



# ARCHITECTURAL TERMINOLOGY FOR HISTORIC-ERA RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN FRESNO



# **ARCHITECTURAL TERMINOLOGY FOR HISTORIC-ERA RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN FRESNO**

*THE FOLLOWING LIST INCLUDES ARCHITECTURAL TERMS THAT MAY NOT BE IN THE  
GENERAL LEXICON. BUILDING MATERIALS AND TERMS SUCH AS GARAGE, PORCH,  
SHUTTERS, ETC., ARE NOT INCLUDED.*



## **TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

KARANA HATTERSLEY-DRAYTON M.A.  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT MANAGER, CITY OF FRESNO

## **DESIGN / LAYOUT**

ARAMI MATEVOSYAN, INTERN  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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Development and Resource  
Management Department



## COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

(FROM THE LEFT):

THE BEKINS-MCCLATCHY HOME  
(1926, HP#282, HUNTINGTON BLVD.)

SAMUEL PUDLIN HOME  
(1937, FRANKLIN AND KUMP JR. ARCHITECTS,  
N. VAN NESS AVENUE)

THE FLORA MONTAGUE BUNGALOW COURT  
(1922, HP#281, DOWNTOWN)

THE NEVINS ADOBE  
(1920-1947; FIG GARDEN)



H.H. BRIX MANSION  
(1911, EDWARD T. FOULKES, HP#089, NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY)

## **A** **ARCUATED (ARCH)**

A CURVED STRUCTURE USUALLY MADE OF WEDGE SHAPED STONES (VOUSSOIRS) WHICH SPANS AN OPENING.

## **B** **BALCONET (FIG. 7)**

A PSEUDO-BALCONY; A LOW ORNAMENTAL RAILING TO A WINDOW.

## **BALUSTRADE (FIG. 8)**

A DECORATIVE RAILING SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES A TOP RAIL, BALUSTERS, AND USUALLY A BOTTOM RAIL.

## **BAY**

A REGULARLY REPEATED SPATIAL ELEMENT.

## **BAY WINDOW (FIG. 1)**

A WINDOW THAT PROTRUDES FROM A WALL.

## **BRACKETS (FIG. 2)**

OFTEN USED AS DECORATIVE ELEMENTS AT THE CORNICE LINE OF A HOME; IN GENERAL REFERS TO ANY ELEMENT WHICH PROJECTS FROM A WALL TO SUPPORT (LITERALLY OR FIGURATEIVELY) A WEIGHT.

## **BULKHEAD**

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT WHICH FORMS THE BASE FOR A DOOR'S SIDELIGHT.

## **C** **CANTILEVERED (FIG. 16)**

PROJECTING HORIZONTALLY BEYOND THE WALL OR ITS VERTICAL SUPPORT; AS IN BALCONIES ON MONTEREY REVIVAL STYLE HOMES OR WINDOWS ON SOME TUDORS.

## **CAPITALS (FIG. 3)**

THE TOPMOST STRUCTURAL MEMBER OF A COLUMN, OFTEN DECORATIVE.

## **CARTOUCHE (FIG. 6)**

AN ORNAMENTAL TABLET OFTEN INSCRIBED OR DECORATED AND FRAMED WITH ELABORATE, SCROLL-LIKE CARVING.

## **CASEMENT WINDOWS (FIG. 15)**

A WINDOW WHICH SWINGS OPEN ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH, USUALLY ON HINGES FIXED TO THE SIDES OF THE OPENING.

## **CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURE**

AN ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT WHICH DEFINES THE STYLE OR PARTICULAR LOOK OF A BUILDING AND WITHOUT WHICH THE BUILDING WOULD LOSE ITS INTEGRITY.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

## CLADDING

EXTERIOR SIDING, EITHER ORIGINAL OR PERHAPS ADDED OVER THE ORIGINAL SURFACE TREATMENT OF THE BUILDING.

## CLIPPED GABLE ROOF

ALSO KNOWN AS A JERKINHEAD; A GABLE ROOF FOR WHICH THE END HAS BEEN “CLIPPED” TO BE BETWEEN A GABLE AND HIP IN SHAPE.

## COLONNADE (FIG. 4)

A NUMBER OF COLUMNS ARRANGED IN ORDER, AS IN AN ENTRYWAY TO A SPANISH REVIVAL STYLE HOME.

## COLUMN (FIG. 3)

A LONG SLENDER STRUCTURAL MEMBER WHICH IS CYLINDRICAL AND SUPPORTS A LOAD.

