

HISTORY *Along*
New York **HIGHWAYS**

TEXT and PLATES by **ROBERT W. FRASCH**

TEACHERS KNOW how readily a student can identify the year and model of almost any automobile of the last decade. Of how much greater historical value would be a knowledge of local buildings covering three centuries. Buildings mirror the entire history of a region since their form and style reflect the times in which they were built. This illustrated guide to New York State buildings is intended for any teacher or student who wants to learn more about the history of his own area.

This guide is one of the first to present our historic buildings in chronological order and at the same time show how they are both visually and historically related. In addition architectural terms are simplified so that the average high school student may follow the text.

Each historic period and general architectural style up to 1900 is covered with an explanatory history and list of outstanding examples. Most

ROBERT W. FRASCH is an instructor in history at SUC Cortland. Reprints of the article for class use may be obtained by writing either to him directly or to the office of NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION.

of the examples are museums, churches or historic buildings that may be visited by classes. Many are also furnished as they were originally with objects reflecting the everyday life and times of that era. Each building listed has either an exterior very typical of its day, or interior rooms in which a student can relive a moment of history.

Teachers of the intermediate, high school and even college levels can put this guide to many uses. With this guide in the students' hands, every field trip could also become a lesson in history or architecture. On trips for any purpose, the school bus could stop at specified houses while the students decided when the house was built, its type or style, and then associated it with what they have learned in history classes. On a walk through the village or school neighborhood, history could be brought to life.

Such a guide can be used to study similar local examples; to utilize field trips more fully; and to give students another guideline to gain a deeper understanding of both State and local history.

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RARE 17TH CENTURY HOUSES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY AND LONG ISLAND—1600's

Our first permanent dwellings were built during the 1620's by Dutch, French and later English settlers from Europe. The simple brick, wood and stone homes they constructed look much like the buildings of 17th Century Europe.

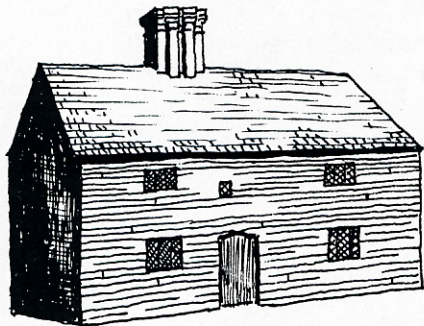


PLATE I
OLD HOUSE, 1649
Cutchogue

Look for:

Steep roof
Enormous fireplaces
Tiny window panes

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Bronck House, 1663, West Coxsackie
Conference House, 1688, Staten Island
Huguenot Street Stone Houses
1692-1720, New Paltz
Fort Crailo, Rensselaer
DeWindt House, Tappan, 1700
Senate House, 1676, Kingston

GEORGIAN COLONIAL—1700-1776

With three successive King Georges of Britain ruling the colony (1714-1776) it is easy to see where this English style got its name. Wealthy New Yorkers, wishing to imitate the landed nobility of England, obtained huge grants of land along the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys. Their large manor houses copied the carefully proportioned and formally balanced English Georgian style.

Look for:

Formal balance (doorway centered with matching windows on both sides)
Hipped roof (four sided)

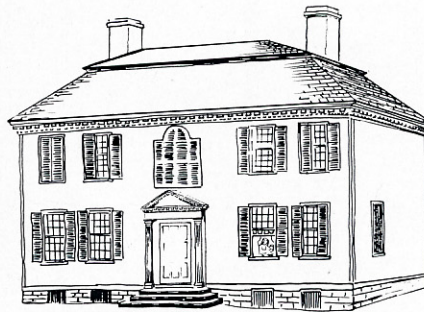


PLATE II
JOHNSON HALL

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Rock Hall, 1767, Lawrence
Fraunces Tavern, 1719, Manhattan
St. Paul's Chapel, 1766, Manhattan
Van Cortlandt Manor, 1748, Bronx
Philipse Manor, Yonkers
Knox's Headquarters, New Windsor
Schuyler Mansion, 1762, Albany
Fort Johnson, 1749
Johnson Hall, Johnstown
Old Stone Church, 1772, Schoharie
Palatine Church, 1770, Nelliston
French Castle, 1726, Old Fort Niagara

FEDERAL—1776-1820's

The Young Republic of thirteen federated states, newly freed from British rule by the American Revolution, gradually developed a new style of building, the Federal. Borrowing the graceful Adam style of England, Americans added symbols like the eagle, star or flag to decorate their buildings. Following the close of the Revolution in 1783, pioneers pushing west from the Mohawk Valley were to build the first frame houses in Central-Western New York in this Federal Style.

