

Architecture in New Castle

This talk:

- What are the architectural periods and styles?
- What to look at when we look at buildings
- What style is that house?
- How old is that house?
- How many buildings are colonial in New Castle?
- Are historic buildings protected?
- Are homeowners limited in a historic district in what they can do with their house?

Historic Preservation

Another Course

- Preserve what, for whom?
- Originally associated with major person, (Washington)
- Start: Mt. Vernon (1850), Independence Hall (1916), Williamsburg (1923), Santa Barbara(1925), Greenfield Village (1929), Charleston (1936)...
- Natl. Historic Pres. Act (1966)
- Cultural significance; high style AND vernacular
- History as entertainment
- Is society now changing to consuming vs saving the old



If you're interested in above topics, Thomas Reed gave an OLLI course on "Saving our Architectural History" and may again in 2019F or 2020S

PERIODS

Refers to government or ruler when something was built

1620-1780	Colonial/Georgian
1780-1830	Federal
1830-1900	Victorian
1900-now	Modern

STYLES

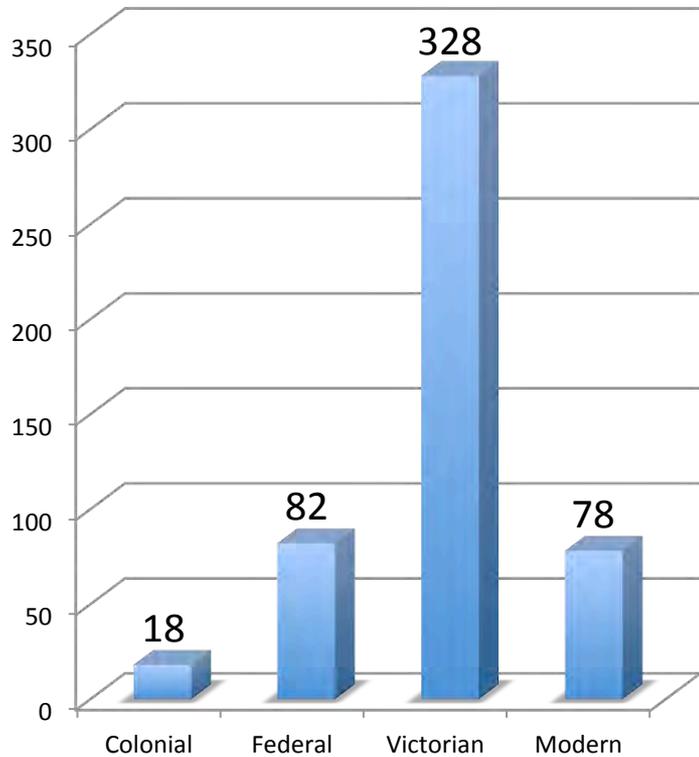
Either the period or decades or country of origin or what the house looks like.

Early Georgian	1700-1750
Mid/Late Georgian	1750-1780
Federal	1780-1812, 1824-1840
Greek Revival	1825-1855
Gothic Revival	1840-1900
Italianate	1850 -1900
2 nd Empire	1860-1890
Queen Anne	1870-1900
Bungalow	1890-1930
Colonial Revival	1880-1950

The styles are relatively brief periods: mostly 30 years or less. I claim that YOU can guess the date of a building to within 15 years, based on knowing architectural details which they display.

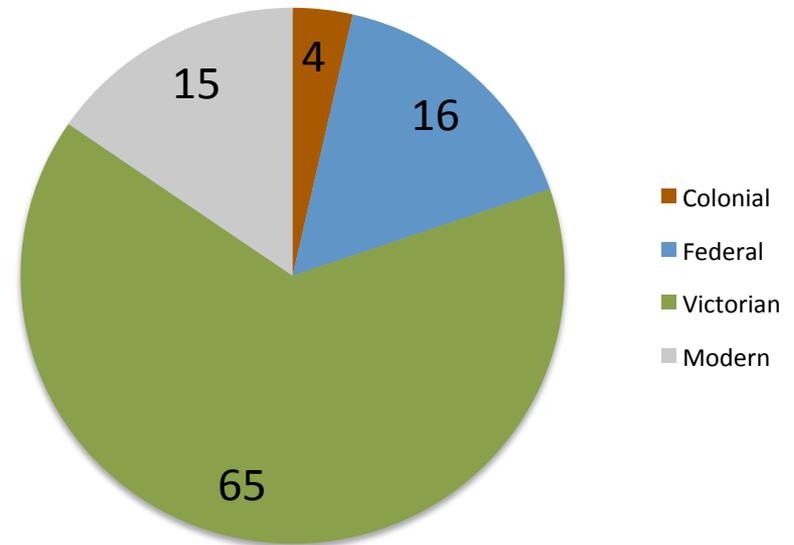
Periods of the 506 buildings in the 1984 Historic District Nomination of New Castle

Is New Castle a Colonial or Historic Town?



Count

Colonial	1620-1780
Federal	1780-1830
Victorian	1830-1900
Modern	1900-1984



Percentage

What are some obvious details that tell about the age of a house?



Brickwork: glazed header flemish bond is usually Georgian (or colonial revival)



Fan lights with tracery are often Federal



Houses with little **third floor windows** are often Greek Revival (and may have columns)



Gothic houses have **steeply pitched roofs**

Italianate houses have **Low pitched roofs** and **bracketed cornices**



Queen Anne houses are exuberant. Porches, color, **projecting eaves** on every surface.

