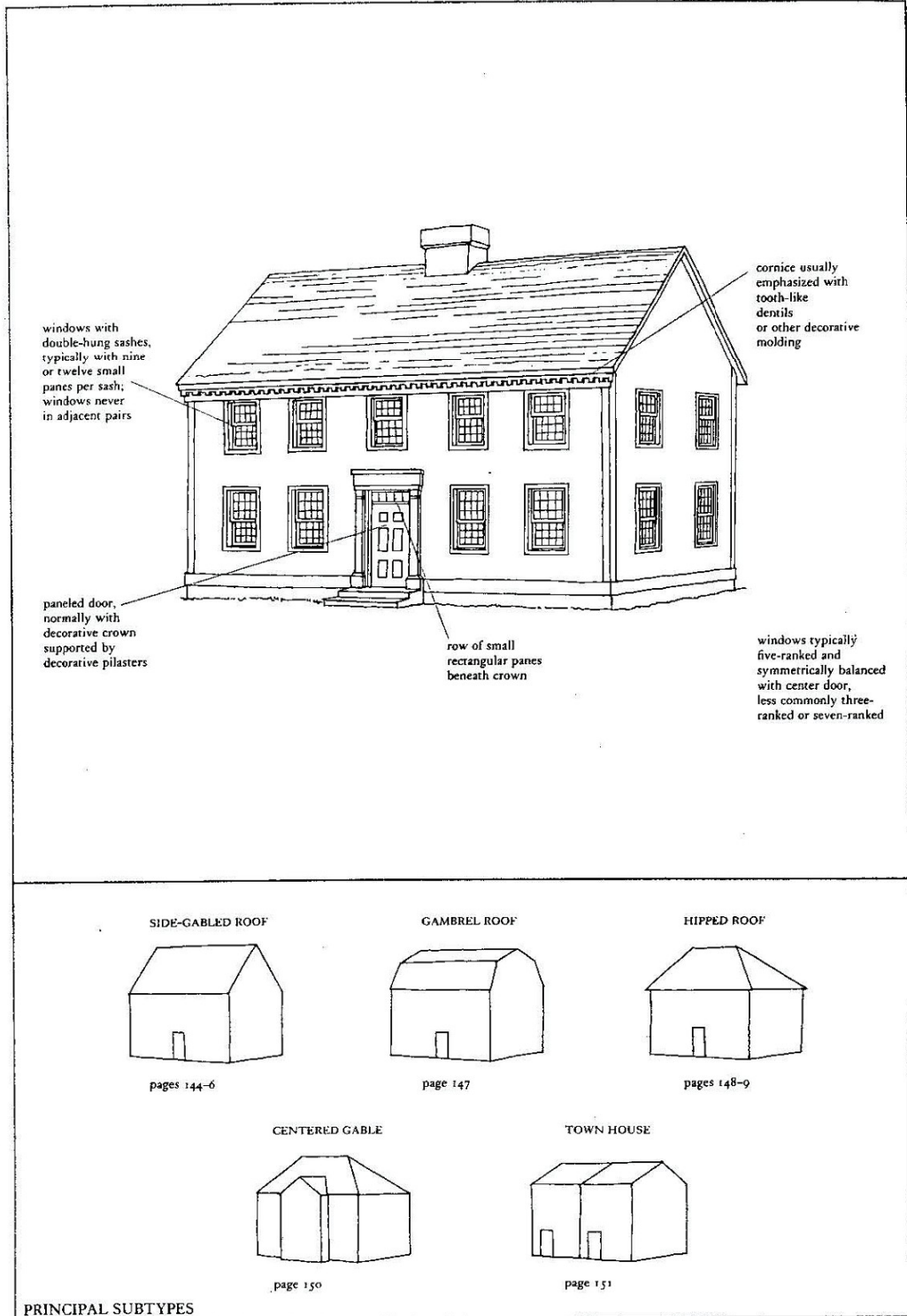


Exhibit F
Architectural Style Corroborative Information



COLONIAL HOUSES
Georgian
1700–1780; locally to ca. 1830

IDENTIFYING FEATURES

Paneled front door, usually centered and capped by an elaborate decorative crown (entablature) supported by decorative pilasters (flattened columns); usually with a row of small rectangular panes of glass beneath the crown, either within the door or in a transom just above; cornice usually emphasized by decorative moldings, most commonly with tooth-like dentils; windows with double-hung sashes having many small panes (most commonly nine or twelve panes per sash) separated by thick wooden muntins; windows aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows, never in adjacent pairs, usually five-ranked on front facade, less commonly three- or seven-ranked.

