

Architectural Glossary

- Arcade:** A covered passageway with arches along one or both sides.
Examples: Wyeth Tootle Mansion, 31 S. 11th St. (Museum Hill Historic District) has an arcaded front entry porch.
- Architrave:** In classical architecture is the main beam resting across the tops of columns, specifically the lower third entablature. A second definition is the molded frame around a doorway or window.
- Balusters/Balustrade:** A short column or pillar, generally decorative, in a series supporting a railing.
Examples: C.D. Smith House, 718 N. 7th St. (Hall Street Historic District)
City Hall, 1100 Frederick Ave.
- Banding:** A horizontal band at least six inches thick applied to the façade of a building. Frequently it is characterized by a change in color, texture, pattern, material, or relief.
Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
- Bargeboard:** A decorative board running along the edge of a gable (sometimes called vergeboard). It serves the purpose of giving additional strength and protection to the horizontal timbers of the roof.
Example: C.L. Wiehl House, 1617 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Addition Historic District)
- Bay:** A section of a building's façade defined by the regular spacing of windows, piers, or columns.
- Bay Window:** A projection in the exterior wall filled with windows (if it is curved it is called a Bow Window)
Examples: Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District) has 2 story bay windows flanking the front porch.
307/09 S. 12th Street (Museum Hill Historic District) has a 2/5 story bay.
- Belt Course:** A continuous molding or projecting row or layer that runs horizontally along the face of a structure. It emphasizes the junctions between floors. It is often richly decorated. It is also called a Stringcourse.
Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
1022/24 Angelique Street (Museum Hill Historic District)
- Bow Window:** A curved projection in the exterior wall filled with windows.
Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
- Bracket:** A decorative element that serves to support an exterior feature.
- Capital (Column):** The top of the column where it meets with the structure it is supporting.
- Chamfered:** A chamfer is a transitional edge between two faces of an object. Often it is created at a 45-degree angle between two adjoining right-angled faces.
Examples: Wesley Cummings House, 801 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District) has a projecting, 2-story chamfered central bay.
H.E. Barnard House, 1716 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District) has elaborate chamfered posts.

- Pleasant Chesnutt Cottage, 1306 Francis St. (Museum Hill Historic District) the porch is supported on chamfered posts.
- Chateausque:** Refers to structures that are influenced by the features of the chateaux of the Loire Valley. Chateausque houses are large, masonry construction, and have steep-roofs.
Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
Ogden Mansion (Shakespeare Chateau) 809 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
- Colonial Revival:** A quintessentially American architectural form that was very popular from 1880-1960. Colonial Revival homes generally have a symmetrical façade and are rectangular in shape. The roofs are usually of a medium pitch with a side-gable. Windows are multi-pane. Entrance is in the center of the front and set off with features such as columns, pilasters, and may be hooded to create a covered porch.
Examples: W. H. Haynes House, 1709/11 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)
307/09 S. 12th Street (Museum Hill Historic District)
- Corbel:** A projection of the wall generally used to support additional weight. It is constructed of succeeding courses of masonry that often give a stair-step appearance. Corbels are usually made of brick.
Examples: Herschel Bartlett House, 537 N. 8th Street (Hall Street Historic District) has corbelled brickwork on the chimneys.
- Corinthian Columns:** Corinthian columns tend to be slender and are topped with decorative capitals (usually acanthus leaves) and an elaborate cornice. Frequently the column itself is fluted.
Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
- Cornice:** A horizontal decorative molding at the top of an exterior wall.
Examples: John Forest Martie House, 624 N. 7th (Hall Street Historic District) has boxed cornice
H.E. Barnard House, 1716 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District) has box cornice.
- Craftsman Style:** The Craftsman style evolved as a reaction against the ornate verticality of Victorian architecture. The emphasis in the Craftsman style is on horizontal lines, with low-pitched gable roofs and overhanging eaves.
Examples: Greenwald-Spengler House, 1714 Ashland Ave.
Louis Hax Smith House, 2116 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)
- Crenellation:** A pattern along the top of an exterior wall featuring regular rectangular spaces. These are inspired by classic castle architecture.
Examples: Wyeth Tootle Mansion, 301 S. 11th Street (Museum Hill Historic District).
- Cupola:** A small dome or structure at the top of the roof, usually with windows.
Examples: Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
- Dentils:** A dentiled cornice is a small block used as a repeating decorative element in a cornice. It has the appearance of teeth.
Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District), here they are cut into the stone, rather than applied to it.