Flemish bond:

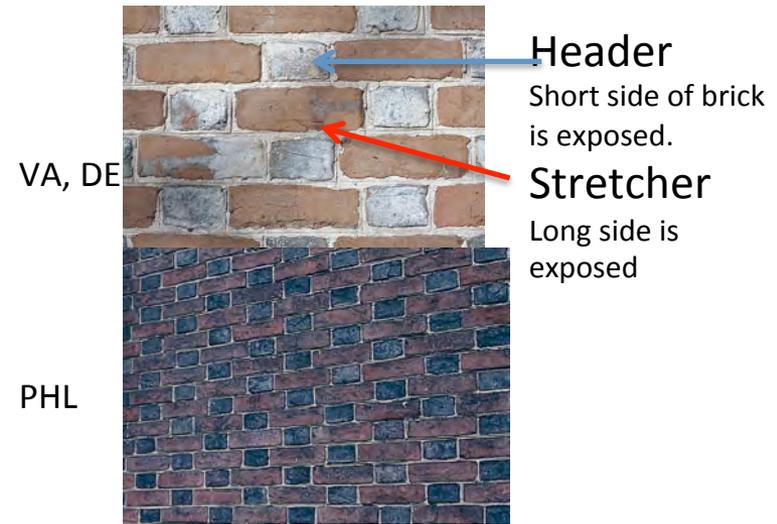
Bricks have only one rectangular shape but are laid in different ways. In Flemish bond, they have alternating **header** and **stretcher** in each row.

Used in Georgian and Federal periods in façade.

In early Georgian, the headers were often glazed.

The bricks are glazed if they were near the smoke channel in the stack of bricks in the kiln when fired.

The glaze color is from the smoke used to fire them, and varies with wood used: in Va, oak gives blue gray; in Phil., other wood gives black color.



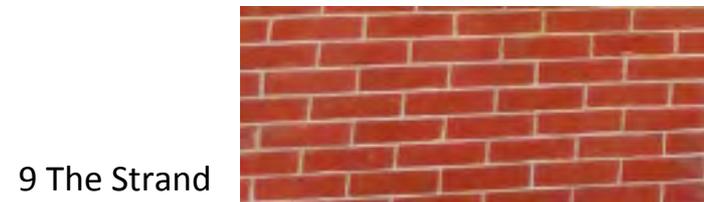
English bond (less common):

Rows of all headers alternate with rows of all stretchers. Common in water tables, and sides and back of early Georgian (and one colonial revival) buildings.



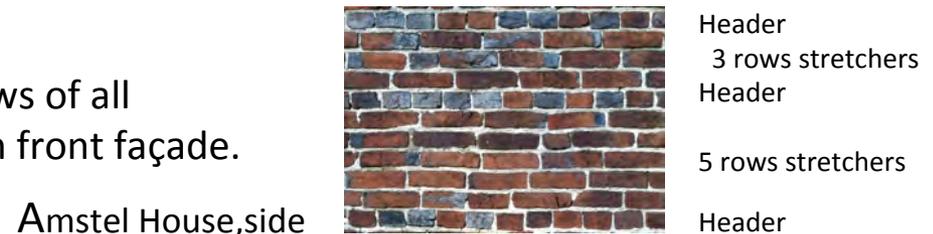
Running bond :

All stretchers. Used from Greek Revival on.



Common bond:

Rows of all headers are separated by 3-12 rows of all stretchers. Used on sides and backs; rarely on front façade.



Architectural Features – Early Georgian, 1700-1750



String/belt course

Glazed header
Flemish bond
Brickwork

9/9 Window

Arch

Water table



Amstel House, 2 E 4th

McWilliams House, 8 The Strand

Early vs Mid/late Georgian

Two buildings built in stages in different eras show changes in styles

212 Delaware, Booth House
1795, <1719, 1860s



No arches

Arches

9/9 window

No String course
String course

Courthouse
(1845), 1732, 1756, 1802



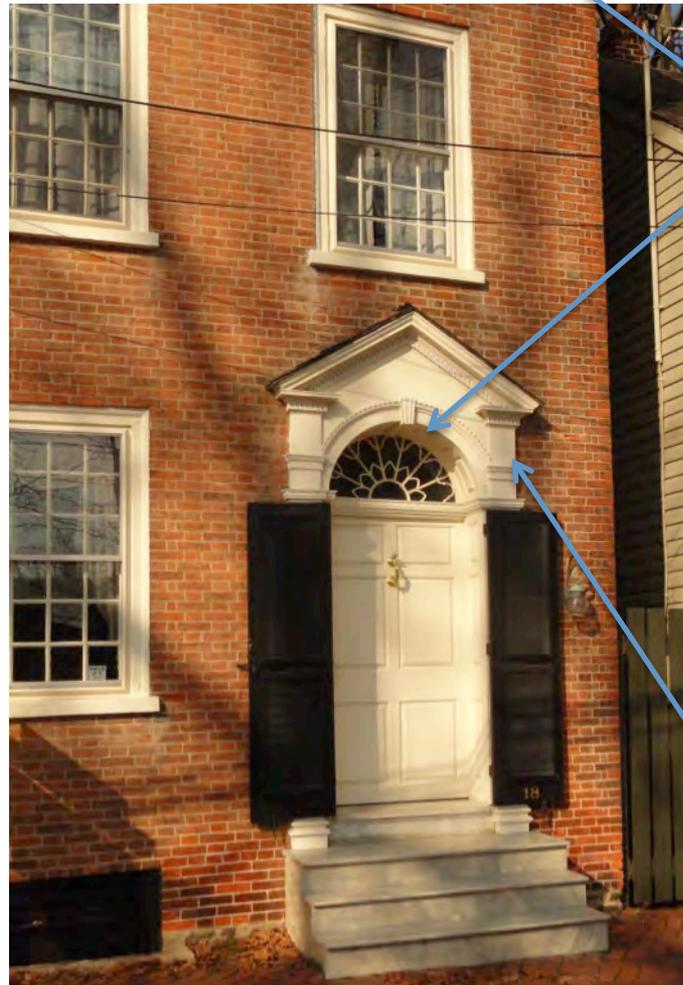
"Symmetry" (vertical alignment of windows) in both sides

