

BRACKETS

Brackets abound on the eaves, above windows and doorways, and group in clusters around the bay windows of the houses built during Queen Victoria's reign. Of no structural value, the brackets soften the otherwise hard horizontal line of the eaves and add a decorative touch to the most ordinary vernacular structure.

Most brackets are made of a lamination of three thicknesses of pine board, the two outside pieces having a fretted design. Removal of brackets from the facade leaves a building looking naked and overly plain and can change the builder's original design beyond recognition especially when accompanied with modifications in window and cladding size.

The following drawings are taken from a publication called "The Heritage Look: Renovating Your Home" published by the St. John's Heritage Foundation in 1978. The drawing here are all of details found in the Heritage Conservation Area of St. John's, and are recommended as suitable designs for houses under restoration in the St. John's area. If you are restoring the brackets on your house, make certain that they are appropriate for the style of your building, and have a look around your neighbourhood to see what style of brackets are most common.

If you have questions about these drawings, or the use of architectural brackets on a historic building, please email us at info@heritagefoundation.ca.





