

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY HUNT

The Waterville Historic District is rich in architectural and historical details both large and small. Several of the buildings have National Register of Historic Places status, a recognition of their historic importance.

Walk back in time through the area outlined on the map, and be sure you travel south on River Road, one block south of South Street to the museum homes owned by the Waterville Historical Society. You will find the details on the other side of this form within this area. This history hunt is fun for both adults and children.



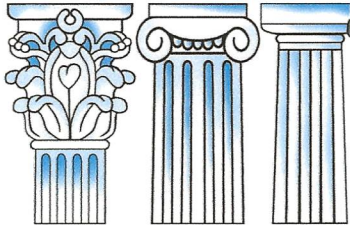
To find out more about architectural details you found, visit WHS at: www.watervillehistory.org

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 PHONE: _____

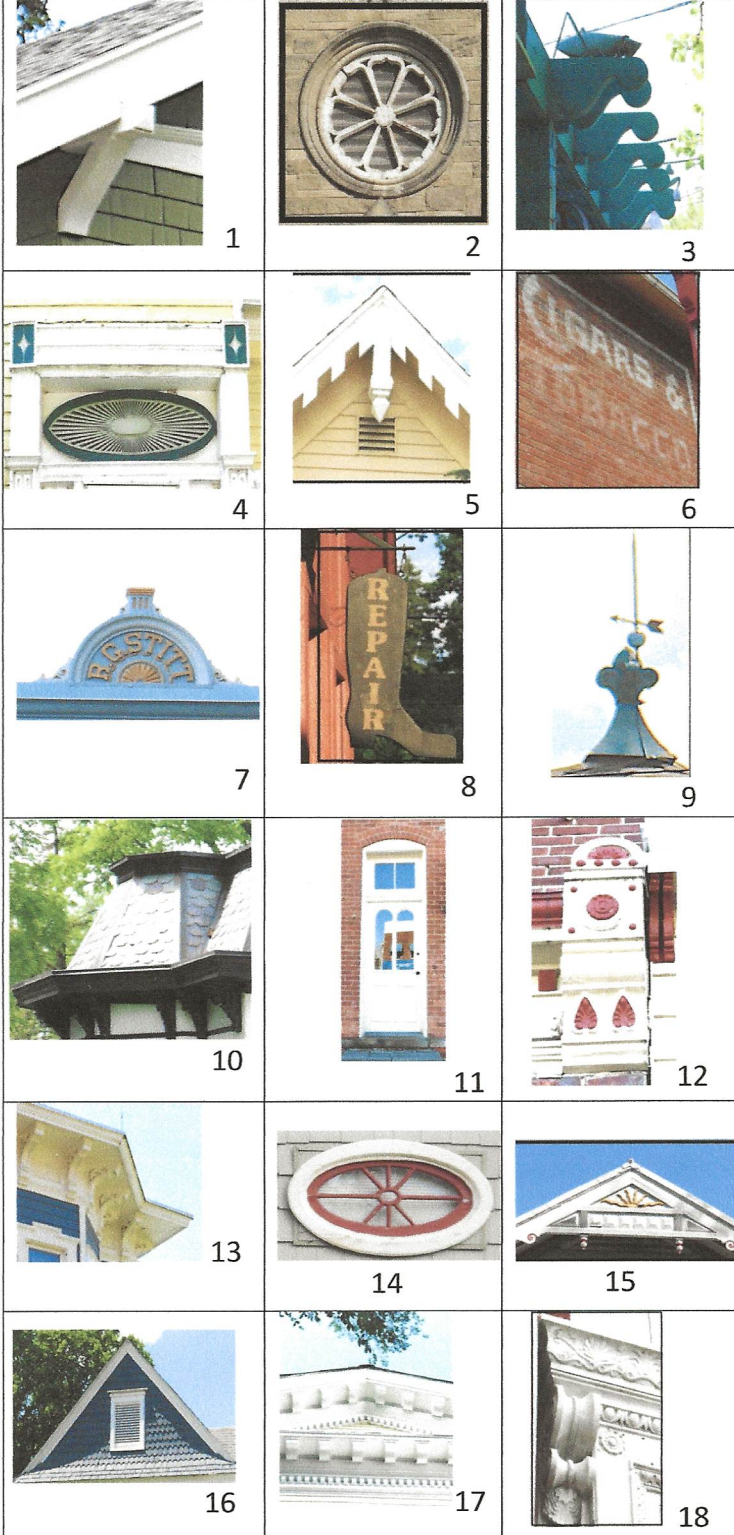
HOW TO PLAY

1. Pick up a copy of this form from the Waterville Branch of the Toledo/Lucas County Library, or download from the Waterville Historical Society website.
2. Find the pictured details on homes or buildings in the historic district, and write the name of the building, or the name of the business, or the address on the matching numbered line.
