

Architectural Terms

BALUSTRADE: a railing made of a series of upright segments, with top and bottom rails.

BARGEBOARD: a decorative board, located along the edge of a gable.

BAY: a unit of a building facade, defined by a regular spacing of openings.

BAY WINDOW: an exterior wall projection filled with windows.

BRACKET: a decorative element that supports a wall projection or cornice.

CANTILEVER: projecting structural member.

CAPITAL: the top section of a column or pilaster.

CASEMENT WINDOW: a window with hinges at one side

CLAPBOARD SIDING: horizontal siding made of overlapped, tapered wood boards.

CLERESTORY: windows located at the highest point of an exterior wall.

CORNICE: a decorative projecting element at the top of an interior or exterior wall.

CUPOLA: A domelike structure surmounting a roof, often used as a lookout or to admit light and air.

DENTILS: the small, tooth-like blocks of a decorative cornice.

DORMER WINDOW: a window-structure that projects out from the roof of a building.

DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOW: a window with two stacked, vertical sliding sashes.

EAVE: the edge or underside of a roof.

ENGAGED COLUMN: a column attached to a wall, often half round in shape.

FACADE: an exterior elevation of a building; often refers to the front.

FANLIGHT: a fan-shaped window located above a door.

FENESTRATION: the arrangement of windows on a building facade.

GABLE ROOF: a pitched roof with triangle-shaped ends.

GAMBREL ROOF: a gable roof with two slopes on each side and the lower slope being steeper.

HIP ROOF: a roof that slopes, usually in four directions, to each side of the building.

KEystone: the center stone in a masonry arch.

LINTEL: the horizontal support over a window or door.

MANSARD ROOF: a steeply sloped roof, covering the top floor facade of a building.

MULLION: the vertical elements separating window or door frames.

MUNTIN: elements separating panes of glass in a window sash.

PALLADIAN WINDOW: a window unit containing an arched window at the center of two flanking smaller windows.

PILASTER: a rectangular shaped engaged column.

PORTICO: the covered porch containing classical style columns, located at the main entrance of a building.

QUOINS: decorative stones used to embellish the exterior corner of a building.

SEGMENTAL ARCH: a partial arch located over window and door openings.

SHED ROOF: a single-pitched roof, often over an addition of the main building.

SIDELIGHT: narrow fixed windows flanking the entrance door.

SINGLE-HUNG WINDOW: a window with two stacked sashes, the lower slides vertically.

TERRA COTTA: fired, ceramic clay tiles or blocks used to create architectural, decorative surfaces.

TRANSOM: a small, immovable, horizontal window located above a door.

TURRET: a small, projecting tower located at the corner of a building

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