

## The Shed-Roofed Bungalow

Explore this bungalow sub-type.

BY ROBERT SCHWEITZER



This later example of a shed-roofed bungalow has the shorter porch, allowing for more interior space. The use of yellow brick is unusual.

FROM 1900 TO 1930 THE BOOMING INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION brought workers to urban areas for employment, resulting in overcrowded cities and a large and expanding middle class. These mostly young, well-paid workers and white-collar managers soon married and had families. With limited rentals available, they turned to the developing suburbs for inexpensive, modern housing. Newly built bungalow-style homes offered an escape from city life and the modern amenities of indoor plumbing, central heating and good-sized lots to raise children in a more naturalistic environment.

When viewing these housing developments today, you can note the bungalow characteristics: small footprint, low-pitched roof, extended eaves, exposed rafters, knee brackets

and wide porches. A wide variety of sub-types of the bungalow style were built, and while the earliest bungalows were simple one-story structures without much exterior decoration, they usually had only one or two bedrooms. It was not long before larger, more complex bungalow types came to market that offered extra square footage, mainly in a usable second story. These homes are sometimes referred to as semi-bungalows.

One of the main sub-types that fit the larger bungalow category is the shed-roofed style that began to appear in the early 1910s and remained popular into the 1930s. Its prototype was likely the late Victorian-era homes with large tower-like dormers that began to appear in the late 1890s. (See illustration on page XX.)

The distinguishing feature of a shed-roofed bungalow is a roof ridge that is parallel to the street, i.e. the gables are on the side of the house. This orientation allows the long front roof to have a large dormer placed in its center, thus opening up the second story for bedrooms and storage. These dormers are large enough to have groups or bands of windows in them to allow a vast amount of light into the upper story. While these dormers were mostly the shed type with a flat roof, a few models have a gabled dormer, but those are a minority.

A second feature of this type is that the front roof extends down and covers the porch. The porches generally run the full width of the façade although a few examples have smaller porches, with the extra space giving way to interior footage.

All the porches had columns; a few were full height, but most sat on some type of wall made of bricks, stone or stucco. The columns sitting on these walls or piers tended to be square or squareish, looking short and squat. Between the columns there could be very simple railings and spindles. The spindles might be nothing more than square sticks—quite a departure from the ornate turned spindles of the 1880s Victorians.

Most shed-roofed bungalows have a bay window on the house side, usually located in the dining room.

By the late 1920s this bungalow sub-type began to adapt to changing markets by losing its large front porch and having its dormer grow in size. These changes allowed for more light and usable rooms in the second story, and saved the cost of building an elaborate porch. In some examples, the porch migrated to the side of the house, allowing for a private sunroom space. By the beginning of the 1940s

Top right: This late 1920s bungalow shows architectural changes that occurred over time. The full porch is gone, the roof dormer is much larger and the eaves are very narrow.

Right: The Aladdin "Richmond" model from 1917 shows the full use of an extra story with a large front dormer. Aladdin utilized a 3-D style floor plan with furniture placement to attract potential buyers.





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## These homes are sometimes referred to as semi-bungalows.



**Above:** This plan has a large dormer, side bay window, knee brackets at the eaves and rustic shingled columns.

**Right:** This type of Victorian house was likely the forerunner for the shed-roofed bungalow; it became popular in the 1890s.

**Right below:** An early model showing full-length porch, columns and stucco siding. These homes were very plain compared to early Victorian homes.

TAKING SIDES

Follow historic cues when planning exterior colors.

Most shed-roofed bungalow models had two exterior siding types with the most common combinations being stucco and shingles or shingles and clapboard. Generally, when the siding type changed so did the color of that surface. So, this bungalow style used at least three colors on the exterior; many homes had more colors than that if the window sashes and porch floors were painted.

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HISTORY CLASS

View a variety of home styles at a bungalow home tour.

California: bungalowheaven.org

Illinois: chicagobungalow.org and architecture.org.

 ${\bf Minnesota:}\ {\bf bungalowclub.org}$ 

**Oregon:** the portland bungalowshow.com **Washington:** historic seattle.org

the shed-roofed bungalow had run its course and was replaced by the Colonial Cape Cod. ©

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