Early/Late Federal ~1780-1812/1824-1840

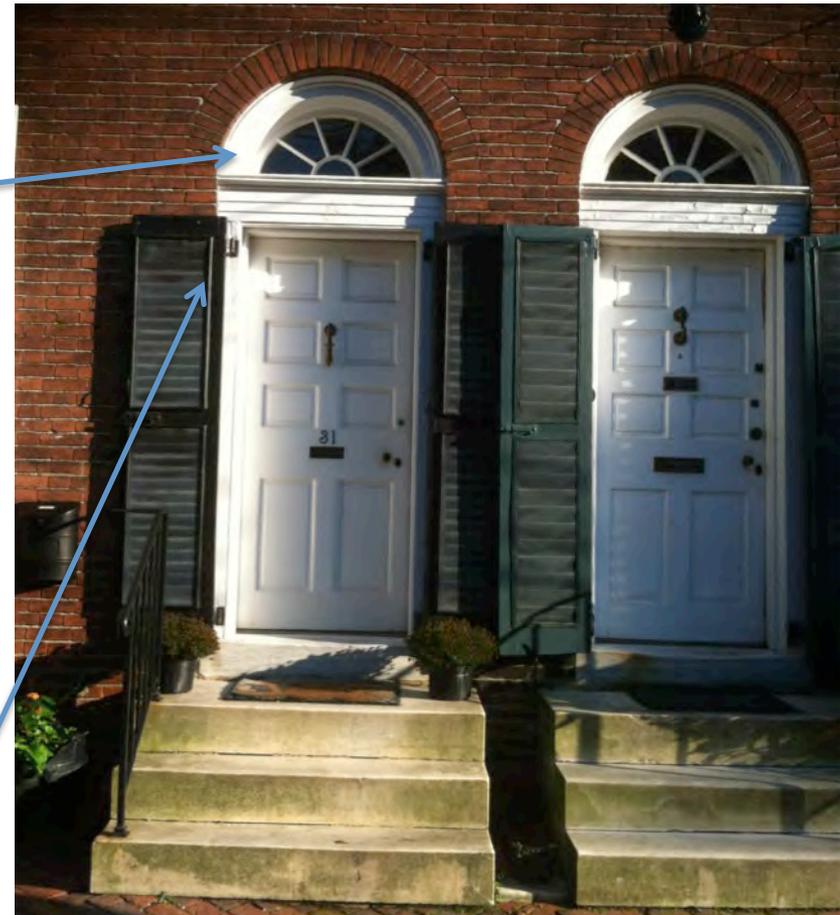


18 E 3rd, c1800

27-29 The Strand, c1826



- “Symmetrical”
- Fanlights with tracery
- No string course or water table
- “Flemish bond, not glazed header
- Medium mortar joints, not pressed brick
- 9/9 window
- 6-8 panel door
- Different entrances (pediment vs arch)



Greek Revival (I)

Temple Style Public Buildings & High Style Residences

Latrobe, First Bank of Pennsylvania, 1801



Strickland, Second Bank of United States, 1824



T. U. Walter, Girard College, 1847



Winterthur, c1840



Chelsea, Delaware City, 1848



"Bank House", Milford, 1850



Houses, note: shallow roof, columns, small 3rd floor windows that mimic 'triglyphs' in Greek structures.

Greek Revival II

(c1825-c1855)

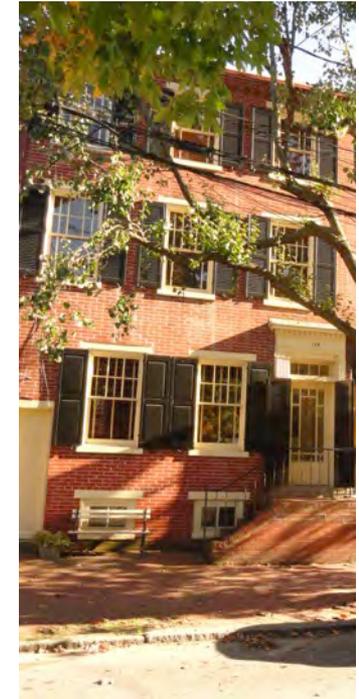
Urban houses in New Castle



32 W 4th, c1850



10-16 E4th, c1840



119 E 3rd

Flat or shallow pitch roof, short 3rd story, **no or rectangular transom (Greeks did not have arches)**, may not be symmetrical, running bond (all stretchers, no headers), smooth brick, narrow mortar joint Windows 4/4 or 6/2

Gothic Revival (1840-1901)

24 W 4th St, Aquila Hizar, 1876



39 W, 5th



125 W 7th, Dr. A. V. Lesley, 1855



138 E 4th, Mt. Salem ME Church, 1878



Gothic distinguishing features: “verticality”, steep pitch roof, cross gables, v-shaped barge boards, one story porch, windows 1/1

What about internal stuff – did that change with the period?

