

# GLOSSARY

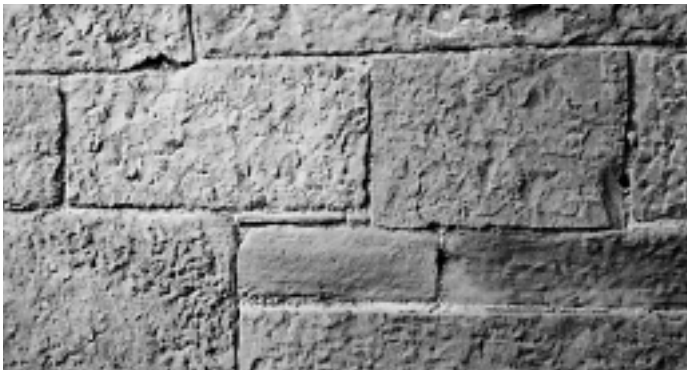
**American bond**—See **common bond**.

**architrave**—The trim or finish around the face of a window or door. In classical architecture, the lowest section of the **entablature**.

**Art Deco**—Early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural style with vertical emphasis, uses geometric shapes and stepped-up towers and projections. As with **Art Moderne**, construction materials and elements include glass block, concrete block, and corner windows.

**Art Moderne**—Early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural style featuring horizontal lines, with streamlined curved corners and smooth surfaces. Construction materials and elements include glass block, concrete block and corner windows.

**ashlar**—Rectangular, finished blocks of stone.



*ashlar*

**bank barn**—A large multi-purpose barn built into a hillside with the lower stable located downhill and upper loft area on the uphill area. A central ramp enabled farmers to drive wagons into the loft to unload hay. Also known as a Pennsylvania barn.

**bargeboard**—A board which hangs from the projecting end of a roof, covering the gables. Often elaborately cut and pierced with a jigsaw, and typically found on Gothic Revival style houses in the post Civil War era. Also known as **vergeboard**.



*bargeboard*

**bay**—A regularly repeated spatial element defined by structural beams and typically containing a window or door opening. The term is used to describe the exterior width or depth of a building. A house with two windows and a door on one level is a three-bay house.

**belt course**—A narrow horizontal band of masonry extending across the façade of a structure, typically projecting. Locally characteristic of the Georgian Revival style from the late 1700s. Also known as a **stringcourse**.

**boxed staircase**—A staircase with **winder** stairs concealed behind a door. Common in late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century houses.

**bracket**—An overhanging member projecting from a wall to visually or physically support an architectural element. Commonly used on Victorian-era porches and Italianate style **cornices**.



*brackets (Italianate)*

**buffet**—A closet or cupboard used for storing tablewares. Built-in display buffets were popular in the mid and late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**bungalow**—An early 20<sup>th</sup> century building form in which the main roof extends over the front porch. Typically designed in Craftsman or Colonial Revival architectural styles.

**c.**—Abbreviation for **circa**.

**chinking**—In log construction, material used to fill in gaps between logs. Commonly stones and clay used in Montgomery County.

**circa**—In approximately. Built circa 1870 (also abbreviated c1870).

**common bond**—A brick bond in which every fifth or sixth course consists of **headers**, the other courses being **stretchers**. Also known as **American bond**.

**corn crib**—An agricultural outbuilding used to store surplus corn or drying seed corn. In the mid-1800s, the structure was known as a cornhouse.

**cornice**—Projecting molding at the top of an architectural element. In classical architecture, the uppermost projecting part of an **entablature**, a three-part group of horizontal moldings at the top of a wall.

**cornice return**—The continuation of the cornice at the gable end of a house, suggestive of a pediment, but not extending across the gable façade.



cornice return

**Craftsman**—An architectural style intended to reflect the inherent nature of building materials and structural elements. Brackets under wide eaves and gable end braces represent exposed rafter tails and beam ends. Many Craftsman houses have a low bungalow shape in which the main roof extends over the front porch.

