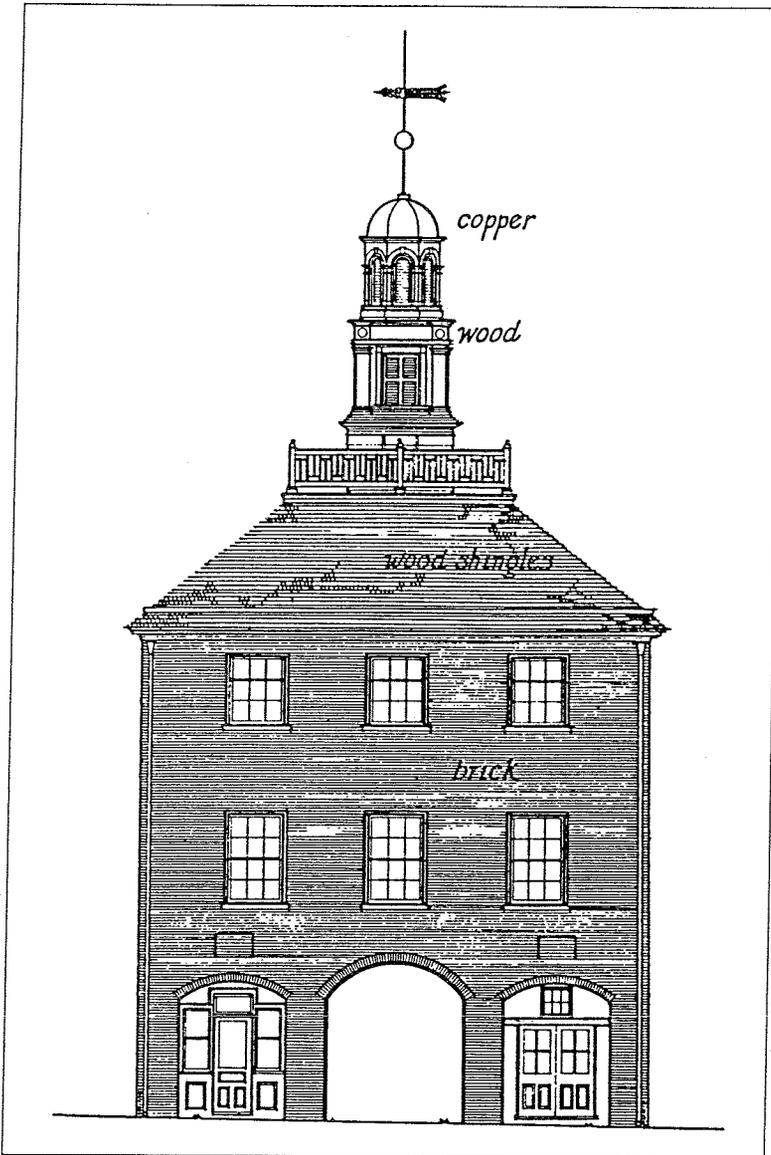


City of New Castle Historic Area

New Castle, Delaware

Guidelines and Standards Handbook



Old Town Hall. New Castle, Delaware, 1823, courtesy of HABS

Commissioned by: The Mayor and Council of the City of New Castle
New Castle, Delaware

Prepared by: KFS Historic Preservation Group
Kise Franks & Straw

May 1990

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INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW CASTLE HISTORIC AREA GUIDELINES

The purpose of these guidelines is to guide preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and new construction within the New Castle Historic Area so that the integrity of the Area's irreplaceable architectural heritage is not lost.

Architectural Review Boards for the preservation and protection of structures within designated historic districts are in place in over 1,200 communities throughout the United States. In some communities the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines and Standards for Rehabilitation serve as the basis for rendering individual decisions. However, these were written for broad applicability and many communities have found that they do not adequately address specific local issues and needs. In such instances supplemental guidelines have been adopted. Properly written, these are a commonsense approach to promoting community pride, maintaining and enhancing the unique character of a particular historic area, and protecting property values.

Sound guidelines respect both the significant historic design and features of a structure and the overall character of the surrounding neighborhood. This provides a special challenge in the New Castle Historic Area, where structures have been built, altered, and added to over a period spanning three centuries; with but few exceptions, all of the structures in the Area are deemed worthy of preservation. The intent of the Guidelines for the New Castle Historic Area, then, is to establish standards and provide background information in a basic reference framework that will be used both by the Historic Area Commission and property owners in determining the most appropriate course of action when changes are proposed.

The historic character of the City of New Castle has been a point of pride to its citizens for many generations. This enthusiasm has resulted in national attention being directed towards the city's efforts to preserve its heritage. In 1963, the National Park Service designated the oldest portion of New Castle as a National Historic Landmark. This honor recognized the early settlement of the city and its development as a government and economic center till the mid-nineteenth century. In 1984, the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation expanded upon the landmark status by recommending that the nineteenth- and twentieth-century history of New Castle be honored with listing on the National Register of Historic Places. At that time a complete inventory of all pre-1930 buildings was written by a student at the University of Delaware and by the preservation staff of the New Castle County Department of Planning. The National Register nomination and inventory have provided the first comprehensive review of the architectural history of New Castle. As such, it is of value to the city government and to the residents of the city as they continue their preservation efforts. Further information on the National Register can be found in Appendix II.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW CASTLE HISTORIC AREA GUIDELINES HANDBOOK

This handbook is divided into nine sections, providing information on the New Castle Historic Area, the Historic Area Commission, and the guidelines and standards for rehabilitating historic structures within the Historic Area. The handbook concludes with two appendices and a bibliography.

Section 1 is the introduction to the handbook. It describes the purpose behind the writing of the New Castle Historic Area Guidelines. Section 2 discusses the organization of the handbook, outlining the contents of the various sections. Section 3 provides a brief overview of the historical and architectural development of New Castle from its founding in 1651 to the present day. Section 4 describes the New Castle Historic Area Commission, outlining the Commission's purpose, its jurisdiction, and its membership requirements. Section 5 offers the federal and local guidelines and standards for the rehabilitation of historic structures within the Historic Area. Section 6 outlines the procedure required to obtain a New Castle Historic Review Certificate.

Section 7 of the handbook describes the various architectural styles that are found within the New Castle Historic Area. The character-defining features of each style are highlighted, especially as they reflect local variations of national styles. Section 8 lists a variety of sources which owners of historic structures can use to research the history and development of their properties. The sources listed include atlases and maps, reports and surveys, texts, and local, county, and state organizations. Section 9 contains detailed guidelines on the treatment of historic building elements as found on structures within the Historic Area. Each building element is addressed separately in a brief narrative, with each narrative containing historical information and specific guidelines that are applicable to the use of that particular element within the Historic Area.

Appendix I contains pertinent sections from the New Castle Zoning Ordinance (1968) that relate to the Historic Area Commission and its powers and duties. Appendix II provides general information on the National Register of Historic Places and specific information on New Castle's National Register District. The appendix contains the complete New Castle National Register nomination as well.

A separate workbook relating to Section 9 of the handbook has been put together as part of the overall project. This volume contains copies of magazine articles and technical pamphlets that concern the maintenance, repair, and replacement of specific historic building elements. The volume is intended to be an additional reference source for both the Historic Area Commission and local property owners who wish to make changes to historic structures located within the New Castle Historic Area.

The New Castle Guidelines handbook and workbook are organized in such a manner that the documents can easily be copied in part or in whole, allowing for simple access to and distribution of the materials. The pages of the handbook and workbook are one-sided to provide convenience when copying. In addition, all graphics included in the handbook are line drawings rather than photographs, since copies of photographs rarely reproduce clearly.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL OVERVIEW OF NEW CASTLE

The City of New Castle was settled in 1651 with the construction of Fort Casimir. The fort was constructed by Peter Stuyvesant and his followers to regain the control of the Delaware River for the New Netherland government. The location of the fort, on a spit of land extending into the Delaware, afforded an excellent vantage point and virtual control of traffic. After a brief period of Swedish control in 1654, the Dutch recaptured Fort Casimir and in 1656 it was renamed New Amstel.

In 1664 the English government seized all Dutch possessions in North America, at which point the town was renamed New Castle. The town remained under British control for the balance of the colonial period. In 1682 William Penn received the proprietorship of the three lower counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex from James Duke of York.

The only surviving example of seventeenth-century-style architecture in New Castle is the "Old Dutch House" located at 32 East Third Street. The date of construction is thought to be during the late 1660s, however the exact date of construction has yet to be determined. The other well known example, from the seventeenth century, was the "Tile House" built in 1687, and demolished in 1884.

William Penn soon discovered that the counties wished to rule themselves, and in 1704 the proprietors granted them a separate legislature. This assembly made New Castle the colonial capital and later the first state capitol of Delaware. During this period, the Georgian style was the prominent style throughout the colonies. In New Castle there are many surviving Georgian structures, including the "Kensey John, Sr. House", which typifies the vernacular Georgian style.

The state capital moved to Dover in 1777, but this change did not reduce the importance of New Castle. The town remained the seat for the federal courts and the county government. New Castle's location, on the eastern side of the land dividing the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, also made it an ideal transfer point for trips to and from the new federal capitol and other destinations along the Atlantic coast. The town saw great growth during this period. The Federal style became prominent in New Castle from the end of the Revolutionary War to approximately 1830. The structures, representative of this period of growth, include the vernacular Federal house, located at 120-122 East Second Street, and the high-style Federal house located at 53-55 The Strand.

