
Lesson Two: Victorian Architecture



Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Define architecture
- Explain what an architect does
- Identify the characteristics of Victorian architecture
- Determine what features of a building are decorative and what are functional

NAME: _____

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Victorian Architecture

The designing and building of structures is called architecture. It is both a science and an art, and it has many styles or ways of combining the many elements that make the building attractive and useful.

Victorian architecture, named during the reign of England's Queen Victoria (1837-1901), became popular in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. Many people in this era regarded their homes as status symbols. Building a large, impressive house was a measure of success and social prominence. Victorian houses were designed with entertaining and hospitality in mind.



unique windows

Most Victorian houses had distinctive color schemes and exterior features, including mansard roofs, curves, arches, fancy brackets, columns, and unique and large windows. The Governor's Mansion was first painted mustard yellow with sage-green trim.

The interiors of Victorian houses were elaborately decorated and filled to the brim with fancy furniture. Carved and painted moldings and plaster wall decorations caught the light from gas and kerosene lamps.

It was typical to see floral carpets, large-patterned and multi-colored wallpaper, velvet and lace curtains, overstuffed chairs, tufted ottomans, marble-topped tables, candelabras, chandeliers, and carved sideboards. One might also see many potted plants, bronze statues, marble figures, and works of art.

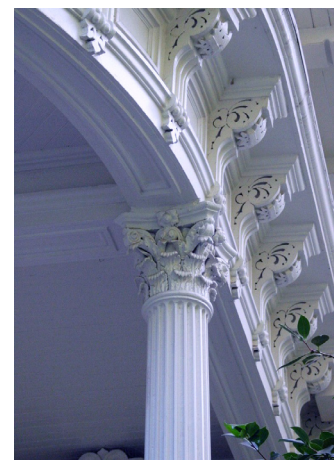
During this time period, a growing wealthy class of people developed and built large Victorian houses as a show of their wealth and social status. Yet not everyone lived in an impressive Victorian house. Smaller houses with Victorian features were built for a growing population.



fancy brackets



carriage house cupola



curves and column



carved fireplace

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Buildings Have Style

Directions: Read the selection "Victorian Architecture" and complete the following. Write answers in complete sentences.

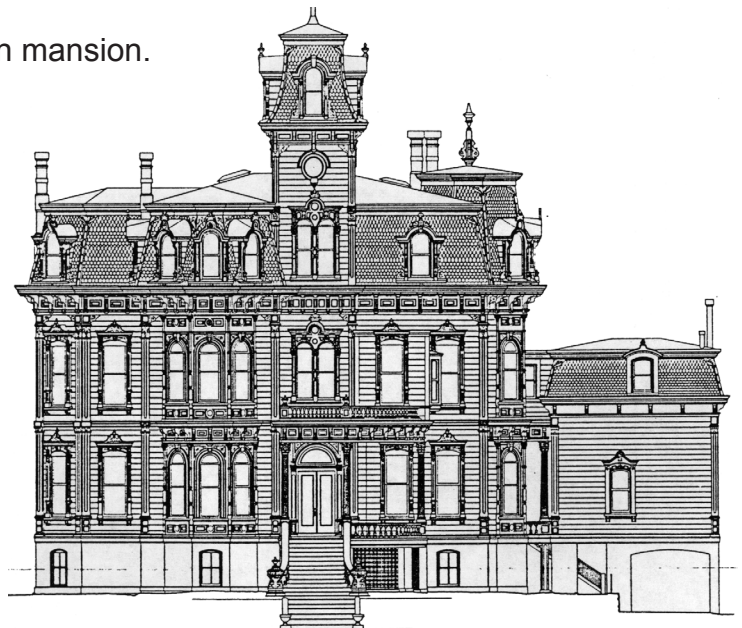
1. What is architecture?

