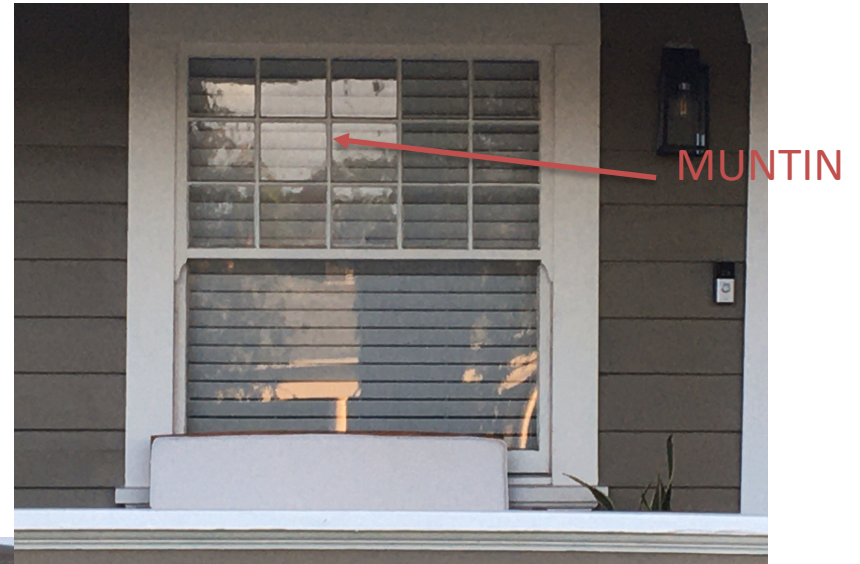
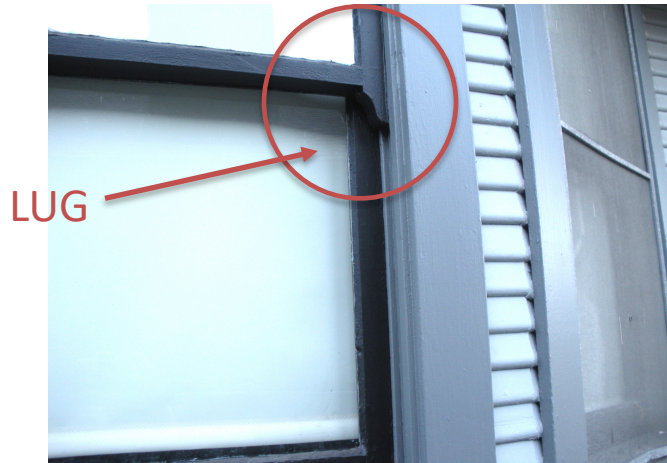


# Jefferson Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone

## Windows

**DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS.** In Jefferson Park the top sash of original double hung windows always has lugs cut into an ogee shape (S-shape). For a correct historic appearance, the upper sash of a restored window should have lugs. The upper sash is also the sash that, especially in the important rooms in the front of the house (living room, dining room, den), has muntins in varying patterns from house to house. Typically all original windows in Jefferson Park are single glazed and the sash is made of douglas fir.



These front windows have fixed central windows that share the same muntin pattern as the double hung windows on either side. Windows with the same muntin pattern can be found on the side of the house as well. Windows in the important rooms in the front of the house (living room, dining room, den) are fancier. The windows in bedrooms and kitchen are often plain: double hung with no muntins.



The central **FIXED WINDOW** could have a transom window on top. The bottom left example has two fixed windows in the center with two **CASEMENT WINDOWS** on the side (a “one over four”). Or the large central window could have muntins in a transom like shape (see bottom right). Casement windows swing open. In Jefferson Park casement windows swing open into the interior of the house (not out).



There are three styles of historic windows in Jefferson Park: double hung, casement, or fixed. There are no 'sliders' – such windows are new.

More casement style windows. When there are more than two windows, the central window(s) are typically fixed. Bottom right is a “one over three”.



Casement style windows when they appear on the front of the house are often repeated on the side of the house, in the living room or dining room or den. Often windows are consistent from room to room, i.e., a room will only have casement style windows, or only have double hung windows (not a mixture of the two).



Leaded glass was widely used in Jefferson Park, particularly in the transoms of the front windows. The pattern is usually rectilinear (squares or diamonds), but it can also be lozenges and sometimes fanciful.



