Compare Accessory Use.*

- Property Line** – The line forming the boundary of a lot, determined by metes and bounds, whether those lines are for single lots or a combination of lots.
- Property Rating** – A color rating system used by the VCC to characterize the historical or architectural significance of a resource within the Historic District.
- Purlin** – A horizontal beam in a roof structure that supports or carries rafters.
- Quoin** – A stone, brick or wood block used to accentuate the outside corners of a building.
- Rabbet** – A continuous notch, groove or slot cut into the edge of wood to receive another member.
- Raceway** – Metal box located between an illuminated sign and wall to hold electrical conduit.
- Rafter** – A sloping structural member of a pitched roof.
- Rafter Tail** – The portion of the rafter that overhangs the wall, common in the Arts and Crafts style.
- Rail** – A metal enclosure generally used for a porch, gallery or balcony. *Compare Balustrade.*
- Rail, Window or Door** – Any of various horizontal members that frame panels of a window or door.
- Raised Center-Hall Cottage** – A center-hall cottage that is raised above ground as much as a full story, and accessed by central stairs.
- Rakeboard** – A sloped board or moulding between an exterior wall and the roof soffit.
- Rectilinear** – A straight and perpendicular form.
- Rehabilitation** – The process of repairing an existing building to good condition with minimal changes to the building fabric. The act of 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 of the property that are significant to its historical, architectural and cultural values.
- Renovation** – The process of repairing and changing an existing building for modern use, so that it is functionally equal to a new building; may include major changes.
- Repointing** – Repairing existing masonry joints by removing defective mortar and installing new mortar. *See Pointing.*
- Resource** – A building, structure, site or object that is part of a historic district.
- Restoration** – The process or product of returning an existing site, building, structure or object as near as possible to its condition at a particular time in its history, using the same construction materials and methods as the original; typically the period of greatest historical significance or aesthetic integrity is chosen; may include removing later additions and replacing missing period work.
- Retention Application** – A request to retain a previously completed, or ongoing, work that did not receive a VCC permit.
- Ridge** – The line formed where two sloping roof forms join at the top.
- Ridge Cap** – *See Ridge Tile.*
- Ridge Tile** – A clay roof tile used to cover the top of roof ridge; either convex (Spanish tile) or angled (English V).
- Ridge Vent** – A vent that is installed along the ridge of a roof; often found at an asphalt shingle roof.
- Right-of-Way** – The land used for a transportation corridor, such as a street, alley, railroad or pedestrian walkway.
- Roof Hatch** – An opening in a roof with an operable or removable cover.
- Roof Monitor** – *See Monitor.*
- Roof Overhang** – A protruding portion of a roof structure that provides protection for lower surfaces and levels.
- Rosette** – A round decorative element in a floral motif.
- Round-Headed Window** – A window with a rounded uppermost part.
- Running Bond** – A brickwork or masonry pattern composed of overlapping stretchers.
- Rustication** – Rough-surfaced stonework, most commonly found on the lower part of an exterior wall.
- Sanborn Maps** – An American publisher of historical and current maps of US cities and towns; originally published to assess insurance risks.
- Sandwich Board** – An advertising device, ordinarily in the shape of an “A” or some variation, located on the ground, not permanently attached and easily movable.
- Sash** – The part of a window frame that holds the glazing, especially when movable.
- Schematic Design** – A conceptual design that seeks to show the scope and basic relationships of a project. *See Conceptual Design.*
- Scratch Coat** – The first coat in three-coat plaster or stucco that is scratched to provide a better bond for the second or brown coat. *See Stucco.*
- Scrollwork** – Ornamentation in the form of scrolls.
- Secondary Building/Outbuilding/Service Building/Service Wing/Dependency** – A secondary building on a site, usually added to the rear of a primary building. *See Ell and Garçonnière.*
- Secondary Elevation** – A less important façade or face of a building, typically the side or rear. *Compare Primary Elevation.*
- Section** – A drawing that illustrates the view seen as if a structure is cut vertically to show its internal configuration; usually drawn to scale. *Compare Elevation and Floor Plan.*
- Section Through Street** – A drawing that illustrates the view as if buildings across the street from each other were cut vertically, illustrating the relative building heights, as well as heights of respective windows and/or floors; usually drawn to scale.

