MSNHA Architecture

Educator Resource Packet

Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area

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Introduction

This curriculum packet is designed to provide fourth-grade students with an overview of American architecture through visual aids, critical inquiry, hands-on activities, and family participation in accordance with the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies. The resources found here could be adapted for other age groups.

This packet, which includes the textual outline and a PowerPoint presentation, will provide students the story of the built environment of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. It will show what the architecture of a structure can tell us about the society and culture of the time to which it belongs. It will show how **TECHNOLOGY** shaped architecture. It will serve as an identification guide to popular **styles** and *forms* of housing. It will focus on homes within the MSNHA and show how they fit into the broader architectural history of the nation. The Power Point presentation should supplement the information in the packet, and should provide a stronger visual image of the architecture found in the packet.

The architectural history of the Shoals is a story that begins nearly 200 years ago. Understanding **architectural styles** and *forms* is a helpful way of telling the story of the people who lived in the MSNHA. This packet will discuss the **styles** found in the MSNHA and explain how changing **TECHNOLOGY** helped to shape our built environment. Many buildings in the MSNHA represent known **architectural styles** while others are **vernacular** *forms*. Other buildings can be a combination of different **styles** and *forms*. Dates mentioned for each **architectural style** or *form* listed in this guide tell their time of origin and popularity in the state of Alabama. The classifications that follow are a general guide to the architectural history of the MSNHA. From early **vernacular** dwellings, to great antebellum estates, to modern homes and office buildings, the **architectural styles** found in the MSNHA reflect much about the history of the people and the area.

Limestone County Courthouse

Background Information[1]

The buildings found in the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area (MSNHA) tell the history of the individuals that settled in the Tennessee River Valley. Many of America's most recognizable **architectural styles** and *forms* exist in the MSNHA, reflecting nearly 200 years of the region's history. From historical to modern architecture, **vernacular** buildings to high **style** homes, the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area has many different types of homes. Very little remains from the indigenous people who inhabited the Shoals area for some 12,000 years, and because of this, the packet will not cover the homes of prehistoric and historic Native Americans.

"Architecture" is a general term used to describe what a building looks like. "**Architectural style**" is a common phrase used to classify historic and contemporary buildings. We say, "this house is a Victorian style house," meaning we classify it as having Victorian style architecture. But, **architectural style** is different from *form*; not all buildings have an **architectural style**, but all buildings have a *form*. *Form* (or house type) is the basic physical shell of a building, and includes its structure and layout. A simple formula for *form* is plan + height = *form*. *Form* is the most basic part of architecture: a shell decorated with the addition of **architectural style**, or simply left blank. "**Architectural style**" refers to the features of a building that add to the *form* and make it familiar. Think of architecture in terms of a cupcake: the *form* is the cake part, providing shape, structure, and substance. The **style** is the frosting, a decoration that adds to the appearance of the cupcake. Another example concerning houses is the ranch house. A ranch house is a *form*: its structure is linear, low to the ground, broad, with a low-**pitched** roof. A "Colonial Revival" ranch refers to a specific **style** added to a ranch *form*, with features such as a **portico** or symmetrical **façade**.

Form

Style

Some structures fit cleanly into architectural categories, while others do not. Buildings remodeled in different **styles** are good examples of buildings that do not fit cleanly into an architectural category. Many Greek Revival elements, such as **columned** porches, were later added to Federal style homes throughout Alabama. Not all **architectural styles** look the same throughout the country; regional differences are common in American architecture, and **styles** are never "fixed." *Architectural form* is more stable throughout the nation, but this too is subject to regional differences. Understanding the differences between **architectural styles** and *forms* helps us to see how Americans throughout history have looked to architecture as an expression of their culture.

The mixture of **architectural styles** with **vernacular** (folk) *forms* is an important topic. Few areas of the American frontier (as Alabama was in its early years) featured textbook examples of "high" **architectural styles**. "High style" are textbook examples of **architectural styles**-they have the features most common to the **style**. **Vernacular** or folk architecture, on the other hand, was functional and did not have much decoration. In the MSNHA, **vernacular** *forms* often mixed with **architectural styles**. When an I-house **form** has a Federal style **portico** added to it, we can see a folk *form* merging with an **architectural style**.

Different folk *forms* came from different regions of the country. The Southern United States had architecture best suited to its hot climate. Trying to keep a house livable in a hot summer climate was one of the goals of early architecture in the MSNHA. Many of the earliest houses maximized air circulation to keep the house cool. Many of the folk houses built in the South have different features than folk houses built in other parts of the nation. Wide porches, many windows, wide **eave** overhangs, shutters, open-passages, cross ventilated windows, and shade trees placed in the path of the sun are all features used by early settlers in the South to keep their houses cool. Over time, this regional variation faded as **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES** (such as central air conditioning) allowed for a greater variety of house *forms*.

Rosenbaum House

Houses are primarily for shelter, but they are also a sign of the values of the people who built them. **Vernacular** or folk buildings are different from many of the **architecture styles** presented here.

Folk buildings were local: family and neighbors handed down their knowledge of building to later generations. Built without architectural drawings or plans, and without decoration, folk buildings were practical structures.

Settlers with wealth built **styled** houses from plans or patterns that showed the ambitions and status of the people who built and lived in them. The houses pictured on this page show two opposite types of housing found in the MSNHA. Top Left is a slave cabin from the Forks of Cypress plantation in Lauderdale County; it is a practical folk building without **architectural style.** Below is Courtview, currently Rogers Hall at the University of North Alabama; it is a sign of status and a show of wealth, built by slaves. The reasons for building each of these houses are as different as the people who lived in them. By looking at the reasons why people built the kinds of houses they did, and what **TECHNOLOGY** they used to build them, we can use architecture to tell the history of the MSNHA.

This guide highlights eleven types of homes in the MSNHA: Dogtrot, Tidewater cottage, I-house, Federal style, Greek Revival style, Gothic Revival style, Italianate style, Queen Anne style, Colonial Revival style, Craftsman style, and ranch. As the guide moves through the different types of homes, it explains **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES** to show how these changes shaped American architecture. Houses were built in different ways because of **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE** and the packet will show some of the important **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES** in home building over the past 200 years. As you read about the house types, consult the glossary and the building **TECHNOLOGY** pages to make sense of unknown words or phrases.

The guide that follows is an overview of the architecture of the MSNHA.

Building Technology

Changes in the way people built their homes are important to keep in mind as you learn about architecture. This guide will show how these **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES** shaped American architecture. The availability of resources (wood, brick, and stone), the wealth of the owner, and closeness to a town or city that would have building materials for sale shaped the building of houses. Popular trends and fads, as well as **TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS**, helped to influence the way houses were built as well. As **TECHNOLOGY CHANGED**, buildings changed too.

As you read this packet, the topic of **mass production** is a recurring theme. This packet focuses on how building **TECHNOLOGY CHANGED** from people making things at a local level to production on a national scale. The first settlers to the MSNHA built houses from local materials, using handed-down knowledge. Wood came from local forests and brick from on-site factories manned by slaves. Settlers bought nails, windows, and other hardware from local or regional merchants. As the area became more and more settled during the 19th century, we find less local production and more regional and national production. **Pattern books** expanded the **styles** that people could choose from to build their homes. Lumberyards carried doors, windows, and architectural details made in other parts of the country. By the

end of the packet, we see **mass production** of building materials and the housing industry on a national level. This trend towards **mass production** changed the regional differences once common in houses across the nation. Today, there is far less regional variation than there was 200 years ago.

Remember that early houses had no electricity, no mechanical heating or cooling systems, and most had no running water. Early houses, such as the one at left, took advantage of cross breezes and shade. This is why many houses were only one room deep; a larger house would have been more difficult to cool. This house is an example of people adapting to their climate. Today, we build houses, such as the one shown at right, with central heating and cooling, indoor plumbing, and electricity. We do not have to worry about capturing breezes or shading windows, so the **style** can be more elaborate.

Dogtrot

Dates: Early 1800s-early 1900s

History: Many of the early European settlers to the MSNHA region built **hand-hewn** log homes. This building method came to America with Germanic settlers, and the Scots and English settlers who settled in the South adopted it. The most popular **hand-hewn** log structure in Alabama was the dogtrot house. Made up of two small rooms connected by an open breezeway, the dogtrot offered relief in the hot summer months as people could enjoy the shelter and shade of a roof and the breeze that channeled through the central opening. Poor farmers, slaves and wealthy slaveholders alike all lived in dogtrot houses in antebellum Alabama. Settlers built early examples out of logs, but some dogtrot houses were **framed** with lumber. A very practical house, the dogtrot is an example of an architectural *form* matched to the climate of the region.

