

GLOSSARY

- Adamesque** - This refers to the style of the eighteenth century British architect Robert Adam (1728-92).
- Architrave** - The lowest member of a classical entablature. A molded lintel spanning between two columns.
- Axis** - An imaginary line to which are referred the parts of an existing building or the relations of a number of buildings to one another.
- Balloon Framing** - A method of timber-frame construction used in the U.S.A. and Scandinavia: the studs or uprights run from sill to eaves, and the horizontal members are nailed to them.
- Baluster** - A short post or pillar in a series supporting a rail or coping and thus forming a balustrade.
- Balustrade** - A railing consisting of a handrail on baluster, sometimes on a base member and sometimes interrupted by piers, columns or posts.
- Baseboard** - A molding that conceals the joint between an interior wall and a floor.
- Bay** - A vertical division of the exterior or interior of a building marked not by walls but by fenestration or door openings.
- Bay Window** - An angular or curved projection of a house front filled by fenestration.
- Bead Molding** - A small cylindrical molding enriched with ornament resembling a string of beads.
- Bellflower** - Any of various plants of the genus *Campanula*, characteristically having blue, bell-shaped flowers.
- Bentware** - The wooden rims for carriage wheels.
- Board-and-batten** - A type of wall cladding for wood-frame houses; closely spaced, applied boards or sheets of plywood, the joints of which are covered by narrow strips of wood.
- Bolection Molding** - A molding used to cover the joint between two members with different surface levels. It projects beyond both surfaces.
- Box Cornice** - A hollow cornice, built up of boards, moldings, shingles, etc.
- Bracket** - A supporting member projecting from the face of a wall. In American architecture it is frequently used for ornamental as well as structural purposes.
- Broadcloth** - A densely textured woolen cloth with a plain or twill weave and a lustrous finish.
- Bulkhead** - A horizontal or sloping structure providing access to a cellar stairway or to an elevator shaft.

- Bull's eye** - A circular window or louver.
- Butted** - To be joined at the ends.
- Butt Hinge** - A hinge composed of plates attached to abutting surfaces of a door and door jamb and joined by a pin.
- Cantilever** - A horizontal projection (e.g., a step, balcony, beam or canopy) supported by a downward force behind a fulcrum. It is without external bracing and thus appears to be self-supporting.
- Capital** - The moldings and carved enrichment which form a finish to the top of a column, pilaster, pier, or pedestal.
- Carding Mill** - A mill which refines wool.
- Casement** - The hinged part of a window, attached to the upright side of the window-frame.
- Chimney Stack** - A group of flues contained within a common covering.
- Colonnade** - A row of columns carrying an entablature or arches.
- Common Rafters** - Rafters of equal size found along the length of a roof or sometimes interrupted by main trusses containing principal rafters.
- Console** - A projecting, scroll-shaped member usually used for support but also for ornament.
- Cornice** - The crowning member of a wall or entablature.
- Coursed Rubble** - Rough unhewn building stones that are roughly dressed and are laid in deep courses.
- Crossette** - The side projections at the top of an architrave.
- Crown** - To surmount or be the highest part of.
- Cupola** - A small structure built on top of a building, usually for ornamental purposes.
- Cyma Recta** - A double-curved molding, convex above and concave below.
- Dentil** - A small ornamental block, forming one of a series set in a row. A dentil molding is formed by such a series.
- Doric Order** - The column and entablature developed by the Dorian Greeks, sturdy in proportion, with a simple capital, a frieze and a cornice.
- Dormer Window** - A window in a sloping roof, with vertical sides and front.
- Eaves** - The edge of a roof that projects over an outside wall.
- Eclectic** - Architecture that is based on, or imitative of, many styles selected by personal preference.
- Ell** - A wing of a building at right angles to the main structure.
- Elliptical** - An arch that is a half ellipse from a center on the spring line.
- Embrasure** - A recess for a window, door, etc., or a small opening in the wall.

