

## **GREEK REVIVAL c. 1820 – 1860**

Brunswick has many superb examples of the Greek Revival style. When Maine achieved statehood in 1820, Greek Revival was achieving great popularity in America and quickly became the predominant choice for all building types in Maine, including civic and religious buildings, retail blocks, and residences – from the most modest farmhouse to the grandest mansion. The Greek Revival buildings dominated the architectural scene from 1835 – 1850. The popularity of the style wound down with the beginning of the Civil War in the 1860s. The inspiration for this style was the Grecian temple.

The examples in Brunswick are frame construction with wood clapboard exterior and a gable roof. A great number of the Greek Revival houses in Brunswick are oriented with the gable end facing the street. A triangular pediment in the gable end, which rests on a wide entablature, distinguishes a Greek Revival house. The corners of the building are finished with wide pilasters, or corner boards. The pilasters may be simple boards, or paneled, and may be repeated across the front façade to suggest a temple colonnade. Typically, there is an ell extending off the side or rear of the main building.

As in any building, windows are significant features. Greek Revival windows are similar to the Federal style in that they are typically wood double-hung sash with six panes in each sash. In late Greek Revival buildings, the windows may be two-over-two. Overall, Greek Revival windows are larger with bolder muntins. Larger pane sizes were possible due to technological developments in the manufacture of glass. Some Greek Revival houses have triple-hung windows particularly on the first floor in the parlor.

Entrances of Greek Revival houses typically have a bold door surround with a narrow band of rectangular windows on the top and sides of the door. There are a few examples that have a recessed entry marked with bold columns. The columns are often capped with Ionic or Doric capitals.

An important difference between Federal and Greek Revival is the change in the location of the entrance, which moved from the side gable elevation to the gable end of the house. Also, a Greek Revival entrance is not always centered on the façade.



*Above:* Greek Revival capes are found throughout the district. The cape form is typically positioned with the side of the house facing the road. This house is located on Franklin Street.

*Right:* This doorway represents a common Greek Revival configuration. The strong geometric forms of squares and rectangles are common stylistic features.



**Greek Revival Defining Features:**

Gable end facing the street, although sometimes houses are positioned with the side towards the street

Bold yet simple cornice board defining the gable end

Corner pilasters, which often have raised or recessed panels

Main entry is marked with a rectangular door surround and rectangular sidelights; bold Greek motifs, such as a Greek key or fret pattern, can be found on some door surrounds

Main entry door is recessed