1810/12 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic district)

Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Doric Columns: Doric columns have plain capitals and they rest directly on the surface without a base. Doric columns are simple and are heavier in appearance.

Examples: 1515 Charles Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

1811 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

H.A. Smith House, 2120 Faraon Street (Harris Kemper Historic District)

Horace Stringfellow House, 104 S. 15th Street (Museum Hill Historic District) has massive Doric Columns supporting its front porch.

Dormers: Window structure that projects from the slope of the roof.

Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Ogden Mansion (Shakespeare Chateau) 809 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Ketcham-Wallace House, 603/05 N. 8th Street (Hall Street Historic District) has Eyebrow dormers.

1405 Sylvania Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Double-Pile: The term pile refers to a row of rooms. A double-pile house is two rooms deep, frequently with a corridor between the two rows.

Examples: John Sheehan House, 410 S. 12th Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

1405 Sylvania Street

Engaged: A element, such as a column, that is integral with the wall's surface.

Entablature: A horizontal, continuous band that rests on the capitals of the columns.

Examples: Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Façade: The face of a building, particularly that front that looks on to the street.

Fanlight: A fan-shaped window generally located over the entrance door.

Example: E.C. Hartwig House, 2028 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Addition Historic District)

Fascia Board: Flat, horizontal board located between the moldings.

Finial: A decorative element often located on a roof peak.

Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Ogden Mansion (Shakespeare Chateau) 809 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

John Shireman House, 120 S. 15th St. (Museum Hill Historic District)

Fish Scale Shingles: Decorative rounded wooden shingles on the exterior of a house.

Examples: George Schneider House, 1921 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Louis Burnes House, 1923 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Foursquare: As one would expect from the name, Foursquare houses are boxy in appearance. They are two and a half stories usually with four large rooms to a floor, a center dormer, and a large front porch. They were developed to make the most of small urban lots.

Examples: E.C. Hartwig House, 2028 Faraon (Harris-Kemper Historic District) is a brick four-square with Colonial Revival influence.

402 S. 11th Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Frieze: The portion of the entablature between the architrave and the cornice. This is often very decorative.
Examples: E.C. Hartwig House, 2028 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Gables: The area of the exterior wall under the eaves of a sloped roof; it is triangular.

Gable Roof: This is the most common roof style in St. Joseph. It is characterized by their triangular shape, with the two roof sections sloping away from each other and meeting at the roof ridge in the center.
Examples: Ferdinand Westheimer House, 1723 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District) has a complex hip and gable roof.
Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District) has gabled dormers

Georgian Revival: A form of Colonial Revival architecture. Georgian Revival houses are characterized by an emphasis on symmetry and order. They usually have two stories and are rectangular in shape. Trim work is generally white
Example: Ketcham-Wallace House, 603/05 N. 8th Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Hall and Parlor: This is also known as the Central Passage house. It is a rectangular, two-room configuration.
Examples: 119 S. 12th Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Hip Roof: A roof with slopes on all sides. It has a pyramidal shape. Hip roofs are used frequently in places with heavy snow as they tend to be very sturdy.
Examples: Ferdinand Westheimer House, 1723 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District) has a complex hip and gable roof.
W.H Haynes Speculative House, 1715 Faraon Street. (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Ionic Capitals: Utilizes volutes (a spiral, scroll-like ornament)
Examples: 1213 & 1215 Charles Street (Museum Hill Historic District)
307/09 S. 12th Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Imbricated: Overlapping like roof tiles.

Italianate: The Italianate style was particularly popular in American architecture between 1840 and 1885. An Italianate is generally two or three stories with a low-pitched roof with moderate to widely overhanging eaves with decorative modillions supporting the eaves. Windows are usually tall and narrow, usually arched or curved at the top and often with elaborate crowns. Many Italianates have a square cupola or tower.
Example: Karl Schatz House, 518 N. 7th Street (Hall Street Historic District)
John Forest Martie House, 624 N. 7th Street (Hall Street Historic District)
C.D. Smith House, 718 N. 7th Street (Hall Street Historic District)
Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)
Pleasant Chesnutt Cottage, 1306 Francis Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Jerkinhead Gable: A roof where the end of the gable roof is hipped and truncated, forming a small slope back toward the ridgeline.
Examples: 1021 Charles (Museum Hill Historic District) has a jerkinhead gable roof on its projecting wing.

Keystones: Center stone in a masonry arch.

Examples: C.D. Smith House, 718 N. 7th St. (Hall Street Historic District), projecting keystones made of carved stone.

Lintel: Horizontal support over a window or door.

Mansard Roof: Roofline that is steeply sloped and covers the exterior wall of the top floor of the structure.

