

Glossary/ Vocabulary

Bay window -- A set of two or more windows that protrudes out from the wall. The window is moved away from the wall to provide more light and wider views.

Casement window -- A window that opens by swinging inward or outward much like a door. Casement windows are usually vertical in shape but are often grouped in bands.

Clapboard -- Also known as weatherboard or siding. Long, narrow boards overlapped to cover the outer walls. Used in Colonial style frame houses.

Classical -- Refers to the architecture and design ideas of ancient Rome and Greece.

Dormer -- The setting for a vertical window in the roof. Called a gable dormer if it has its own gable or a shed dormer if a flat roof. Most often found in upstairs bedrooms.

Eaves -- That portion of the roof that projects beyond the wall.

Facade -- The front or "face" of a building.

Fanlight -- A semicircular or arched window above a door.

Gable -- The triangular section of a wall formed by the end of a pointed (gabled) roof.

Gambrel -- A roof with two slopes on each side, the lower slope having the steeper pitch. Often found in Colonial revival houses in the "Dutch" style.

Hipped roof -- A roof with slopes on all four sides. The "hips" are the lines formed when the slopes meet at the corners.

Palladian window -- A three part window with a large arched center and rectangular sidelights.

Pediment -- A triangular crown used over doors, windows, or porches. A classical style.

Portico -- A large porch usually with a pedimented roof supported by classical columns or pillars.

Rafter -- A roof beam sloping from the ridge to the wall. In most houses, rafters are visible only from the attic. In craftsman bungalows and some "rustic" contemporaries, they are exposed.

Sidelights -- Windows on either side of a door.

Stucco -- A mixture of cement, sand, and lime applied to exterior walls as a covering.

Turret -- A small tower, often at the corner of a building. Common in Queen Anne styles among others. A turret is a smaller structure while a tower begins at ground level.