

LOUISIANA VICTORIAN

The Victorian style was a national style that achieved widespread popularity in the United States between 1860–1900. Named for the last decades of the reign of Queen Victoria in England, the style was readily accessible to many home builders as a result of pattern books that provided drawings of these early house designs, making it easier for the builders of both country estates and modest dwellings to adopt the style. Cottages in the Victorian and Carpenter Gothic styles were abundant in early rail-served coastal resorts.

Dramatic changes in construction techniques (e.g., mass production) and railroad shipping (which allowed construction materials to move more easily around the country at low cost) contributed to the broad appeal and proliferation of these styles. The evolution in construction techniques also allowed for greater expression in both the massing and details of Victorian style houses.

Traditional houses in the Victorian style were often complex in form creating picturesque compositions. Heavily detailed porches, elaborate woodwork, textures created by scalloped, diamond, and fishscale shingles, as well as stained glass and beveled glass windows and doors are frequent elements of Victorian-era houses. Although exotic Victorian houses incorporating Eastlake, Queen Anne, and Italianate details grew in popularity throughout the country, primarily folk-based Victorian houses flourished in this region. The Louisiana Victorian style is based on simple, elegant forms that have been adapted for smaller houses. The massing is simple and the ornamentation is typically restrained and limited to the porch, railing, and cornice of the building.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Prominent porch elements

Cut wood ornament, influenced by natural forms such as leaves and vines, or turned decorative millwork

Wood clapboard siding

Vertically proportioned windows and doors



GALLERY OF EXAMPLES



St. Francisville



New Orleans



Baton Rouge—Spanishtown



Breaux Bridge



Hammond



Arabi



St. Francisville



Abbeville



Baton Rouge—Spanishtown

MASSING & COMPOSITION

VICTORIAN MASSING

NARROW FRONT

- >> Rectangular volume with a roof pitch ranging from 5 to 8 in 12 for the main body
- >> Roofs are either hipped or gabled.
- >> Porches are typically inset within the roof form or added on the front as a full front porch.
- >> This massing type includes shotguns and double shotguns.

GABLE L

- >> Rectangular volume with hipped or gabled roof from which a front-facing gabled wing extends
- >> Roof pitches range from 8 in 12 to 12 in 12.
- >> Front porches are typically two- or three-bay, hipped porches that fill the void in the L-shaped plan.
- >> On corner houses, the porches often wrap one corner and tie into a side wing.

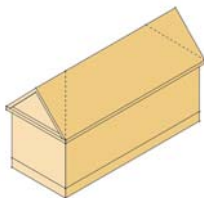
BROAD FRONT

- >> Two-story, side-gabled rectangular volume with roof pitches ranging from 6 in 12 to 10 in 12
- >> One-story shed or hipped porches placed symmetrically on the front facade are typical.
- >> Gables and dormers are often used to articulate the front facade.

MASSING COMBINATIONS

- >> Complex forms and larger living spaces may be created by combining side wings and/or rear wings with the main body.
- >> Gabled dormers may be added to introduce light into half-story and attic spaces.
- >> The character of the attached parts should match that of the main body.

