

FRAME VERNACULAR

One of the most common forms of architecture is Frame Vernacular. Vernacular architecture refers to a regional or “folk” architecture, built with local materials and local labor, without formal plans, and for the most economical price at the time. The Vernacular, while considered a style, is defined by its not belonging to any particular formal architectural style.

This section refers to the Frame Vernacular built in Lakeland prior to the 1940s. The section on Modern Style addresses the Vernacular styles of the Modern era.



Figure 3-1: Frame Vernacular



Figure 3-2: Frame Vernacular

Features of the Frame Vernacular Style

Plans

- Usually rectangular
- Sometimes L-shaped to maximize cross-ventilation

Foundations

- Masonry (usually brick) piers
- Spaces between piers left open to allow for ventilation and for protection from high water

Porches and Facades

- Most commonly simple entrance or end porches
- Columns are typically narrow and made of wood; usually spaced evenly across the facade, with few details
- In most cases, porches were built without railings

Roofs

- Earlier period homes have steep pitches, to accommodate attic space
- Later period homes have a lowered roof pitch
- Rafter ends are unadorned, exposed, and extend beyond the face of the wall
- Wood shingles were often used to cover the roofs in early homes
- Metal shingles or metal sheets were used on later period structures, or as a replacement roof material

Exterior

- Horizontal drop siding and weatherboard are the most common exterior wall surface materials

Windows and Doors

- Generally, double-hung sash windows made of wood
- Windows are spaced evenly along all facades
- Windows can be single-pane, or 2- or 4-pane
- Doors contain recessed wood panels

Exterior Decoration

- Sparse, limited to ornamental woodwork