

I. BUILDING TYPES AND STYLES

A. Creole Cottage

1. **Building Plan:** The creole cottage is usually two rooms wide, two rooms deep (all approximately the same size) with no halls and with two small "cabinets" (storage/service rooms) on the rear facade flanking an open "loggia" in the middle under the main roof. If attic space was used for living area, access to the attic was by a steep staircase located in one of the rear cabinets, and light was provided by side gable windows and/or dormers on the front and/or rear roof slopes. Some examples exist of single "two bay" cottages (only one room wide across the front) and "three bay" cottages which contain only one major room and one minor room or passageway across the front.
2. **Roof:** The creole cottage usually has a side gabled roof, with or without side parapet walls, although some examples have hipped roofs. Cottages almost always have a front overhang: early examples have an overhang separate from the main roof supported by cantilevered outriggers; later examples have overhangs with soffits incorporated into the main roof system, with a single front roof cant (slope) or with a break in the roof cant several feet behind the front facade.

3. **Materials:** Creole cottages are usually constructed of brick or brick between posts ("briquette entre poteaux") with a few examples of barge board construction. The masonry was always covered with plaster or lap siding except in those instances where a special facing brick was imported and used for the exterior skin.

4. **Facade Designs:** The double creole cottage is always symmetrical on the front facade with four openings. These four openings could be door, window, window, door; window, door, door, window; or all doors. While early examples used casement windows, most cottages today have double hung multi-light sash. Doors were always french doors with solid bottom panels and multi-lighted glazed upper sections, with or without transoms above. Openings are usually square-headed although some early examples had arched openings. All openings were covered with solid shutters, either strap batten or vertical board, stile, and rail, depending on the date of construction and level of detailing.

B. CREOLE TOWNHOUSE

1. **Building Plan:** The creole townhouse is usually one room wide and two rooms deep on the ground floor with an exterior covered passageway or carriageway leading from the street to the rear of the property below second floor living area. The passageway or carriageway leads to an open loggia on the rear of the main building with the stairway to the upper level(s) opening onto this exterior covered area. If the building was totally residential, the ground floor was usually used as double parlors with upper floors used for bedrooms. If building was mixed commercial/residential, however, the ground floor was usually used for shop space, with the parlors located on the second level and bedrooms above. Townhouses are usually two to four stories high and have one to three story detached service buildings to the rear of the main building. The ground floor level is usually less than one foot above the grade of the sidewalk.
2. **Roof:** Townhouses usually have either side gabled roofs or low hipped roofs behind a front parapet wall. If living space was located under the roof, light was provided by dormers on the front and/or back and/or side gable windows if the townhouse was not part of a continuous row. Rarely does the main roof project beyond the front facade, so that the only overhang on the front would be created by upper floor balconies.

3. **Materials:** Creole townhouses are usually constructed of brick which is either plastered over or painted and penciled. Unless an imported face brick was used for the outer skin, the masonry was never left exposed as the local soft red brick was too soft for exposure to the elements.
4. **Facade Design:** Ground Floor-Creole townhouses usually have two openings on the ground floor facade in addition to the opening to the passageway or carriageway. The two openings can be either two french doors with transoms or two windows, with either square-headed or arched tops. Townhouses with shops on the ground floor always had french doors in the two openings. Both ground floor openings (french doors or windows) were always covered with shutters, either solid or half louvered/half paneled, depending on the date of construction and level of detailing.

2nd Floor-Creole townhouses usually have four square-headed full length openings (for townhouses with carriageways) or three (for townhouses with passageways) with triple hung windows opening onto a cantilevered balcony.

3rd/4th Floor-The upper floors are either identical to the second floor if the floor has a continuous balcony or individual basket balconies at each opening, or, in lieu of a balcony or basket balconies with full length openings, have double hung windows with solid wooden panels below.

5. Rear Facade: The rear facade of the creole townhouse usually has unenclosed arched openings on the ground floor opening onto the open loggia with similar arched openings on the upper floors infilled with a series of french doors or multi-lighted glazed sash.

