

My House

Student's name: _____ Date: _____

1. Draw a picture of the house or the building that you live in.

2. Describe the house or building that you live in, using as many architectural terms as you can.

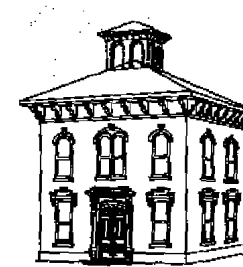
Architectural Styles

Architecture has certain styles, just like clothes. Different styles are in fashion at different times. Often you can tell how old a building is if you know when a particular architectural style was popular.

Most of the houses in the Mexican War Streets are Victorian in style. Houses built during the time Queen Victoria ruled the British Empire, from 1837 to 1901, are called Victorian. The term Victorian includes many different styles, and we will see examples of some of those styles during our walk.



Vernacular (used throughout the Victorian period)
 This is the most natural way of construction for a builder. It may include details from the fashionable styles mentioned below.



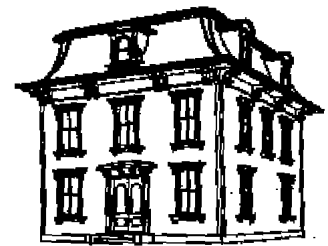
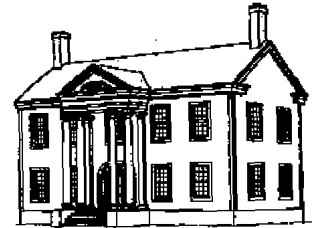
Greek Revival (1830 and later)
 A Greek Revival house will usually have a simple facade, with a pedimented gable and long windows. It might have a transom window over the door.

Italianate (1850 and later)
 This style will usually have widely overhanging eaves, supported by large brackets, with a square tower, and a balanced facade.

Second Empire (1870 and later)
 A house in this style will always have a mansard roof, whose lower portions are very steep on all sides, and will usually have dormer windows and brackets under the eaves.

Queen Anne (1875 and later)
 This is a very elaborate style using a variety of colors and textures. A Queen Anne building mixes gables, rounded towers, chimneys, and porches, and decorative details according to the architect's fancy and the owner's budget.

Richardsonian Romanesque (1885 and later)
 For this style, there will be rounded arches over the doors and windows. These houses frequently are built in heavy stone and/or brick.



