



ADDITION. A new part such as a wing, ell, or porch added to an existing building or structure.

ALLIGATORING. A condition of paint failure that occurs when the layers crack in a pattern that resembles the skin of an alligator.

ALTERATION. Any change, modification, or addition to the exterior any building or structure or any part thereof.

APPURTENANCE. An accessory property element, such as an outbuilding or mechanical unit.

BALUSTER. One of the vertical members contained within an railing. Often balusters are found in pairs at each stair tread. They are usually turned pieces of wood.

BARGEBOARD. A sometimes richly ornamented board placed on the verge (incline) or the gable to conceal the ends of rafters.

BATTEN. The vertical member which is located at the seam between two adjoining pieces of wood, often used in exterior wood siding and doors.

BATTERED PIER. A pier which tapers from the bottom up so that the top dimension is smaller than the bottom dimension. Often associated with the Craftsman style.

BAY. A part of a structure defined by vertical divisions such as adjacent columns or piers.

BAY WINDOW. Fenestration projecting from an exterior wall surface and often forming a recess in the interior space.

BOND. The arrangement of bricks (headers and stretchers) within a wall.

BRACKET. A wooden or stone decorative support beneath a projecting floor, window, or cornice.

CAME. The soft division piece which is located at the seams in glass in either a stained glass or leaded glass window.

CAPITAL. The upper portion of a column or pilaster.

CASEMENT WINDOW. Windows that are hinged at the side and open outwards. Often these have multiple window panes.

CAULKING. A non-hardening putty used to seal the joint at an intersection of two different materials.

CEMENTITIOUS SIDING. Also referred to as fiber-cement siding it is made from portland cement, ground sand, wood fiber, and in some instances, clay. Available in a variety of historic siding profiles and shingle patterns it may be more resistant to rot and insect damage than wood.

CLAPBOARD. Horizontally laid wooden boards which taper from the bottom to the top.

CLADDING. Any exterior wall covering, including masonry.

CLASSICAL. Pertaining to the architecture of Greece and Rome, or to the styles inspired by this architecture.

CLIPPED GABLE ROOF. A roof type in which the gable ends are cut back at their peaks and a small roof section is added to create an abbreviated hipped form. Also called a jerkinhead roof.

COLUMN. A vertical support, usually supporting a member above.

COMPLEX ROOF. A roof that is a combination of hipped and gable forms and may contain turrets or towers. The majority of these occur on Queen Anne style houses.



CORNERBOARD. The vertical board which is found at the corners of a building and covers the seam made by horizontal siding boards.

CORNICE. The upper, projecting part of a classical entablature or a decorative treatment of the eaves of a roof.

CORNICE RETURN. When the cornice is terminated by itself by turning in at a right angle towards the gable.

CRAWL SPACE. The space located beneath the first floor. The space has not been fully excavated and is often used for mechanical equipment.

CRESTING. A decorative ridge for a roof, usually constructed of ornamental metal.

DENTILS. Small square blocks found in series on many cornices, moldings, etc.

DORIC. One of the classical orders of architecture characterized by a simply carved capital and base with less decoration than either the Ionic or Corinthian orders.

DORMER. A small window with its own roof projecting from a sloping roof.

DOUBLE-HUNG SASH. A type of window with lights (or windowpanes) on both upper and lower sashes, which move up and down in vertical grooves one in front of the other.

DOWNSPOUT. A pipe for directing rain water from the roof to the ground.

EAVE. The edge of the roof that extends past the walls.

ENGLISH BASEMENT. The lowest, mostly above grade, floor of a residential building. The main entrance to the dwelling is at the level of the floor above.

ENTABLATURE. This is an element of classical architecture which refers to the area located above the column. It is composed of the architrave, cornice, and frieze. It also refers to the elements of a classical cornice.

FACADE. The front face or elevation of a building.

FANLIGHT. A semi-circular window with radiating muntins, located above a door.

FASCIA. The horizontal member which serves as the outer edge of the eave.

FENESTRATION. The arrangement of the openings of a building.

FINIAL. An ornament that caps a gable, hip, pinnacle, or other architectural feature.

FLASHING. Pieces of metal used for waterproofing roof joints.

FLUTE. A recessed groove found on a column or pilaster.

