



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES
860 NORTH BUSH STREET • UKIAH • CALIFORNIA • 95482
120 WEST FIR STREET • FORT BRAGG • CALIFORNIA • 95437

JULIA KROG, DIRECTOR
PHONE: 707-234-6650
FAX: 707-463-5709
FB PHONE: 707-964-5379
FB FAX: 707-961-2427
pbs@mendocinocounty.org
www.mendocinocounty.org/pbs

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
TO: MENDOCINO HISTORICAL REVIEW BOARD
FROM: JULIANA CHERRY, PLANNER III
SUBJECT: WINDOW GLAZING COLORS & TINTS IN THE HISTORICAL DISTRICT

BACKGROUND: Planning Staff review building permit applications to confirm that the design conforms to the conditions adopted by the Review Board. They also advise applicants about design features that are supported by local codes and informed by past MHRB practices; for example, MCC Section 20.760.050(A) states in part:

Size, forms, materials, textures and colors shall be in general accord with the appearance of structures built in Mendocino prior to 1900. ... This section shall not be interpreted as requiring construction to be with the forms, materials, textures, colors or design as used in Mendocino prior to 1900, but only that the construction be compatible with and not in disharmony with the architectural standards herein expressed.

Mendocino County asks building permit applications to satisfy California Building Code standards, including Title 24, part 6. A multifaceted approach is typical, and windows play their part. Today, energy efficient glazing is available for new construction and retrofitted windows. Energy is saved by applying a coating to the glass or the glass is tinted to reduce light infiltration. Some end-product windows appear colored or mirrored. Traditionally, window glass is transparent and uncolored. As the trend to reduce energy use continues, Title 24 compliant construction will include fewer instances of clear glass. Staff is seeking guidance to pass along to applicants who want to replace existing windows or construct new structures in the historic district.

GUIDANCE ON GLAZING IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT: It could be helpful to identify what tints, colors, reflective glazing are more likely to harmonize with other resources in the Historic District. Or what finishes are discordant with the existing architecture in the district.

For historic resources, the Secretary of the Interior suggests window glazing options, including:

- Installing compatible and energy-efficient replacement windows
- Replacing missing windows with new, energy-efficient windows
- Retrofitting historic windows with high-performance glazing or clear film
- Installing clear, low-emissivity glass or film without noticeable color to reduce solar gain
- Avoid retrofitting historically clear windows with tinted glass or reflective coatings that will negatively impact the historic character of the building
- And others

The Marvin website was suggested by local architects. Marvin manufactures wood-frame windows and offers a range of glazing types. See references.

REFERENCE:

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. Accessed 8-17-2022.

<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/sustainability-guidelines.pdf>

Marvin. Glass. Accessed 8-19-2022. <https://www.marvin.com/products/design-options/glass>

Marvin. A Homeowner's Guide to Understanding Glass Performance and Types. Accessed 8-19-2022. <https://www.marvin.com/blog/a-guide-to-understanding-glass-performance-and-types>