

Preservation Guidelines: Roofs

Roofs

Roof shapes, patterns and colors are important to the character of buildings, both individually and as they are repeated along a streetscape. Bennington roofs are mostly traditional gables on residential streets and flat roofs in commercial areas; mansards, hipped roofs and other forms occur as well. Roofs in Bennington are often Vermont slate, with the colors and shapes of individual slates creating pattern and visual interest. Original slate roofs in Bennington have often been changed to asphalt shingle, almost always detracting from their character and interest. Buildings with their original roofs intact have a special quality that replaced roofs simply cannot match.

For additional background, see National Park Service Preservation Brief 4, "Roofing for Historic Buildings" and other publications listed in the Information Sources section of this handbook.

Basic Guideline

Maintain old or original roof forms, materials, patterns and colors.



Fig. 5-37: 150 Depot St. The sweeping curve of this roof defines much of the character of the building, and should not be changed or added to.



Fig. 5-39: 125 Jefferson St. New slate has been used here to replace portions of the roof that have been damaged.



Fig. 5-36: 207 Depot St. The intricate trim details of this eave define much of the character of the entire home, and should be preserved whenever possible.

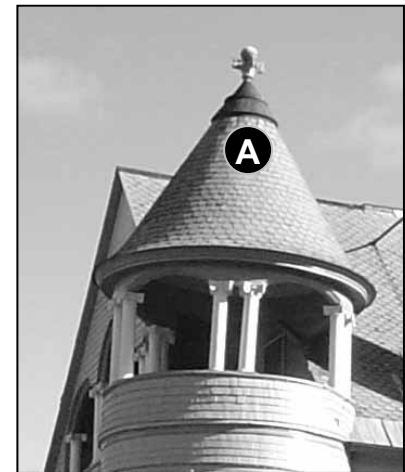


Fig. 5-38: Corner of Elm & Washington. The tower roof on this house, although difficult to maintain, largely defines the architectural character and style of the residence.



Fig. 5-40: 220 Main St. Intricate metal roof design.