

19th Century Styles

Victorian



The Victorian style was prevalent in the United States from 1879 to 1910. The first Victorian structures appeared in Los Angeles around the mid-1880s.

The Victorian style is largely the product of the railroads and the industrial revolution. The elaborate turned and carved wooden decorative elements emblematic of this style were made inexpensive by the development of the assembly line and the steam engine. Therefore, even relatively modest homes could sport elaborate decoration.

The Victorian style is characterized by porches with spindlework detailing, intricately cut perforated gables (Gingerbread trim), and an asymmetrical façade. The buildings are one or two stories, generally with gabled roofs, wide over-hanging eaves with decorative brackets, and tall narrow windows.



Victorian - *Common character defining features*

Windows (pg. 53)

- One-over-one and two-over-two
- Rectangular tops
- Arranged in pairs or threes
- Decorative crowns

Porches/Balconies (pg. 62)

- Relatively restrained
- Decorative brackets
- Small or large in size
- Intricately carved spindle posts
- Intricate perforated brackets

Doorways (pg. 58)

- Paired and single
- Rectangular
- Transom lights
- Decorative crowns

Roofs (pg.66)

- Gable
- Pyramidal
- Symmetrical
- Front gabled
- Large decorative eave brackets

Building Materials (pg. 74)

- Clapboard
- Shingle