

Design Guidelines for Egress Windows in Historic Preservation Districts

Egress Windows

In some cases, the owner of a historic structure may seek to install a replacement window that provides emergency egress from basements. Such egress windows should be placed so as not to be visible from the sidewalk and street, whenever possible.

- Place an egress window on a less visible façade if possible.
- Align a new basement egress window with other windows and features on the façade.
- Match a new basement egress window to a historic basement window type.
- Do not place an egress window on a primary façade.
- It is important to consult a structural engineer if installing an egress window will require a substantial increase to an existing window opening.
- The color of the egress window surround should blend with the ground color or be painted an approved siding color, or a galvanized surround could be left unpainted to weather (like galvanized gutters).
- The entire surround should be no more than 4" above grade.
- Covers are to be flat, and must be painted an approved siding color (matte finish), or covers may be a translucent or a light-filtering mesh material.