

Historic Architectural Styles



RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

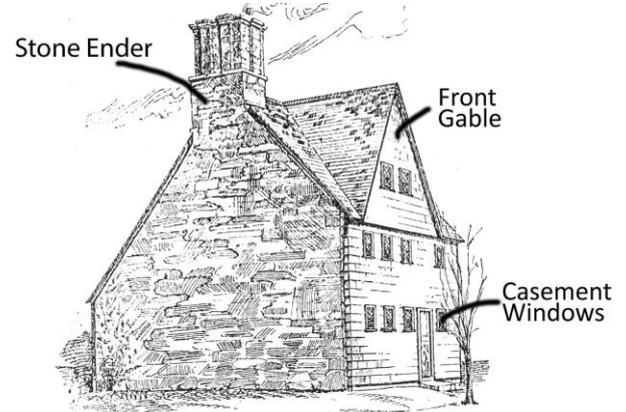
- **Character-defining features** and rough dates of popularity for important pre-WWII house styles.
- **High Style** houses are closest to the “ideal”; **Vernacular** houses deviate due to costs or local conditions.
- **Note:** Styles do not begin or end on specific dates; elements from earlier styles can carry over to houses built in later styles.

Pre-Industrial Styles

Nearly everything was made by hand with **post and beam** construction. Technological advances gradually allowed glass to become larger, chimneys to become less massive, and fireplaces to become smaller.

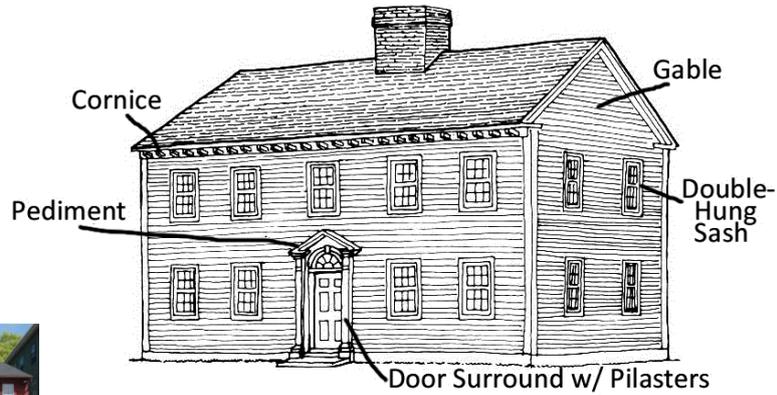
First Period (1600-1700)

- **Post-Medieval** (Tudor-era) architecture from England.
- Asymmetrical door and window openings.
- Steeply pitched roofs. Second floor overhangs (Jetty).
- Leaded **casement windows**.
- Massive central chimney (RI side-chimney Variant: **Stone Ender**)



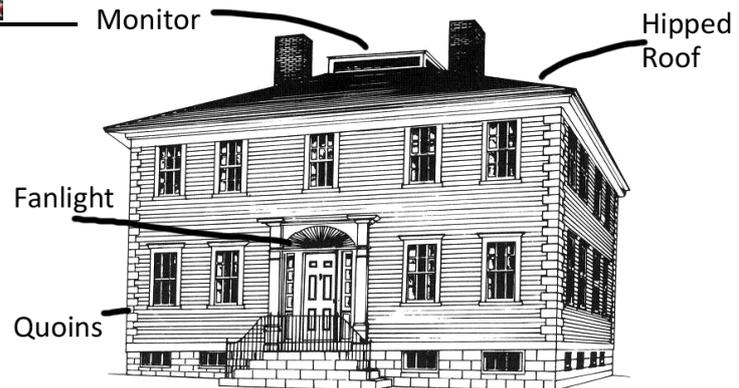
Georgian (1700-1780)

- Popular during the reigns of King George I, II, & III.
- Symmetry; windows aligned horizontally and vertically.
- Center entry with **door surrounds** often topped by pediments and supported by decorative pilasters.
- **Double-hung sash windows** with small panes (9 or 12) separated by thick wood **muntins**.
- Classical details (taken from ancient Rome and Greece): fluted pilasters, **cornices**, pediments, etc.



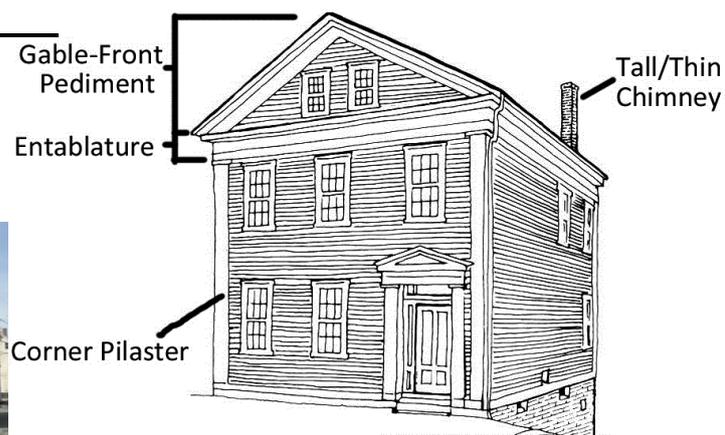
Federal (1780-1820)

- Refinement of Georgian style. Mouldings flush with wall.
- Fewer panes of glass and thinner muntins.
- Very shallow roof. Smaller chimneys.
- Elliptical **fanlights** over front entry (vs circular in Georgian).



