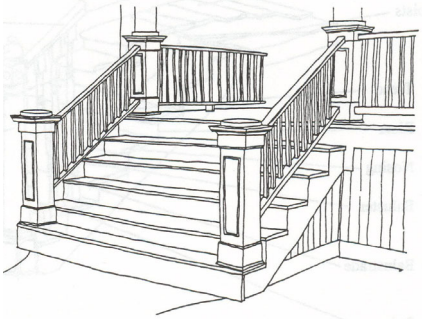
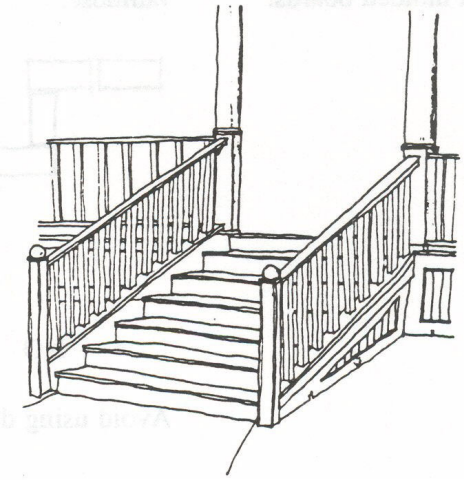
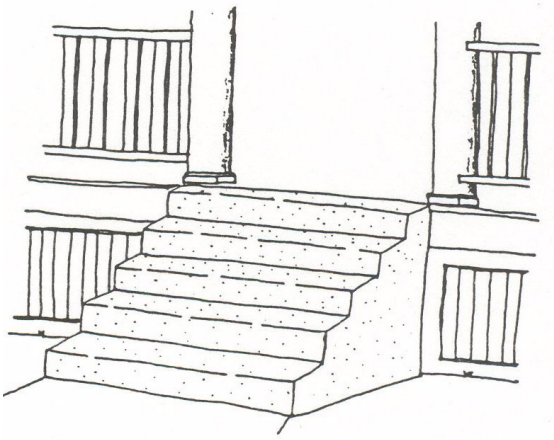
Screening should be added BEHIND columns, railings and other distinctive porch features

Replacement porch stair posts and railings should match style of porch



Front steps for wood porches should be of wood rather than concrete





23. PORCH COLUMNS AND RAILINGS

Original porch columns and railings should be retained/restored or replaced with materials to match the original in profile, dimension, design and texture. If the original porch columns and railings are missing, replacement porch columns and railings should be appropriate for the dwelling's architectural style and period.

A. should be maintained or recreated. Replacement of original materials is permitted provided the new material matches the original design, dimension, profile and texture.

B. often deteriorate first at the bottom next to the porch floor. If this is the case, consider sawing off the deteriorated area and replacing this section rather than replacing the entire column.

C. of aluminum, wrought iron, or other modern materials are not appropriate for front porches. These types of columns are not preferred but are acceptable for porches at the rear of a dwelling or for side porches that are not visible from the street.

D. on front porches should be rebuilt in historic designs if the original columns and railings are missing. For Queen Anne and Folk Victorian styles of the turn of the century, milled porch columns are appropriate. These porch columns are generally 8' in height and have widths and depths of 4" to 6". For Craftsman porches round, square, or tapered square wood columns are best. These columns should fit the porch height and if round, have diameters of no less than 6" and no more than 14". Square columns or tapered square columns should be a minimum of 8" and a maximum of 14" in depth and width.

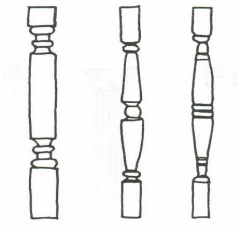
E. on front porches may require new newel posts. Porch newel posts in historic designs are readily available and are generally 4' high and measure 4" in width and depth. The "ball top" newel post is best for Queen Anne or Folk Victorian porches. The "V-Groove" post is acceptable for Queen Anne, Folk Victorian and Craftsman dwellings. Avoid the "French Gothic" post (steeply pointed) which is not as appropriate for the houses in the Historic District.

F. on front porches may require new balusters for the railing. Porch balusters (also called spindles) are readily available in historic designs. The milled spindles measuring 3' high and 2" in diameter are best for Queen Anne and Folk Victorian dwellings. Balusters or spindles which are smaller than 2" in diameter are not appropriate for exterior porches. Square balusters which are 3' high and 2" to 3" in width and depth are best for Craftsman dwellings. Overall balusters should not be less than 1 ½ "square.

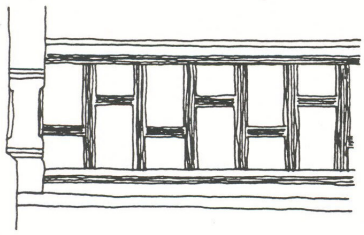
PORCH, RAILINGS & COLUMNS: Illustrations

NOTE: For Folk homes that are not strongly influenced by other styles, square balusters are often used. For Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles, a railing-height solid wall is more commonly used than an open porch railing.

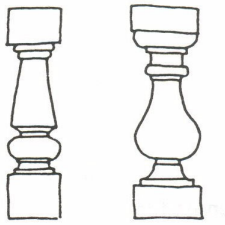
Typical Victorian balusters



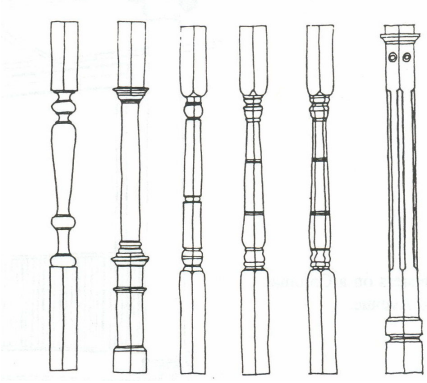
Queen Anne Fretwork balustrade



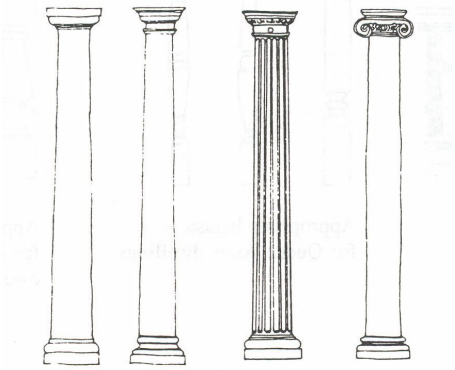
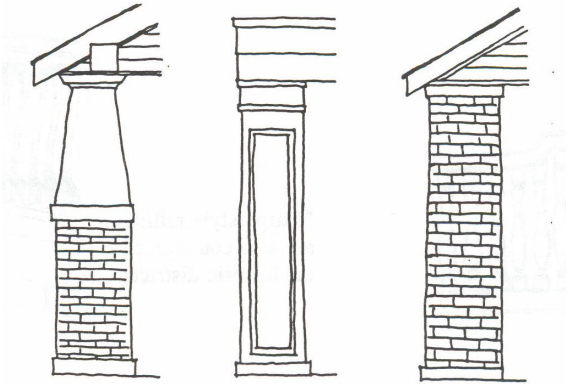
Typical Colonial Revival & Italianate balusters



Typical Columns: Queen Anne



Typical Columns: Colonial Revival and Similar



Typical Columns: Craftsman