

How to Describe a Historic House

<p>Introductory paragraph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of rooms, floors • Style [optional] • Floorplan in general • Character-defining features • List of common features of primary floor levels, with mention of any highly important elements in attic or basement 	<p>Pottsgrove Manor has 18 rooms on four floor levels (the first and second floors, plus the unfinished attic and basement). The interior provides an excellent example of high-style Georgian design. The house has a center hall floorplan in its main block.</p> <p>Character-defining features include its classical woodwork, flooring, box locks on doors operated by oval brass knobs, and the arched stone hearth supports in the basement. Most rooms on the primary floors have a plastered ceiling and walls, fireplaces on the end walls, and six-paneled interior doors.</p>
<p>First floor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Floorplan with details 2. List of common features (details of common features on this floor level) 3. Individual rooms <p>Incorporate these into the above description:</p> <p>Elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stairs ➤ Windows/doors ➤ Millwork ➤ Hardware <p>Mechanical systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heating ➤ Lighting / wiring ➤ Plumbing <p><i>Always distinguish among original, historic, and replacement features</i></p>	<p>The first floor has a center hall plan in the main block, a modern-built colonial recreated kitchen in the east wing, and two rooms in the rear ell [Differing floor levels anywhere?]. Common features of the first floor include its crown molding in all rooms, paneled wainscoting except in the center hall, six-paneled doors, door casings with cap trim and crossettes, and a Grecian ogee baseboard.</p> <p>[Describe the common features on this floor level before describing individual rooms]</p> <p>[Describe individual rooms with their distinctive features, with only passing reference to common features described above]</p> <p>The main entrance leads into the center hall. The primary features of the center hall are the staircase and the Georgian door casings. The front door [has these features]. The half-turn staircase... [information about the form of the stairs, newel, rail & balusters, brackets, stanchions, etc.]. The door/window casings [have these features].</p> <p>The two parlors in the west end of the main block [have these features; fireplaces, millwork, etc.].</p>
<p>Other floors: separate sections on second floor, attic, then basement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Floorplan with details 2. Common features 3. Individual rooms 	<p>Repeat the process demonstrated for the first floor above for each additional floor level.</p>