

Magnolia Grove through the Years

Lesson 1-Reading a Building

Objective: Students will explore the architecture and changes that the house has undergone over the course of time by identifying major architectural features of Magnolia Grove.

Grades 2-4

Anticipated Time: 50 minutes
(1 class period)

Materials/Historical Records Needed:

Elements of Greek Revival Style
House Details
Anatomy of Magnolia Grove
East elevation drawing of Magnolia Grove

Meets the following COS:

Social Studies

Grade 2: Class: Exploring Our Nation and World

AL COS Standard #1: Compare features of modern day living to those of the past.

AL COS Standard #7: Describe ways people throughout the world are affected by their geographic environment.

Grade 3: Class: People, Places, and Regions: Geographic Studies

AL COS Standard #11: identify significant historical sites in Alabama, including locations of civil rights activities.

Grade 4: Class Alabama Studies

AL COS Standard #6: Identify cultural, economic, and political aspects of the lifestyles of early 19th century farmers, plantation owners, slaves, and townspeople.

Reading a building

1. Distribute the information sheet "Elements of Greek Revival Style" and discuss with students.
2. Distribute the information sheets "House Details" to students. Review these sheets to discuss why these architectural details are functional as well as attractive. For example: sidelights and transoms bring light into hallways.

Assessment: Distribute the worksheet "Anatomy of Magnolia Grove" and the east elevation drawing of Magnolia Grove, allowing time for the students to complete the activity. Review the answers (see teacher key).

Elements of Greek Revival Style

The Greek Revival dominated American architecture from around 1818 to 1860. This was the first truly national style in the United States and could be found in all parts of the country. The popularity of the style was due to strong associations with classical traditions and the belief that ancient Greece represented the spirit of democracy. Greek Revival architecture was very adaptable and could be found in public buildings, commercial buildings, and houses. Greek Revival was an especially popular architectural style in the South. Buildings built in the Greek Revival style are easily identifiable because of the classic temple form. This includes a *portico*, *pediment*, *columns* (either one story or monumental) in the *Doric*, *Ionic*, or *Corinthian* order, and a flat or low-pitch roof, with the roof ridge typically running from front to back. A *transom window*, and two engaged piers on either side of the door opening flanked by *sidelights*, characterizes this style. Floor plans are usually a basic square or rectangle.

Column: an upright pillar or post that may be used for structural support or may be purely decorative.

Cornice: the uppermost section of moldings along the top of a wall or just below a roof.

Frieze: a horizontal band that runs above doorways and windows or below the cornice. It may be decorated with designs or carvings.

Order: any of the several types of classical columns- Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, or composite.

Pediment: a low-pitched triangular gable.

Pilaster: a rectangular support that resembles a flat column. The pilaster projects only slightly from the wall.

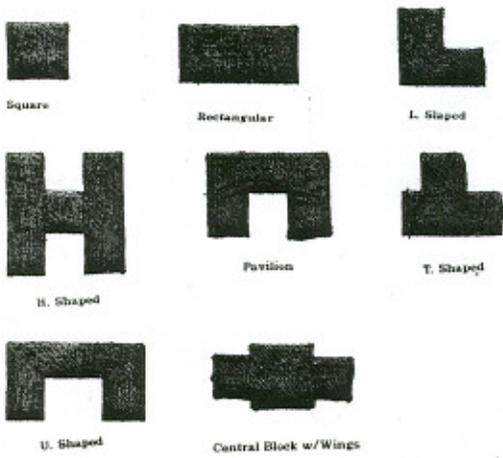
Portico: a columned porch.

Sidelight: a narrow window adjacent to a door or wider window, and the same height as the door or window, most often one of a pair flanking an entrance door.

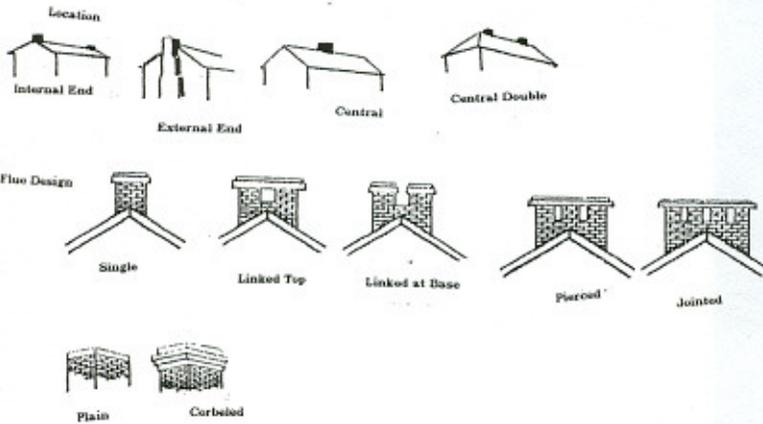
Transom window: a glazed opening above a door or window.

