



HERITAGE WILMOT

Wilmot Township  
Architectural Style Guide  
*(DRAFT)*

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## Introduction

Many buildings constructed in Ontario in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries reflect the influence of certain architectural styles or traditions. Some examples are true to the single style, while other examples may showcase elements from several different styles.

This guide is intended as an introduction to architectural styles in Wilmot Township. Understanding the basic characteristics of architectural styles is a useful way to begin seeing buildings more critically. Also, by developing a deeper understanding of these styles will assist Heritage Wilmot members in describing a building, determining its age, or assessing its architectural value when compared with other buildings of the same style.

Please note: The guide focuses on common stylistic architectural trends of this area and may not be inclusive of all architecture. Each style will highlight a brief synopsis, list features or elements, along with images, sketches and examples of properties in Wilmot Township.

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# **Arts and Crafts**

Arts and Crafts-style homes may be one of the most complex styles of architecture. While there are many key features of an Arts and Crafts home, the style draws similarities from several other architectural aesthetics, making it a little more difficult to pick it out. In older homes, you'll find that Arts and Crafts isn't exactly a single style, but rather a specific approach to many different types of architecture.

## **The History of Arts and Craft Homes**

As a reaction to the manufactured and ornate styles of the Victorian age, Arts and Crafts-style homes embraced handcrafted design and approachable materials. The style originated in England in the mid-19th century and came to America around the beginning of the 20th century. The term "Arts and Crafts" refers to a broader social movement that encompasses not just architecture, but also interior design, textiles, fine art, and more.

The design movement began as a revolt against the opulence of the Industrial Revolution, where design could be needlessly overdone. Arts and Crafts instead focused on the opposite—instead of mass-produced and uninspired, the movement was all about being handcrafted and personal. The idea was that if quality could replace quantity, good design and good taste would prevail.

The Arts and Crafts movement was directly tied to the rise of Craftsman and Bungalow-style homes, architecture that played off the same mentality of simple but thoughtful structures. Bungalows were intended to give working-class families the ability to own a well-designed home that was easy to maintain and manage.

## **What Defines as Arts and Crafts Home?**

An Arts and Crafts-style home can be symmetrical or asymmetrical in its facade and is typically low to the ground. They are designed to use space efficiently and economically, and by nature require little upkeep if planned well. They often feature multiple chimneys and a very prominent "sheltering roof." Windows are plentiful, but often made up of small panes.

There are many types of architecture within the Arts and Crafts style, including Craftsman and Bungalows.

## **Key Elements**

- **Roof:** The roof of an Arts and Crafts home is typically low pitched, with wide, unenclosed eave overhangs.
- **Exposed beams:** The rafters on the roof and the beams inside the home are often exposed in an Arts and Crafts home.
- **Built-ins:** One key element of this design style is the rise of built-in furniture. The movement brought a wave of built-in bookshelves, window seats, and cabinets that felt custom to the house and perfectly suited to the design.
- **Windows:** The home's windows are typically made up of smaller panes and set in multiple assemblies.

- Fireplace: An Arts and Crafts home often had a very large fireplace that centered the open living space and acted as a focal point for the room.
- Prominent Porches: It's rare to find an Arts and Crafts-style home without an obvious porch equipped with prominent columns. The porch is typically limited to the front door area, but sometimes extended beyond the entrance.
- Floor Plan: The homes of the Arts and Crafts movement featured wide-open floor plans, a stark contrast to the boxy, segmented rooms of the Victorian-style homes that came before.

### **Common Materials**

Again, in an effort to reject the design periods that came before, Arts and Crafts homes were made from natural elements. The use of local materials was encouraged, and you will often see the use of real stone, brick, and wood throughout the home.

You'll also find fine handiwork features throughout the home, such as hammered metalwork and the use of authentic copper and bronze. Designers and craftsmen took pride in their work, and so an Arts and Crafts home will often feel well-made and thoughtful.



367 Huron St, New Hamburg



425 Huron St, New Hamburg

## Beaux Arts

Beaux-Arts was the academic architectural style taught at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, particularly from the 1830s to the end of the 19th century. It drew upon the principles of French neoclassicism, but also incorporated Renaissance and Baroque elements, and used modern materials, such as iron and glass. It was an important style in France until the end of the 19th century.

Ontario Beaux Arts style is eclectic but based on classic styles often with a temple-like façade, and columns. Found largely in public buildings, banks.

### Key Elements

- Two or more storeys
- The Façade was lavish and ornamental. Paired columns frequent, smooth masonry, with paired columns or pilasters, quoins, wall surfaces may have decorative garlands.
- Roof was low pitched with tall parapet or pediment or dome, and heavy decorated cornices
- Windows were tall, often framed by columns or pilasters
- Entrance was often recessed behind columns or pilasters

*\*The above Information provided by the Heritage Resource Centre, University of Waterloo\**



98 Peel St, New Hamburg

## **Edwardian**

The Edwardian period is associated with the reign of Edward VII, son of Queen Victoria, who reigned between 1901 and 1910. By the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Victoria was in decline and the era was waning, the changes in the arts were so remarkable, that what was to become known as 'Edwardian' was in full flower by 1910. The period lasted until the end of the First World War. The Edwardian style is a precursor to the simplified styles of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the Classical features – colonettes, voussoirs, keystones, etc. – are part of this style, but they are applied sparingly and with guarded understatement. Finials and cresting are absent. Cornice brackets and braces are block-like and openings are fitted with flat arches or plain stone lintels.

