



What is architectural style?

A building's architectural style refers to the appearance of building components, particularly the decorative elements. Looking at features like the design of the trim, the appearance of the columns, and the configuration of the windows are some of the many ways one can determine the architectural style of a historic building. Architectural style can also be a strong indicator of a building's construction date as architectural styles rose and fell in popularity over the years. Furthermore, buildings may have more than one architectural style. Styles are modified as owners over the years modify, add and subtract architectural elements on their buildings.

Architectural style is different than a building's form or type. The type and form of a building tells you the basic shape and layout of the building, such as a shotgun, cottage, center hall, or Acadian house. The style of the building is the decorative appearance, such as Greek Revival, Craftsman, or Queen Anne decorative elements. Architectural styles can also be delineated with the building's structural elements, as in the case of more modern buildings. Stylistic architectural elements can be employed with any building type, regardless of use or size.

A building is considered to be "high style" architecture if it is an ideal example of a particular architectural style, complete with all the key pieces that contribute towards a building's architectural style. These buildings have often been designed by an architect or constructed by a master builder.

Buildings that aren't high style are often called vernacular, meaning they were designed without the involvement of an architect. These buildings typically have the similar features as high style architecture, but may be less elaborate or have only a few of the key components of a style.

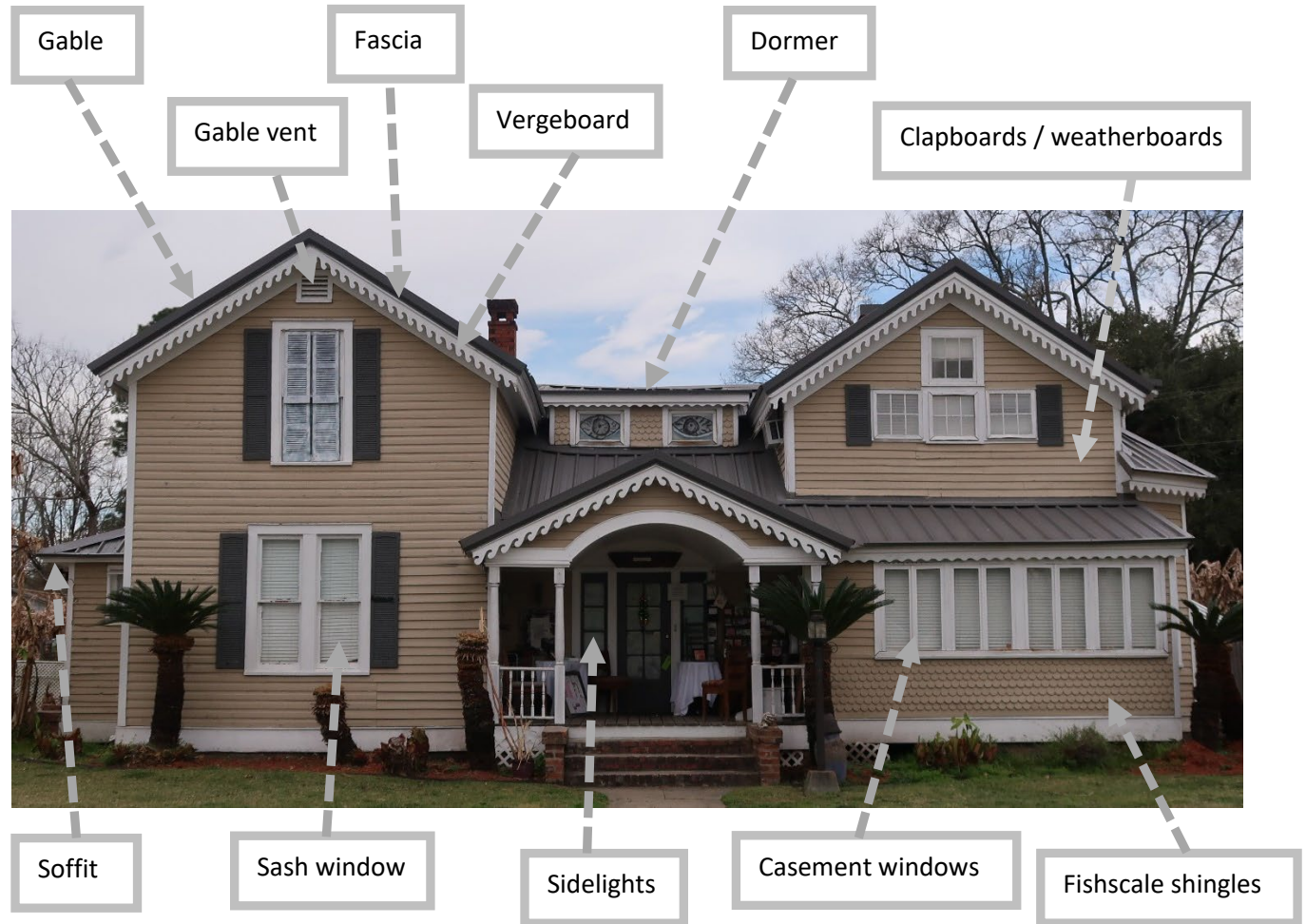
Some buildings may be purely utilitarian in appearance and not have any architectural style at all.

A property owner can ensure a building retains its historic architectural style by preserving the original historic details of the building, such as the windows, porches, and roof shape, the elements that contribute to the historic character of the house and the neighborhood.