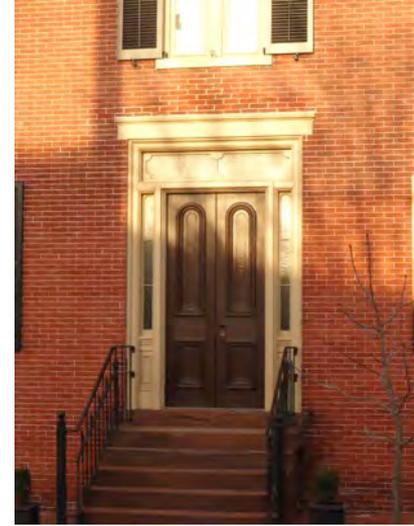
Yes, but you can't see the parlor molding and mantelpiece design as you walk by. That's another interesting area.

2nd Empire

1860-1890

Key characteristic: **Mansard roof** (double pitch roof, the bottom very steep, usually with dormers) gives 3rd floor good height.

Frequently bracketed cornices, tall windows and 2 panel doors (often a pair of 2 panel doors with glass in upper panels)



122 E3rd, 1875



17 W 4th, 1879



125 E3rd, 1884, 427 Delaware 1875



Italianate (1850 - 1900)

Bracketed cornices and usually flat or shallow pitched roofs.

American Bracketed houses: a.k.a “bracketed Italianate”

Renaissance Revival public buildings





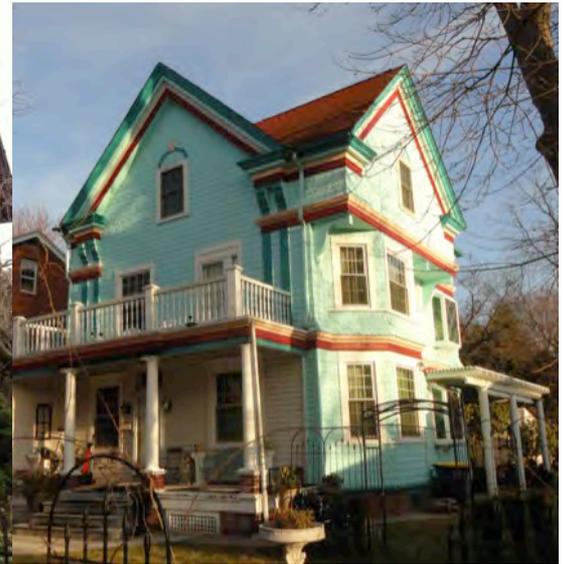
Queen Anne (1870-1900)

- Steeply pitched roof
- Asymmetrical, cross gables
- Overhanging eaves
- Projecting windows breaking up planes
- Porches
- Multicolor

80 W 5th 1894, J. T. Eliason



11 W 6th 1898



Colonial revival (1880-1950)

Apartments at 5th & Delaware, U. S. Post office, 1935



Apartments: flemish bond
P.O.: English bond (alternate
rows; all header, all stretcher)
random dark bricks



Apartments on site of Earle
Theatre; earlier Knights of
Pythias Hall

Colonial Revival makeover at 23 The Strand

Site of a hotel, burnt in 1824, then the Stockton House, principal Hotel in New Castle burnt in 1870

Left: before 1900, a vacant lot,
Below left, the new Cavanaugh house with front gable and plain door and rectangular transom
Below right, 2018, side gable, door with colonial entablature



NO CARS!! Gas light, gasoline pump, small sign on wall, 2nd floor hoist, vacant lot next to Packet Alley
<1906



Bungalow (1890-1930)

One, 1 1/2 or two stories, wide variation in structures;
Some designed and built locally, some from kits

50 W 5th, 1930

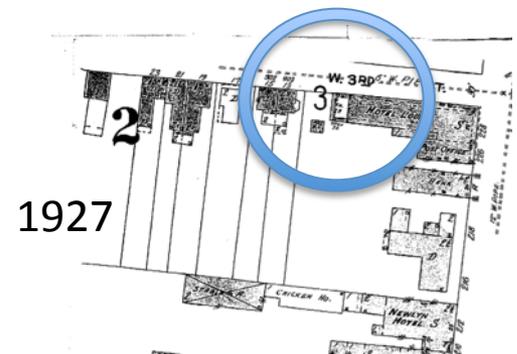
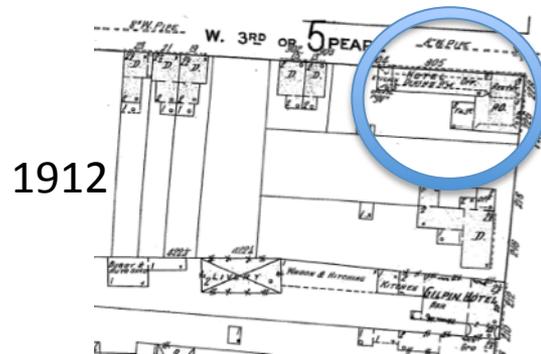


108 W 6th, 1920, Luoma house



How old is MY (or THAT) house?

