Architectural Description Guide

The Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION GUIDE

DEVELOPED FOR USE IN PREPARING NOMINATIONS FOR
STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
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The following Architectural Description Guide was developed for use as a check-list in inventorying historic sites in Canada, but it relates to the major styles found in the United States as well. It is reproduced here through the courtesy of the National Historic Sites Service, National and Historic Parks Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

General descriptions of architectural styles and periods can be found in books on the subject available at most libraries. This guide is intended to explain the specific architectural details you are likely to find in historic buildings. The sketches and accompanying descriptions give concise definitions for the terms you should use in the technical description of a building's physical appearance (Section #7 of the inventory-nomination form). Compare the features of the building with the illustrations given in this appendix. After making note of the various architectural details with this section as a guide, it should then be easy to utilize the technical terms in preparing the narrative description of the building's appearance.

MASSING OF UNITS

A description of building unit relationships, referring to the outer mass only, not to the interior use or divisions.

1. single detached -- the structure stands freely by itself

2. double semi-detached, related -- two structures share a party wall (partition) and are visually identical

3. double semi-detached, non-related -- as above but visually non-identical

4. row, related, end -- the end unit of 3 or more structures that share party walls and are visually identical

5. row, related, intermediate -- unit other than end, as above

6. row, non-related, end -- end unit of row, sharing party walls, visually non-identical

7. row, non-related, intermediate -- unit other than end, as above.

8. attached irregular -- a complex or group of structures attached unevenly, as seen in schools, factories, warehouses, etc.

9. other
PLAN

The basic shape of the structure from above. Most of these are self-explanatory and can be recognized from the diagrams.

1. square -- all sides equal in length
2. rectangular -- front and back are longer than sides.
3. rectangular -- front and back are shorter than sides
4. L
5. U
6. T
7. H
8. circular
9. polygonal -- any multi-sided geometric shape
10. center space -- having an open area, atrium or courtyard
11. pavilion -- a rectangle with two short forward projecting end sections
12. irregular -- any non-regular, random or angular plan
13. cruciform -- cross-like, mainly applying to large churches having projecting crossing or transept
14. apsidal -- rectangular form with curved or polygonal projection at altar end
15. apse and transept -- as above with transept crossing
16. apse and narthex -- projection at altar end with front crossing (narthex)

17. narthex and transept -- any basic shape with both a front crossing and altar end crossing

18. other

WINGS

Wings are major projections on the basic plan, and may be of any shape. After making a selection under "Plan," this category allows for additional sections that add a variant to that plan. The drawings show typical locations of such units: note diagonal or irregular wings which may have various locations on the structure. Do not classify additions as wings.

FOR CHURCHES ONLY -- CHURCH TOWERS & SPIRES

Record the number of towers or spires on church, which can be located anywhere on the plan. Note that a tower is flattened at the top; a spire is a steeple or pointed shape.

1. none

2. single, center -- one tower or spire centered on roof, anywhere on ridge

3. single, either side -- one tower or spire to right or left of center

4. pair, each side -- two towers or spires off-center, to right and left of center line

5. two, center and side -- two towers or spires, one center, one either side
6. three -- center and both sides, combination of #2 and #4

7. multi -- more than three towers and/or spires

8. other

CHURCH TOWERS & SPIRES -- LOCATION

This category establishes relation of towers and spires to front facade of church. There may be more than one choice applicable.

1. none

2. inset -- inset from the main facade, anywhere on the roof

3. facade -- flush with main facade

4. extension -- projecting from main facade, as porch or narthex section

5. wings -- extending from building as side additions

6. other

STORIES

The number of floors or living areas; the horizontal division of a building. Do not count an attic as a story; record the number of stories in main section only -- do not consider wings.

1. unknown

2. 1 story

3. 1 1/2 story -- 1 story plus a roof space used as a 1/2-story living area
4. 1 split -- a contemporary type with 2 levels

5. 1 front, 2 rear -- a split with 1 level on front and 2 at the rear

6. 2 stories -- 2 equal living areas

7. 2 stories, oversail -- the upper story projects out over the lower

8. 2 1/2 stories -- 2 equal areas plus a living area with partially sloping ceilings and windows or dormers

9. 2 split -- as 1 split with several levels within 2 stories

10. 3 stories

11. 4 stories

12. 5 stories

13. multi -- more than 5 stories

14. irregular -- attached buildings of varying heights (factory, school, etc.)

15. other

BASEMENT

The lower part of a structure; may be partially or completely below the grade or ground level. Owner or tenant will be able to answer this question if there is any doubt.

