

Litchfield Heritage Preservation Commission Historic Color Palette

Definition of Terms

Base coat This is the color of the walls. It includes the color of the brick, walls, and/or stucco on the storefronts and walls.

Major Trim Defines decorative elements of the building and can coordinate the storefront and upper story of the building. This includes the cornice and/or parapet, window caps, window frames, storefronts and bulkheads.

Minor trim This color should coordinate and compliment the base color and major trim. This color could be used on the window sashes, door, and portions of the cornice/parapet.

Signage Colors for signage differ from building colors. They are meant to be accents and to draw attention to the building. The sign colors are the same as the palette except for the addition of metallic and pearl colors.

Principles

1. Painting historic buildings can significantly improve the appearance. Care must be taken to select and coordinate colors to improve, and not detract, from the building and adjacent buildings. The colors here represent a selection of colors found commonly in commercial buildings in the early 1900s.
2. Color choice varies with the period of the building. By using this palette, it is hoped that bright and obtrusive colors will be avoided.
3. Painting a building, or part of a building, requires a Certificate of Appropriateness from the HPC. The application should include color samples.
4. If the applicant wishes to use a color not on the palette, a sample should be included with the application. The HPC will review and act on the request.
5. Brick that has not been painted should not be painted. If it is painted, it should reflect a color similar to the original color of the brick.
6. Paint sheen is not addressed here.

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Color Palette

Black
+
White



Signage Only: Metallic and pearls