- 1) Easy: Look at it for 5 seconds -- look at details
- 2) Still easy: Check maps (available 1803-1927) on nc-chap.org



- 3) A little harder: Using owner's name from maps, check if they are mentioned in <http://nc-chap.org> (e.g. Eckman's deed and title searches) using google search box.
- 4) Much harder: do a chain of titles at the county courthouse.

Review, reminders, caveats

New Castle has amazing diversity. One block (E. 2nd) has houses spanning >300 years!

Colonial revival

Georgian

Federal

Quaker, early 1700s

Italianate

Mod. Federal, Greek R



Buildings may have very different facades and layout now than when they were built.

What holds for New Castle is somewhat relevant in Harrisburg or Bloomington IN, much less so in Denver or Seattle.

Facades, like interiors, may be totally changed. Documentary and title searches are very useful. Aerial views, as with the yellow house above can be useful. Poking around in adjacent basements and attics with the owner can reveal openings and construction methods.

'Date that building' challenge

I will show you buildings one at a time.

You should look for architectural details, and guess a period/style/date

Choices in every case:

Georgian, Federal, Greek, Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire, Queen Anne

Late Federal, c1836

Fanlight, symmetrical, Flemish bond, 6/6 windows, 8 panel door

Harmony House, 46 E 3rd



Georgian, Federal, Greek, Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire, Queen Anne

Gothic, 1855

Steep pitched roof, cross gables, one story porch,
v-shaped barge boards, 2/1 windows

Lesley Mansion, 123 W 7th

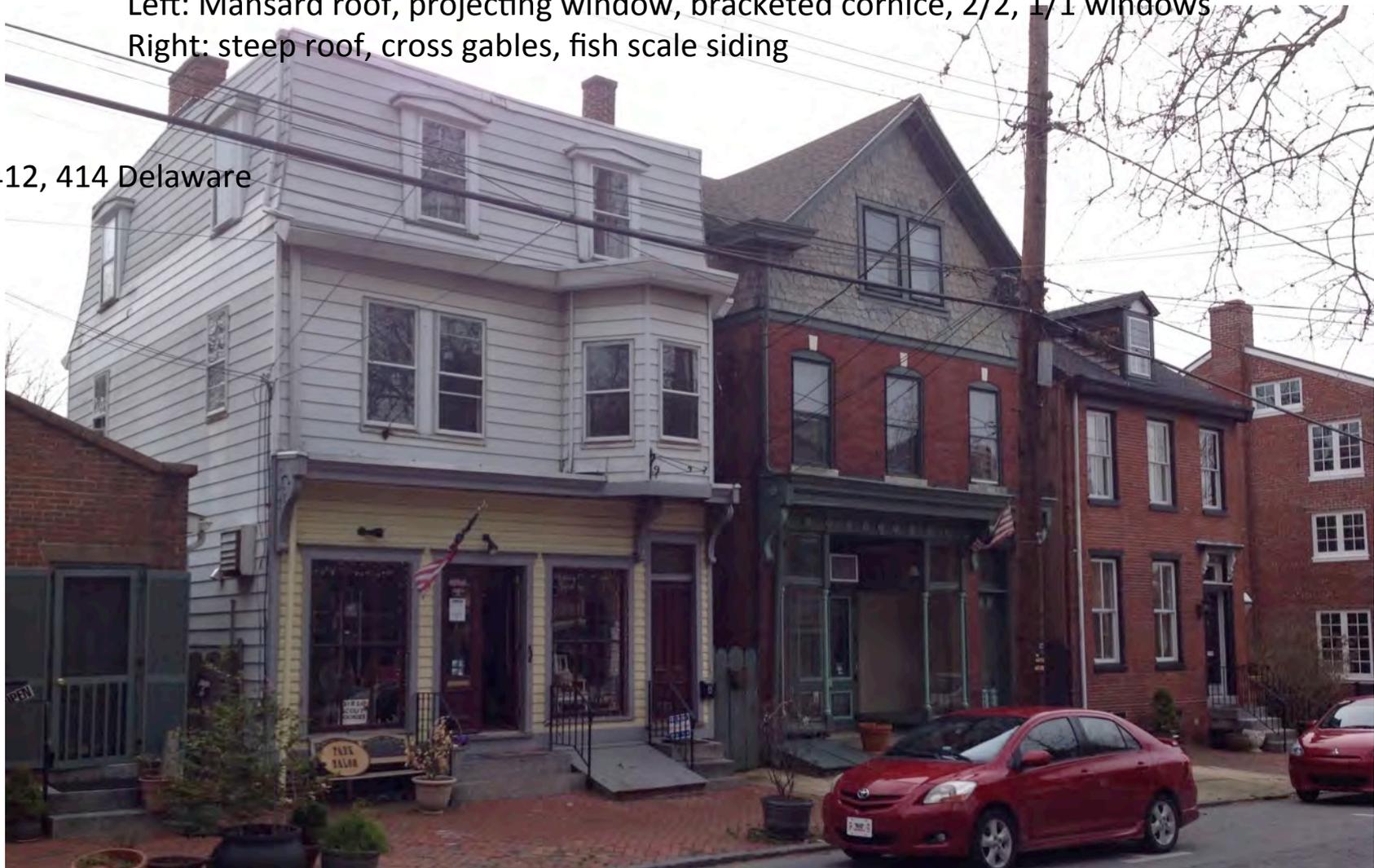


Georgian, Federal, Greek, Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire, Queen Anne