Examples: Wesley Cummings House, 801 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Modillion: An ornate corbel supporting the cornice.

Examples: Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District) has modillions in the decorative entablature at the roofline.

Muntin: The pieces of wood that separate the panes of glass in a window.

Nailhead Motif: Projecting ornamental molding designed to look like the head of a nail.

Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Oriel Window: A projection from the upper floor of an exterior wall that has at least one window.

Examples 302 & 306 S. 15th Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Palladian Window: A window unit with a large arched window in the center and smaller windows on each side.

Examples: Ketcham-Wallace House, 603/05 N. 8th Street (Hall Street Historic District) has a Palladian in the projecting central bay.

Louis Burnes House, 1923 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

William Bergman House, 110 S. 15th Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Otto Quentin House, 1102 Edmond Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Pediment: A triangular upper portion of the front of a building; most typically found surmounting a portico of columns. Generally found in classical styled houses.

Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Pilaster: A flat, rectangular partial column attached to a wall surface.

Examples: Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Porte-Cochere: Covered place for coaches or vehicles to discharge their passengers.

Usually found on the side of the house.

Examples: Ogden Mansion (Shakespeare Chateau) 809 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Smith-Tootle House, 802 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

E.C. Hartwig House, 2028 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

H.A. Smith House, 2120 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Queen Anne: This is a very popular style in St. Joseph as its period of popularity (c. 1880-1910) corresponds with the so-called “golden age” of St. Joseph prosperity. Queen Anne houses generally have an asymmetrical façade, a prominent gable on the front, overhanging eaves, and a front porch. Queen Anne houses can be very elaborate with towers, bay or oriel windows, dentils, and balustrading.

Examples: Herschel Bartlett House, 537 N. 8th Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Louis Burnes House, 1923 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Parry-Motter House, 2101 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

916/18 Sylvania Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Quoins: Decorative stones at the corner of a structure.

Examples: Schuster Mansion, 703 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District) sandstone has been used to create quoins on the corners of the first story

Romanesque: Architecture that is heavy in appearance and utilizes rounded arches. In St. Joseph there are examples of Richardsonian Romanesque, named after Henry Hobson Richardson who first began using the style in 1870. The style is characterized by the use of short, clustered columns, many recessed entrances, rusticated masonry. In St. Joseph, the style is generally associated with the work of Harvey Ellis.

Examples: C.D. Smith House, 718 N. 7th Street (Hall Street Historic District) has Romanesque columns.

Smith-Tootle House, 802 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District) has Romanesque elements.

McNeeley House, 701 S. 11th Street
1115/17 Felix (Museum Hill Historic District)

Rusticated: In masonry this refers to large blocks with sunk joints and a roughened surface.

Examples: Smith-Tootle House, 802 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

McNeeley House, 701 S. 11th Street

Second Empire: This style was most popular between 1865 and 1900. The primary characteristic of Second Empire architecture is the mansard roof. These structures are generally heavily ornamented.

Examples: Wesley Cummings House, 801 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District) is a modified Second Empire

1423 Francis: This striking house was originally an octagon house, but when the original owner died it was refurbished in the 1880s into a Second Empire.
(Museum Hill Historic District)

Segmented Arches: An arch with a circular arc of less than 180 degrees.

Examples: 1021 Sylvania (Museum Hill Historic District) has segmented arches in its original window openings.

916/18 Sylvania Street (Museum Hill Historic District) has segmented arched openings above the paired windows in the projecting bays.

Side Hall Townhouse: A Side Hall Townhouse is two stories in height and has an entrance hallway to one side.

Examples: Gustave Schumacher House, 705 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District).

Stringcourse: See Belt course.

Tudor Revival: Most Tudor Revival homes are of brick or stone and are among the most popular residential architectural styles. Tudor Revival homes are generally asymmetrical and have a steep, multi-gabled roof. Half timbering is frequently present.

Examples: George M. Johnson House, 2021 Faraon Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Max Messenger House, 1905 Francis Street (Harris-Kemper Historic District)

Turret: Small tower located at the corner of a building.

Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Smith-Tootle House, 802 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)

Tuscan Columns: Tuscan columns are simple and have no carving or ornamentation.
Example: Ketcham-Wallace House, 603/05 N. 8th Street (Hall Street Historic District)
1211 Jules Street (Museum Hill Historic District)

Vergeboard: See Bargeboard

Vermiculated stonework: The carving or finishing of building stones with irregular grooves intended to resemble worm tracks.
Examples: Robison House, 631 Hall Street (Hall Street Historic District)