NARROW FRONT MASSING

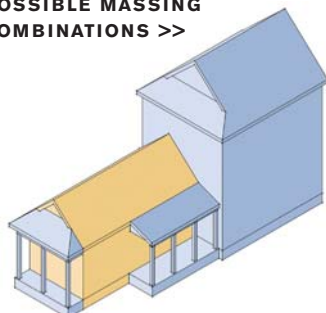


1-to 2-story Narrow Front

FACADE COMPOSITION DIAGRAMS >>



POSSIBLE MASSING COMBINATIONS >>

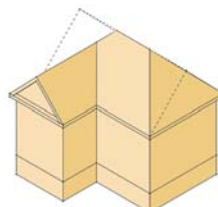


Baton Rouge

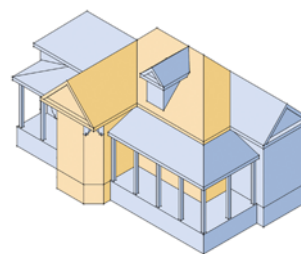


Old Turnerville

GABLE L MASSING



1- to 2-story Gable L

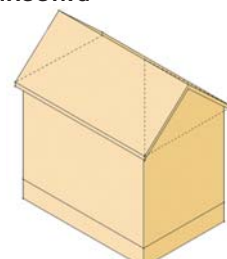


Abbeville

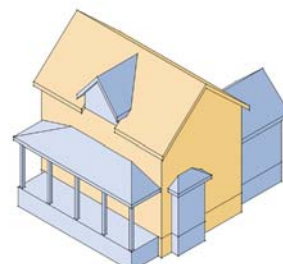
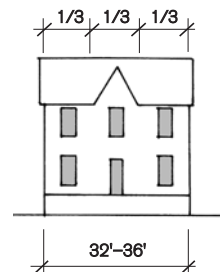


Abbeville

BROAD FRONT MASSING



1- to 2-story Broad Front



St. Francisville



Hammond

WALLS, EAVES & ROOFS

FACADE COMPOSITION

- >> Victorian facade composition is characterized by a balanced placement of doors and windows.
- >> Individual double-hung windows are the most common type.
- >> Paired or bay windows are often used in the forward gable of the Gable L massing type.
- >> Bay windows may be one or two stories tall.

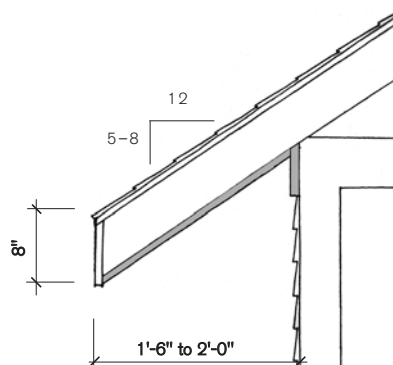
WALLS

- >> First floor is typically set up to four feet above the finished grade.
- >> For one-story houses, the minimum recommended floor-to-ceiling height is 10 feet.
- >> For two-story houses, the minimum recommended floor-to-ceiling height is 10 feet for the first floor and 9 to 10 feet for the second floor.
- >> Window head heights should be 8 feet above the floor for first-floor windows and 7 to 8 feet for second-floor windows.
- >> Skirting boards are typically 8 inches wide.
- >> Foundation vents are centered under windows when used.

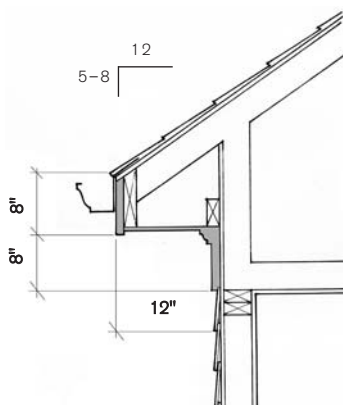
BOXED EAVE

- >> A 12- to 16-inch frieze board either touching or at least 8 inches above the window head trim
- >> Eave returns should have metal flashing back to the wall at a maximum slope of 2 in 12.
- >> The rake features an overhang with a simple decorative vergeboard with a sloped soffit.