Characteristics:

❖ Exterior chimneys at each **gable** end
❖ Open-ended **central hall** between two main rooms
❖ Additions such as shed rooms to the rear, or L-shaped extensions
❖ Usually one to one-and-a-half stories; two story examples did occur
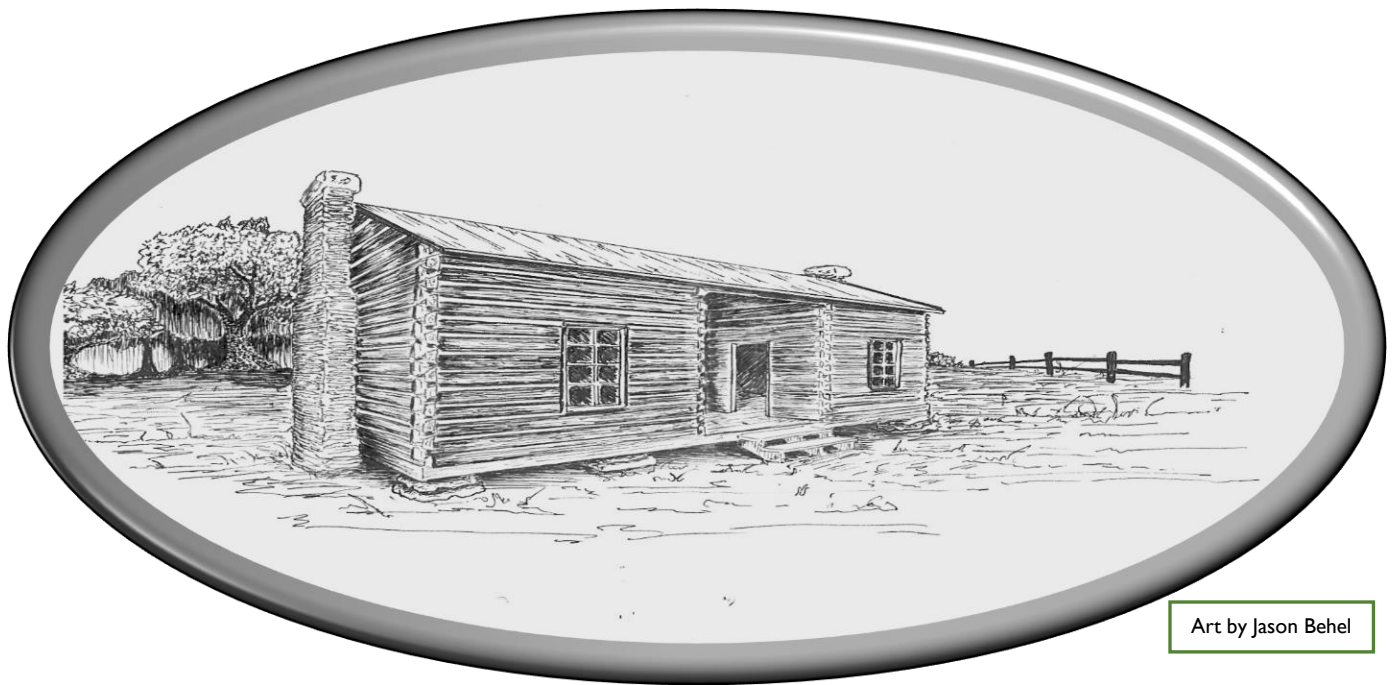
Art by Jason Behel

- Also called an open-passage, double-pen, or possum-trot, house form exists only in the South.
- Chimneys placed at the ends of a house allowed people to cook indoors without making the house too warm in the summer months.
- Have you ever wondered about the difference between a log house and a log cabin? A log house is made of **hand-hewn** logs; a log cabin is made of logs that are left round.

Msnha Examples:
- ❖ Overton Farm, Hodges, Franklin County
- ❖ The Beaty-Mason House slave quarters in Athens, Limestone County
- ❖ Stoddard House, Tuscumbia; LaGrange College Dogtrot, Colbert County
- ❖ Pond Spring, General Joe Wheeler Home in Courtland; Peebles-Bird Log House, Lawrence County

Hickman Log Dogtrot, c. 1818, at Pond Spring, Lawrence County

The **hand-hewn** logs seen on this house were common on buildings in rural Alabama in the early and mid-1800s. A **dovetail joint** joins these logs together. Tapering (cutting on a diagonal) the ends of the logs on the walls of a house to fit together in the corners makes a **dovetail joint**. This type of joint removed the need for nails, which were expensive or difficult to obtain in frontier areas in the early 1800s. The strength of the structure came from the strong **dovetail joints** at the corners.

Between the logs, a system of **chinking** and **daubing** filled the space. **Chinking** is made of pieces of wood and stone that fill the voids. Clay and moss then cover this wood. **Daubing** is made of wet clay or lime and covers the **chinking**. At right is a closer view of what this process looks like.

Tidewater Cottage

Dates: 1810s-1860s

History: As more settlers came to the MSNHA region, many built houses like the ones they had left behind. The Tidewater cottage was one of these. Wealthier settlers from eastern Virginia and North Carolina built Tidewater cottages in North Alabama of wood and brick. The layout for these houses was the "double square" *form*. This meant that the house was twice as long as it was high, or that the ground plan was twice as wide as it was deep. This formula for the layout of the house shows the importance of order in this type of building: specific measurements gave the house an ordered, symmetrical look. Modeled after English folk houses, these houses had central hallways. While the dogtrot was a folk *form* based on function, the Tidewater cottage was a folk *form* based on function and appearance.

Characteristics:
- ❖ Large **gable** end-chimneys
- ❖ Often punctuated by **dormer** windows
- ❖ Steep to moderately-**pitched gable** roof
- ❖ Center-hall plan or hall-and-parlor arrangement
- ❖ Ordered, symmetrical look, often with **Georgian** or Federal style elements added

Art by Jason Behel

- A symmetrical **façade** (front face) is a sign of beauty.

- **Dormers** let light and air into the top of the house; before electricity, this was important.

- Tidewater cottages can be seen in Colonial Williamsburg and remain a very American house form; in the early to mid-20th century, a revival of interest in Colonial Williamsburg led to a revival of Williamsburg-inspired houses.

MSNHA Examples:
- ❖ Ivy Green, Tuscumbia, Colbert County
- ❖ Bride's Hill, near Wheeler, Lawrence County
- ❖ Green Pryor Rice House, Somerville, Morgan County
- ❖ The Peter Armistead House, near Florence; William Koger House, Smithsonia, Lauderdale County

Ivy Green c. 1820, Tuscumbia, Colbert County

This building is a "**frame**" house, meaning that a structure or frame is **clad** or covered up with siding. The above house was clad with horizontal wood siding. This siding is either hand-split or machine-milled, and protects the house from wind and rain.

The windows on this house are also made of wood and feature nine panes of glass on each "**sash**," or window frame. These windows are a good example of what early windows would have looked like, because there are many small panes of glass in each sash. Later windows have larger panes of glass because glass-making **TECHNOLOGY** improved. As the 19th century progressed, windows had fewer panes. Panes of glass were also not square until the mid-1900s. Identifying the number of panes of glass in each **sash** is a tool used by historians to identify the age of a house.

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY:
BALLOON FRAMING

Changes in **TECHNOLOGY** led to changes in architecture in the MSNHA. Early European settlers built


homes out of **hand-hewn** logs because trees were plentiful. Settlers cut down trees and squared them with axes, a process that took much

time. These **hand-hewn** logs were then connected at the corners of the building with the help of V-shaped, **dovetail** or half **dovetail** joints (above) or joined using a **mortise** and **tenon** (hole and pin) joint. Houses built of **hand-hewn** logs took much time to build because of these joints. This way of building did not use many nails, and rested on many heavy beams and posts. Roofs would have also been made of wood, but chimneys and footings or piers were stone or in some instances, brick. Brick was the material of choice for wealthier settlers; many buildings in Florence were made of brick that came from a brickyard on what is now the campus of the

University of North Alabama. However, most settlers built their houses from wood.
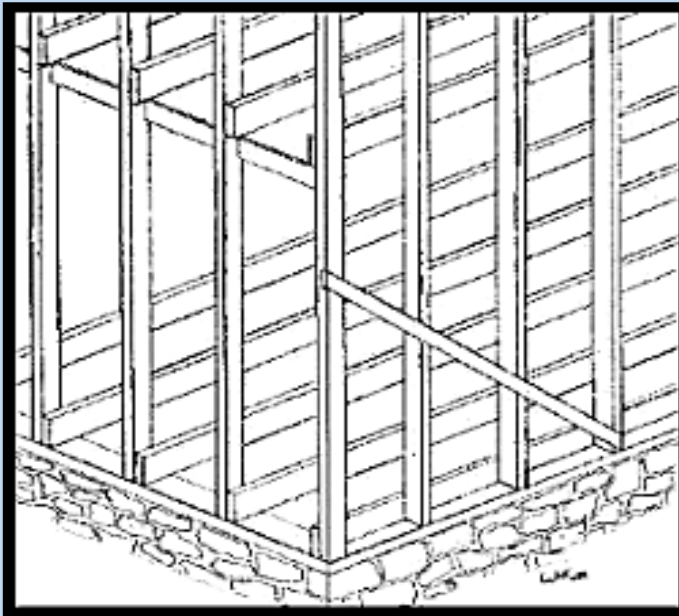
In the 1830s, several **TECHNOLOGICAL** advances changed the way people built. **Balloon framing** became the accepted way of building, as steam powered sawmills turned logs into dimensional lumber. Dimensional lumber was lighter than **hand-hewn** logs, and **balloon framing** used this lighter lumber in much the same way we build a house today. Studs, or long, narrow pieces of lumber are spaced a few feet apart in a wall. This led to taller and lighter

structures, as well as different styles. **Balloon framing** (above) allowed unskilled laborers to piece wood together with the use of nails, which were becoming more plentiful in America because of changes in nail-making **TECHNOLOGY**. Today most builders use 'platform framing,' which is very similar to **balloon framing**.