1. none

2. unknown

3. crawl space -- a shallow access area below the floor
4. partial -- beneath part of the structure; less than the floor area above

5. full -- beneath all of the structure; equal to the floor area of the building

6. other

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL

This section refers to the type of material and method of framing used for the exterior walls. The "Material" is that of the exterior, visible surface of the wall and may be wood, brick, stone, etc., in a variety of shapes and patterns. The "Framing" is the inner or bearing part of the wall.

In some instances the framing may be the same as the exterior material of the wall; for example, a solid stone wall. In others the framing may be entirely concealed by the exterior material; for example, a log wall covered with clapboard. In still other cases the framing may be a part of the visible exterior material, as for example a building with a cast iron frame.

To determine whether or not the exterior material differs from the framing or inner section of the wall (if this is not readily apparent as in instances where stucco or composition sheet has been used), check the wall construction from inside the attic or basement if possible, or ask the tenant for a verbal description; also check the depth of the wall openings -- unusual depth (over 10") may suggest log, stone or solid brick construction under the sheathing.

First determine the material of the visible surface (stone, brick, wood, etc.); then indicate under the appropriate
category the relevant drawing which describes the pattern or method used (and under stone, the finish also); finally, if the building is sheathed, determine the method of framing, if possible.

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL -- WOOD

A brief description of some of the less familiar methods of wood construction.

1. none
2. vertical log -- round and unhewn log; may also be pole construction, used vertically
3. vertical shaped log -- hewn log or timber used vertically
4. vertical plank -- sawn boards used vertically, may be with or without a sill and frame
5. horizontal log -- round and unhewn, used horizontally
6. horizontal shaped log -- hewn log or timber used horizontally
7. horizontal log cordwood -- round, unhewn logs stacked and set in mortar with the ends of the logs visible
8. horizontal plank -- sawn boards used horizontally
9. mortise and tenon -- a mortised and tenoned frame, fitted, not nailed together with an infill of horizontal timbers fitted into slotted uprights. A mortised piece of timber has a hole into which the tenon or projecting tongue on another piece of timber is made to fit.
10. panel or plywood — plywood is a 20th Century laminated wood panel

11. flush-board — wood board cladding with a flush surface applied either vertically or horizontally

12. ashlar imitation — wood worked to resemble rusticated coursed stone

13. clapboard — horizontally applied overlapping boarding; may be rough-sawn but usually mechanically cut

14. split weatherboard — horizontally applied overlapping board with the rough natural edges retained and hand-split from rough timber.

15. shiplap — horizontal wood cladding with shallow overlap formed by a notched edge fitting over the thin upper edge of the board below

16. shingle — vertically overlapping thin, rectangular pieces of wood with one end thicker than the other (or shakes)

17. vertical, board and batten — vertically applied board with a narrow raised strip or "batten" covering the joint

18. other

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL — STONE — SHAPE AND COURSING

1. none

2. plain or split fieldstone — fieldstone is stone literally found in the field. Plain fieldstones are rounded, small boulders or large stones incorporated into walling, showing uncut
rounded faces and often filled in with considerable mortar. Split fieldstone has been split along its plane of cleavage to present a flat face.

3. flint and/or cobble - flints are flat, hard stones usually steely grey. Cobbles are small, rounded stones. In some construction, these may be found together.

4. slate or shale - slate is solid rock; shale is softer, clayey stone; both split easily into flat plates.

5. rubble, random - rubble is any rough uncut stone, but mainly irregular material as from a quarry source. Random rubble is laid haphazardly without coursing.

6. rubble, coursed - as above; laid in regular courses or rows

7. rubble, squared - shaped into more even pieces which are usually laid in courses

8. cut stone, broken course - squared, hewn stone (ashlar) laid in irregular, non-continuous courses

9. cut stone, coursed - as above, laid in regular continuous courses

10. panel - sheet of stone

11. composition - fabricated or imitation stone

12. other

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL -- STONE -- TEXTURE OR FINISH

1. none
2. natural - the stone has not been finished or dressed
3. sawn -- cut finish
4. tooled or hammered -- worked with a tool, not smoothed
5. smooth dressed -- worked with a tool, smoothed
6. polished -- given a glassy smooth finish
7. rock-faced -- cut stones are intentionally given an irregular surface to appear uncut or weathered, while the margins are smoothed
8. rusticated -- faces of the stone are raised, smooth and parallel to the wall while the margins are in a lower flat plane; resembles cut stone
9. vermiculated -- the face of the stone has a wormlike pattern
10. other

**EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL -- BRICK**

1. none
2. header bond -- laid to show only the short ends of the brick in every course
3. stretcher bond -- laid lengthwise in every course
4. English bond -- laid with alternate courses of headers and stretchers
5. Flemish bond -- laid with alternate stretchers (long side of brick) and headers (short side) in each course (row)
6. common bond -- laid with a course of headers every 5th or 7th row; other courses are stretchers