### **The History of Edwardian Homes**

Edwardian architecture can be split into a few main categories. First there is the Edwardian Classicism which evolved from the Beaux Arts, and often overlapped with the Beaux Arts style. It was extravagant and powerful, perfect for public buildings as well as for new types of buildings that arose in response to the changing social climate of the time. Train stations, libraries and police stations were often built in the high style of Edwardian Classicism, as were commercial buildings and factories. The new electrical power stations in Niagara Falls were also in this overblown classical style.

Apartment buildings outfitted with plumbing and electricity were a new feature of the Edwardian Age. They were the height of fashion and practical living for the newly emerging middle classes.

Most residential Edwardian architecture has not yet been rediscovered in Ontario. There is so much of it, and the styles vary so widely that often people take Edwardian residences for granted. The architect or 'designer built' houses are beautiful designs with modern conveniences but a rural coziness that is lacking in 21<sup>st</sup> century homes. The exteriors are rather unassuming and humble compared to the extravagant styles of the late Victorian era. The interiors are where all the elegant paintings, fine tilework, stained glass and ornament inspired both by Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts can be found.

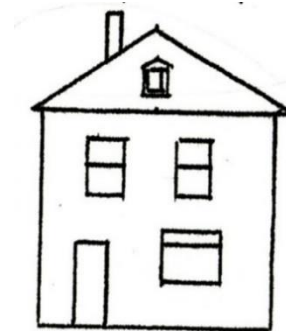
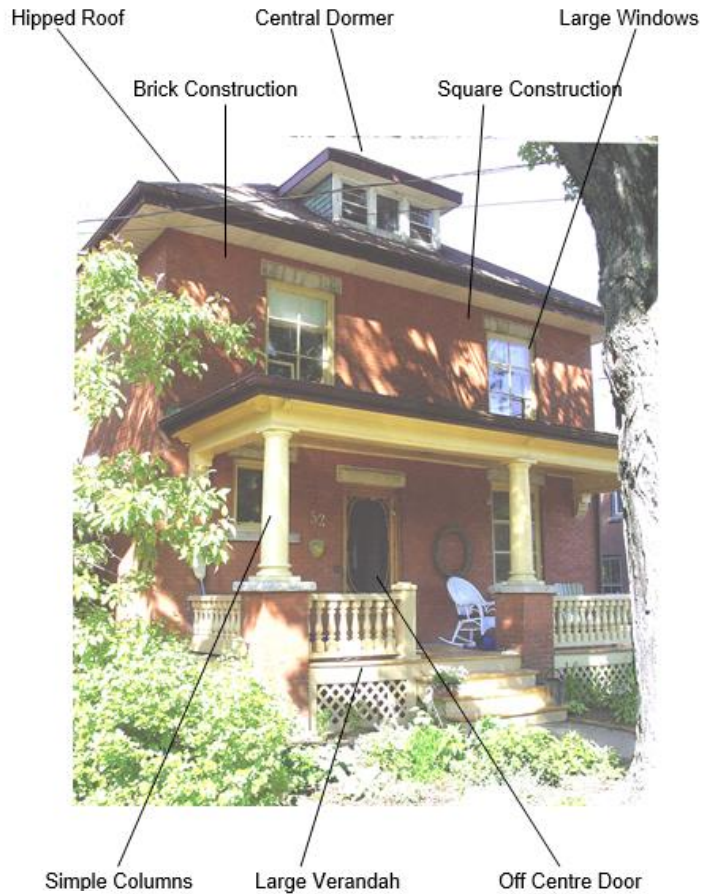
Houses built 'on spec' in new suburbs or expanded city streets often have these types of details, though not in so much abundance. The Edwardian suburban house is characterized by a gable front, or hipped roof also known as a "four square" in the USA, three or four bedrooms upstairs, and a generous front porch. These buildings generally have a smooth brick surface and many windows. The windows would have stone sills, the porch would be white painted wood with clustered columns.

Compared to the Victorian, the Edwardian style was less weighted down with satin of velvet and more and more decked out with trellises, built-in furniture and cheery patterns. It was happier, less concerned with pomp and protocol, and filled with light. The light came from the new source of energy, electricity, as well as from the removal of the heavy draperies on both doors and windows in Victorian times.



