

For Rent or Sale.
 That elegant Square of Ground next the Hospital, at Macdonough, exactly opposite this city, with the two Dwelling Houses, a large Bakery, and extensive out buildings thereon. The situation is one of the best on the opposite bank, being healthy at all seasons, and is suitable for a large family. On the premises is a large Garden now in cultivation, with a number of valuable fruit trees.
 With the premises may be had several fine Cows and Horses.
 Apply at 33 CAMP ST. [d20-t]

Left: Large-scale, hand-drawn watercolor plans were once used to advertise properties prior to their sale at public auction. This 1866 plan shows a small farm with a cottage dwelling, attached stables, outbuildings, and planted crops that was likely typical in McDonoghville's rural setting. Persac, Adrien. Plan Book 38 (038.020), June 18, 1866. Clerk of Civil District Court, Notarial Archives Division, New Orleans, LA. **Above:** A spacious property was advertised in the *Daily Picayune* on January 11, 1849. The neighboring hospital mentioned in the ad was the United States Marine Hospital, which exploded in 1861 after Confederate troops began using it as a powder magazine.

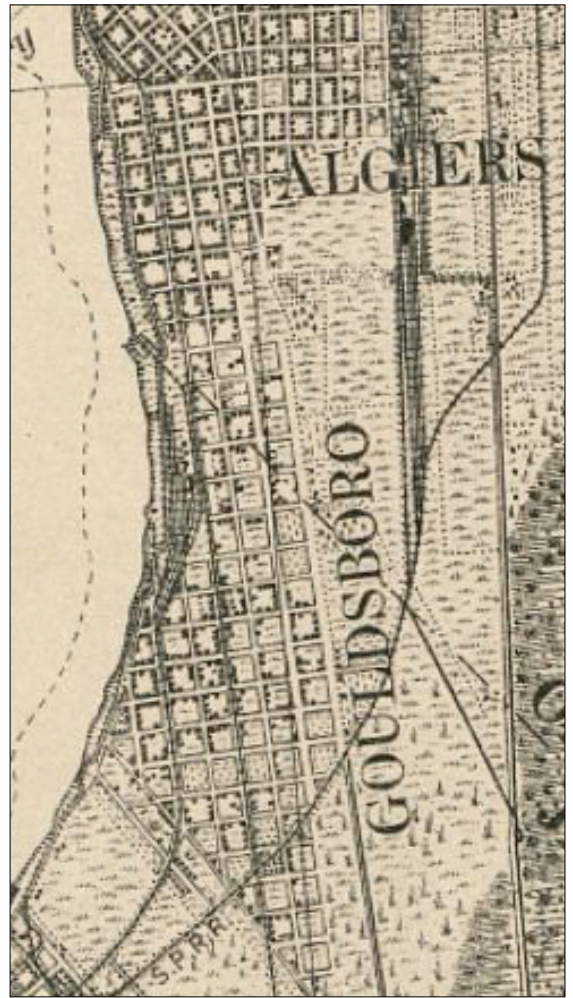


A detail from an 1851 watercolor plan advertising a trio of simple galleried cottages for sale on Hancock Street. Giroux, Claude & Castaing, Alexander. Plan Book 65, Folio 48 (065.048), February 18, 1851. Clerk of Civil District Court, Notarial Archives Division, New Orleans, LA.

boom, which produced McDonoghville's robust collection of Italianate and Queen Anne/Eastlake shotguns and cottages.

Another flurry of development took place in the years after McDonoghville's 1913 incorporation into the City of Gretna. In the early 20th century, fire insurance rates in the area had become prohibitively high due to the lack of a waterworks system. When a system was finally installed in 1914, however, it gave newcomers the confidence and means to settle there. Numerous residences, many of them in the Neoclassical Revival and Craftsman styles, sprang up throughout the district.

The McDonoghville Historic District was locally designated in 2005.