1. How many years ago did the Victorian Style start? _____
2. How many years did the Victorian Style last? _____

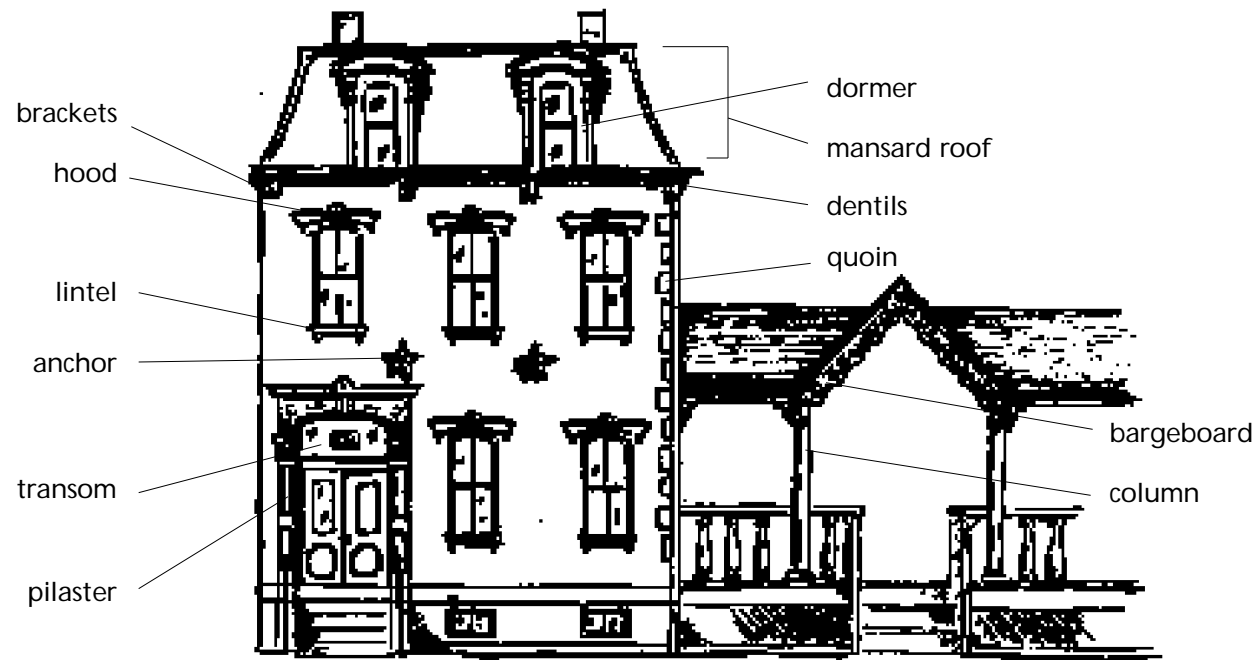
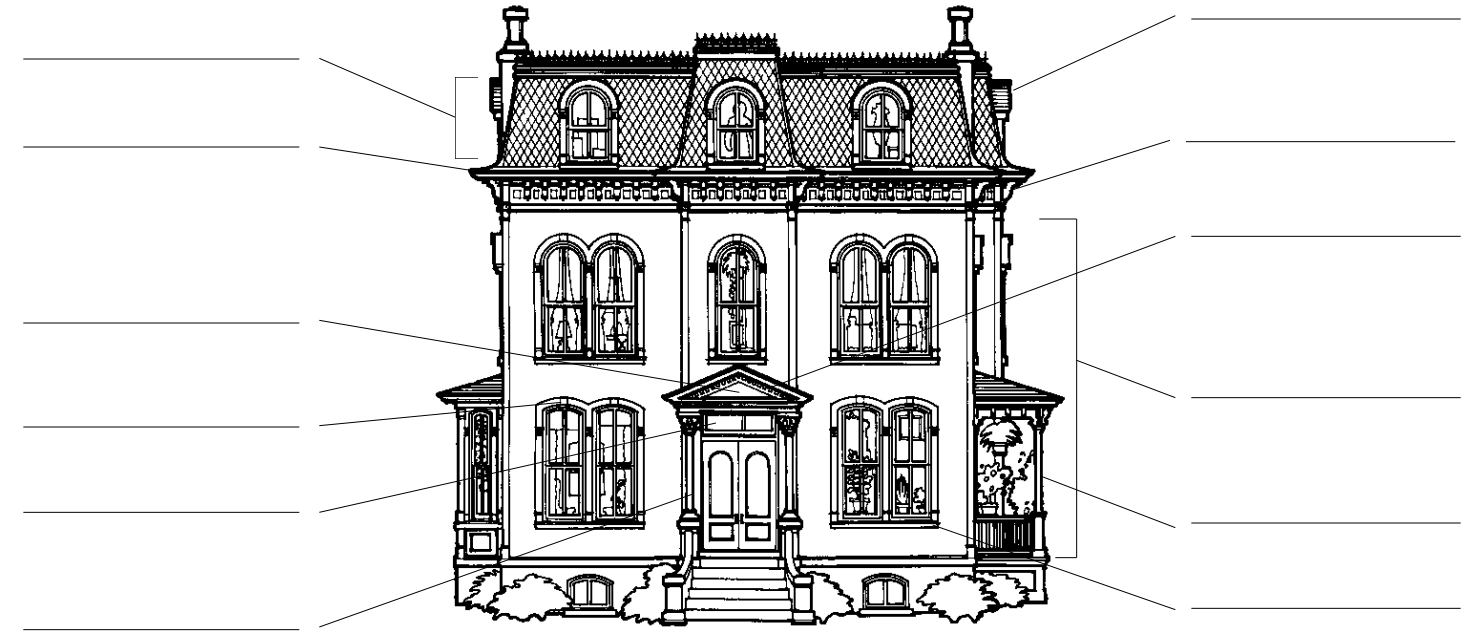
Let me tell you about my house. Then we can talk about the meaning of various architectural terms.

My old house, built in 1870, is a wonderful place to live. It is in a neighborhood where most of the houses are Victorian. My house has a mansard roof and two dormer windows. Under the cornice are brackets that help support the roof. The facade of my house has a lot of decoration. Below the roof brackets is a line of dentils. There are quoins at the corners of the house. The windows have stone lintels with cast iron hoods over them. The front entrance is very elaborate, carved in wood, with pilasters along the side. There is a stained glass transom over the door. The porch has plain columns and there is a nice bargeboard at the roof of the porch. The stars in the middle of the house are anchors that help keep the walls of this old house from bulging out.

Mary Ann Eubanks

Architectural Terms

Architects use many unusual words, or terms, to describe the parts of a Victorian house. Read the definitions below. Then fill in each blank with the correct architectural term.



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| <p>1. anchor a metal plate, tied back, that helps keep old walls from bulging out (not shown above)</p> <p>2. bargeboard a very ornamental board placed right below a roof line to conceal the ends of the rafters (not shown above)</p> <p>3. brackets projecting supports found under eaves or other overhangs</p> <p>4. column a pillar, usually circular, that supports a roof</p> <p>5. cornice the projection at the top of a wall</p> <p>6. dentils small decorative blocks found on or under a cornice. (They look a bit like teeth; the words dentil and dentist have the same root!)</p> <p>7. dormer a window projecting from the slope of a roof</p> | <p>8. facade the main face or front of a building</p> <p>9. hood a protective and usually decorative cover found over windows</p> <p>10. lintel a horizontal support that holds up a load over an opening</p> <p>11. mansard roof a flat roof with very steep sides, usually with dormer windows in the sides of the mansard</p> <p>12. pediment a triangular section used to crown a building or a door</p> <p>13. pilaster a flat column attached to a wall, frequently just decorative</p> <p>14. quoins large stones or pieces of wood to decorate and accentuate the corners of a building (not shown above)</p> <p>15. transom a small window, usually over a door</p> |
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