7. garden wall -- laid with staggered stretchers and headers in the same course

8. other

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL -- COMPOSITION OR TILE

1. none

2. undetermined

3. composition shingle or sheet -- any fabricated sheathing (such as Insul brick)

4. plaster or stucco

5. asbestos cement sheet

6. tile

7. slate

8. other

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL -- CONCRETE

1. none

2. undetermined

3. poured -- cast in frames on building site

4. block

5. pre-cast panel, plain

6. pre-cast panel, shaped
7. other

**EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL -- METAL**

1. none
2. undetermined
3. galvanized tin or iron
4. metal sheet -- shaped or plain; e.g., aluminum siding
5. metal and glass -- metal panels combined with glass panels or windows
6. cast iron -- exposed framing and/or panels combined with glass
7. other

**IS BUILDING SHEATHED?**

Is the material of the interior or bearing part (framing) of the wall different from the exterior?

yes -- a long wall with clapboard surface, for example
no -- a solid stone wall, for example

**WALL CONSTRUCTION**

This refers to that part of the wall not necessarily visible -- the inner or bearing section, which may or may not be the same as the visible part.

1. undetermined
2. vertical log -- round and unhewn log, may also be pole construction, used vertically
3. horizontal log -- round and unhewn, used horizontally

4. horizontal log cordwood -- round, unhewn logs stacked and set in mortar with the ends of the logs visible

5. vertical plank -- sawn boards used vertically, may be with or without a sill and frame

6. horizontal plank -- sawn boards used horizontally

7. mortise and tenon (frame) -- fitted, not nailed together. A mortised piece of timber has a hole into which the tenon or projecting tongue on another piece of timber is made to fit

8. mortise and tenon ("Red River frame") -- as above, with horizontal infill of timbers tenoned into slotted uprights

9. mortise and tenon (colombage) -- a type of half-timbering; wooden uprights have rubble, brick, plaster, etc., infill

10. nailed frame -- wooden frame, nailed, using wooden components of a lighter weight than previous methods

11. glued or laminated frame -- glued layers of timber in trusses or beams

12. earth

13. stone

14. brick

15. concrete block

16. concrete, poured
17. steel or iron

18. other

WALL DESIGN & DETAIL

Categories #2 to #5 of this section refer to major design patterns of the wall where, for example, columns, pilasters or piers may run the full height of the building and design may be repetitive. Categories #6 to #12 refer to the smaller decorative details.

1. none

2. recessed panel(s) -- a section of the wall inset from the main surface; may have a rectangular or shaped head; plain or with window units.

3. arcading -- a series of shallow arches on the main wall

4. engaged column or pilaster -- a shallow column (rounded pillar) or pilaster (rectangular pillar) attached to the wall

5. pier and spandrel -- a series of vertical supports (piers) with connecting horizontal panels (spandrels); either or both may be decorated or plain

6. quoins -- emphasized blocks at the angles of a building; originally used to strengthen the angles, now used for decoration

7. entablature and/or frieze -- entablature indicates a wide and important horizontal, moulded band on major buildings. Frieze is the side center area of a classic entablature; may be decorated
8. string or belt course -- a narrow, horizontal moulding or slightly projecting band, sometimes decorated

9. corbeling -- a series of short stone or wood projections (corbels) supporting a projecting course of masonry

10. plinth -- a projecting foundation base

11. decorative panel or carving -- may be moulded or carved, inset or applied and often of contrasting material

12. inscription or date stone -- often located over main entrance or in gable end

13. decorative design or painting -- distinct from carving by being a painted decoration or trim

14. other

ROOF SHAPE

1. low gable -- the gable is the most common roof shape, with the roof coming to the end of the building to form a triangular shape continuous with the end wall. A low gable rises less than 6' in a run of 12'

2. medium gable -- rises 6' to 10' in a run of 12'

3. high gable -- rises more than 10' in a run of 12'

4. center gable -- gable roof with a peaked break in the roof line on one long facade
5. cross gable -- two intersecting gables at right angles to the main ridge; the roof has two axes

6. hipped gable -- gable roof which becomes sloped on all four sides near the top of the rise

7. hipped, cross gable -- hipped gable roof with cross gable (combination of #5 and #6)

8. belcast gable -- gable roof with flared eaves that form an overhang

9. belcast hipped gable -- hipped gable roof with flared eaves (combination of #6 and #8)

10. low hip -- roof sloped on all four sides; the sides meet at a center ridge; pitch less than 6' in 12'

11. medium hip -- a pitch of 6' to 10' in 12'

12. high hip -- a pitch of over 10' in 12'

13. truncated hip -- hipped roof with a flat top; commonly known as "cottage roof"

14. hipped with center gable -- a gable which becomes sloped on all four sides near the top of the rise and has a peaked break in the roof line on one long or main facade