Top: McDonogh No. 26 was constructed in 1891 in McDonoghville. It was one three public schools made possible by the John McDonogh School Fund, which was established after McDonogh's death in 1850. The school was replaced with a modern structure in 1927. Photograph courtesy of Jerome Wilson. **Bottom:** In the late nineteenth century, McDonoghville was also known as Gouldsboro, named for railroad magnate Jay Gould. A detail of the Mississippi River Commission's 1896 map illustrates that the community's development pattern was relatively sparse compared to that of Algiers, its more urbanized neighbor. Mississippi River Commission. *Mississippi River. Sheet Number 28 [New Orleans and Vicinity.]* Louisiana Research Collection, Tulane University.

MAJOR HISTORIC LANDMARKS



Gretna City Hall
(former Jefferson Parish Courthouse)
Built 1907
National Register of Historic Places, 1983



Jefferson Memorial Arch
Built 1923
National Register of Historic Places, 1985



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
Built 1926
National Register of Historic Places, 1983



**Most Holy Sacrament Convent/
Infant Jesus College**
Built 1899
National Register of Historic Places, 1983



David Crocket Firehall
Built 1859
National Register of Historic Places, 1983



Kerner House, 1012 Monroe
Built mid-19th century
National Register of Historic Places, 2000



McDonoghville Cemetery
Founded early 19th century

RESIDENTIAL TYPES & STYLES

3



INTRODUCTION

Gretna has a rich architectural heritage that reflects its own long history of development and the broader architectural trends of the greater New Orleans metropolitan area. The city's two local historic districts, Mechanikham-Gretna and McDonoghville, feature examples of several different historic residential building types and styles, from Creole cottages to Craftsman bungalows.

Identifying a property's type and style is the crucial first step in planning a successful project. Not only does it lead to a deeper understanding of a building's place in the city's history and its reflection of local and national developments in technology and design, but it also directly impacts a homeowner's options for appropriate repair and modification. A building's style informs its materials and detailing, such as porch flooring, doors, and windows. A building's type dictates the proper massing of additions and other structural changes, such as roof repairs and the addition of dormers.

Not every historic residence falls neatly into one style category. In the past just as today, a building was a reflection of the owner's tastes, needs, and budget. If one homeowner desired a textbook example of an Eastlake shotgun, his neighbor might have worked with a contractor to devise a more personalized design, perhaps one that combined Neoclassical Revival windows and Queen Anne shingles. As a result, historic residences can be purely one style, a blend of two or more styles, or they may lack a style altogether. A center-hall cottage might have a mixture of Greek Revival and Italianate details, implying that it was likely built during the time that the two styles overlapped. A shotgun's only hint at a style might be its paneled doors.

Buildings, again in the past just as today, were often modified to reflect changing tastes, needs, and budgets. A Creole cottage might gain a shed-roof rear addition to increase living space. When indoor plumbing became widely available in the early twentieth century, many houses were altered to accommodate the new luxury. An 1890s Eastlake shotgun might have been stylishly updated with new Craftsman doors twenty-five years after it was built. If fifty years or older, these historical alterations are often significant themselves and contribute to the building's historic value. By contrast, recent changes that utilize inappropriate materials, detailing, scale, and massing compromise the building's integrity and thus decrease its historic value.

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HOW TYPES AND STYLES WERE CHOSEN

The historic types and styles chosen for this section reflect those most commonly found in Gretna. If more information is needed on a type or style that is not included here, please consult Part 8: Glossary & Additional Resources.