FOUNDATION. The base of a building which sits directly on the ground.

FRIEZE. A horizontal band, sometimes decorated with sculpture relief, located immediately below the cornice.

GABLE ROOF. A pitched roof in the shape of a triangle.

GAMBREL ROOF. A roof in which the angle of pitch changes part way between the ridge and eaves.

GLAZING. Another term for glass or other transparent material used in windows.

HIPPED ROOF. A roof with slopes on all four sides. They are more common on older houses than on those built after 1940.

INFILL BUILDING. A new structure built in a block or row of existing buildings.

INTEGRITY. Authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period.

LEADED GLASS. Glass set in pieces of lead.

LIGHT. A section of a window; the glass or pane.



LINTEL. A horizontal beam over an opening carrying the weight of the wall.

MODILLION. A block or bracket in the cornice of classical architecture.

MOLDING. Horizontal bands having either rectangular or curved profiles, or both, used for transition or decorative relief.

MUNTIN. A glazing bar that separates panes of glass.

PALLADIAN WINDOW. A neoclassical style window that is divided into three sections. The middle section is larger than the other two and is usually arched.

PARGING. Plaster, mortar, or a similar mixture used to coat walls or chimneys.

PATINA. Usually a green film that forms naturally on copper and bronze by long exposure or artificially (as by acids) and often valued aesthetically for its color.

PEDIMENT. A triangular section framed by a horizontal molding on its base and two raking (sloping) moldings on each of its sides. Used as a crowning element for doors, porticos, and windows.

PIER. An upright structure of masonry serving as a principal support.

PILASTER. A pier attached to a wall with a shallow depth and sometimes treated as a classical column with a base, shaft, and capital.

PITCH. The degree of slope of a roof.

POINTING. Filling the mortar joint between two bricks.

PORTE-COCHERE. An exterior shelter often used to cover a portion of the driveway area on the side of a house.

PORTICO. An entrance porch often supported by columns and sometimes topped by a pedimented roof; can be open or partially enclosed.

PRESERVATION. The sustaining of the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure and the existing form and vegetation of a site.

PRIMER. A base coat used prior to painting to prepare a surface.

QUOINS. Large stones, or rectangular pieces of wood or brick, used to decorate, accentuate and reinforce the corners of a building; laid in vertical series with, usually, alternately large and small blocks.

RAIL. The horizontal framing member found between panels in a door.

REHABILITATION. 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 that are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

REMODEL. To alter a structure in a way that may or may not be sensitive to the preservation of its significant architectural forms and features.

RENOVATION. See REHABILITATION

RESTORATION. Accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time, by removing later work and/or replacing missing earlier work.

RETROFIT. To furnish a building with new parts or equipment not available at the time of original construction.

REPOINT. To remove old mortar from courses of masonry and replace it with new mortar.

REVEAL. The depth of wall thickness between its outer face and a window or door set in an opening.

RISING DAMP. A condition in which moisture from the ground rises into the walls of a building.

SASH. The movable part of a window holding the glass.



SETBACK. The distance between a building and the front of the property line.

SHED ROOF. A simple roof form consisting of a single inclined plane.

SIDELIGHTS. Narrow windows flanking a door.

SILL. The horizontal water-shedding member at the bottom of a door or window.

SPALLING. A condition in which pieces of masonry split off from the surface, usually caused by weather.

STABILIZATION. The re-establishment of a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it currently exists.

STANDING-SEAM METAL ROOFS. A roof where long narrow pieces of metal are joined with raised seams.

STILE. A vertical framing member of a paneled door.

STRING COURSE. A continuous horizontal band of masonry used for decorative purposes.

STUCCO. Exterior wall plaster.

SYNTHETIC SIDING. Any siding made of vinyl, aluminum, or other material to resemble a variety of authentic wood siding types.

TRANSOM. The window area above the front door.

TURRET. A small tower placed at the corner of a building and extending above it.

VERNACULAR. Indigenous architecture that generally is not designed by an architect and may be characteristic of a particular area. Many simpler buildings that were constructed in the late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century are considered vernacular because they do not exhibit enough characteristics to relate to a particular architectural style.

WEATHERBOARD SIDING. A horizontal exterior wallboard laid on edge overlapping the next board below.