

GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Arcade: A series of arches supported by pillars, piers or columns. A roofed passageway or lane.

Articulated: Characterized by distinct details, features, textures, or forms in relation to the whole facade.

Asymmetry: Lack of balance or correspondence of form on opposite sides of a dividing plane.

Balconet: A pseudo-balcony, a small window balcony or a guard rail fronting a window.

Baluster: A pillar or column supporting a handrail or coping, a series of such being called a balustrade.

Bay window: A window projecting from the building facade.

Bracket: A projection from a vertical surface providing structural or visual support under cornices, balconies, or any other overhanging member.

Casement window: A window frame hinged on one side so that it swings out or in to open.

Chamfered: The edge of a corner of wood, stone, or other material that is beveled or angled off, usually at a 45 degree angle.

Clapboard: Narrow, horizontal overlapping wooden boards,

usually thicker along the bottom edge, used as siding for the exterior of a wood-framed structure.

Corbel: A projecting bracket of stone, brick, or wood that supports a cornice, arch or oriel, a stepped projection from a wall.

Cornice: A continuous, molded projection from a wall, usually masonry.

Cresting: A decorative top border, frequently perforated, on a screen, roof or wall.

Cross gable: Intersecting pitched roofs having gables at each end.

Dentil: A small rectangular block or tooth-like cube used in a series forming a cornice.

Dormer: A projecting structure built out from a sloping roof, usually housing a vertical window or ventilating louver.

Double hung: A window with two sashes (the framework in which window panes are set), each moveable by means of cords and weight.

Dutch gable: A gable each side of which is multi-carved and surmounted by a pediment.

Eaves: The part of a sloping roof that overhangs the wall.

Facade: The exterior face of a building.

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Finial: A sculptured ornament, often in the shape of a leaf or flower, at the top of a gable, pinnacle, spire, or similar structure.

Gable: The part of the wall immediately under the end of a pitched roof, cut into a triangular shape by the sloping sides of the roof.

Gable roof: A pitched roof having a gable at each end.

Gambrel roof: A ridged roof with two slopes on either side, the lower slope having the steeper pitch.

Gingerbread: Heavily, gaudily, superfluously ornamentation commonly used in Victorian architecture.

Half timbered: Having a timber framework with the spaces filled with masonry or plaster. Detail creating the appearance of exposed structural timbers on plaster.

Hipped roof: A roof with four sloped sides.

Lintel: a supporting wood or stone beam across the top of an opening, such as that of a window or door or fireplace.

Massing: the unified composition of a structure's volume, affecting the perception of density and bulk.

Molding: A slender strip of ornamental material with a uniform cross section and decorative profile.

Muntin: A bar member supporting and separating panes of glass in a window or door.

Oriel: A bay window supported from below by corbels or brackets.

Pane: One of the divisions of a window or door, consisting of a single unit of glass set in a frame.

Parapet: A low guarding wall at any point of sudden drop, as at the edge of a roof.

Pediment: A triangular gable cross a portico, door or window; any similar triangular decorative piece over a doorway, fireplace, etc.

Perforated: Pierced with holes, a row or rows of small holes.

Pergola: An arbor or a passageway of columns supporting a roof of trellis work on which climbing plants are trained to grow.

Pier: A vertical structural member.

Pilaster: A shallow rectangular column projecting only slightly from a wall and, in classical architecture, conforming to one of the orders.

Porte cochere: A roofed structure covering a driveway to provide shelter while entering or leaving a vehicle.

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Portico: A roofed entrance porch supported on at least one side by columns.

Preservation: The act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a building or structure.

Quoin: Heavy blocks of stone or brick forming a unique design to accentuate the corners of a building.

Rafter: Any of a series of small, parallel beams for supporting the sheathing and covering of a pitched roof.

Rafter tail: The portion of a rafter that projects under the eave.

Rehabilitation: The act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural or cultural value.

Renovation: The act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible a contemporary use.

Restoration: The act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by

means of the removal of later work or by replacement of missing earlier work.

Sash: A frame in which the panes of a window are set.

Scale: Proportionate size judged in relation to an external point of reference.

Shiplap: Wooden siding rabbeted so that the edge of one board overlaps the one next to it in a flush joint, a beveled jointing of two boards to form a weather-resisting outside wall surface.

Sidelight: A vertical window along the outside of a door.

Soffit: The exposed under side of an architectural feature such as an arch, cornice, balcony or beam.

Spindles: The slender architectural ornaments made of wood turned on a lathe in simple or elaborate patterns, round turned balusters.

Symmetry: Correspondence of form on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane.

Transom window: A window or pane above a door.

Turret: A tower that is part of a building, often rounded and corbeled from a corner.