House Details

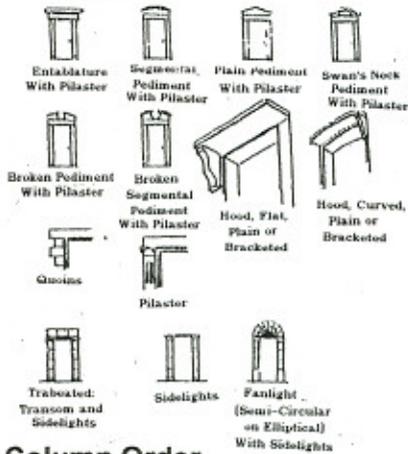
Floor Plan



Chimney



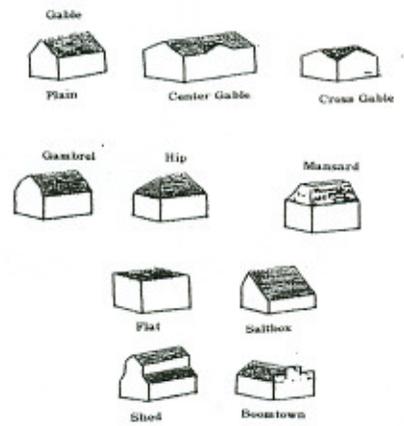
Door



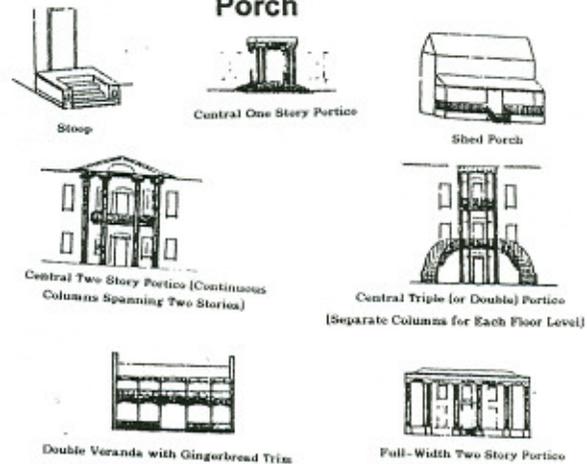
Column Order



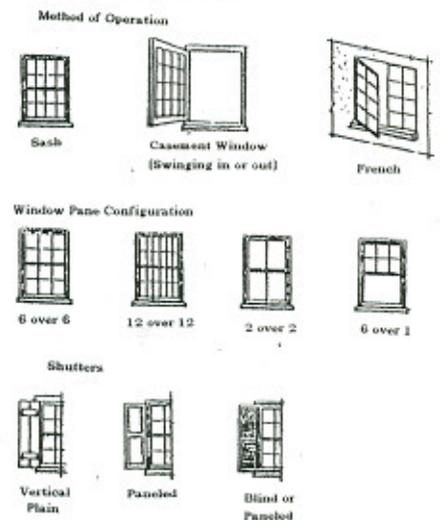
Roof

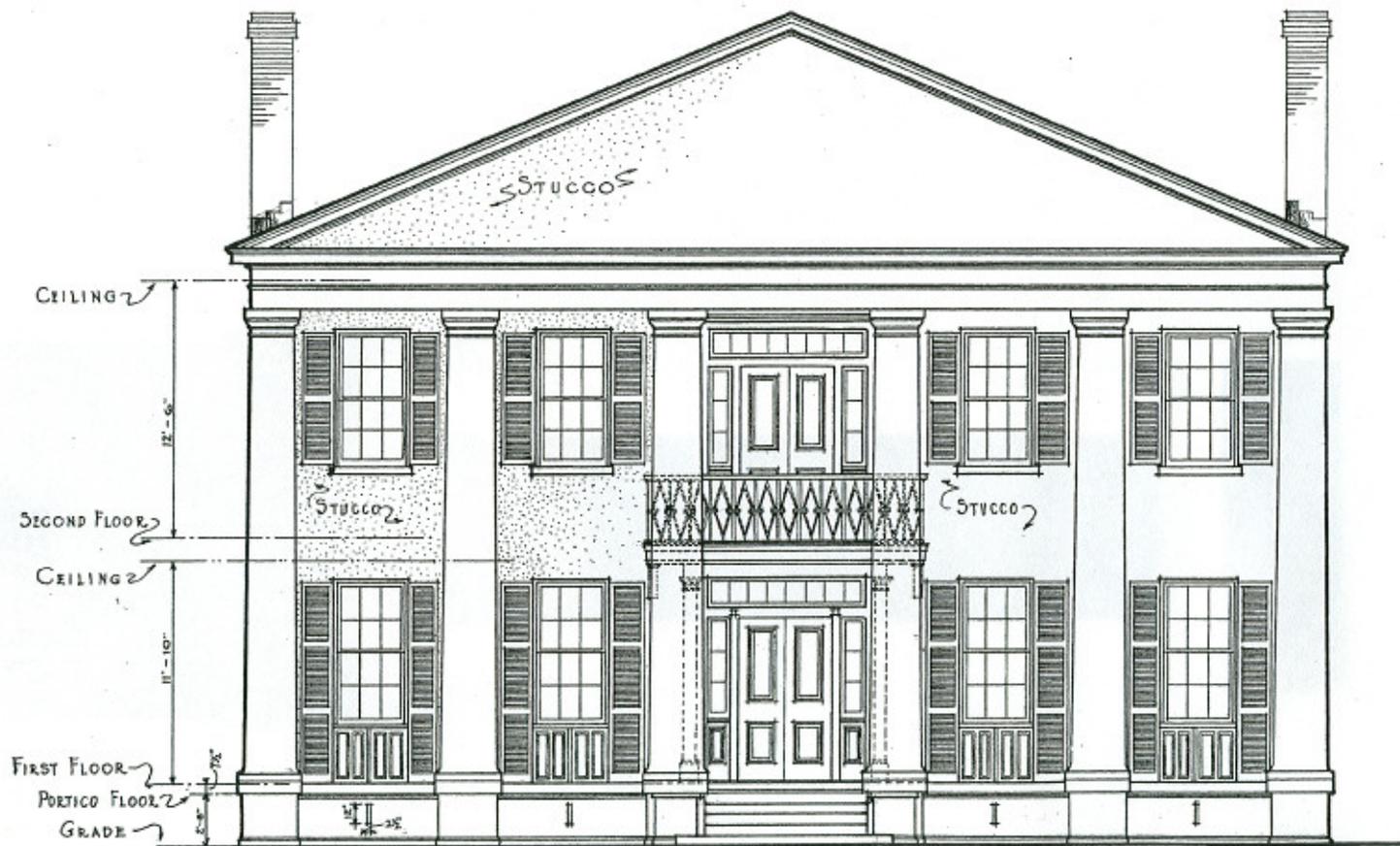


Porch



Window





• EAST • ELEVATION •

KIRBY STRINGER - DEL.



• MAGNOLIA • GROVE •

SCALE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

RICHMOND • PEARSON • HOBSON • HOUSE
GREENSBORO ALABAMA GREENSBORO COUNTY

SURVEY NO.
ALA-219

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 3 OF 8 SHEETS

INDEX NO.

Anatomy of Magnolia Grove

Instructions: Complete the following worksheet using the *east elevation drawing* and the *Elements of Greek Revival Style information sheet*.

1. Number of stories _____
2. Roof type _____
3. Chimney style _____
4. Outer wall material _____
5. Window Type _____
6. Door opening _____
7. Porch style _____
8. Column order _____



Anatomy of Magnolia Grove: Teacher Key

Instructions: Complete the following worksheet using the *east elevation drawing* and the *Elements of Greek Revival Style information sheet*.

1. Number of stories **2**
2. Roof type **gable**
3. Chimney style **single, internal end**
4. Outer wall material **stucco**
5. Window Type **sash; 6 over 6; blind**
6. Door opening **trabeated: transom and sidelights**
7. Porch style **full width two story portico**
8. Column order **Roman Doric**