15. belcast hip -- hipped roof with flared eaves forming an overhang

16. gabled hip or gablet -- hipped roof combined with a gable slope near the top of the rise

17. gambrel -- gable roof having a double pitch or two slopes on each side
18. hipped gambrel -- gambrel roof which becomes sloped on all four sides near the top of the rise

19. bellcast gambrel -- gambrel roof with flared eaves

20. bellcast hipped gambrel -- combination of #18 and #19

21. mansard -- variation of hip with a very steep lower slope and flatter upper section; may have a curve in lower slope

22. gabled mansard -- a mansard roof combined with a gable slope near the top of the rise

23. bellcast mansard -- mansard roof with flared eaves

24. Halifax -- steep, sloped from rising to meet a flatter main roof

25. shed -- a single pitch roof which slopes from a high to a lower wall

26. saltbox -- a gable with one slope extended

27. boomtown -- a false-front facade that rises well above and masks the roof line

28. flat -- having no rise in pitch

29. sawtooth -- a series of gables

30. monitor -- roof in two sections, the sides of the upper section often having vertical lighting panels

31. dome -- semi-spherical in shape

32. pyramidal -- a base of three or more sides with sloping sides rising to meet at an apex
33. conical -- having a circular shape with sloping sides rising to meet at an apex

34. vault -- barrel or arch shaped; roof may extend to the ground

35. other

CHIMNEY LOCATION -- PLAN

The location of the chimney(s) on the roof as if seen from above. Chimneys can be within the roof line or attached to the exterior of the building. Note the sketch showing the imaginary center line to clarify placement.

With the following definitions in mind, study the drawings to familiarize yourself with the possibilities. Alternate locations (at the back or front of the building) have been indicated on each diagram.

As this is a "Multiple choice" question, more than one selection may be made to locate all chimneys.

1. none

2. center -- chimney placement anywhere along the center (imaginary) line of building determined from front.

3. offset, left -- to left of center, between side and center line

4. offset, right -- to right of center, between side and center line

5. side, left -- far left, on or outside left roof line

6. side, right -- far right, on or outside right roof line
7. cluster -- several chimneys grouped anywhere on roof

8. other

CHIMNEY LOCATION -- FRONT TO BACK

This is a "Multiple choice" question in which there may be more than one choice. Refers to the relation of the chimneys to the roof ridge or topmost point, determined from the front of the building.

1. none
2. straddle ridge -- chimney set evenly on both front and rear slopes straddling the ridge or on center line of roofs having no ridge
3. front slope -- chimney entirely on front slope of roof
4. rear slope -- chimney entirely on rear slope of roof
5. side slope -- chimney on either side slope of roof
6. exterior -- chimney rises outside roof line, on an outer wall
7. other

CHIMNEY STACK UNITS

This concerns the design of each complete chimney unit; one unit may consist of more than one stack. Also, each chimney may have several chimney pots or flues, but these are not to be considered when recording.

1. none
2. single -- one stack only

3. linked, top -- two chimney stacks, joined at the top

4. linked, at base -- chimney stacks joined for a distance up from roof surface, but not at the top

5. pierced -- linked or cluster of chimney stacks having a common cap

6. joined -- chimney stacks in a group; paneled, not "punched" through or pierced

7. other

DORMER SHAPE

Dormers are window sections which project from the roof slope, added to give light to upper-living areas and attics, and constructed above the eaves line in a variety of shapes and sizes as described below. Do not let the drawings limit your choice.

1. none

2. gable, no overhang -- simple roof not extending over vertical sides.

3. gable, with overhang -- gabled roof with side extensions or eaves

4. gable, with return -- gable with eaves trim from sides continuing partially onto front of dormer

5. pediment -- gable shape with a continuation of the eaves return line to complete the triangle; temple-like front
6. gable, stepped -- edge of gable is notched, outline of which forms a series of projections like steps

7. gable, decorated -- ornate or very decorative edge

8. swept -- low, rounded head with roof line joining main roof

9. hooded -- half-round, segmental or semi-elliptical top

10. hipped -- sloped on sides and front meeting at a center ridge

11. hipped gable -- a gable which is sloped inward on the front near the top of the rise

12. gablet -- a hipped roof combined with a gable slope near the top of the rise

13. shed -- flat, sloping forward

14. bay -- multi-sided or rounded; may accommodate more than one window

15. triangular -- a gable or pediment which sits directly on the roof slope, without vertical sides

16. gambrel -- roof of double pitch or two slopes with a knee or break in pitch part way up

17. mansard -- variation of hip, with a very steep lower slope and flat top

18. Victorian segmental -- segmental top, frequently decorated

19. Victorian round -- rounded top, frequently decorated

20. other
ROOF TRIM -- EAVES TYPE

Eaves are the horizontal finish on the long side of a roof. See drawing for components. Note that hip and mansard roofs (and variations) have eaves on all four facades; i.e., no "Raking Trim."