I-House

DATES: 1810s-1890s

HISTORY: The I-house *form* is easily recognizable: it is two stories high, two stories wide, and one room deep. The I-house grew (as did the Tidewater cottage) from English folk architecture and was popular across the growing nation. Settlers from Georgia and the Carolinas brought to the I-house *form* to Alabama. This Southern variety of the I-house *form* had one story sheds added along the front and back of the house. It is often called an I-house with sheds. Many times these sheds were closed at the back of the house but open at the front, creating a large porch. Usually a practical house *form*, the I-house could be added on to with **architectural styles** if the owner was wealthy. Many homes of this type have vanished or are endangered, making those that are left important reminders of the past.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ **Gable** or **hipped** roof
- ❖ Tall and narrow profile
- ❖ Chimneys at one or both ends
- ❖ One-room deep, two stories tall
- ❖ Exterior of wood **clapboard** siding or brick

Art by Jason Behel

- Porches are often called **verandas**, especially in the Southern United States.

- The windows on all sides of the top floor allowed for air circulation in the summer.

- Some people say the origin of the I-House came from its similarity to the letter "I". However, the name comes from historian Fred Kniffen, who coined the term in the 1930s to describe houses that were very popular in the Midwestern states of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa.

MSNHA Examples:
- ❖ Locust Hill, Tuscumbia, Colbert County
- ❖ Forest Home (Absalom Davis House), Trinity, Morgan County
- ❖ Peebles-McCrary House, Mooresville; Gamble House, Limestone County
- ❖ The McMahon House, Courtland; The Harris-Simpson House, Courtland, Lawrence County

Drury Vinson House, c. 1836, Leighton, Colbert County

This house is no longer standing but it is a local example of the I-house *form*. Because it was only one room deep, people added room to their living space by building sheds and porches across the length of the house. An enclosed shed (often found at the rear of the house) could serve as a kitchen or extra sleeping space, and an open porch along the front could serve as a workspace in bad weather and a sleeping space in hot weather. It is important to remember that the I-house is a folk *form*, and many have decorations in different **architectural styles**. Many examples were made of wood, but several brick I-houses were built in the city of Florence during the late 1800s for managers at the Florence Wagon Works
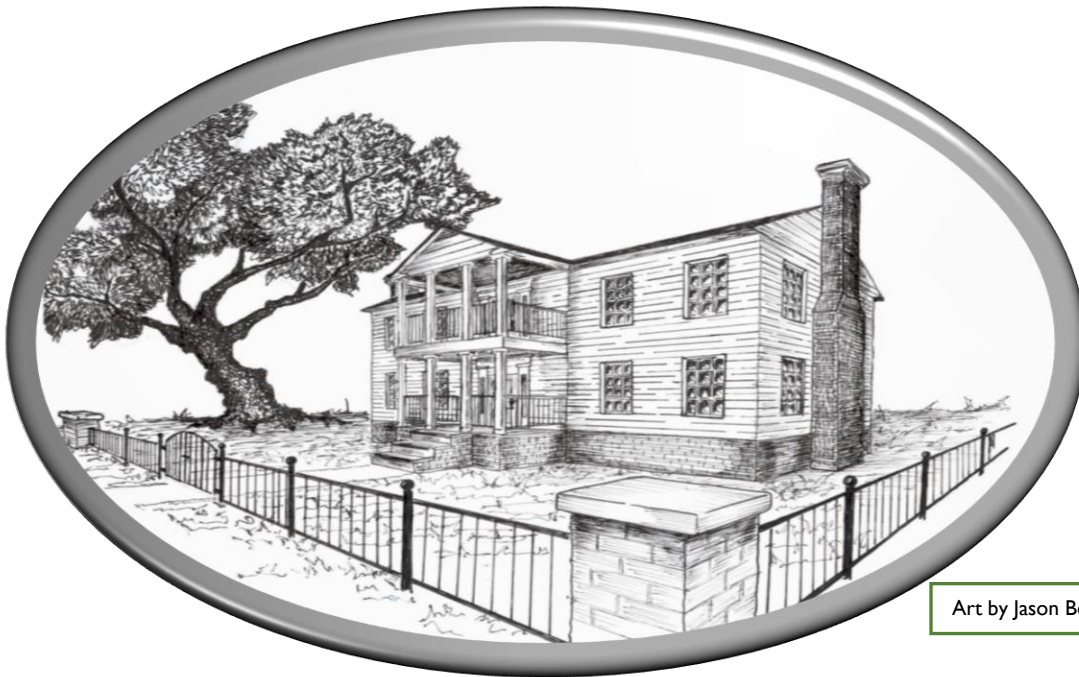
FEDERAL

DATES: 1810s-1840s

HISTORY: Federal style architecture followed **Georgian** architecture, the popular style in the American colonies. Influenced by British architects Robert and James Adam, Federal style is very similar to **Georgian** architecture. In fact, Federal style houses are sometimes called "Adamesque" for this reason. Early Greek and Roman monuments and architecture influenced the Adam brothers. The first "high style" to find its way to Alabama, many of the state's early prominent citizens built Federal style homes, and it was the dominant style of house in the country from about 1780 until 1820. Identified by their delicacy, detail and the use of semicircular shapes, many Federal style houses remain today.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Entrance **portico**
- ❖ Symmetrical **façade**
- ❖ **Fanlight** above entrance
- ❖ **Dentil** molding along roofline
- ❖ **Palladian** and **dormer** windows
- ❖ Side **gabled** with chimneys at **gable** ends

Art by Jason Behel

- Greek and Roman architecture were the foundation for the **Georgian** and Federal style.

- Windows and doors placed across from each other helped to ventilate these houses.

- Closely related to Federal style architecture is what some historians call the "Classical Revival style." This **style** looks like the Federal style but usually has a two story entrance **portico**; for our purposes, we'll stick to just Federal.

MSNHA Examples:
- ❖ Mapleton, Florence, Lauderdale County
- ❖ Belle Mont, Tuscumbia, Colbert County (Jeffersonian)
- ❖ Dancy-Polk House, Decatur; Somerville Courthouse, Somerville, Morgan County
- ❖ The Campbell House, Mooresville; Houston Memorial Library, Athens, Limestone County
- ❖ The Sherrod House at Pond Spring, Hillsboro; Tweedy Norton House, Courtland, Lawrence County

Houston Memorial Library, c. 1845, Athens, Limestone County

This house is symmetrical, which is a feature of the Federal style. The windows on the second floor are directly above the windows on the first floor, and a large **portico** dominates the center of the front **façade**. The triangle at the top of the **portico** is a called a **pediment** and it has block **modillions** along the underside of the top, and block **modillions** and **dentil** molding along the underside of the bottom. Both of these details extend across the **façade** of the house along the **eave**. The Romans first used **dentils,** or small blocks. The picture at right shows a closer view of **modillions.** These decorations imitated look of beams and **rafters** along the roofline.

Building Technology: Pattern Books

How do you build a house? Most people would call an architect, who would design a house with a measured drawing, called a blueprint. The architect would talk with a builder, who would build the house from the drawing. How did this process work in early Alabama? Many of the original buildings were folk buildings, built using handed-down knowledge. Architects would have been scarce and not affordable to everyone. The earliest settlers would have relied on experience. Structures that were bigger or taller required more planning, and usually an architect or engineer to design.

In the 1840s, there were a growing number of American architects, but still only one professionally trained architect. As the nation expanded westward, there was great need for new homes, churches, and stores. These buildings could be either folk *forms* (such as the dogtrot or single pen cabin) or **styled** structures (such as a Federal-style home). There were only a few **styles** of buildings that could be built, because most of the knowledge of building was handed down.

Fig. 61.