## COPING

A PROTECTIVE OR DECORATIVE TOP TO A WALL OR ROOF, ALSO USED AS A DECORATIVE HORIZONTAL FEATURE ALONG THE TOP EDGE OF A ROOF IN SOME ARCHITECTURAL STYLES, SUCH AS STREAMLINE MODERNE OR THE PRAIRIE.

## CORNICE (FIG. 10)

THE EXTERIOR TRIM OF A STRUCTURE WHERE THE ROOF AND WALL MEET.

## D

## DENTIL (FIG. 14)

AS IT SUGGESTS, THESE ARE DECORATIVE “TOOTHLIKE” SQUARE BLOCKS THAT ARE OFTEN FOUND IN COLUMNS OR AT THE CORNICE OF A HOME.

## DORMER (FIG. 5)

A STRUCTURE WHICH PROTRUDES FROM A SLOPING ROOF, USUALLY HOUSING A VERTICAL WINDOW. COLONIAL REVIVAL HOMES OFTEN INCLUDE DORMERS.

## DOUBLE-HUNG SASH WINDOWS (FIG. 11)

WINDOWS FRAMED HORIZONTALLY WHICH CAN MOVE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS WHEN OPENED.

## E

## EAVES

THE PART OF THE ROOF THAT PROJECTS BEYOND THE EXTERIOR WALL.

## ELEVATION

VERTICAL DRAWING OF EXTERIOR OR INTERIOR OF BUILDING; 2 DIMENSIONAL.

## F

### FAÇADE

THE EXTERIOR, FRONT, OR PRINCIPLE ELEVATION.

### FANLIGHT (WINDOW)

A SEMICIRCULAR OR A FAN-SHAPED WINDOW WITH RADIATING MEMBERS OR TRACERY SET OVER A DOOR OR WINDOW.

### FENESTRATION

GENERAL TERM FOR THE ARRANGEMENT AND DESIGN OF WINDOWS IN A BUILDING; < FRENCH (FENÊTRE).

### FRENCH DOORS (FIG. 7)

A DOOR WHICH HAS GLASS PANES THROUGHOUT OR NEARLY SO ALONG ITS ENTIRE LENGTH; OFTEN USED IN PAIRS.

### FRIEZE (FIG. 10)

A HORIZONTAL DECORATIVE BAND AT OR NEAR THE TOP OF A WALL BELOW THE CORNICE.

## GAMBREL ROOF

A RIDGED ROOF WITH TWO SLOPES ON EACH SIDE, THE LOWER SLOPE HAVING THE STEEPER PITCH; OFTEN USED ON BARN.

## G - L

### GABLE ROOF (FIG. 10)

A ROOF WHICH IS TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE, FROM THE CORNICE TO THE RIDGE; HOMES MAY BE FRONT-GABLED, SIDE-GABLED, OR A COMBINATION OF SEVERAL ROOF TYPES.

### HIPPED ROOF (FIG. 8)

A ROOF WHICH SLOPES UPWARD FROM ALL FOUR SIDES OF A BUILDING; IF THE TOP IS "FLAT" IT IS A TRUNCATED HIP ROOF.

### KNEE BRACES (FIG. 9)

A CORNER BRACE OR DIAGONAL MEMBER PLACED ACROSS THE ANGLE BETWEEN TWO MEMBERS THAT ARE JOINED TO PROVIDE STRUCTURAL STRENGTH. MAY ALSO BE DECORATIVE AS IN CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOWS.

### LIGHTS (FIG. 15)

INDIVIDUAL PANES OF GLASS, AS IN A WINDOW WITH EIGHT LIGHTS.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

## M - O

### MULLIONS

A VERTICAL MEMBER SEPARATING AND OFTEN SUPPORTING WINDOWS, DOORS OR PANELS SET IN A SERIES, AS IN RIBBON WINDOWS. THE TERM IS OFTEN CONFUSED WITH MUNTINS WHICH ARE THE FRAMING PIECES AROUND WINDOW PANES.

### MUNTINS

A SECONDARY FRAMING MEMBER TO HOLD PANES OF GLASS WITHIN A WINDOW OR GLAZED DOOR.

## P

### PARAPET

A LOW WALL AT THE EDGE OF A ROOF.

### PEDESTAL

A SUPPORT FOR A COLUMN, AS SEEN FREQUENTLY ON CRAFTSMAN STYLE HOMES.

### PEDIMENT

A TRIANGULAR GABLE ABOVE OR OVER A DOOR OR WINDOW, AS OFTEN SEEN IN CLASSICALLY INSPIRED STYLES OF BUILDING.

### PICTURE WINDOW (FIG. 11)

A LARGE, FIXED WINDOW THAT IS OFTEN SET BETWEEN TWO SMALLER, OPERABLE WINDOWS.

