Acanthus
Stylized multi-leaf plant form used to decorate moldings, brackets, and capitals.

Baluster
A small column which supports a staircase, porch, or landing rail.

Balustrade
A series of balusters.

Bay
One unit of a building consisting of a series of similar units, usually window and door openings.

Bracket
A projecting member which supports or appears to support a load, usually at eaves or overhangs.

Capital
The top of a column or pilaster, supporting the entablature.

Clapboard
A long narrow board, overlapped to cover outer walls of frame structures.

Classical
Pertaining to the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome.

Colonette
A small column, usually decorative.

Colossal Order
An order of columns or pilasters spanning several stories of a facade.

Console
A carved bracket which has an s-shape formed by two volutes.

Corbel
A bracket or block projecting from the face of a wall.

Corinthian Order
The most ornate of Greek orders: characterized by a slender fluted columns and a capital decorated with acanthus leaves.

Cornice
The upper projecting section of the entablature, resting on the frieze.

Cupola
A dome-shaped roof, usually on the ridge of a roof.

Doric Order
The simplest Greek order, consisting of heavy fluted columns, plain saucer-like capitals, and a simple cornice.

Dormer
A window projecting from a pitched roof.

Entablature
Part of a structure between the column capital and the roof of a pediment; comprises the architrave; frieze, and cornice.

Foliate
Decorated with leaf ornamentation.

Frieze
The central element of the entablature, above the architrave and below the cornice.

Gable
The triangular wall at the end of a double-pitched or gabled roof.

Keystone
The central voussoir of an arch.

Lozenge
A diamond-shaped motif.

Lantern
A structure built on a roof with open or windowed walls.

Lunette
A semi-circular window.

Modillion
An ornamental bracket or console used in a series under a cornice, usually of the Corinthian order.

Molding
A continuous decorative band, carved or applied to a surface.

Palладian Window
A projecting element of a wall, used to emphasize the center of a building.

Pediment
A triangular section of wall above the cornice of an order.

Pilaster
A rectangular shaft attached to a wall; often treated like a classical column.

Porte Cochere
A large covered entrance porch.

Portico
A columned porch, usually with a pedimented roof.

Quatrefoil
A design consisting of four lobes.
Glossary

Rustication
Masonry cut in units separated from each other by deep joints.

Spindle
A turned wooden element used for decoration.

Transom
A horizontal frame, usually glazed, above a window or a door.

Turret
A small, slender tower, usually glazed and at the corner of a building.

Vousoir
Wedge-shaped stones, which form an arch.

Volute
The spiral which forms the Ionic capital.

For Further Reading

For information about historic preservation programs in Janesville, contact the Janesville Historic Commission, 18 North Jackson Street, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545; (608) 755-3085 or 755-3180.


The assistance of Judith Adler of the Janesville Community Development Department, Bradley Cantrell of the Janesville Planning Department, consultant Carol L. Cartwright, Richard P. Hartung of Heritage Services, Maurice Montgomery of the Rock County Historical Society, and Christine Schelsborn of the State Historical Society is gratefully acknowledged.

Much of the information contained in this guide is found in the Courthouse Hill National Register of Historic Places nomination prepared by Carol L. Cartwright for the Janesville Historic Commission (1986). Craig Bobby provided information about architect George F. Barber.

As noted on page 6, owners of income-producing properties listed in the National Register or contributing to a National Register district are eligible for a 20% federal investment tax credit. This program is administered by the National Park service which approves all work. Application is made through the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Owners qualifying for the federal 20% credit automatically receive a 5% Wisconsin investment tax credit if application and approval is received before work begins. The Wisconsin 25% tax credit is available to owner-occupants of non-income producing properties listed in the national or state registers. For further information contact the Division of Historic Preservation, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 (608-264-6500).