The following pages contain a basic visual dictionary of various building components, doors, windows, and porches along with specific information on architectural styles. The architectural styles covered in this guide are found on historic buildings and in historic neighborhoods throughout Lafayette. This list is by no means exhaustive, but rather reflects the more commonly built historic building types..



Typical Historic Building Components





Parts of a door



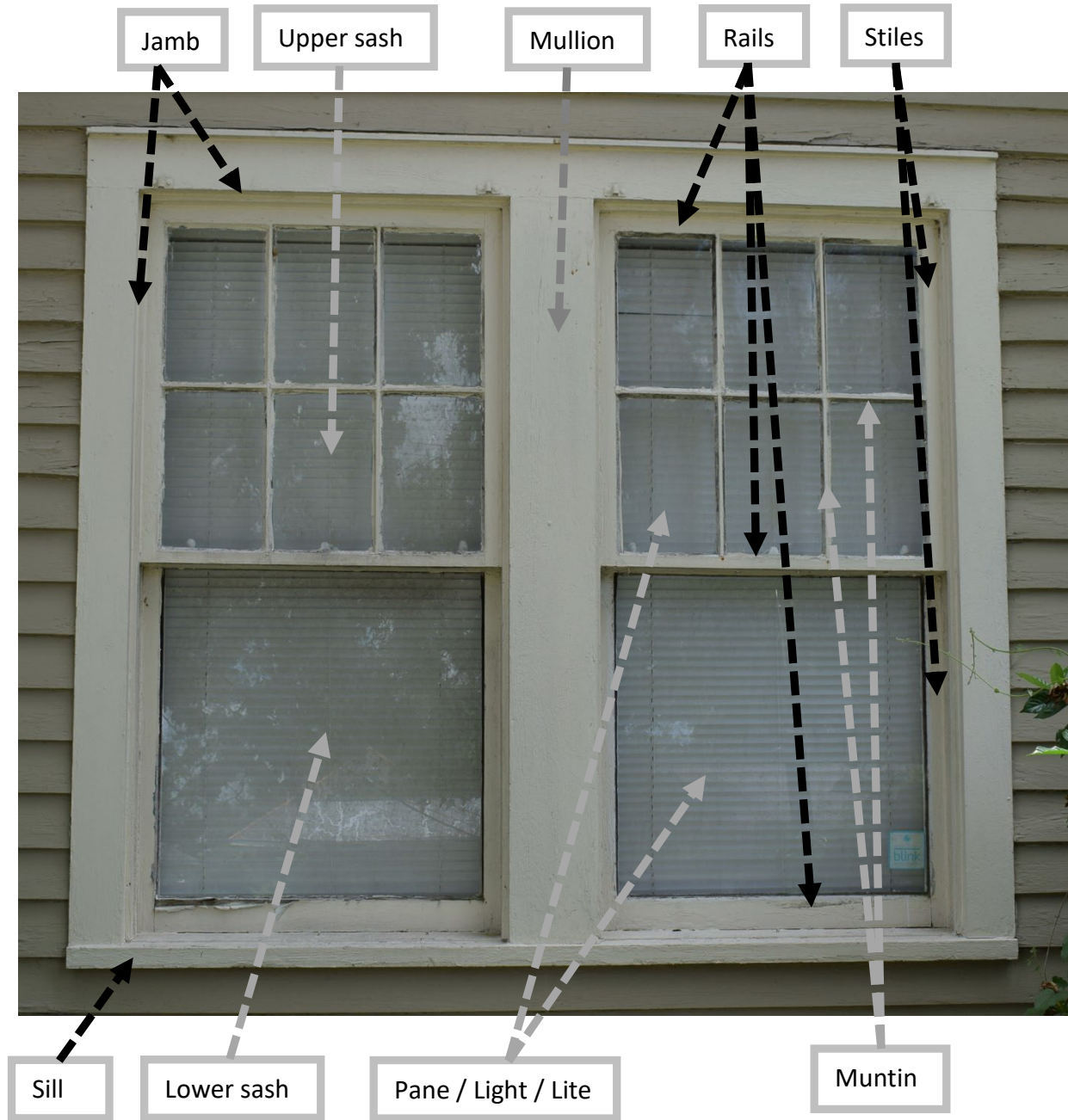


Lafayette Consolidated Government

Lafayette Preservation Commission

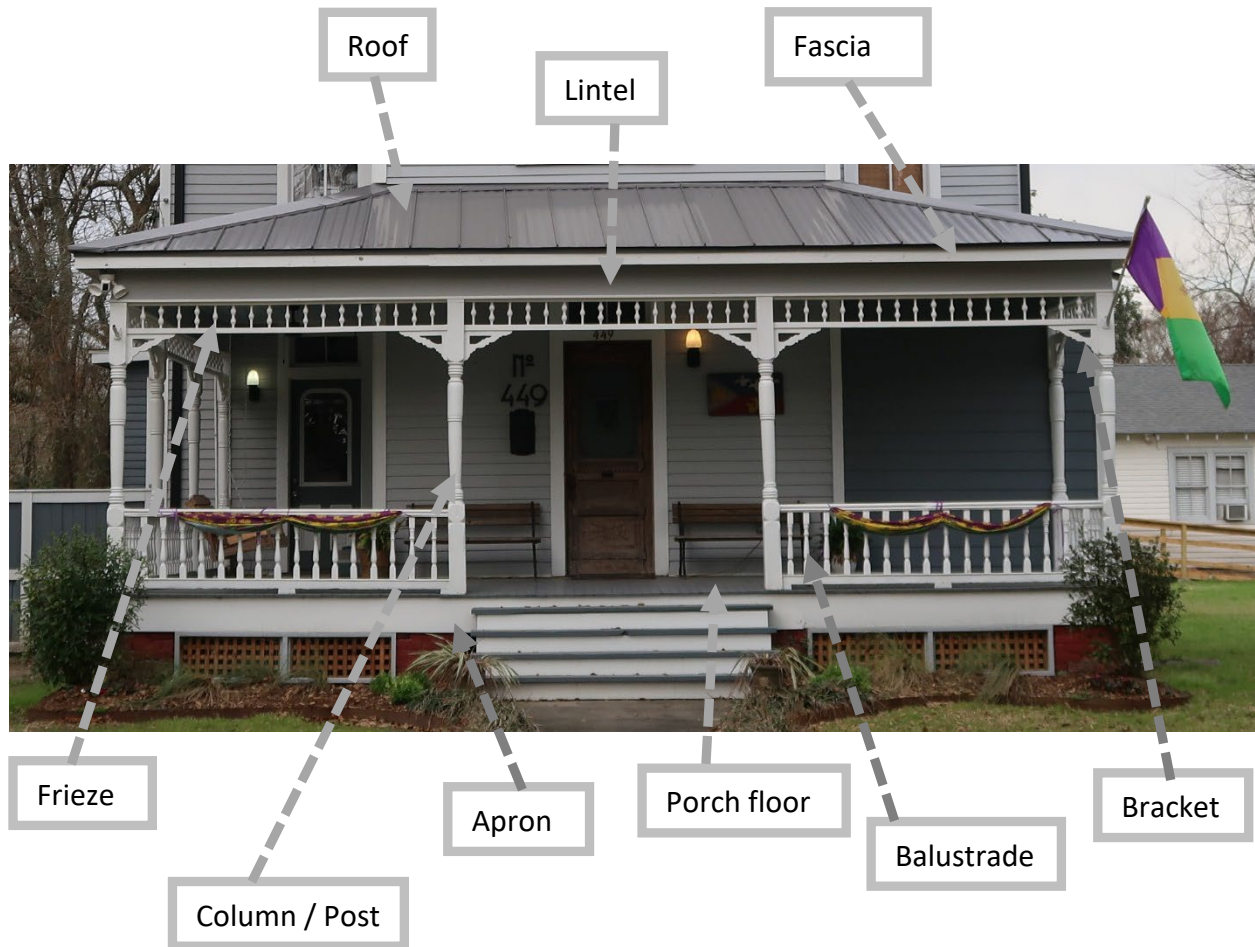
Historic Overlay Design Guidelines Appendix: Architectural Style Guide

Parts of a window





Parts of a porch