Greek Revival (1825- 1860)

- Adopts architectural language of Greek temples.
- **Corner boards/pilasters** and wide **entablatures** (forming pediments on ends with gables).
- Thin muntins with 6-over-6 panes of glass.



Industrial Era Styles

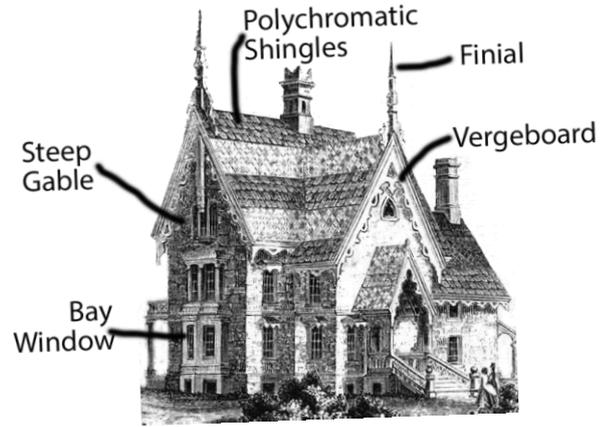
The Industrial Revolution allowed houses to become more ornate in material, form/shape, and decorative details because of new building technology (such as **balloon-frame construction**) and heating systems.

Victorian (1840 - 1910)

Range of elaborate styles spurred by new building technology. Includes:

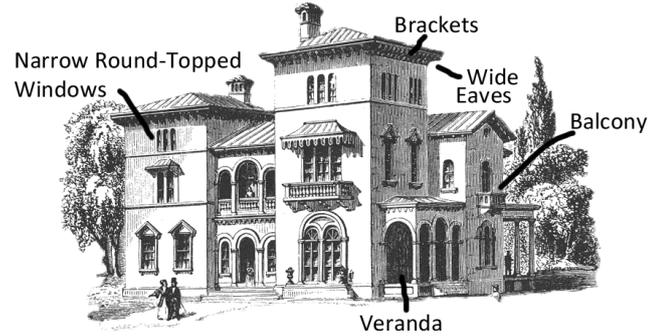
Gothic Revival (1840 - 1880)

- Asymmetry. Steep roofs. Irregular floor plans. Dormers.
- Gothic & Medieval details, e.g. **pointed arches**, **Verge-board**.



Italianate (1840 - 1885)

- Shallow roofs with large **bracketed eaves**.
- Narrow windows (often round-topped). **Verandas**.



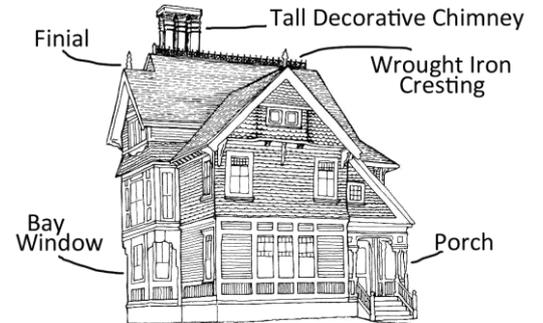
Second Empire (1855 - 1885)

- Spurred by Napoleon III's rebuilding of Paris.
- **Mansard roofs**. Italianate details. Bay windows.
- Dormers. 2-over-2 window panes. Double (paired) doors.



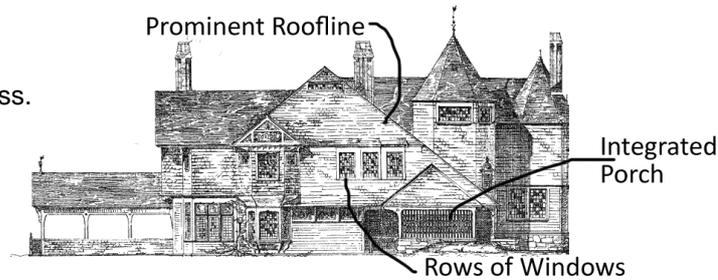
Queen Anne (1880 - 1910)

- Complex, multifaceted form and roofline.
- Towers/turrets. Tall chimneys. Variety of materials.



Shingle (1880-1900)

- Shingled walls with little ornamentation. Integrated Porches.
- Large, prominent rooflines; eaves close to wall.
- Strong **horizontal emphasis**. Rows of windows. Many panes of glass.



Colonial Revival (1876-1955)

- Eclectic mixture of colonial architectural elements.
- Exaggerated details and larger proportions (e.g. wider windows).