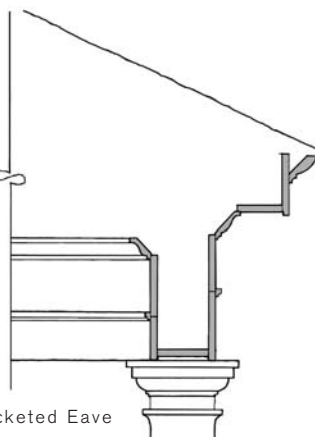
TYPICAL EAVE DETAILS >>



Boxed Eave-Sloped



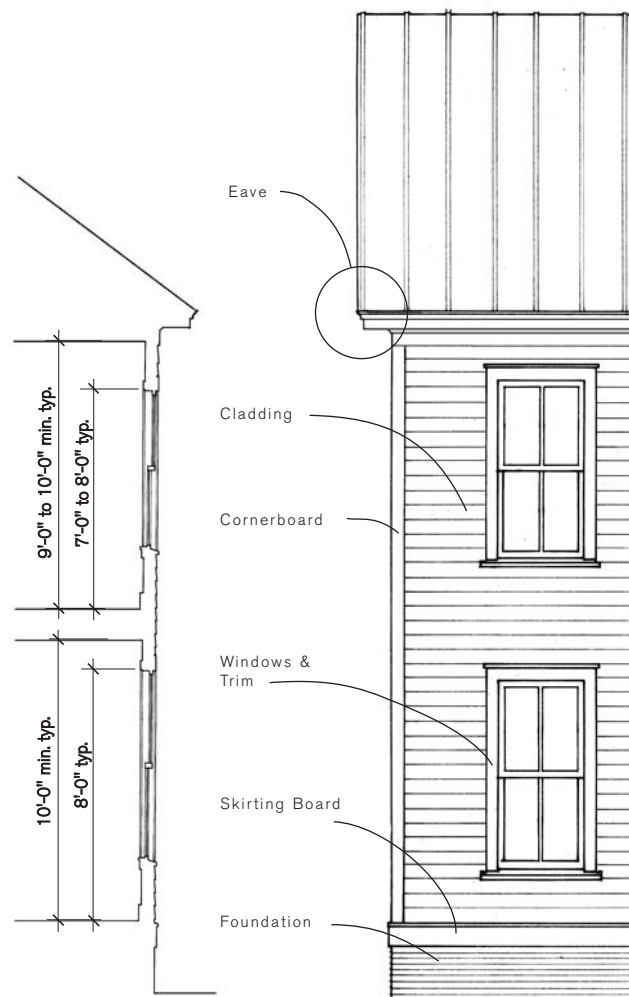
Boxed Eave



Bracketed Eave



Examples of the gable end condition of decorative boxed eaves



GREEN BUILDING

Insulation

Insulation is a critical element in constructing energy-efficient, comfortable houses. Insulation should exceed the required minimums to save on overall energy costs and make the house more comfortable. Using 2 x 6 framing increases wall r-values from r13 to r19. Roofs should be rated to r38.