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Colonial Revival

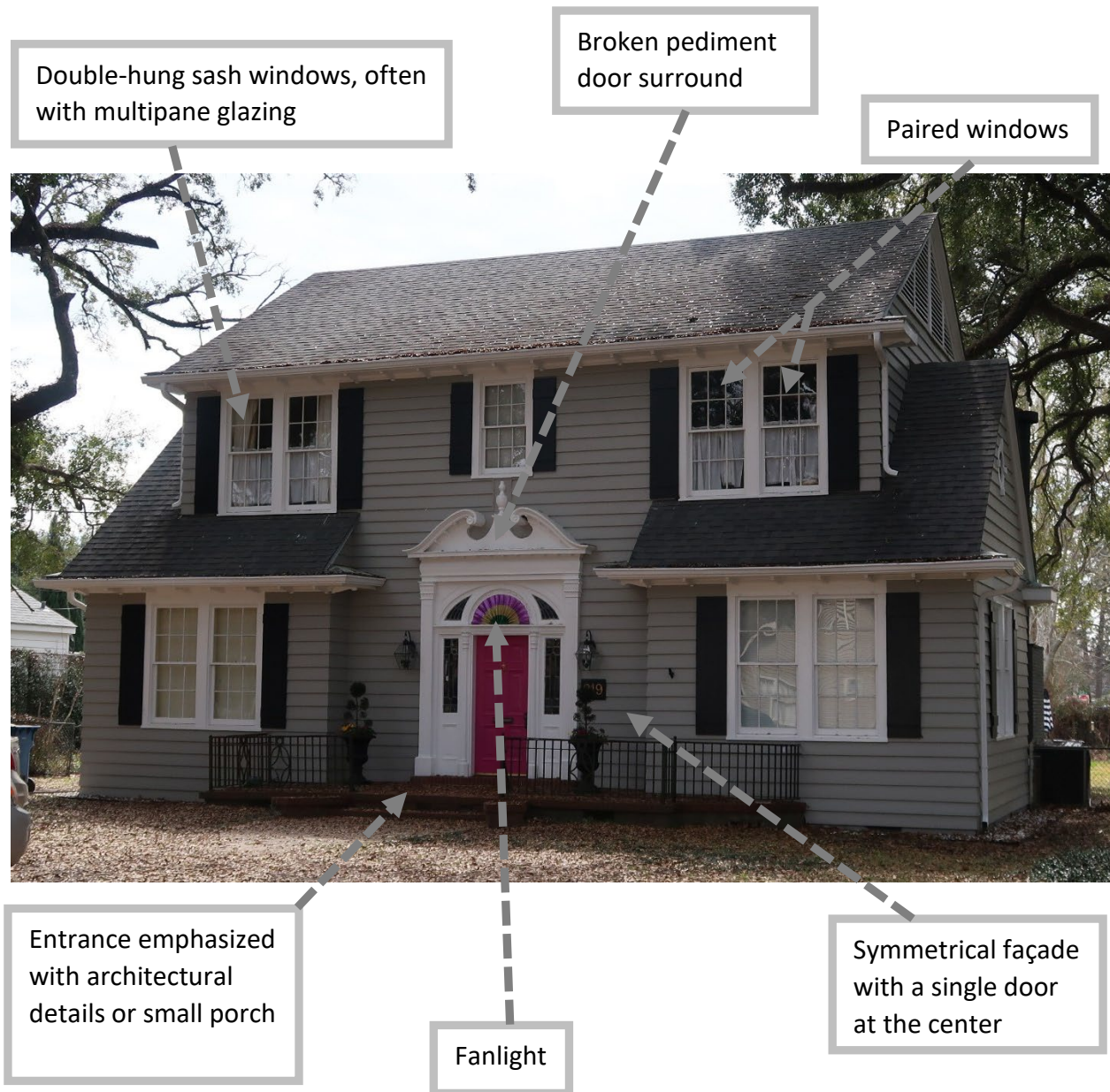
Popular from about 1880 until 1955, the Colonial Revival architectural style embraced the architecture of earlier, colonial-era buildings, particularly those of English and Dutch colonies. Eclipsing the popularity of the Queen Anne style in the late nineteenth century, Colonial Revival architecture became the dominant architectural style for residential buildings in the early twentieth century. Colonial Revival-style historic houses can feature extensive detailing with elaborate entrances referencing high-style Georgian architecture of the eighteenth century all the way to smaller, simpler buildings with steep roofs and symmetrical facades.