3. Return the completed form to the Waterville Branch Library by October 15, 2021.
4. If you have correctly completed the hunt, claim your prize – a custom patch created just for history hunters! (Number of patches limited – offer ends when patches are gone).
5. Identify address or name of one or more National Register homes here for extra credit to offset any details you cannot find:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



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Write address, name of building or name of business on these lines:

1 _____

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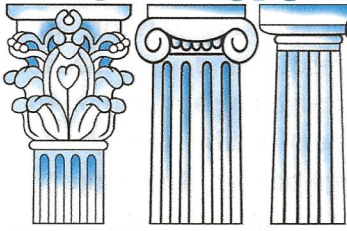
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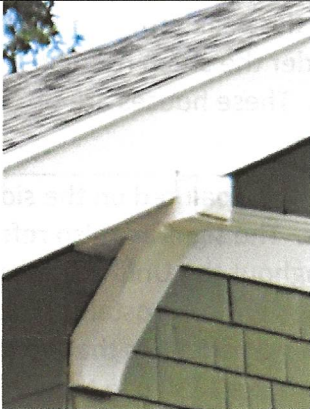



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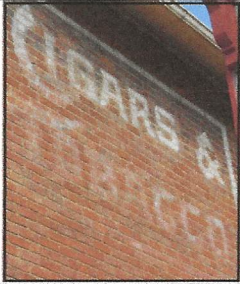

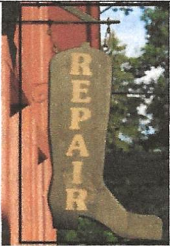

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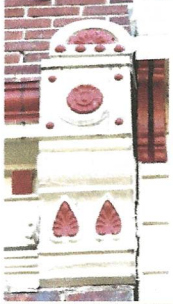


18 _____



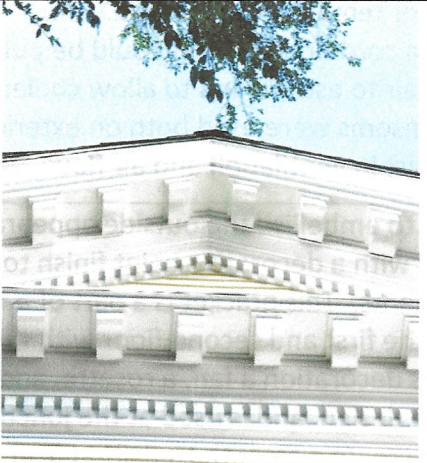
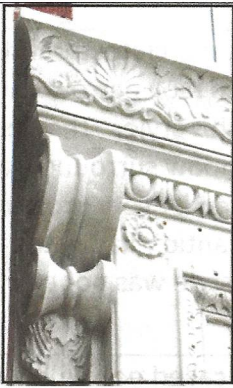