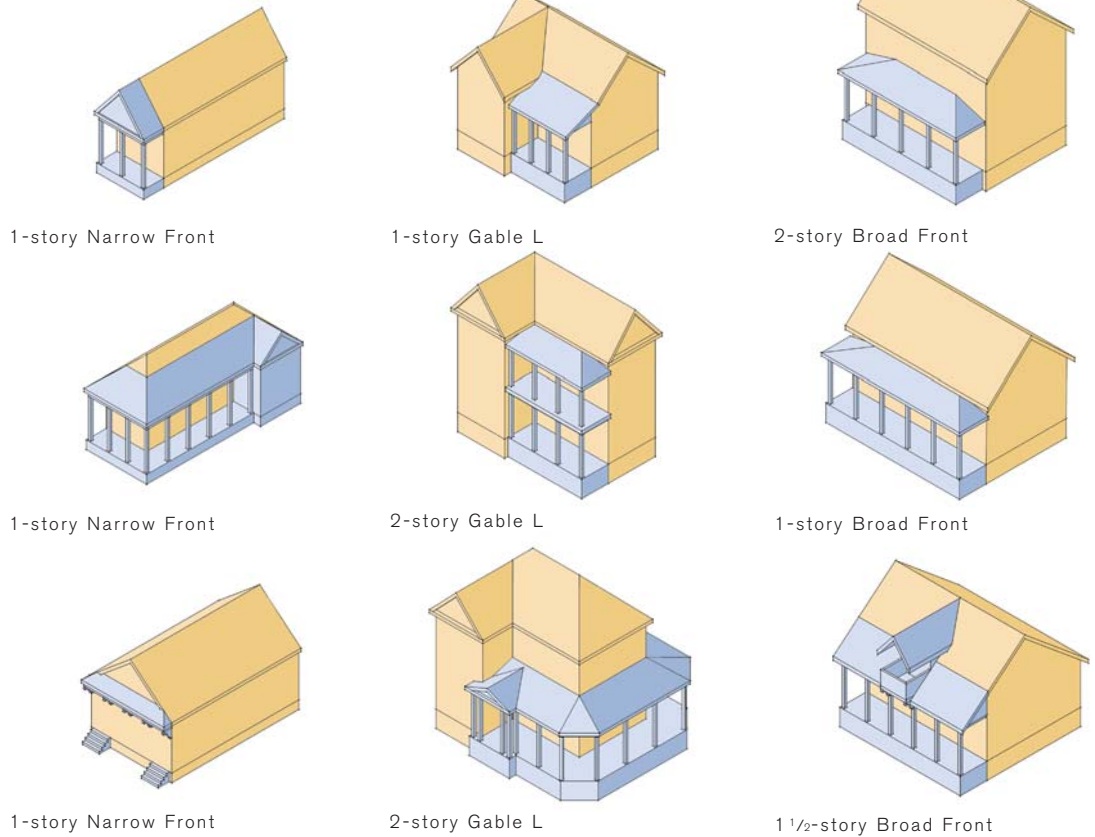


PORCHES

PORCH TYPES & LOCATIONS

- >> Narrow Front massing types may have hip or gable roofed porches that read as part of the main roof mass, or as separate elements; the porches run the full length of the facade, and can wrap to one side of the house. Shallow hip-roofed porches are sometimes supported by large decorative brackets rather than columns.
- >> Gable-L massing types may have shed or hip-roofed porches that typically fill the void in the L-shaped plan. Porches that typically fill the void may wrap to the side of the house; porches may be 1- or 2-stories.
- >> Broad Front massing types typically have shallow, hip-roofed porches or take on the Acadian-influenced massing type (see Louisiana Vernacular) or Victorian details. Porches are typically 1-story and run the full length of the facade.
- >> Minimum recommended porch depth is 8 feet.

TYPICAL PORCH TYPES & LOCATIONS >>



One-story, hipped porch partial elevation



New Iberia



New Orleans



Arabi

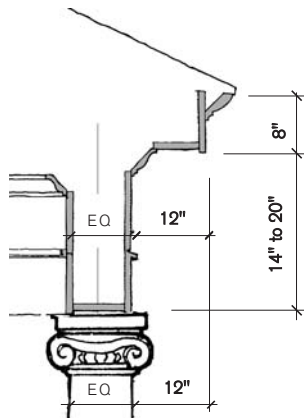
PORCH ROOFS & EAVES

- >> One or two stories tall with flat, shed, or shallow hipped roofs
- >> Full porches may be integrated under the house's main roof.
- >> Shed or hipped porches have a 3 in 12 to 4 in 12 pitch.
- >> Entablatures are typically classically proportioned and detailed, or decorative with carving and spindle work.

COLUMNS, BRACKETS & RAILINGS

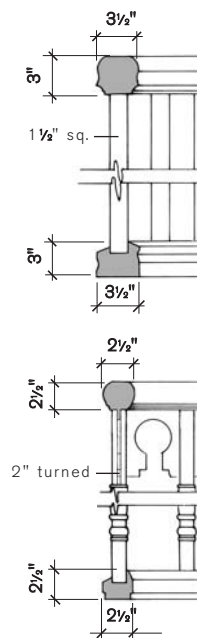
- >> Eight-inch-square posts, 8- to 10-inch-diameter Doric and Ionic columns, chamfered square posts, & turned ornamental posts
- >> First-floor columns are 9- to 10-feet tall.
- >> Second-floor columns are 8- to 9-feet tall.
- >> Brackets range from simple designs cut from boards, to more elaborate turned wood or jigsaw-cut openwork.
- >> Brackets are a minimum of 2 inches thick.
- >> Archway bracketing can be used to form portals over key entry locations.
- >> Turned or square balusters are spaced no more than 4 inches apart.
- >> Porch bays should be vertically proportioned.
- >> Flat-cut ornamental balusters are also used with square columns.
- >> Square pattern lattice is used as infill between piers at the foundation.