- Entablature** - The top member of a classic order, being a continuous lintel supported on columns. It is divided horizontally into three main parts: the uppermost is the cornice, the middle one the frieze, and the lowest the architrave. Each has the moldings and decorative treatment that are characteristic of the particular order.
- Facing** - The finishing applied to the outer surface of a building.
- False Plate** - A plate which has no structural usage. See Plate.
- Fanlight** - A window, often semi-circular, over a door with radiating glazing bars suggesting a fan.
- Fascia** - A horizontal band of vertical face, usually in combination with moldings, as in the lowest member of a cornice.
- Federal Style** - The dominant architectural style of the United States from about 1780-1820. Exhibits exterior symmetry, pedimented doorways, semi-circular or elliptical fanlights with or without sidelights, and decorated cornices, especially with dentils.
- Felloes** - Wooden materials manufactured for use in the building of carriage wheels.
- Fenestration** - The arrangement in a building of its windows, especially the more important and larger ones.
- Fieldstone** - Rough building stones generally not laid in regular courses. May be finished or uncut stones.
- Frame House** - A timber house of frame construction usually covered with shingles or weatherboarding.
- Frieze** - Any long and narrow horizontal architectural member, especially one which has a chiefly decorative purpose.
- Gable** - A triangular-shaped piece of wall closing the end of a double pitched roof.
- Gazebo** - A small look-out tower or summerhouse with a view, usually in a garden or park.
- German Siding** - Drop siding with a concave upper edge which fits into a corresponding groove in the siding above. Drop siding is an exterior wall cladding of wooden boards which are tongued and grooved or rabbeted and overlapped so that the lower edge of each board interlocks with a groove.
- Gothic Revival** - A movement originating in the eighteenth and culminating in the nineteenth century, flourishing throughout Europe and the United States, which aimed at reviving the spirit and forms of Gothic architecture.
- Greek Revival** - A period of English architecture extending from approximately 1750 to 1850, marked by interest in Greek antiquities. It was popular in America at the beginning of the nineteenth century and continued throughout the century.
- Grist Mill** - A mill for grinding grain.

- Hall-Parlor Plan** - A house containing two rooms side by side, with the ridge of the roof running parallel to the long wall of the structure.
- Hewn** - Of wood, roughly dressed by ax or adze.
- Hipped Roof** - A roof which pitches inward from all four sides.
- Italianate** - The eclectic form of country-house design, fashionable in England and in the United States in the 1840s and 1850s, characterized by low-pitched, heavily bracketed roofs, asymmetrical informal plan, square towers, and often round-arched windows.
- Joist** - Any horizontal beam intended primarily for the construction or support of a floor or ceiling.
- Keystone** - The central wedge-shaped stone at the crown of an arch.
- Lap** - To overlap one surface with another, as in shingling.
- Lath** - A riblike support of wood or metal upon which plaster is spread.
- Lathe** - A machine on which a piece is spun on a horizontal axis and shaped by a fixed cutting or abrading tool.
- Lattice** - An open framework made of strips of metal, wood, or the like interwoven to form regular, patterned spaces.
- Lintel** - The horizontal structural member which supports the wall over an opening, or spans between two adjacent piers or columns.
- Louver** - One of a series of overlapping boards or slips of glass to admit air and exclude rain.
- Modillion Cornice** - A cornice supported by a series of small ornamental brackets under the projecting top moldings.
- Molding** - A deviation from a plain surface, involving rectangular or curved profiles, or both, with the purpose of effecting a transition or of obtaining a decorative play of light and shade.
- Mullion** - An upright post or similar member dividing a window into two or more units, or lights, each of which may be further subdivided into panes.
- Newel** - The principal post at the end of a flight of stairs; it carries the handrails and the strings which support the steps.
- Outbuilding** - A minor structure separated from a building of which the former is a dependency.
- Pane** - A sheet of glass for a comparatively small opening in a window or door.
- Peak** - A tapering, projecting point; pointed extremity as in the peak of a roof.
- Pediment** - The low triangular gable formed by the roof slopes on top and the horizontal enclosing member, generally a cornice, beneath.

