



George Walton Apartment building from a ca. 1930s postcard.

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## Glossary

**ADDITION.** A new part such as a wing, ell, or porch added to an existing building or structure.

**ALLIGATORING.** (slang) A condition of paint that occurs when the layers crack in a pattern that resembles the skin of an alligator.

**ALTERATION.** A visible change to the exterior of a building or structure.

**BALUSTER.** One of the vertical members contained within a railing. Often balusters are found in pairs at each stair tread. They are usually turned pieces of wood.

**BALUSTRADE.** A railing or parapet supported by a row of short pillars or balusters.

**BARGEBOARD.** The decorative board along the roof edge of a gable concealing the rafters.

**BATTEN.** The vertical member which is located at the seam between two adjoining pieces of wood, often used in exterior wood siding and doors.

**BATTERED PIER.** A pier which tapers from the bottom up so that the top dimension is smaller than the bottom dimension. These are often used with the Craftsman style.

**BAY.** A part of a structure defined by vertical divisions such as adjacent columns or piers.

**BAY WINDOW.** Fenestration projecting from an exterior wall surface and often forming a recess in the interior space.

**BELT COURSE.** See **STRING COURSE.**

**BOLLARD.** A freestanding post to obstruct or direct traffic.

**BOND.** The arrangement of bricks (headers and stretchers) within a wall.

**BRACKET.** A wooden or stone decorative support beneath a projecting floor, window, or cornice.

**BROKEN PEDIMENT.** A pediment where the sloping sides do not meet at the apex but instead return, creating an opening that sometimes contains an ornamental vase or similar form on a pedestal.

**BULKHEAD.** In commercial buildings the structural supporting wall under the display windows of a storefront. Bulkheads are often paneled and are usually constructed of wood.

**CAME.** The soft division piece which is located at the seams in glass in either a stained glass or leaded glass window.

**CAPITAL.** The upper portion of a column or pilaster.

**CASEMENT WINDOW.** Windows which are hinged at the side and open outwards. Often these have multiple window panes.

**CAULKING.** A non-hardening putty used to seal the joint at an intersection of two different materials.

**CLAPBOARD.** Horizontally laid wooded boards which taper from the bottom to the top.

**CLASSICAL.** Pertaining to the architecture of Greece and Rome, or to the styles inspired by this architecture.

## Glossary

**CLIPPED GABLE ROOF.** A roof type in which the gable ends are cut back at the peaks and a small roof section is added to create an abbreviated hipped form.

**COBRA-HEAD LIGHT FIXTURE.** A commonly used street light fixture in which the luminaire is supported from a simple, curved metal arm.

**COLUMN.** A vertical support, usually supporting a member above.

**COMPLEX ROOF.** A roof that is a combination of hipped and gable forms and may contain turrets or towers. The majority of these occur on Queen Anne style houses.

**CONCRETE MASONRY.** A combination of cement, water, and aggregate which is poured while a liquid into a form and later hardens.

**COPING.** The top course of a wall which covers and protects the wall from the effects of weather.

**CORBELING.** Courses of masonry that project out in a series of steps from the wall. In commercial architecture the corbeling is usually brick and is part of the cornice at the top of the facade.

**CORNER BOARD.** The vertical board which is found at the corners of a building and covers the seam made by horizontal siding boards.

**CORNICE.** The upper, projecting part of a classical entablature or a decorative treatment of the eaves of a roof.

**CORNICE RETURN.** When the cornice is terminated by itself by turning in at a right angle towards the gable.

**CRAWL SPACE.** The space located beneath the first floor. The space has not been fully excavated and is often used for mechanical equipment.

**CRESTING.** A decorative ridge for a roof, usually constructed of ornamental metal.

**CUPOLA.** A rooftop structure typically square or polygonal in plan, and generally contains windows.

**DENTILS.** One in a series of small blocks forming a molding in an entablature, often used on cornices.

**DORIC.** One of the classical orders of architecture characterized by a simply curved capital and base with less decoration than either the Ionic or Corinthian orders.

**DORMER.** A small window with its own roof projecting from a sloping roof.

**DOUBLE-HUNG SASH.** A type of window with lights (or windowpanes) on both upper and lower sashes, which move up and down in vertical grooves one in front of the other.

**DOWNSPOUT.** A pipe for directing rain water from the roof to the ground.

**EAVE.** The edge of the roof that extends past the walls.

**EFFLORESCENCE.** This is a process where salt present within a masonry wall escapes to the exterior surface creating a white build up.