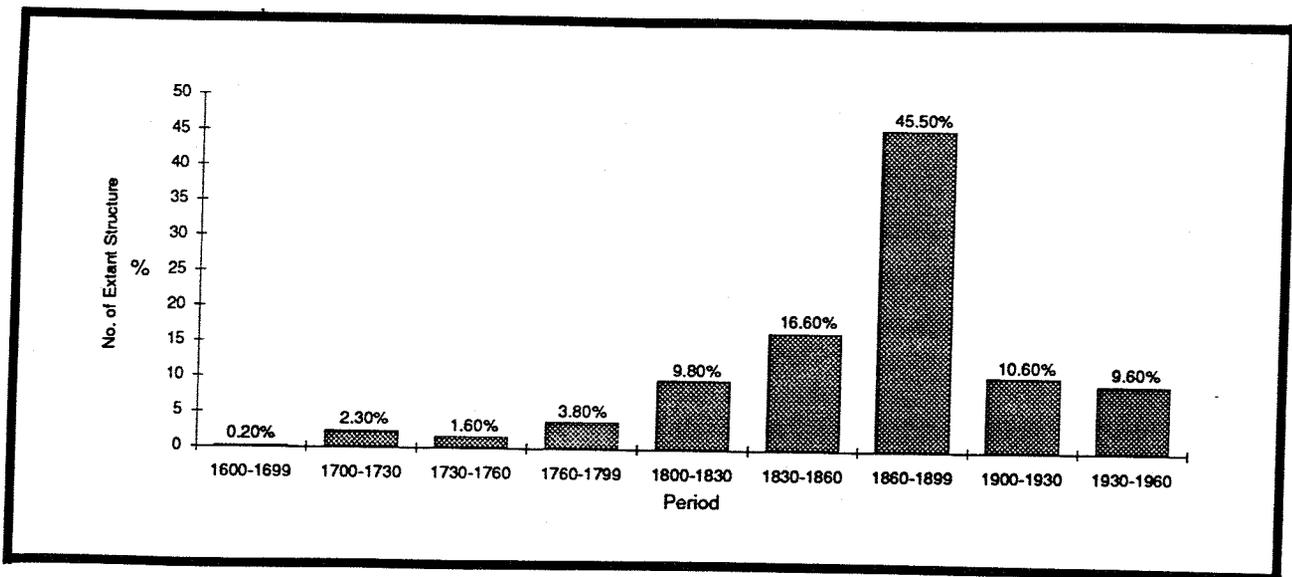
One of the earliest American railroads, the New Castle and Frenchtown, was completed in 1832. It brought increased prosperity during the 1830s through the 1850s. This prosperity brought with it a building boom. The building styles predominant during this period included Greek Revival and Italianate. In New Castle, the vernacular Greek Revival style includes 25-33 The Strand, and high-style Greek Revival is well represented by 10-16 East Fourth Street. During this period of prosperity the Italianate style was heavily used. An example of the vernacular Italianate is found at 207-217 East Second Street. A high-style example of Italianate is found in the Farmers Bank located at 4 The Strand.

The decline of river traffic and the growth of Wilmington as a commercial center, due in part to the new Baltimore Railroad, brought a slow decline to New Castle's economy.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century the Second Empire, Queen Anne, Stick, and Shingle styles were typical architectural styles. Due to the slowing of the economy in New Castle there are fewer examples from this period as compared to the early and mid-nineteenth century. New Castle's examples of Second Empire includes 125 East Third Street and the Masonic Lodge at 306 Delaware Street. An example of the Stick style is the second floor bay window addition at 53 East Second Street.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century, New Castle experienced growth in local businesses and industries that, in turn, attracted new construction. A modern transshipment carry over was also installed by the New Castle Pennsville Ferry system that carried the heavy traffic from U.S. Routes 40 and 13, across the river. During the early 1900s the Bungalow style house, emblematic with the house at 50 West Fifth Street, was used heavily throughout the United States. This period also included the Beaux Arts style. A prominent example of the Beau Arts style is the bank building located at 220 Delaware Street.

In 1951 the Delaware Memorial Bridge was opened and the New Castle-Pennsville Ferry was decommissioned. Since the bridge has opened New Castle has developed several new industries and prosperous local businesses, as well as becoming a center of a growing residential area.



Bar Graph showing the percent of standing structures in the New Castle National Register Historic District by period of construction.

THE NEW CASTLE HISTORIC AREA COMMISSION

Purpose

In 1951 the mayor and council of the City of New Castle established a Board of Architectural Review as part of the zoning ordinance applicable to the Historic Area. Its purpose was to review building permit applications within the Area. In 1968 the City Council of New Castle ratified the town's current zoning ordinance and established the New Castle Historic Area Commission in its present form. The Commission was created to safeguard the heritage of the city by protecting and preserving buildings and sites within the Historic Area which represent elements of New Castle's cultural, social, political, and architectural history; and to promote the educational, cultural, and economic value to the public by maintaining said Area as a landmark of the city's history and architecture.

Jurisdiction

Two maps follow which delineate the boundaries of the local Historic Area and the New Castle National Register District. Although the two districts overlap at some points, each is considered a separately established and enforced historic area. Properties contained solely within the National Register District require review of work by the Historic Area Commission only if they abut the boundaries of the local Historic Area. Refer to Appendix I for further information on the Historic Area Commission and its powers and duties. Refer to Appendix II for information on New Castle and the National Register of Historic Places.

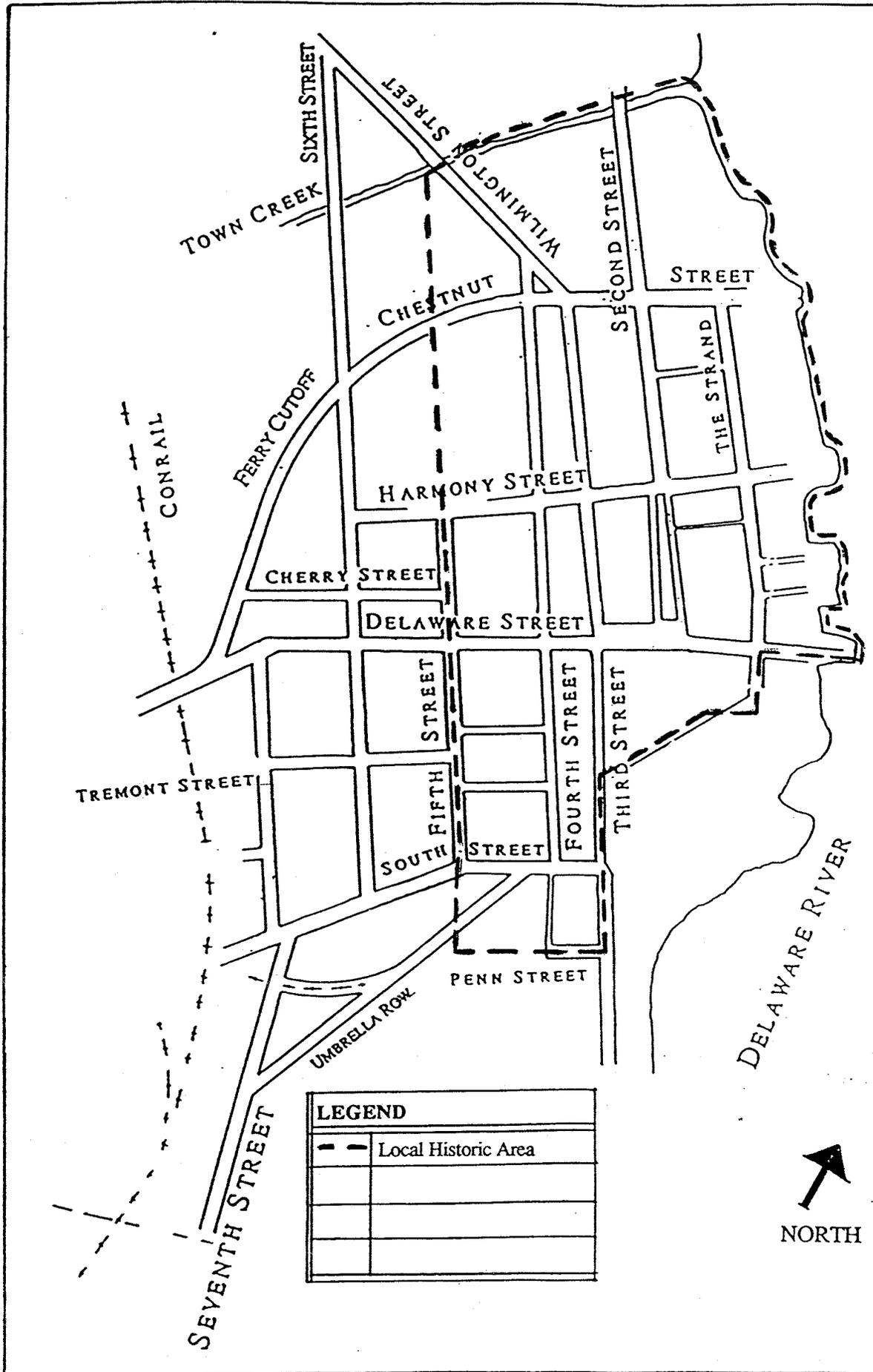
Membership

According to Section 8 of the New Castle Zoning Ordinance of 1968, the membership requirements for the Historic Area Commission are as follows:

The commission shall consist of five members:

- a. An architect holding membership in the American Institute of Architects and having interest and knowledge in the protection, preservation, and restoration of the colonial aspects of the city; appointed by City Council.
- b. A city resident having municipal voting privileges, and appointed by City Council.
- c. A city resident who is a member of the New Castle Historical Society selected by the society, appointed by City Council.
- d. A member of City Council, appointed by the Mayor.
- e. A planning commission member, appointed by City Council.