C. AMERICAN TOWNHOUSE

1. Building Plan: Similar to the creole townhouse, the American townhouse is usually one room wide but in lieu of the open passageway or carriageway, the american townhouse has an enclosed wide side entrance hall from which the stairway to the upper levels originates. They are usually two to three rooms deep with an attached service wing continuing toward the rear of the property along the same side of the building as the side hall. The ground floor usually contained double parlors and/or a dining room. The upper floors were similar in plan to the ground floor except that the wide side hall was used for ante rooms to the adjacent bedrooms. The buildings are usually one to four stories high with the ground floor level raised one to three feet above the grade of the sidewalk.
2. Roof: American Townhouses usually have side gabled roofs or low hipped roofs with front parapet walls. Living space in the attic area was illuminated by side gable windows, front and rear dormers, as well as a band of frieze windows across the front facade.

3. **Materials:** American townhouses are constructed of brick with either a face brick veneer or stucco. Some examples exist of granite veneers and sometimes the stucco was scored and painted to appear as granite or stone.
4. **Facade Design: Ground Floor-**American townhouses usually have two square-headed openings on the ground floor facade in addition to the main entrance. (Some later townhouses (1870's) have segmentally arched openings in lieu of square-headed.) These openings are usually double hung windows although sometimes full length double hung pocket windows were used with iron rails mounted between the window and shutter in the frame. The main entrance included a wooden or stone enframing with the door frame recessed some 8" to 3' behind the enframing. Entrance doors are usually paneled doors with or without upper glazed panel(s) and often with transoms above and half paneled/half glazed sidelights. Shutter types used range from vertical board, stile and rail to full louvered depending on the date of construction and style. Applied details are usually either Greek Revival or Italianate in style.

Upper Floors-American Townhouses usually have three square headed or segmentally arched full length openings with double hung pocket sash on the front facade with shutters to match in design those used on the ground floor. These windows open onto either a cantilevered balcony or columnar supported gallery. If covered, the roof over the balcony or gallery projects from the front facade below the cornice/parapet. Similarly, if a frieze band exists below the cornice line, this covering projects from below the frieze line and windows. The top of the front facade usually has a cornice and/or parapet wall with detailing consistent with the style of the building.

5. Rear Facade: The rear facade of American townhouses varied greatly. Some have balconies on the rear similar to front balconies, tying into the lower balconies of the adjacent service wing. Others are devoid of this balcony. Openings on the rear facade are consistent in size and style with those on the front facade.

D. SHOTGUN

1. Building Plan: The shotgun is usually one room (single) or two rooms (double) wide and from three to six rooms deep, with room size decreasing toward the rear. Bathrooms were either attached to the rear of the building, under the main roof or as a separate shed roofed addition, or between rooms with a small hall created to connect the rooms behind the bath. Some examples of "side-galleried" shotguns exist where a single or one side of a double has a gallery along one side under the main roof and behind the front facade. Also, some examples exist of "camelback" shotguns which have a two story section over the rear two or three rooms of the structure. The shotgun structure was usually raised one to three feet above sidewalk grade on a masonry base.
2. Roof: The roofs of shotguns vary usually depending on the date of construction. Early shotguns (1870's) usually have hipped roofs with a front overhang with soffit. Shotguns from the 1880's and 1890's usually have a side sloping gabled roof with a pitch of 4/12 to 6/12 with a sloped apron across the front creating a half gable on the front with an overhang with soffit. Camelback sections from this period often have a similar half gable treatment. Late shotguns (1900's) have similar side sloping gable roofs but without the apron, creating a full gable across the front.