**Key Elements**

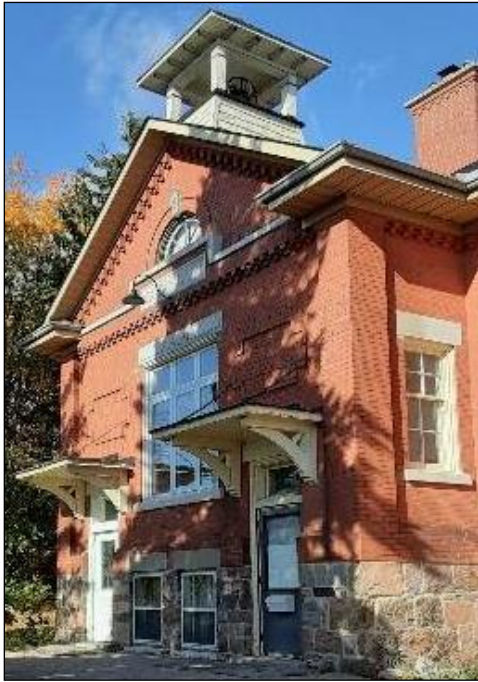
- Symmetrical
- Brick construction
- Two-storeys
- Square Construction
- Hipped roof
- Wide-eave roof
- Off centre doorway
- Central Dormer
- Projecting Frontispiece
- Large Porch or Verandah with Columns
- Large Windows
- Well back from the street
- Palladian Window
- Double Hung windows
- Simple brackets
- Many windows
- Beveled, leaded glass windows
- Large Gable in front (usually shingled)
- Pediment above the front steps







137 Jacob St, New Hamburg



1786 Snyder's Rd E, Petersburg



3262 Erb's Rd, Philipsburg

## **Georgian**

The Georgian Style was brought to Upper Canada (Canada, prior to 1867, was known as Upper Canada – Ontario and the west – and Lower Canada – anywhere down the St. Lawrence River) by United Empire Loyalists, the citizens who decided to remain loyal to the crown in the war between England and the United States (1755 – 1778). By 1780, a significant number of people were emigrating to Canada from Great Britain, and these people brought with them the Georgian style, among others, as well.

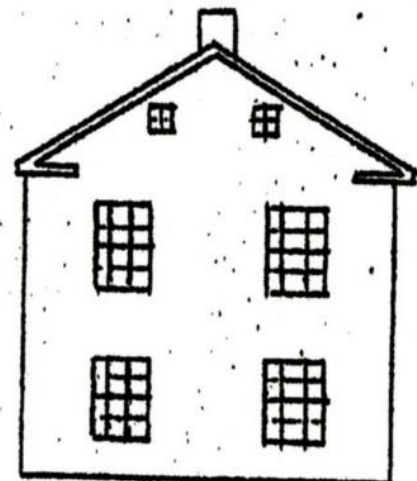
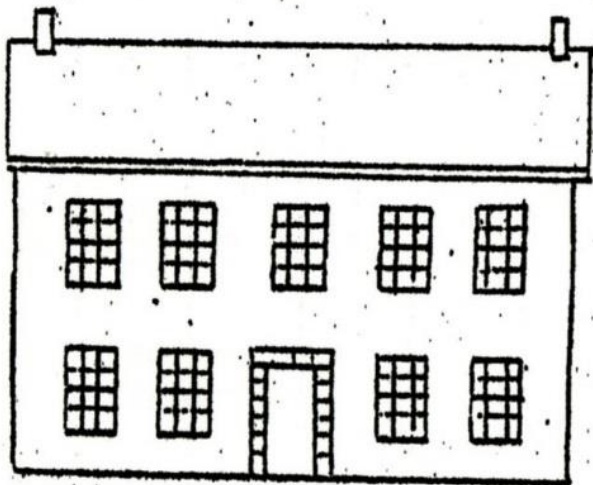
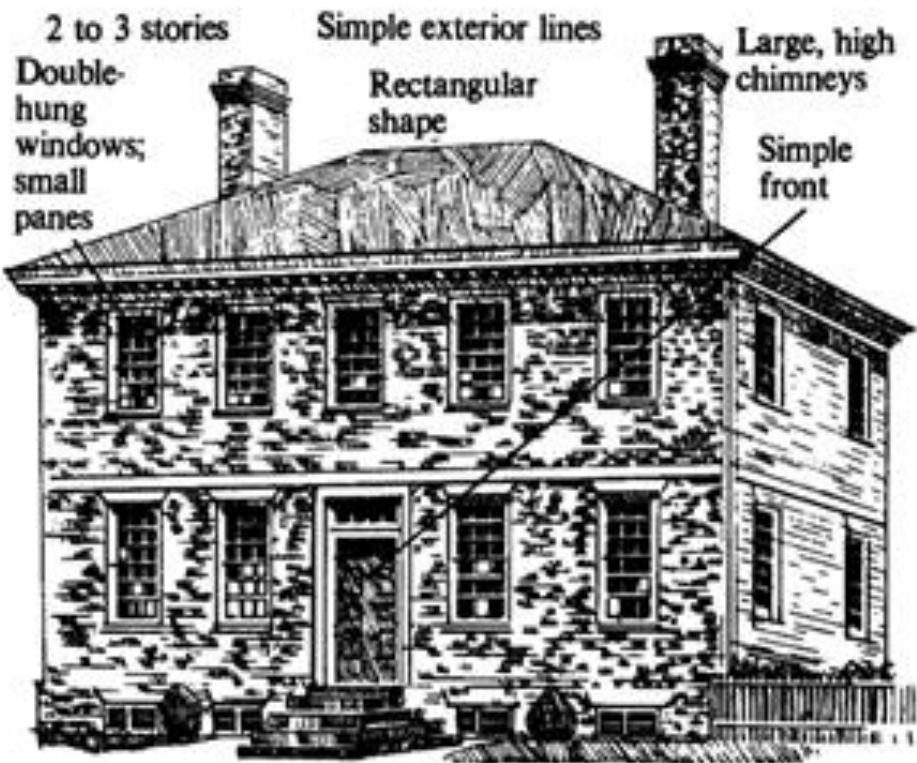
### **The History of Georgian Homes**