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Character-defining features of the Colonial Revival style





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Typical Colonial Revival-style details for doors



Dentil molding

Fanlight

Doric styled columns creating a shallow porch

Wooden doors with paneling

Sidelights with multipane glazing



Decorative door hardware



Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Typical Colonial Revival-style details for windows

Wooden windows

Usually double-hung sash with
multiplane glazing

Crown
molding
trim



Shutters

Decorative hardware,
such as these shutter
dogs



Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Craftsman

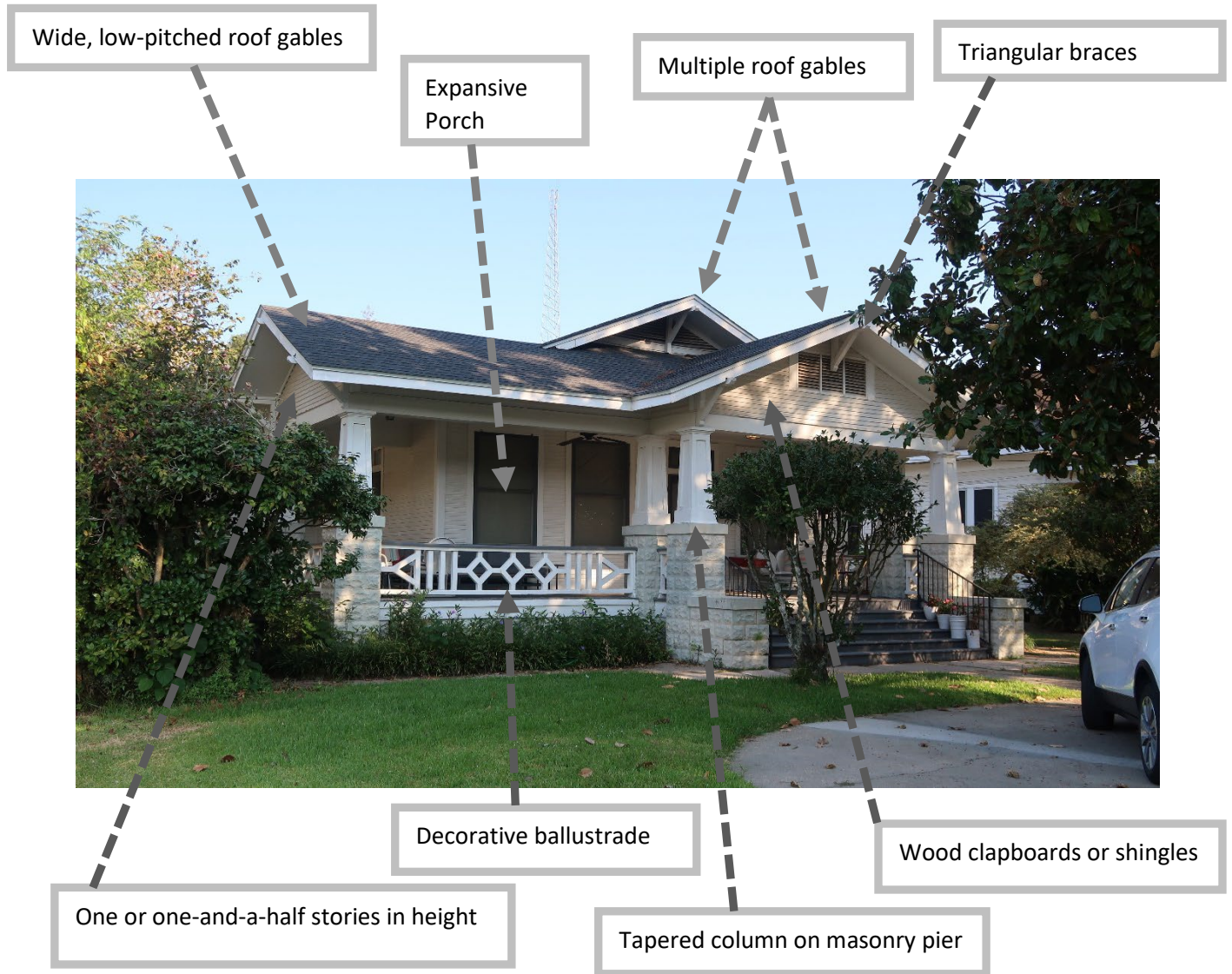
The Craftsman architectural style can be found on buildings constructed between about 1905 and 1930. The architectural style arose out of California before spreading across the United States via pattern books and popular magazines. Influenced by the nineteenth century Arts & Crafts movement that sought to accentuate form rather than added decorative elements, Craftsman designs emphasized architectural simplicity, and the buildings' function. Craftsman-style buildings feature natural materials, such as wood and stucco, and allows the building features to be the ornament, rather than adding ornamentation





