

Design Guidelines: Sites & Streetscapes

SS1 Retain and repair historically significant streetscape elements such as sidewalks, retaining walls, fences, light fixtures, hitching posts, mounting blocks, limestone curbing, outbuildings and mature plantings.

SS2 Consider the relationship that exists between the site, the structure and surrounding buildings when planning exterior changes. Maintain historic relationships in lot size, setbacks, circulation patterns, etc.

SS3 Parking areas and empty lots should be screened with landscaping and fencing. Large areas of parking should be broken up with islands of plantings.

SS4 Parking lot edges – where the lot meets the sidewalk – should contain at least a 3' planting area.

SS5 Parking lots, driveways and service areas should be located behind buildings whenever possible. Alley access is preferred.

SS6 Lighting should be low-intensity. Light fixtures should be inconspicuous and simple in design and detail. Period lighting is appropriate.

SS7 Consider using inconspicuous lighting to selectively highlight building details. Such lighting should incorporate shadow and contrast, rather than just general, undifferentiated illumination, and be shielded to protect from glare and light pollution.

SS8 Street furniture should be simple in design and modest in size. Excessive decoration or theme decorations are inappropriate. Limit the installation of street furniture in order to avoid an overly cluttered look.

SS9 Pools, gazebos and other structures were not common historically. If such features are desired, they should be installed in the rear of the lot and made as inconspicuous as possible. Consider using landscaping as a screening device. Fountains may be installed in a more prominent site if documentation exists of their existence in that location.

The historic site features, including the limestone sidewalk and decorative concrete retaining wall and railings, help to give this home its unique character.



- SS10** Temporary structures such as swing sets, children’s playhouses, etc. should be sited in an inconspicuous location.
- SS11** Install utility lines underground or from the alley whenever possible. Utility meters should be installed in inconspicuous locations.
- SS12** Canopy street trees help define the streetscape and should be retained unless they pose a safety hazard. Preserve large, healthy trees and other landscaping whenever possible.
- SS13** Enhance established street tree patterns by planting additional trees along public rights-of-way and on private property. Select native deciduous species as canopy trees or trees appropriate to the period and character of the district.
- SS14** Historic fences and walls should be retained and repaired. Character defining details such as gates, decorative pickets, finials, newel posts, stairways and hardware should also be retained and preserved.
- SS15** Repair rather than replace historic fences or walls. If replacement is necessary, replace only those sections that are in need. Match the original fence or wall in materials, height, scale, proportion, texture, color and design.
- SS16** If a fence or wall has been removed or deteriorated beyond repair, new fences should match the original in materials, size, texture and proportion. New design for missing fences should be based on historic documentation or the surroundings.
- SS17** Fences should be appropriate to the scale, style and materials of the building. New fences should be simple rather than ornate.
- SS18** Use traditional materials for fences and walls, including wood, metal, brick and stone. Vinyl and plastic are not appropriate fence materials in Corydon’s historic district.
- SS19** If erecting a new fence, appropriate wood fences include picket or plain board. Appropriate iron fences would have a simple design – the earlier the building the simpler – and be set in a brick or stone base.
- SS20** Inappropriate fences include: chain link, board-on-board, board and batten, basket weave, lattice, louver, and stockade fences. Removal of any of these types of fences does not require a Certificate of Appropriateness; however, once removed these fences cannot be reinstalled without a COA.
- SS21** Use fences and walls in a manner that is historically appropriate such as demarcating property lines and screening private areas from the public right-of-way.
- SS22** Avoid obscuring views of historic buildings with walls, fences or landscaping features.
- SS23** Retain and reuse historic paving materials such as brick pavers and limestone curbing. Standard historic bricks are much softer than pavers, and will deteriorate rapidly if used as a paving material.

SS24 Do not install internally illuminated vending machines on sidewalks within the historic district.

SS25 Fixtures such as free-standing satellite dishes and air conditioner condenser units should be located on secondary elevations.

SS26 Maintain original front yard topography, including grades, slopes, elevations and berms, where present. New construction should match the grade of adjacent properties.

SS27 New construction projects should be planned to minimize the disruption to the site, to avoid unnecessary

destruction of unknown archaeological features or mature vegetation.

SS28 Some structures in Corydon's historic district have frontage on two streets. In these cases, maintain the pattern of 'front' and 'back' yards found in surrounding properties, keeping uses and structures consistent with those patterns.

SS29 When utilized, free-standing mailboxes should be simple rather than ornate and should not obscure views of the historic resource. Wall-mounted mailboxes are encouraged.



*South side of the square, circa 1915
From the Frederick Porter Griffin Collection, Harrison County Public Library*