Pattern books were a **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE** that increased the number of **styles** people could choose to build. These books had full-**façade** drawings and detailed instructions about how to build a house, usually in several different **styles**. Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences*, published in 1842, featured drawings of houses in Gothic style, Greek style, and Italian style. Settlers who wanted a **styled** house could now consult books such as these, and choose between a few different **styles**. At left is an example from *Cottage Residences,* which shows a sketch of the house as well as **floor plans**.
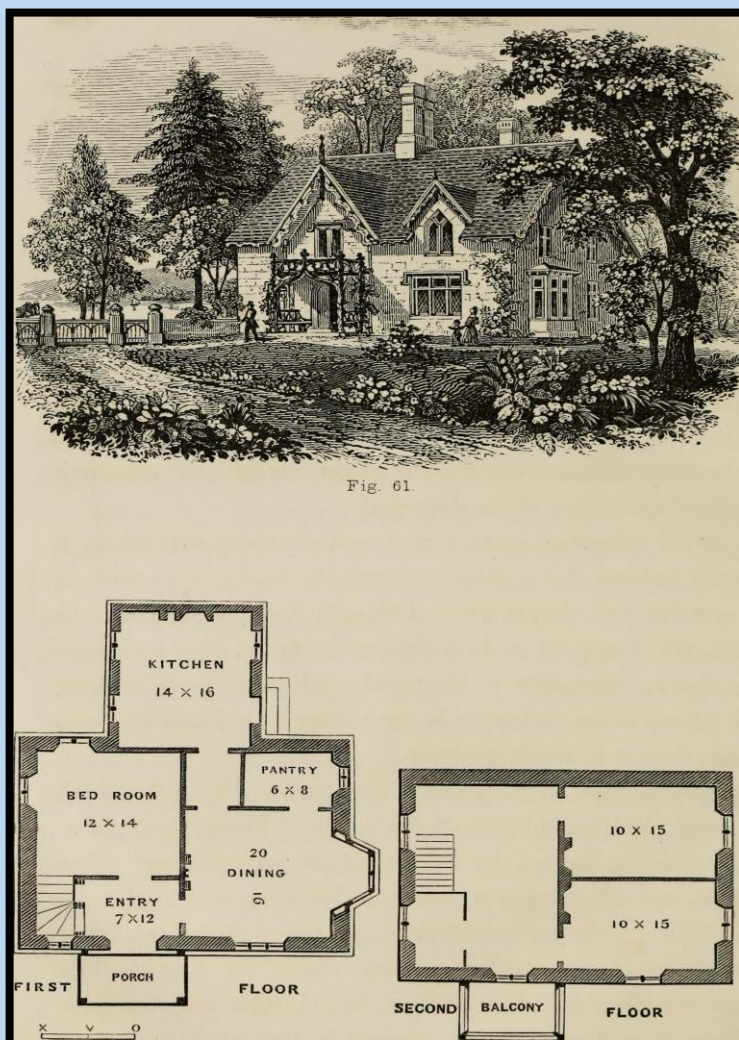
GREEK REVIVAL

DATES: 1830s to 1860s

HISTORY: Greek Revival style came from a number of events that happened in the early 1800s. Archaeological discoveries spurred a global interest in all things related to Ancient Greece; Americans also admired the Greeks, who had recently fought a revolution and who had a democratic government. Americans were looking for something different from their English-inspired architecture, especially after the War of 1812. Greek Revival was the dominant **style** of architecture in the nation from 1830 until 1860. Many homes of wealthy planters were in this **style** because it was nationally popular as population was growing in Alabama. Overall, the Greek Revival style tried to bring the grandeur of the classical Greek world to the growing young nation of the United States.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Symmetrical **façade**
- ❖ **Gabled** or **hipped** roof with low **pitch**
- ❖ Often wide band of trim along roof line
- ❖ Emphasis on heaviness, rectilinear shape
- ❖ Greek **columned portico** or full-**façade** porch
- ❖ Paneled doors with **sidelights** (window panes to the sides of the doors)
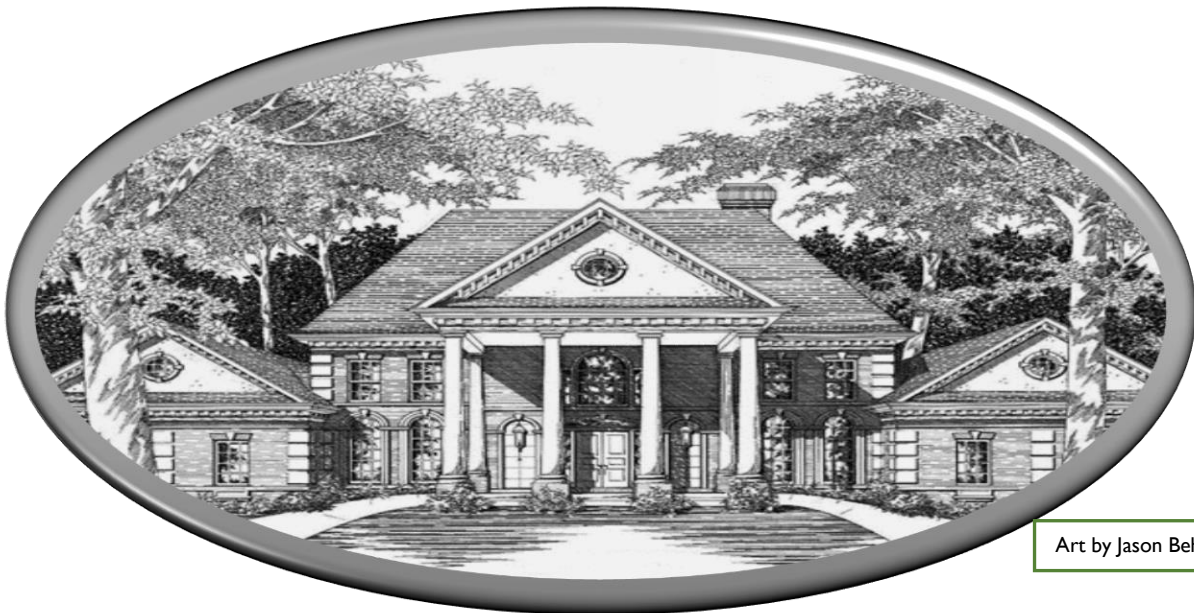
Art by Jason Behel

- • The Ancient Greeks used symmetry to organize their buildings.

- • The climate of Greece is similar to Alabama's, making this style suitable for warm weather.

- • Guides and **pattern books** began in America in the early to mid-1800s and helped to spread **architectural styles** across the nation. Also around this time, the number of professionally trained American architects began to increase as the young nation grew.

MSNHA Examples:
- ❖ Rogers Hall, Florence, Lauderdale County
- ❖ Founders Hall at Athens State University, Limestone County
- ❖ Rhea-McEntire House, Decatur; Old State Bank, Decatur, Morgan County
- ❖ Colbert County Courthouse, Tuscumbia; Barton Hall, Cherokee, Colbert County

Forks of Cypress, c. 1830, Florence, Lauderdale County

This house is an example of early Greek Revival architecture in Alabama. The heaviness of the **style** is seen with the low-**pitched** roof and massive **columns**. Although this building is no longer standing, 23 of the 24 original **columns** that surrounded the house remain. These **Ionic columns** along with the wide **frieze** band around the roofline help identify it as Greek Revival. This home was unique in that it was the only Greek Revival style house built in antebellum Alabama that had **columns** around the perimeter of the entire house. Slaves built the house for merchant/politician/horse breeder James Jackson. The National Register of Historic Places Nomination explains why Jackson built such a grand house: "the monumental architecture of the Forks of Cypress was an extension of James Jackson's successful quest for social prominence." Jackson's house remains an iconic image in Florence long after it was destroyed by fire in 1966. Two replicas of the house—one a bank, the other a private residence—have been built in the last 35 years.
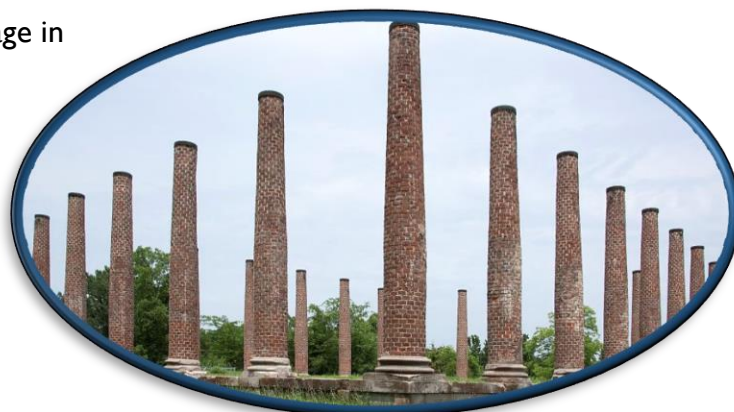
GOTHIC REVIVAL

DATES: 1840s-1880s

HISTORY: Gothic Revival style architecture was trying to "rediscover" the English Middle Ages. Many churches in England during the Middle Ages were built of stone in the Gothic style. Architects such as Richard Upjohn and A.J. Downing helped to popularize the Gothic Revival style by copying Gothic stone buildings into plans for wood construction. Their **pattern books** were very popular and helped to spread **architectural styles** across the nation. By the beginning of the Civil War, the growing popularity of the Gothic Revival style had spread it to churches and homes across Alabama. The first **style** of the **Romantic** movement, Gothic Revival style was a clear break with previous **styles**. Not to be confused with the later Victorian Gothic, only a few examples of Gothic Revival architecture remain in the MSNHA.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Asymmetrical; vertical emphasis
- ❖ Often **board-and-batten** siding
- ❖ Decorative **bargeboard** in **gables**
- ❖ Prominent steeply-**pitched gables**
- ❖ Triangular-headed or pointed (**lancet**) windows

Art by Jason Behel

- Early American architecture often copied European **styles**

- Gothic Revival style is much better suited for Northern than Southern climates, because it is derived from Gothic architecture in Northern Europe.

- Gothic churches in Europe were built primarily with stone; in America, stone was expensive or unavailable but wood was plentiful, so many Gothic Revival buildings were constructed from wood.