The terms of office for members shall be for three years, so long as the members continue to meet the requirements for membership, except the original appointments to the commission shall be for one, two, and three years respectively. Members may, after public hearing, be removed by city council for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. No members of the Historic Area Commission shall serve clientele who are governed by decisions of the commission.



NEW CASTLE HISTORIC AREA BOUNDARIES

FEDERAL AND LOCAL GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATING HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Introduction

Adopted as part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation have been tried and tested over the years by local, state, and federal agencies seeking to regulate the rehabilitation of historic structures in their respective jurisdictions. The ten Standards have been extremely useful to local communities just beginning the process of preserving and protecting their historic resources. Architectural review boards with some experience, however, have learned that the Standards' broad applicability does not always address the specific and unique characteristics of a local area. These boards have gone on to set up their own local rehabilitation standards, or guidelines, to address more completely the issues and needs with which they are familiar. These local guidelines stand as a supplement to the Secretary's Standards. Together, both offer a sound basis from which to review the effects of change on historic structures and areas.

As many other architectural review boards have done, the New Castle Historic Area Commission has drafted a set of guidelines for the local Historic Area. The four New Castle Historic Area Guidelines, in conjunction with the Secretary's Standards, are the criteria recognized by the Historic Area Commission when property owners seek to undertake work that affects Historic Area structures.

The following sections offer in complete form the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the New Castle Historic Area Guidelines.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property which requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its originally intended purpose.
2. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.
3. All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.
4. Changes which may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.

5. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a building, structure, or site shall be treated with sensitivity.
6. Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historic, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.
7. The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
8. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archaeological resources affected by, or adjacent to any project.
9. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.
10. Wherever possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.

"Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" are available to help property owners formulate plans for the rehabilitation of historic buildings consistent with the intent of the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation." These Guidelines pertain to buildings of all uses and construction types, sizes, and materials, and also to new additions to historic buildings. Copies of these Guidelines are available from the appropriate state official or from the NPS regional offices.

New Castle Historic Area Guidelines

The primary criteria observed in formulating guidelines for the New Castle Historic Area are as follows:

- 1 -

The historic character of the individual structure and its setting should not be altered.

- 2 -

Repair, rather than replacement, is strongly encouraged. When replacement is necessary, the materials used should be consistent with and appropriate to the style and period of the structure.

-3-

The design and materials used for new additions should be compatible with the architectural character of the existing structure and should be in harmony with neighboring properties and the New Castle Historic Area as a whole.

-4-

New construction should be compatible with neighboring properties and with the New Castle Historic Area in general.

THE NEW CASTLE HISTORIC REVIEW CERTIFICATE

Section 7 of the City of New Castle Zoning Ordinance states: "Prior to the issuance of a building permit or certificate of zoning compliance as required by this Ordinance in any Historic residence or Historic Commerce District a historic review certificate shall be obtained prior to any building, structure, premise, sign, use of site being erected, constructed, built, created, reconstructed, moved, altered, added to, converted, or demolished."

The procedure for obtaining a historic review certificate is as follows:

- 1 -

Obtain an application for a building permit from the City Administration Office.

- 2 -

Fill out the appropriate sections. Provide all details of the proposed work (design, style, measurements, materials, etc.). For fences, site work, additions, and outbuildings, scaled plot plans are required. Detailed elevation drawings are also required for all additions and new construction.

- 3 -

Submit the completed application, together with application fee, to the City Administration Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on the day preceding the Historic Area Commission's monthly meeting.

- 4 -

You are not required to attend the meeting at which your application is to be considered. However, it is often helpful if you (or a representative) are present to clarify any unclear points or to agree to suggested modifications.

- 5 -

The Historic Area Commission will decide on your application in one of four ways: the application will be approved, approved with conditions, tabled for further information with applicant's approval, or denied. You will be notified of the disposition of your application within 10 days.

- 6 -

Upon receipt of notification of approval, you may obtain your building permit at the City Administration Office Guidelines upon payment of the required building permit fee. No work may be started until the permit has been obtained.

-7-

Applications of a true emergency nature (e.g., collapsed chimney, storm damage, failed porch post, etc.) will be acted upon promptly. Advise the City Administration Office personnel of the emergency situation when you obtain your permit application.

-8-

Decisions of the Commission may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment. Such appeals must be filed with the administrative official and the Board of Adjustment within twenty (20) days of the receipt of the Commission's written decision.

ALL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ARE ORGANIZED TO COMPLY WITH THE DELAWARE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 29 DEL C CHAPTER 100.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES IN THE NEW CASTLE HISTORIC AREA

This section is intended to assist property owners in identifying the style and historic features of their structure(s). The seven stylistic periods typical of the Historic Area are presented in chronological order. Each stylistic period is identified by its common name and by the dates when the style was prominent in New Castle. Each begins with a preamble which briefly outlines the history and origins of the style and when it was first introduced to New Castle. This is followed by a mention of representative examples of the style in the Historic Area.

Next, there is a listing of "typical characteristics", i.e., the typical detailing and materials of each style as found on New Castle structures. Each list focuses on massing, roofing, materials, doorways, windows, and ornament. The text is complimented by an annotated architectural drawing with keys to the individual stylistic features.

For more information on stylistic periods, there are several excellent references readily available in local libraries and bookstores. The following is a suggested list from which to begin.

Early Architecture of Delaware, by George Fletcher Bennett;
Wilmington, Delaware: The Middle Atlantic Press, 1985.

A Field Guide to American Houses, by Virginia and Lee McAlester;
New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

What Style Is It? John C. Poppeliers, et al.; Washington, D.C.: Historic American Buildings Survey and The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1983.

GEORGIAN

circa 1700-1776

The Georgian style, developed in England by Christopher Wren, James Gibbs, and Inigo Jones, was based on the Italian Renaissance vision of order, dignity, and balance, which was derived from classical Roman and late renaissance models. As the American colonies became more established and prosperous, the leading landowners and merchants often used English architectural pattern books or recently immigrated craftsmen to construct vernacular and high-style Georgian styles.

In New Castle, the English Georgian style became popular shortly after William Penn granted the people of Delaware a separate legislature. The new legislative assembly made New Castle its Colonial capital and later the first state capitol in Delaware. During this period, New Castle flourished as a political and economic center spurring the construction of numerous residential, public and commercial structures.

A notable high-style example of the Georgian style is the Kensey Johns, Sr., House #2, Third Street. Approximately, six percent of the structures in the New Castle National Register Historic District were built in the Georgian period. This comparatively low percentage is largely due to a major fire in 1824 which destroyed a major section of the old town near the waterfront and along Delaware Street.

Typical Georgian Characteristics

Massing - Symmetrical, horizontally-oriented facade. In New Castle, the form often consists of a two-story, two-bay or two-story, five-bay facade.

Roofing - Prominent gable or hipped roof. The high-style examples, such as the Old Courthouse, incorporated the use of decorative railings or "balustrades" on the roof, as well as large single or paired interior end chimneys. Cornices were generally constructed of wood. The cornices of vernacular structures were often a simple molded design, while high-style examples included dentils and more elaborate molded cornices.

Materials - The most common building material of the surviving Georgian period structures in New Castle is brick, often laid in flemish bond on the principal facade.

Doorway - High-style structures often incorporated a frontispiece with engaged columns, pediments, and entablatures. Vernacular examples typically had simple frames with multiple light transoms. A six-panel door with raised panels was common.

Windows - Double-hung multiple light sash, commonly 12-over-12 or 9-over-9 panes with thick window mullions. Splayed brick lintels or voussoirs were often used on high-style brick examples. The Palladian window form, consisting of a large arched central window flanked by smaller rectangular windows, was introduced during this period.