PORCH EAVE DETAIL >>

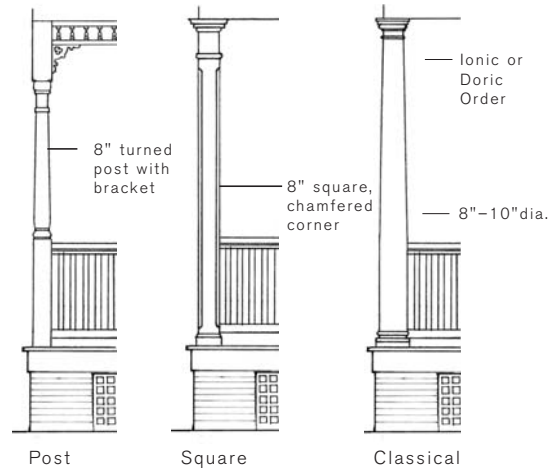


Typical Porch Entablature

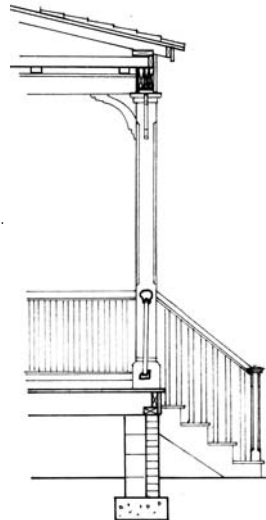
RAIL DETAILS >>



PORCH COLUMN TYPES >>



TYPICAL PORCH SECTION >>



GREEN BUILDING

Recycled and Locally Sourced Materials

Building materials are heavy and expensive to transport. Specifying local resources, including native landscaping materials, reduces transportation energy costs and contributes to the local economy. For example, there is an abundant forestry and wood products industry in Louisiana that provides renewable resources. Also, many commonly used products are now available with recycled content (including metals, concrete, drywall, carpet, and insulation).

WINDOWS & DOORS

WINDOWS

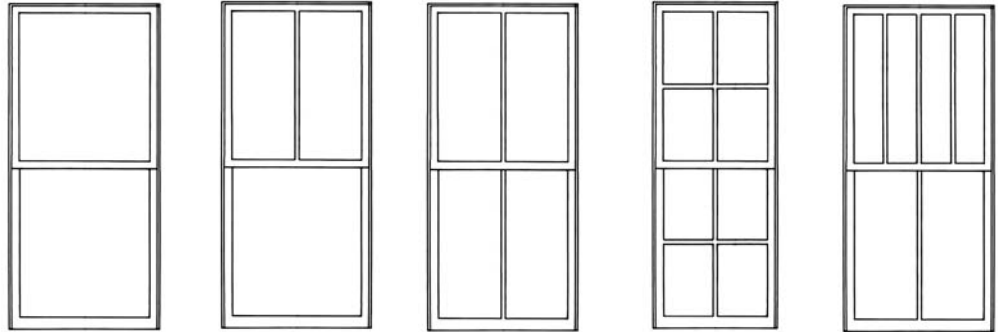
- >> Standard windows are double hung.
- >> Common muntin patterns are vertical in proportion and have a 1 over 1, 2 over 1, 2 over 2, 4 over 4, or 4 over 1 pattern.
- >> Panes are always taller than they are wide.
- >> Some houses may have windows with rounded upper sashes.
- >> Standard windows are double hung.
- >> Range of sizes:
Width: 2'-8" to 3'-8"
Height: 4'-4" to 6'-0"
- >> Materials: Painted wood, solid cellular PVC or clad wood, or vinyl with brick veneer only; true divided light or simulated divided light (SDL) sash with traditional exterior muntin profile (7/8" wide)

WINDOW ASSEMBLIES & ACCENT WINDOWS

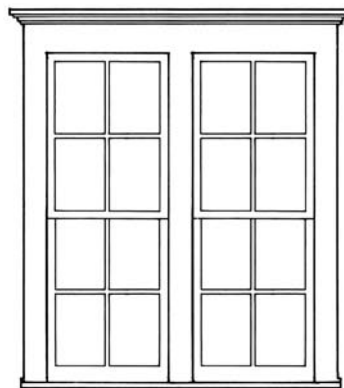
- >> Louisiana Victorian houses feature round-top windows, dormers, and box and angled bay windows.
- >> Bay windows must project a minimum of 8 inches from the main structure.
- >> Bay windows typically have a continuous base to the ground; two-story bays are common.



