

Baker Street Elementary

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



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*The Life and Times in Victorian London
AB015 -- How to Decorate a Period Victorian
House -- February, 2022*



Welcome to topic # AB015... Today, we will be discussing how Victorian houses are decorated... Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for use of their summary text for this lesson...



Although the Victorians are remembered for being austere and a little straight-laced...



*...Victorian architecture
seems to totally
contradict that notion.*



*Some of the loveliest homes
in the United Kingdom were
built in the Victorian era...*



...when quality workmanship and craftsmen's skills allowed for individual detail and bespoke designs on each Victorian house.





*A typical Victorian house
was built of red brick and
had a slate roof...*





*...with decorative stone detail
in the brickwork and modest
decoration on the outside.*



Sash windows, high ceilings with ornate plasterwork, tiled halls, steep staircases and colorfully tiled iron fireplaces were typical of the 1830s to 1900s.



As the Victorian era progressed, architectural styles developed.



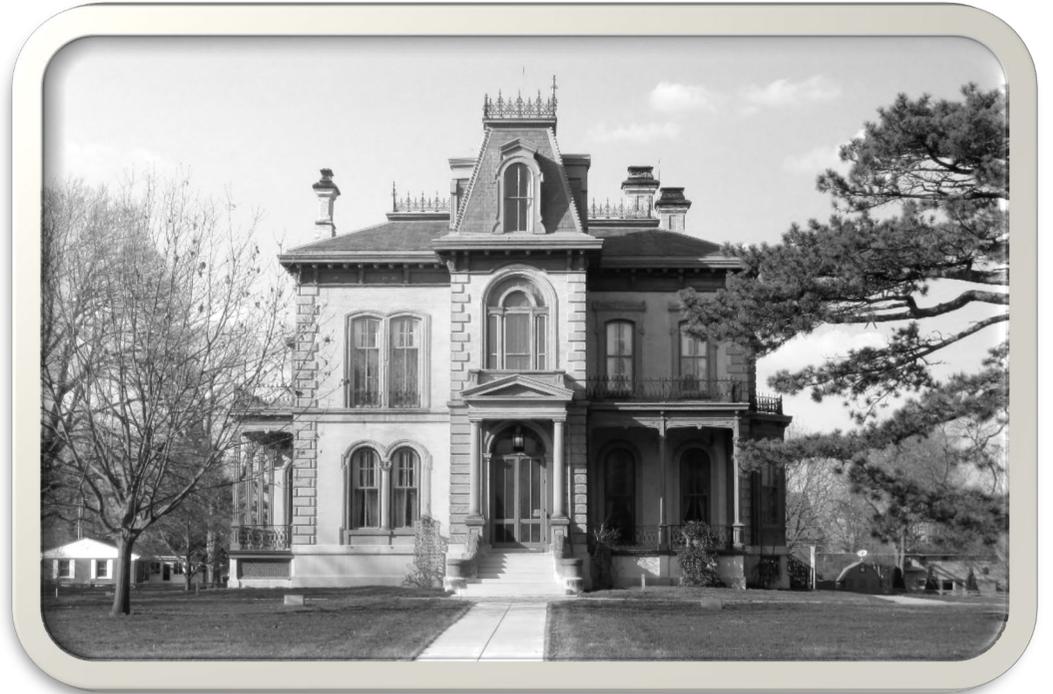
In the 1840s and 50s the Italianate style was popular, particularly in the interior. These were inspired by 16th century Palladian mansions.