2nd Empire (1880) / Queen Anne (1895)

Left: Mansard roof, projecting window, bracketed cornice, 2/2, 1/1 windows
Right: steep roof, cross gables, fish scale siding

412, 414 Delaware



Georgian, Federal, Greek, Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire, Queen Anne

Early Georgian (early 1700's) (heavily modified several times)

String course, water table; some brickwork may be original, may be reproduction

"Hotel Louise", "David Finney Inn"



Delaware & W 3rd photo taken c1891; Mary Robeson (1833-1920)



Italianate (c1881)

Bracketed cornice, elaborate gingerbread



16 W 4th

Georgian, Federal, Greek,
Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire,
Queen Anne

Late Georgian (1800)/Early Federal

Unglazed Flemish bond façade, fanlight, Palladian window, stone sills and lintels, 6/6 windows, dentil cornice, symmetrical

42 The Strand, George Read II house



Georgian, Federal, Greek,
Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire,
Queen Anne

2nd Empire

Mansard roof, bracketed cornice, 2/2 windows, running bond, [fanlight]

602-4 Delaware



Georgian, Federal,
Greek, Gothic,
Italianate, 2nd
Empire, Queen
Anne

Early Georgian (1704?)

String course, water table, dentil cornice, 6/9 windows, symmetrical, Flemish bond, no fanlight

Rosemont house, 110 Delaware

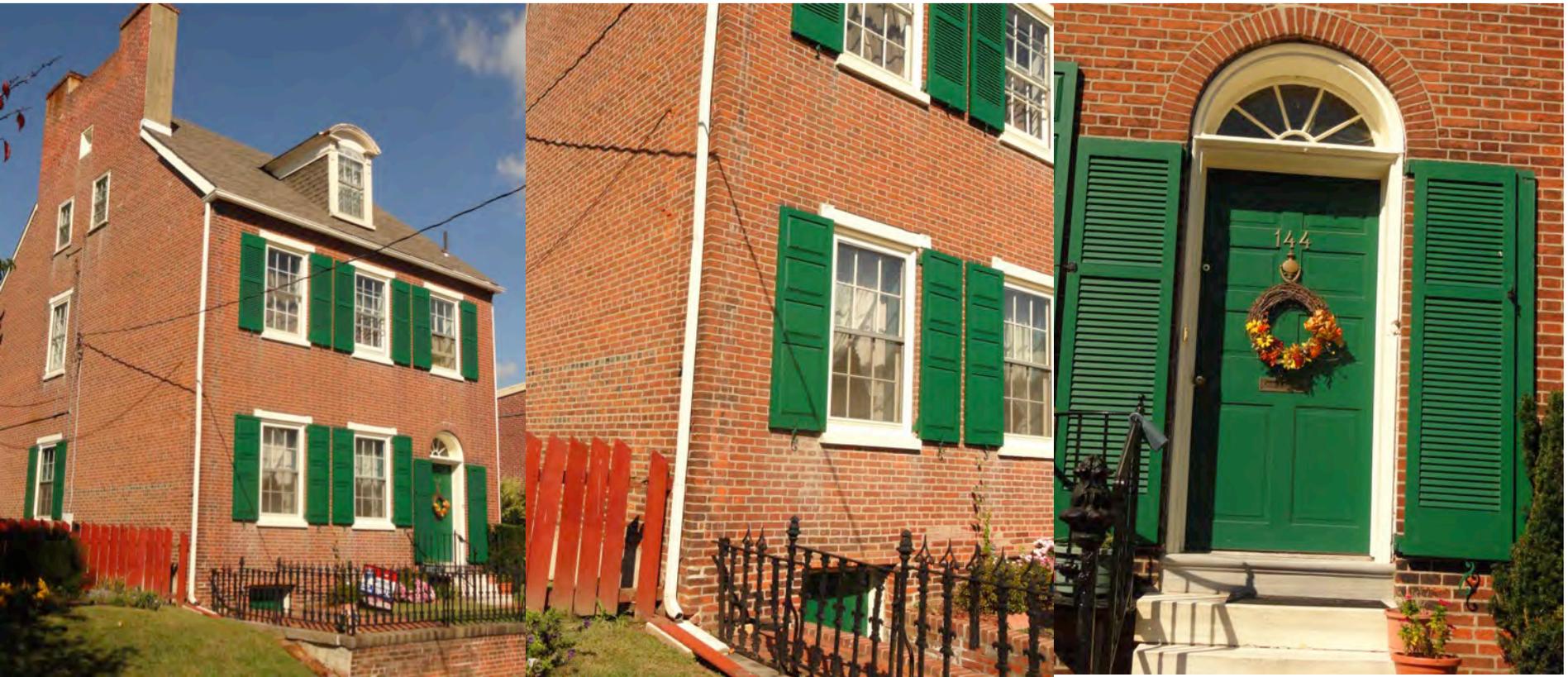


Georgian, Federal,
Greek, Gothic,
Italianate, 2nd
Empire, Queen Anne

Late Federal, c1830

Fanlight, Flemish bond front, 7 course common bond side,
8 panel door, 6/6 windows

144 E 4th



Greek Revival, c1826

Short 3rd story, rectangular transom with brackets, 4 panel door, running bond, pressed brick, narrow mortar joint

But: fairly steep roof, symmetrical. Was house in forefront of style or modified later?

