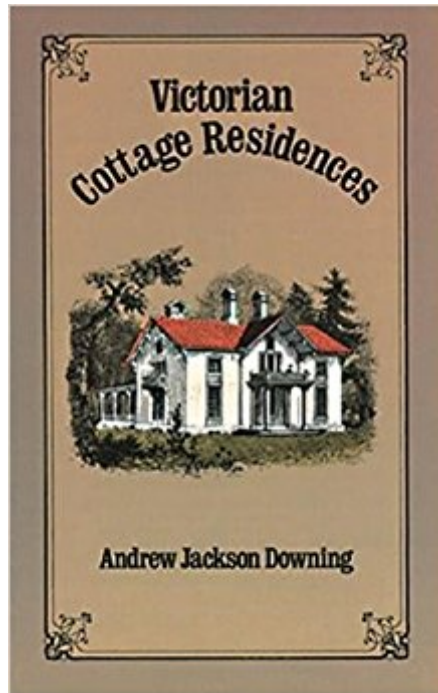




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# Victorian Cottage Residences (Dover Architecture)



## Synopsis

Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-52), the first great American landscape gardener, was one of the earliest and most influential popularizers of something new on the American scene – the small, inexpensive detached house. Into a countryside dotted with log cabins and occasional Greek Revival mansions, he introduced the tasteful, efficient cottage residence in all its variations, including Gothic, bracketed, Italianate, and "rustic." His enormously successful books spread the gospel to thousands of home-buyers and many of his fellow architects – Frederick Law Olmsted, Calvert Vaux, and others – and none was more successful than *Cottage Residences*, one of the most widely used books in American architectural literature. First published in 1842, this book went through many editions before the 1873 edition, reprinted here, which contains for the first time the valuable additions of Henry Winthrop Sargent and Charles Downing. It is here that the author presents 26 different cottage designs with views, floor plans, textual descriptions and, occasionally, garden layouts. Among the different houses included are a suburban cottage, a cottage in the Tudor style, a villa in the Italian style, a villa in the Gothic style, a side hill cottage, a stone cottage, and more. There are also designs for a small rural church and Italian gardens. The 155 illustrations allow readers to see for themselves exactly what the designs entail. For anyone interested in nineteenth-century American domestic architecture, there is no more important book than Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences*. It is an incredibly rich firsthand source for the most popular architectural styles of the period.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was just what I was looking for - a peek about gardening and architecture back into time on the East Coast. For anyone interested in recreating Victorian ornamental, vegetable and herb gardens around Victorian homes that abound on the East Coast, this book offers plant lists and what makes Victorian style. Mary Jasch, DIG IT! Magazine

Very good price for additional resource for survey of architecture class. Big fan of the Victorian Era Homes and Architecture.

The book arrived promptly, but frankly, we were disappointed. We live in a Queen Anne Victorian dating back to 1886. It was built by gentlemen from New England, and when we toured there last fall, we saw many houses similar in architecture to ours here in Southern California. However, none of the illustrations in the book are similar. The pictures are not of cottages but of elaborate mansions. Still, the book holds useful historical information.

A.J. Downing set the style for country suburban Victorian Cottages and gardens along the Hudson River in the 1830's and 1840's. All of his "cottages" featured fireplaces and architecturally important chimneys, usually with decorative chimney tops. Borrowing from painting and fine arts, Downing had definite opinions about color and appropriate use of materials. Provocative and interesting reading this book of cottage and garden plans and sketches is well worth reading. He set a standard for early Victorian architecture. - Jim Buckley

"Victorian Cottage Residences" is a comprehensive book of twenty-something floor plans, mostly of Victorian houses (obviously) both large and small. For those into landscaping as well, this book is doubly wonderful; otherwise the advice on the apple trees is probably better skipped. However, for anyone who's even remotely interested in old homes or houses in general, this is a fantastic book to check out.

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