PRINCIPAL SUBTYPES

The Georgian house is usually a simple one- or two-story box, two rooms deep, with doors and windows in strict symmetry. Five principal subtypes can be distinguished:

SIDE-GABLED ROOF—About 40 percent of surviving Georgian houses are of this type, which is the most common in the northern and middle colonies, but also occurs in the southern colonies.

GAMBREL ROOF—This roof form is found primarily in the northern colonies where it is characteristic of about 25 percent of surviving Georgian houses. Few gambrels survive in the middle or southern colonies, although restoration research in Williamsburg indicates they may have formerly been common on one-story southern examples. The shape is an adaptation of the gable form which provides more attic space for storage or sleeping.

HIPPED ROOF—About 25 percent of surviving Georgian houses have hipped roofs (some are dual-pitched hipped). This is the most common type in the southern colonies, but is not unusual in the middle and northern colonies, where it occurs principally on high-style landmark examples.

CENTERED GABLE—Less than 10 percent of surviving Georgian houses have a gable (pediment) centered on the front facade. The facade beneath the gable may either remain in the same plane as the rest of the wall or be extended slightly forward for emphasis as a pavilion. This subtype became common only after 1750, and is found in high-style examples in all the former colonies.

TOWN HOUSE—The earliest surviving urban houses with narrow front facades and linear plans date from the Georgian period. These were originally built in all the pre-Revolu-

Colonial Houses: Georgian

tionary urban centers of the Atlantic Coast (see map), but only a few examples remain today, principally in Philadelphia and Boston, and in Alexandria, Virginia.

VARIANTS AND DETAILS

The structure and detailing of Georgian houses show distinct regional variations:

NORTHERN COLONIES—Wood-frame construction with shingle or clapboard walls and central chimneys dominated, as in the preceding Postmedieval English houses of the region.

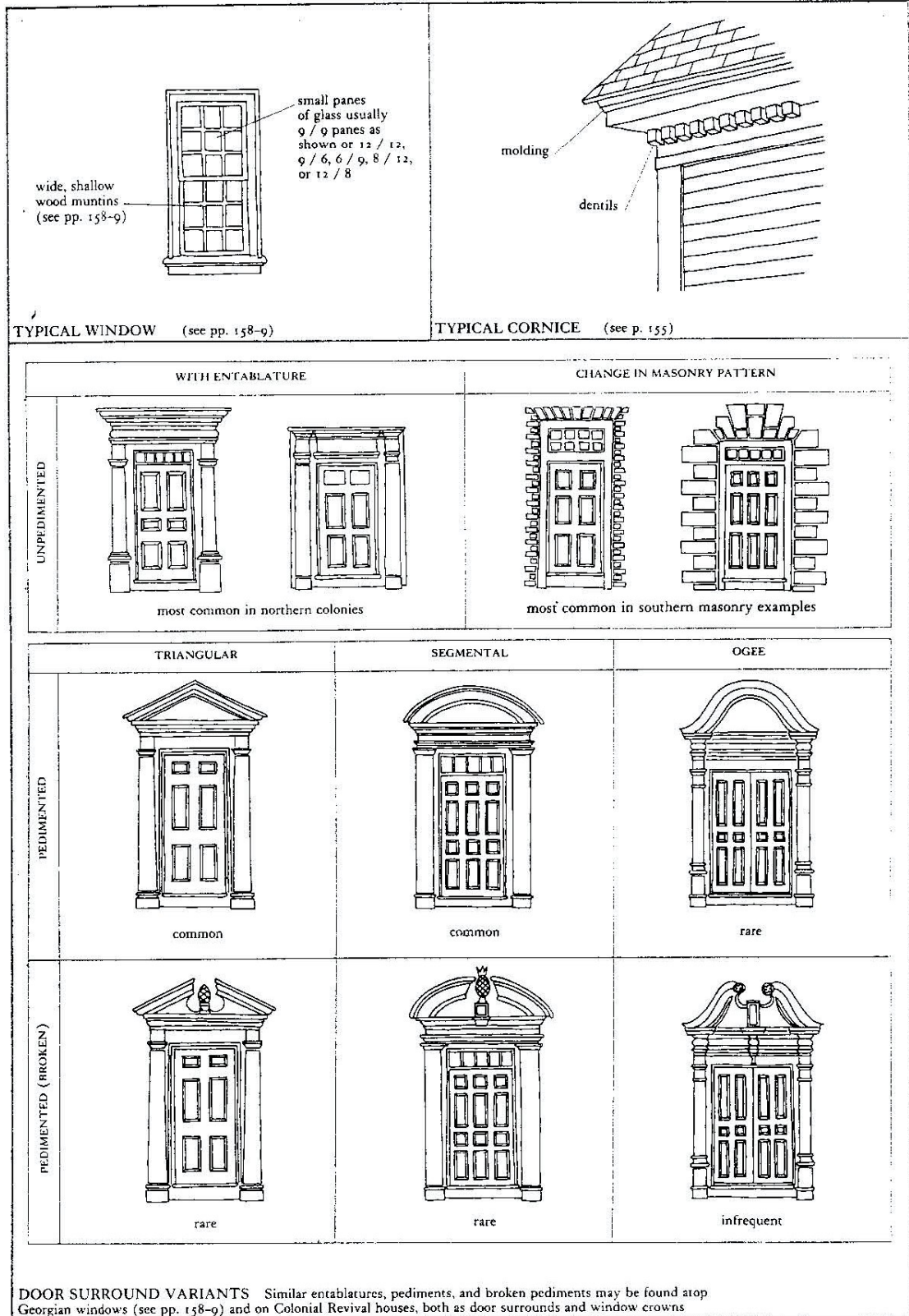
MIDDLE COLONIES—Brick or stone construction dominated here. Some examples have details not found elsewhere, notably the pent roof separating the first and second floors, and the hooded front door, in which elements of the decorative crown project forward to form a small roof over the entryway.