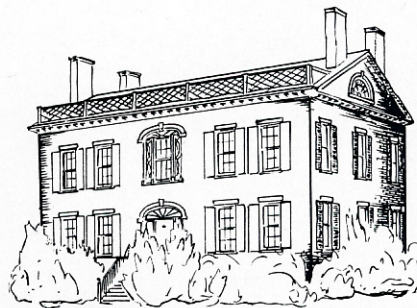


PLATE III
HOUSE OF HISTORY, 1810
Kinderhook

Look for:

Slender, tall columns on entrance or porch
Fan or oval shaped windows in attic
Ornamental railings (balastrade) around the edge of the roof
Federal type entrance

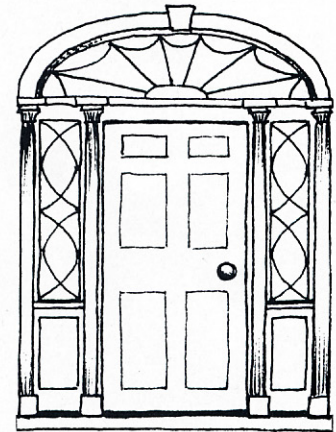


PLATE IV
TYPICAL FEDERAL DOORWAY

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

*Gracie Mansion, Carl Schurz Park, Manhattan, 1799
Old City Hall, 1803, Manhattan
Old Merchant's House, Manhattan
Boscobel, Garrison-on-Hudson
*Eugene Van Loon House, Athens
Hasbrouck House, 1814, Modena
House of History, Kinderhook
Washington Hall, 1799, Union
Ten Broeck Mansion, Albany
Union College, Schenectady
Hamilton College Chapel, Clinton
Seward Mansion, Auburn
Granger House, Canandaigua
*Culver House, East Boulevard, Rochester
Frontier House, Lewiston
Joseph Henry Memorial, Albany

GREEK REVIVAL—1820-1850

The Western World was excited in the 1820's by the Greeks attempt to free themselves from the Ottoman Empire of the Turks. American opinion was clearly on the side of the Greeks, whose ancient Athenian government had been the worlds first democracy. The American saw in the architecture of the ancient Greek Republics a style expressive of its new Democracy. Public buildings,

* Not open to the public

churches, schools and even homes began to imitate the classic Greek temple. New York State, expanding furiously after the success of the Erie Canal in 1825, soon was dotted with wooden Greek temples. This style is especially noticeable in the Rochester-Syracuse area where many country examples were also built in New York's unique cobblestone wall construction.



PLATE V
FEDERAL HALL
MEMORIAL, 1842
Manhattan

Look for:

Heavy wood cornice (trim) under roof
Heavy columns
Everything plain and heavy



PLATE VI
HOUSE OF 1830's
As built in wood or cobblestone

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Whaling Museum, Sag Harbor
*Colonnade Row, Lafayette St.,
Manhattan, 1836
*Washington Square's Old Row,
Manhattan
Crawford House, Newburgh
*Lincklaen House, Casenovia
Canal Museum, Syracuse
Campbell Whittlesey House,
Rochester
Rochester Historical Society
George Eastman Birthplace, Rochester
Cobblestone Church and School,
1834-1849, Albion

Bartow Mansion Museum, Pelham Bay
Park, Bronx, 1842
*Sailors Snug Harbor, New Brighton,
Staten Island, 1833
Borough Hall, Brooklyn, 1848
Utica State Hospital, Utica

THE VICTORIAN ERA—1837-1903

Nobody ever built a "Victorian" building, but Britain's Queen Victoria ruled for such a long time (1837-1903) that nearly everything under her reign later came to be called Victorian. This included a wide variety of different building styles now known as Victorian. The State Capitol Building at Albany includes many of these styles. Victorian house styles or fads generally included the big front porch; fancy-fussy or gingerbread woodwork and trim; pointed or arched windows and eaves; plus many other new ideas as the following Victorian styles illustrate.

—**GOthic REVIVAL**
—1840-1890

Copied from medieval stone churches of Europe, this style soon became Americanized into "Carpenter's Gothic" as our builders chose to use wood which was more plentiful in America. They added vertical siding of wood and also fancy wood scrollwork designs with the aid of a mechanical jigsaw.

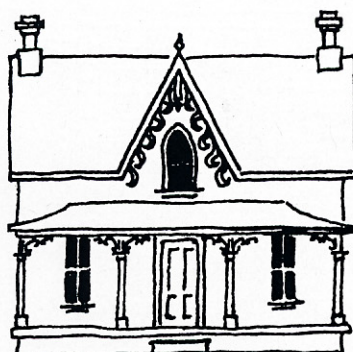


PLATE VII
POPULAR STYLE, 1840's

Look for:

Tall pointed steeple on church
Pointed arches over windows and doors

* Not open to the public

Vertical wooden siding
Gingerbread (fancy) woodwork on porches and eaves
Steep roofline
Everything vertical and pointed

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Early Stone Gothic
Trinity Church, Manhattan, 1846
Grace Church, Manhattan, 1846
Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn, 1847
Lyndhurst, Tarrytown, 1838
Wooden Carpenter's Gothic
Lutheran Church, Rhinebeck
Gate Lodge, Vassar Estate,
Poughkeepsie
Episcopal Church, Warsaw
St. Thomas Church, Hamilton
St. Paul's Church, Chittenango

