

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A-FRAME	A roof shape with a very steep pitch forming a gable or "A" shape.
ADIRONDACK STYLE	Rustic style from the late 1800s through mid 1900's based on the log, timber and twig camping structures and furnishings found in the Adirondack Mountains.
ASBESTOS SHINGLES	A shingling material made up of a non-conducting, fireproof mineral used in roofing and siding. No longer allowed due to health risk.
ARCH	A curved structure used as a support over an open space, as in a doorway.
ASHLAR	A block of building stone carved, dressed or left intact from the quarry.
BALUSTER	Any of the small posts that make up a railing as in a staircase; may be plain, turned, or pierced.
BALUSTRADE	A railing held up by balusters.
BAPTISTERY	A part of a church or formerly a separate building used for baptism.
BARGEBOARD	The exterior board spanning the distance from the roof ridge to the cornice returns. A board trim that is usually carved and projects from the gable line of a roof, used to hide the ends of the horizontal roof timbers.
BATTEN	A small strip of wood used, for example, to cover the joints between vertical siding.
BAY	A visual division on the facade of a building based on underlying structural members.
BEADED BOARD	A weatherboard finished with an incised and rounded edge.
BELFRY	A bell tower surmounting or attached to another structure; a room or framework for enclosing a bell.
BLOCK FACE	The entire block as viewed from the street; including streetscape, building facades, landscaping, fronted side yards, and utilities (usually shown in elevation drawings).
BOND	The pattern in which bricks are laid

BRACKET	A small supporting piece of wood or stone, often formed of scrolls or other decorative shapes, designed to bear a projected weight, such as a window or eave.
BUNGALOW	An early twentieth century architectural house that grew from the arts and crafts movement of the late nineteenth century. Typically one-story, they have hipped or gabled roofs providing large attics for capturing the heat and broad, overhanging, bracketed eaves to shade the windows. Most basic characteristics are long, low profiles; wide engaged porches; and informal interior arrangements.
CANTILEVER	A horizontal projection from a building, such as a step, balcony, beam or canopy, that is without external bracing and appears to be self-supporting.
CAPITAL	The head (or top) of a column or pilaster.
CHAMFER	A beveled edge.
CHEVRON	A decorative V-shaped line; zig-zag moulding (twelfth century).
CLERESTORY	An upward extension of a single story space, or of the upper floor of a multi-story building, used to provide windows for lighting and ventilation.
CLIPPED GABLE	A gable whose peak is truncated for decorative effect; often the roof overhangs the missing peak.
COLONETTE	A small column primarily used for decoration instead of support.
COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE	Late nineteenth and early twentieth century style that combines features of classical and colonial architecture.
CORBELLING	Decorative brickwork, usually in a stepped design, common for chimneys.
CORINTHIAN COLUMN	In classical architecture, a highly ornate column whose capital is decorated with ornamental acanthus leaves and curled fern shoots.
CORNER BLOCK	A square piece, either plain or decorated, that forms a corner of a window or door surround.
CORNICE	A projecting, horizontal element at the top of a building or a section of a building used to visually divide the sections. Usually a cornice is decorative in nature.

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CRAFTSMAN	Style, of which Bungalows are a subset, which is characterized by simplicity and lack of the fanciful ornamentation one finds in Victorian homes.
CRENELLATED	Decorated with battlements (a parapet with alternating indentations and raised portions); also called castellated.
CRUCIFORM	Cross-shaped.
DENTILS	A molding motif that projects from the edge of a roofline or cornice; a row of small tooth-like blocks in a classical cornice.
DOGTROT	A roofed passage similar to a breezeway, connecting two parts of a cabin.
DORIC COLUMN	A Greek-style column with only a simple top and bottom, usually a smooth or slightly rounded unadorned band of wood, stone or plaster.
DORMER	The setting for a vertical window in the roof. Called a gable dormer if it has its own gable or shed dormer if a flat roof. Most often found in upstairs bedrooms.
DOUBLE SHOULDERED CHIMNEY	Characterized by two sets of sloping shelves on the sides of the chimney where the width of the chimney abruptly changes.
DUTCH COLONIAL STYLE	A style of architecture characterized by a gambrel roof with overhanging eaves.
EASTLAKE MOLDING	Named for Charles Locke Eastlake (1833-1906), an English interior designer who promoted using robust, carved support elements for roofs and overhangs with an abundance of delicate brackets, spindles and moldings typical of late Victorian era.
EAVE	The projecting lower edge of a roof.
ELEVATION	The exterior vertical faces of a structure shown in drawings.
ELL	The rear wing of a house, generally one room wide and running perpendicular to the principal building mass; usually contains a kitchen.
ENTABLATURE	The area above an entryway in which the transom is contained.
ESCUTCHEONS	A protective or ornamental plate or flange (as around a keyhole).