**curtain wall**—A short wall that joins paired chimneys, often used in Federal style architecture.

**dairy**—A domestic outbuilding serving essentially the same function as a **spring house**, to store dairy products, yet not built over a spring. Farmers poured cool water into a trough built into the sunken floor.

**dairy barn**—An early 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural outbuilding constructed for housing cattle and their feed. Reflecting new sanitation regulations, dairy barns were constructed with easily cleaned surfaces including concrete floors and walls and ceilings with tight-fitting boards kept debris from falling below. Characteristic of the dairy barn is the gambrel roof with its self-supporting truss, or braced rafter frame, sheltered an unobstructed hayloft for increased storage capacity. The dairy barns were equipped with first level cow stanchions, airy second story hayloft, silo, and attached milk house.

**dentils**—Tooth-like molding used to decorate a cornice.

**double pile**—A two-room deep floor plan.

**English bond**—Brickwork with alternating courses of **headers** and **stretchers**.

**entablature**—A three-part grouping of horizontal moldings at the top of a wall. The lower section is the **architrave**, the middle section is the **frieze**, and the upper section is the **cornice**.

**environmental setting**—The context of a historic site. The environmental setting typically includes historic structures, mature trees and plantings, and other landscape features such as fences, and walkways.

**façade**—One side or elevation of a building or structure

**Federal**—An architectural style noted for its lightness and delicacy of ornament and proportions, the Federal style is a refinement of the earlier Georgian style. The Federal style was the first widespread architectural style in the county. Brick examples often have parapet

gable ends and paired chimneys with curtain walls. Elliptical fanlight transoms are typical of Federal style houses.

**Flemish bond**—A brick bond in which each course consists of **headers** and **stretchers** laid alternately. More expensive construction method than **common bond** since more bricks are required.

**forebay**—On a bank barn, cantilevered extension of upper level over lower stable area. Forebay may be closed if end walls extend all the way to outer edge of forebay, or open if area under forebay is unsupported.

**Four Square**—A building form popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, characterized by a two-story, hip-roofed, cubical mass, with typically four rooms on each level. Builders constructed Four Square houses in a variety of architectural styles, including Colonial Revival and Craftsman.



Simpson Family House (c1905)—a Colonial Revival-style Four Square house.

**frieze**—In classical **architecture**, the middle section of an **entablature**, located above the **architrave** and below the cornice.

**gambrel**—A roof which has two pitches on two sides.

**Georgian**—An architectural style that reflects Renaissance ideals of symmetry and classical detail made popular by English architects and are designed to emphasize the social status of inhabitants. High-style Georgian houses, usually built of brick, typically have a high foundation with molded water table, second level belt course, and tall chimneys. Common classical features are cornices with dentil molding; gauged flat arch lintels often embellished with keystones; and quoining.

**German siding**—Horizontal drop siding

**Gothic Revival**—A medieval-influenced architectural style emphasizing picturesque verticality and rural character. Typical features are a steeply pitched roof with jig-sawn bargeboard, pointed arch windows, and vertical board and batten siding. Local examples date from the post-Civil War era until the late 1800s. Gothic Revival churches continued to be built into the early 1900s.

**Greek Revival**—Architectural style dating from the early to mid 1800s patterned after classical temples of Greece. Common features are gable end cornice returns, pedimented gables, pilasters, and classical porch columns. In masonry buildings, lintels are thick and rectangular.

**hanging gable**—See **hay hood**.

**hay hood**—A barn roof extension used to protect or support pulley attachments that load hay into the loft. A triangular hay hood is also called **hanging gables**.

**header**—Bricks laid with short ends exposed. The more headers used in brickwork, the more expensive the construction since this method required more bricks.

**ice house**—A domestic outbuilding used to store blocks of ice for the preservation of dairy products and meat supplies.

**Italianate**—A picturesque architectural style influenced by informal, rural Italian villas. Features include box-like massing, low-pitched hip roofs, and wide bracketed eaves. Windows and doors often have round arches and heavy crown molding. Closely related to Italianate is the **Second Empire** style.