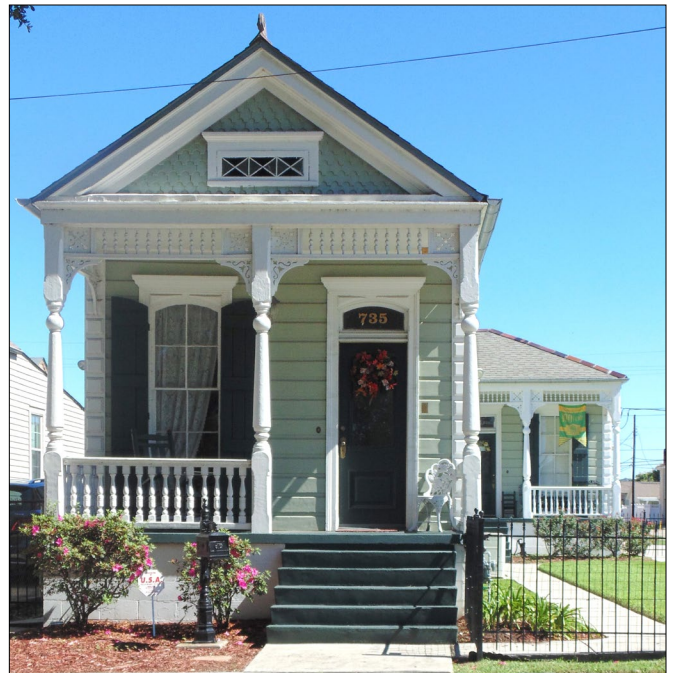
TYPE vs. STYLE

A building **TYPE** refers to the overall structure of the building. Is it long and narrow? How many stories does it have? Is it one room wide? Is the roofline parallel or perpendicular to the street?

An architectural **STYLE** is the decoration and detailing applied to the building type. Style can be integrated into the building's structure or added onto it as ornamentation. Are the windows arched or flat on top? Is the facade symmetrical or asymmetrical? What do the porch columns look like? Is the siding narrow, plain, or patterned?

Historically, styles waxed and waned in popularity like any other trend. If a house was built during a transitional period between two styles, it might have elements of both. Other houses have elements of more than one style because they were updated to reflect the latest tastes.

Some building types, such as the long-lived shotgun, are associated with several different styles, from Italianate to Eastlake to Craftsman. By contrast, the bungalow type is strongly tied to the Craftsman style.



This single shotgun has elements of the Eastlake, Queen Anne, and Italianate styles, a very common combination at the turn of the 20th century.



This raised bungalow combines a Mediterranean Revival roof and porch detailing with Craftsman windows and exposed rafter tails. The two styles overlapped in the 1920s.

TYPE: CREOLE COTTAGE

1800s–1870s

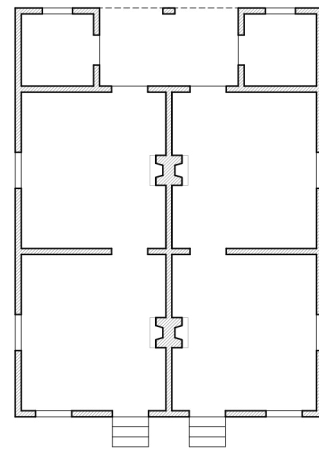
The Creole cottage, a colonial blend of cultural building methods, is the earliest housing type still found in Gretna. Modest and straightforward, the frame Creole cottage is one or one-and-a-half stories tall and is traditionally built low to the ground on short brick piers. Its roofline runs *parallel* to the street. Gretna's remaining examples are all historically two rooms wide with symmetrical facades that feature either four uniform French doors or two French doors and two double-hung windows. A few examples have lost one or more of their historical openings but retain their original two-room width. All have side-gable roofs with a front projecting eave that protects the facade from the elements. They are either sited at the lot line and accessed by stoops or set back far enough to accommodate a front gallery below the overhanging roof.

In addition to being two rooms wide, Creole cottages are generally two rooms deep with two additional smaller rooms, or *cabinets*, at the rear. The hall-less floor plan and *en suite* rooms, or rooms that open directly onto each other, allow for maximum air circulation. Chimneys are centered on the gable slopes or near the roof's ridge line. Paired gable dormers and gable windows provide light to finished attics, which are typically reached by a staircase in one of the cabinets.

