The Marblehead Old & Historic Districts Commission Guidance

ROOFING

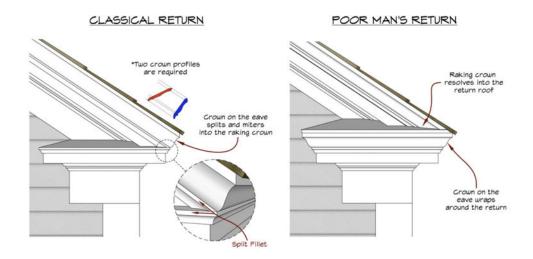
GUIDELINES – ROOFS:

Roofing materials

- homeowners should consider matching the roofing materials that were originally on the home when it was constructed - generally wooden shakes or shingles. However, replacing asphalt shingles in like kind is acceptable.
- Materials:
 - asphalt 3-tab or architectural shingles "30 years" or greater
 - wooden shakes (historically split-off using a sharp blade or mallet) are appropriate for homes built before 1850 but were used on roofs as late as 1920
 - wooden shingles (sawn from a block of wood) are appropriate for homes built after 1850
 - slate (generally seen on gothic revival and Victorian structures)
 - metal roofs were not part of Marblehead's historic architecture and are not appropriate in the districts
- flashing should be of a dark material that will not reflect sunlight (e.g., natural copper left to weather, lead, etc.). Drip-edge material to match as close as possible to the trim it will overhang (bright aluminum is not acceptable)

Gutters

- o Gutters on Marblehead's historic homes are integral to the roof design
- o repairs or replacements should be done in like kind.
- Fiberglass and wooden gutters on Marblehead homes often return around the gable end of a roof (variation of a Poor Man's Return) or are coped into the raking crown molding at the corner of the structure where a straight wall meets a gabled wall (Classical Return).



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Downspouts

- smooth or scalloped round metal downspouts are most historically appropriate.
- o wood-casing of downspouts may be required under certain circumstances

Soffits and Fascia

 any repairs must be done in like-kind to match materials and design that are being replaced

Skylights and scuttles

- Prior to the introduction of fire-resistant roofing materials, scuttles were an important way for homeowners to access their roofs in case of fire or damage. Generally aligned off the peak of the roofline, many scuttles have been removed entirely, replaced with divided glass windows, or replaced with modern skylights over the years. Scuttles should always be preserved. and it is sometimes appropriate to replace solid scuttles with divided glass skylights, or ones that match the appearance of historically appropriate skylights.
- o new skylights being added to a roofline should be confined to areas of the roof that are not visible from a public way.
- any metal materials on or around skylights (trim, flashing, etc.) should be of dark materials to minimize light reflection and to help the skylight blend into the roof.

Other considerations

All vents, including sewer line vents should be kept off the public-facing roofline, where possible, and should be made of materials that will assist the vent to blend into the roofline, including using vent materials that are dark in color or have them painted to be dark in color allowing them to blend into the roof.

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