9 The Strand



Gothic

Steep roof; cross gables, 1/1 windows?

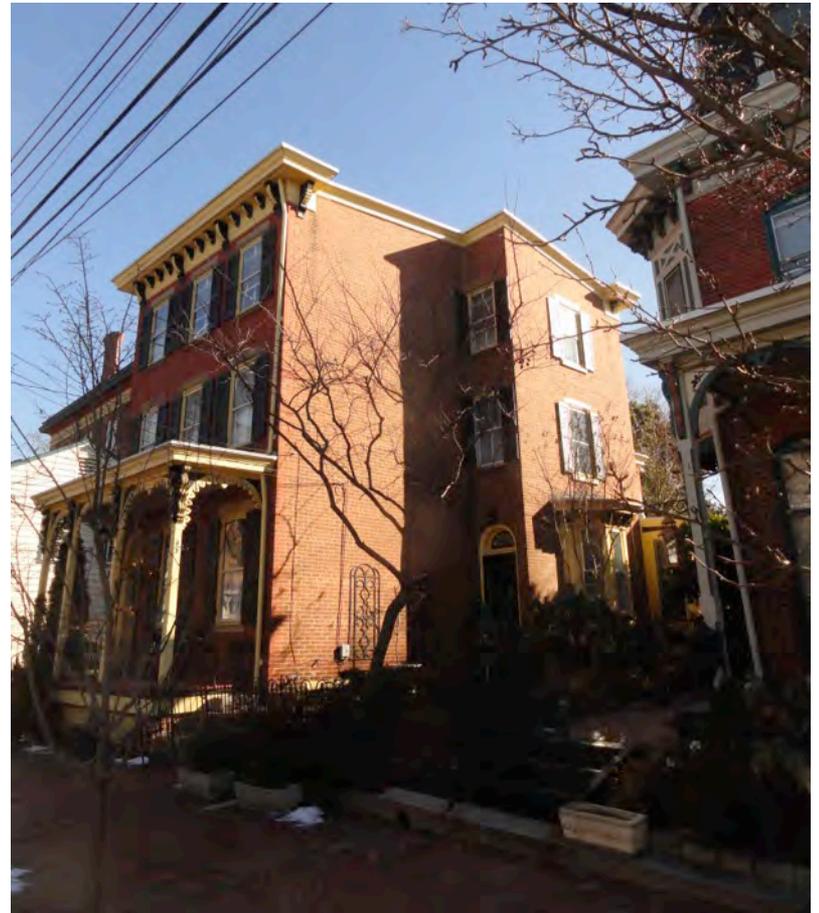
39 W 5th



Italianate (1878)

Bracketed cornice, shallow roof, porch, flat façade, 2/2 windows

15 W 4th



Georgian (1750)

String course, water table, dentil cornice, 6/6 windows, symmetrical, Flemish bond above water table, English below, no fanlight
Bricks not glazed.



Italianate (c1880)

Decorative brickwork; pressed tin cornice instead of brackets, running bond, flat roof

13 W 3rd



Georgian, Federal, Greek,
Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire,
Queen Anne

Queen Anne (c1900), Bungalow (c1920)

Steep cross gables, projecting bay window and porch

182,184 E 4th

Single story, owner thinks building a kit, but no match in Sears or Aladdin.

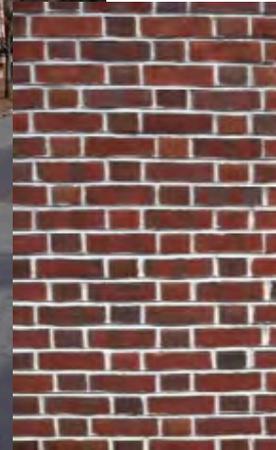


Georgian, Federal, Greek,
Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire,
Queen Anne