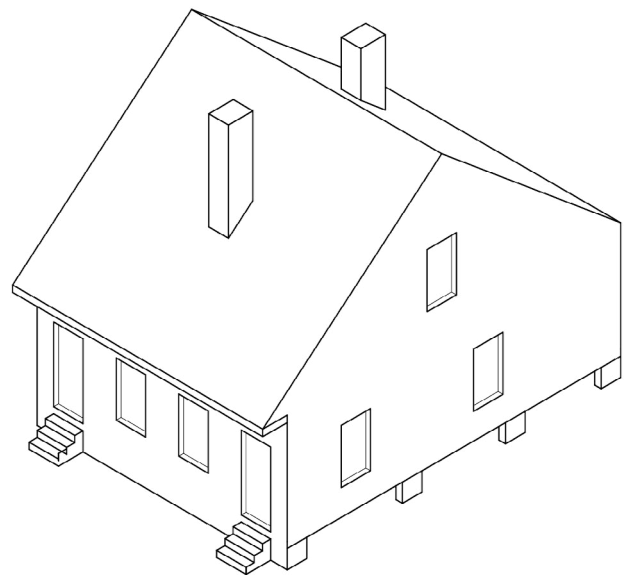
Gretna's Creole cottages most commonly feature simple Creole and Greek Revival detailing, although some were altered to reflect later styles, including Italianate and Eastlake.



Galleried Creole cottage with dormers



Galleried Creole cottage with replaced doors, windows, and railing



TYPE: CENTER-HALL COTTAGE

1830s–1880s

The center-hall cottage, essentially a Creole cottage that has been widened by a central hall that runs from the facade entrance to the rear, is an Americanized version of the Creole floor plan. The Americans, who were arriving in New Orleans in droves after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, preferred the privacy of a hallway to the communal nature of Creole *en suite* rooms. The center-hall cottage, like its Creole cousin, is typically two rooms wide by two rooms deep with smaller *cabinets* at the rear and front and back porches. Most are single-family homes with finished attics lit by gabled dormers. The front entrance is typically the largest and most prominent opening and is centered on the symmetrical facade. Gretna's examples are frame structures on short brick piers or raised on brick piers approximately 5 feet above grade.

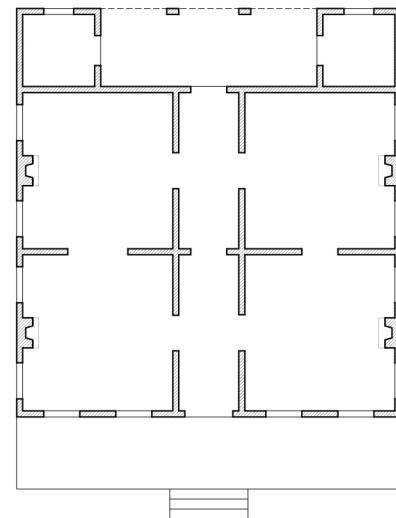
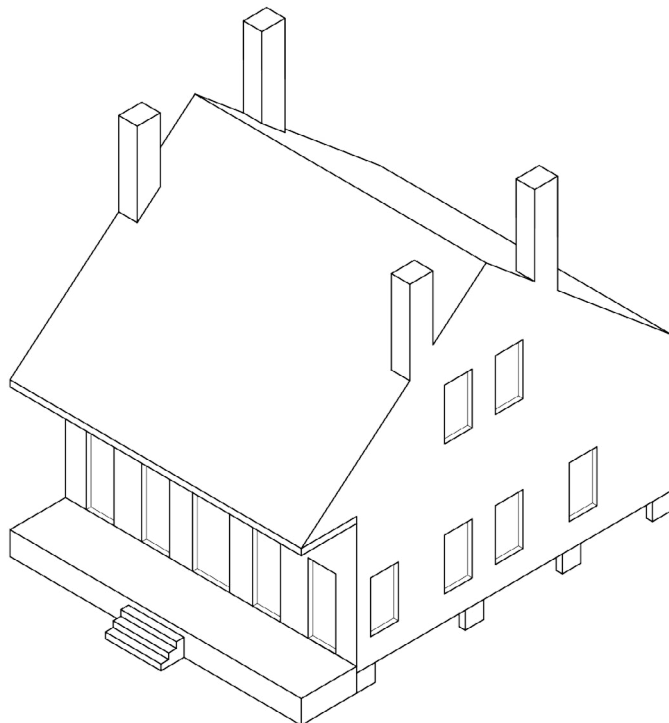
Gretna's center-hall cottages were traditionally in the Greek Revival or Italianate styles, although many were altered over subsequent years to reflect prevailing tastes.