- Segmental-Arch Head** – The uppermost part of a door or window constructed in the shape of a segment of a circle; common in the Italianate style.
- Service Building/Service Wing** – An addition to a building that creates an L-shaped floor plan; usually added to the rear of an existing building. *See Ell and Secondary Building/Outbuilding/Service Building/Service Wing/Dependency.*
- Service Wing Balcony** – A balcony acting as an outdoor corridor, particularly in a townhouse, connecting the rooms of the main house to the service wing.
- Servitude** – An interest in land that provides for a specified use of that land by a person other than the owner.
- Setback** – The required distance between a building or structure and a property line.
- Sheathing** – Material used to enclose and strengthen the walls and/or roof of a wood framed building; typically plywood or boards.
- Shed Roof** – A roof that is pitched in only one direction.
- Shingles** – A wall or roof covering, consisting of small overlapping pieces, square or patterned; of various materials.
- Shiplap Siding** – *See Drop Lap Siding.*
- Shop Drawing** – Detailed, dimensioned drawings produced by the fabricator or manufacturer of a particular building element, typically reviewed and approved by the architect.
- Shotgun Double** – A two-family shotgun residence with a shared interior dividing wall, chimneys and roof and no internal hall. Each room accesses the next room. *Compare Shotgun Single.*
- Shotgun Single** – A one room wide, several room deep residence with a gable or hipped roof and no internal hall. Each room accesses the next room. *Compare Shotgun Double.*
- Shutter** – A hinged movable cover, usually of wood, for a window or door.
- Shutter Dog** – An iron hardware device, fastened to an exterior building wall, with a head that swivels to hold a shutter in the open position.
- Side Gallery** – A narrow covered side porch that acts as an exterior corridor; found on Shotguns.
- Sidelights** – Stationary glass panes flanking an entrance door.
- Siding** – The material used to cover the exposed side of a wood-frame building (weatherboard, drop siding, etc.).
- Sign** – Any structure, display, device or inscription located upon, attached to, or painted or represented on any land, structure, on the outside or inside of a window, or on an awning, canopy, marquee or similar structure, and displays or includes any numeral, letter work, model, banner, emblem, insignia, symbol, device, light, trademark or other representation used as, or in the nature of, an announcement, advertisement, attention-arrester, direction or warning.
- Sign, Awning** – A sign painted on or attached to an awning.
- Sign, Banner** – Any sign printed or displayed upon cloth, plastic or other flexible material with or without a frame.
- Sign, Directory** – A sign that serves as a common or collective classification for a group of businesses operating within a multi-tenant structure.
- Sign Face** – That particular area of the sign structure upon which a message, copy or advertisement is displayed for viewing.
- Sign, Freestanding** – A sign that is attached to a self-supporting structure.
- Sign, Nonconforming** – A lawfully erected sign that does not meet the current requirements of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO).
- Sign, Permanent** – A sign attached to a structure or the ground which is made of materials intended for long-term use.
- Sign, Portable** – A sign that by design and construction is intended to be used by resting upon the ground for support and may be easily moved or relocated. *See Sign, Sandwich Board.*
- Sign, Projecting** – A sign attached to and projecting more than eighteen (18) inches from the face of a wall or building, but does not project above the parapet or eave line of the building.
- Sign, Real Estate** – A temporary sign that relates to the sale, lease or rental of property or buildings.
- Sign, Sandwich Board** – An advertising device, ordinarily in the shape of an “A” or some variation, located on the ground, not permanently attached and easily movable. *See Sign, Portable.*
- Sign, Wall** – A sign mounted flat against a wall of a structure with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the face of the wall and projecting no more than eighteen (18) inches from the wall.
- Sign, Window** – A sign attached to, placed upon, or printed on the interior or exterior of a window or door of a structure, or mounted at the inside of the window or door intended for viewing from the exterior of such a building. A window sign may be either permanent or temporary.
- Sill** – A horizontal member forming the lowest portion of a building or window opening; the bottom of a door opening.
- Simulated Divided Light (SDL)** – A window or door in which muntins are applied to a larger piece of glass at the exterior, interior and/or between layers of insulated glass to mimic a multi-light window.
- Single** – *See Shotgun Single.*
- Single-Hung Window** – Fixed upper sash above a vertically rising lower sash.
- Single-Light** – Having one glass pane, as a window or door.
- Site** – The land on which a building, structure or other feature is located.

