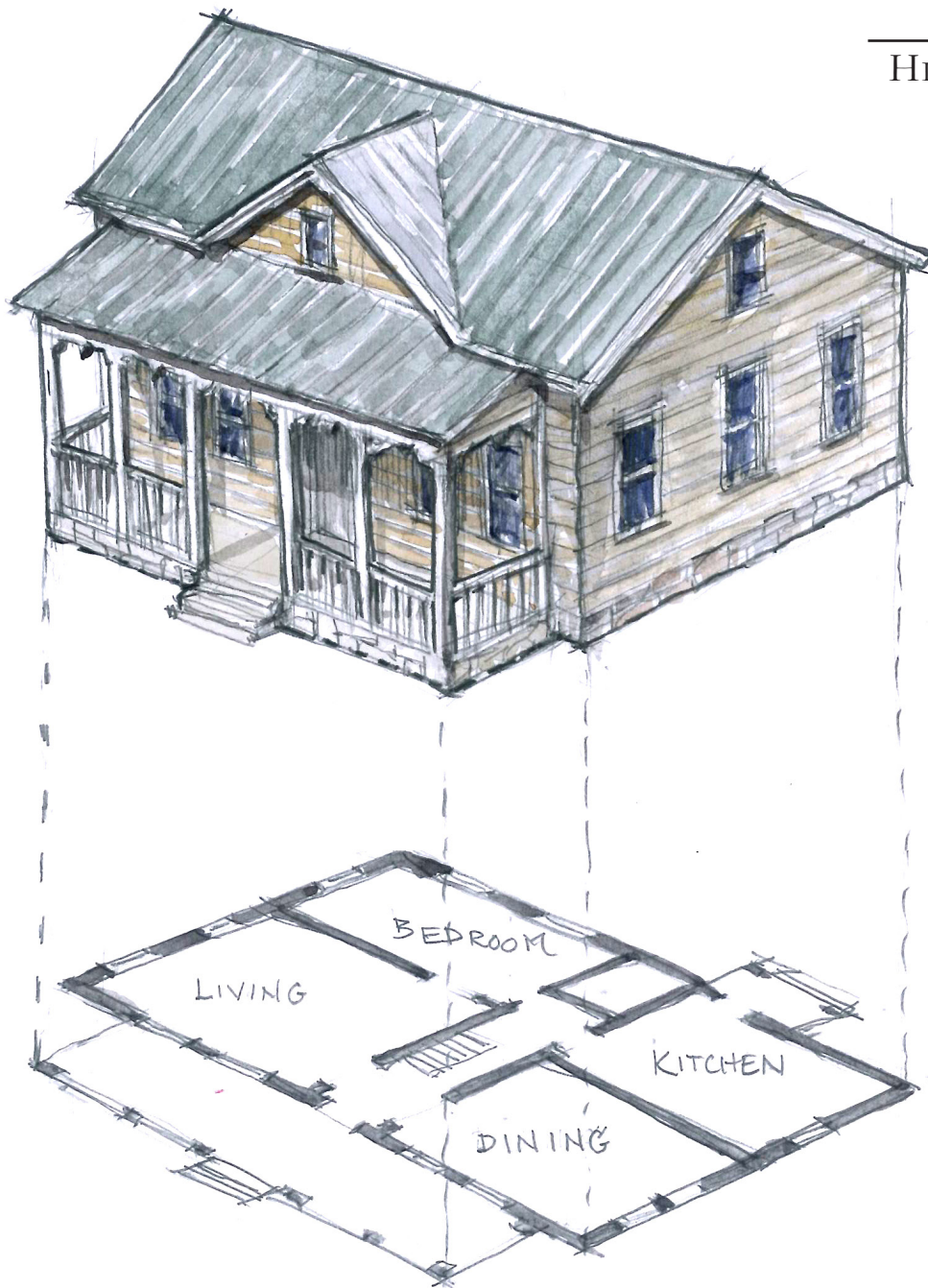


FOLK VICTORIAN

HISTORIC RESOURCES • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA



INTRODUCTION

Although known for much of the intricate detailing of the Queen Anne style, the Victorian Era was also home to simpler styles such as the Folk Victorian. With the combination of bold massing forms and detailed porch work, the Folk Victorian embodies a transitional style that hints at the simpler styles to come, while staying connected to the current styles of the day.



A Folk Victorian in the Brinkerhoff Landmark District has square posts with delicate gingerbread and a simple, solid four panel door.



