

The definition of architectural and preservation terms in this glossary were taken from the *Illustrated Dictionary of Architectural Preservation*, by Ernest Burden, McGraw-Hill, 2004

Glossary:

bracket: A projection from a vertical surface providing structural or visual support under cornices, balconies, windows, or any overhanging member.

cornice: The uppermost division of an entablature; a projecting shelf along the top of a wall supported by a series of brackets; the exterior trim at the meeting of a roof and wall, consisting of a soffit, fascia, and crown molding.

gable: The entire triangular end of a wall, above the level of the eaves, the top of which conforms to the slope of the roof that abuts against it; sometimes stepped and sometimes curved in a scroll shape.

Greek Revival Style: (1750-1860) One of the most popular and long-lived styles in America, because Greek forms were thought to embody the ideals of democracy. This style stood for a purity and simplicity of structure and form. The buildings are square or rectangular, proportions are broad, details are simple, facades are symmetrical, and silhouettes are bold. Freestanding columns support a pedimented gable. Many government and civic buildings are designed in this style, which is more suited to these building types than to smaller domestic buildings.

green architecture/building: Traditionally, formal picturesque gardens that are closely related to buildings, or where landscape and architecture come together. The term also currently represents buildings that are designed according to energy-saving and pollution-reducing criteria, and that make use of sustainable, natural, or recyclable materials in the construction.

façade: The exterior face of a building, particularly one of its main elevations, almost always containing an entrance and characterized by an elaboration of stylish details.

Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit: The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program encourages private sector rehabilitation of historic buildings and is one of the nation's most successful and cost-effective community revitalization programs. It generate jobs and creates moderate and low-income housing in historic buildings.

Federal Style: (1780-1820) A style named for the new republic, characterized by low-pitched roofs, a smooth façade, and large glass areas. Geometric forms accentuated the rhythm of the exterior wall, which was elegant and intentionally austere. Although it rejected Georgian decoration, it retained its symmetry, pilaster-framed entrance, fanlight, and sidelights. Windows were simply framed, and quoins were abandoned.

historic district: A contiguous area with a number of historic features united by past events. It includes areas linked esthetically by plan or physical development and have been designated on a local, state, or national register of historic places; may encompass a neighborhood or all of a small town, and may be identified by a plaque.

Italianate Style (1870-1890): Used predominately in commercial buildings, featuring exaggerated brackets and cornices, with the symmetrical window treatments of the Renaissance.

LEED: A federal program designed to promote recycling in a major way. The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program establishes guidelines for documenting sustainable design practices for existing buildings.

lintel: The horizontal beam that forms the upper structural member of an opening of a window or door and supports part of the structure above it.

molding: A decorative profile that is given to architectural members and subordinate parts of the buildings; whether cavities or projections such as cornices, bases, door and window jambs and heads.

National Register of Historic Places: A list, maintained by the National Park Service, of United States' places of significance in history, archeology, architecture, engineering, and culture, on a national, state, or local level.

preservation: The keeping in existence, unchanged, of natural resources and buildings that have been inherited from the past. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards define preservation thus: "to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure, and the existing form and vegetative cover of a site."

restoration: According to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, "accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work." Since authenticity is the primary goal, and this calls for extensive research, study, and money, restoration is frequently restricted to those structures intended for public use or those opened as house museums.

rehabilitation: The Secretary of the Interior's Standards describe rehabilitation as "returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible and efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values."

SEQR: State Environmental Quality Review Act. In New York State, most projects or activities proposed by a state agency or unit of local government, and all discretionary approvals (permits) from a NYS agency or unit of local government, require an environmental impact assessment as prescribed by 6 NYCRR Part 617. SEQR requires

the sponsoring or approving governmental body to identify and mitigate the significant environmental impacts of the activity it is proposing or permitting.

SHPO: New York's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) helps communities identify, evaluate, preserve, and revitalize their historic, archeological, and cultural resources. The SHPO administers programs authorized by both the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

transom: A horizontal bar of wood or stone across a door or window; the crossbar separating a door from the fanlight above it; a window divided by a transom bar.

Victorian architecture: A term that encompasses a number of ornate and highly decorative architectural styles, such as High Victorian, Italianate, Shingle, Victorian Romanesque, Gingerbread, Queen Anne, and Gothic Revival.

Victorian Gothic Style (1860-1890): A colorful style, wherein materials of different colors and textures were juxtaposed, creating decorative bands and highlighting corners, arches, and arcades. Materials most often used were ornamental pressed bricks, terra-cotta tile, and incised carvings of foliated and geometric patterns. Openings had straight heads as well as pointed Gothic arched heads, In timber-framed buildings, the gable, porch, and eave trim were massive and strong.