
Bethinking of Old Orleans

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QUEEN ANNE 1880-1900

Queen Anne is an easily recognizable style of architecture and can be found in all our villages and countryside of Orleans County. However, to define this style is a little more difficult task. "Queen Anne" by definition of an 1883 critic, is a term which, "has been made to cover a multitude of incongruities, including indeed, the bulk of recent work which otherwise defies classification, and there is a convenient vagueness about the term which fits it to that use."

What then, is Queen Anne architecture? It is foremost an asymmetrical building with multifaceted walls, steep gables, high chimneys, and a variety of materials including wood, brick, terra cotta, stucco, stone, shingles and colored or leaded glass in an assortment of windows. Attic and second-story gables often project beyond lower floors with a frequent tower or turret tucked in somewhere. In other words "too much is not enough".

That general description fits the house pictured above although not all the materials mentioned are used here. This home which was built in the 1890's on the Bates Road near Medina is now owned by Richard Wakefield and one can see stucco in a projecting gable, shingles, clapboards, a tucked in turret, a variety of windows, inside shutters and Medina Sandstone used for bases to the porch pillars. The Presbyterian manse in Albion is another fine example of this seemingly unrestrained style.

(Note: This number in the series was omitted in the Journal-Register be error and is printed now for those people who are saving these weekly historical pieces.)