1. close eaves -- eaves do not project over vertical wall

2. eaves projecting, no rafters exposed -- eaves overhang the wall below and no roof joists (rafters) are visible

3. eaves projecting, rafters exposed -- eaves overhang the wall below and roof joists are visible

4. cornice fascia alone -- the horizontal, moulded section crowning the wall (cornice) consists of a flat board covering the ends of the rafters (fascia); open under rafters

5. cornice boxed, plain -- the fascia is closed (boxed cornice) by a flat soffit (underside)

6. cornice boxed, decorated -- as above with a decorated or moulded cornice

7. bargeboard -- a wide decorated fascia board fastened to or trimming the edge of the roof

8. cornice boxed, brackets or consoles -- cornice rests on supporting projections (brackets) which may be scrolled (then called consoles)

9. cornice boxed, sloped soffit -- boxed cornice, plain or decorated, but soffit slopes

10. cornice boxed, plain, frieze plain -- cornice boxed with a flat board
extending down onto vertical wall (frieze), undecorated

11. cornice boxed frieze decorated -- as above, but with frieze decorated

12. cornice boxed, decorated, frieze plain -- as #9 with decorated cornice

13. cornice boxed, decorated, frieze decorated -- as #9 with both cornice and frieze decorated

14. cornice boxed with frieze and brackets -- as #7 with a frieze added

15. parapet, plain -- a low wall which raises above the cornice and obscures the lower part of a roof; plain

16. parapet, crenelated -- parapet is indented with battlements or a series of notches which break the line of the wall

17. parapet, entablature -- the parapet rises above a horizontal moulded band (entablature)

18. parapet with balustrade -- parapet is broken by a row of balusters or supports carrying a rail (balustrade)

19. parapet, other

20. other

ROOF TRIM -- RAKING TYPE

The raking trim is the finish on the gable side or sloping end (verge) of the roof. The components are similar to those under "Eaves Type" with some exceptions. Note here that "Raking Trim" will not occur on hip or mansard roofs or variations thereof.
1. none

2. verges close -- as in close eaves

3. verges projecting, plain -- raking trim projects over vertical wall, undecorated

4. cornice fascia along -- as in #4 in "Eaves Type" above

5. cornice boxed, plain -- as in #5 above

6. cornice boxed, decorated -- as in #6 above

7. cornice boxed, brackets or consoles -- cornice rests on supporting projections (brackets) which may be scrolled (consoles)

8. cornice boxed, plain, with return -- as in #5, but terminating in a short horizontal eave extension

9. cornice boxed, decorated, with return -- as above with decorated cornice

10. cornice boxed, pedimented-raking cornice with full width horizontal eave to form a triangle or pediment

11. bargeboard -- a wide decorated fascia board fastened on the verge of the roof

12. parapet gable -- a simple extension of the vertical wall on the gable end, extending above slope and roof line

13. stepped gable -- as above with the outline forming a series of projections like steps

14. decorated gable -- as above, shaped or decorated in a more ornate manner
15. other

ROOF TRIM -- SPECIAL FEATURES (Multiple Choice)

These are additional decorative or functional details that might be added to the roof. More than one choice is possible.

1. none

2. cupola or lantern -- a small structure of various shapes on the roof; with windows, it is called "lantern"

3. belvedere or open walk -- a rooftop area which could be used for viewing; it may be closed (belvedere) or open (walk)

4. finial or urn -- a pointed ornament at a gable peak (finial) or a vase-shaped ornament (urn)

5. cresting -- a decorative band trimming the roof ridge or edge, usually of cast iron

6. drop or pendant -- a decorative feature which hangs down from the roof edge or gable end

7. pediment -- a low pitched triangular gable used as a decorative feature, similar to a temple front

8. decorated pediment -- very ornate detail, frequently near roof edge

9. additional or decorated gables -- decorated gables

10. additional gable with window(s) -- a decorative gable lighted with a window(s)

11. other
MAIN WINDOW STRUCTURAL OPENING SHAPE -- GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR

Shape of the top of the window construction opening.

1. flat -- window head is horizontal
2. segmental -- slight or flat curve drawn from a center below the springing line (line on which the curve commences)
3. semi-elliptical -- not as flat as above, a half-ellipse
4. semi-circular -- half-circular, a semi-circle having its center on the springing line
5. 4 center ogee -- ends in a peak formed by two convex arcs above two concave arcs below
6. 2 center pointed -- a Gothic arch, drawn from center on the springing line
7. triangular -- sloped sides meeting at a peak

8. other

MAIN WINDOW SURROUND -- HEAD -- GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR

Shape of the decorated area outside the structural opening and attached to or part of the wall fabric. Do not let the sketches limit your choice; each has many variations.