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Character-defining features of the Craftsman style





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles



Doors sometimes partially glazed

Dentil shelf

Wood construction



Decorative muntins

Usually sash or casement windows

May have transom and side lights





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Exotic Revival

Starting in the late nineteenth century, architects and builders began to sample from different historic architectural styles for their designs; the resulting buildings could be carbon copies of historical examples or combine these features in new and different ways that resulted in a unique expression of these architectural styles. Popular Exotic Revival architectural styles in Lafayette include Tudor Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Mediterranean Revival. Buildings in these styles were constructed up until about World War II.





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Character-defining features of the Exotic Revival style

Subtype: Tudor Revival



Arched entry

Decorative half timbering
deep window pockets and
stucco exterior

Prominent front gable
and steeply pitched
roof

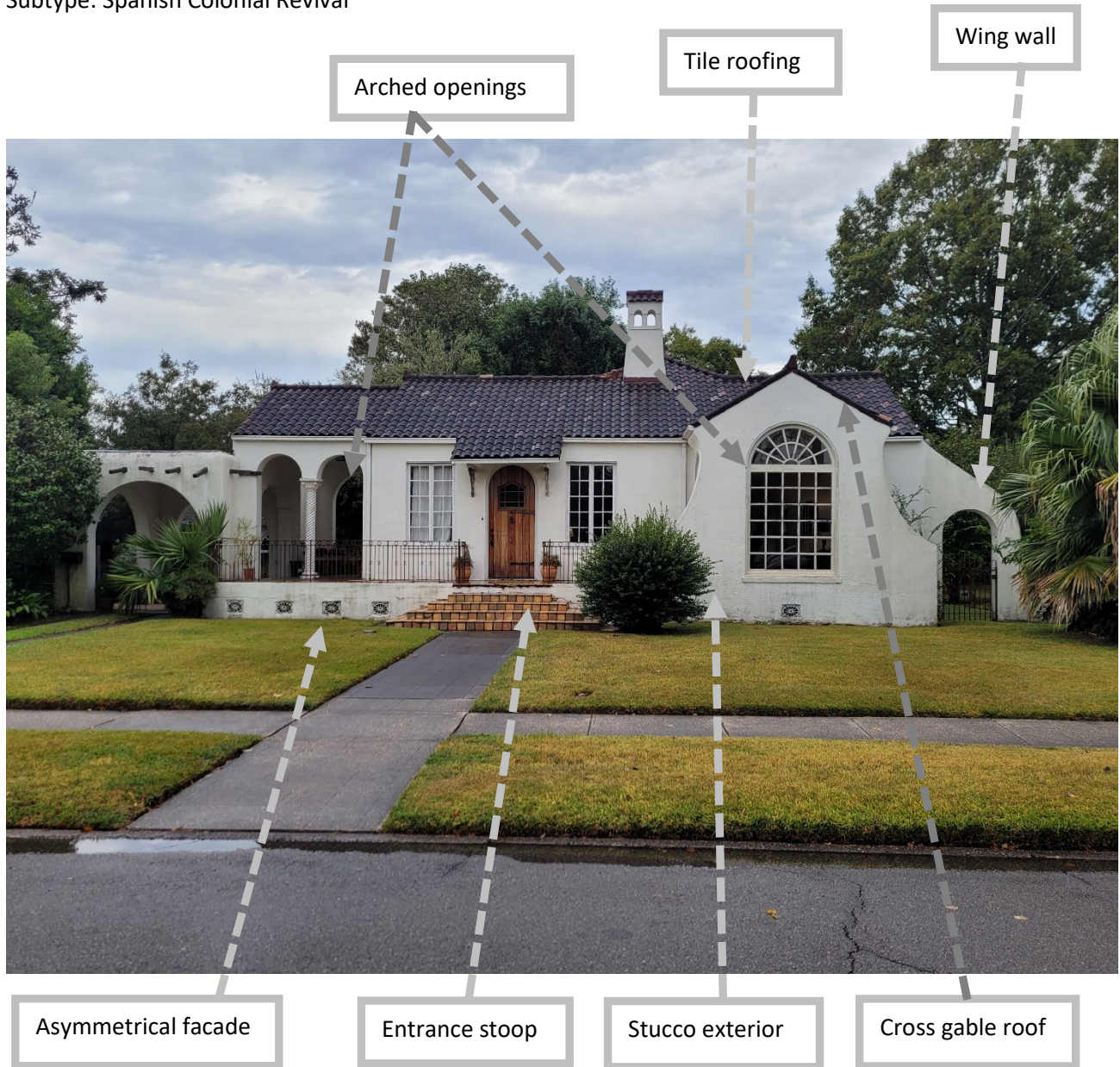
Other characteristics of the Tudor Revival architectural style:

