



Anacortes Historic Preservation Board



Vernacular Houses Pyramid and Hipped Roof Variation



Many one-story, square, hipped or pyramidal roofed houses were built in early Anacortes neighborhoods from the late 19th century through about 1920, although a few later examples exist. Often called the workingman's four-square, these houses reflect frontier values: they were simple and inexpensive to build, efficient, and lacked elaborate ornamentation. This style of house is ubiquitous throughout the West and, depending upon the location, housed miners, factory workers, fishermen, and other laboring folk.

In Anacortes, inexpensive accommodations were needed to house the influx of workers to man the mills and canneries springing up along the waterfront. Often, housing was located within walking distance of job, which is why clusters of these houses can still be seen near the sites of former mills and the Guemes channel where canneries were located.

Although a pyramid or hipped roof involves more complex framing than a simple pitched roof, it requires fewer long-spanning rafters and therefore was less expensive to build than other roof styles. Cheap, readily available mill ends and

other materials from Anacortes's lumber mills were also used in construction.

Note: Some hipped roofs are built with a short ridge pole, while others come almost to a point, which is usually where the chimney pierces the roof. Both styles are prevalent in Anacortes.

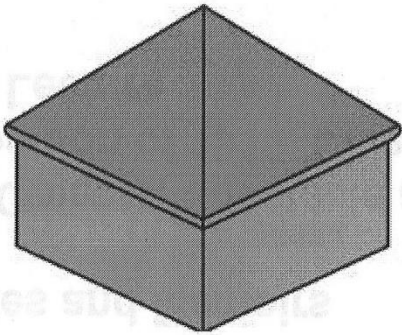


Figure 1 Pyramid Roof

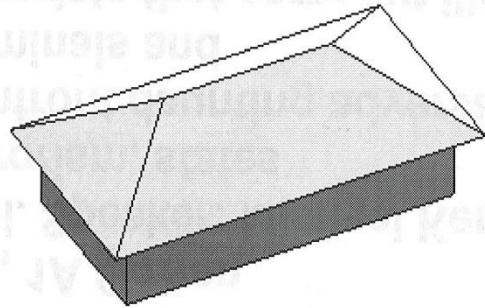


Figure 2 Hipped Roof with ridge pole

The square or rectangular form of these houses made them especially practical for narrow city lots. A quadrant floor plan—typically a room is tucked into each of the four corners—eliminated the need for long hallways and made efficient use of interior space. Often, the front door opens into a living room, with a dining room/kitchen located in back of the living space. Off to the side, are usually two small bedrooms, stacked one behind the other. Early examples of these houses lacked indoor plumbing. Later rear additions were constructed to accommodate bathrooms and kitchens.

Characteristics:

- One story
- Pyramid or hipped roof with overhanging eaves
- Built of readily available materials. In Anacortes, usually wooden shiplap siding with a brick chimney.
- Symmetrical façade balanced around a porch.
- Porches can be full width or confined to the area around the front door.
- Doors are centered or slightly off center.
- Sides are usually slightly longer than the front width
- Often neoclassical elements or details, usually confined to the porch and/or the front of the house.
- In Anacortes, the porch columns were often turned – which probably reflects what was available locally

- Windows were relatively narrow, double-hung, single-pane, and rectangular with a vertical orientation. Sometimes windows were “ganged” – that is two were placed side-by-side. Many times these have been replaced with a single large picture window.
- Front door styles varied but often window (light) above three horizontal panels.
- Picket fences often enclosed small front yards

Many pyramid/hipped roofed cottages exist throughout Anacortes. As you walk around town, look for these examples and contact us to add your favorites:

1202 4th St.

1111 5th St.

1314 5th St.

1313 6th St.

1602 7th St. (note the slightly bellcast roof on this example and in Figure 3, below)

1612 7th St.

1211 10th St.

1213 10th St.

1520 13th St.

1602 13th St.

1213 14th St.

1319 14th St.

1318 15th St.

1110 16th St.

1604 N Ave.

1412 16th St.

1501 16th St.

1110 17th St.

1102 17th (1950s version)

1120 18th

1720 N Ave

1820 L Ave (1950s version)

1102 20th St.

1120 20th St.

1220 20th St.



Figure 3 1313 6th Street

Features

Windows: Double-hung, single pane (one-over-one), narrow, vertical orientation; Often seen with cornice molding (along the top) and simple trim



Doors: Typically single light with three horizontal panels below:



Siding: Wooden shiplap siding; often with corner trim boards. Cornice board under overhanging eaves; few decorative elements.

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