

ITALIANATE c. 1840 – 1880

The Italianate style was a romanticized interpretation of the Italian villa form. The style became popular in America in the 1840s and 1850s. The influential books of the architect Alexander Jackson Davis and the landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing furthered the style's widespread acceptance in this country. The style was easily applied to numerous building types and forms. Due to the Industrial Revolution, an increasing number of building elements were readily available to property owners. The mass production of details made them affordable, thus it was possible for more people to add architectural ornament to an existing or new house.

In Brunswick, there are several examples of houses with an earlier date of construction that appear to have been updated with Italianate features. Common alterations include adding brackets along the roof edge, constructing a small pediment supported by brackets over the main entry, and the conversion of window openings to bay windows.

The Italianate house form can be either symmetrical or asymmetrical. Decorative brackets (single or grouped in pairs) are used extensively, particularly at the following locations:

- Roof edge
- Entry pediment
- Bay windows
- Window lintels
- Towers
- Porches.

Both windows and doors are often tall and narrow and may be grouped in pairs. Sometimes openings have round or segmented tops. Bay windows are also common. Corner pilasters topped with elaborately carved brackets are also common. In some instances, wood quoins (woodwork that is cut to resemble stone) are used at the corners of a building. Paint colors were often earth tones with contrasting colors on the details.



Upper Left: Paired windows with a simple decorative hood supported by small brackets is a common Italianate detail.



Lower Left: The bold profile on the hood and surround of this window represent another common Italianate characteristic.



Left: This porch has several key Italianate elements, including paired brackets, double doors with arched glass panels, and paired porch columns.

Right: This elaborately carved bracket is supporting an entry pediment. This feature is found on numerous buildings throughout the district.

The dropped pendant is a detail frequently found on this type of bracket.



Italianate Defining Features:

- Hipped roof
- Deep eaves
- Decorative hoods over windows
- Bay window
- Double doors