3. **Materials:** Shotguns are almost always of wood frame construction with weatherboards on the sides and rear and weatherboards, drop siding or stucco on the front, along with wooden decorative elements including brackets, quoins, trim, etc. The masonry base was either left exposed or covered with stucco.
4. **Facade Design:** The shotgun is always symmetrical on the front facade except for side galleried shotguns where the opening spacing varies from side to side due to the additional bay of the gallery. Two full length openings exist in each room across the front, thus giving a single two openings, a double four openings, a side galleried single three openings and a side galleried double five. The outer opening(s) contains the door which is usually a single panel, single lite paneled door with transom above. The inner openings usually contain full length double hung windows. All openings, including the doorways, were equipped with louvered shutters with solid bottom panels. The doorway on side galleried shotguns opens either directly onto the side gallery or into a small foyer in

front of the side gallery which opens onto both the side gallery and the adjacent front room. On early shotguns (1870's) the overhang is supported by simple wooden brackets and added decoration is minimal, while shotguns of the 1880's and 1890's are supported by ornate wooden brackets and include decorative iron ventilators in the front soffit, stained glass, shingles, jigsaw millwork and other decorative trim in the front half gable, ship lap drop siding on the front facade with decorative corner quoins and ornate wooden window moldings. Later shotguns revert to simple detailing. In all cases, boxed wooden steps with side buttresses led to the front doors.

5. Rear Facades: The rear facades of shotguns are usually very plain, containing a single paneled door per side at the outer edge. If the bathrooms are located at the rear of the structure, this portion usually extends beyond these rear doors, either under the main roof or under a separate shed roof with the only openings on the rear of the bathroom section being small single outward opening casement windows to provide light and air to the bathrooms.

E. COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

1. Building Plan: 19th century commercial buildings are usually two to four stories high and three bays wide although examples exist ranging from two bays in width to as many as six. Most buildings after 1835 have a delineated ground floor facade of post and lintel construction with solid masonry walls above while earlier examples (pre 1835) have solid masonry front facades including the ground level. The depth of the buildings usually range from one to three rooms depending on the use and lot size.

2. Roof: Commercial buildings usually have low hipped roofs with parapet walls. Some examples had dormers in the roof.
3. Materials: Early commercial buildings (pre 1835) are usually totally constructed of masonry with the masonry exposed or covered with stucco. Later commercial buildings (after 1835) are constructed of masonry with the exception of the front ground floor facade which is constructed of granite or cast iron in a post and lintel system, above which the masonry upper floors are constructed. The masonry facade was either left exposed or stuccoed.
4. Facade Design: Early commercial buildings (pre 1835) have arched openings on the ground floor which contain store doors or french doors with breaking shutters in a wooden frame. The upper arched section of the opening either contained a glazed wooden transom or was open with simple vertical iron bars. Upper floors usually contain square-headed windows with or without sash and with or without shutters. The building is usually capped with a simple masonry or wooden cornice. Commercial buildings after 1835 usually have a post and lintel system of ground floor front facade construction with either granite columns and lintel or cast iron pilasters in front of masonry piers. The lintels are sometimes treated simply and sometimes treated as a cornice. The area between the columns is filled in with store doors set in frames hidden behind the pilasters. Each opening contains from two to six leaves of doors. For openings with only two leaves, the doors are hung as french doors; for openings with greater than two leaves, leaves are hinged together and bifolDED back to both sides of the opening. Upper floor openings are usually square-headed with double hung sash with or without shutters. The top of the building is usually capped with a wooden or masonry cornice.

F. SERVICE BUILDINGS

1. **Building Plan:** Service Buildings or Slave Quarters (as they are sometimes called) are either attached to the main building or detached. Service Buildings are usually one room deep and one to three rooms wide, and usually two stories in height although larger townhouses sometimes have three or four story service buildings.
2. **Roof:** Service buildings almost always have shed roofs sloping down from the rear of the building. The attic space was rarely used other than for possible storage.
3. **Materials:** Service buildings are always constructed of brick which was sometimes left exposed but more often stuccoed to protect the soft brick. Balconies, including outriggers, steps, etc are all of wood construction.
4. **Facade Design:** Each room of a service building usually has two square headed openings, one a window and one a door. Doors are either french doors or paneled wooden doors. Across the second floor (and other upper floors) of the front of the structure is a wooden balcony with wooden columns and railing. Access to the rooms on the upper level(s) is by way of this balcony which is reached by an exterior wooden stair.