Their first homes were log houses. These were replaced by solid stone, brick or clapboard buildings as soon as possible. The style was cumulative of architectural fashion in Britain during the reign of the first three King Georges of England (1750 – 1820). Georgian architecture in Britain and in Canada was a modification of the Renaissance style adapted throughout Europe during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was a variation on the Palladian style which was known for balanced façades, muted ornament, and minimal detailing. Simplicity, symmetry, and solidity were the elements to be strived for. The Upper Canadian at this time wanted a sturdy house that reflected his simple dignity. These houses were more than the need for shelter. As Ann MacRae has stated, they were “a physical expression of the cultural mental climate of the first settlers of Upper Canada”.(MacRae, p. 4) Log houses were good shelters, but they were not architectural. The floor plans and details were constructed according to the English Georgian styles and were meant to give the same impression. The site was chosen with great care to afford the most pleasant view for the new occupants. The simple Georgian style was popular with Pennsylvanian settlers.

Georgian houses are generally so well built that they are virtually unchanged 200 years later. The style is so pleasing that it is used extensively in Colonial Revival subdivisions in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Key Elements**

- A simple 1–2 story box, 2 rooms deep, using strict symmetry arrangements
- Made of clapboard, brick or stone.
- Panel front door centered, topped with rectangular windows (in door or as a transom) and capped with an elaborate crown/entablature supported by decorative pilasters
- Cornice embellished with decorative moldings, usually dentil work
- Chimneys on both sides of the home, to prevent fires.
- Larger windows with 9 or 12 panes on the main floors
- Medium pitched roof and Minimal roof overhang
- Paneled front door at center
- Flattened columns on each side of door
- Sunrooms or small porches are common additions to the side of these homes. Siding materials include brick and wood.







1228 Perth St, New Hamburg



4157 Huron Rd, Haysville



1761 Erb's Rd, St. Agatha

## Mennonite Georgian: The History of Mennonite Georgian Homes

"Mennonites and architecture" is related mostly to their retaining accustomed architectural patterns and their creative efforts in adjusting them to new environments. Many Mennonites left the hills of southern Pennsylvania for the lure of cheap land in southwestern Ontario. Its design and construction materials represent the Pennsylvania German culture. Usually has a layout and orientation typical of Mennonite stone house construction practices. As well, the front of the house faced south.

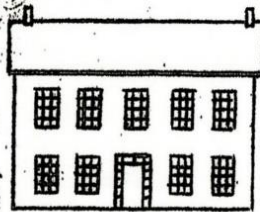
### Key Elements

- The house follows the style of Georgian architecture, but the façade is not symmetrical.
- Large verandah, which spans the length of the façade, sometimes two storeys. The verandah wall was often stucco over stone and painted white.
- The return eaves on the gables
- Symmetrical or asymmetrical facades with simple construction (square or rectangle).
- Full two-story houses.
- Medium gabled roof.
- Usually has doorway at both ends of the house (front and back).
- 2 small 4 paned outer windows on gable end

#### Mennonite Georgian

(up to 1860)

door with  
sidelights  
and straight  
transom



usually 3, 4 or 5 bays (openings)  
across front

small attic windows  
are trademark



return  
eaves

anchors  
for tie-  
rods (support  
for walls)

Verandah width of house

Simple Construction

Medium Gabled Roof





3301 Erb's Rd, Philipsburg



2541 Nafziger Rd, New Hamburg



1513 Erb's Rd St. Agatha

## **Gothic Revival**

From the middle of the 19th century through to the 20th century, Canada slowly evolved from a British colony to a country with our own sense of self. During that emancipation of identity, British architectural styles – like Gothic, for example – had a big influence on the scope of housing in this country. It's easy to identify this Gothic influence in numerous iconic Canadian structures, including the notable example of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, which were built in the late 19th century. Interestingly, evidence of Gothic Revival architecture can most prominently be seen in Ontario, more than other provinces.