MSNHA Examples:

❖ St. John's Episcopal Church, Tuscumbia, Colbert County
❖ Wesleyan Hall, University of North Alabama, Florence, Lauderdale County

St. John's Episcopal Church, c. 1852, Tuscumbia, Colbert County

This Gothic Revival church illustrates the difference between Gothic Revival and the other **styles** found in the region. The high, steeply **pitched** roof marks one major difference with previous **styles**. The **lancet** windows, such as the three seen here along the ground level of St. John's, are a trademark of Gothic Revival churches and homes. **Board-and-batten** siding, seen in the inset at right, is common on many Gothic Revival churches. This type of siding, along with the tall, steeply **pitched** roofs, are a sign of purity and devotion to God when used in church architecture. While some Gothic Revival churches were made of stone, most were located in rural areas that could not afford a church built from anything but wood. Unfortunately, not many of these Gothic Revival buildings remain in the MSNHA.

Building Technology:
Wire Nails

Before 1800, nails were hand forged from iron. Iron was heated and each nail was shaped with a hammer. The process was time consuming, and each nail was slightly different from every other nail. Nails in Colonial America were brought in from England and were quite expensive. **Framing** methods before

Wrought Iron Nail, Pre 1800

Balloon framing used hand-made joints that often did not require nails. In Colonial houses, nails were used on siding and moldings.

Improvements to the nail making process happened around 1800, when machines were made that could "cut" nails like a guillotine from an iron bar. These were known as **cut nails**, and look much different from the nails we normally use today. **Cut nails** were wedge-shaped and sliced through wood with their sharp sides, and were very strong. Combined with **Balloon framing**, nail making was an important step in American building history, because it allowed builders to construct homes in many different designs. **Balloon framing** used lighter, smaller

Machine Cut Iron Nail, 1800-1900

lumber that could be secured with nails. By the 1880s, **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES** led to the **mass production** of **wire nails**, or the common nails we still use today. This process utilized steel wire and has been used to make nails since the mid-1800s.

Steel Wire Nail, 1900-Present

So how did this affect the way homes were built? It is important to remember that **wire nails** replaced **cut nails** in construction not because they were better—they replaced **cut nails** because they

were much cheaper. In fact, **steel nails** are not as strong as **cut** iron **nails**, do not have as much holding power, and will not hold to concrete. However, it is cheaper to make **steel nails** than it is to make **cut** iron **nails**. This same **mass production** in the housing industry started in the 1930s, when people started to work towards affordable housing for all. This era of **mass produced** housing gave rise to entire neighborhoods with only one of two **styles** of homes. Today, most houses are built with **steel nails**, often driven into wood with an air-powered nail gun. **Cut nails** are still used today, normally when fastening wood to concrete.

ITALIANATE

DATES: 1850s-1880s

HISTORY: The Italianate style first came to Alabama around 1850. Italianate, or Italian-style as it was sometimes called, was part of the same **Romantic** movement that brought the Gothic Revival style to America. **Pattern books** helped popularize the **style** throughout America. The exotic style fit well in the Southern climate: wide **eave** overhangs helped to keep the house shaded in the warm summer months, and the wide **verandas** or porches were ideal for escaping the heat absorbed by the house. While a few examples still exist in the MSNHA, the **style** was more popular in other parts of the nation, particularly the Midwest.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Two or three stories tall
- ❖ Tall, narrow eye-browed windows
- ❖ Low-**pitched hipped** or **gable** roofs
- ❖ Often had rectangular towers or **cupolas**
- ❖ Overhanging **eaves** with brackets and decorative **cornices**

Art by Jason Behel

- **Cupolas** were often spaces where one could look out over the landscape.

- Wide **eaves** and shutters helped to shade the hot summer sun from the house.

- This **style** appears in many different **forms**. In the East, narrow townhouses in the Italianate style were popular. The Italian Villa, featuring a tower, was popular throughout the nation. In the South, rare one-story Italianate houses existed.

MSNHA Examples:
- ❖ Bank Street Historic District, Decatur, Morgan County
- ❖ Murrah-Maples-Pryor House, Athens, Limestone County
- ❖ Southall Drugs, Florence; Thimbleton, Florence, Lauderdale County
- ❖ Sheffield Downtown Commercial Historic District, Sheffield; Leckey House, Leighton, Colbert County

Rocky Hill Castle, c. 1861, Courtland, Lawrence County

Demolished in the 1960s, Rocky Hill Castle mixed Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles with the Italianate style. It is important to remember that houses do not always fit neatly into **style** categories. The **columns** along the front and side porches are Greek Revival style because they were large and smooth. Italianate **columns** were thinner, and often square. The attached tower and connecting wall were **castellated** along the top, a clear sign of Gothic Revival style. The low-**pitched** roof, wide **eaves**, decorative **eave** brackets, and **cupola** were the Italianate features of this house. The large **eave** brackets, called **cornices**, make the roofline of this house stand out.

Queen Anne

DATES: 1880s-1910s

HISTORY: The Queen Anne style started in Great Britain around 1860. This British style was often asymmetrical and used patterned **masonry**. However, America had just celebrated its centennial in 1876 and many Americans were looking for a unique American **architectural style**. American Queen Anne style homes used decorations such as **spindlework** and Classical porch **columns** to set them apart from the homes in England. Alabama's 1880s-1890s economic boom popularized the **style**. The economic boom allowed many middle and upper class Alabamians to build new houses, and the Queen Anne style was very popular because of the **style's** appearance in **pattern books.** In addition, mail-order house plans helped to spread the **style**.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Asymmetrical **façade**
- ❖ **Bay** and **dormer** windows
- ❖ Large, wrap around porches
- ❖ Corner tower, round or square
- ❖ Steeply-**pitched**, irregular-shaped roof
- ❖ Elaborate features like decorative shingles, stained glass, **spindlework**

Art by Jason Behel

- This style used wall surfaces as decoration, using many different materials.

- Open **floor plans**, porches, balconies, and latticework helped to keep these houses cool in the summer months.

- The Queen Anne style is unique from antebellum **styles** found in America because it is uniform and does not have the regional variance found in earlier **styles**. This is part of the standardization of domestic design fueled by **mass production**.

MSNHA Examples:
- ❖ Robert Beaty Historic District, Athens, Limestone County
- ❖ Albany Heritage Neighborhood Historic District, Decatur, Morgan County
- ❖ The Chambers-Robinson House, Sheffield; The Thompson House, Tuscumbia, Colbert County
- ❖ Cherry Street Historic District, Florence; Wood Avenue Historic District, Florence, Lauderdale County

Cohen House, c. 1896, Sheffield, Colbert County

This house has many of the features commonly found on Queen Anne style houses. It has both **gabled** and pyramidal roofs; shingle siding on the second story with **weatherboard** siding on the first; a porch with turned posts and **spindlework**; **bay** windows; a balcony, and a tower. The combination of many of these features on one house gives it an "eclectic" appearance. These homes stand out and draw attention. A favorite of historic preservationists because of their wealth of architectural features, these homes appear in many small towns and cities across the nation.

Homebuyers and builders looking to build a Queen Anne style home could purchase precut architectural details, such as the **spindlework** shown in the example at right. Manufactured at a mill and shipped to lumberyards across the nation, pre-cut details were a part of the trend of **mass production**. **Spindlework** made in one factory could be bought across the country; before **mass production**, it was made by individual craftsmen.

Building Technology: Plywood

Plywood is an important component of many buildings because of its strength and versatility. Designed and first produced in the early 1900s, plywood is made by stripping logs into several thin sheets, called veneers. Several veneers are then glued together to form the finished sheet. Most plywood comes in a four-by-eight-foot sheet and several different thicknesses. Plywood has many uses in a home: plywood is nailed over walls and siding is attached to it; plywood is attached over roof **rafters** and shingles are nailed to it; and plywood is attached over floor joists and flooring is put over it.

Boards were used to sheathe roofs, walls, and floors before plywood. Many boards were required to cover an entire house. The use of plywood made the process much more efficient. Plywood is quick to install, covers a lot of space, and is relatively cheap. While plywood has been around since the early 1900s, it was used heavily during World War II in the construction of everything from barracks to boats. After the war, a boom in the building material industry helped plywood production increase dramatically.

The **mass production** of building materials paved the way for the **mass production** of housing that began shortly after the end of World War II. Neighborhoods of one or two **styles** of houses sprang up across the nation. **Mass-produced** building materials such as plywood, **wire nails**, windows, roofing shingles, doors, and cabinets, were key components of these mass produced houses. In the 1800's, many of these building materials were made locally in small factories or by local craftsmen. By the 1950's, most of America's building materials were produced by several large companies who were shipping their products across the county. Plywood is still used and has paved the w0ay for products like oriented strand board or OSB, which can be produced more efficiently than plywood.
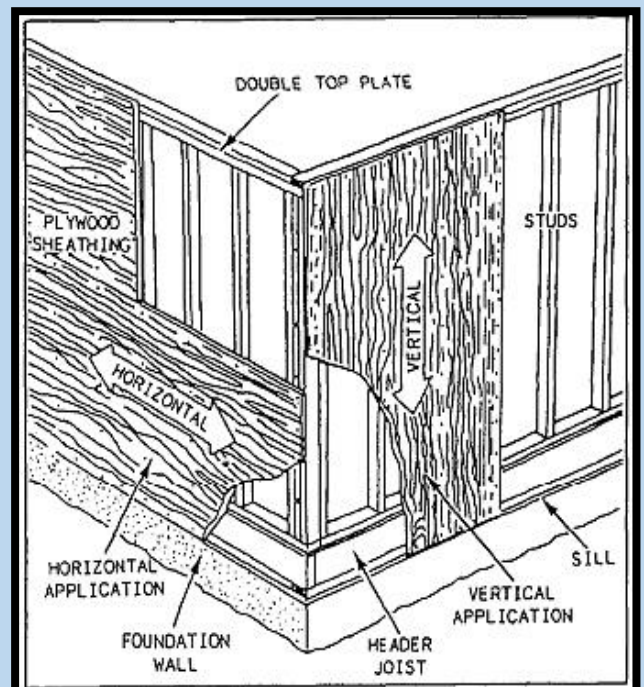
COLONIAL REVIVAL