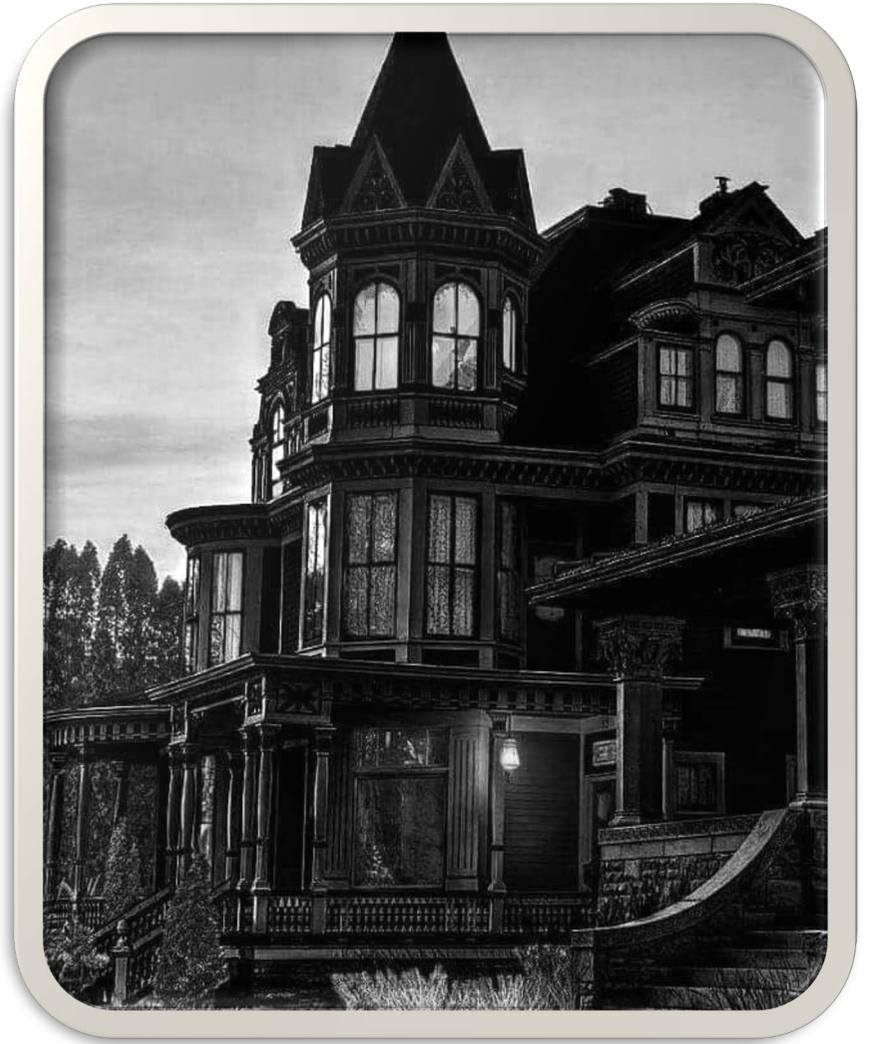
Houses at this time tended to be built with hipped roofs, pedimented windows and doorways, tall ground floor windows with larger panes of glass...



...and decorative cupolas and balustrades were added particularly at roof level. Stucco was widely used to add a decorative finish to plain walls.



By the 1880s a heavy Gothic style was more evident and later still the Arts and Crafts Movement took hold, emphasizing the work of craftsmen.





William Morris was a central figure and his home, Red House, at Bexleyheath typifies this style.





It has a steeply pitched roof, deep porch, pointed window arches and brick fireplaces with a host of handcrafted woodwork within.





*By the end of the Victorian era
houses were lit by gas lamps
and cellars were being used for
storing coal for heating.*



Sanitation standards were raised with either an outside "privy" with proper drainage or an inside water closet, where the term "WC" comes from.



Small Victorian houses for workers were common in cities. Around Manchester terraced streets of "two-up, two-down" houses still survive.



*They often had a shared
back yard which led out to
a service lane at the rear.*



In wealthier areas, fine detached family homes were built with bay windows, gingerbread trim around the eaves and steps up to an ornate entrance porch.



These fine homes were often decorated externally using different colors to pick out the detail.





*Dark blue, red, green
and rich brown were
popular colors.*



Brilliant white was not available at that time and those wishing to decorate a period Victorian house may want to consider cream which was more authentic to the period.



In the latter part of the Victorian age, gloss paint became popular as it was much easier to keep clean.



Black gloss was popular on doors, window frames and exposed beams.



*Fence posts and finials
were painted green to
blend in with the foliage...*



...or painted with a bronzing powder to give a high-class finish which can easily be replicated today.



*Again, thanks to
AboutBritain.com for their
help... So we have completed
topic # AB015 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back
with another topic
soon...*





Original Source Material for this topic:

1) <https://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/decorate-period-victorian-house.asp>



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IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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