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## Glossary

- ENTABLATURE.** This is an element of classical architecture which refers to the area located above the column. It is composed of the architrave, cornice and frieze.
- FACADE.** The front face or elevation of a building.
- FANLIGHT.** A semicircular window with radiating muntins, located above a door.
- FASCIA.** The horizontal member which serves as the outer edge of the eave.
- FENESTRATION.** The arrangement of the openings of a building.
- FINIAL.** An ornament at the top of a gable or spire.
- FLASHING.** Pieces of metal used for waterproofing roof joints.
- FLUTE.** A recessed groove found on a column or pilaster.
- FRIEZE.** A horizontal band, sometimes decorated with sculpture relief, located immediately below the cornice.
- FOUNDATION.** The base of a building which sits directly on the ground.
- GABLE ROOF.** A pitched roof in the shape of a triangle.
- GAMBREL ROOF.** A roof in which the angle of pitch changes part way between the ridge and eaves.
- GLAZING.** Another term for glass or other transparent material used in windows.
- HALF-TIMBERING.** A framework of heavy timbers in which the interstices are filled in with plaster or brick.
- HIPPED ROOF.** A roof with slopes on all four sides. They are more common on older houses than on those built after 1940.
- IN ANTIS.** A recessed entry area with columns located to either side of an arched opening.
- INFILL BUILDING.** A new structure built in a block or row of existing buildings.
- LATH.** Narrowly spaced strips of wood upon which plaster is spread. Lath in modern construction is metal mesh.
- LEADED GLASS.** Glass set in pieces of lead.
- LIGHT.** A section of a window; the glass or pane.
- LINTEL.** A horizontal beam over an opening carrying the weight of the wall.
- MANSARD ROOF.** A roof with two different pitches—a lower pitch on the top section and an almost vertical pitch at the bottom—which often has dormer windows.
- MODILLION.** A block or bracket in the cornice of the classical entablature.
- MOLDING.** Horizontal bands having either rectangular or curved profiles, or both, used for transition or decorative relief.
- MUNTIN.** A glazing bar that separates panes of glass.
- OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT.** A set of legal regulations that are imposed on properties in a particular area or district that are additional requirements to the existing zoning regulations in effect for those properties.
- PARAPET.** A low wall that rises above a roof line, terrace, or porch and may be decorated.
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## Glossary

**PALLADIAN WINDOW.** A neoclassical style window that is divided into three lights. The middle light is larger than the other two and usually arched.

**PARGING (or PARGET).** Plaster or a similar mixture used to coat walls or chimneys.

**PATINA.** The appearance of a material's surface that has aged and weathered. It often refers to the green film that forms on copper and bronze.

**PEDIMENT.** The triangular gable end of a roof, especially as seen in classical architecture such as Greek temples.

**PIER.** An upright structure of masonry serving as a principal support.

**PILASTER.** A pier attached to a wall with a shallow depth and sometimes treated as a classical column with a base, shaft, and capital.

**PITCH.** The degree of slope of a roof.

**POINTING.** Filling in the mortar joint between two bricks.

**PORTE-COCHERE.** An exterior shelter often used to shelter a driveway area in front or on the side of a building.

**PORTICO.** An entrance porch often supported by columns and sometimes topped by a pedimented roof; can be open or partially enclosed.

**PORTLAND CEMENT.** Named for its resemblance to Portland English stone, this is a commonly used cement.

**PRESERVATION.** The sustaining of the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure and the existing form and vegetation of a site.

**PRIMER.** A base coat used prior to painting to prepare a surface.

**QUOINS.** The corner stones of a building that are either a different size, texture, or conspicuously jointed for emphasis.

**RAIL.** The horizontal framing member found between panels in a door.

**REHABILITATION.** Returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features that are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

**REMODEL.** To alter a structure in a way that may or may not be sensitive to the preservation of its significant architectural forms and features.

**RENOVATION.** See REHABILITATION.

**RESTORATION.** Accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time, by removing later work and/or replacing missing earlier work.

**RETROFIT.** To furnish a building with new parts or equipment not available at the time of original construction.

**REPOINT.** To remove old mortar from courses of masonry and replace it with new mortar.

**REVEAL.** The depth of wall thickness between its outer face and a window or door set in an opening.

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## Glossary

- RISING DAMP.** A condition in which moisture from the ground rises into the walls of a building.
- SALMON BRICK.** The lightly burned bricks which are located further from the fire in a brick kiln.
- SASH.** The movable part of a window holding the glass.
- SCORING.** Grooves made into wet stucco to give the appearance of masonry construction.
- SETBACK.** The distance between a building and the front of the property line.
- SHED ROOF.** A simple roof form consisting of a single inclined plane.
- SIDELIGHTS.** Narrow windows flanking a door.
- SIGN BAND.** The area that is incorporated within or directly under the cornice of a storefront and that contains the sign of the business in the building.
- SILL.** The horizontal water-shedding member at the bottom of a door or window.
- SOFFIT.** The finished underside of an overhead spanning member.
- SPALLING.** A condition in which pieces of masonry split off from the surface, usually caused by weather.
- SPIRE.** A tall tower that tapers to a point and is found frequently on churches.
- SPLASH BLOCK.** The block located beneath a downspout designed to capture the water and direct it away from the building.
- STABILIZATION.** The reestablishment of a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it currently exists.
- STANDING SEAM METAL ROOFS.** A roof where long narrow pieces of metal are joined with raised seams.
- STILE.** A vertical framing member of a paneled door.
- STRING COURSE.** A projecting horizontal band of masonry set in the exterior wall of a building.
- STUCCO.** Exterior wall plaster.
- SYNTHETIC SIDING.** Any siding made of vinyl, aluminum, or other metallic material to resemble a variety of authentic wood siding types.
- TABBY.** An exterior material composed of oyster shells, lime, sand and water.
- TRANSOM.** In commercial buildings, the area of windows in the storefront above the display windows and above the door.
- TURRET.** A small tower, usually corbeled, at the corner of a building and extending above it.
- VERGEBOARD.** See BARGEBOARD.
- VERNACULAR.** Indigenous architecture that generally is not designed by an architect and may be characteristic of a particular area. Many of Summerville's simpler buildings that were constructed in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century are considered vernacular because they do not exhibit enough characteristics to relate to a particular architectural style.

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