DATES: 1880s-1950s

HISTORY: Colonial Revival architecture was a national movement celebrating early American **styles** of architecture. It mixed features of Federal, **Georgian**, and often Greek Revival styles into the category we now call "Colonial Revival." An interest in early American architecture inspired the Colonial Revival style; in the 1870s and 1880s, this meant looking back to the colonial period. Early Colonial Revival houses mixed different **styles** together and look similar to Colonial-Era buildings. A movement to build exact historic replicas of Colonial-Era houses in the early 1900s focused on correct measurements and details. New **TECHNOLOGY** that made it easier to print photographs in **pattern books** helped to spread pictures of Federal and **Georgian** style homes across the nation, and fueled the movement to replicate America's early houses.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Emphasis on symmetry
- ❖ **Columns** or **pilasters** on entrance porch
- ❖ Accentuated front door, often with **sidelights** and **fanlights**

Art by Jason Behel

- • These houses look very similar to Federal style houses, with a few key differences.

  - • Large windows were one feature that helped ventilate these homes.

- • The restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, which began in the 1920s, fueled an interest in Colonial Revival style houses and replicas of early American houses.

- ❖ Wilson Park Houses, Florence; Wood Avenue Historic District, Florence, Lauderdale County
- ❖ Courtland Historic District, Lawrence County

Kennedy Douglass Center, c. 1918, Florence, Lauderdale County

At first glance, this house looks like a Federal style house. It has delicate features, such as the slender porch **columns** and a **fanlight**; it is symmetrical; it has a **portico**; it has **dentils** under the **eave** at the roofline. There are several key differences between Federal and Colonial Revival styles. One clear difference is the grouping of windows. The windows in this house are grouped in a set of three, something rarely seen on Federal style homes. Another clear difference between Colonial Revival and Federal styles are the multiple panes of glass on the upper **sashes** of the windows, but only one in the lower **sash**. When the Federal style was popular, windows had smaller panes of glass. The **fanlight**, long a staple of Federal architecture, allowed natural light to enter the home. In a Colonial Revival house, many of these were added so that the house would look like a Federal style house.

CRAFTSMAN

DATES: 1900s to 1920s

HISTORY: The Arts and Craft Movement of the twentieth century inspired the Craftsman style home. This movement was based on simplicity, honesty of materials, and practical craftsmanship. Architecture was just one area of the overall movement that also included furniture, interior moldings, and landscape design. Craftsman style celebrated and promoted the local production of building materials, and incorporated many different materials into their designs. Magazines and **pattern books** helped to make the Craftsman style popular. One **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE** that helped to spread the style was the pre-cut house package. Built by the homeowner or a contractor, these packages were shipped to the building site from a factory. The Craftsman style helped to bring in an era of affordable, **styled** middle-class housing in the early to mid-20th century.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Wide, unenclosed **eaves**
- ❖ Exposed **rafters** and beams
- ❖ Low-**pitched**, **gabled** roofs
- ❖ A variety of building materials
- ❖ Porches often with tapered, square **columns**
- ❖ Mostly asymmetrical, one to one and half stories tall

Art by Jason Behel

- • **Pattern books** featured many one-story Craftsman homes, which helped their national popularity.

- • Wide **eaves** and spacious porches made Craftsman houses popular in the South.

- • Early planned communities in Alabama featured Craftsman style homes because their simple design was easy to produce on a large scale. This trend of planned communities made up of one or two **styles** of houses would dominate through the mid-20th century.

MSNHA Examples:

- ❖ Courtland Historic District, Courtland, Lawrence County
- ❖ Cherry Street Historic District, Florence, Lauderdale County
- ❖ Albany Heritage Neighborhood Historic District, Decatur, Morgan County
- ❖ Nitrate Village No. 1 Historic District, Sheffield; Sheffield Residential Historic District, Sheffield, Colbert County

Craftsman Style House, c. 1920, Florence

This house is similar to many found throughout Florence. It has many features of the Craftsman style, including wide **eaves**, decorative brackets under the **eaves**, tapered porch **columns**, low-**pitched** roof, and a variety of building materials. In this home, brick, horizontal siding, and shingle siding are all used. Another detail often found on early 20th century homes was the multiple panes of glass above one large pane of glass. As the inset at right shows, one of the most identifiable features of a Craftsman style home is the variety of material used and tapered porch **columns**. This house, and many like it throughout the region, show simplicity as well as craftsmanship.

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY: A SUMMARY

Many **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES** have changed the way houses are built. From simple dogtrot houses built of **hand-hewn** logs, to elaborate Queen Anne style houses, to neighborhoods of ranch houses, **TECHNOLOGY** has shaped how we build houses.

The trend over time has led us from folk building practices seen in the earliest remaining examples from the MSNHA. Simple **TECHNOLOGY**, time-consuming labor, and quality individual craftsmanship

characterize these early dwellings. As the 19th century advanced, a shift toward more standardized building practices developed with the production of nails, the publication of **pattern books**, and the use of **Balloon framing**. In the early 20th century, this trend of standardization led to **mass production**; even houses became **mass-**produced. However, with greater efficiency came real concerns. Concerns over toxins found in many building materials, including formaldehyde adhesives in plywood, asbestos coating on pipes and siding, and lead in paint have posed serious health risks throughout the 20th century, and continue to be an issue today. Environmental concerns also face the building industry. Over-logging in the late 1800s and early 1900s led to greater regulation of the logging industry, and has had consequences for the building industry. Over time, lumber has become smaller and weaker. Energy required to heat or cool a home has become more expensive.

Many people are now looking to alternative forms of energy to heat and cool their homes, and are paying attention to energy usage. Energy-efficient windows and roofing shingles, higher insulation standards, and more energy efficient appliances are all commonplace in houses today, and this trend will likely continue. Consider the passive house model that is gaining popularity. Designed to use only the

energy it produces, the passive house relies on geo-thermal energy and solar power. This leads to reduced heating/cooling bills and less use of fossil fuels. The inset at left is of a passive house with solar panels attached to the roof.

RANCH

DATES: 1930s-1970s

HISTORY: Derived partly from Spanish Colonial houses, the great popularity of the ranch house was due to several factors. First, the increased use of automobiles led to development of suburban areas away from traditional urban cities. In these suburban areas, there was land open to development. Second, after World War II, Federal government programs allowed more and more people to purchase homes. Ranch houses are unique in many ways from the houses we have previously studied. They are oriented horizontally on lots, highlighting the expanded lot size that was available in suburban developments. They often have a garage or carport attached to the house. They are always one story, (split level models developed later) and easily identifiable as an American home. The shift towards ranch houses in the mid-20th century is important because it allowed middle-class Americans to buy a home with a yard in a suburban area, and set the trend for housing for the rest of the 20th century.

CHARACTERISTICS:
- ❖ Asymmetrical
- ❖ Low-**pitched** roof
- ❖ Moderate to wide **eaves**
- ❖ One story, broad layout
- ❖ Integral garage or carport

Art by Jason Behel

- Wide suburban lots enabled ranch houses to be oriented horizontally, compared to most urban houses that are oriented vertically within the block to save on space.

- With a low profile and wide **eaves**, ranch houses were popular in warm climates.

- In many ways, Ranch houses are a product of standardization and **mass production**. Developers would buy large areas of land and build one or two styles of houses throughout. This method was seen as very efficient, and is still used today.

MSNHA Examples:

❖ McFarland Heights Neighborhood, Florence, Lauderdale County
❖ Post World War II subdivisions outside of most cities

Ranch House, c. 1955, Florence, Lauderdale County

This house is similar to many ranch houses found in the MSNHA. Broad and low to the ground, many ranch houses in the South are made of brick. Their low profile and wide **eaves** helped to keep the sun from heating the house too much. Some homes had windows that would absorb sun in the winter, but not in the summer. Recessed entryways are another common feature of ranch home. On this house, the roof covers the front door and forms a porch. This house has a connected garage. Ranch houses often have attached garages or garages visible from the front of the house because they were built for people who had cars. Another feature often found on ranch houses are large picture windows, like the ones on the front wing of this house. The combination of brick and vinyl siding is a common pairing on ranch houses. Picture windows (drawing at right) are fixed, meaning they do not open. These picture windows were the main feature on the façade of the house, and were often placed in between small, operating windows.

Activity 1: Matching Worksheet

Instructions: Match the picture at right with the architectural term at left

Architectural Terms

Pictures

1. **Cupola** ___

A.

2. **Pediment** ___

3. **Castellated Wall** ___

B.

4. **Column** ___

C.

5. **Palladian Windows** ___

6. **Dogtrot** ___

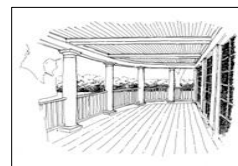D.