2. When did Victorian architecture become popular in the United States?

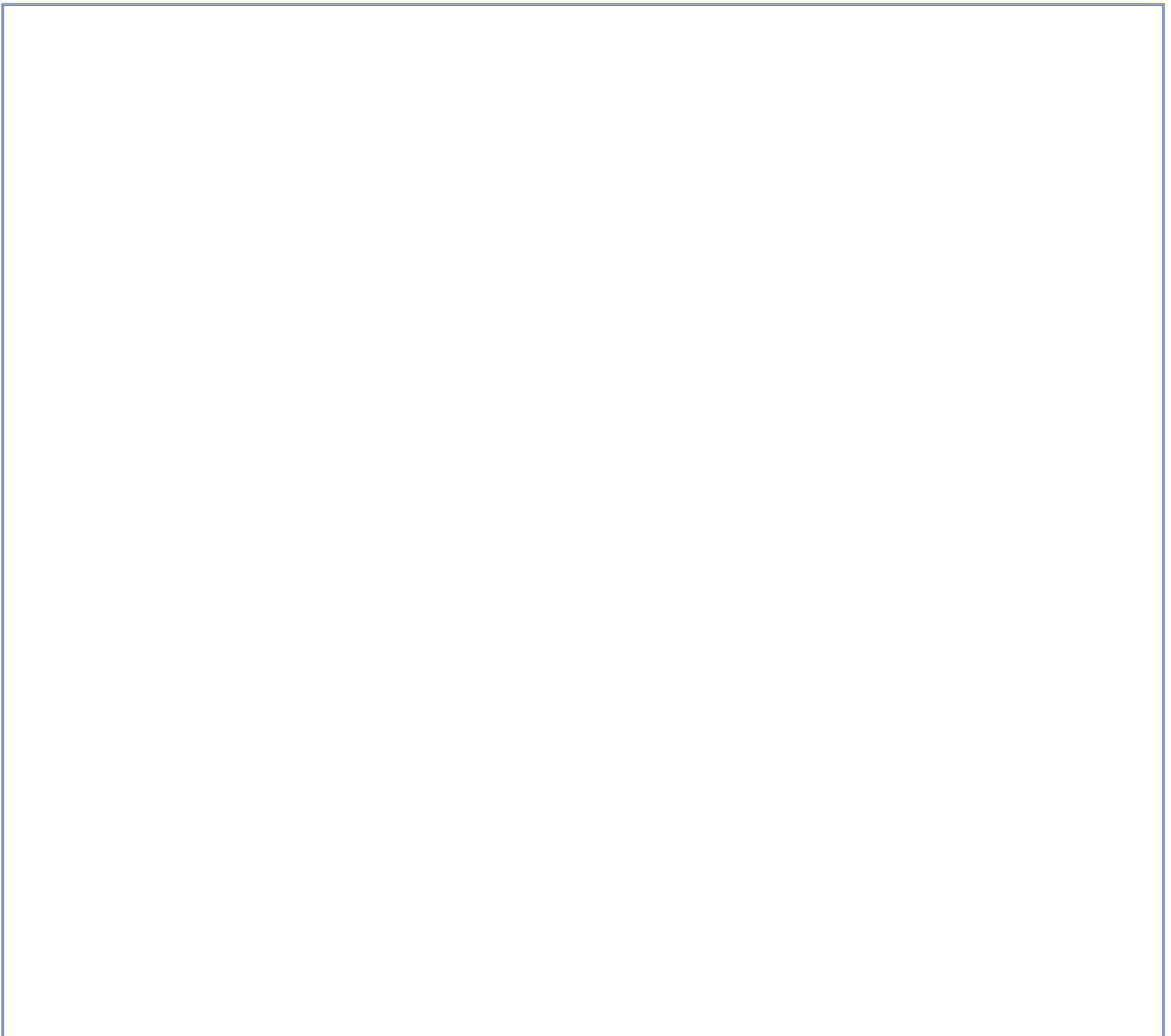
3. Where did Victorian architecture get its name?

4. How were Victorian mansions different from other houses?

5. List at least five typical furnishings in a Victorian mansion.



6. Imagine you are an architect and you are designing a house for an important person or family. Identify that family. Then write a paragraph describing the design of the house and explaining how it would be a symbol of the family's achievements. (Draw a picture of the house in the space below.)



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Governors Mansion Coloring Page



