

Queen Anne Style Guide

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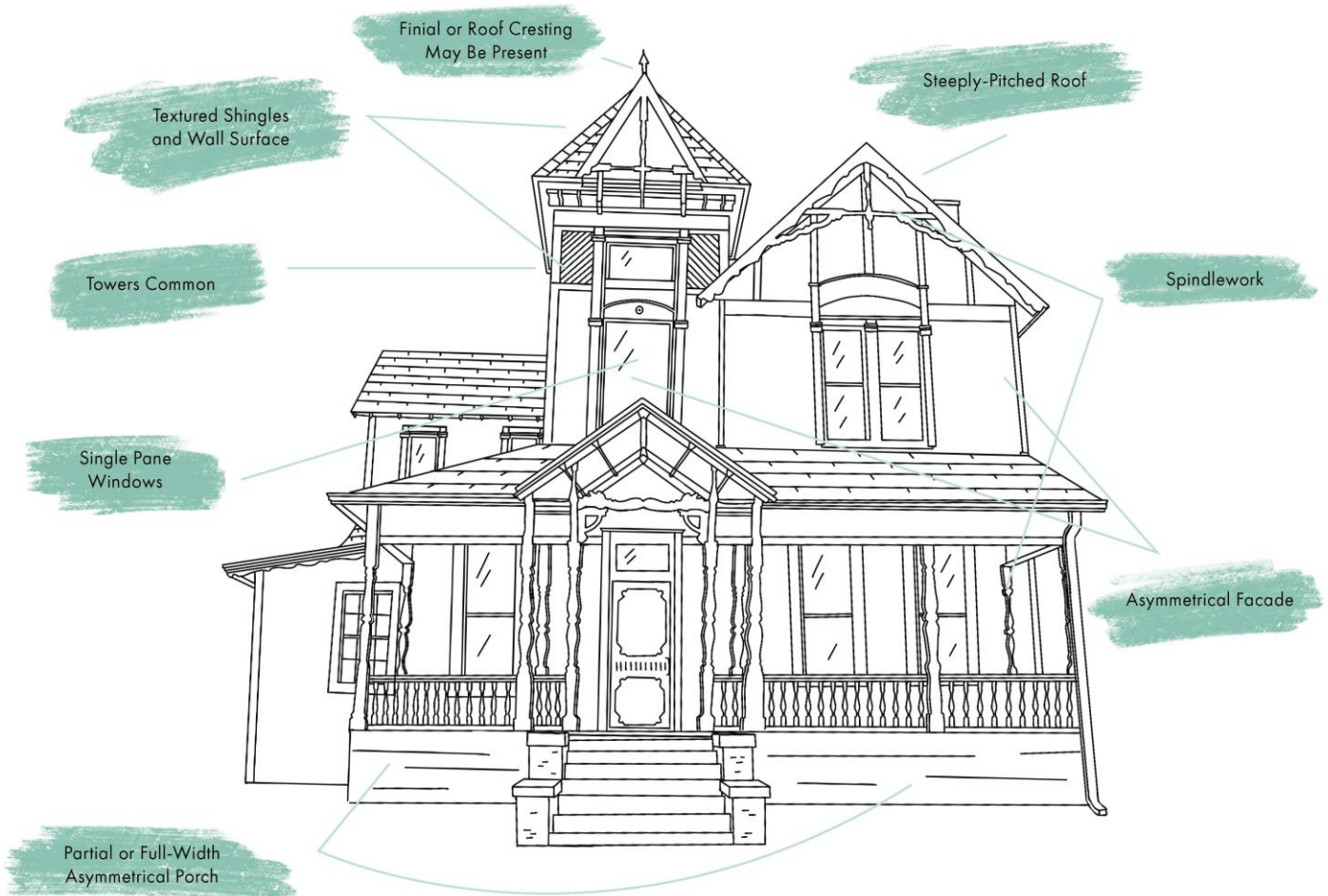
Queen Anne (1880-1910)

As seen in Walnut Street, Wood Avenue, Cherry Street, Sannoner, and Locust Street historic districts.