7. **Veranda** ___

E.

F.

G.

ACTIVITY 2: COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK[2]

<u>Summary:</u> This activity is designed to give students an idea of the built environment within their local community. The student handout is on the following page.

<u>Materials:</u> Please print out the following list of architectural styles and forms and pass out to students. To complete their tasks outside of the classroom, students will need a camera or Internet access. When the students are ready to finish the project in class, construction paper, glue, utensils, a hole punch, scissors, and a ringed notebook are needed.

<u>Activity:</u> The children will search for examples of each architectural style or form on the list within their local communities. If students have a camera that they can use, have them take photographs of buildings in their area. Students that do not have cameras may print off images from the Internet or sketch houses they see by hand, preferably of local buildings. Encourage students to find as many styles as they can, but enforce a minimum of three. On the day assigned to bring in pictures, have construction paper, glue, scissors, and utensils ready to pass out. Students will glue each photograph in the middle of the construction paper and on the top of the page label what architectural style they think the structure is. Students are also encouraged to include why the photograph fits the style or form. What features made the structure identifiable? Students should also note where the photograph was taken: a downtown area, a suburb, a rural area, etc. Finally, have students guess at who built the house: what kind of person decided to have the house built? After students have labeled and glued each picture, each student will get up in front of the class and discuss their findings. Following class presentations, hole punch each piece of paper and categorize the classroom's findings on the individual architectural styles in the ringed binder.

Architectural Styles and Forms:

Dogtrot	Greek Revival	Italianate
I-House	Gothic Revival	Colonial
Federal	Queen Anne	Craftsman
Tidewater Cottage	Ranch	Other

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[2] Activity found at http://www.kinderart.com/architecture/state.shtml

ACTIVITY 2: COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK

<u>Instruction:</u> Search for examples of each architectural style on the list within your local community. If you have a camera, take pictures of the structures. If you do not have a camera available, print off pictures from the Internet or draw hand sketches. Try to find pictures of buildings in your community. Try to find at least three local examples that fit at least one architectural style or form. When you take the photograph or find it online, answer the following questions for each building:

Why: Why does the picture fit the style? What features identify the building? Name as many as you can
Where: Where is the building located? An urban, suburban, rural area? In a nice neighborhood? What are the buildings around it like?
Who: Who do you think had the house built, and why?

 On the date assigned, bring in your pictures and answers and we will create a scrapbook of all your findings.

Architectural Styles:

Dogtrot	Greek Revival	Italianate
I-House	Gothic Revival	Colonial
Federal	Queen Anne	Craftsman
Tidewater Cottage	Ranch	Other

Activity 3: Design Your House

Instructions: Design and draw a front façade sketch of your ideal house. The house can be an exact replica of your own house, a house you would like to live in, or a completely made up house. Think about each element of your house before you begin and be ready to explain why you chose it. Read through all of the instructions and think about what you plan to do before you begin.

Setting: Where will you be building your house? In a city? On top of a hill? Next to a restaurant? Think about where you would like your house to be located and write it at the bottom of the page.

Form: Choose the basic layout of your house. How many stories high is it? How many rooms deep? Wide? Where are the doors and windows? Is it symmetrical? Is there a garage attached?
Draw your ideal house form.

Roof: Choose what kind of roof you want your house to have. It could be steeply-pitched, moderately-pitched, or low-pitched. What kind of roof is it? Side gable, front gable, cross gable? Hipped? Think about eaves as well. Add your ideal roof to your house form.

Architectural Elements: Think about the different elements we have learned about and apply them to your drawing. Consult the glossary and use as many or as few as you want.

Summary: Write a short summary paragraph on the back of the drawing, explaining why you chose the different elements of your house.

Activity 4: Matching Architectural Features

(INSTRUCTOR COPY)

Instructions: On the following page, have students match the characteristics at left with the architectural style on the right.

1. Tapered Columns; Exposed Rafter Ends	Dogtrot: ___8. __
2. Large Columns; Heavy Appearance; Rectilinear	Tidewater Cottage: __9.
3. Low, Broad Profile; One Story	I-House: __10. ___
4. Portico; Symmetrical; Fanlight	Federal: __4. ___
5. Steep roof; Asymmetrical; Lancet windows	Greek Revival: __2. ___
6. Portico; Symmetrical; Fanlight; Groups of Windows	Gothic Revival: __5. ___
7. Eclectic; Different Roof styles; Spindlework	Italianate: ___11. __
8. Open-passage; Hand-Hewn Logs or Framed	Queen Anne: __7. ___
9. Symmetrical; Dormer Windows	Colonial Revival: ___6. __
10. Two Stories High; One Story Deep; Two Stories Wide	Craftsman: __1. ___
11. Wide Eaves; Cupola; Low-Pitched Roof	Ranch: ___3. __

Activity 4: Matching Architectural Features

<u>Instructions</u>: Match the characteristics at left with the architectural style on the right.

1. Tapered Columns; Exposed Rafter Ends

2. Large Columns; Heavy Appearance; Rectilinear

3. Low, Broad Profile; One Story

4. Portico; Symmetrical; Fanlight

5. Steep roof; Asymmetrical; Lancet windows

6. Portico; Symmetrical; Fanlight; Groups of Windows

7. Eclectic; Different Roof styles; Spindlework

8. Open-passage; Hand-Hewn Logs or Framed

9. Symmetrical; Dormer Windows

10. Two Stories High; One Story Deep; Two Stories Wide

11. Wide Eaves; Cupola; Low-Pitched Roof

DOGTROT: _____

TIDEWATER COTTAGE: _____

I-HOUSE: _____

FEDERAL: _____

GREEK REVIVAL: _____

GOTHIC REVIVAL: _____

ITALIANATE: _____

QUEEN ANNE: _____

COLONIAL REVIVAL: _____

CRAFTSMAN: _____

RANCH: _____

For More Information

Each of the websites and books listed below has information on architecture in the United States.

Websites

Digital Archive of American Architecture

http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/fa267/

Alabama Historical Commission

http://preserveala.org/pdfs/ESSAYS/ALABAMA%20ARCHITECTURE_Essay1.pdf

Architectural Trust

http://architecturaltrust.org/outreach/education/glossary-of-architectural-terms/

Antique Home

http://www.antiquehome.org/Architectural-Style/

Historic Preservation Education Foundation

https://www.hpef.us/

Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area

http://msnha.una.edu/heritage/architectural.php

Frank Lloyd Wright Rosenbaum House

http://wrightinalabama.com/

Books

Robert Gamble, *Historic Architecture in Alabama: A Guide to Styles and Types, 1810-1930*

Robert Gamble, *The Alabama Catalog: A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State*

Marjorie White, *A Guide to Architectural Styles featuring Birmingham Homes*

Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses,* Journal of Muscle Shoals History,

Vol X, 1983, "History of Muscle Shoals: Buildings and Sites."

Additional Examples in the MSNHA

Other Federal style structures in the MSNHA:
- Preuit Oaks (Leighton)
- State Bank Building (Decatur)
- Vassar-Lovvorn House (Athens)
- Karsner-Carroll House (Florence)
- John McMahon House (Courtland)
- Sannoner Historic District (Florence)
- George S. Houston Historic District (Athens)
- John Daniel Rather House/Locust Hill (Tuscumbia)

Other Greek Revival style structures in the MSNHA:
- Westview (Decatur)
- Coman Hall (Athens)
- Woodside (Belle Mina)
- Bart Felix Grundy Norman (Tuscumbia)
- Limestone County Courthouse (Athens)

Other Victorian style structures in the MSNHA:
- Locust Street Historic District (Florence)
- Walnut Street Historic District (Florence)
- Wood Avenue Historic District (Florence)
- Sheffield Residential Historic District (Sheffield)
- Bank Street Historic District (Decatur)
- New Decatur-Albany Historic District (Decatur)
- Albany Heritage Neighborhood Historic District (Decatur)

Other Craftsman style structures in the MSNHA:
- Tuscumbia Historic District (Tuscumbia)
- Cherry Street Historic District (Florence)
- College Place Historic District (Florence)
- Courtland Historic District (Courtland)
- George S. Houston Historic District (Athens)
- Albany Heritage Neighborhood Historic District (Decatur)
- Bank Street Historic District (Decatur)

Additional styles in the MSNHA:
- Rosenbaum House--Usonian (Florence)
- Lustron Houses--Prefabricated Home (Florence, Sheffield)
- Fort Nash--International (Decatur)
- Nitrate Village No. 1--Planned Community (Sheffield)
- Clyde Carter House--Spanish Eclectic (Muscle Shoals)
- Moseley House--Second Empire (Decatur)
- Hamil House--Tudor Revival (Decatur)

Architectural Glossary[3]

Balloon Framing: A method of framing a house that used smaller dimensional lumber

Bargeboard: A decorative board found in gabled peaks

Bay window: A window within an angled or curved projection from a building

Board-and-Batten: Siding with wide, vertical boards whose joints are covered with narrow wooden strips

Buttress: An exterior support which strengthens a wall

Castellated: A designed wall that looks like upside-down teeth, used for protection and decoration

Chinking: Pieces of wood and stone inserted into the voids between logs and filled with clay and moss

Clapboard: Also called "weatherboard;" Overlapping horizontal boards that cover the frame of a house

Column: A supporting pillar, usually on a porch or pediment

Corinthian: A Classical column adorned with leaves and shaped like an upside-down bell

Cornice: A projection at a roof line, often with molding or other classical detail

Cupola: A small dome, or room located at the top of a building

Cut Nails: Iron nails produced in the early to mid-1800s

Daubing: A soft, adhesive coating material, applied over chinking in between logs

Dentils: Ornaments resembling teeth that are often found along cornices.

