

D.5 ROOFS, DORMERS AND SKYLIGHTS

D.5.1 ROOFS

Roofs are one of the most important features of historic buildings. Functionally they shelter buildings from the weather. Visually, roof shape, elements, details and materials can significantly contribute to the appearance and architectural style of buildings. Historic homes in Naperville typically have one of the following roof shapes: gable, hipped, pyramidal or a combination of gable and hipped (see Illustration D.18). Typical historic roofing materials found in Naperville are slate, wood shingles, asbestos tile, and asphalt shingle.

The slope or pitch of a roof is an important determinant of roof shape. Roof pitch is a ratio of “rise” over “run”. For example, a 4:12 pitch describes a roof that increases 4” in height (rise) for every 12” of horizontal run (see Illustration D.19). The slope of roofs in Naperville varies widely from 3:12 to 12:12, depending on the style of the home.

Guidelines for Roof, Dormer, and Skylight Maintenance, Repair and Replacement

Encouraged

- Maintain and repair the original shape, pitch, and features (such as cresting, chimneys, dormers) of existing roofs. If possible, use original roof materials.
- Repair roofs in a timely manner to avoid structural damage, especially when leaks occur. Due to the variation in roof materials, the time between re-roofing varies from 20 years to 100 years.
- If repair is no longer practical, re-roof with materials that match the original in material, color, pattern and profile.
- Install proper water-tight flashing at junctions between roofs and walls, around chimneys, skylights, vent pipes, and in valleys and hips where two planes of a roof meet. Metal flashing should be used instead of caulking or bituminous coating, which can deteriorate due to weathering. (Refer to Section D.1.2 regarding chimney flashing)

Acceptable

- Re-roof with substitute materials such as asphalt or fiberglass shingles if the original materials are no longer present or if the retention of the original roof material is not economically feasible.

Discouraged

- Modify original roof pitch or slope or add new features such as dormers, roof decks, and balconies on the primary façade of the home where none existed previously.
- Install new roof materials that are not asphalt or fiberglass shingles or are not consistent with the original materials.
- Use hand-split wood shingles to replace historic sawn wood shingles. Hand-split wood shingles do not replicate the appearance of historic shingles.

Illustration D.18 - Roof Types