Summary of Characteristics

The term "Queen Anne style" is often used interchangeably with the term "Victorian," however the latter refers to the time period in which the Queen Anne style was popularized and widely constructed. The American Queen Anne movement was loosely based on the English revival of the same name that looked to English styles of the late 17th and 18th centuries for inspiration.

The Queen Anne style is characterized by an asymmetrical façade, steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, textured shingles or other decorative elements, such as false half-timbering, which are used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance. Partial or full width porches with turned posts, spindle work, and gingerbread trim are common. Other decorative details that are typical of the Queen Anne style include metal roof creasing, finials, patterned masonry, bay windows, towers, colored and leaded glass, and secondary integral porches (often on the second-story). The Queen Anne style is highly detailed. Architectural historian Cyril Harris sums it up: "It may safely be said that the Queen Anne style abhors any unadorned large flat surface."





Asymmetrical facades

Except for some vernacular folk forms, asymmetry is a signature of the Queen Anne style. Gable placement, porches, dormers, as well as door and window placements all contribute to the asymmetry typical of the style. Towers are also common on Queen Anne houses and can be square, round, or polygonal, as pictured above.

Materials

Typically frame construction with decorative woodwork, sometimes cornice-like brackets in the eaves. Foundations can be stone or brick, and roof materials can be metal, wood shingles, or some other type of shingle. Decorative iron work can be seen on roof crests. Porch posts are typically wood, except in some subtypes that borrow from other early 20th century styles popular at the same time. Wood shingles can be used, as pictured to the right, to avoid a smooth-walled appearance and add texture to the surface. Stucco and half-timbering can be used in the same way, as pictured in the front gable in the example above.





Gingerbread trim and spindlework

Highly decorative woodwork, usually turned, such as spindlework, lace-like spandrels, or flat jigsaw cut trim is present. Porch supports are commonly either Queen Anne-like turned spindles or sometimes square posts with chamfered (beveled) corners as seen in Italianate-style porches.

Windows, doors, and Eastlake details

Windows typically narrow 1/1 wood windows or sometimes 2/1, doors often wood with large single light and decorative carvings, sometimes in an Eastlake design (less an architectural style and more a style of ornamentation that adorned furniture during this era), decorative wood shingles are possible in the gables. Stained or leaded glass is commonly seen in doors, windows, and transoms.



Porches

Porches on Queen Anne houses are often full width or even wrap around the façade onto one or both sides of the house, further accentuating the asymmetry of the house. Second story porches are common, especially on high-style examples. Integrated (recessed) porches can occur in gables or towers.



Note the many porches
on this example

Subtype: Free Classic

Some Queen Anne houses use classical columns as porch supports rather than delicate turned spindles and gingerbread trim. Called Free Classic, this subtype may share elements more commonly identified with the Colonial Revival style, such as Palladian windows and door surrounds, cornice-line dentils, decorative swags and garlands, and quoins.



This Free Classic example uses Classical columns atop brick piers as well as heavy cornice returns and a keystone centered above the windows in the dormer.



Subtype: Folk Victorian

A common subtype or vernacular iteration of the Queen Anne, the term "Folk Victorian" refers to houses built during the Victorian era that are fundamentally simple house forms with applied Queen Anne details, most commonly seen in the form of a porch with decorative woodwork, and turned spindles and to a lesser extent brackets eaves, as seen in the example to the left.

A Note About Folk forms

Folk Victorian or a vernacular house with Queen Anne details includes houses in any folk house form, such as gable front, gable-front-and-wing, side gabled (hall and parlor, I-house, and massed-plan), and pyramidal; all symmetrical except for gable-front-and-wing examples. Can be one, one-and-a-half, or two stories high. All with applied decorative elements commonly seen in other styles of the Victorian era. They differ from more high-style examples in that they typically have a symmetrical facade and a lack the textured and varied wall surfaces characteristic of the Queen Anne style.