

## GLOSSARY

---

**ARTERIAL ROADWAY.** A roadway primarily designed for the movement of traffic, usually in high volumes, from one destination to another. Within Leesburg these roadways include: U.S. Route 15 (King Street) and Virginia Route 7 (Market Street).

**AWNING.** A roof-like fabric covering over windows or doors designed to provide protection from sun and inclement weather. Awnings can be fixed, retractable, or designed for easy removal, and are usually made from canvas, nylon or similar fabric.

**BAY WINDOW.** A projecting, multi-sided structure with windows that forms an extension of interior floor space.

**BERM.** A continuous bank of earth, primarily designed and located to hide or partially obscure from view elements of a site (such as a parking area), or of a building (such as a loading dock). Berms typically range in height from two to six feet, with width-to-height ratios of from 2:1 to 5:1, and are often supplemented by shrubs or trees.

**BOLLARD.** A vertical post, usually less than 4' in height, used either alone or in a series to separate two types of traffic, such as pedestrian and vehicular circulation. Bollards are usually substantial in construction and built of metal, stone or concrete. Bollards may also be of lighter construction, contain light fixtures, and be used to illuminate walkways and other pedestrian circulation.

**CLAPBOARD.** Narrow, horizontal, overlapping wooden boards that form the outer skin of the walls of many wood frame houses.

**COMPATIBLE.** Existing together in harmony, such as with design elements of two or more buildings or sites, owing to similarities between them.

**COMPLEMENTARY COLORS.** Colors located opposite each other on the color wheel that when mixed together yield a brownish tone.

**CORNICE.** A decorated, projecting linear element placed along the top of a wall or facade of a building.

**CURTAIN WALL.** A non-loadbearing exterior wall designed primarily to provide weather protection. Curtain walls are attached to the structural frame of a building and may or may not contain windows.

**DORMER.** A structure containing a vertical window or windows that projects through a pitched roof.

**ELEVATION.** The exterior face of a building, usually denoted by the direction in which it faces, such as the *west elevation*. Also, a rectilinear drawing depicting the exterior face of a building.

**FACADE.** The front, or principal, exterior face of a building; it may refer to other prominent exterior faces as well.

**FOUNDATION.** The lower portion of a building, usually at least partially below ground, that supports the weight of the walls, floors and roof above. Also, that portion of such structure visible above the ground level at the outside of the building.

**INTENSITY.** The strength or sharpness of a color, determined by its relative absence of brown or grey tones.

**MASSING.** The overall shape or composition of geometric forms of a building or group of buildings.

**NEIGHBORHOOD.** A district or locality, usually defined by the relative proximity or character of its inhabitants, the physical character of its

setting or its relationship to some place or thing. A single-family subdivision of homes, usually with a designated name, may often constitute a neighborhood.

**OVERLAY DISTRICT / ZONE.** A zoning classification creating regulations or procedures that apply for a defined area, supplementing any other zoning classifications that may exist within that area. In the case of the H-2 Corridor District, specific permitted land uses are governed by other underlying zoning classifications. The H-2 Corridor Guidelines are applicable to any development across these zoning designations.

**PARAPET.** A low, solid protective wall along the edge of a roof, often used to conceal or partially obscure the roof itself. A parapet may also be used as a solid protective wall along the edge of a balcony.

**PEDESTRIAN PATHS / TRAILS.** Walkways or similar features providing pedestrian connections between and across properties. Pedestrian paths are usually local in nature, occurring within properties or connecting adjacent properties. Pedestrian trails are usually more comprehensive and may act as the central element of a pedestrian network that links many properties and includes numerous pedestrian paths.

#### Roofs

- *Shed.* A roof which slopes in one direction only.
- *Gabled.* A roof with two equal but opposite sloping sides that meet in a horizontal line, or *ridge*, and named for the triangular end wall panels, or *gables*, that result.
- *Hipped.* A roof which is sloped on all sides, producing no gables.
- *Pyramidal.* A roof which has moderate or steep slopes on four sides, and which meet in a point rather than a ridge, used for structures relatively square in shape.
- *Gambrel.* A roof with two roof slopes on each side of central ridge, the steeper of the two slopes being closer to the outside wall. Gambrel roofs are often used on barns.

- *Mansard.* A roof with a very steep, almost vertical roof slope on all sides, and a very shallow, almost flat slope at the top. Mansard roofs often employ dormers to bring light to interior spaces, and are occasionally used on towers or other more complex building massings.

**SCALE.** The quality of a building or object to provide a visual indication of its size by the inclusion of recognizable components or features whose size is readily understood. When these components (such as windows, doors, columns, etc.) are similar in size to that of the human body, the appearance or effect produced by the building is referred to as *human scale*. It is this comparison that forms the basis of assessments such as “large scale” or “small scale” as well as how easily the building’s scale can be determined in the first place, such as a “good sense of scale” versus a “poor sense of scale”.

**SCREEN.** To shield from view. *Screening* refers to those elements — earth berms, vegetation, solid fences and walls—that serve to screen undesirable elements or features of a building or site.

**SIMILAR.** Elements between buildings or sites having a general likeness or resemblance to one another.

**STREETSCAPE.** The overall appearance of buildings, signs, lights, benches, plantings and other elements along a street.

**STUCCO.** A rough-textured plaster used as an exterior surfacing material for walls.

**TRADEMARK BUILDING.** A structure that is readily identifiable with a franchise or chain business by its distinctive exterior appearance. The style, form, construction materials, color schemes, signage and landscaping of such buildings are usually the same, regardless of their geographic location or cultural context.

**UTILITIES.** The services usually required by a building or site development, which may include water, wastewater discharge, electricity, natural gas, telephone, and television cable service.

**VARIETY.** The presence of diversity or the absence of uniformity between building or site design elements of two or more buildings or sites. Variety often creates visual interest and avoids the monotonous appearance created by uniform repetition or duplication of design elements.

The definitions above are drawn or adapted from *The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture* and *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*