

# ITALIANATE

## 1860 - 1880s



Like many Victorian-era styles, Italianate emphasized vertical proportions and richly decorative detailing. It was found on residential, commercial, and industrial structures in America from about 1870 up until the turn of the century.

Italianate is characterized by a low pitched hip roof, wide overhangs, bracketed cornice, a variety of fenestration (usually very tall, narrow, double-hung, one-over-one windows), molded window surrounds, and occasionally a cupola or balustrade balcony. Simple Italianate structures have a hip roof, bracketed eaves, and molded window surrounds. A more elaborate or high style example may feature arcaded porches, corner quoins, towers, and ornate detailing.

There are also some Italianate structures that are flat roofed, with a front bay and entrance, and a decorated cornice.

Some of Ontario's commercial buildings were originally designed with Italianate elements. While not typically built in Ontario, the Italianate style is easily compatible with Ontario's historic neighborhoods.

### COMMON FEATURES

- Low-pitched or flat roof
- Wide, overhanging eaves
- Decorative paired brackets and cornices
- Square cupola
- Wood frame
- Arcade porch topped with balustraded balconies
- Rectangular massing of house
- Elaborately decoration
- Balanced, symmetrical façade
- Emphasis on vertical proportions: 2 to 4 stories
- Tall, narrow, double-paned windows with hood moldings
- Side bay window
- Heavily molded double doors
- Roman or segmented arches above windows and doors

### WINDOWS

Windows were typically tall and narrow, double or single-hung windows with wood frames.

### DOORS

Doors were typically carved wood, or other ornate wood doors. Doors were also stained.

### COLORS

Homes were typically painted a light color with a second trim color. Sometime a third color was used on the window frames.

