Building Styles
How do they help us read the landscape?
Building Styles

• Humans are fickle
• Architectural styles: fad & fashion
• Rural
• Towns and cities
• Streetcar suburbs
• Automobile suburbs
• Important styles in the South Carolina landscape: Carolina I-House, Single House, Greek Revival, Shotgun, Folk Victorian, Queen Anne, Craftsman, Art Deco, Ranch, Contemporary
Terms

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

ROOF TYPES

- gable
- gambrel
- hipped
- mansard
- parapet
- gable
- Flemish or Dutch gable
- cross gable
- shed

WINDOWS

- head
- transom lights
- transom
- double-hung
- casement with transom
- awning
- hopper
- Palladian or Venetian window
- oriel
- bay window

- casing
- muntins
- sash
- sill
Drayton Hall (1742) near Charleston is an excellent example of the Georgian style. It was dominant in the English colonies during the 18th century. Unfortunately, few survive in South Carolina.
Carolina I-House
1750 - 1850

This two story, two room wide, one room deep style was popular when cotton transformed the Piedmont.

Newberry County
Fairfield County
Laurens County
Row House
1780 - 1840

Charleston

Savannah
Single House - Federal Style
1780 - 1830
While we think of the single house as characteristic of “The Battery.” It also was constructed in lower income areas.

As the process of gentrification has taken place, single houses have become very attractive residences to young urban professionals and retirees.
Greek Revival
1820 -1850

While often stereotyped as the southern mansion, Greek Revival was the dominant style of architecture between 1820 and 1850. It occurs in all areas of the United States that were settled by 1860.
Robert Mills was an important architect in the Greek Revival movement.
The Columns, Florence County

Bishopville, S.C.
Gothic Revival
1840 - 1880

Houses of this style are most abundant in northeastern states and are less common in the South. In South Carolina, this style is most common in church buildings. William Gregg built many Gothic Revival buildings in Graniteville.
Victorian
1870 -1910

- There are many styles of Victorian Houses
- Most are based on Medieval prototypes
- The growth of railroads, which made materials widely available, led to dramatic changes in design and construction
- The balloon frame, made of thin boards and wire nails, replaced heavy timber framing
- Industrialization made mass-produced doors, windows, roofing, siding, and detailing available and less expensive
- Folk Victorian and Queen Anne styles are widespread throughout South Carolina towns and cities
Folk Victorian:
1870 - 1910

This style is very common in railroad towns. It was fashionable at the same time of railroad expansion in South Carolina. The expanded rail system also made pre-cut “gingerbread” detailing easily available from distant milling factories.
West Main Street
Laurens, S.C.
Queen Anne: 1870 - 1910
West Main Street, Laurens, S.C.
West Main Street, Laurens, S.C.
Adaptive Reuse
Many former large residences have been converted to other uses such as offices and funeral homes. This is the Queen Anne style at the corner of Pickens and Gervais Streets in Columbia, S.C. is now Dunbar Funeral Home.
Italian Renaissance
1890 - 1930

This style is often incorrectly referred to Italianate which was an earlier style. This style is not widespread in South Carolina but is easily recognized by its tile and low pitched roof, recessed porch, and brackets or dentil work under the eaves.
Office building in Spartanburg, S.C.
Colonial Revival ?
1880 - 1960
Near Horatio, South Carolina

Spanish Colonial Revival ?
1920s
West Main Street, Laurens, S.C.
Shotgun
1880 -1930

• One story
• Narrow
• Gable facing the front
• One room wide
• Hall the length of the house
• Common in low income urban and rural areas of the South
Origin of the shotgun house is controversial. Some feel the form moved from Africa to the West Indies and from Haiti to New Orleans.
Georgetown, S.C.

Extended Shotgun
Cainhoy, S.C.
Shotgun, Columbia, S.C.

Typical of pre-1970 housing in Camp Fornace (Black Bottom) area
Craftsman
1905 - 1930

• Originated in California and often is called the California Bungalow
• The dominant style for smaller urban houses from 1905 -1920
• Spread quickly through pattern books and popular magazines
• Few were built after 1930
• Sometimes referred to as “the streetcar suburb house”
• Common style in gentrified neighborhoods
Art Deco
1920 -1940

- zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
- towers and other vertical projections
- smooth stucco wall surface
Spartanburg, South Carolina
Charleston, S.C.

Columbia, S.C.
Moderne
1920-1940
Contemporary Styles
Variations on a Theme

MINIMAL TRADITIONAL 1935–1950

Automobile suburb styles
MANSARD 1960–1990s

NEO-CLASSICAL REVIVAL 1965–1990s

NEO-TUDOR 1965–1990s
Rural Residential Ribbons
Manufactured Housing
One of a Kind

Folly Beach, S.C.