



CHEPSTOW

Chepstow is highly evocative of the taste and collections of a descendant of one of America's founding families, placed in the context of a contemporary Newport summer home.

OWNERSHIP AND ARCHITECTURE

Chepstow contains the original Morris-Gallatin furnishings together with important 19th-century American paintings and documents from other former Morris family residences.

An Italianate-style villa, Chepstow was built in 1860 by resident Newport architect George Champlin Mason as the Chepstow summer residence of Edmund Schermerhorn. Acquired by Mrs. Emily Morris Gallatin in 1911, the estate continued in the Morris family until bequeathed in 1986 to the Preservation Society, with its collections intact and an endowment by Mrs. Alletta Morris McBean.

The Italianate style emigrated from England in the 1830s as part of the Picturesque Movement in architectural design. The Italianate form is seen in tall, narrow windows, low-pitched roofs with overhanging eaves, and square towers. In juxtaposition to the traditional models influencing architecture of times past, the Italianate style took precedence in the colloquial architecture of Italian farmhouses. The style became popularized during the 1840s and 50s because plans of landscape designer Alexander Jackson Davis circulated in his peer Andrew Jackson Downing's popular writings on landscape architecture.

Aside from minor restorations, Chepstow retains its original personality with a low French-style mansard roof, bracketed trim, and first floor round arch window detail. A large Palladian window is at full attention on the façade on the second story above an arch entrance pavilion. There is a single-story bay window on the left of the entrance. These windows on one side of the entrance became an exemplifying feature of Mason-designed cottages. While large, it is more typical of the more understated cottages built prior to the Gilded Age period.