OTHER

Gerrit Smith Library, 1855, Oswego
*Munro House, Elbridge
Oneida Historical Society
Clinton Square, Syracuse
Christ Church, 1854, Binghamton
*Idlewild, Cornwall-on-Hudson
Officer's House, West Point
Packer Collegiate Institute,
Brooklyn, 1854
Madison County Historical Society,
Oneida, 1849

—**THE ITALIAN VILLA**
—1840's-1850's

As usual this style came to America after it had first been adopted in England. Although first built as stone estates for the wealthy with large square towers and rounded or arched windows, this style was soon Americanized in wood and simplified for the average pocketbook. From this emerged our more common square shaped style with its little tower perched on the roof. Many of the "brownstone" row houses in New York City were also built at this time.



PLATE VIII
TYPICAL ITALIAN VILLA

Look for:

Tall square tower
Some round headed windows
Verandas and balconies
Wide roof overhang

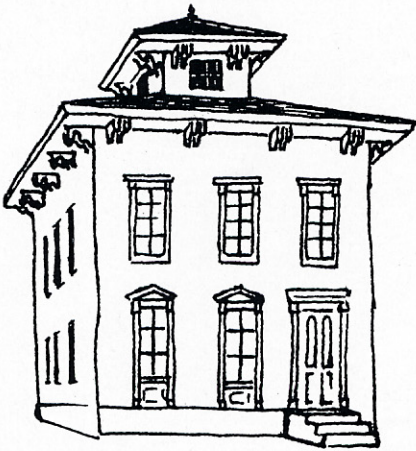


PLATE IX

The more popular SIMPLIFIED VILLA

Look for:

Cube shaped (square)
Square tower in center
Heavy brackets

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Fountain Elms, 1850,
Munson-Williams-Proctor
Institute, Utica
State School, Syracuse
Oswego County Historical Society,
Oswego
*Pink House, Wellsville
*Provost's House, University of
Rochester
Old Astor Library, Manhattan, 1859
Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park,
Brooklyn, 1856
Governor Fenton Mansion,
Jamestown, 1863

—THE EIGHT SIDED OCTAGON—1850's

The octagon was popularized by a New Yorker. Orson Fowler's book, *A Home for All*, argued convincingly that the octogan shape was most economical. In a few years hundreds were built throughout the East and in every part of New York State.

Look for:

Eight sides

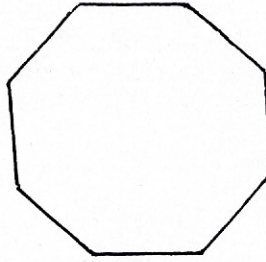


PLATE X
THE OCTAGON

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Orson Fowler's House Fishkill,
(demolished)
*Carl Carmer's House, 1860,
Irvington
*Cobblestone Octagon, Madison
Mark Twain's Study, Elmira
Library, Red Hook
*Newport, Herkimer County
Historical Society, Newstead

—THE MANSARD ROOF —1860's-1870's

Americans brought this idea home from the International Expositions of 1855 and 1867 in Paris.



PLATE XI
THE MANSARD ROOF

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Cornell University, Ithaca
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie
*President's House, State University
at Brockport
Powers Building, Rochester
Oswego City Hall
Theodore Roosevelt House,
Manhattan
Kings County Savings Bank,
Brooklyn, 1868

—QUEEN ANNE HOUSES AND ROMANESQUE PUBLIC BUILDINGS —1880's-1890's

These houses have very little in common with the red brick English homes of Queen Anne's day. Victorians found the name "Queen Anne" a convenient one for their then current building style just as today's builders often label new homes "Colonial" or "Cape Cod" when actually they are neither. Large public buildings were then being built in the new style developed by an American architect H. H. Richardson. Richardsonian Romanesque in rough stone was popular everywhere.

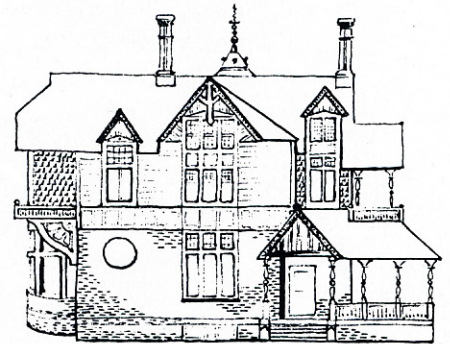


PLATE XII
QUEEN ANNE STYLE

Look for:

Irregularity
Combined use of brick or stone with shingles
and clapboard
Many gables and large chimneys
Decorative woodwork

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

Queen Anne
Sagamore Hill, 1884, Oyster Bay
Library-Museum, Waterloo
Richardsonian Romanesque
Albany, City Hall, 1882
Syracuse City Hall
Buffalo State Hospital
American Museum of Natural History,
South Entrance, Manhattan, 1890
Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters,
Jay Street, 1892

Thus the student is brought to the beginning of his own century with a better understanding of the past from which his present has developed.