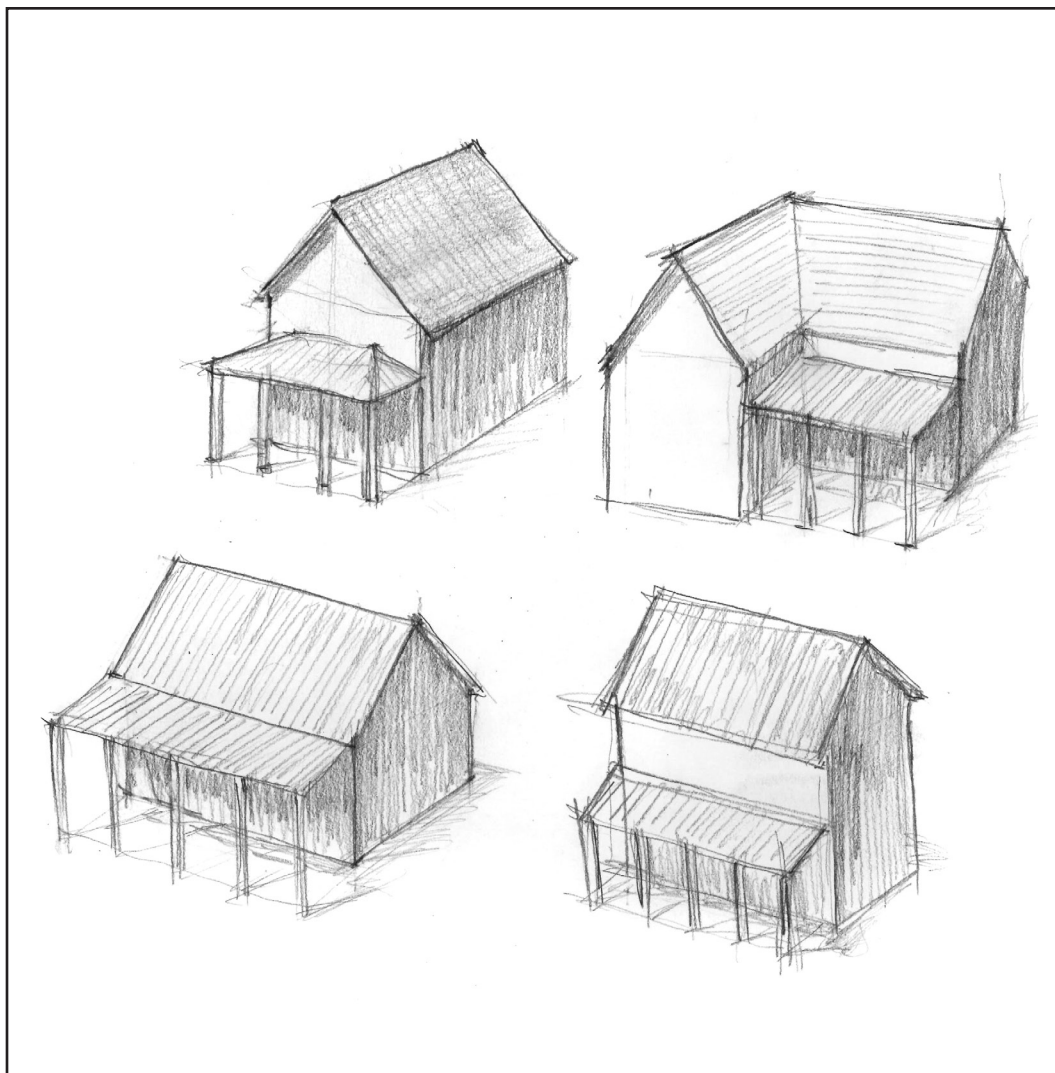
This Folk Victorian in the Brinkerhoff Landmark District has a symmetrical façade with simple wood trim surrounding the openings.

HISTORY

As American Colonial Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival styles looked to the past for inspiration, so too the Folk Victorian looked to its roots, which were the simple, National Folk structures, to base its forms. These forms were then built upon with moldings and pre-cut details available from more current Victorian styles. Sometimes, older folk houses were simply updated with newer elements, including whole porches.

Often called “Symmetrical Victorians”, the Folk Victorian style survived into the early part of the 20th century and helped set the stage for the Craftsman and American Colonial Revival. Like the other Victorian styles, Folk Victorian was made possible by the Industrial Revolution in the form of the railroad and the transportation of woodworking machines across the country. Folk Victorian came about in the final stages of the Victorian styles. It was one of the final expressions of a long and lasting era.

Santa Barbara’s Folk Victorians can be found in the Brinkerhoff Landmark District and throughout lower west downtown.



MASSING & OVERALL FORM

The massing and form of the Folk Victorian house usually takes on one of four simple forms, which tend to have standard-pitch roofs (6:12 or greater), and are nearly always gables.

One standard type is the two-story, front-facing gable with single story porch. In the South, this often became a single-story “shotgun house” (named so because all of the doors lined up, and it was so small that you could shoot a shotgun from one end and would travel clear through the house and out the door on the other side).

A slightly more complex form is the front-facing gable with side-gable wing. This form could be of the one or two-story varieties, with porch tucked to the side in both cases.

A third form is the side-gable one story house, with porch attached to the long side. This side-gable type is found in the one-room deep layout, as well as the two (or more) room deep models.

The fourth type of Folk Victorian massing is the two story side gable, usually one room deep. The porch typically sheds forward off the side of the house, and Victorian detailing is then applied to the house in a variety of ways.

Side-gabled examples of the Folk Victorian house often had front-facing center gables added.

CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

Gable, Cornice and Eave Details: Santa Barbara's Folk Victorians have details simple in form. The eaves are usually boxed to form a simple cornice line and do not have any of the detailed ornament as seen in a Queen Anne.

Porch Columns: The porch features square posts or turned spindles. Other common detailing includes delicate gingerbread and spandrels which are small balusters spanning between the upper portions of the porch posts.

Doors: The doors are also simple and without the intricate details of a Queen Anne. The doors are often solid four panel doors or have a window pane over three simple horizontal panels.

Windows: Santa Barbara Folk Victorians feature elongated double-hung, one-over-one or two-over-two wood windows. The wood window surrounds are typically simple 4"- 5" wide trim with a simple profile wood sill.

Dormers: Dormers echo the simple lines of the open front gables.

Wall Materials: Folk Victorians feature wood weatherboards or wood drop lap siding with multi-shaped shingles in the gable.