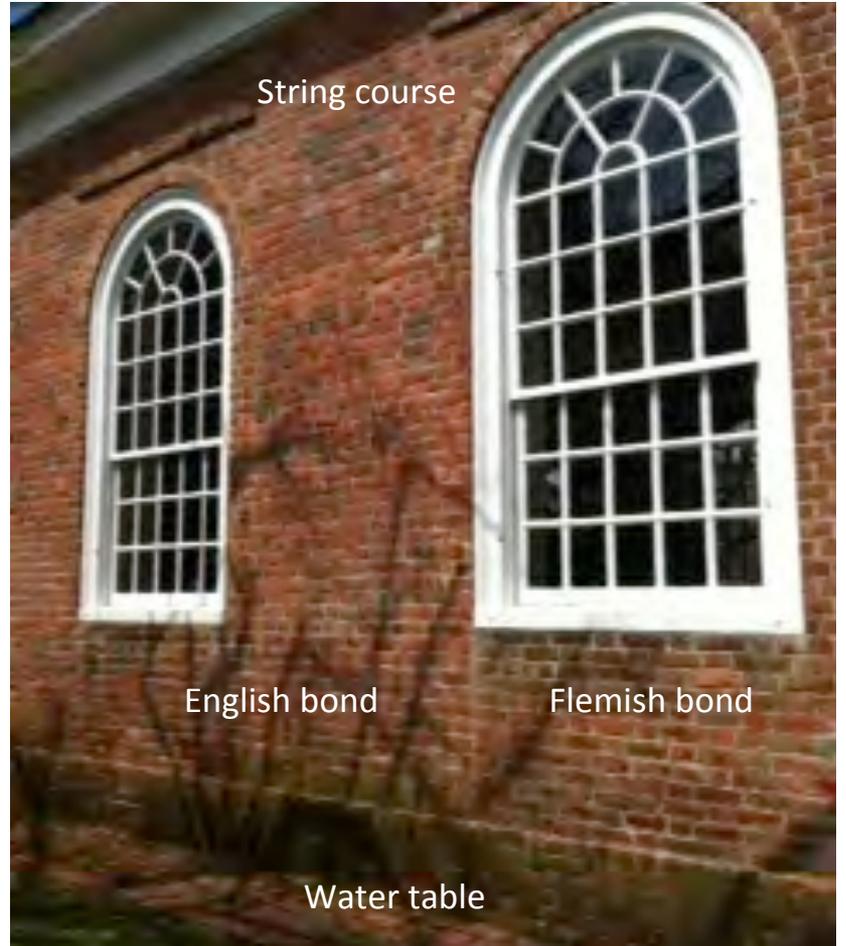
Colonial Revival, c1980?

Flemish bond, 8/8 windows, 6 panel door, concrete window sills and lintels

113/115 Delaware



Georgian (1707, 1712?)



Bungalow, Aladdin kit house, 1917

One story

166 E 3rd



Georgian, Federal, Greek,
Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire,
Queen Anne, Colonial Revival,
Bungalow

Italianate (1876-owner, mid 1800s NHR)

Bracketed cornice, pressed brick, running bond, 2/2 windows, fanlight, 4 panel door (the latter replacing in 1990's cheap colonial revival windows and doors from the 70's)



Georgian, Federal, Greek,
Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire,
Queen Anne

Queen Anne (1899, 1894)

Cross gables, bay window, porch, fish scale siding, colorful !

80 W 5th St. J. T. Eliason



72 W 5th, L. E. Eliason



Greek revival (c1850)

Asymmetrical, rectangular transoms, running bond, but roof not shallow pitched, no frieze band 3rd floor

19 W 3rd



Georgian, Federal, Greek,
Gothic, Italianate, 2nd Empire,
Queen Anne

As you walk around,

LOOK UP!

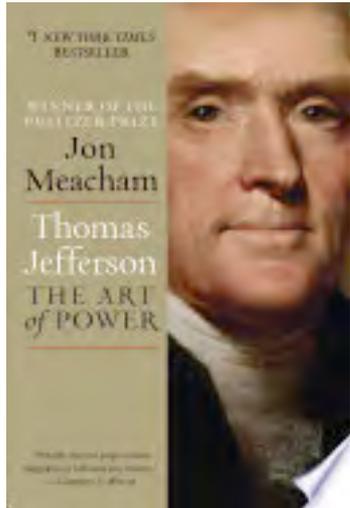
David Ames

UD Center for Historic Architecture and Design

Another ride: Thos. Jefferson Stops in New Castleon Trip From PHL to Monticello

After a visit to Robert Bell's shop on Third Street to buy a copy of James Burgh's book *Political Disquisitions*, Jefferson left Philadelphia for Virginia on Tuesday, August 1, 1775. He stopped along the road at Mrs. Clay's inn at **New Castle**, Delaware, then continued onward to Chestertown, Annapolis, and Port Royal en route home to Monticello.

Meacham, "Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power"



Definitions (maybe)

Inn: eat, drink, sleep

Pub(lic house): eat, drink

Tavern: drink

Philadelphia Gazette Feb. 4, 1746

SLATER CLAY hereby gives Notice, that he has opened a Publick Houfe in New-castle, the Houfe Mr. Curtis formerly lived in; where all Gentlemen, and others, may depend on good Entertainment both for Man and Horse. ⊕

Courtesy Osher student Jim Williams

From Jefferson's Memorandum Books, 1775

Pd. toddy at a country tavern 1/.

Pd. ferriage over Christiana 27 1/8.

Aug 2. Pd. lodging, supper &c. Mrs. Clay's, 28 Newcastle £1-3-4.

Pd. breakfast &c. McCulloch's, Warwick 7/8.

Footnotes

...

26 John Biddle and his wife were the proprietors of the "staid old" Indian King Tavern, which had been in operation since the early years of the century. It was on the south side of Market Street between Second and Third streets (Historic Philadelphia, p. 320).

27 TJ would have crossed the Christiana River at Wilmington, Del.

28 Ann Curtis (Mrs. Slator) Clay (d. 1789) kept an inn on the site of present 30 The Strand, New Castle, Del. (Jeannette Eckman, "The Strand," 1947-1949, typescript report in Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Del.; J. Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware, 1609-1888 [Philadelphia, 1888], ii, 1016).

29 Now Chestertown, Md.

Problem: 30 The Strand is not really big enough to be her and 11 children's residence, a tavern and lodging. Did she use the building across the street as an annex?