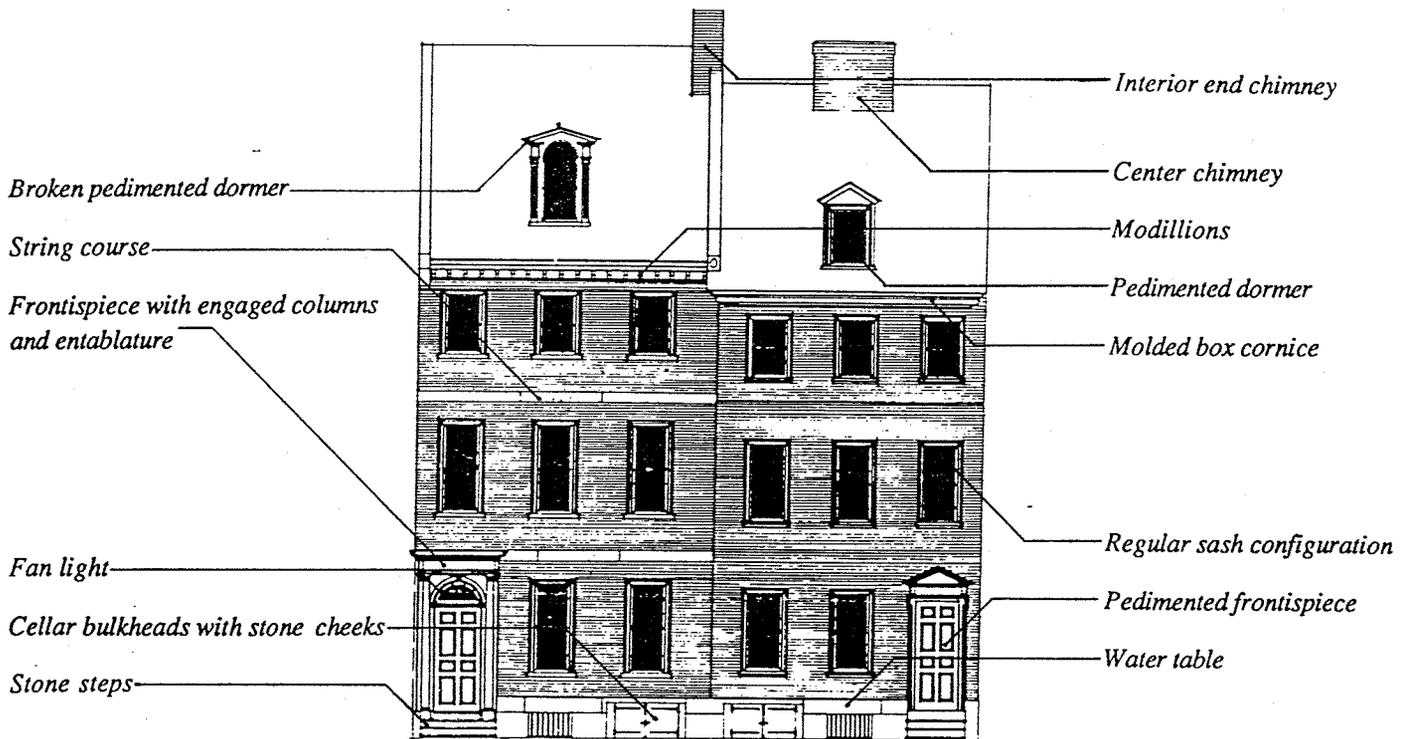
Ornament - Georgian style ornament included molded brick water tables, belt cornices, flemish bond masonry with glazed brick headers, and ornamented frontispieces and cornices. Also, molded stone steps with wrought iron railings were typical of high-style construction.

GEORGIAN STYLE
 Circa 1700-1776



Mid-Georgian High Style Form

Derby House, Salem, Massachusetts, 1762. (Courtesy of HABS).



Mid and Late Georgian Urban Form

Wharton House, Hopkinson House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Above left, 1790. Above right, c.1775. (Courtesy of HABS).

FEDERAL

circa 1780-1830

While Georgian era architects copied classical Roman detailing from pattern books, trend-setting Federal era architects and builders sought a new style. This new style promoted a lightness and delicacy of detail based upon the later classical architecture discovered through the archaeological excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum. These "new" classical designs were translated to towns such as New Castle through pattern books and immigrant craftsman familiar with the latest styles. The characteristic motifs of the period included classical figures, garlands, egg and dart motifs, swags, festoons, medallions and urns.

The Federal style became widely accepted in New Castle following the Revolutionary War. During this period, New Castle realized great economic and physical growth due in part to New Castle's position as a major transportation point in the Delmarva peninsula. Approximately twelve percent of the structures located within the New Castle National Register Historic District were completed during the Federal period. A fine example of a vernacular Federal house is located at 120-122 East Second Street. A notable high style Federal example is 53-55 The Strand. Throughout the historic area, one can find one of the most important assemblages of Federal period structures in the United States.

Typical Federal Characteristics

Massing - The form is characterized by a symmetrical massing with a regular fenestration. In New Castle, the majority of structures follow the Urban English side hall plan with the door off center. The majority of houses are two to three stories in height with two to three bays on the principal facade.

Roofline - Gable roofs are the typical roof form. Cornices are usually constructed of wood, consisting of a simple molded designs or adorned with decorative details such as dentils, modillions or fret work.

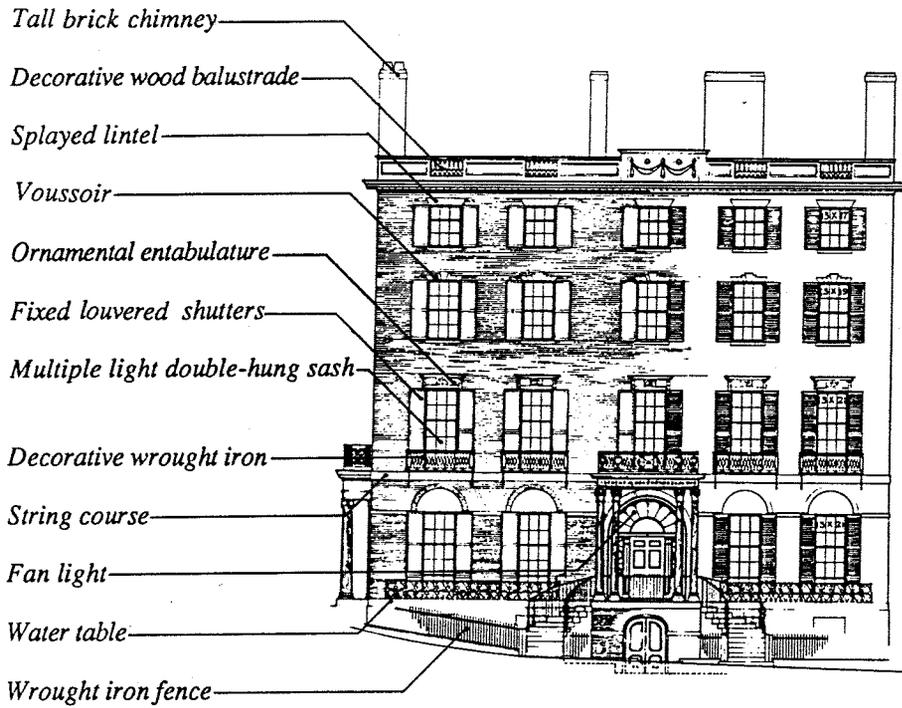
Materials - The most commonly used building materials in New Castle are brick laid in common bond and frame with clapboard siding.

Doorway - A classic hallmark of the Federal style is the semielliptical or semicircular fanlight atop a six-panel door with sidelights. Narrow pilasters or engaged columns framing the door or supporting a pediment or entablature is a commonly found New Castle feature.

Windows - Windows are fitted with multiple light double-hung sash. Federal sash generally have thinner window mullions than the earlier Georgian sash. Structures constructed of brick often included dressed stone window lintels, keystones and sills. Shutters were often installed using solid molded panel shutters on the first floor and louvered shutters on the upper floors.

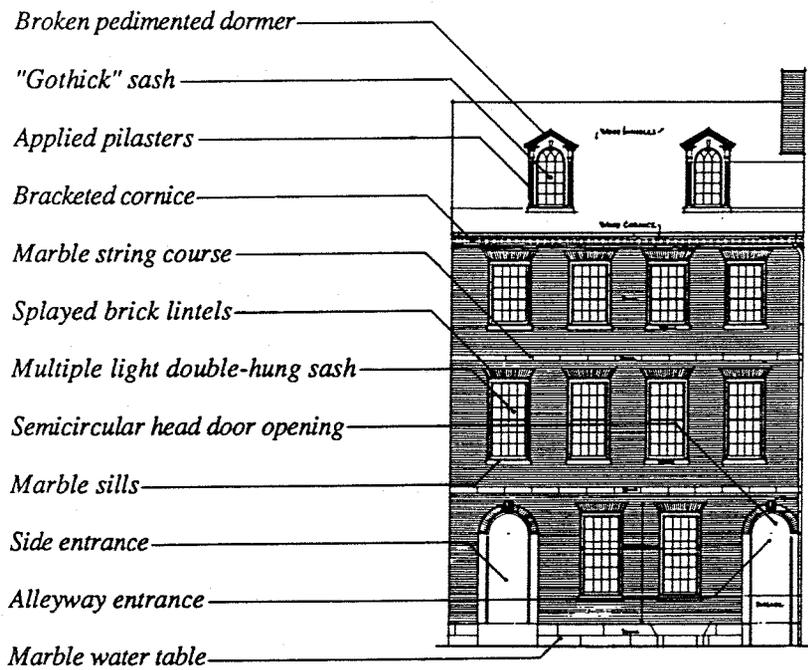
Ornament - Characteristically, ornament tended to be lighter and more delicate than the preceding Georgian period. Ornamental motifs are classical in inspiration, often incorporating dentils, shields and swags. Dressed stone and wood ornament with punch and gouge work are found in the historic area.

FEDERAL STYLE
circa 1780-1830



High Style Form

Amory Ticknor House, Boston, Massachusetts, 1804. (Courtesy of HABS).



Urban Vernacular Form

1621 Thames Streets, Baltimore, Maryland. 1798 remodeling of 1760's structure. (Courtesy of HABS).

GREEK REVIVAL

circa 1820-1860

The Greek Revival style is derived from an increased awareness of ancient Greek architecture and the shift away from Neo-Classical delicacy towards a more monumental form of expression. The appearance of Greek Revival architecture in America is often attributed to an emulation of the ideals of the ancient Greek democracies, which was heightened by European and American sympathies with the Greek move for independence from Turkey early in the nineteenth century.

The Greek Revival style was widely used in New Castle by the 1830s. A building boom was initiated by the increased business relating to the completion of New Castle and Frenchtown Turnpike in 1832 and continued through the mid-nineteenth century. Approximately ten percent of the structures located within the New Castle National Register Historic District are in the Greek Revival style. An example of Greek Revival rowhouses in New Castle is the "Stockton-Clelland-Sevil Row" located at No. 27-33 The Strand.

