

SETTLEMENT ERA

Settlement period houses in the Humboldt Bay Region are recognizable examples of these simple and straightforward American Folk or Vernacular forms with the unadorned classic lines of the Greek Revival Style. Although two story houses were typical of New England, most of the houses constructed locally were no more than one and one half stories. Basements were uncommon but raised foundations were a practical measure and accommodation to a landscape of wetlands, sloughs and creeks.

General Characteristics of Settlement Era houses

- Majority, front facing gables.
- One and one half story buildings
- Off-centered front doors, transoms and sidelights
- Open verandas supported by four thin posts
- 12 pane windows, narrow window shelves and sills
- Unadorned moldings, plain frieze with end boards
- Houses constructed prior to 1870 covered with clapboard siding
- Houses constructed after 1870 covered with shiplap siding, cove-rustic or v-rustic

Folk House Forms

Local architectural forms were based on the Eastern folk traditions, including folk forms that remained popular for more than a century. These included:

- **Gable Front**
- **Gable Front and Wing**
- **Hall and Parlor**
- **Massed Plan or Side Gabled**
- **Pyramid**^{1 2}

In the late 19th century the **Bungalow**, derived from traditional Indian folk houses and adapted by British colonials, introduced a new form that is still popular more than a century later.

¹ Van Kirk, Susie, *Reflections of Arcata's History: Eighty Years of Architecture*, Bug Press, Arcata, Ca. 1979.

² Ennals, Peter and Deryck Holdsworth, "Vernacular Architecture and the Cultural Landscape of the Maritime Provinces-A Reconnaissance," *Acadiensis*, Vol. X, No. 2 Spring/Printemps 1981.p.92

FRONT GABLE

The Front Gable in the Victorian era is typically defined by the presence of detailing on a full façade porch. In the South, the result was the Shotgun form which was one room wide. The Greek revival movement had adopted the Front Gable form with a pedimented gable that resembled the façade of a Greek temple. Local examples were one and one half story Front Gables with an ornamented porch, featuring spindlework or flat jigsaw trim.

Locally, the **Front-Gabled house** is typically one-and-a-half stories. The roof of the open porch is supported by posts, sometimes split, which extend across the front. The front door is off-center, and may include sidelights and a transom, with two windows in the lower level and one or two in the gable above. Settlement Period houses have multi-paned windows, and those built prior to 1880 are six panes over six panes (6/6) with 2/2 windows in those built in the 1880's. Siding prior to 1870 is typically clapboard, while shiplap is more commonly used after that date. There is little ornamentation other than corner boards, a plain frieze and cornice returns. A one-story rear addition is common.

Characteristics of the Form

- One and one half stories
- Off centered front doors
- Transoms and skylights
- Twelve pane windows, six small panes above and six below, prior to 1880
- Open verandas supported by four thin posts, or paired posts
- Unadorned moldings



SIDE GABLE HOUSE or MASSED PLAN, ONE OR TWO STORY

In the one or two story Side-Gable House or Massed Plan, the gable ends face to the side. The façade is symmetrical with a center entry door flanked by single or paired windows. The Massed Plan refers to house forms which are more than one room deep. Most of the two story examples are “I”-houses, linear buildings to which Victorian detailing has been added. This type of house, in both one and two story forms, is commonly found all over the country. A gable or dormer centered above the entry is typical locally, with only a front



stoop or an open porch across the width of the house. In keeping with its Maritime origins, the wooden siding is commonly shiplap. , Windows may be 2/2 or 1/1. The ornamentation is plain with corner boards and cornice returns and the cornice either plain or lined with brackets

Characteristics of the Form

- Symmetrical façade, center entry door flanked by single or paired windows
- Gable or dormer centered above door
- Full width open porch or front stoop with canopy
- Shiplap siding
- Corner boards, cornice returns are plain or lined with brackets.

REGIONAL SUB TYPES

In the **Massed Plan** form, the house is two rooms wide and two rooms deep.

The **I-House** form is a two story version that is two rooms wide and one room deep.

The **Hall and Parlor** is a simple side gabled building, two rooms wide and one room deep and typically one story. This form derives from a traditional British type that was popular in New Brunswick well into the twentieth century. A central porch and stairway divided the all purpose “hall” from the “parlor” which was for cooking and eating, with a sleeping area above. When expanded by a front porch or stoop, and a rear addition it became a common folk style in the United States. Principal variations involve differing chimney placements, porch sizes and roof shapes, and different types of rear extensions.

UPRIGHT AND WING or GABLE FRONT AND WING

The Upright-And-Wing form originated in New England and combines a front-facing gable with a side-facing-gabled wing. The formal entrance is always in the wing, which frequently features an ornamented porch or stoop, with either a separate roof or as an extension of the roofline of the wing. There may be a secondary entrance in the upright section. Known locally as the Gable Front and Wing, this style typically combines a one-and-a-half story upright front-gable with a one story side-gable wing. Corner boards, cornice

returns, window shelves, shiplap siding, and 2/2 or 1/1 windows are common. Decoration includes a cornice and window brackets with ornamentation on porches and stoops.



Characteristics of the Form

- One, one and one half or two story variations
- Porch across the façade of the wing, or a covered stoop, with ornamentation
- Corner boards, cornice returns, cornice and window brackets
- Two over two or one over one windows common.
- Lapped siding

PYRAMID

Massed plan folk houses of square shape are commonly built with pyramidal or hipped roofs. These require more complex roof framing but need fewer long spanning rafters, and are less expensive to build. The Pyramidal form folk form endured in popularity well into the 20th century as embodied in the Prairie Style and the Minimal Traditional Style. Locally, this form can be seen in three types of houses, the single story Hipped Cottage and a larger version which has been called the American Foursquare, and the Gable on Hip or Gablet.

Characteristics of the Form

- One to two and a half stories
- Boxy, cubic shape one to two and one half stories
- Pyramidal, hipped roof sometimes truncated, often with wide eaves
- Large single light windows in front, otherwise double hung
- Centered or offset front entry
- Symmetrical facade



REGIONAL SUB TYPES

The **American Foursquare** was popular between 1890 and about 1935. The name derives from its shape and a floor plan which is divided into quarters on each floor. After 1900, it replaced the I-house as a popular form for both rural settings and small city lots. These were one and one half to two- to two-and-a-half-story homes, economical to build and pleasing in their simplicity. The Foursquare had a low pitched, hipped roof with a deep over hang, a full width porch, and hipped central dormer. This form was very adaptable and often incorporated design elements from contemporary styles. Locally this was found in residential districts and in company provided housing.



Characteristics of the Form

- Large central dormer
- Full width front porch with columnar supports and wide stairs

The **Hipped Cottage**, locally known as the **Hipped-Roof Box**, is a smaller version of the Pyramidal form with only one story. This small house featured a hipped roof, a central entrance, and undivided two-sash windows and was devoid of decoration. In this form it was popular locally for both working class neighborhoods and company provided housing. A slightly more upscale version added paired bays with pediments, joined by a roof across the entrance

Characteristics of the Form.

- Canopy or hood over front stoop
- Devoid of decoration.
- Paired pedimented Bays, joined by roof



The **Gable on Hip**, locally known as the **Gablet Cottage**, featured Queen Anne details in a pedimented gable above the cutaway bay, porch decoration and a gable-on-hip roofline. These cottages are generally one-story, with 1/1 windows, artistic window borders of colored glass and shiplap siding.

Characteristics of the Form

- Pedimented gable, slant bay window
- Cutaway porch, Queen Ann Style ornamentation
- Colored glass, single light door
- Gable on hipped roof

