



Loyalist Township Policy on Window Renovations for Heritage Buildings

Windows can be significant heritage attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of a heritage resource. They are of critical importance to conserving the integrity of a heritage resource. Windows are considered the “eyes of the house” and are among its most significant visual features. Windows define the character, style and architectural period of a building. If they are replaced with modern fixtures that do not replicate original features, the character, age and authenticity of the building can be lost.

Requirements for period windows that are identified as heritage attributes in the designating by-law:

Most period windows can be maintained with proper maintenance and restored to replicate original features. Loyalist Township recommends restoration of original period windows before replacement. When repairing a period window or if replacing a period window if the requirements below are met, all features such as the window mouldings, sill, jambs, head and brick mould and casings, shall be retained as much as possible. All period windows shall be restored or replaced with original materials; a wooden window is to be replaced with a wooden window, not vinyl or aluminum for example.

Replacement of a period window will be considered when the window is beyond restoration and where little original material would remain. The design of any replacement period window shall be reconstructed to replicate the features of the original period window, such as materials, size and configurations. Window style shall be consistent and appropriate with the style of the building. Evidence found in historic drawings and/or photographs specific to the property shall be provided to support all proposed replacement components.

Recommendations for windows that are not identified as heritage attributes in the designating by-law:

Where replacement is proposed for non-period windows that are not compatible with the character of the protected heritage property, it is recommended to match the window as closely as possible to the original period window. The design, proportions, and material used should replicate the period window in order to keep with the character of the building.

Where renovations are proposed for period windows that are currently not identified as heritage attributes in the designating by-law, it is recommended that the same requirements be followed for period windows that are identified as heritage attributes in a designating by-law.

Additional Information:

Period Window Maintenance:

Period windows do require some maintenance, and with upkeep on paint, touching up glazing putty, etc., period windows can last much longer than modern windows. Some period windows are well over 150 years old.

Thermal Efficiency in Period Windows:

Thermal efficiency in period windows can be accomplished with the use of weather stripping, caulking, storm windows, shutters, and proper window maintenance. Most period windows can be upgraded to acceptable standards that are comparable to most modern windows.

Window Replacement and Heritage Permits:

When replacing a period window on a designated heritage property, a heritage permit from Loyalist Township may be required. Please consult with Township staff to determine whether a permit is required for your project.

Heritage Property Grants:

Heritage property owners who are proposing window renovations are encouraged to apply for a Loyalist Township Designated Property Grant. Owners of properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act are eligible to receive grants towards the conservation and restoration of the heritage features on their properties.

Information and Advice:

The Loyalist Township Heritage Committee is a great resource for advice and information on heritage matters. The Committee is an advisory Committee of Council who work towards promoting and preserving the significant heritage attributes found in Loyalist Township and to assist the community in preserving its heritage qualities.

If you require any information regarding your Heritage Property, please contact the Planning and Development Services Department at 613-386-7351 ext. 101.