Center-hall cottage in the Italianate style



Heavily altered center-hall cottage in the Greek Revival style



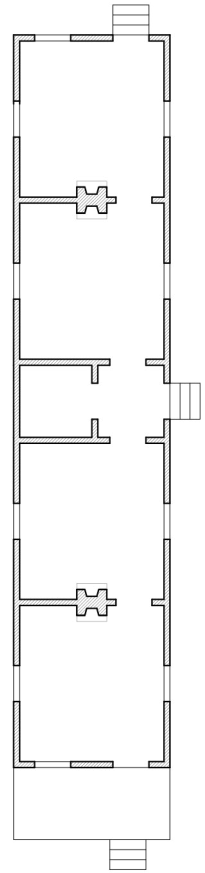
TYPE: SINGLE SHOTGUN

1850s–1930s

Shotguns make up over half of Gretna's historic building stock. This residential type's popularity stems from its efficient use of narrow urban lots, its variability, and its relative low cost to build. Like the Creole cottage, shotguns are typically one story tall and hall-less with *en suite* rooms that open directly onto one another. Unlike the cottage, however, a shotgun's roofline runs *perpendicular* to the street. There are five common subtypes: single shotgun, sidehall shotgun, side-gallery shotgun, double shotgun, and camelback shotgun.

Gretna's shotguns were adapted to a wide variety of architectural styles, including Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne/Eastlake, Neoclassical Revival/Colonial Revival, and Craftsman.

Single shotguns, or two-bay shotguns, are one room wide and three to five rooms deep. Access is provided via a front gallery or stoop. The facade has two openings, or bays: either two full-length openings or one full-length and one short opening. One full-length opening is often seen on Craftsman-style single shotguns. The typical single shotgun roof is hip, front gable, or gable on hip.



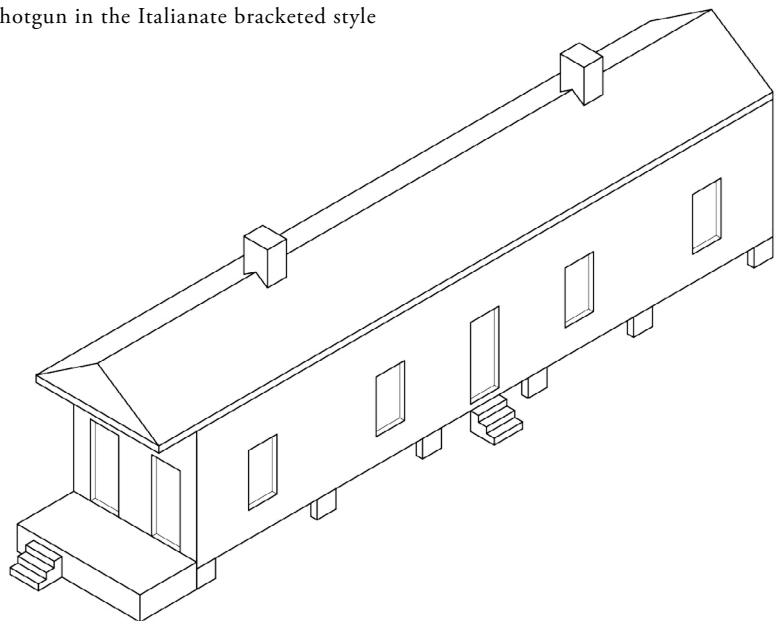
Craftsman single shotguns often have one central opening rather than two.