### **The History of Gothic Revival Homes**

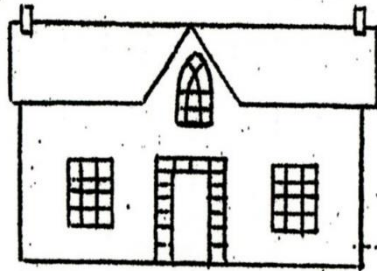
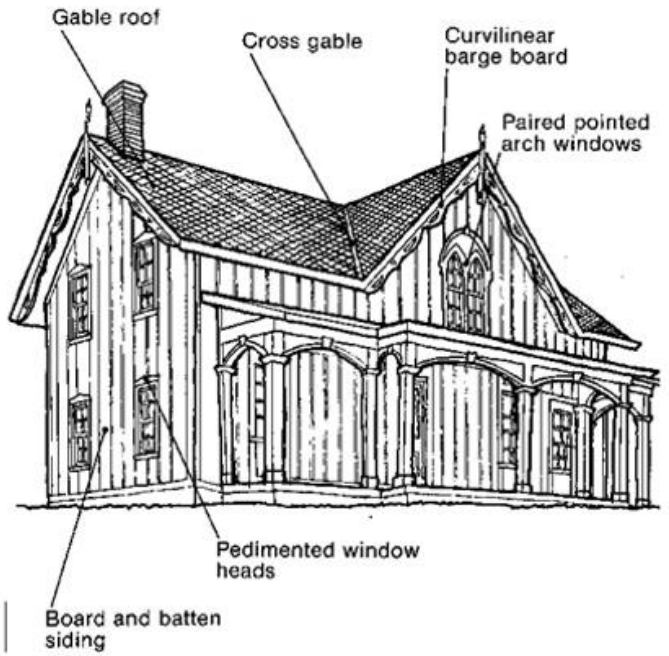
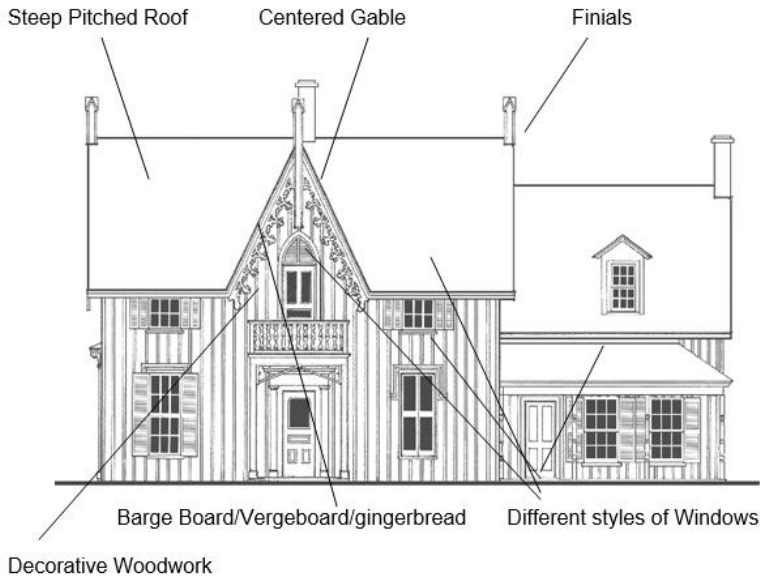
This period began in Ontario around 1830 and had great popularity until 1890 though continued until the 1950s. It was paralleled and supported by medievalism. The first stage of the revival used Gothic decorative forms to fulfill the Romantic Movement's ideal of architecture expressed through the picturesque. There were pattern books available throughout Ontario on how to build a Gothic house though most architects liked to leave their own personal stamp. Carpenters Gothic was an inexpensive but expressive version that allowed owners to add elaborate wooden decoration to the outside of their houses. This style emerged as band-and-scroll saws as well as steam powered sawmills advanced to produce finely cut architectural details. Gothic farmhouses became very popular in rural landscapes. The interiors of each were extremely similar yet the exteriors differed greatly. The Gothic revival died hard in Ontario especially in rural areas though continued until the 1950s. Gothic houses used vernacular materials

### **Key Elements**

- Asymmetrical or symmetrical
- L or T shaped one and a half story houses, Gothic farmhouses
- Windows of various shapes: Cross casement, Bay, oriels, Tudor arched, segmentally arched, pointed arch, lancet
- Steeped pitched roofs.
- Tudor style front door
- Parapet Gables
- Finials, pinnacles, and spires
- Board and Batten, brick, stucco
- Bargeboard, Verge board (gingerbread)
- Multiple chimneys
- Juliet balconies
- Quoins
- Verandahs or porches
- Gabled roofs (centered, triple, etc) with windows
- Gable wings
- Bay-and-gable style