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1		<p>The Craftsman style began in the mid 19th Century in Britain and focused on fine craftsmanship in reaction to the mechanized industrial revolution. The style was imported to the United States in the early 20th Century, and emphasized simplicity and the art of the finely carved and individualized rather than the mass produced. The style was also a reaction to overly fussy Victorian homes. Architectural details became simple, based on natural themes and devoid of carved flowers and similar details. Simple but elegant exposed brackets like this one were commonly used as architectural elements that defined the style. The lines of the Craftsman bracket are more simple and geometric than those used in Victorian homes.</p>
2		<p>The rose or wheel window is a prominent design element in Gothic architecture. This beautiful window has its roots in medieval times in Europe, and has been popular ever since. This rose window is set into a carved stone circular frame with detail reminiscent of the petals of a rose radiating from a central point. In addition to being a distinctive design element, the purpose of a rose window, usually placed high up on a wall, was to allow as much natural light as possible into tall spaces.</p>
3		<p>These rafter ends form a whimsical detail reminiscent of a pergola. Pergolas are structures that provide an intersection between the garden and the home. Pergolas are typically free standing structures that cover a walkway or patio. However, even though not its own structure, this awning protrudes over the walkway, and suggests that same connection between a structure and natural elements, including the grasshopper and praying mantis perched picturesquely on the rafter ends.</p>
4		<p>While the American colonies were fighting for independence from Britain, Robert Adam was securing his reputation as a prominent British architect and designer. The Federal style is based on Adam's design elements which were exported to America just at the end of the Revolutionary War. Adam created a "modern" break from colonial Georgian architecture popular before the war. Federal architecture is simple and streamlined, and is based upon classical Greek and Roman forms. Designs often contain rounded geometrical shapes with radiating lines such as seen here. The style is identified with the Federalist period in American history.</p>

5		<p>The Gothic Revival Style of architecture romanticized the Middle Ages as a contrast to the symmetry of prior Federal and Georgian styles. These homes celebrated the picturesque, and were the start of the Romantic movement that swept through England and on to America from 1840 to 1880. The style is identified by steeply pitched roofs with decorated verge or barge boards. The barge board hid the rafter ends from view, and provided decoration at the same time. The pendant shown at the peak provided a way to merge the decorative elements under the steep rooflines. This barge board is cut in a dentil motif. These houses are often referred to as “gingerbread” houses.</p>
6		<p>Ghost signs are vintage advertising signs painted on the sides of buildings that wear away over time. The signs are also referred to as brickads and can be found throughout the United States, England, France and Canada. Ghost signs are nostalgic, but can also provide historical clues to businesses or products that no longer exist. These signs were painted from the 1890's to the 1960's, but were primarily used in the decades before the Great Depression.</p>
7		<p>In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, commercial buildings in downtown areas were popping up, (and up, and up), often incorporating street level offices or shops with living space or offices above. Such buildings often included architectural detail as shown here to identify the builder or owner of the “modern” office building. Long after such buildings cease to be owned by the original builder, the signs still provide historical clues to the industrious owner and his/her legacy.</p>
8		<p>In the early days of marketing, signs for the sale of certain kinds of goods were often cut in the shape of the type of merchandise being sold. The signs could be painted in eye-catching colors or designs and would hang outside the door and over the walkway for maximum visibility. Here we see a sign in the shape of a boot to advertise the repair of boots and shoes for a cobbler shop.</p>
9		<p>For hundreds of years, homes and building have been topped by weathervanes to show wind direction, and lightning rods to prevent damage from lightning strikes. Both weathervanes and lightning rods can also serve as decorative elements for a roofline, such as the weathervane/lightning rod in the shape of a <i>fleur de lis</i> shown here. The lightning rod includes a metal spike attached to a copper wire that goes from the roof to the ground to channel electricity away from the house to a safe place where damage can be limited. Beautiful glass balls were placed on lightning rods in the mid to late 19th century to encourage homeowners to purchase them as decorative elements. The purpose of the glass ball is to shatter at the time of a lightning strike to provide notice to the homeowner to look for further damage.</p>