SOUTHERN COLONIES—Brick was the dominant building material in surviving southern examples. End chimneys continued to be common, as in Postmedieval English houses. Shapes were more varied in the South than elsewhere; dependencies were sometimes in separate connecting wings or detached from the main house in separate buildings. Some southern examples are raised off the ground on high foundations. On southern brick examples doors were sometimes accentuated only by changes in the surrounding brick pattern, rather than by an enframing of wooden pilasters and crown.

POST-1750, ALL COLONIES—After 1750, a few well-documented examples have the entire door enframing extended forward to form an entrance porch. Most such porches are, however, post-Georgian innovations. Dormers and decorative quoins became common after 1750 in all colonies. In later brick examples the separation between floors is usually marked by a change in the masonry pattern (belt course). Still more elaborate detailing appears in some high-style examples after 1750. Among these are two-story pilasters, centered gables, and roof balustrades. A cupola projecting above the roof, while common on Georgian public buildings, is found on only a handful of surviving houses. Door and window detailing is discussed in the following chapter, on the closely related Adam style.

OCCURRENCE

Georgian was the dominant style of the English colonies from 1700 to about 1780, when the population had grown to almost three million and covered the area shown on the map. In this area many thousands of Georgian houses survive today. Most have been lost from those colonial cities, such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, that grew rapidly in the 19th and 20th centuries. In sharp contrast are other colonial seaports (all the larger 18th-century towns had direct water communication with England; only villages occurred inland) that declined sharply in importance with the expansion of railroads in the 19th century. Examples are Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Newport, Rhode Island; New Castle, Delaware; Annapolis, Maryland; New Bern, North Carolina; and Charleston, South Carolina. Having had relatively little population growth since colonial times, these towns today preserve much of their Georgian heritage. In addition to the Georgian houses preserved in such coastal towns, many village and rural residences survive, particularly in New England. Landmark plantation houses are the principal southern survivors. With the end of the Revolution and independence (1781–83), the country began to develop new building styles (Adam and Early Classical Revival) based on changing European fashions. Although scattered Georgian houses were built for many decades after independence, even these usually showed some details of the newer styles.



Colonial Houses: Georgian

COMMENTS

Georgian is among the most long-lived styles of American building, having dominated the English colonies for most of the 18th century. The style grew from the Italian Renaissance, which emphasized classical details and reached remote England only in the mid-16th century. There, Renaissance classicism first flourished during the period 1650–1750 under such master architects as Inigo Jones, Christopher Wren, and James Gibbs. The style did not, however, begin to replace Postmedieval traditions in the American colonies until about 1700, when an expanding and increasingly prosperous population began to seek more fashionable buildings. It was brought to the New World principally through architectural building manuals known as pattern books. These ranged from expensive treatises stressing Italian models—the same books from which Jones, Wren, and Gibbs received much of their inspiration—to inexpensive carpenters' handbooks showing how to construct fashionable doorways, cornices, windows, and mantels.