# Gothic Farmhouse





110 Waterloo St, New Hamburg



329 Huron St, New Hamburg



1522 Bethel Road, New Dundee

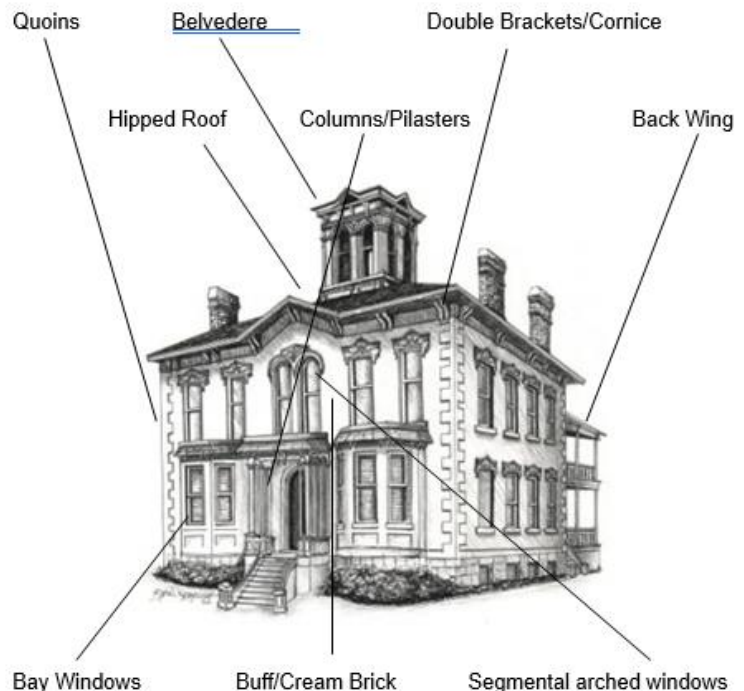
# Italianate

## The History of Italianate Homes

Based on the architecture of the Tuscan country villas of Florentine elite of the Renaissance Italianate evolved from the Regency's earlier interest in Tuscan architecture and a desire to continue a classical tradition. The style gained popularity in 1860 and lasted throughout 1890. The style is very flexible and could be adapted from modest homes to more grand houses. Italianate is highly decorative coinciding with societies growing desire for ornament and was a style of elements. Most common form was the simple square hipped-roof house. Italianate houses never achieved high style but were comfortable houses with bay windows here and there. Most were meant to have verandahs or porches but became unaffordable to the owners. It is the most difficult style to define because of the stylistic interpretation.

## Key Elements

- Two story façade for residential, and three or four story façade for commercial
- Simple square shape or 'L' shaped
- Tall, narrow segmental or round arched windows, paired windows
- Brackets and cornice, sometimes paired brackets
- Moulded window surrounds, or heads,
- Wide overhanging eaves
- Cupolas, or belvederes
- A back side wing
- Made of brick, or cladding (Flush Board)
- Quoins
- Bay windows
- Frontispiece
- Columns or pilasters
- Double door with transom
- Hipped roof
- Buff/cream brick
- Highly decorative storm porch



Castle ~~Kilbride~~, Baden





1149 Snyder's Rd W, Baden



141 Peel St, New Hamburg



60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden

## Log Houses and Structures

Log houses may differ in the manner in which the logs are fitted together.

### Key Elements

- Usually, 1 story
- Façade is plain horizontal log, chinking of moss or plaster
- Roof had end gable
- Windows are fixed and small paned
- Entrance is plain, central or side entry

*\*Above Information provided by the Heritage Resource Centre University of Waterloo\**







2994 Nafziger Rd, New Prussia



2514A Nafziger Rd, Philipsburg

# Mid-Century Modern

## The History of

Known for clean lines, minimal decoration, and connection with nature, mid-century modern architecture kicked off after World War II. Mid-century modern buildings are characterized by very wide, low footprints with large, open spaces, floor-to-ceiling windows, and an emphasis on bringing the outdoors in.

## Key Elements

- The façade of these buildings have clean and geometric shapes and lines
- The roof tended to have flat planes
- Large high windows
- Changes in elevation between rooms in the interior of the buildings



437 Waterloo St, New Hamburg



3158 Nafziger Rd, New Prussia



# Ontario Cottage

## The History of

The Ontario Cottage is a style of house that was commonly built in 19th century Ontario, Canada. The Ontario Cottage became popular in the 1820s and remained a common style until the end of that century. They were mainly built in rural and small-town areas, less so in larger cities. This was the period in which European settlers first populated the interior of the province, and throughout it. Ontario Cottages are some of the oldest houses.

The Ontario Cottage is essentially a Regency-style structure, with symmetrical, rectangular plans. The style was efficient and easy to build for settlers with limited resources. The typical cottage had one-and-a-half. The most distinctive feature of the Ontario Cottage was the single gable above the door in the centre of the building. By the second half of the 19th century Gothic had become the most popular architectural style in Canada. Many Ontario Cottages built during this era incorporate Gothic ornamentation, most often added to the gable.