**jib door**—Hinged panels beneath windows which swing open like doors to allow indoor-outdoor access, frequently from interior to front porch.

**keystone**—The central wedge-shaped stone in the curve of an arch, often embellished.

**lintel**—A horizontal structural member over a door, window, or other opening.

**lunette**—Semi-circular window.

**mansard**—A roof which has two pitches on four sides. Such dual-pitched hipped roofs characterize the **Second Empire** style architecture.



*newel post*

**newel post**—An ornamental post at the foot or head of a stair that supports the handrail.

**nogging**—Material used to fill spaces between frame members in timber frame houses. Brick nogging provided insulation and structural rigidity.

**outbuilding**—Freestanding service building associated with a domestic structure or farmstead. Historically the term used for these structures was outhouses. See specific entries for **spring house**, **smoke house**, **bank barn**, etc.

**Palladian window**—A window with a central arched section flanked by narrow rectangular sections. Also known as a Venetian window, this window arrangement was popular in England in the early 1700s, and in the American colonies from the 1760s. The earliest Palladian-



*Second-story Palladian window*

inspired windows in Montgomery County include *Roseneath* (c1825-1830) and *Montevideo* (1830).

**parapet**—A low guarding wall that stands entirely above the roof. Locally, this feature is typical of Federal and Art Deco styles of architecture.

**pediment**—In classically-inspired architecture, the gable end of the roof enclosed by molding to form a triangle.

**pilaster**—An ornamental column partially built into a wall, not free-standing.

**quarter**—A domestic outbuilding used to house slaves. Slave quarters in Montgomery County were often located near the main dwelling house.

**Queen Anne**—Architectural style typically dating from the 1880s-1910, characterized by a multi-gabled, asymmetrical building form often with a combination of clapboard siding and shingle siding. Porches usually wrap around at least two sides of the house and have turned posts with brackets.



quoin

**quoin**—Overscaled stone or brick blocks used to reinforce and decorate the external corner or doorway.

**sash**—Glazed window units that may be movable or fixed. Double-hung sash slides in a vertical plane. Casement sash pivots on a hinge.

**Second Empire**—Closely related to the **Italianate** style, the Second Empire style is distinguished by its **mansard** roof. Sheltering a full additional floor under its roof, Second Empire structures in the county were mostly used for hotels and schools.

**single pile**—A one-room deep floor plan.

**sidelights**—Vertical windows flanking a door.

**smoke house**—A domestic outbuilding providing a smoking chamber for preservation of a family's meat supply. Local examples are typically log.

**spring house**—A domestic outbuilding used for storing dairy products, built over or near a spring. Local examples are most often stone with louvered side vents and were frequently banked into a hillside. See also **dairy**.

**stretcher**—A brick laid with the long ends exposed.

**stringcourse**—See **belt course**.

**stringer**—The sloping support members that form the ends of the treads and risers of a staircase. A stringboard covers the ends of closed stringer stairs, while open stringers have exposed stair ends.

**telescope plan**—A linear house plan with multiple sections that decrease in height from the main block to the farthest wing.

**transom light**—A horizontal window directly over a door.

**vergeboard**—See **bargeboard**.

**wainscot**—Wood paneling used to line the interior walls of residences. Wainscoting became popular in Southern colonies in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest Montgomery County examples date from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**wash house**—A domestic outbuilding used for laundry activities. The wash house usually contained a fireplace for heating water and large wash tubs. Wash houses are similar in form to **spring houses**, having a front gable, projecting roof. Unlike spring houses, wash houses typically have a chimney at the rear gable.

**water table**—The sloping top of a brick course used to cast water away from the foundation.

**weathering**—The sloped or splayed upper surface of a chimney base, typical of late 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in Montgomery County.

**winder**—Wedge shaped steps used in staircases of small houses in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. See **box staircase**.



water table



open stringers