

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Handout 4 - Self-Guided Tour

1. BALUSTER – TURNED / SAWN – small posts that support the upper rail of a Railing – either turned or flat /sawn.
2. BAY – a protruding section of a building's wall.
3. BOARD AND BATTEN – exterior siding made of wide boards with narrow strips installed over the seams.
4. CLAPBOARD SIDING – exterior siding made of narrow boards that slightly overlap each other, with the lower edge of the board thicker than the top edge.
5. CORNICE – uppermost section of mouldings along the top of a wall or below the roof.
6. DORMER – an attic window that is set vertically into a sloped roof.
7. DOUBLE HUNG WINDOW - a window which operates by means of two sashes that slide vertically past each other.
8. EAVES – the underside portion of a roof that overhangs the walls of a building.
9. FANLIGHT - semicircular or semi-elliptical window over a doorway / other window.
10. FENESTRATION – the stylistic arrangement of windows in a building.
11. GABLE ROOF – a two-sided roof that forms a top peak.
12. GAMBREL – a roof with two slopes – a steeper lower and a flatter upper.
13. GLAZED – glass in windows.
14. HIP ROOF – a four-sided roof that slopes to the eaves on all sides.
15. MANSARD – two slopes on each of four sides of a roof.
16. MULLION – a decorative divider that separates sections of a window or door.
17. PEDIMENT – low-pitched triangular gable.
18. PIER – a supporting column.
19. PORTICO – a large porch usually with a pediment roof supported by classical columns or pillars.
20. REGISTER – the vertical sections of a building / part of a building.
21. SIDELIGHTS – framed window on either side of a door or window.
22. STUCCO – an exterior material made primarily of plaster.
23. TRANSOM – horizontal glazed opening above a door or window.
24. TURRET – a cylindrical section of a building that projects outward from the main structure.
25. VERANDA – a living space open to the outside.
26. VERNACULAR – methods of construction that rely on locally available resources and traditions to address local needs.
27. WINDOW BAND – a horizontal span of three or more windows