

Historic Conservation Guidelines

St. Leo the Great School Building

Rehabilitation

General Terminology

Within these guidelines, the "St. Leo School" refers to 2569 St. Leo Place. St. Leo School's primary façade is the South elevation. The North, East, and West elevations are secondary façades.

Intent and General Guidelines

The following guidelines are adapted and comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. When a proposed change is not addressed by the guidelines, The Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation, Interpreting the Standards Bulletins and Preservation Briefs will be used as guiding documents.

These guidelines are intended to ensure that rehabilitation will maintain significant features of the St. Leo School. Guidelines are intended not as strict rules but are to be used by the Historic Conservation Board as a guide to assess the compatibility and appropriateness of proposed rehabilitation changes. Reviews by the Historic Conservation Board are restricted to exterior changes proposed for this building. Repair and maintenance not changing significant features and clearly complying with the intent of these guidelines do not require board review. Interior alterations are not the purview of the Historic Conservation Board and are not subject to review.

The following general approaches are recommended:

1. Repair and maintenance: Ordinary repair and maintenance of like and kind for matching the original construction, where visible, and that does not change the appearance of the buildings, is acceptable under these guidelines. Rehabilitation may include preservation, restoration, reconstruction, or a combination of these, as appropriate and reasonable for the building.
2. Maintenance: Existing visible features that contribute to the building's overall character and are in good condition should be maintained, preserved, or conserved, where possible. Damaged visible features which can be repaired should be repaired whenever possible.
3. Replacements: Replacements of significant features damaged beyond repair, deteriorated beyond reasonable repair, or missing significant features should sensitively harmonize with the characteristics or the original feature. Replication is appropriate but not required.

Specific Guidelines

The following specific approaches to exterior elements, features, and visible components are recommended:

1. **Materials:** Materials for significant features on primary façades visible from the street that are badly damaged, deteriorated beyond reasonable repair, or missing should be replaced with materials or components that closely match the style, shape, color, treatment, and texture of the element replaced. Composition, type of joint, size of units, visible measures, placement, and detailing should be appropriate for the building. Synthetic materials, where closely matching the existing characteristics, may be utilized.
2. **Masonry Repointing:** Repointing of deteriorated and/or missing mortar shall match the existing historic mortar as close as possible. Elements of the new repointing mix shall be consistent with the existing mortar in formulation, aggregate size, texture, color, and method of application. It is recommended that test patches be applied adjacent to existing mortar and allowed to dry. An assessment should be made of new repointing mix with respect to varied constituents to be matched. The sample that closely matches the original mortar should be used for the repointing. Refer to Preservation Brief for general approach to undertaking masonry repointing.
3. **Masonry Cleaning:** Sandblasting diminishes the integrity of building materials. It is not an approved cleaning method. Should cleaning of exterior materials be undertaken, no harm should result from the approach taken to do the work. In the event that cleaning of building materials is undertaken, use the gentlest method possible to accomplish good results. Scrubbing with a bristle brush and a mild non-ionic detergent is recommended. Should this method be found ineffective, the use of approved chemical cleaning application can be used only after test patches have determined the most gentle means with respect to composition of cleaning agent, method of application, and cleaning results. Refer to PB # 1 for general approach to masonry cleaning.
4. **Water-Repellent Coatings:** Use of water-repellent coatings on historic buildings is not permitted. The problem of water infiltration into a building is associated with structural

or maintenance issues. Water-repellent coatings compound problems because the coating encapsulates moisture and does not allow it to evaporate naturally.
5. **Window and door openings:** Window and door openings are important features of these buildings. The size and location of openings are an essential part of the overall design and an important feature of these buildings' architecture. Original wall openings on primary façades should not be altered or filled. On secondary façades, original wall openings should not be significantly altered without consideration of the impact to the overall character of the original design.
6. **Window replacement:** New windows should be appropriate in material, scale, configuration, style, and size.
7. **Ornamentation:** Significant architectural features including brick and stone detailing elements should be preserved or conserved. Do not make replacements or substitutions of different size, scale, design, or incompatible materials. Replacement ornamentation should closely match originals in character, scale, configuration, style, size, texture, and color. Some synthetic materials, including fiberglass castings or composite materials, may be considered.

8. Roofs: Chimneys, parapets, and other architectural features that define the buildings' roofline should be maintained. On primary façades, vents, skylights, rooftop utilities, and equipment such as elevator mechanicals and other new roof elements should be placed so that they are inconspicuous from the street.

9. Painting: Repainting existing features that were historically painted is acceptable. Existing exterior elements that were historically not painted, such as brick, stone, and terra cotta, should be left unpainted. Use colors that are appropriate to the buildings' age, history, and style.

10. Outside attachments: Exterior light fixtures should be appropriate for the building's style and should be simple and contemporary.

11. Awnings: Awnings are acceptable provided they adhere to the National Park Service Preservation Brief 44 for the use of awnings on historic buildings.¹

12. Signs: Signs should be designed for clarity, legibility, and compatibility with the building or property on which they are located. Signs should not cover or obscure architectural features. Temporary signage is permitted without review by the Historic Conservation Board.

Additions and Exterior Alterations

Intent and General Guidelines

1. Additions: Additions should follow existing codes, and regulations. Any addition should be compatible in character with the original building, with sensitivity to existing massing and scale, site, and appearance within the building's existing context. Additions should be sympathetic, may be complementary, but need not be imitative in design. Additions should be designed to relate architecturally, not overwhelming the original building.

2. Alterations: Alterations should follow construction guidelines for alterations, codes, and regulations. Alterations should not change or alter significant features.

3. Appropriateness: The appropriate addition and alteration design solutions should include:

a. How well the proposed design for the addition or alteration relates to the original building and neighboring buildings.

b. How closely the proposed addition or alteration meets the specific intentions of these guidelines.

Site Improvements

Intent and General Guidelines

1. Site improvements, such as improvement and/or alteration to existing paving, fences, and landscaping should be in keeping with the character of the building and not detract from its setting or architectural character.

2. The design of any new site improvement construction should be in keeping with the character of the existing building and not detract from its setting or architectural character.
3. Any design of site improvements should capitalize on the unique setting and location of the St. Leo School. The existing views towards the facades should be maintained as an important visual contribution to the integrity of the building.

Demolition

Demolition may be considered if the demolition request is for an inappropriate addition or non-significant portion of the building and the demolition will not adversely affect those parts of the building which are significant as determined by the Historic Conservation Board.