- Prominent chimneys
- Roofs of wood shingles
- Casement windows, often grouped together
- Rolled or flared eaves on the roof
- Wood paneled doors, sometimes with glazing
- Windows may have diamond panes with leaded came strips



Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Subtype: Spanish Colonial Revival



Other characteristics of the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style

- Wood paneled doors, often with partial glazing and decorative metal hardware
- Wood or steel windows, often arched
- Decorative attic vents
- Decorative vigas
- Decorative iron balconies
- Molded architectural details on exterior



Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Greek Revival

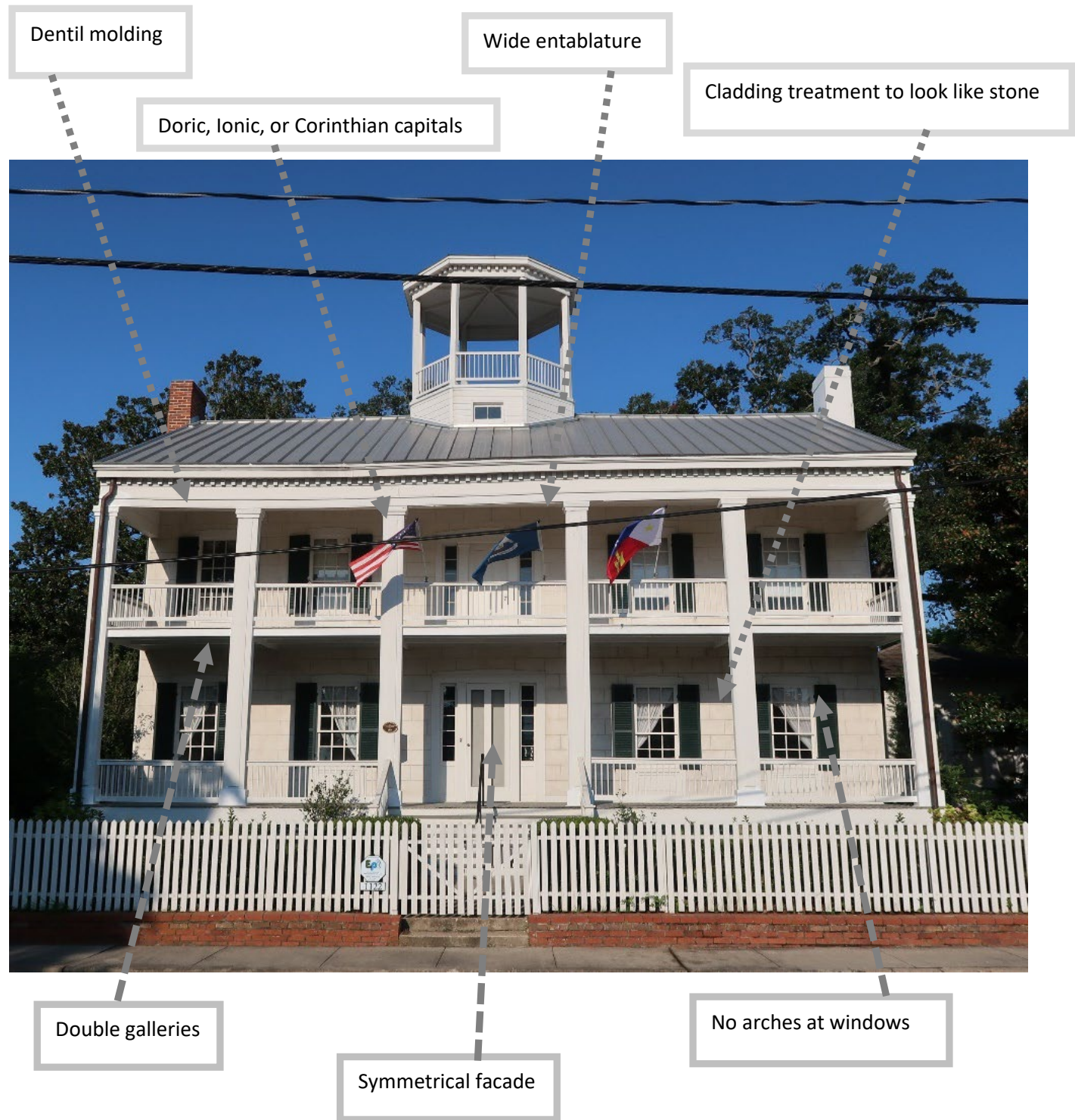
Popular from about 1825 to the 1860s, the Greek Revival architectural style drew on the architecture of the Greek and Romans and applied these features to domestic architecture. The Greek Revival-style plantation home with the porch surrounded by tall columns is often associated with the antebellum South, but Greek Revival-style public buildings were constructed as well. Architects trained in Europe and working in the United States were responsible for spreading the popularity of the style throughout the United States.





