32. SOLAR COLLECTORS

Solar energy collectors or panels are appropriate if placed at unobtrusive locations. Surface mounted collectors are usually located at the roofline and consist of flat panels that absorb the sun's rays. Freestanding collectors are a series of pole-mounted panels sited next to the building. Solar collectors are appropriate as long as freestanding panels are sited in rear yards and the roof panels are on rear facades or side facades not visible from the street.

A. and solar energy panels are permitted on rear roof sections where not visible from the street.

B. which are freestanding should be located at rear yards or on side facades not visible from the street. If side yard locations are visible (such as a corner lot), freestanding panels may be installed if they are effectively screened by fencing or landscaping.

33. STAIRCASES AND STEPS

On most older dwellings in Barrington, wood steps were built leading to the front porch. On a few homes, brick or stone was also sometimes used in step construction. Steps of poured concrete were used in the early 20th century for Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Colonial Revival dwellings. Since steps are readily exposed to the sun and rain they require continual maintenance and repair. In many cases, the original wood steps have been removed and replaced with steps of brick or concrete. Replacement of deteriorated wood steps with wood is preferable to replacement with brick, concrete, or wrought iron.

A. original to a dwelling may be replaced with materials with like design, dimension, profile and texture.

B. leading to porches with wood floors should be replaced with wood rather than brick or concrete. The addition of brick, concrete, or wrought iron steps for front porches of wood is discouraged but acceptable in some cases.

C. if new, should be designed with "graspable" handrails, when required by building code, that are no larger than 1-1/2" in diameter. These handrails can be attached to existing historic staircases when required to meet codes.

D. "brick like" paver materials designed to resemble traditional bricks may be used on noncontributing structures for staircases and steps leading to landings or entranceways. These materials are not permitted for covered porches. Other pavers not designed to resemble traditional bricks are not permitted for these applications.

E. bluestone materials may be used for staircases and steps leading to landings or entranceways on certain types of architecture for both contributing and noncontributing structures such as Colonial Revival or as specifically approved by the ARC.