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FACADE	The face or front of a building.
FANLIGHT	A semi-circular or semi-elliptical window with a horizontal sill often above a door.
FASCIA	A horizontal band or board, often used to conceal the ends of rafters; the front of an object. Same as a face board.
FEDERAL STYLE	Style of architecture popular in America from the Revolution through the early nineteenth century (in North Carolina from about 1800 to 1840). Characterized by delicate use of classical ornamentation.
FENESTRATION	The arrangement of windows and openings on a building.
FIELDSTONE	A stone used in its natural shape.
FOURSQUARE	A traditional American two-story house; typically square in plan with a hip roof and dormer. Usually a one-story, full-facade porch is on the front.
FOOTPRINT	The perimeter or outline of a structure as it is positioned on the land in a plan.
FRAME	Of wood construction.
FRIEZE	A band with designs or carvings along a wall or above doorways and windows.
GABLE	A triangular area of an exterior wall formed by two sloping roofs.
GAMBREL	A roof where each side has two slopes; a steeper lower slope and a flatter upper one. Often found in Colonial revival houses in the Dutch Style.
GEORGIAN STYLE	The prevailing style of the eighteenth century in Great Britain and in the American Colonies, derived from classical, Renaissance, and Baroque forms. Characteristics include raised panels.
GERMAN SIDING	Wooden siding, concave top edge that fits into a corresponding rabbet edge in the board above; similar to a horizontal tongue and groove siding.
GREEK REVIVAL STYLE	Mid-nineteenth century revival of forms and ornament of architecture of ancient Greece; also decorative elements associated with the style.

GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE	One of the nineteenth and twentieth century revivals of forms and ornament of medieval European architecture.
HIPPED ROOF	A roof that slopes to the eaves on all sides, a roof without gables.
I-HOUSE	A vernacular house, two-stories tall and one room deep.
ITALIANATE REVIVAL STYLE	Mid to late nineteenth century revival of Italian Renaissance architecture, characterized by the use of heavy brackets and moldings and arched openings.
LANCET WINDOW	A tall, narrow, pointed-arch window without tracery. Typical of gothic architecture.
LITE (LIGHT)	A window glass. Double hung windows are usually described by the number of lites in the upper sash over the number in the lower sash (i.e., six-over-six).
LINTEL	A horizontal supporting crosspiece over an opening.
LUNETTE	A crescent or half-round window.
MANSARD	A roof type with two slopes on each of the four sides, the lower slope being steeper than the other; capped off with a cupola, typically Victorian.
MASONRY	Building materials such as stone, brick and stucco, which are used as a facing or for structural support.
MODILLION	A bracket supporting the upper part of a composite or Corinthian cornice.
MULLION	The vertical member separating adjacent windows.
MUNTIN	Wood or metal strips separating lites.
NEOCLASSICAL	Dating from 1900-1920, this style was primarily based on the Greek and to a lesser extent the Roman orders typically featuring symmetrical buildings of monumental proportions.
NEWEL	The terminating baluster at the lower end of a handrail.
NOGGING	Rough brick masonry or plaster used to fill in the open spaces of a wooden frame.