### PIER

A SOLID MASONRY SUPPORT, OFTEN SQUARE OR RECTANGULAR IN PLAN.

### PILASTER

A SHALLOW FLATTENED, RECTANGULAR COLUMN OR PIER ATTACHED TO A WALL AND OFTEN MODELED ON AN ORDER.

### PITCH (ROOF)

ONE NORMALLY DESCRIBES THE DEGREE OF SLANT OF A ROOF AS LOW, MEDIUM OR STEEPLY PITCHED.

### PLAN

A DRAWING WHICH SHOWS THE INTERIOR SPACES OF A BUILDING, USUALLY TO SCALE.

### PORTE COCHERE (FIG. 12)

A COVERED CARRIAGE OR AUTOMOBILE ENTRANCE WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THE SIDE OF THE HOME, SEEN FREQUENTLY IN HOMES BUILT IN THE 1920s AND BEFORE; MORE ARCHITECTURALLY DISTINGUISHED THAN THE LATER "CARPORT."

## **PORTICO** (FIG. 13)

A COVERED ENTRANCE WHOSE ROOF IS SUPPORTED BY A SERIES OF COLUMNS OR PIERS, COMMONLY PLACED AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF A BUILDING.

## **Q**

## **QUOINS** (FIG. 14)

OFTEN DECORATIVE, THESE ARE WOOD, STONE, OR BRICKS SET AT THE EXTERNAL CORNERS OF A BUILDING'S WALL.

## **R**

## **RAFTER TAILS** (FIG. 15)

RAFTERS ARE AN INCLINED STRUCTURAL MEMBERS FROM THE RIDGE OF THE ROOF DOWN TO THE EAVES WHICH SUPPORT THE ROOFING MATERIAL. WHEN THE ENDS PROTRUDE OVER THE EDGE OF THE WALL, AS IS COMMON IN THE CRAFTSMAN TRADITION, THESE ARE CALLED RAFTER TAILS.

## **RIBBON DRIVEWAY**

COMMONLY FOUND IN OLDER NEIGHBORHOODS, THE DRIVEWAY CONSISTS OF TWO POURED STRIPS OF CONCRETE WITH A GRASSY MEDIAN IN BETWEEN.

## **RIBBON WINDOW** (FIG. 11)

A HORIZONTAL BAND OF AT LEAST THREE WINDOWS SEPARATED ONLY BY MULLIONS.

## **RIDGE**

THE HIGHEST POINT IN A SLOPED ROOF.

## **S**

## **SHED ROOF**

A ROOF, OFTEN USED ON A PORCH OR AUXILIARY BUILDING, WHICH HAS ONE PLANE.

## **SIDELIGHTS** (FIG. 17)

A FRAMED AREA OF GLASS THAT DOES NOT OPEN, OFTEN SET VERTICALLY ON EACH SIDE OF A DOOR.

## **SLIDERS**

METAL OR VINYL WINDOWS WHICH OPEN VERTICALLY RATHER THAN HORIZONTALLY; COMMON ON HOMES IN THE 1970s ON.

## **SLEEPING PORCH**

UNTIL THE INVENTION OF AIR CONDITIONING, SCREENED ROOMS, OPEN TO THE NIGHT BREEZES, WERE COMMONLY USED IN FRESNO FOR SLEEPING DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AND EVEN IN THE WINTER.



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

### **SPINDLEWORK** (FIG. 18)

DECORATIVE CIRCULAR WOOD PIECES, TURNED ON A LATHE, AND USED PARTICULARLY ON PORCHES ON QUEEN ANNE STYLE RESIDENCES.

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### **STRAPWORK** (FIG. 16)

DECORATIVE WOOD PIECES ON THE EXTERIOR OF A HOME THAT MIMIC THE STRUCTURAL FRAMING FOUND IN NORTHERN EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE. POPULARLY USED IN THE TUDOR REVIVAL AND EVEN CRAFTSMAN STYLES.

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### **STUCCO**

AN EXTERIOR FINISH COMPOSED OF PORTLAND CEMENT, LIME, AND SAND.

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### **T - Z**

### **TRANSOM WINDOW** (FIG. 11)

A WINDOW ABOVE ANOTHER WINDOW OR DOOR THAT IS USUALLY OPERABLE AND HINGED.

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### **VENEER**

AN OUTSIDE WALL SURFACE THAT IS DECORATIVE AND DURABLE BUT WHICH IS NOT LOAD BEARING, AS IN A BRICK VENEER.

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DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2600 FRESNO TREET

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721

[WWW.FRESNO.GOV](http://WWW.FRESNO.GOV)