Typical Greek Revival Characteristics

Massing - Greek Revival structures are often characterized by a bolder massing and emphasis on large expanses of unornamented planes, giving a more monumental appearance in high-style examples. Vernacular structures usually contained the massing and form of earlier periods.

Roofline - The Greek Revival roof consisted of a low to medium pitch gable, often emphasized by parapets joining emphasized paired chimneys. Segmental dormers and less visible chimneys are commonly used. Cornices are often part of a complete Greek entablature. Use of running Greek keys, Greek ovolo mouldings, and other details are common. The most common roofing materials are wood shingles and standing seam metal roofs.

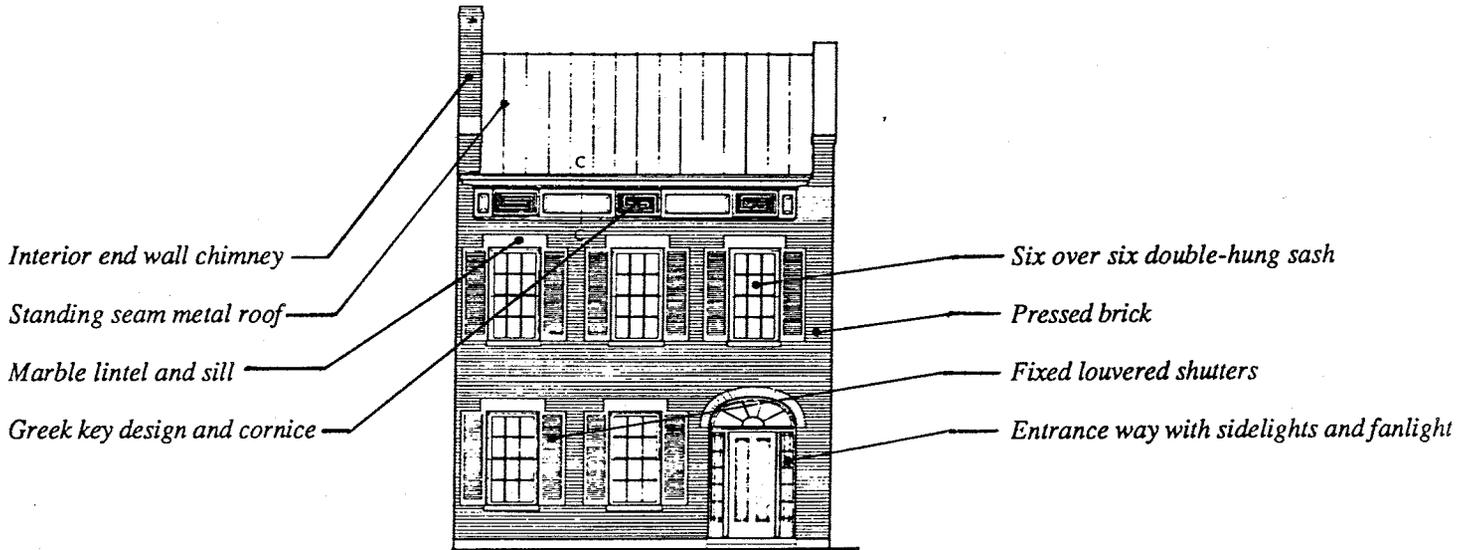
Materials - Brick remained the preferred building material. Stucco scored to resemble ashlar limestone was popularized in this period.

Doorway - A recessed framed doorway with semicircular fanlight was an often used form in New Castle. The typical door is a six-panel with flat panels. Vertical paneled doors were introduced in this period.

Windows - Windows are typically elongated six-over-six double hung sash. Window trim is often a scaled-down and narrow with elongated molding. Marble sills and lintels were frequently used. The lintels often had "bulls-eye" terminating blocks.

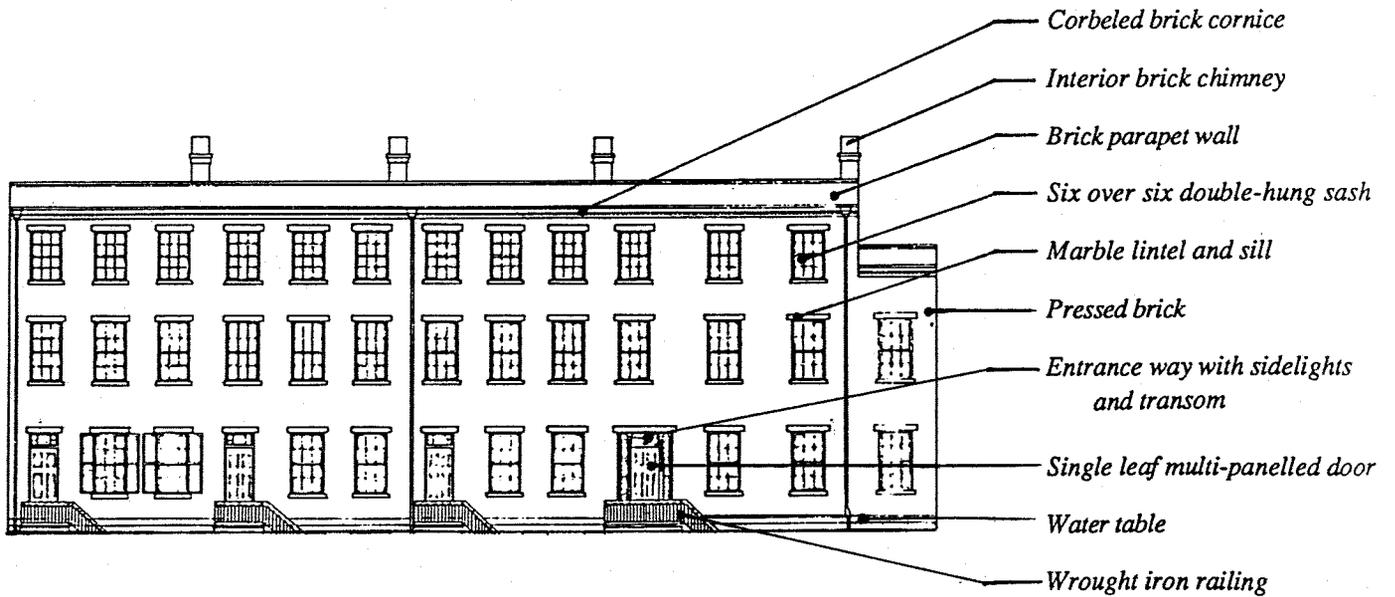
Ornament - The Greek Revival structures in New Castle typically included a wood panelled front door with simple architrave trim and transom or sidelights. Vernacular Greek Revival examples were distinguished by simple molded cornices. High-style examples often incorporated a running Greek key, egg-and-dart designs and Greek ovolo moldings.

GREEK REVIVAL
circa 1850-1885



High Style Freestanding Form

*Frederick Stahl House. Galena, Illinois.
1844. (Courtesy of HABS).*



Example of a continuous Greek Revival row

*William Remshart Row House. Savannah,
Georgia. 1852. (Courtesy of HABS).*

ITALIANATE

circa 1850-1885

The Italianate Style, also known as the "Tuscan" or "Bracketed" style, was loosely modeled after the farmhouse and villa architecture of northern Italy. In England and the United States, the Italianate became a widely popular building style after the completion of *Osborn House* for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1845.

In New Castle, the Italianate style reached its peak in popularity following the completion of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad. The railroad expanded New Castle's economic base, resulting in a period of great building activity. During this period, several hundred structures were built, many of which still stand. Approximately fifty percent of the structures located within the New Castle National Register Historic District were constructed during this period, many in the Italianate style. The most notable high-style example is the Old Farmers Bank, No. 4 The Strand. The majority of these structures tend to be located on the edge of the earlier sections of New Castle where land was more readily available for development. The Tobin House at 15 West Fourth Street is a good example of this period of development.

The popularity of this flexible style was so great that frequently earlier eighteenth- and nineteenth-century structures were "modernized" by the application of Italianate details. The "Italianization" of earlier structures ranged from minor alterations such as the application of a cornice or frontispiece to complete refacing. Structures that were modified during the Italianate period can be found throughout the earlier sections of New Castle. The bracketed hood on No. 9 The Strand is an excellent example of an Italianate period modification.

Typical Italianate Characteristics

Massing - The form is characterized by symmetrical massing of rectangular units. In New Castle, the form often consisted of a two-story/two-bay or three-story/three-bay facade, with a side door.

Roofline - Low pitch or flat roofs are most common; less frequently used are gabled or hipped roofs. Wide cornices are typical and often have pronounced brackets and dormers. The most common roofing materials, tin and copper, were often used in standing seam roofs on larger buildings and porch roofs.