- Site Plan** – A plan showing the form, location and orientation of a building or group of buildings on a site, usually including the dimensions, contours, landscaping and other significant features of the plot. Also called a plot plan. *Compare Floor Plan and Section Through Street.*
- Siting** – The placement of a building, structure or object on a site in relation to natural features, boundaries and other parts of the built environment.
- Slide Bolt** – A locking device for a door, casement window or gate with a bolt that is manually slid into position; typically located at the top and or bottom.
- Sliding Window** – A window with one or more sashes sliding horizontally on a track; similar in operation to a sliding glass door.
- Slip Head Window** – Two sashes that can be raised and lowered vertically with a taller bottom sash that can be raised into a pocket in the head (top) of the window allowing passage through the window.
- Slurry** – A watery mixture of an insoluble material such as mortar, stucco or plaster.
- Soffit** – The underside of a roof overhang.
- Soffit Vent** – An ornamental metal vent located in the soffit to allow air circulation in the attic.
- Spanish Console** – A wrought-iron bracket projecting from a wall and supporting a balcony. *See Console.*
- Spalling** – Chipping of masonry.
- Spill Light** – Light rays that are not useful, producing illumination where it is not wanted.
- Spindle** – A turned decorative wooden element.
- Splash Block** – A masonry or precast concrete block having a depressed, splayed surface, placed at the base of a downspout to disperse rainwater that would otherwise erode the soil.
- Spring Point** – The point at which an arch starts.
- Square-Headed Window** – A window which has a horizontal uppermost part, at ninety degrees to its sides.
- Staff** – City employees providing preliminary review and administrative services for the Vieux Carré Commission.
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)** – The office in each US state designated to administer the State Historic Preservation Program. Pronounced “SHIP-O”.
- State Historic Preservation Program** – The program established by each US state and approved by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of carrying out the National Preservation Act of 1966.
- Stained Glass** – Colored glass.
- Stepped Crack** – A crack or opening that includes a series of horizontal and vertical offsets.
- Stile** – Any of various members that frame panels of a window or door, typically vertical.
- Stilted Arch** – An arch with a straight extension below a segmental arch; used in the Italianate style.
- Stone** – A hard, naturally occurring material found in the earth.
- Stool** – The shelf-like wood moulding at an interior window sill.
- Stoop** – Steps that lead directly to an entrance without a landing or porch.
- Story** – The space between two floors of a structure.
- Strap Hinge** – A hinge used primarily on a shutter or gate, that is attached to the face instead of the side jamb. Used primarily in the Colonial and Post-Colonial periods. *See Hinge.*
- Streetscape** – The built environment parallel to and along a street edge.
- Stretcher** – A brick or stone with its longest dimension laid horizontally in a wall, parallel to the wall surface.
- Stucco** – Exterior plaster. *See Brown Coat and Scratch Coat.*
- Substrate** – An underlying material that supports or is bonded to another material on its surface.
- Surrounds** – The framework and associated trim around a door or window.
- Swag** – Classical ornamentation resembling evergreen branches hanging in a curve between two points.
- Temporary Use** – A use of limited duration that is not a permitted or conditional use within a zoning district.
- Terrace** – A raised impervious or semi-pervious surface, built upon a solid base, such as an earthen mound, designed and intended for recreational use by people and not as a parking space. A terrace is distinguished from a deck in that the raised surface of a deck is constructed above grade on structural supports.
- Terra Cotta** – Fired ceramic clay, can be glazed, used for architectural elements such as roof tiles and decorative wall elements.
- Terrazzo** – A floor finish of stone chips, usually marble, laid in a mortar bed and ground and polished smooth.
- Throw (bolt)** – The distance a bolt latch extends.
- Tongue and Groove** – A joint made by fitting a raised area or tongue on the edge of one member into a corresponding groove in the edge of another member to produce a flush surface.
- Tout Ensemble** – The historic character and ambience, characterized by quaint, historic or distinctive architectural styles; landscaped patios, courtyards, public alleys and squares; interesting and diverse retail shopping stores and shops; pleasing and proportionally scaled streetscapes; buildings attractive to and compatible with pedestrian activity; use and presence of indigenous building materials and flora; and diverse peoples, cultural attractions and facilities.

