

Victorian Eclectic—1880s through 1900



Victorian Eclectic structures are highly decorative and exhibit stylistic influences so numerous that they do not fit into any of the previous single styles of architecture. Dating from the 1870s through 1900, these buildings feature an unusual combination of elements from a variety of Victorian styles. Details from the Queen Anne, Gothic, and Italianate styles were borrowed most often, and were combined to create highly decorative building features, as shown to the left. Victorian Eclectic structures tend to be broader and taller than earlier architectural styles, and much more complex. This style, while needed to address local vernacular architecture, is not an approved

architectural style by the California Office of Historic Preservation and cannot be used in Historical Resource Surveys.

Some early examples of the Victorian Eclectic style exist in Ontario. This style was also adapted into a variation of a bungalow, and was often called a Folk Victorian, due to its more whimsical architectural details.

Common Features

- Square, symmetrical shape
- Brackets under the eaves
- Pediments
- Gothic pointed arches
- Sunburst detailing
- Roof cresting
- Semi-circular arched windows
- Oriel window
- Dormers
- Porches with spindle work or flat, jigsaw cut trim
- Carpenter gothic details
- Low-pitched, pyramid shaped roof
- Front gable and side wings



Example of the Victorian Eclectic Style

Windows

Windows were typically individual casement, or single-hung windows with wood frames. On some occasions, metal frames were used to replicate the ironwork used on other details in the house

Doors

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

Colors

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