1. none -- no design around opening

2. plain moulding -- simple trim consisting of one main moulding

3. lintel -- horizontal member spanning the window; of stone, wood, brick, etc.

4. lintel, decorated -- as above, with carving or decoration

5. lintel, shaped -- a shaped horizontal member

6. label -- a trimming that may continue partially down on each side of the window; variety of shape and decoration

7. flat arch, vertical joint -- straight arch composed of rectangular units with straight vertical joints

8. arch, radiating voussoirs -- arch composed of individual wedges with angled joints (vousoirs)

9. arch, radiating voussoirs with keystone -- as above, with a prominent center wedge (keystone)
10. arch, alternating radiating voussoirs -- alternating large and small wedges

11. arch stepped, radiating voussoirs -- wedges stepped up to a central member or keystone

12. shelf or entablature -- straight, flat, projecting ledge or classically moulded horizontal band

13. pediment, plain -- a small, low-pitched triangular gable

14. pediment, segmental -- slightly curved pediment

15. pediment, double curve -- scrolled or doubly curved at both ends; various style motifs in combination

16. pediment, broken -- the triangle is not completed at the upper point

17. hood, flat, plain or bracketed -- a flat projecting cover, unsupported (plain) or supported by brackets or consoles

18. hood, curved, plain or bracketed -- curved or shapped hood, with or without brackets or consoles

19. other

MAIN WINDOW SURROUND -- SIDES -- GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR

Side trim of the area outside the structural opening and attached to or part of the wall fabric.

1. none
2. plain -- simple detail of wall construction that emphasizes the window opening

3. moulded trim -- simple vertical moulding at side of window

4. quoins -- emphasized or rusticated blocks

5. pilasters or engaged columns -- pilaster is a shallow rectangular pillar attached to wall fabric. An engaged column is a rounded column or pillar attached to wall fabric.

6. decorated other

7. other

MAIN WINDOW SURROUND -- SILLS -- GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR

The horizontal ledge under the window frame set on or part of construction wall.

1. none

2. slipsill -- flush with the vertical sides of the window opening

3. lugsill -- a sill extending on each side beyond the vertical lines of the window opening

4. decorated slipsill -- as in #2 above, but with some trim or decorated supports

5. decorated lugsill -- as in #3 above, but with some trim or decorative supports

6. other
MAIN WINDOW DIVISIONS -- GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR

Window divisions or sashes refer to the major window sections. A sash may contain a single sheet of glass or many panes. Each group of panes or a large single sheet of glass is held by a heavier frame or sash, which is enclosed in yet another over-all frame, held in construction opening.

1. 1 sash -- a single division
2. 2 sash -- a double division; i.e., one double-hung unit or casement
3. 1 sash and transom -- single division with a small sash above, called a "transom light" or "panel"
4. 2 sash and transom -- two major window sections, plus a transom light or panel
5. 2 sash, no mullion -- vertical paired sash with no fixed division between
6. 2 sash with mullion -- as above, with fixed bar (mullion dividing sashes)
7. 3 sash or more with mullion -- as above with additional sashes
8. sash with sidelights -- one or more sashes with smaller sashes (sidelights) on each side
9. other

MAIN WINDOW SWING OR SLIDE -- GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR

Movement or openings of windows.

1. unknown
2. double hung -- two sashes, one above the other, one or both can slide up and down

3. casement -- usually rectangular, vertical sashes that swing in or out on side hinges

4. hinged -- sashes that swing, hinged at the top or bottom of the frame

5. pivoted -- sashes that swing on a pivot set in the center of the side frame

6. horizontal sliding -- a contemporary design where the sash slides back and forth on a track or slots set in the window frame

7. fixed -- a sash or series of sashes that do not open

8. other

WINDOWS -- THIRD FLOOR

Frequently on major buildings the second and third floor windows will vary in design or size from those on the ground or first floor. Simply indicate if they are the same or different for each of these floors. More than one difference can be indicated.

SPECIAL WINDOW TYPES -- ANY FACADE

This category refers to windows other than those included in categories above and often there will be only one or two on a building, sometimes on side or rear facade.