Single shotgun in the Italianate bracketed style



Single shotgun with rear wing that blends the Queen Anne, Eastlake, and Italianate styles



TYPE: SIDEHALL AND SIDE-GALLERY SHOTGUNS

1850s–1930s

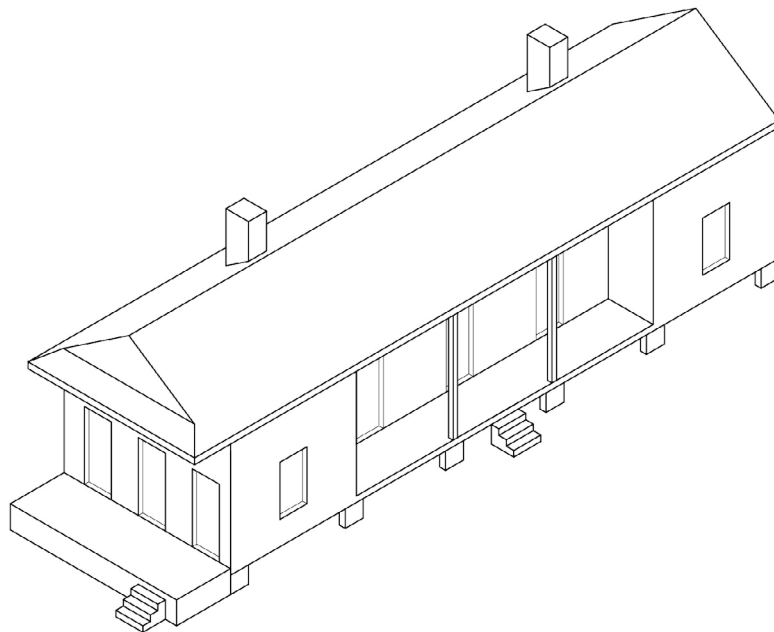
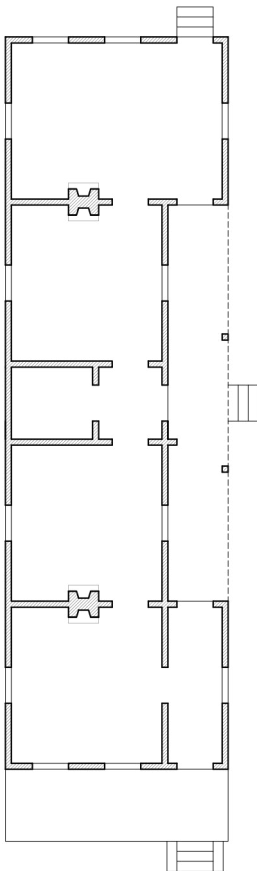
A small number of single shotguns feature an interior or open-air side hall with a dedicated front entrance that moves traffic out of the rooms. A handful of single shotguns have a side gallery, which resembles an open-air side hall but lacks a devoted entry. Both of these subtypes, the **sidehall shotgun** and the **side-gallery shotgun**, are also referred to as three-bay shotguns. Both varieties sometimes feature a historic rear wing.



Open sidehall shotgun with rear wing in the Greek Revival style



Side-gallery shotgun with rear wing in the Queen Anne/Eastlake style



TYPE: DOUBLE SHOTGUN

1850s–1930s

Double shotguns, or four-bay shotguns, are essentially two single shotguns fused together. A typical example is two rooms wide and three to five rooms deep with four facade openings: two front doors and a pair of full-length or short matching windows. Most often they are two mirrored residential units, although several have been converted over time to single-family homes. Access is provided via a pair of stoops or two sets of steps that lead onto a front gallery. The typical double shotgun roof is hip, front gable, or gable on hip.

Single and double shotguns can be seen in **raised** form with a finished “basement,” or ground floor, which started to appear in the twentieth century alongside other raised residential types such as bungalows.



