Building Types vs. Styles in Architecture
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Most people will recognize common building types such as the cape cod, the split level, the bi-level and the colonial. Most of these building types are relatively modern. The colonial is one of the oldest building types in America. The colonial has over the years been adapted into many common configurations, the cape cod being one of many. Building types are recognizable by their shape mostly. Another example is the four-square, which is easily identifiable by its very cubical shape.

Styles are influences that may come from the style of a particular period. An example of this is the Queen Anne style which is not a building shape but an aesthetic element or program of architecture or decoration. Victorian is also a style. Both styles were from the reign of the eponymous Queens of England. The Victorian style is easily spotted by decorative elements such as “Gingerbread”. Other styles such as the Tudor Style exhibit massive chimneys and half-timbered construction. Almost all styles originated in a particular time period. Revivals of style may have the same elements that would fit the style but they are recreations of the style in a more modern time period.

In our list of homes there are homes called Early American Colonials. These are generally a building type that has lent itself to building on narrow suburban lots. This is a name that we have given this building type as we were unaware of another name for this type of colonial house. It has come to our attention that this building type is also called Folk Vernacular. There are many examples of this type of building throughout Rumson. Some are elaborately decorated with Victorian Style trim work and some have more simple arts and crafts style embellishments. These were typically built around the turn of the century into the 1920’s. The building type is very suitable for narrow lots and is aesthetically pleasing to the eye as most have steep roof lines with valleys, and front or wrap around porches.