GLOSSARY

DOWNTOWN NORFOLK VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNT
A Hampton Roads Chapter of the
American Institute of Architecture

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH EVENT
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Architecture has a language unto itself. Every piece of a building, every type of ornamentation, every style has a distinct name and so does each detail you will encounter in our Scavenger Hunt. Below are definitions of typical architectural features you will see in the photos embedded in the Virtual Scavenger Hunt Interactive Map and the Official Virtual Scavenger Hunt Entry Form. Choose from these definitions for the description that is the best match to the details to be found. Enter this on the Entry Form (see example on the bottom right of the Official Entry Form).

HINT: Not all are used; some are used more than once.

Acroterion – A classical ornament or crowning adorning a pediment usually at gable corners and crown, generally carvings of monsters, sphinxes, griffins or gorgons, sometimes massive floral complexes.

Art Deco Ornament – Popular decorative arts in the 1920s–30s after WWI. Identified by geometric, stylized, designs and surface ornamentation in forms such as zigzags, chevrons and stylized floral motifs.

Bas Relief Ornamentation – Carved, sculpted or cast ornament offset from the background plane.

Bracket – Any overhanging or projecting member from a wall to support a weight such as a cornice.

Cartouche – An oval tablet with an elaborate scroll–carved frame, used as ornamentation for building moldings, borders, panels, etc.

Consoled Architrave – Ornamental molding adorning the lintel of an opening supported by decorative brackets in the form of scrolls projecting from the wall.

Corinthian Order – The most ornate and recent of the Greek classical orders. Corinthian Columns are easily identified by their ornate capitals composed of rows of acanthus leaves and scrolls supporting the corners of the abacus. The abacus is bowed and decorated with a fleuron at the center of each face.

Cornice – Any molded projection which crowns or finishes the part to which it is attached.

Crocket – In Gothic Architecture, an upward–oriented ornament, often vegetal in form, regularly spaced along sloping or vertical edges of emphasized features.

Cushioned Capital – A non-classical column or pier capital resembling a cushion being pressed down by the weight above it.

Doric Order – The column and entablature developed by the Dorian Greeks, sturdy in proportion, with a simple cushion capital. It is the earliest type of classical Greek Architecture. Greek Doric Columns do not have bases. The Roman Doric Order adds a base to the column.

Entablature – The entire band of horizontal elements above the column capitals. From bottom to top it is composed of the Architrave, Frieze and Cornice.

Final – An ornament which terminates a spire or pinnacle, typically a floral design. Also refers to ornament capping piers or the corners of pediments typically in the shape of a ball on a pedestal.

Flemish Bond – A brick wall bond with courses of alternating headers and stretchers with the headers centered on the stretchers.

Fleuron – Ornament at the center of the Ionic abacus. Classically it is a floral ornament, but in modern interpretations, can be anthropomorphic (e.g. human forms).

Fretwork – Ornament comprised of incised or raised bans, variously combined and typically using continuous lines arranged in a rectilinear or repeated geometric pattern. Also called a Meander.

Geison – The projection at the bottom of the tympanum formed by the top of the Cornice.

Grotesques – A sculptural decorative form of arabesques with interlaced garlands and strange animal faces. Grotesques include gorgons and gargoyles.

Intrados – The lower or inner curve of an arch forming the concave underside.

Ionic Order – One of the classical orders of architecture characterized by columns having capitals with large volutes.

Jack Arch – An arch with a horizontal intrados.

Mascaron – The representation of a face, human or partly human as ornament, typically on keystones.

Parapet – The portion of an exterior wall that extends above the roof line, typically concealing the flat roof behind it.

Pediment – In classical architecture, the triangular gable end of the roof above the horizontal cornice. If a pediment is over a door or window, it is called a Fronton.

Pommel (pomel) – A rounded final.

Portico – A covered projecting entryway consisting of a roof supported by columns.

Rinceau – A strip pattern of ornamentation, usually in low-relief and made up of undulating vine and plant-like motifs.

Tuscan Order – A simplified version of the Roman Doric Order, having a plain frieze and typically a simple base composed of a plinth and torus. Column capitals have a square abacus supported by a round cushion profile that is above a distinctive "neck" of the column.

Tympanum – The triangular recessed wall space of a classical pediment. It is bound by the raking cornice above and the horizontal geison below.

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