1. none
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Elliptical</td>
<td>Half-elliptical</td>
<td>Eyebrow</td>
<td>Gothic</td>
<td>Triangular</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauroriculate</td>
<td>Oval</td>
<td>Round Glass</td>
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2. **Round** -- circular or "bull's eye" window
3. **Half-round** -- half-circle
4. **Quarter-round** -- a quarter circle; pie-shaped
5. **Polygonal** -- five or more sides
6. **Elliptical** -- nearly oval
7. **Half-elliptical** -- one-half of ellipse; half-oval
8. **Eyebrow** -- small horizontal, rectangular window, usually set high under the eaves to give light to attics
9. **Gothic** -- narrow, vertical, pointed window, adapted from Gothic church design; may have more than one section
10. **Triangular** -- sides meeting at a peak
11. **Bay, Bow or Oriel** -- multi-sided or rounded window projections from main wall containing one or more windows; can be one or more stories high; oriel windows found on upper stories only
12. **Palladian** -- three-sectioned window, center section vertical with rounded top, side windows slightly shorter with flat or rounded heads, the three parts obviously grouped
13. **Blind** -- window design on wall, without glass; or blocked window
14. **Multi**--more than three different, special window types
15. **Other**
MAIN DOOR LOCATION

Location on building on the main door.

1. center door, gable facade -- the door is centered in the narrow (gable) end of the house

2. center door, main facade -- the door is centered in the main (long) facade of the house

3. off-center, gable facade -- door is off-centered in the narrow (gable) end

4. off-center, main facade -- door is off-centered in the main (long) facade of the house

5. multiple, main -- more than one door on main (long) facade

6. multiple, gable -- more than one door on gable facade

7. other

MAIN DOOR

MAIN DOOR STRUCTURAL OPENING SHAPE

See "Main Window Structural Opening Shape,"

1. flat

2. segmental

3. semi-elliptical

4. semi-circular

5. 4 center ogee

6. 2 center pointed
7. triangular
8. other

MAIN DOOR SURROUND -- HEAD

The design of the decorative head area outside the structural opening, and attached to or part of the wall fabric. See "Main Window Surround -- Head," for definitions.

1. none
2. plain moulding
3. lintel
4. lintel, decorated
5. lintel, shaped
6. label
7. flat arch, vertical joints
8. arch, radiating voussoirs
9. arch, radiating voussoirs, keystone
10. arch, alternate radiating voussoirs
11. arch, stepped radiating voussoirs
12. shelf or entablature
13. pediment, plain
14. pediment, segmental
15. pediment, double curve
16. pediment, broken
17. hood, plain or bracketed
18. hood curved, plain or bracketed
19. other

MAIN DOOR SURROUND -- SIDES

The side trim of the area outside the structural opening. See "Main Window surround -- Side," for definitions.

1. none
2. plain
3. moulded trim
4. quoins
5. pilasters or engaged columns
6. decorated other
7. other

MAIN DOOR ARCHITRAVE TYPE

The architrave is the enframing area within the structural opening; includes the door itself, any side panels, transom and/or embrasure panels. Embrasure indicates enough depth to necessitate a panel or construction element at right angles to the door and the outer wall, covering space between. Door is considered flush if even with or within 6" of outer wall.

1. none -- no architrave detail (simple door, top, lock and hinge rail only, in construction opening)
2. plain, no embrasure -- simple moulded door framing, set flush with construction opening
3. plain, with embrasure -- simple moulded frame, recessed or set in from construction wall

4. decorated, no embrasure -- decorative mouldings or designs around door, flush with opening

5. decorated with embrasure -- as above, recessed

6. pilasters, no embrasure -- pilasters set flush or nearly flush with construction wall and rest of door

7. pilasters with embrasure -- rectangular pillars attached to frame, recessed

8. engaged column, no embrasure -- rounded, attached columns, flush with opening

9. engaged column with embrasure -- as above, recessed

10. other

MAIN DOOR ARCHITRAVE -- SIDE PANELS

Vertical panels between door frame and construction opening. Note sketches here.

1. none

2. flush, blind -- unglazed or blind panels, set flush with construction opening

3. flush, lights -- panes of glass (lights) in panels, set flush

4. flush, other -- variant of above, set flush
5. recessed, blind -- blind panels set in or recessed from construction wall

6. recessed, lights -- glazed panels, set in from construction opening or wall

7. recessed, other

8. other

MAIN DOOR ARCHITRAVE -- TRANSOM PANELS

The fixed member above the transom bar between top of door and structural opening. Variations from drawings in shape and size will occur.

1. none

2. flush, blind -- unglazed or blind panels, set flush with construction opening

3. flush, light -- panes of glass (lights) in panels, set flush

4. flush, light, mullion -- even with construction wall, with multi-panes, divided with mullions or muntins

5. flush fan -- flush with wall, a fan shape over door frame

6. recessed, blind -- blind panels set in or recessed from construction wall

7. recessed, light, plain -- set in with single, undecorated pane

8. recessed, light, mullion -- as in #4, but set in

9. recessed fan -- as in #5, set in
10. other

MAIN DOOR TYPE

Describes the construction and/or design of main door. A window or glazing in the door is counted as a panel. If a door has several windows divided by stiles or rails, each is counted as a panel, as well as any wood panels that might be used in the door construction. In this category particularly, do not be limited by the examples; panels can be many shapes and may be used on the door in a variety of ways.