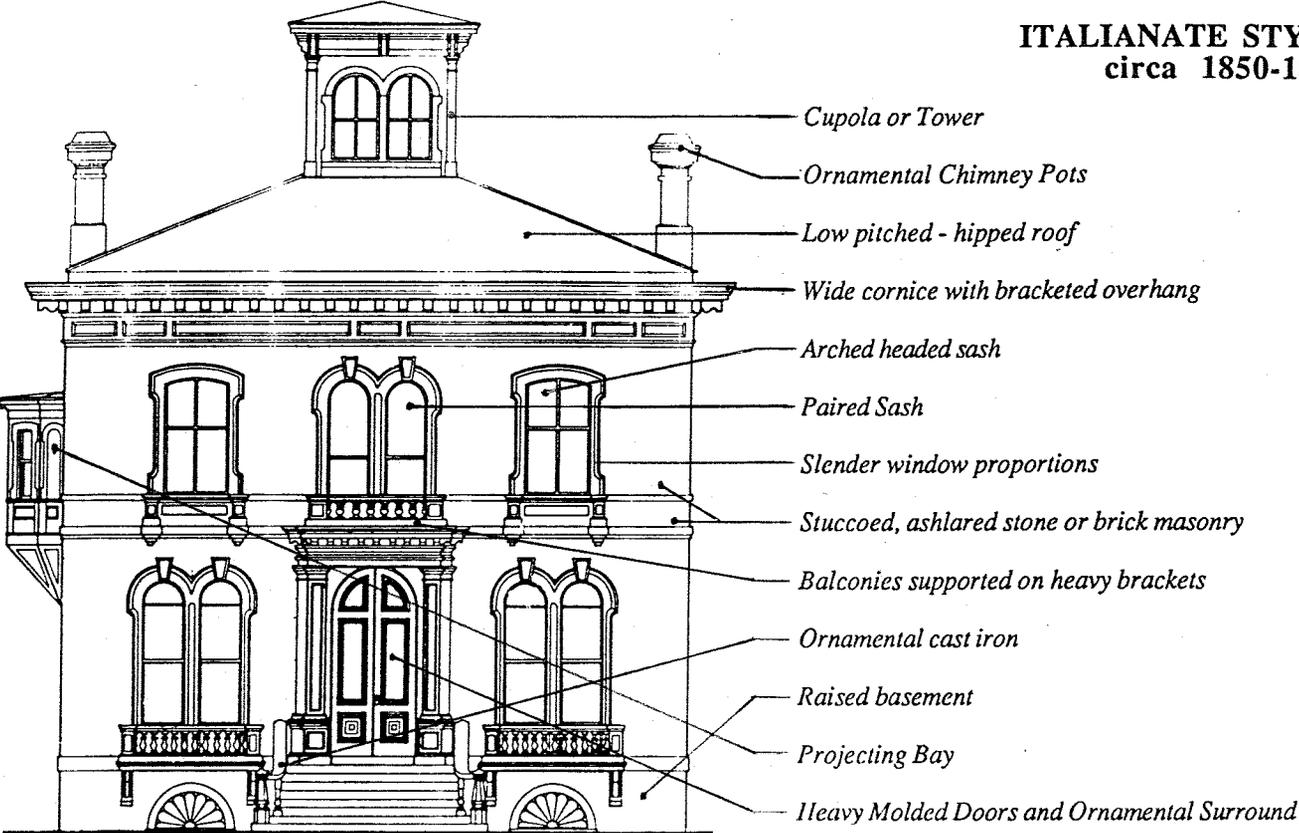
Materials - The most commonly used material in New Castle is frame with flush board or clapboard siding. There are some masonry examples constructed of pressed brick. Stucco and stone were rarely used in this period in New Castle.

Doorway - Doors, many with double leafs and transoms, were most often placed asymmetrically. Trim included heavy moulded bracketed hoods, door surrounds, and semielliptical transoms.

Windows - Windows are typically double hung, with four-over-four or two-over-two sash. The two-over-two is most common after 1870. They have slender proportions and, in later examples, round or elliptically arched openings. Shutters were used frequently with molded panel on the first floor and movable louvered shutters on the upper floors.

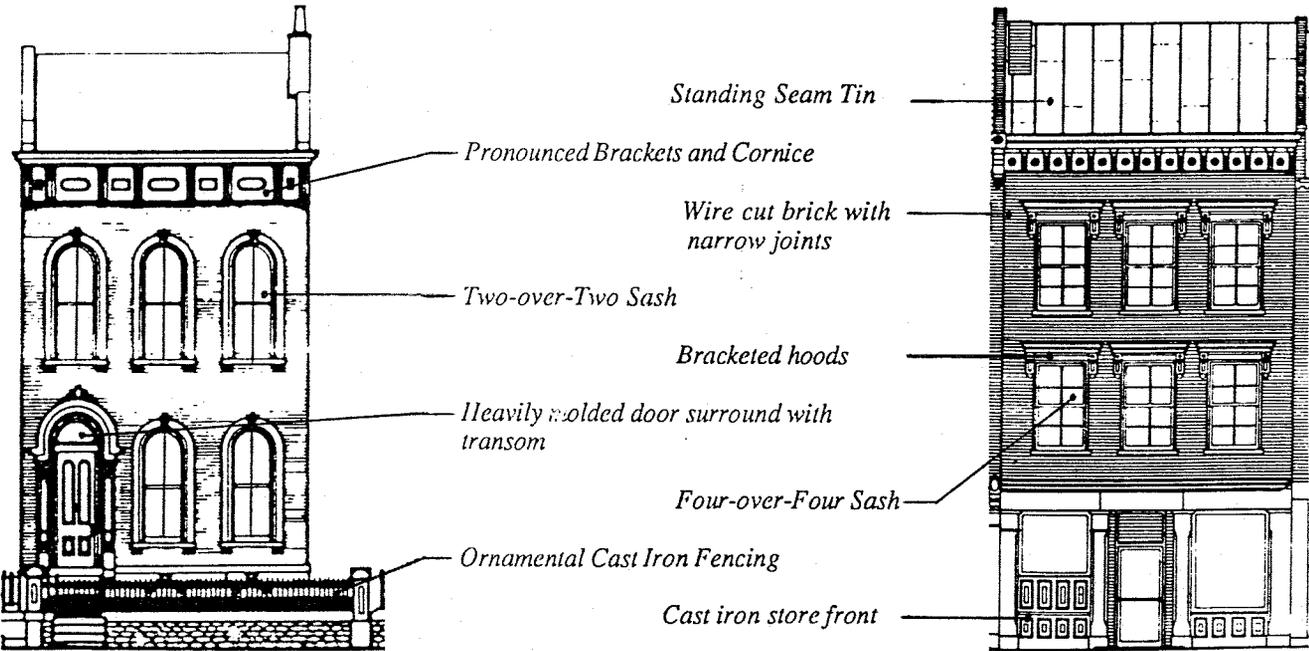
Ornament - Ornament on buildings includes heavy wood brackets under wide eaves and on doors and windows. Cast iron work such as ornamental posts, brackets, fences, gates, and railings are also common.

ITALIANATE STYLE
circa 1850-1885



High Style Freestanding Symmetrical Form

Typical examples of the Italianate style demonstrating how the style could be easily adapted from a wide variety of building types. In New Castle the most commonly found style is the two-story urban vernacular side door form.



*Urban Vernacular Form
With Side Door Entrance*

*Vernacular Commercial Form
With Cast Iron Storefront*

SECOND EMPIRE

circa 1855-1885

The Second Empire style was named in reference to the "Second Empire" reign of the French Emperor, Napoleon III. Also commonly referred to as "mansard", after French architect Francois Mansart, this is because of the style's most identifiable feature -- the mansard roof. The Second Empire style was derived from the popular Italianate style, and was embellished with ornate classical and baroque details. The characteristic double pitched mansard roof created an imposing visual appearance.

The Second Empire reached its popularity in New Castle during the 1860s, at a time when the town's economy was declining. This was a result of dwindling river traffic and the economic growth of Wilmington as a commercial center, due in part to the new Baltimore Railroad. The decline in the local economy did not prevent several Second Empire structures from being constructed. A notable high-style example of the Second Empire is the Masonic Temple on Delaware Street.

Typical Second Empire Characteristics

Massing - In New Castle the form is characterized by symmetrical massing of rectangular units. The form consists of a two-story/two-bay or three-story/three-bay facade, with a centered door.

Roofline - The mansard roof design is a major character-defining feature of the Second Empire style. Wide cornices are common, as are embellished examples on the high-style Second Empire. The most common roofing material on the visible slopes is slate, often installed in colorful patterns and decorative shapes. The low pitched top roof, dormer, and porch roofs are covered with standing seam roofs. Iron cresting was commonly used to create additional ornamentation.

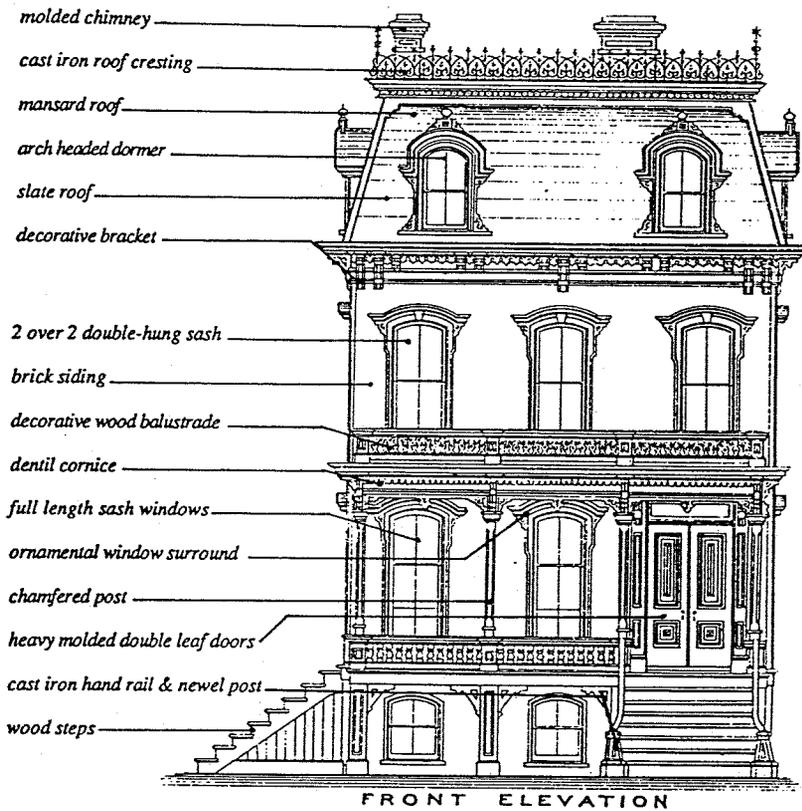
Materials - In New Castle, the most common material is clapboard siding. There are also a few examples constructed of stone and stucco.