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Character-defining features of the Greek Revival style



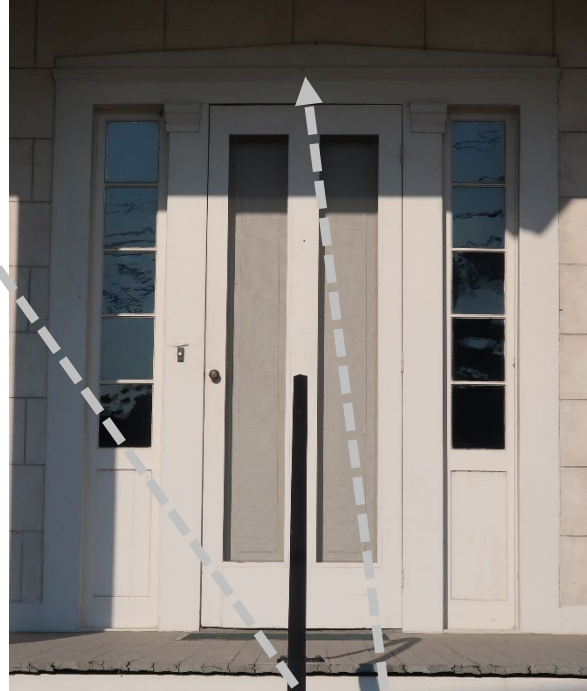


Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Typical Greek Revival-style details



Wood construction



Door and window frames with slight pediment



Multiple paned windows



Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Neoclassical

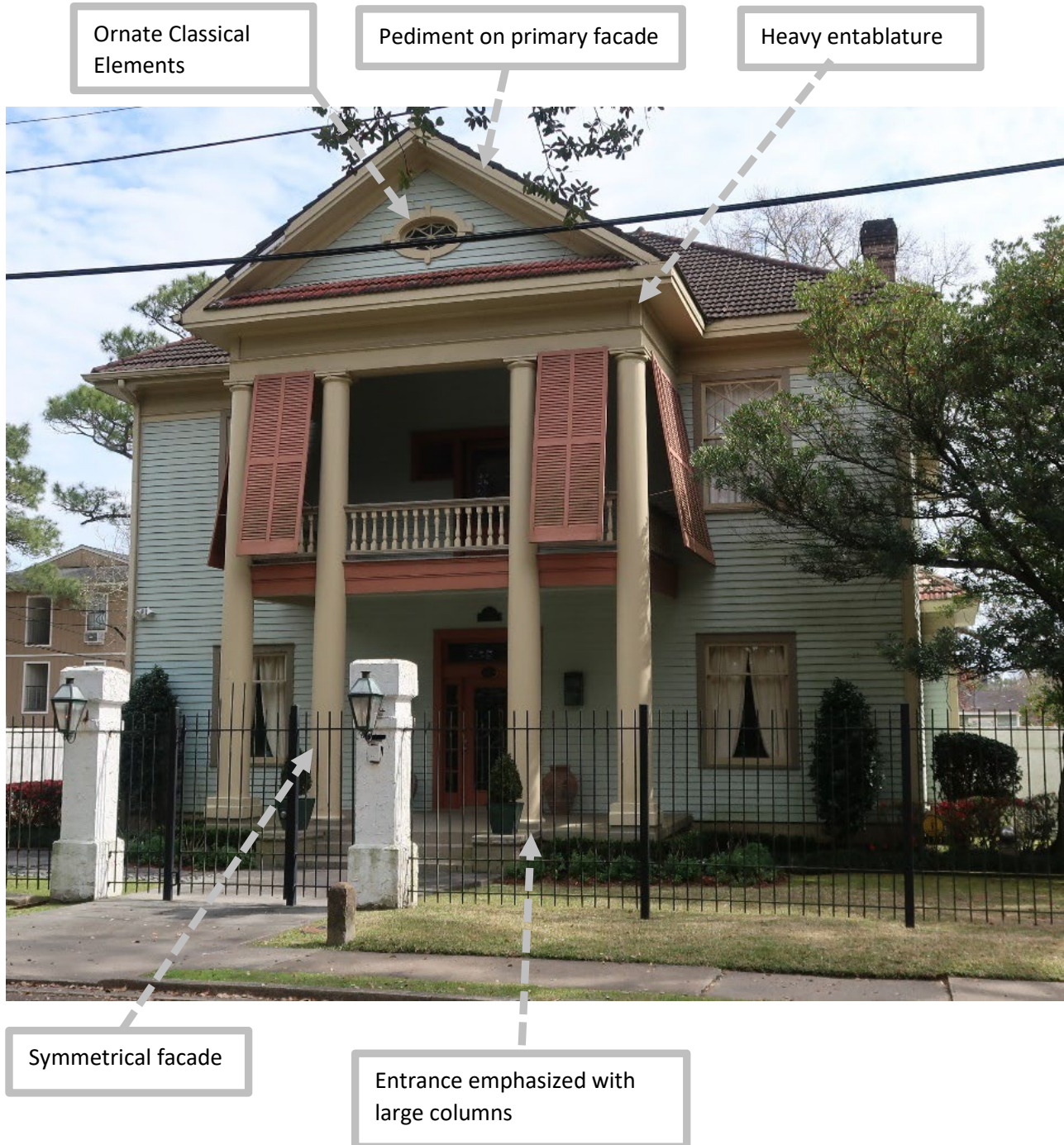
Neoclassical style, popular from about 1895 to 1955, utilizes architectural features drawn from Classical architecture, much like its predecessor, Greek Revival. Unlike Greek Revival, these features in Neoclassical-style buildings often have more elaborate designs, including exaggerated pediments over the windows, low balustrades around the porch, or full height columns framing the main entrance to the house. More ornate than the Colonial Revival style popular around the same time, Neoclassical architecture includes ornamental features, such as garlands and carvings.