## Key Elements

- One to one and half storeys, sometimes with a small gable in the centre at the front
- Façade was made from brick, clapboard, or stucco
- Hip roof
- Windows are small-paned sash, usually 6-over-6 (sometimes 2-over-2 or 1-over-1)
- Entrance was centred, sometimes with sidelights and transom

*\*Above Information provided by the Heritage Resource Centre University of Waterloo\**



27 Waterloo St, New Hamburg

# Queen Anne

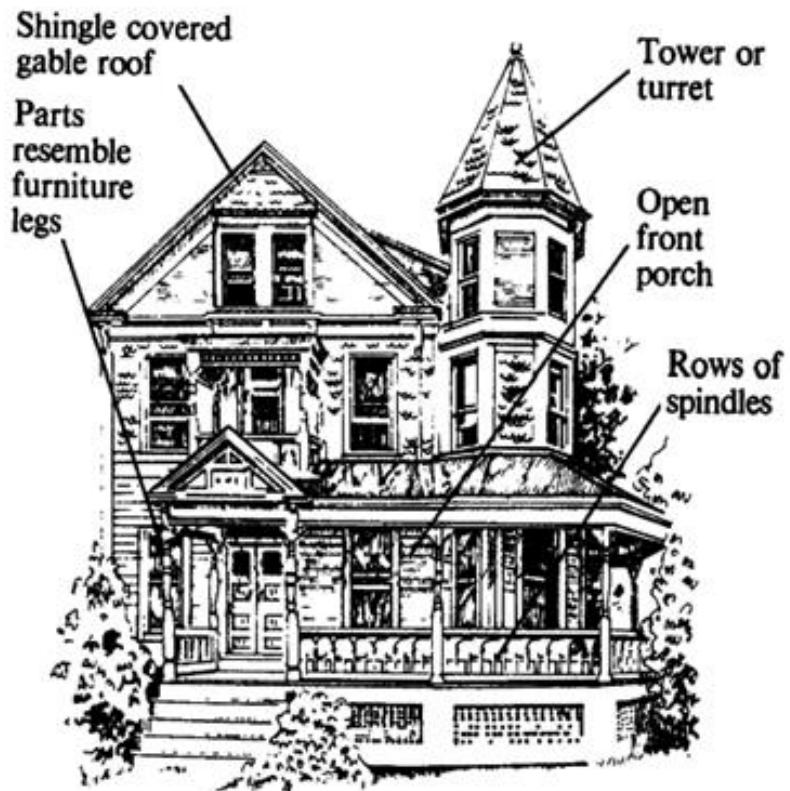
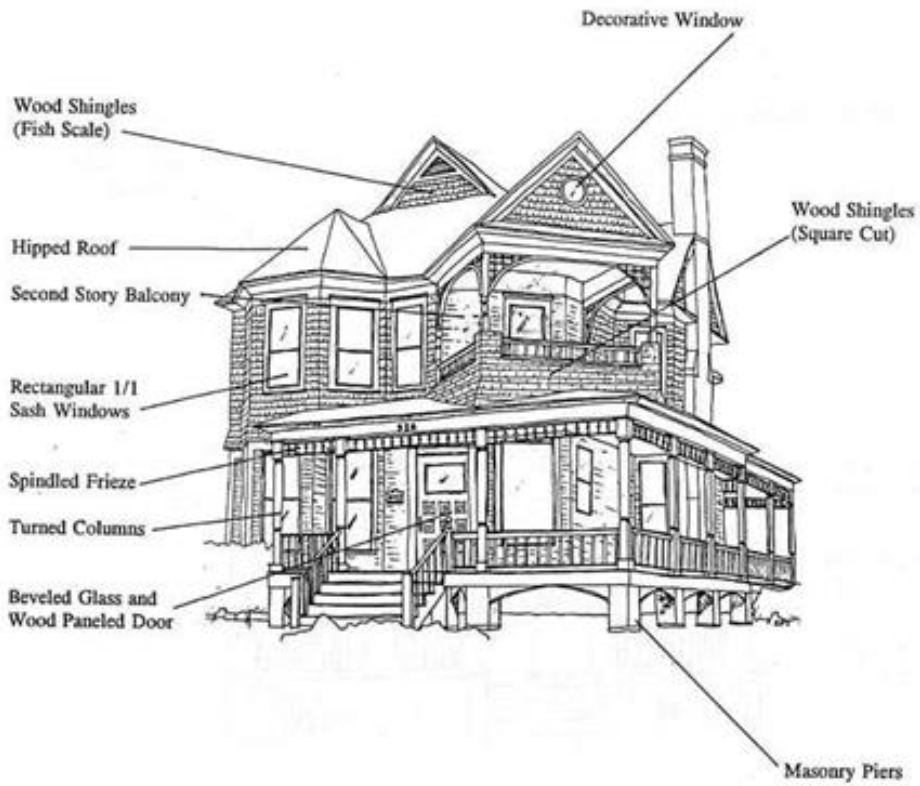
## The History of

Queen Anne style was inspired by the excess and eclecticism of Queen Victoria's reign. It drew inspiration and elements from different styles and periods resulting in buildings that have towers, turrets, verandahs, porches, gables, and bays. It always has a verandah sometime wrapping all the way around the house. There were many small rooms throughout the house so each person could get their own privacy. The style is similar to the Italianate though without the extreme detailing and ornament. It is a style that met the desire to return to a cozy English domesticity but in a romantic way. The style started in 1890, peaking at the turn of the century and lasted until about 1914, when a plainer, simpler house was desired.