Doorway - Doors were often centered on the front facade. The vernacular examples generally include a single-leaf door and a simple rectangular transom. The high-style examples often consisted of ornate double leaf doors with a large transom. Trim included moulded door surrounds.

Windows - Windows are typically double hung with two-over-two sash. The windows have squared or elliptically arched openings.

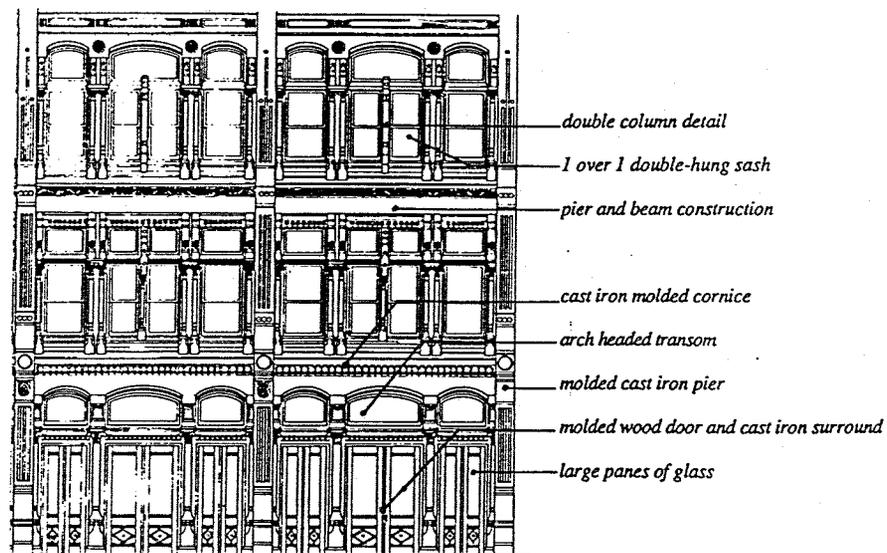
Ornament - Ornaments on the Second Empire building including heavy wood cornices, window hoods, and consoles. Cast iron cresting, handrails, and fences are also common.

SECOND EMPIRE
circa 1855-1885



High Style Form

Bickwell, A.J. & Comstock, W.T., Victorian Architecture. Two pattern Books.
Watkins Glen, New York: The American Life foundation & Study Institute, 1979.



Vernacular Commercial Form

Detail, Hart Block. Louisville, Kentucky, 1884. (Courtesy of HABS)

QUEEN ANNE

circa 1875-1899

The Queen Anne, a major member of the eclectic movement, was popularized during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It was based in part upon medieval English architecture as reinterpreted by Richard Norman Shaw in England and adapted in the United States by architects, builders, and pattern book codifiers. It represented a movement away from classical references that were prevalent in the previous decades of the nineteenth century and a gravitation towards asymmetrical, picturesque architecture. The picturesque quality of Queen Anne architecture, perhaps its most distinguishing characteristic, was typically accomplished through the use of diverse building materials and shapes. It was not uncommon to see stone or brick masonry, clapboarding, and shingle in a single building composition. Similarly, gables, turrets, dormers, and porches added interest to the Queen Anne forms.

While the Queen Anne style was adapted for commercial buildings, churches, and institutional buildings, it was predominantly a vocabulary for domestic architecture. The style flourished along the beach fronts of Narragansett, and on the modest lots of suburban communities, and in urban settings such as New Castle, too. New Castle has relatively few Queen Anne style buildings. Two good representative examples in the area are #72 and #82 West Fifth Street. The majority of New Castle's Queen Anne-style construction is found in additions to earlier structures. Often these additions take the form of bay windows, porches, and roof alterations.

Typical Queen Anne Characteristics

Massing - The massing of Queen Anne houses is irregular, a result of the asymmetry that contributes to their picturesque quality. In high style, suburban and rural examples, the irregular massing is created by the placement of porches, bays, turrets, and towers, and an irregular interior floor plan. This massing is less typical in urban settings in which the structure must conform with the building lot.

Roofline - The roof on a Queen Anne house is characteristically low in pitch and interrupted by the various features such as turrets, towers, and dormers. Many Queen Anne houses have multiple gables or a combination of roof types such as gabled, hipped, and jerkin-head; these composite roofs correspond with the irregular massing. Chimneys, sometimes corbeled or molded, are commonly massive in scale. An urban Queen Anne-style house will have a more traditional roofline, perhaps gabled and broken by dormers.

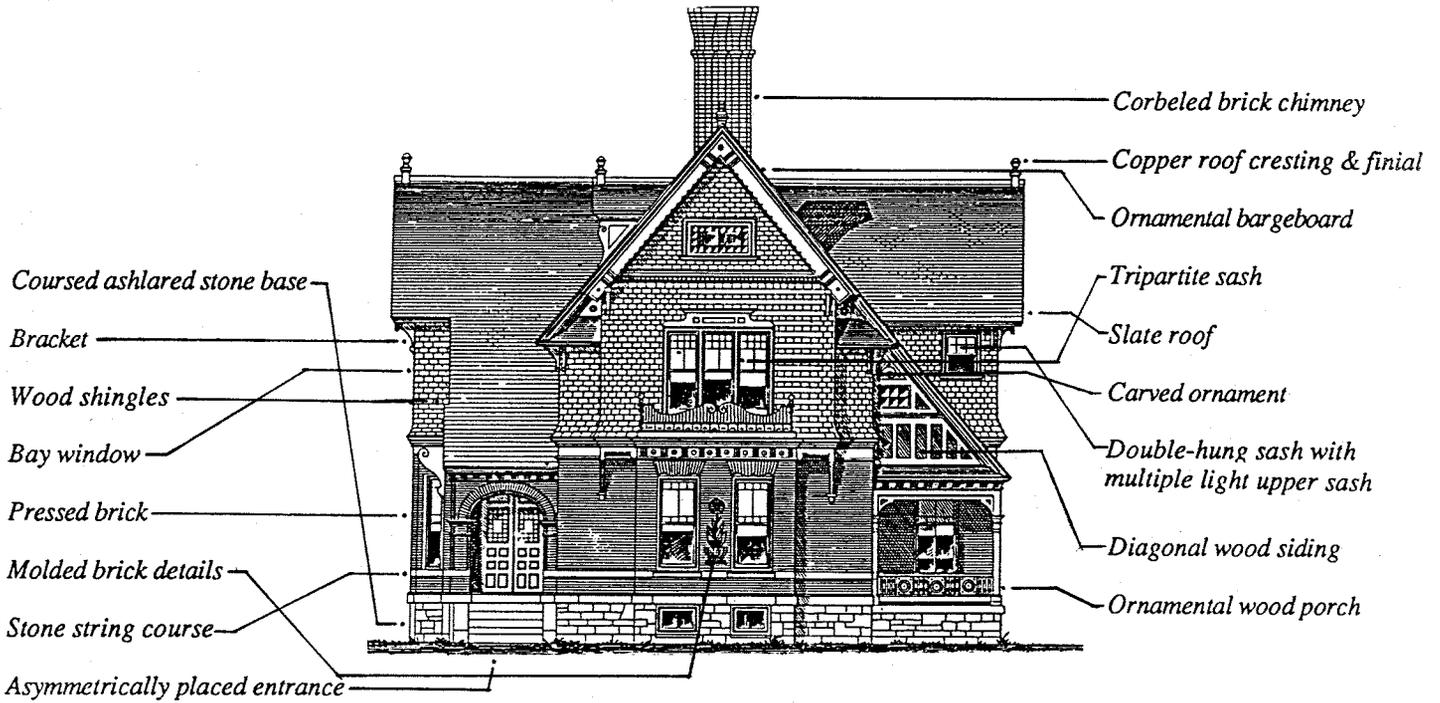
Material - Variety of textures and colors is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Queen Anne style. This is accomplished through the use of diverse building materials such as stone, brick, clapboarding, half-timbering, and shingles. In an urban setting, the uniform use of brick, as in New Castle, or frame is more typical. Where brick is used, a variety of texture may be accomplished through the use of corbeled, molded, or cut bricks.

Doorway - The Japanesque and medieval influences are seen in the high style Queen Anne doors. These traditions surface in the use of multiple panes and glazing. More typical doors combine wood and glazed panels. Leaded or stained glass in upper lights is not uncommon in Queen Anne doors. Narrow sidelights and transoms, some of leaded or stained glass, are also found in Queen Anne doorways.

Windows - A variety of window shapes and fenestration is typical of Queen Anne houses. While the basic sash configuration for this era is 1/1 double hung, the grouping of windows may vary from one to panels of three or more windows. Casement sash, remnant of the Queen Anne's medieval origins, are also present in high style examples. Characteristic of the Queen Anne are the small, multi-light panes of the upper sash, often of stained glass. These are more commonly located in bays, turrets, stairhalls, and dormers.