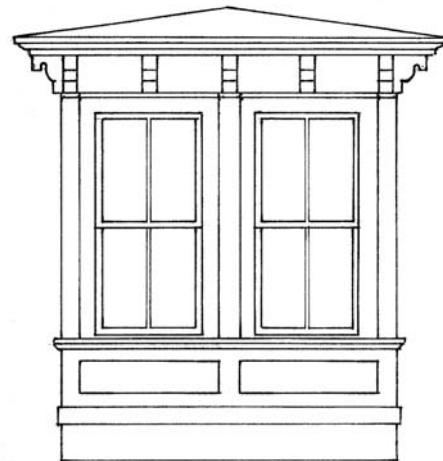
STANDARD WINDOWS >>



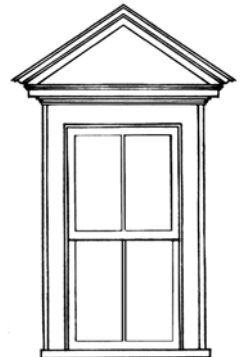
WINDOW ASSEMBLIES >>



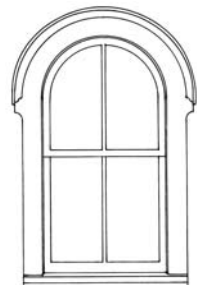
SIMPLE
Window Pair



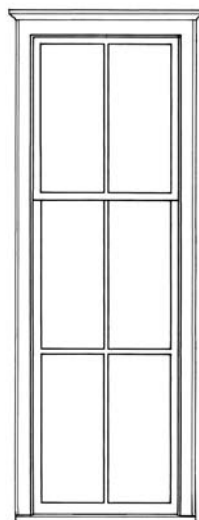
ORNATE
Box Bay Window



Dormer Window



Accent Window



Floor-to-Ceiling
Windows



DOORS

- >> The maximum width of a pair of double doors is 5 feet for doors at least 8 feet tall, and 4 feet for shorter pairs of double doors.

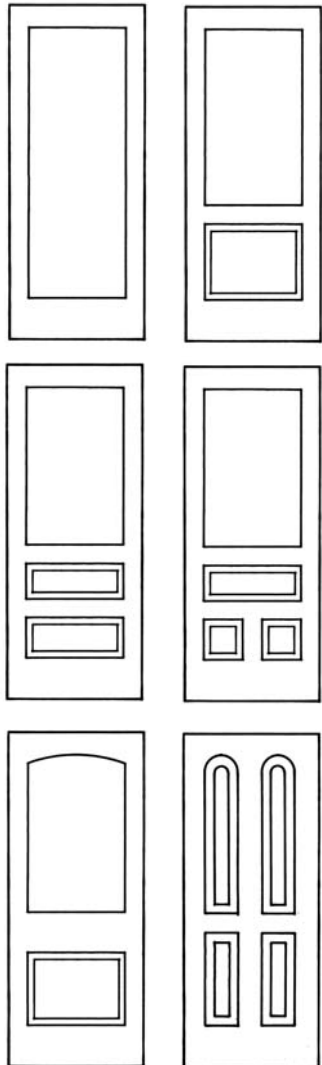
TRIM

- >> Six-inch trim with a simple backband profile
- >> Carries a decorative crown and cap above; windows may feature an ornate hood

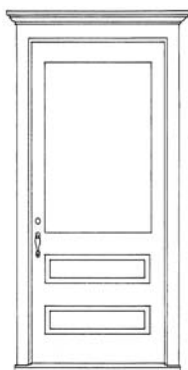
SHUTTERS

- >> Shutters can be louvered, raised panel, or flat panel.
- >> Wood or composite, sized to match window sash and mounted with hardware so that they are operable

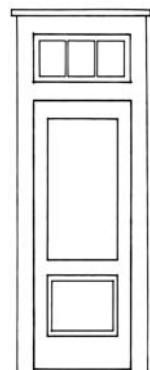
DOOR TYPES



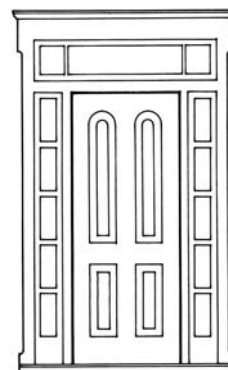
DOOR ASSEMBLIES >>



COMMON



COMMON



ORNATE



TYPICAL TRIM EXAMPLES >>