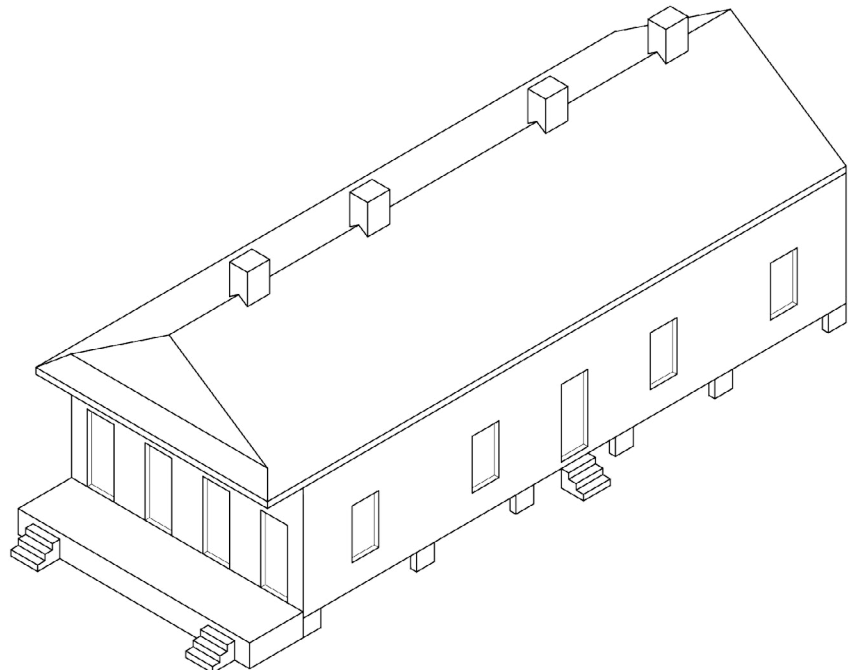
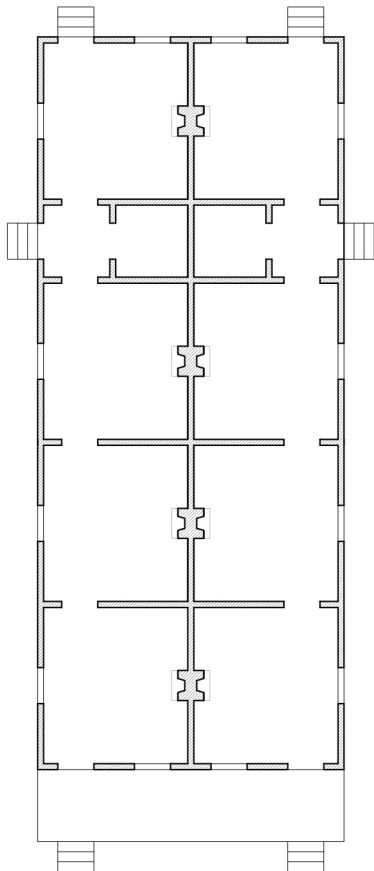
This Italianate bracketed double shotgun features stoops instead of a front porch.



Raised double shotgun in the Craftsman style



Double shotgun in the Neoclassical Revival style



TYPE: CAMELBACK SHOTGUN

1850s–1930s

Camelback shotguns are single or double shotguns with a second story or “hump” stacked onto the rear half of the structure to increase the amount of living space. The roof of the camelback portion may or may not match the roof of the one-story front half of the structure; a gable-on-hip shotgun, for instance, may have a hip-roof camelback. The roof pitch, however, remains the same.

The majority of camelback shotguns in Gretna are in fact modern second-story additions to historic single or double shotguns, which is a popular method of increasing a property’s square footage. See Part 6, Guidelines: New Construction and Additions, for more information.



Sidehall camelback shotgun in the Italianate bracketed style



A single camelback shotgun with rear wing in the Queen Anne/Eastlake style

