

## **SECOND EMPIRE c. 1860 - 1885**

Second Empire, like Queen Anne and Stick, falls within the Victorian era and was popular during the second half of the nineteenth-century. Brunswick has a small collection of Second Empire buildings and most of these are modest examples of the style. Unlike some of the other revival styles of the late 1800s, Second Empire was considered modern because it was imitating the latest French architectural style. The term “Second Empire” refers to the reign of Napoleon III.

The primary defining characteristic of Second Empire is the mansard roof with dormer windows. The roof form became popular because it created a functional full height attic space. It was not uncommon to see the roof of an existing house converted to a mansard form in order to gain additional useable space. Dormers often have elaborate hoods or decorative surrounds. Additional character-defining details include molded cornices at the top and bottom of the roof slope, and decorative brackets at the eaves.

---



### **Second Empire Defining Features:**

- Mansard roof. Note slight flare at base of roof.
- Hooded dormers.
- Heavy molding at top and bottom of roof slope.