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Character-defining features of the Neoclassical style





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Typical Neoclassical style details



Decorative upper sash

Double hung sash windows

Wooden windows

Elaborate door surrounds

Side lights

Wooden paneled door





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Queen Anne

The Queen Anne architectural style was popular from about 1880 to 1910. Despite not being favored by many architects, the Queen Anne style was a favorite of the American public. The designs spread via pattern books and mail order house plans. The characteristic elaborate woodwork was accomplished via new woodworking techniques that provided the distinctive brackets, spindles, and fretwork. A mix of textures and an irregular plan are hallmarks of this style.





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Character-defining features of the Queen Anne style





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Typical Queen Anne style details





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Ranch

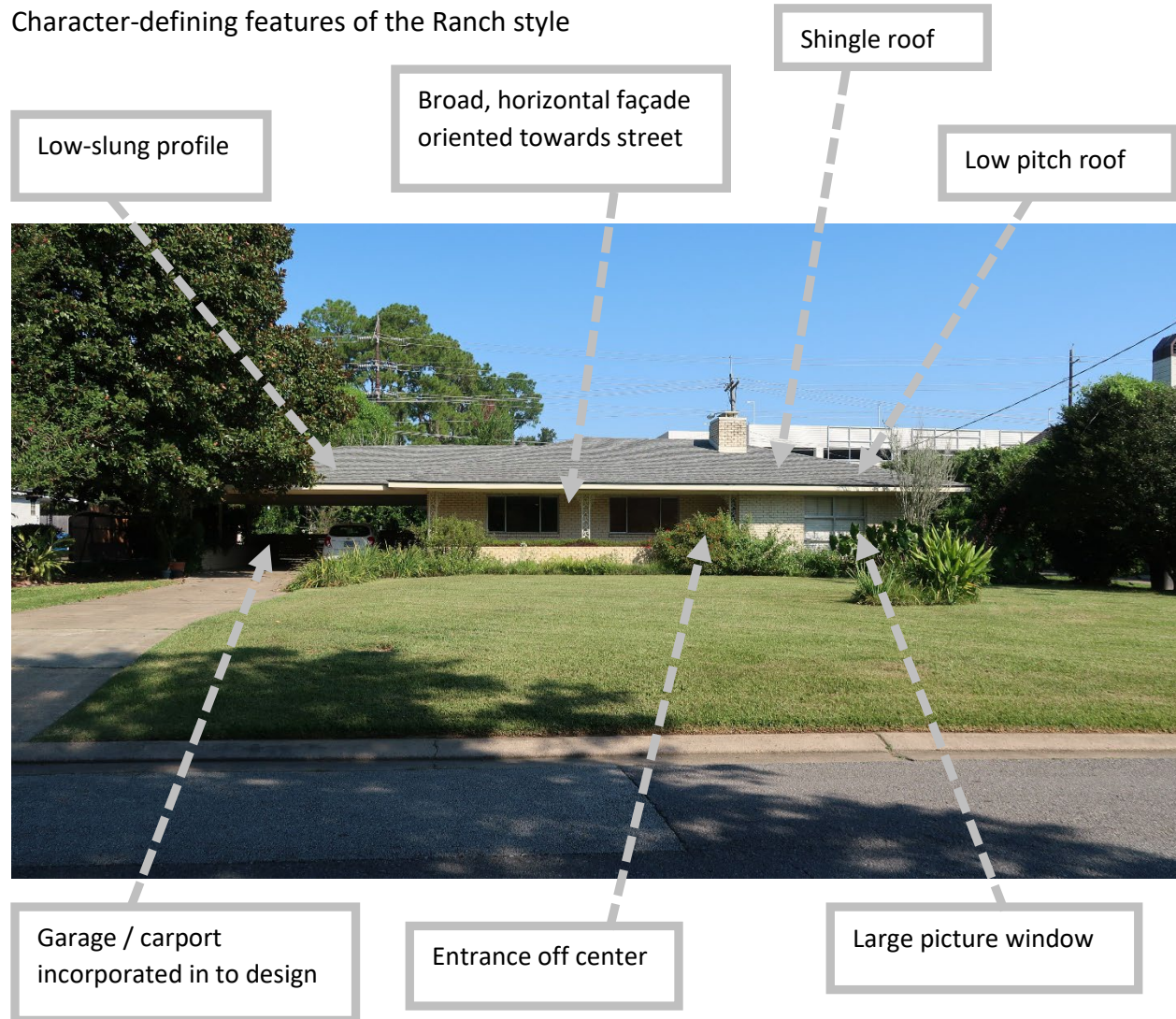
Ranch-style homes were constructed from about 1935 to 1975. Characterized by a low-slung profile and long elevation oriented towards the street, the Ranch style also often incorporates attached garages and hip roofs. The simple architectural style boomed in the post-World War II suburban developments across the United States.





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Character-defining features of the Ranch style





Historic District Design Guidelines Appendix: Historic Architectural Styles

Typical Ranch style details