- Penciled - In brickwork, the painting (especially in white) of the mortar joints.
- Pendant - An ornamental member suspended from above.
- Pent Roof - A roof of a single sloping plane projecting from a wall, usually of small size.
- Pier - A freestanding mass, generally rectilinear in shape, supporting one side of an arch or one end of a beam, lintel, or girder. A thickening of a wall in the form of a vertical strip to strengthen it or to carry a heavy load for which the wall would not be strong enough.
- Pilaster - The projecting part of a square column which is attached to a wall; it is finished with the same cap and base as a free-standing column.
- Pile - refers to the floor plan of a building; the number of rooms deep.
- Plank - A long, wide, sawn piece of timber, usually used for flooring.
- Plaster - A mixture of lime, sand, and water, sometimes with hair or other fiber added, applied as a thick paste upon a firm base of masonry or lath to form, when hard, a smooth and nearly impervious surface for wall or ceiling.
- Plate - In wood-frame construction, the horizontal member capping the range of exterior wall studs, supporting the rafters.
- Plinth - The projecting base of a wall or column pedestal, generally molded at the top.
- Projecting - To extend forward or out; protrude.
- Pyramidal - Having the shape of a pyramid.
- Rail - A horizontal member in the frame of a door, window, panel, etc.
- Reeding - Decoration consisting of parallel convex moldings touching one another.
- Return - The right-angled change of direction of a molding or group of moldings.
- Ridge - The horizontal length of the peak of a roof above the shingling or other roofing material.
- Ridgepole - The top horizontal member of a sloping roof, against which the upper ends of the rafters are fixed.
- Risers - The vertical face of a step.
- Rolling Mill - A machine used for rolling metal.
- Rosette - A painted, carved, or sculptured ornament having a circular arrangement of parts resembling the petals of a rose.
- Rubble Masonry - Rough unhewn building stones generally not laid in regular courses.

- Quoin - The bricks or stones laid in alternating directions, which bond and form the exterior corner angle of a wall. A structural element often used purely for ornament.
- Quarter-round - A molding having a profile of a quadrant of a circle.
- Sash - A frame for glass to close a window opening or as part of greenhouse construction.
- Segmental Arch - An arch formed on a segment of a circle or an ellipse.
- Shed Roof - The roof of an addition to a building having only one sloping plane.
- Shelf - A horizontal board or slab of other material to serve as a resting place for small objects, as a bookshelf, a mantel shelf, a linen shelf.
- Sidelight - One of a pair of narrow windows flanking a door.
- Sill - The horizontal member immediately supported by a foundation wall or piers, and which in turn bears the upright members of a frame.
- Slitting Mill - A mill that cuts iron into rods of varying lengths and widths; often in conjunction with rolling mills and nail factories, or in iron wheel manufacturing.
- Snuff - A preparation of finely pulverized tobacco usually inhaled through the nostril or "dipped" (placed between the cheek and gum).
- Stringcourse - A narrow horizontal band of masonry which projects slightly from the wall. It is used primarily as a space divider.
- Stucco - Plaster for exterior walls.
- Stud - An intermediate vertical member of a wooden frame.
- Summer Beam - In early New England house construction, a large horizontal beam which runs from the chimney girt at right angles to the main girder in the outer frame, at a point opposite to the chimney.
- Sunburst - A pattern or design consisting of a central disk with radiating spires projecting in the member of sunbeams.
- Surround - Materials, usually wooden moldings, that frame wall openings.
- Tablet - An enframed or otherwise limited space, usually for an inscription.
- Teamster - A person who drives a team of horses and wagon.
- Tongue-and-groove - Applied to boards having a tongue formed on one edge and a groove on the other for tight jointing; also called matched boarding, matched flooring, and the like.
- Transom - An opening over a door or window, usually for ventilation, and containing a glazed or solid sash, usually hinged or pivoted.
- Treads - The horizontal part of a step.
- Tripartite - Composed of or divided into three parts.

- Tuscan Order** - A simplified version of the Doric order, having a plain frieze.
- Veranda** - A long gallery-like porch, sometimes two-storied.
- Vernacular** - Pertaining to the style of architecture and decoration peculiar to a specific culture.
- Vestibule** - A small room between an outside door and an inside one, the latter frequently opening into a hall.
- Volumetric** - Pertaining to a measurement of volume.
- Wainscot** - An overlining for interior wall surfaces, usually less than the full height of the story.
- Weatherboard** - A horizontal exterior wall board laid with the lower edge overlapping the next board below.
- Wing** - A secondary mass of a building, sometimes an addition, often at right angles to the main portion of the building and forming an ell.

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