Sometimes leaded glass can be found on casement windows and sometimes in the horizontal, rectangular fixed windows on the side of the house.

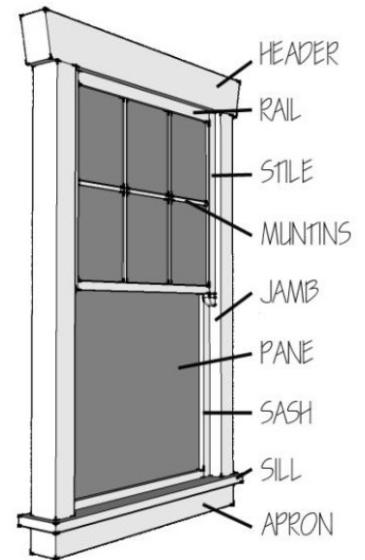




Stained glass was sometimes used for the horizontal fixed window on the side of the house.



With few exceptions, all windows in Jefferson Park, including fixed windows and attic windows, follow the same pattern: the windows are single glazed; the glass is held by a wooden frame, the sash; the window jamb is deep and the sash is inset; there is a sill; and the exterior casing includes a wide header and side frames. Typically the windows do not have aprons (upper left), although some do (upper right – notice how the header can be a continuous architectural feature such as a beam). Rare exceptions are windows with no exterior casing (bottom left), or minimal inset casing (bottom right).



Over the years some windows in Jefferson Park have been replaced with new windows. In these two examples the entire framing of the front window was removed, and replaced with a sheet of glass (to create a “picture window”). The bottom left example would have looked like the bottom right originally. The clues to look for are: there is no framing around the glass (no sash), and the glass is very large. ( Sometimes the original large front window is a single pane of glass; but in that case the window is smaller than the examples below and it has a sash framing the glass.)



More new windows. These windows are made of plastic (vinyl). Also present in Jefferson Park are new windows made of aluminum and louvered windows. Restoration would involve historically appropriate replacement windows made of douglas fir, single glazed and, if double hung, they would have lugs on the top sash.



**RESTORATION:** Replacement of inappropriate windows with historically appropriate windows.  
Note: Replacement of windows requires HPOZ approval.

If your house has lost its original wooden windows, you can restore the windows back to their original appearance, or to a historically appropriate look. Some windows in this house had been replaced with new vinyl windows (right). Using the remaining original windows as a template (lower right), new wooden single glazed windows were built to match (below). If no historic windows remain on your house, look for a similar house for ideas. Many houses have duplicates someplace in the Jefferson Park neighborhood.



The new vinyl windows.



The windows after restoration.



There were some remaining historic windows (often in the attic). They provided the muntin pattern for the construction of the new replacement wooden windows.

See 'Resources' elsewhere on this website for possible carpenters and firms that can make historically appropriate wood windows.

RESTORATION: Repair of double hung windows.

Double hung windows use a simple and ingenious system of weights, pulleys and ropes to counterbalance the weight of the sash so that the sash stays put at whatever height you wish to open it to.

This video explains how double hung windows work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c36Q1c2flpM>

The sash cord of double hung windows can break. In that case it needs to be replaced. Replacing the sash cord is a straight-forward process that can be done by the homeowner:

- 1) Remove the stop on either side of the window and remove the window sash
- 2) Open the little door in the window jamb.
- 3) Find the weight
- 4) Put a new sash cord over the pulley and attach it to the weight and the window sash with knots.

These videos explain the repair process in detail:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no7BjntkFsk>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB\\_a3nNoFs0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB_a3nNoFs0)



This door in the jamb of a double hung window is held in place by a screw.



This homeowner has opened the little door and is repairing the cord for both sashes. Note the two weights on the window sill: one for the top sash and one for the bottom sash.

## WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE THE ORIGINAL WINDOWS

Windows have been called the eyes into the soul of the house. The original windows (or historically appropriate replacement windows when the original windows have been lost) add immeasurably to the historic character of the house – its appearance, quality, and charm. To quote our Jefferson Park HPOZ Preservation Plan, “ Windows are an integral part of a historic structure’s design.” (p.72)

Moreover, wooden windows when well cared for, last longer than the new plastic (vinyl) windows that they are at times replaced with. To quote our Jefferson Park HPOZ Preservation Plan, “Maintaining historic windows makes good economic sense, as they will typically last much longer than modern replacement windows.” (p. 72)

