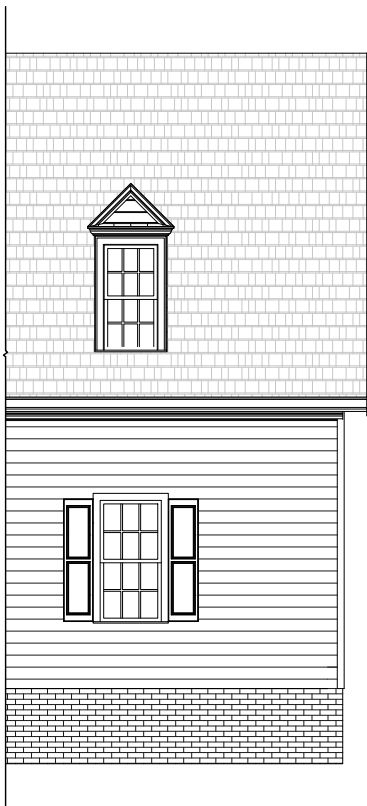
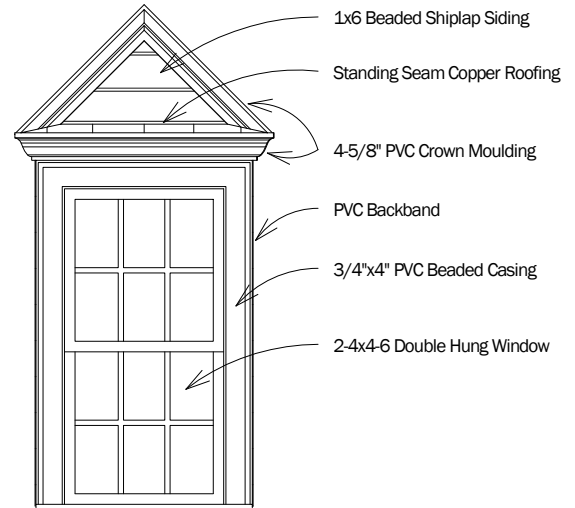


Building The Colonial Dormer

We've all seen examples of otherwise good looking homes that look awkward because of poorly designed details. One example of this is a dormer that is top heavy or is built with stiles that are too wide. If the dormer is built with a ceiling height consistent with the room from which it projects, the roof of the dormer will sit too high, causing the top heavy look. Another common miscue is to allow sufficient width for an interior casing to be applied. This causes the stiles to be built too wide -- sometimes so much so that the front elevation of the exterior must be covered with siding.

For examples of well proportioned dormers, we can look to Colonial Williamsburg for influences. As with the dormer shown here, the emphasis of construction should be placed on the appearance of the exterior elements.

Notice that the roof is set closer to the top of the window. This avoids the top heavy or "bad haircut" look that setting the roof at a typical ceiling height would cause. The window drawn is set at a head height of 6'-8". The rafters rest on a plate that is set a few inches above this. Doing so allows all the elements to come together in good proportion.



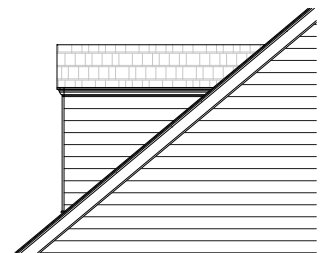
With the stiles built as shown, there is little room for interior casing. This can be trimmed with a piece of 1/4 round or shoe moulding. Another option would be to use a piece of trim ripped from the same profile casing used elsewhere in the room.

The details to the right show two common examples of how to address the siding on the side wall of the dormers. It really is a matter of personal preference whether the siding is run horizontally or parallel to the roof.

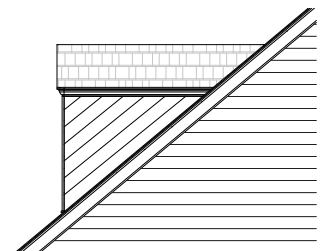
Providing the proper details and guidance on the construction drawings will help ensure the desired results in the field. If you'd like to discuss this or any other projects please feel free to call or e-mail.

Best Wishes,

Don



Dormer with Horizontal Lap Siding



Dormer with Beaded Shiplap Siding set parallel with roof