Townhouse – An attached or detached, two- or three-story residence.

Transom – A glazed opening over a door or window; can be operable or fixed.

Trim – Moldings surrounding windows and doors, includes copings, sills and similar elements contrasting with the main wall surface; most often wood.

Triple-Hung Window – Three sashes that can be raised and lowered vertically and extend to the floor to allow passage through the window.

True Divided Light – A window or door in which the glass is divided into several small panes.

Truss – An assemblage of structural members forming a rigid structural framework.

Turbine Ventilator, Roof – A metal roof vent that spins to allow the circulation of air from an attic.

Turned Wood – Wooden elements such as spindles or balusters produced by being turned on a lathe.

Turret – A small tower, usually at the corner of a building, extending above the roof line and often housing a stairway; most commonly found on a Queen Anne style building.

Uplift – The upward load that wind or water pressure can create on a building.

Valance – Canvas hung along the bottom edge of an awning, between two vertical members underneath a canopy or gallery; can include signage.

Vapor Barrier – A material used to prevent the passage of vapor or moisture through a material or structure.

VCC – See *Vieux Carré Commission*.

VCE – See *Vieux Carré Entertainment District*.

Vent – A pipe by which products of combustion are carried from a furnace or other appliance to the outside; a means to release hot air from an attic.

Vertical Board/Rail and Stile Shutter – Shutter with a batten exterior face and paneled interior.

Vestibule – A small enclosed space between outer and inner doors used as an air lock to reduce drafts and loss of conditioned air; also known as anteroom.

Veranda – An open gallery or balcony with a roof usually supported by wood or lightweight metal posts. *Compare Loggia*.

Victorian – An architectural style popular in the United States between 1860 and 1900.

Vernacular, Building – A building based upon traditional or regional forms built without being designed by an architect.

Vieux Carré – A French term meaning “old square”, indicating the general area that was the Colonial town of New Orleans (1718-1803) laid out in the 1720s by French settlers and designated as an area protected under the 1936 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana; under the jurisdiction of the Vieux Carré Commission.

Vieux Carré Commission (VCC) – The City agency created through a 1936 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana to promote the preservation of the buildings and structures deemed to have architectural and historical value for the benefit of the people of New Orleans, as well as Louisiana.

Vieux Carré Entertainment District (VCE) – A district within the Vieux Carré that includes the properties fronting on Bourbon Street from the downriver side of Iberville Street to the upriver side of St. Ann Street.

Vieux Carré Historic District (District) – Local historic district bounded by Iberville Street, Esplanade Avenue, North Rampart Street and the Mississippi Review and under the jurisdiction of the Vieux Carré Commission.

Vitrine – A projecting commercial display window, similar to a bay window.

Volume – The measurement of a building’s or addition’s size (in cubic feet) from the average adjoining grade level to the average roof level, and from outside to outside of exterior walls, but not including a balcony, gallery or porch.

Volute – Spiral or scroll shaped ornament.

Weatherboard – A long, narrow board, slightly thicker at one edge, used for siding; applied horizontally and slightly overlapping; also referred to as clapboard. *See Clapboard*.

Weather Stripping – A narrow compressible band used between the edge of a window or door and the jambs, sill, head and/or meeting rail to seal against air, water and dust infiltration; made of various materials including spring metal, felt, plastic, foam and wood with rubber edging.

Weep Hole – An opening that allows moisture in the interior of a construction to drain to the outside; used in masonry and planter walls, windows and curtain walls.

Wood Frame – Refers to a building with structural elements composed of a wood frame constructed of small dimensional lumber and held together with nails.

Wrought Iron – Iron worked into shape by manual effort; used for railings, fences, gates, hardware, lanterns, etc.

Wythe – A vertical section of bricks or other masonry that is one unit thick.