ORIENTATION	The directional placement of a structure to its setting, the street and other structures.
PATTERN	The various forms (materials, windows, buildings, etc.) arranged in a rhythmic manner that is repeated on a single building or a block-face.
PEDIMENT	A low triangular gable above a cornice, topped by raking cornices and ornamented. Used over doors, windows or porches.
PENT ROOF	A small roof protruding from a facade, separating stories.
PIER	A vertical, non-circular, structural support of a building, porch, roof, fence, etc. (more massive than a column)
PILASTER	A column, which has been affixed to the surface of a building.
PILE	The depth of a structure, usually a house, described by the number of rooms. A single-pile house is one room deep, and a double-pile house is two rooms deep.
PILLAR	Similar to but more slender than a pier, also non-circular.
PITCH	The slope of a roof expressed in vertical rise in inches per horizontal run in feet.
PLAN	A drawing showing the building and its setting on a horizontal plane.
PLINTH	The base for a porch column, usually constructed of brick or other masonry. Most rise from the ground as part of the foundation and extend to the height of the railing. Common on bungalow style homes.
PORTE COCHERE	A side porch that is covered for vehicles to drive under.
PORTICO	A roof, generally gabled, supported on columns, usually more elaborate than a porch.
POST AND LINTEL	Construction type where vertical support posts hold up horizontal beams (lintels).
QUEEN ANNE STYLE	Popular late nineteenth century revival of early eighteenth century English architecture, characterized by irregularity of plan and massing and a variety of texture.
RANCH (HOUSE)	A one-story house typically brick with a low-pitched roof and an open plan; typical of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.

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REEDS	Parallel convex moldings touching one another.
REHABILITATION	Making alterations and repairs to a structure (of any age) for a new use while retaining its original character.
RENOVATION	A general term meaning the renewal, rehabilitation or restoration of an historic building.
RESTORATION	Recreating the appearance of a structure or site from a particular period of time in its history by replacing lost elements and removing later ones.
RETURN	The continuation of wall cornices, at right angles, partly into the gable ends of a building.
RONDEL	A small round or oval window usually adjacent to an entrance, typically in a spoke design in leaded glass or glass and wood.
ROSSETTE	A disk of foliage or a floral design usually in relief used as a decorative motif.
SASH	An individual window unit (comprised of rails, stiles, lites, muntins) that fits inside the window frame.
SCALE	The relationship of the mass and size of a structure to other buildings and humans.
SHED	A roof type with one high-pitched plane covering the entire structure.
SIDELIGHT	A vertical window adjacent to a door usually incorporated into the framework for the entrance and often found on each side of the door with a transom above.
SINGLE SHOULDERED CHIMNEY	Characterized by one set of sloping shelves on the sides of the chimney where the width of the chimney abruptly changes.
SOLDIER COURSE	A row of bricks laid vertically, with their thin sides facing out.
SPANDREL	A common Victorian porch detail, which consists of a decorative panel between two vertical elements or an arch.
STREETSCAPE	The right-of-way of a street or the view of the entire street including curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, utilities, street furniture and structures.

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STUCCO	A facing material for a building made from sand, cement, and lime applied in a liquid form, which hardens to a durable finish.
SURROUND	An ornamental element that frames a window, door or other opening.
TEXTURE	The building and landscape materials (brick, stone, siding, concrete, ground covers, etc.), which are found in a district, block or site.
TONGUE AND GROOVE	A type of wooden siding with the edge of one board fitting into the groove of the next.
TRABEATED	Designed or constructed with horizontal beams or lintels.
TRACERY	Architectural ornamental work with branching lines; decorative openwork in the head of a Gothic window.
TRANSOM	A window element, usually horizontal, above an entrance door or a larger window.
TRIPLE-A	A gable roofed structure with a central gable on its facade creating the third "A."
TUDOR REVIVAL	Based on English Gothic architecture and featuring round arches with points, half-timbering, low-relief vertical ribs, combinations of brick, stone, stucco, and wood, crenellated parapets, and other Gothic forms.
TUSCAN COLUMN	A column of a simple classical order; an unfluted column with an unadorned capital and base.
WAINSCOT	A paneling applied to the lower portion of a wall.
WEATHERBOARD	Siding, usually wooden, consisting of overlapping, narrow boards usually thicker at one edge; also called clapboard siding.
WING	A part, feature, or piece of a structure that projects from and is subordinate to the main or central part of the structure.