

## E.1 Storefronts

The Preservation Board strongly prefers to retain historic storefronts. An important feature of these storefronts is their transparency, which encourages window shopping and which adds life to a streetscape. Transparency is required by the city-wide design standards. Any new storefronts, or any modifications to existing storefronts, should permit maximum visibility into the space. Window transoms above doorways and storefronts, also prominent features of traditional storefronts, should be retained and not concealed. Windowless, blank walls are highly discouraged. The traditional storefront shown on the left has optimum transparency. Note that the transom windows are uncovered by an awning and/or signage. Conversely, the storefront on the right has been inappropriately modified to reduce its transparency and to mask some of the building's architectural features.

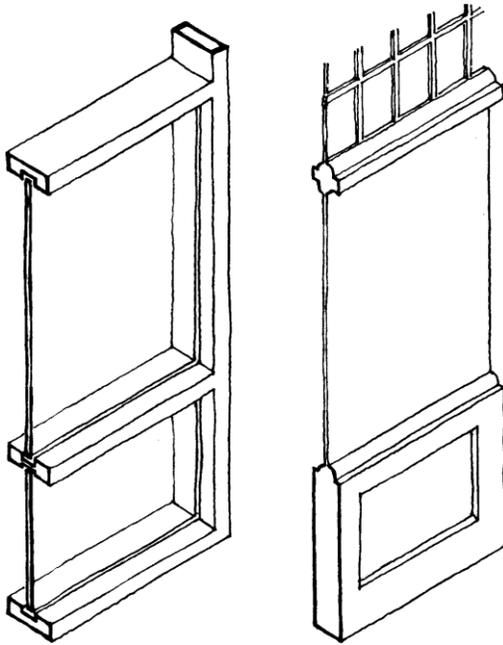


Appropriate sun control devices on traditional storefronts include awnings, blinds, curtains, and clear ultraviolet films. If security grilles are essential, mounting them inside the glass, rather than outside, is preferred. Accordion or scissor gates are not appropriate.

False or simulated windows, which commonly use tinted, frosted, reflective, smoked or opaque (spandrel) glass are inappropriate.

Windows on upper floors should be of historic design, and should fill the original openings (see Section B: Windows and Shutters). The openings should not be filled in or blocked in any manner.

## E.2 Storefronts continued



In traditional storefronts, large glass panes are usually held in narrow frames, like those on the right, in order to optimize views into the shop. These are made of wood, iron or steel, and have some degree of detail. Modern aluminum window frames, like that on the left, are usually much broader and deeper than traditional frames, and lack the detail of the traditional frames. Energy codes may require glass thicker than traditional glass, which may require heavier frames, but every effort should be made to retain the look of a traditional storefront. If restoring an historic storefront, see the National Park Service's Preservation Brief 11: [www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs).

Traditional storefront doors, like the storefronts themselves, are typically as transparent as possible. Commonly, traditional doors have wood panels on the lower half and large glass panes in the upper half. They typically have 6 inch rails and stiles, and a 10-12 inch bottom rail. Door styles to be avoided include those shown below, along with modern aluminum storefront doors.