NAME: _____

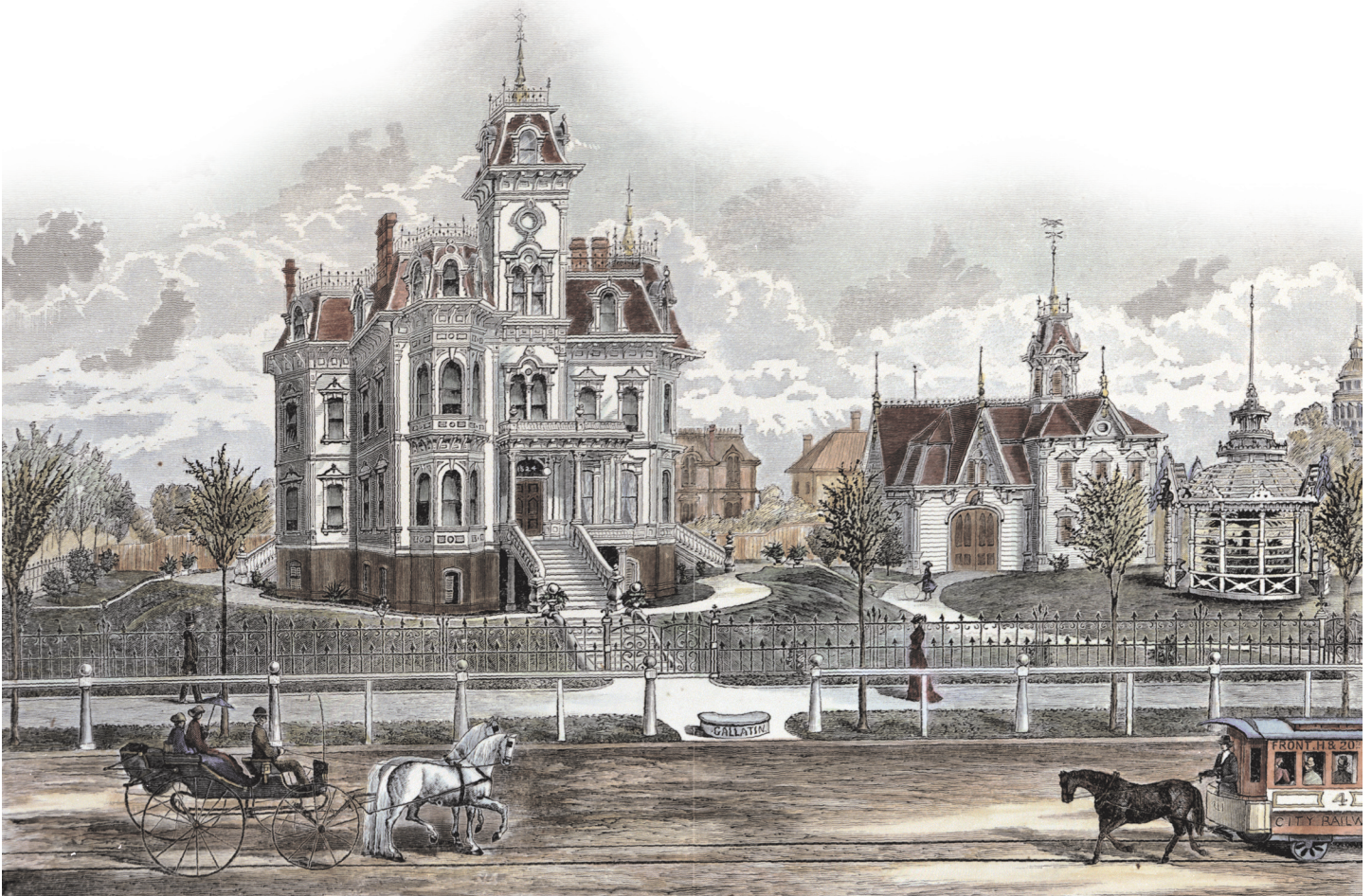
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Outside the Governor's Mansion

Directions: Examine the drawing of the 1877 mansion and complete the following. Write answers in complete sentences.

1. How many stories/floors do you see in the mansion?

2. What kinds of rooms might you find on each floor of the mansion?



3. How many entrances do you see in the drawing? Could there be more entrances? If yes, where?

4. Look to the right of the mansion and notice a small building with a smaller tower. What might be the use of that building?

5. Look further right; there is another structure. What might be its use?

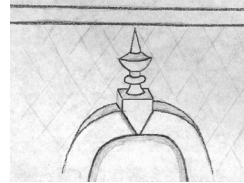
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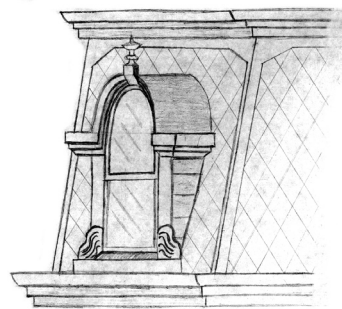
Architectural Features

Directions: Read the definitions of architectural features, and examine the pictures of the features. Draw a line from the definition to the feature it matches.

Newel post—the tall and sometimes fancy carved post at the top or bottom of a stair, holding up the handrail.



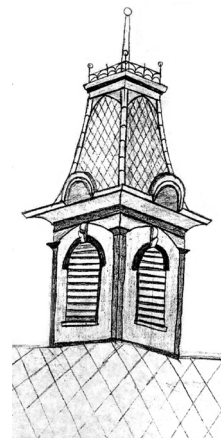
Finial—the decorative part which ends the point of a spire or other item that projects upward.



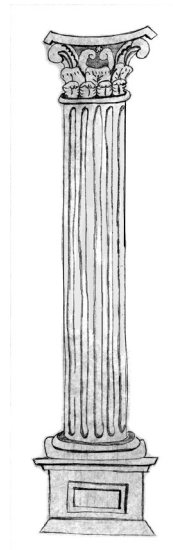
Column—a slender and long structure, usually with a cylindrical shaft, a base, and a top, which is called a capital.



Shingle—a thin unit of wood, slate, tile, concrete or other material used in a series of overlapping rows to cover the roof or side of a house.



Dormer—a window covered with its own roof, which projects from the sloping roof of a house.



Cupola—a small domed structure crowning a roof or tower

