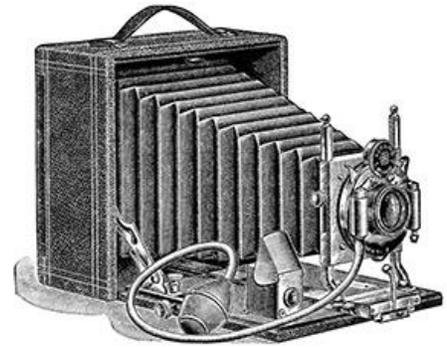


What to Photograph

Photograph the house straight-on as best you can. The front is most important since we will be working with a full image to really see how the colors work together. Photos of the rear, sides and other interesting features are good also but not as important.



If possible, try not to fill the viewing frame too tight with the house. It's best to have about 5-10 feet of view on each side and some sky above the roof. Not too much more. You also need to show some of the front lawn in proportion to the house. If you give me an image with too much lawn, I can easily crop it. The house should appear straight and not be shot at an angle as if looking up a hill resulting in a top-heavy building. Sometimes this is not possible depending on your property.

If you have a large tree blocking your house, please cut it down. Only kidding! We can work around it. Best photos are taken during winter or spring, however please try to avoid branches in the photo if possible.

Sometimes you may not be able to take a straight on photo. Then take one at an angle. If you would like me to render both the front and side of the house, the price will be more since it is almost double the work.

When taking a photo it is best to be closer to the house than farther away and zooming in. That seems to blur the details.

Before taking your picture:

*Please remove all hanging baskets, porch chairs, cars in driveway, any additional clutter. Never have trash cans visible any time.

*Please close all windows. Shades or blinds should be uniform height if possible too.

Try to think of getting your house prepared for getting dressed up in its Sunday's best. Any items – as much as you like them will distract you from what you need to look at.

When to Photograph

Try to take the pictures on a cloudy-bright or overcast day with your back to the sun. Best time is at noon.

Be careful if the sun is out. Make sure it is shining on the face of the part of the building you are photographing with **few shadows as possible**. Even moderate shadows can conceal details. Too much sun will wash out details and not allow new color to be added.

If the sun is behind the house, the image will look too hazy.

Try to avoid glare on the windows if possible – the result will be much prettier.

With this in mind it may take a day or two, at different times during the day for you to be able to photograph the house in the best lighting conditions.

Please keep in mind, a slightly dark image is better than a washed out image. The quality of the photos submitted will reflect your final result.

How to Get a Higher Quality Image – camera or phone

To get a higher quality digital image you need to increase the picture size. You increase the picture size by increasing the amount of pixels used. Doing this on a digital camera will take up more space on your disk but will make the quality greater.

Depending on the type of camera or phone you are using, the settings may be different, but if you follow the tips below, you should be able to change your image size.

Go to the main settings and look for a setting that says image resolution or image size. It may only say something like L, M1,M2,M3,S. Your phone may instead list numbers like 2640 x 1980.

The number of pixels in a image is referred to as its resolution. Your camera or phone will offer several options.

Here is a chart that should be similar to what your camera offers:

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Pixel Count</u>	<u>Image Size</u>
L	Large	3456 x 2592	9 Megs
M1	Medium1	2816 x 2112	6 Megs
M2	Medium2	2272 x 1704	4 Megs
M3	Medium3	1600 x 1200	2 Megs
S	Small	640 x 480	0.3 Megs

In choosing an image to submit for graphic work, please look at the Image Size column and choose a setting that is a minimum of 4 Megs. 6-9 megs are better.

If using a cell phone it may look like this:



One way to see if you have a good photo is to open it up and see if the current colors appear natural and the house is not back-lit. Zoom in close and see if details on your eaves are distinct enough for me to outline. Don't worry if I see something that will not work, I will let you know and we can fix it. Mouse over the image and check the file size. **It MUST be a good 3000 kb.** The quality of your photo will affect your final result. Any questions or problems, just ask me. 😊

