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## Glossary of Terms

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**Architrave:** In classical architecture, a horizontal element resting on columns or piers; in current usage, the trim elements around window and door openings.

**Baluster:** Vertical member, usually of wood, which supports the railing of a porch or the handrail of a stairway.

**Balustrade:** Railing or parapet consisting of a handrail on balusters; sometimes also includes a bottom rail.

**Bargeboard:** A board, often decoratively carved or cut out, which hangs from the projecting edge of a roof at the gable.

**Bay:** 1) A spatial structural unit of a building facade; 2) A structure protruding out from a wall.

**Bulkhead:** In commercial buildings, the area below the display windows, at the sidewalk level.

**Board-and-Batten:** A type of wood siding that consists of a wide vertical boards with narrow strips (battens) concealing the joints between the boards.

**Bracket:** A projecting member, often decorative, which supports an overhanging element such as a cornice.

**Casement:** A type of window with side hinges and a sash that swings outward.

**Clapboard:** Large wood boards which taper slightly (they are a type of beveled siding) so they overlap and lie flat; applied horizontally on buildings of frame construction.

**Column:** A post found on storefronts, porches, and balconies; may be fluted or smooth.

**Corbel:** A bracket form produced by courses of wood or masonry which extend in successive stages from the wall surface.

**Cornerboard:** A board used to cover the exposed ends of wood siding to give a finished appearance and make the building watertight.

**Cornice:** The projecting uppermost portion of a wall, often treated in a decorative manner with brackets.

**Cresting:** Highly ornamental trim, usually cast and/or wrought iron, which is attached to a roof ridge, a wall, or a canopy.

**Dentil:** One of a row of small blocks used as part of a decoration in a frieze or cornice.

**Dormer:** A structural extension of a building's roof, intended to provide light and headroom in an attic space; usually contains a window or windows on its vertical face.

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**Double-Hung:** A window with two balanced sashes, with one sliding over the other vertically to open.

**Drip Edge:** A projection at the lower edge of a vertical surface with an undercut edge to drip rainwater away from the building.

**Dry Rot:** A fungus infection which destroys the structural strength of wood. Contrary to its name, excessive moisture creates the right conditions for its growth.

**Eaves:** The lower portion of the sloping surface of a roof, especially the part that overhangs the building's wall.

**Facade:** The "face" of the building; usually refers to the main side of the building, though it can be applied to all sides.

**Fascia:** A flat horizontal wooden member used as a facing at the ends of roof rafters or in the cornice area.

**Flashing:** Flat metal or other material that is used to keep water from penetrating the joint between different surfaces and materials such as around the chimney on a roof.

**Flush Siding:** A type of horizontal wood siding where the individual boards fit closely together, which creates a flat appearance with a barely visible joint between the boards.

**Frieze:** Long narrow panel on a wall, used chiefly for decoration, found just below the point where the wall surface meets the building's roof.

**Gable:** The "end" as opposed to the "side" of a building. The most common gable is triangular in shape, consisting of the area of wall defined by the sloping roof. A gambrel or double-pitch roof forms a non-triangular gable.

**Glazing:** Glass fitted into windows or doors.

**Hoodmold:** Decorative, projecting element placed over a window; may extend down the sides of a window as well as surrounding the top.

**Hipped Roofline:** A roof formed by four angled roof surfaces.

**In-Kind:** Replacement of one element of a building with the another of the same material, design, size, and appearance.

**Lintel:** Horizontal structural element at the top of a window or door; in masonry walls, may be of wood, stone or metal.

**Mullion:** A wooden vertical piece that divides window sash, doors or panels set close together in a series.

**Muntin:** The wooden pieces that make up the small subdivisions in a multi-paned glass window.

**Parapet:** The portion of an exterior wall which rises entirely above the roof, usually in the form of a low retaining wall; the parapet may be shaped or stepped.

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**Pediment:** The triangular face of a roof gable; or a gable which is used in porches, or as decoration over windows, doors, and dormers.

**Pilaster:** A flat pier which is attached to the surface of the wall and has a slight projection; the pier may be given a base and cap, and may be smooth or fluted.

**Portico:** An entrance porch, usually supported by columns and sheltering only the entry.

**Return:** The continuation of a projection or cornice in a different direction, usually around a corner at a right angle.

**Rock-faced:** A rough-cut finish on a piece of stone or a manufactured product such as concrete block or ceramic tile.

**Sash:** The framework of the window that supports the glass. Sash may be fixed, sliding, hinged or pivoted.

**Sill:** The framing member that forms the lower part of a window or door opening.

**Segmental Arch:** A type of circular arch which does not extend on the sides to a full half circle; often found at the tops of windows.

**Setback:** The distance between the front of a land parcel and the facade of a building.

**Sheathing:** A sub-surface material, usually wood, which covers exterior walls or roofs before application of siding or roofing materials.

**Shiplap Siding:** Horizontal wood siding that has both top and bottom edges finished to form a close-fitting joint and the appearance of a narrow recessed band between two flat boards.

**Sidelight:** A glass panel, usually of multiple panes, to either side of a door; often used in conjunction with a transom.

**Soffit:** A flat wood member used as a finished undersurface for any overhead exposed part of a building, such as a cornice. Commonly found on the underside of the eaves.

**Spalling:** Damage resulting in the removal of part of the surface of stone, brick or similar material.

**Splashblock:** A piece of stone or clay material with a channel in it, which when placed on the ground under a downspout carries water away from the foundation.

**Stoop:** An entrance platform with a few steps leading to it, frequently made of stone.

**Transom:** A glass panel, either fixed or moveable, which is placed over a door or window to provide additional natural light to the interior of the building. Used on both residential and commercial buildings.

**Vernacular:** Architecture that draws more on traditional forms and functionalism, rather than on design principles or ornamentation of high-style architecture.