1. unknown

2. vertical plain -- of wide boards, running vertically

3. diagonal plain -- wide boards, running diagonally

4. SL, 1 panel -- single leaf door (opens at side) with a single panel

5. DL, 1 panel -- a double-leaf door, divided vertically so each leaf may open independently, with a single panel in each leaf

6 thru 14 -- simply variants of the above, allowing for additional panels

15. fan panel -- fan-shaped panel or light as part of door

16. decorated door -- carved ornamental door, variety of panels

17. Dutch door -- single-leaf door divided horizontally so the top and bottom may open independently

18. French -- double-leaf doors, with glass panes
19. flush or laminated -- slab or plywood door, contemporary type

20. other

MAIN DOOR PANEL(S)

The method of joining panel to door. Trim around panel is actually part of rail or stile. Only exterior panels are recorded.

1. none

2. unknown

3. plain recessed panel -- undecorated panel, inset in relation to stile (vertical frame) and rail (horizontal frame)

4. recessed panel, beveled -- panel inset, sloped edge (beveled) moulding covers joint between panel and stile and rails, or panel itself is beveled

5. flush panel -- panel even with front surface of stile and rails; or door all one continuous panel; i.e., contemporary type

6. moulded rail, flush panel -- curved, shaped (moulded rail edge covers joint between panel, stile and rails; has flat, undecorated panel

7. moulded rail, raised panel -- curved, shaped rail edge with projecting center (field) on panel

8. moulded rail, decorated panel -- as above, with a decorated field

9. other
STAIRS -- LOCATION AND DESIGN

Extent of stairs on main facade.

1. none

2. ground or 1st floor, plain -- stairs mount to main or ground floor only, no railing

3. ground or 1st floor with railing -- as above with simple railing

4. ground or 1st floor with solid railing -- as above with heavier railing or wall

5. upper floors with railing -- stairs mount to 2nd floor and/or above, with railing

6. upper floors with solid railing -- stairs to 2nd floor and above

7. other

STAIRS -- SHAPE

Stair approach to the doorway in relation to front facade.

1. none

2. straight -- stairs rise straight from ground level to entry level

3. straight, side -- stairs rising at a right angle to the entry level

4. straight, reversed -- divided stairs rise at two angles

5. curved -- rising in a half-circle or less

6. double -- two separate sets of stairs rising to the same level
7. spiral -- coiled set of stairs, frequently metal

8. other

PORCHES AND GALLERIES

1. none

2. platform or stoop -- simple small entrance

3. umbrage -- deep recess in building facade forms a covered approach to door

4. open porch -- porch with open front and sides, with or without support

5. closed porch -- porch with sides enclosed with any material

6. portico -- porch with large pillars or columns, either one story as on a house or rising more than one story as on a major building

7. verandah or gallery -- long porch crossing facade(s); may or may not be roofed or have supports; attached to building; gallery as above but more often part of building

8. other

PORCHES AND GALLERIES -- SUPPORTS

The type of posts, etc., that support the roof of a porch, verandah or gallery.

1. none

2. posts -- simple posts; may be shaped or turned
3. treillage -- decorative, lacy trim and/or supports

4. piers -- square posts or pillars, of various designs

5. columns -- rounded posts; may be detailed or classic in design

6. arcade (open) -- a range of arches supporting the roof of the porch

7. other

**PORCHES AND GALLERIES -- HEIGHTS**

Extent of porch or gallery on front facade.

1. none

2. 1st story -- height of main ground floor only

3. 1st and 2nd story -- on main floor and second floor

4. multiple stories -- on more than ground and 2nd floor

5. other

**ADDITIONAL BUILDING FEATURES**

A "Multiple choice" section, covering building details not previously recorded. Note that these are actually attached to building, not a property feature.

1. none

2. tower or turret -- a building addition, variously shaped, with a flat or nearly flat top, rising either from the ground or roof level
3. spire or steeple -- as above, with pointed or spire top

4. buttress -- a mass of masonry or brickwork against a side wall to give it stability, lately more decorative than structural; primarily used on churches

5. arcade or colonnade -- a range of arches supported on piers or columns forming a passageway

6. balcony or additional porch -- a supported, projecting balcony, large enough to hold a person; "additional porch" refers to any proches in addition to the main front porch and may be located on any other facade

7. attached barn or garage

8. other

APPARENT ALTERATIONS AND/OR ADDITIONS

Here should be noted what are obviously new parts added to the building or alterations to the main structure. They may include major additions such as a wing, a story or an enclosed porch; or minor alterations such as new doors or windows, new chimney, blocked up door, window or chimney openings.

Many details can show alterations or additions but record only those that are very apparent. More than one choice can be noted.