

**CITY OF GRANBURY**  
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*Historic Preservation*  
**DESIGN GUIDELINES**

**7. AWNINGS, CANOPIES, SHUTTERS AND OTHER EXTERIOR WEATHER-CONTROL DEVICES**

**Commentary:**

Before air conditioning, awnings (along with shutters and wooden venetian blinds) were a defense against heat and too much light. Awnings date back to the late 18th century when striped fabric was first used to cover entry porches. With development of iron and tin as building materials in the early 19th century, metal was substituted and painted in wide stripes to imitate fabric in more permanent form.

With little or no electricity, the light entering rooms needed to be managed more than is the case with our artificial light today. Shielding was desirable to admit the most light for seeing on gray days, and shield the most when the sun angle brought too much light into the building.

Awnings were raised and lowered around the building during the day as the sun moved, to reduce the heat, provide a soft light without blocking view, and protect furnishings. Walkways were protected in town squares with straight, roll-down awnings at the edges of permanent canopies, and with slanted and pivoted ones where no permanent walk covers existed.

Early 20th century houses (especially) were often designed with awnings as a design component; their removal thus eliminates a vital part of the design.

Materials for awnings before 1940 were canvas for residences, and canvas, metal, or wood for commercial buildings.

Wood or metal coverings or canopies over sidewalks on buildings in the courthouse square historic district are considered to be porches (see **Section 5**).

**Architectural Character**

- To maintain a clear presentation of the historic character and scale of buildings, fit awnings within the masonry or wood jambs and heads and restrict their sizes to the limits of original window forms of buildings.

**Awning Shapes**

- Movable awnings are preferred because they were more often used in historic buildings.
- Slanted or straight awnings are acceptable.
- Awnings hanging vertically at the outer edge of street canopies are acceptable if they are movable (roll up and down).
- Frilly tails are discouraged.

## Awning Fabrics

- Both simple, uniform fabrics without pattern and ones with stripes are acceptable.
- Colors shall be as defined in drawings and match samples color chips on display in City Hall or online historic color palettes, and as approved by the Commission.
- Fabrics with resistance to UV are recommended. Reinforced fabrics, such as vinyl-impregnated or nylon reinforced, are recommended for longer life.

## Awning Construction

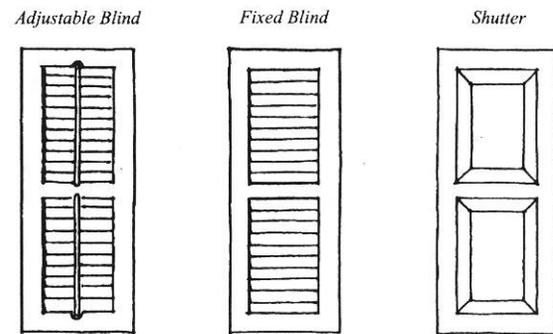
- Nylon lacings and nylon thread are recommended for their resistance to wind stress and longevity. Cotton materials and thread are discouraged for their short life.

## Advertising on Awnings

- Advertising signs silk-screened onto awning tails are acceptable if approved by the Commission.

## Shutters and Other Sun Control Devices

- Shutter material, design, color, and construction should be compatible with the design and period of the historic building.
- Whether or not made operable, new shutters shall be of sizes that faithfully reproduce the original dimensions that would close entirely over the opening.



Blinds and Shutters

### ***Prohibited:***

- *Signs on the awning field.*
- *Boxed awnings and awnings stretched over curved frames.*
- *High shine materials (matte-finished materials are acceptable).*
- *Inappropriate design, color, and material for shutters.*
- *Sizes of shutters that do not reproduce original dimensions.*