Doric: The oldest type of Classical column; characterized by its plain, sometimes fluted shaft.

Dormer window: a perpendicular window located in a sloping roof

Dovetail: A joint formed by a tapered projection that interlocks with a corresponding notch

Eaves: The projecting edge of a roof that overhangs an exterior wall

Façade: The exterior side or "face" of a building

Fanlight: A semi-circular window found over entrance doors and windows

Floor Plan: The arrangement of rooms in a building

Form: House type, composed of the plan and height of the structure

Frieze: An ornamented or sculptured band around a building

Gable: the triangular part of an exterior wall created by the angle of the roof

Gable roof: a roof with two pitched slopes; a roof that ends in a gable

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[3] Definitions gathered from:
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, *A Reference Guide to the Architectural Styles of Arkansas,* http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/News-and-Events/publications
McAlester, Virginia Savage, *A Field Guide to American Houses,* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
Trust for Architectural Easements Glossary of Architectural Terms, http://architecturaltrust.org/outreach/education/glossary-of-architectural-terms/

Gable window: a window located in a gable

Georgian: Georgian style dominated the early American colonies and was the precedent for Federal style

Hand-Hewn: Logs that have been squared with an axe

Hipped roof: a roof with four sloped sides

Ionic: Classical column with scroll-like spirals called volutes

Lancet: A narrow window with a pointed top

Mass Production: The manufacture of large quantities of a standardized product with an efficient process

Masonry: Made of stone, brick, or concrete

Mortise: A hole or notch cut into a piece of wood, designed to fit a tenon (projection)

Modillions: Ornamental bracket, often supporting the cornice

Muntin: Dividing bar between panes of glass

Palladian Window: An arched window immediately flanked by two smaller, non-arched windows

Pattern Book: Books that consisted of floor plans, drawings, and building details

Pediment: A triangular piece situated over a portico, door, and window

Pilaster: A square column, attached to a wall and projecting from it, usually near an entrance

Pitch: The angle or steepness of a roof

Portico: an entrance porch with columns and a roof, and often crowned by a pediment

Quoin: the finished stones or brick accentuating the corners of a building

Rafter: The sloping members of a roof, to which the roof covering in applied

Romanticism: A movement that focused on the individual, the imaginative, and the emotional, in contrast to the order and ration of the preceding Enlightenment period. Romanticism helped to encourage interest in the Gothic Revival style.
Sash: The part of the window that opens, although some may be fixed.

Shed Roof: A roof with one slope

Sidelights: Fixed windows positioned to the side of a doorway or window

Single-Pen Cabin: Cabin consisting of one unit or room

Spindlework: Decorative trim around a porch

Tenon: A projecting piece of wood made to fit into a tenon

Turret: a small tower

Veranda: a large or wraparound porch, usually roofed and partly enclosed

Vernacular Architecture: architecture created by and for the use of local people that responds to local methods of building construction, local climates, and local living needs and traditions
Wire Nails: Modern nails made with steel wire

Wrought Iron Nails: Early, handmade nails, made by shaping heated iron.

Curriculum Standards[4]

Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies Standard

4th Grade: Alabama Studies

4.4.2 Students will practice:

- Describing human environments of Alabama as they relate to settlement during the early nineteenth century, including housing, roads, and place names.

4.6.1. Students will:

- Describe cultural, economic, and political aspects of the lifestyles of early nineteenth-century farmers, plantation owners, slaves, and townspeople (Economics, Geography, History, Civics and Government).

4.16.2 Students will practice:

- Describing how technological advancements brought changes to Alabama.

Special Thanks

Dr. Carolyn Barske, University of North Alabama

Robert Gamble, Alabama Historical Commission

Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area

Pictures

All drawings were provided by Jason Behel with the exception of the Greek revival drawing which was found at (http://floorplans.houseplansandmore.com/060D/060D-0107/060D-0107-front-main-6.jpg) and the Ranch drawing, found at: http://www.dreamhomesource.com/house-plans/dhs/styles/ranch-house-plans-ranch-floor-plans-rambler-house-plans/dhsw40544.html

Photo credits

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P. 2: LOC.gov, Limestone County Courthouse: https://www.loc.gov/item/2010640830/

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[4] 2010 Alabama Course of Study
http://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=A0LEVib47lRVWe0AIKsnnIlQ;_ylu=X3oDMTEycXN2dTI2BGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMyBHZ0aWQDQjAxMjdfMQRzZWMDc3I-/RV=2/RE=1431658360/RO=10/RU=http%3a%2f%2fwww.alsde.edu%2fsec%2fsct%2fCOS%2f2010%2520Alabama%2520Social%2520Studies%2520Course%2520of%2520Study.pdf/RK=0/RS=9FS6zjaw5zzRi2niT6rXXytaIWQ-

P. 4: LOC.gov, Rosenbaum House, Florence, AL: https://www.loc.gov/item/2010640717/

P. 5: LOC.gov, Old Cabin, Forks of Cypress, Lauderdale County: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/hhh.al0266.photos.003139p/?co=hh; LOC.gov, Courtview, Lauderdale County: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/al0258.photos.003028p/resource/

P. 6: (Left) Encyclopedia of Alabama, Dogtrot: http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-7148 (Right) Traditional Style Home Plans, Dream Home Source: http://www.dreamhomesource.com/house-plans/dhs/styles/traditional-house-plans.html

P. 8: Alabama Historical Commission, Hickman Dogtrot: https://www.flickr.com/photos/53155426@N03/29644459911/in/album-72157672750753450/; (Inset) LOC.gov, Small Cabin in Dallas, TX: https://www.loc.gov/item/2011633328/

P. 10: Ivy Green, Helen Keller Birthplace: http://www.helenkellerbirthplace.org/helenkellerphotos/helen_keller_photos.htm; (Inset) NPS.Gov, Technical Brief 8, "Aluminum and Vinyl Siding on Historic Buildings": https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/8-aluminum-vinyl-siding.htm

P. 11: NPS.gov, The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings: https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/26-log-buildings.htm; Wikipedia, Dovetail Joint: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dovetail_joint; This Old House Web, Balloon Framing: http://www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/balloon-framing.shtml

P. 13: LOC.gov, Drury Vinson House, Leighton, Colbert County: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/al0103.photos.001689p/resource/; (Inset) I-House in Florence, Author's collection

P. 15: MSNHA, George Houston Memorial Library: http://msnha.una.edu/plan-a-visit/?a=88; (Inset) Dentil Molding: https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.va0306.photos/?sp=5

P. 16: Downing, Andrew Jackson. *Cottage Residences, or, A Series of Designs for Rural Cottages and Cottage Villas, and their Gardens and Grounds: Adapted to North America.* New York: Wiley and Putnam, 1842. P. 178.https://archive.org/stream/cottageresidence00down_0/cottageresidence00down_0#page/n177/mode/1up

P. 18: Forks of Cypress, Alabama Historical Commission: http://www.preserveala.org/properties/forksofcypress/forksofcypress.aspx ; LOC.gov, Forks of Cypress: https://www.loc.gov/item/2010640626/

P. 20: St. John's Church: Author's Collection; (Inset) LOC.Gov, Fort Monroe, VA: https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.va1661.photos/?sp=1

P. 21: University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program: https://www.uvm.edu/~histpres/203/nails.html

P. 23: LOC.gov, Rocky Hill, Courtland, Lawrence County: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/al0273.photos.003183p/resource/ ; (Inset) Cupola: https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.sd0007.photos/?sp=1

P. 25: LOC.gov, Cohen House: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/highsm.08942/; Old House Online, Spindlework: http://www.oldhouseonline.com/victorian-ornamentation-glossary/

P. 26: Roseburg, Plywood Sheathing: http://www.roseburg.com/Product/plywood-sheathing/; Building Construction and Finishing, Plywood sheathing drawing: http://www.free-ed.net/free-ed/Resources/Trades/carpentry/Building01/default.asp?iNum=0803

P. 27: ACRS, Kennedy Douglass Center, Florence: https://omeka.lib.auburn.edu/items/show/503; (Inset) Fanlight: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Compton_House

P. 30 Craftsman House, Florence, Author's Collection; Inset: Columns, http://columnsphoto.com/proddetail.asp?prod=9000-3661-00

P. 31: NY Times, Levittown Through the Years: http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2007/10/12/nyregion/20071013_LEVITTOWN_SLIDESHOW_3.html?_r=0; Passive House: http://www.homedsgn.com/2012/02/01/passive-house-by-karawitz-architecture/

P.33: Ranch House, Florence, Author's Collection; (Inset) Andersen Windows: http://dzuls.com/andersen-windows/andersen-windows-prices/

HABS—Historic American Buildings Survey

ACRS—Alabama Cultural Resource Survey

LOC.gov—Library of Congress Website