Greek Revival Architecture Glossary of Terms:

**Adobe:** unfired mud blocks used for wall construction often covered with stucco; most commonly, used in areas that experience little rainfall.

**Architrave:** the lowest section of the entablature: architrave, frieze, and cornice. It is also used to reference ornamental molding around doors and windows.

**Base:** the lowest portion of a column.

**Capitals:** the upper decorative portion of a column or pilaster below the entablature. The capitals indicate the difference between orders.

**Clapboard:** used to cover the outer walls of buildings, made from long flat pieces of wood that overlap horizontally.

**Cobblestone:** naturally rounded stones used in construction which are larger than a pebble but smaller than a boulder.

**Corinthian Order:** one of the most decorated of the six recognized orders, characterized by slender fluted columns and ornate capitals.

**Cornice:** the uppermost part of the entablature in Greek architecture, it projects outward and is often decorated.

**Cornice Returns:** a pair of cornices that wraps around the corner of a gable end without meeting; giving the impression of a pediment.

**Dentils:** small square blocks in a series that are often found on cornices, moldings, and pediments.
**Doric Order:** one of the least decorated of the recognized orders, characterized by a plain capital, and heavy fluted columns that lack a base.

**Entablature:** the entire horizontal structural member supported by columns; composed of the (lowest to highest) architrave, frieze, and cornice.

**Frieze:** the middle portion of the entablature below the cornice. Also, a plain or decorative band located immediately below the cornice.

**Frieze Windows:** small rectangular windows located within the frieze, usually along the façade of a building.

**Gable:** the triangular end of an exterior wall at the end of a pitched roof.

**Ionic Order:** a moderately decorated order easily recognized by its capitals with spiral designs.

**Italianate Architecture:** characterized by a visually balanced façade, decorative brackets, and lintels over windows and doors; usually built with brick, and two to three stories tall with a low pitch roof.

**Lintels:** in Greek Revival architecture it refers to a horizontal block placed over two vertical members. It may be load bearing or ornamental.

**Pediment:** the triangular shaped front piece with a horizontal molding at the base and two sloping moldings on each side. A broken pediment's sides do not meet. An open bed pediment's base is not continuous.

**Pilaster:** a flat column that is attached to the wall for decoration rather than support; often found at corners and doorways.

**Portico:** a covered walk or porch that is supported by columns or pillars.

**Quoins:** alternating rectangles of stone or brick used at the corners of a building for corner support and stability.

**Stucco:** a plaster-like material made of lime, sand, and water; often spread over adobe brick or other masonry.

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**Did You Know?**

Settlers reused and recycled their buildings and building parts. An example can be found at 4560 South Wagner Rd, where a Greek Revival structure is now used as an outbuilding.
19th Century Greek Revival Architecture Forms

Temple Front:
Built to resemble Greek Temples, defining characteristics include a large front facing gable with columns and a pediment. Examples include the Wilson-Wahr House and the Ladies Literary Society.

Hen and Chicks:
Unique to Southeast Michigan, the “hen” has a front gable and a two story central core which resembles a temple front. The “chicks” are one story side wings. Examples include the Douglass-Nanry House and the Tubbs House.
**One-and-a-Half Form:**
Characterized by a one-and-a-half story rectangular core with frieze windows to provide light and air circulation to the upper floor. Examples include the Brinkerhoff-Burg House and the Treadwell-Popkins House.

![Image of One-and-a-Half Form](image1)

**Upright and Wing:**
Usually consists of a two story rectangular portion with a front facing gable, and a one-and-a-half story wing attached on one side. Examples Include the John Stanton House and the Pope House.

![Image of Upright and Wing](image2)

This information is meant to supplement the Washtenaw County, MI Greek Revival Architecture Driving Tour, which can be found at: [http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/community-and-economic-development/workforce-development/historic-preservation/heritage-tours-new](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/community-and-economic-development/workforce-development/historic-preservation/heritage-tours-new)