ITALIANATE (ca.1840-1885)

The Italianate Style was a free and highly romanticized interpretation of the villas of Tuscany, Umbria, and Lombardy and incorporates elements of Roman or Italian classical decoration, characterized by straight rooflines, bracketed cornices and picturesque asymmetry The first Italianate houses in the United States were constructed in the late 1830s, popularized by the influential pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing which were published in the 1840s and 1850s. Italian styling, along with the related French Second Empire style, dominated urban housing in the United States between 1850 and 1880. Most of the earliest town houses in San Francisco were constructed in wood in the Italianate style during this period. In Arcata, this style was interpreted in two-story houses with a hipped roof, bracketed cornice and window hoods. Stacked bays, with windows paired or grouped with round arches, were decorated with brackets and colonettes. Entrances are sheltered by ornamented stoops with paneled single or double doors.

Character-Defining Features

- Typically two or three stories, rarely one story, three or five ranked facade
- Square or rectangular, a simple hipped roof, or L- shaped asymmetrical cross-hipped or cross gabled with no towers
- Low pitched roof, widely overhanging eaves with large decorative brackets on a deep trim band
- Tall narrow windows, arched or curved above with crowns, usually inverted U shape, paired and triple windows, bay windows with brackets and colonettes
- Small entry porches, square posts with corners beveled
- Paired or single doors, large pane glazing elaborately enframed.
- Square central cupola or tower, with a mansard or low pitched hipped roof