

Local Heritage List

Buildings Glossary

This provides explanations for key building terms. A useful illustrated glossary of key building features can be found on the Buildings Archaeology database.

buildingarchaeology.co.uk

Art Deco- A style of architecture and interior design of the 1920s and 1930s, featuring strong shapes and bold colours.

Art Nouveau- A late 19th century and early 20th century style of art, architecture and decoration, characterised by designs of leaves, flowers and flowing lines and curves.

Arts and Crafts Movement- English aesthetic movement which emerged from the attempt to reform design and decoration in mid-19th century. The movement was a reaction against a perceived decline in standards associated with machinery and factory production and is admired for its use of natural, high-quality materials and for its emphasis on utility in design.

Ashlar- Dressed, highly finished stonework of any type of stone.

Bays- Regular visual or structural divisions within building design.

Bond- The pattern in which bricks or masonry are arranged within a wall.

Box Frame Construction- A method of building a simple timber frame using straight vertical and horizontal pieces to form wall frames connected at bay intervals across tie beams.

Burgage Plot- Medieval land term used to describe a town rental property, usually and distinctively, consisting of a dwelling, with a narrow street or marketplace frontage, on a long, narrow plot of land.

Buttress- A structural support built against a wall to give strength.

Casement Window- A side-opening window light, hung on hinges, fixed into a larger frame.

Capping (or coping)- The top course/covering of a wall designed to protect and throw off water.

Carstone-A brown, cretaceous sandstone

Cills- Historical variant of the spelling of 'sills'.

Classical (architecture)- Influenced by ancient Greece and Rome.

Clay lump/clay bat-large unfired bricks made of a mixture of chalk and clay

Clunch- A soft limestone used for building in the southern and eastern parts of Cambridgeshire

Cob- Building material consisting of clay, sand, straw, water and earth.

Local Heritage List

Column- Any shaped upright that, usually, supports a lintel.

Colleyweston stone slates- Predominately found in the North-western parts of Huntingdonshire.

Cruck Frame Construction- A pair of crooked or curved, whole timbers that go from an apex to the ground to form an A-frame supporting the roof. Rare in Cambridgeshire.

Cupola- A small dome on top of a larger dome, roof or turret.

Dentillated (brickwork)- An effect created by the projection of alternate headers to create a tooth-like pattern.

Diaper work- A pattern created by the use of different coloured bricks.

Dormer Window- A window inserted into a sloping roof with its own roof and sides.

Eaves- The bottom edge of a roof slope, overhanging the wall face.

Elevation- The building face.

Elizabethan- Architecture built during Elizabeth I reign (1558 - 1602)

Façade- The frontage of a building.

Fan lights- Any glazed opening above a doorway.

Finials- A decorative ornament found on spires, gables, pediments, canopies and pinnacles.

Flint- Occurs as nodules or in bands within chalk and is a compact crystalline silica used for building. Popular because it was easily extracted and very strong and resistant to damage.

Flush-fitting Windows- Panes positioned on the same plane.

Gable- The end wall of a building.

Gault clay- Produces bricks and tiles in colours such as pale yellow, browns, reds, pinks and grey.

Georgian (architecture)- 1714-1830 (reigns of George I, II, III, IV) when classical style and classical proportions became widely used.

Gothic Revival- Architectural style of 18th Century which drew inspiration from medieval architecture.

Headers- Bricks or stone laid with the shortest dimension parallel to the wall face.

International-Modern Architecture- A major architectural style developed in the 1920s and 30s, closely related to modernism and modern architecture. Adhering to three main principles, volume of space, regularity, and flexibility, it consisted of rectangular forms, stripped of ornamentation or decoration, with light, open interior spaces and a visually weightless quality.

Local Heritage List

Jacobean- Architecture from the reign of James I (1603-25)

Jetty- In a timber framed building, the projection of an upper storey over the storey below.

Keystone- The block at the centre of an arch.

Lancet window- A tall, narrow window with a pointed arch at its top.

Lintel- A horizontal beam spanning an opening and supporting the wall above.

Mausoleum- A large, grand tomb.

Mud walling- Good examples found in Whittlesey. They were shaped in stages over several months using local clay and though to date back to the 18th and 19th centuries when the government imposed a tax on brick and tile. They have differing materials for the plinth and topped with a more durable material such as tile or thatch.

Oriel Window - Bay windows which project from the main wall but do not reach the ground.

Palladian-An early 17th century architectural style developed by Andrea Palladio and introduced to England by Inigo Jones.

Pantile- Clay rooftile in S section. Introduced in 18th and 19th century.

Pilaster- A rectangular column attached to a wall.

Pillbox- A small enclosed gun emplacement built of fortified concrete.

Pinnacles- The top of a spire, turret or buttress.

Plinth- The bottom section of a building, designed to suggest it is sitting on a platform.

Portico- A porch with a roof supported by many columns.

Quoin- The corner of a building emphasised by raised or larger bricks or stone work.

Rafters- Inclined timbers forming the sides of a roof and holding the tiles or thatch.

Regency (architecture)- Influenced by ancient Greece and Rome, features including columns and white painted stucco (1800 - 1837).

Render- An exterior surface of plaster, stucco or pebble-dash.

Ridgeline- The horizontal top-line of a roof.

Rococo (architecture)- Also known as Late-Baroque. 18th century artistic movement which was light in style and graceful.

Rubble- Rough and random sized, un-worked stone.

Sash-window- Where the frame is positioned in grooves to slide-open vertically or side-to-side.

Local Heritage List

Stretchers- Bricks or stone laid with the longest dimension parallel to the wall face.

Stringcourse- A horizontal band of, often decorative, moulding or patterned brickwork, usually between storeys of a building.

Stucco- Hardwearing lime plaster, sometimes incorporating marble dust.

Terrace- A row of adjoining houses.

Thatch- Used extensively for roofing across Cambridgeshire. Sedge from reed beds and also wheat straw were used to thatch roofs.

Timber-framed Construction- Traditional method of building with heavy timbers to create structures using carefully fitted and joined sections secured by large wooden pegs.

Tracery- The decorative pattern created for windows, screens, panels or vaults, etc, usually of carved stone or wood.

UPVC- Plastic framed windows (unplasticised polyvinyl chloride).

Vaulted- An arched stone roof, sometimes copied in timber and plaster.

Vernacular Architecture/Buildings- These are houses built to reflect local customs and traditions using locally available materials like wood, stone and brick. They are ordinary, rather than monumental buildings and so different from region to region that they are a vital part of England's local distinctiveness, defining the country's much-loved landscape.