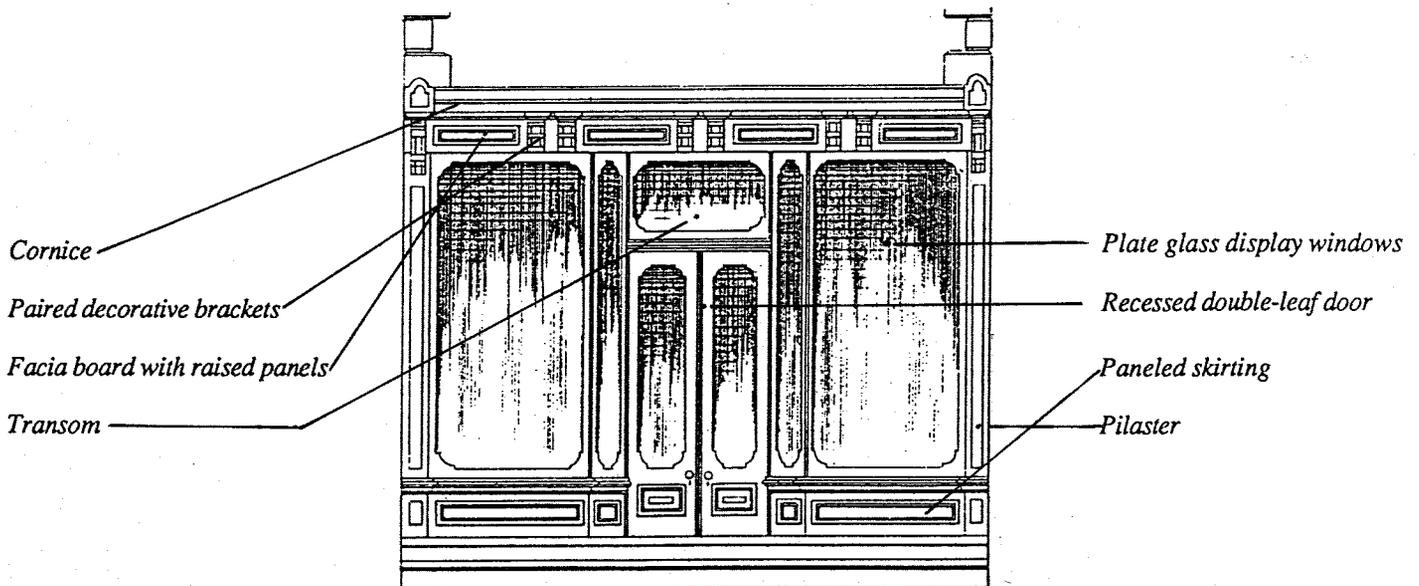
Ornament - Queen Anne houses are known for their ornament, whether it be on porches, bays, windows, cornices, or dormers. Porches, in particular, are a focus of attention. Turned balustrades, spoolwork, jigsaw brackets, Japanesque latticework, incised bargeboard, and pendants are just some of the features that appear in various degrees. Brackets, pendants, and bargeboard may be present at windows, dormers, and cornices as well.

QUEEN ANNE
circa 1875-1899



High Style Asymmetrical Form

Modern Architectural Designs and Details. William T. Comstock, New York, 1881, Plate 74.



Vernacular Commercial Form

Modern Architectural Designs and Details. William T. Comstock, New York, 1881, Plate 56.

COLONIAL REVIVAL

circa 1880-1940

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a renewed interest in the architecture of the early colonies was spawned by Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893. This created an interest in many people to return to a classical architecture mode, due in part to the excessive designs of the ornate Victorian period.

The Colonial Revival structure commonly involved a mixture of various Colonial styles as well as early-twentieth-century elements. The architectural details are often exaggerated, causing the detail to be out of proportion with surrounding elements of the house. Many Revival structures mixed accurate Georgian or Federal reproduction details with architectural elements from Victorian and contemporary structures. In comparison, some Colonial Revival structures were very accurate representations of a Colonial style structure, making it difficult to distinguish the two apart.

The Colonial Revival period was a significant architectural style in New Castle. As new construction, it generally occurred outside the perimeter of the early settlement, where ample land was available. Nationally, the new construction served as a source of inspiration for the restoration of many Georgian and Federal structures. Such restorations were completed in New Castle in the earlier sections of the city.

Approximately ten percent of the structures in the New Castle National Historic District were built in the Colonial Revival period. During this period the local economy was experiencing growth due in large part to the New Castle Pennsville Ferry System. This ferry system carried heavy traffic from U.S. Routes 40 and 13 across the Delaware River.

Several fine examples of the Colonial Revival period are found in New Castle. One example is the structure located at 103-105 Harmony Street, which was completed in 1939. This example is a very accurate replication of the Colonial period. The building at No. 23 The Strand is another fine example of the Colonial Revival style built in 1925. This example includes fine reproduction Federal details. A late example of the Colonial Revival period is located at No. 110 The Strand, which was completed in 1950.

Many of the early Georgian and Federal structures in New Castle were restored during the Colonial Revival period, due to a rediscovered interest in Colonial architecture. In 1913 the Immanuel Parish House was restored and a two-story addition for an auditorium and classrooms was added. In 1929 the Amstel House became a permanent house museum. In the late 1930s the Jefferson House was restored into an apartment house. At the same time the Read House was being restored as a private home and is now an exceptional house museum. Following World War II, the Presbyterian Church was restored and the later nineteenth century brownstone church was torn down. The most recent Colonial style restoration was the Immanuel Church after it was seriously damaged by fire in 1980.

Typical Colonial Revival Characteristics

Massing - The form is characterized by symmetrical massing of rectangular units. In New Castle, the form often consisted of a two-story/three-bay or two-story/five-bay facade, with a centered door.

Roofline - Side-gabled or hipped roofs were the most common. Cornices were typically a box cornice with dentils or modillions. The roofing materials during the Colonial Revival were often wood shingles or asphalt, with slate and standing metal seam less commonly used.

Materials - Building materials in New Castle were frame with clapboard siding, brick and frame construction or all brick construction. Some wood frame and brick examples incorporate fish scale and butt-end wooden shingles into the design, which is found at 107 W. 6th Street. Stucco was occasionally used in the Colonial Revival style.

Doorway - Doors are typically single leaf. High-style examples may include sidelights and/or transoms, porticos, broken triangular or segmental pediments. The front entrance is nearly always centered. The Colonial Revival doorway trim is generally shallower in relief than the earlier Colonial style trim work, while giving a similar frontal effect.

Windows - The more accurate Colonial Revival structures included double hung sash with six, eight, nine, or twelve panes of glass in each sash. Also common during this period was double hung sash with multi-pane upper sash above a sash with a single large pane, which was not seen in the eighteenth century. The Colonial Revival period also included the use of paired and triple windows, as well as bay windows. Some Colonial Revival structures included louvered exterior shutters.

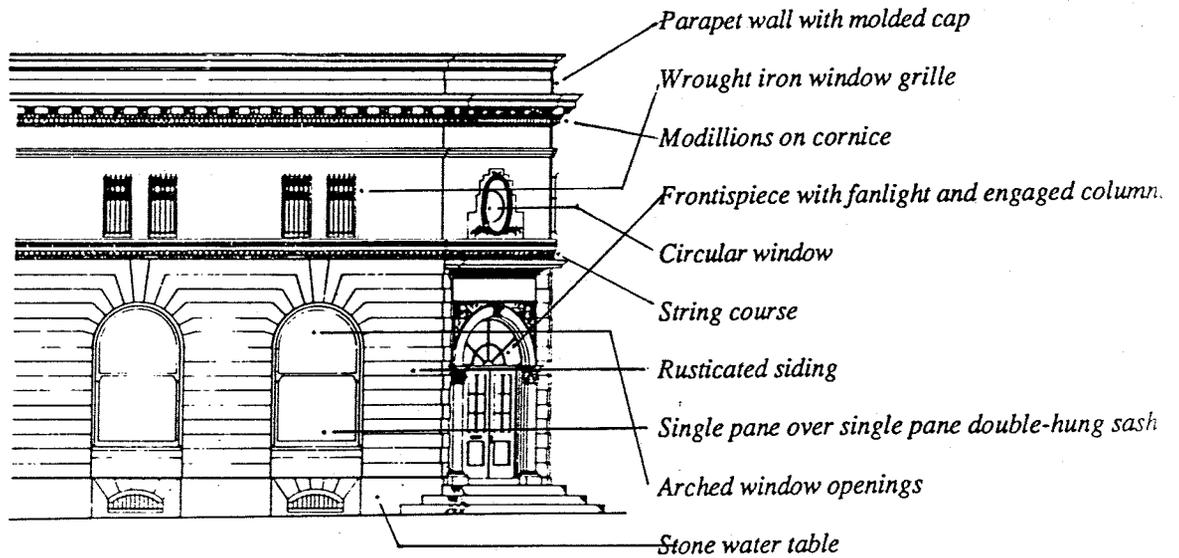
Ornament - Colonial Revival structures reinterpreted Georgian and Federal architectural elements, often combining the elements with Victorian and early-twentieth-century elements. Ornaments were often used in larger proportions than the original period detail. Ornaments included modillions and brackets, pilasters and columns, multi-light sash windows, Palladian, arched and stain glass windows, as well as latticework and carved wood panels.

COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE
circa 1880-1940



High Style Freestanding Form

House, Plainfield, New Jersey, c.1900. (courtesy of HABS).



High Style Commercial Form

New Jersey Trust and Safe Deposit Company, Cape May, New Jersey, 1895.
(Courtesy of HABS).