10		<p>Second Empire Style is named for Napoleon III who came to power in France in 1852. The style is distinguished by steep-sided mansard (double-sloped) roofs, often with patterned slate tiles used as a decorative element. The style also included decorative brackets beneath the cornice of the roof and also under balconies and bay windows. Wrought iron detail is also common. Second Empire style gives the impression of height, with narrow bays and tall windows, but the practical purpose of the deep roof line is to create additional living space in the attic.</p>
11		<p>Doors on Victorian buildings and homes were often ornate, with glass panels, moldings or trim and decorative brick trim. Here we see a segmental arch corbel above this ornate and inviting doorway. The arched glass panels in the door are a well-known Victorian design element made possible by the industrial revolution's creation of stable glass panels in a mechanized process. Above this door is a transom, which was an early architectural feature that not only let in additional light, but could be tilted to help cool the building as summer temperatures soared. The transom would be attached to a cord or chain that could be pulled to tilt the window to allow hot air to escape and to allow cooler fresh air into the structure. Transoms were used both on exteriors and interiors of buildings to assist in ventilation and air flow.</p>
12		<p>This decorative bracket is used to embellish the outside appearance of a building. It is carved wood with a decorative paint finish to emphasize the decorative elements. This bracket is a part of a fascia board running between the first and second floor with raised dentil blocks, and includes in its decoration a fan, a rosette, and stylized leaves. It is Victorian in design, and is used at the junction of moldings to cover joints and create a smooth transition from one element to another.</p>
13		<p>The Victorian Italianate style is a vertical architectural style, like the Second Empire Style, and is designed to look narrow and tall. The roof, however, appears almost flat in this style. The design elements include grand decorative window surrounds, a wide and prominent cornice, and eaves supported by very prominent scrolled brackets. The style is based upon romantic villas of the Italian Renaissance. The Victorian Italianate style was popular in the latter half of the 19th century.</p>
14		<p>Oval and round ornamental windows, called <i>oeil de boeuf</i> or <i>Bullseye</i> windows were used in Baroque Style (1550-1750) in France and Shingle style (1880-1900) and Colonial Revival (1870-1920) in America. The name refers specifically to a small horizontal oval window placed high in a building or over a door to add light to dark interior spaces, but is now used to describe many types of round or oval windows. These decorative windows add complexity and drama to a façade by inserting curves instead of just rectangular shapes for windows.</p>

15		<p>Fancy gable trim was a hallmark of several Victorian styles, including Gothic Revival. This design is the popular sunrise/sunset motif cut from thin wood strips and then attached to a solid backing. This type of construction, called Carpenter Gothic, allowed for a more delicate detail since it was supported by a solid backing unlike the freestanding scroll saw “gingerbread” on earlier Gothic homes. This example also contains other design elements including a raised block frieze, scroll ends and two decorative pendants.</p>
16		<p>Fish scale shingles are typically made of cedar and the bottom edge is cut into fancy shapes, in this case, round bottomed shingles alternating with pointed shingles, to create texture and style in the eaves of the building. This design element is commonly found in Queen Anne Victorian architecture. Each shingle is applied to the house individually, making this a time-intensive process. This style of decoration has been so popular over the years that new homes still use it, but the shingles are now available in vinyl and other materials easier to maintain and apply.</p>
17		<p>This picture is an excellent example of Georgian Colonial Style architecture popular from 1720 – 1830, during the reigns of George I through IV of England. On this style of building, the eaves and cornices under the roof are decorated with multiple design elements that invoke classical architecture. The trim is very symmetrical. Here we see a shallow gable roof decorated by rafter ends and dentil moldings both immediately under the roof and also along the cornice, or horizontal trim line, that forms the base of the triangle, or pediment, which is reminiscent of Greek temples. The dentil molding is named as such because it looks like a row of teeth. Georgian Colonial is one of the most enduring of all architectural styles in America.</p>
18		<p>This carved stone decoration is from the Neoclassical Style, reminiscent of both Greek and Roman architecture. The scroll is deeply curved and carved, and the base is fluted and highly decorated with acanthus leaves. The scroll, or bracket, supports an entablature topped with a cornice carved with a shell and floral motif. Below the cornice is a coved frieze and below that, an architrave with cove and bead detail. Below the entablature is a carved rosette and acanthus leaf detail. This style, in stone, is very popular on commercial buildings, and if used on more modest homes, is often carved in wood.</p>