



# Architecture

## EXPLORER

**Marblehead** was home to the **Naumkeag** (Native American community), when the English arrived in 1629 and decided to make Marblehead their home too. The English built houses, mostly of wood along the rocky coastline, and as they did, the town grew in population. As it grew, more and more houses were built, in many different styles. **Materials** used included brick, wood, and stone. **Today**, there are many different types of buildings in Marblehead, but we are going to focus on different elements of the Jeremiah Lee Mansion (JLM) and **explore** these questions:

- What materials were used to build the JLM?
- How do economics affect construction?
- How does geography impact construction?
- What else can we find by looking?

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Paper
- Pencil
- Glue/Glue Stick
- Ruler (and protractor for older learners)
- Crayons/Colored Pencils
- Scissors

### WHAT IS ARCHITECTURE?

Architecture is ***the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings***. The person who designs them is usually called an architect. Over 200 years ago, there were very few trained architects in America. Many people were called builders or masons. They studied design books and were familiar with the math and engineering skills required to construct houses, churches, and more.

### WHO WAS JEREMIAH LEE?

Jeremiah Lee was born in Manchester, Massachusetts in 1721. He moved to Marblehead when he was in his 20s and set up his own business. By 1766, Jeremiah was married (his wife was Martha Swett) and had 6 children. They lived in a house on Union Street (known today at the Lafayette House). However, Jeremiah had grown very wealthy from his business and thought his family might like a larger home. He was in the shipping industry and his ships took codfish across the Atlantic to Spain and also down to the islands in the Caribbean Sea.

When he decided to have his new home built, there were no architects in Marblehead. There were carpenters, masons, and builders who helped to construct his new home, but Jeremiah used design books published in England to decide how his new house would look.



# JEREMIAH LEE MANSION

**Look** at the image of the Mansion, then answer/discuss the questions below.



What do you **think** the JLM is made of?

**Count** how many windows you can see.

What shapes do you **see**?

**How** many chimneys does the JLM have?

**Find** the two triangles and circle them.  
These are called **pediments**.

## Let's try some math!

How old is the JLM?

If the great hall of the JLM is approximately 32 ft. x 20 ft., what is the area of the space?

## Cupola Facts...

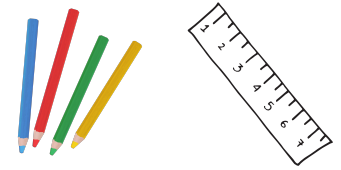
At the top of the JLM, there is an octagonal (8 sided) **cupola**, which is a small, most often dome-like, tall structure on top of a building, used to provide a lookout or to admit light and air.

The JLM is actually made of wood! The wood was cut and painted to look like stone. How? While the paint was drying, someone flecked sand on the planks to give that granular look. We call this style **rusticated**.

## Activity: Design Your Own House

Brainstorm ideas about your dream house.

- What would you build it out of? Wood, stone, brick, something else?
- Where will you build it? By the water? In the mountains?
- How many levels or floors would your house have?
- Where would you place the doors and windows?



Use your paper, pencil, and a ruler to design your ideal house. Once you have the elements where you'd like them to be, use the colored pencils or crayons to add details. If you choose to build your house out of brick, be sure to color the house with a brick pattern. If you choose to design your house out of wood, make sure you can show the planks. Remember, this your design, you choose how it will turn out! Be sure to add some details about the landscape too. When you're done, label the parts of your house so people can understand what you have designed.

### Younger Audiences

Adults and caretakers, print out the sheet of shapes, and use scissors to cut out the individual shapes.

Have your early learner(s) place the shapes on a piece of paper to design a structure. Once they are happy with their design, help them glue the pieces in place, and then your early learner(s) can color the shapes. Ask them to tell you what each shape is and to also tell you about their design.

### Older Audiences

Feel like making a more complex design? Think about adding pediments, columns, arched windows, and other decorative elements to your design. Also, create a scale! This allows you to make precise measurements regarding the placement of windows, doors, and other decorative elements. You can also determine the height of each floor. Remember to designate the scale, for example, 1 inch equals 2 feet.

## Extended Learning Activities

### Explore the Lee Mansion Gardens

Learn about the different plants and the history of the present day gardens May - October by visiting the grounds and using the QR coded *Planting the Past* tours. These are accessible via tablets and smartphones.

### Read a Book



### Watch Town & Country: A Tale of Two Patriots

Watch a program on our YouTube channel with George Mason's Gunston Hall.