## Key Elements

- Light and playful compositions
- Asymmetrical
- Towers/Turrets
- Bay windows
- Verandahs/porches
- Steeply pitched Gables
- Dormer Windows
- Small paned windows
- Balustrades
- Cladding (Fish scale shingle, vertical, horizontal)
- Variety of window shapes and sizes
- Decorated wood trim including spindles, slender turned columns, Tall chimneys
- Gingerbread/vergeboard









3233 Erb's Rd, Philipsburg



53 Snyder's Rd W, Baden



189 Snyder's Rd W, Baden

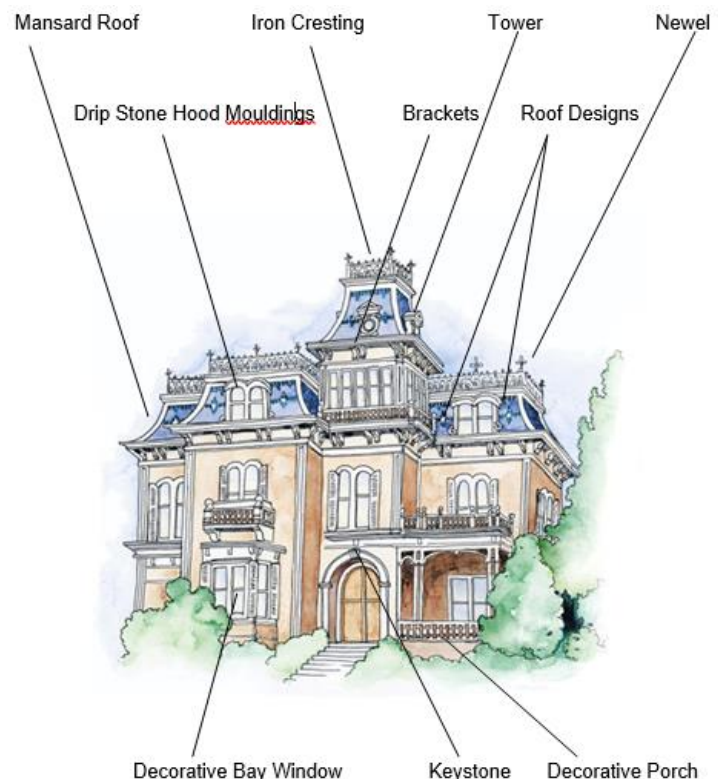
# Second Empire

## The History of Second Empire Homes

The Second Empire architectural style was born out of the optimistic and heady early years of Napoleon III's reign when he rebuilt Paris in a grand opulent manner reflecting his national and dynastic ambitions after many years of political division and economic uncertainty. The style borrowed from French historical styles (Renaissance, First French Empire). The steep pitch of the mansard roof allowed for a full upper storey of usable attic space. The style was referred to as a form springing out from current political and aesthetic movements, very modern, and avant-garde. It was popular on both residential and non-residential buildings. Semi-detached and small terraces in the Second Empire Style sprung up in the larger urban areas of Ontario. The style reached its peak in the 1870s in Canada but it was never hugely popular the style only lasted from 1865-1890

## Key Elements

- Brick construction, few stone or wooden
- Mansard Roof (five different slopes; straight, straight with flare, convex, concave, or S-curved) and often two or more appear on one house.
- Segmentally arched sash windows (single or paired)
- Stylish and richly embellished dormer windows
- Stone quoins
- Brackets
- Ornamental Trim
- Decorated Bay Window
- Embellished Porches
- Dripstone Hood Mouldings
- Keystones
- Patterned Slate Roof
- Pediment/gabled/elliptical Dormer windows
- Iron Cresting with newels
- Secondary Towers
- Cornices







75 Huron St, New Hamburg



418 Huron St, New Hamburg

# Vernacular

## The History of Vernacular Homes

Vernacular architecture is a term used to categorize methods of construction which use locally available resources and traditions to address local needs and circumstances. Vernacular architecture tends to evolve over time to reflect the environmental, cultural and historical context in which it exists. It has often been dismissed as crude and unrefined, but also has proponents who highlight its importance in current design. The term vernacular is derived from the Latin *vernaculus*, meaning domestic, native, and indigenous.

## Key Elements

- One or One and a half storeys
- Conservative design, rectangular
- Rubble, brick and stucco construction
- Central Dormer
- Fieldstone, local stone, board and batten (rare) and sometimes handmade brick
- Slightly irregular placement of window and door openings
- Multi-paned windows
- Prominent Window Trim
- Gingerbread
- Wood sash windows
- Quoins
- Lintel voussoirs
- Wood decorations
- End chimneys
- Large verandah

End Chimney

Gabled Roof

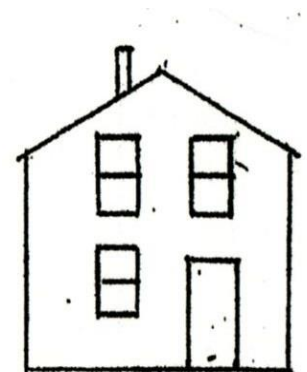
Rubble Stone Construction



Irregular Placement of Windows

Rectangular Construction

1157 Erb's Rd, St. Agatha







3238 Erb's Rd, Philipsburg



1439 Bridge St, New Dundee



3433 Huron Rd, Haysville