**New England Architectural Styles**

**A Brief Portable Guide**

This guide is meant to reflect homes of the New England region, but in no way can reflect all the vernacular adaptations to a particular design. Examples represent the typical designs of the era.

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**Colonial Period – 1630 - 1780**

**First Period**

- **Proprietary Central Colonial**
  - British Colonial homes
  - Steep pitched roofs
  - Unpainted gables
  - Diamond-pane windows
  - Chimney at roof level
  - Character: Simple, functional, massed.

First period homes were the product of necessity. Most common in Massachusetts, these buildings were heavy timbered, wood buildings with diamond pane windows, and often an overhang at the second level used as defense.

**Colonial**

- **Colonial Period**
  - Glass became more common during this time, refining the windows to individual panes. Focus on ordainment was around the entrance surround. This style has multiple variations found across New England.

**Georgian**

- **Georgian Homes**
  - Expanded the Colonial style, with imported English tastes. Quoining, and end chimneys are symbolic. Focus is on a central axis and repetition and symmetry.

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**New Republic – 1780 - 1820**

**Federal**

- **Federal Period**
  - Federal style homes are often very box like, but maintain symmetry, and include a low pitch roof and end chimneys.

**The Revivals – 1820 - 1860**

**Greek Revival**

- **Greek Revival**
  - Greek Revival is the first American Style, returning to the roots of architecture. Designers utilized classical proportions and elements scaled down to a residential level. Character defining features include columns and friezes, and sometimes street facing gables, acting as pediments.

**Gothic Revival**

- **Gothic Revival**
  - Gothic Revival buildings were the product of Andrew Jackson Downing and Alexander Davis. Made popular through their cottage residence’s book, these were the first pre-designed buildings. Their inspiration originates from the buildings of Europe. Typical details include pointed arched windows, steep roofs, ornate chimneys, decorative materials, like slate or wood, and gable trim. This style is the first to move away from traditional proportion and the symmetrical plan.
Victorian Era – 1860-1910

**Italianate**

Italianate style is so named for the inspiration back to Italian villas. During this period, homes were often simply updated by adding the character defining brackets. Typical of Italianate homes were a tower and or a cupola.

**Second Empire**

Named for the reign of Napoleon III, the style is a glance back towards French architecture. Typically containing a mansard roof, these buildings were constructed of masonry and wood.

**Queen Anne**

Representing a mash mash of styles, the Queen Anne design is an explosion of form and plan. Often the most elaborate, this style utilized materials and the mass production of products to its advantage. The style often utilized wood and brick, and had decorative shingling, half timbering, and contained round octagonal or three sided bay.

**Shingle**

Shingle Style is a more refined and simplistic version of the Queen Anne Style. Often, a focus is on the material, being natural wood.

Eclectic – 1895-1930

**Colonial Revival**

Named for the movement back towards the colonial style, homes often resembled those of the 18th century, with modern decor. Buildings often neglected the proportions to meet current needs.

A rise in two family homes made this style extremely popular with all classes and appears in every New England metropolis areas.

**Arts & Crafts**

Houses of the early 19th century tended to be smaller and focused on interior simplistic details. These were post the large movement of creation of suburban two family homes.

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