

# GLOSSARY

*Instructions: The definitions need to be hidden and only appears when the down arrow is clicked—go to: <https://mphda.org/glossary-of-architectural-and-historic-preservation-terms/> for reference.*

**Throughout this site, you will find terminologies specific to historic preservation and art conservation. To better understand our services and projects, please refer to the definitions below:**

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION (also known as: **PRESERVATION**)



This term refers to the architectural heritage; i.e., historic buildings/monuments. *Preservation* is a process that involves **conservation, restoration, and protection** of buildings and other structures of historical and artistic significance; it includes the preservation of the interior as well as of the exterior of such buildings or structures.

## CONSERVATION



*Conservation* is a process involving the maintenance, preservation, and protection of historic monuments and the works of art they incorporate; i.e., wall paintings, mosaics, sculpted decoration, etc. Conservation involves:

1. Investigation/Examination
2. Documentation
3. Treatment
4. Preventive Care

## RESTORATION



*Restoration* is a process that involves the return of the historic architectural and artistic works to their undamaged original appearance or to their appearance at a significant later time period. It pertains to the repair of artworks that have already sustained injury or decay. Because most historic structures or works of art were often damaged by inappropriate additions and/or repairs, *Restoration* is a necessary continuation of *Conservation*. It includes the removal of the added features from later periods in the life of the monument. The techniques and methods of *Conservation* and *Restoration* overlap and complement each other. This is why these two terms are interchangeable or used together: *Conservation* and *Restoration*. Like *Conservation*, this term refers also to art objects (i.e., easel paintings, sculptures, etc.). *Restoration* must be respectful to the original artwork, and must not change or embellish the artwork to make it look “pristine.”

## REPLICATION



*Replication* is a process that involves the replacement of the missing features based on physical or historic documentation using the same or compatible substitute materials. According to *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties*: "Only those designs that can be documented as having been built should be recreated in a restoration project." The replicated architectural elements as well as the replicated decoration should be differentiated from the original ones. This term refers to the built environment; i.e., historic buildings/monuments.

## RECONSTRUCTION



*Reconstruction* is a "process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location" (*Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties*). *Reconstruction* should be used only when documentary and physical evidence is available. This term refers to historic buildings or structures.