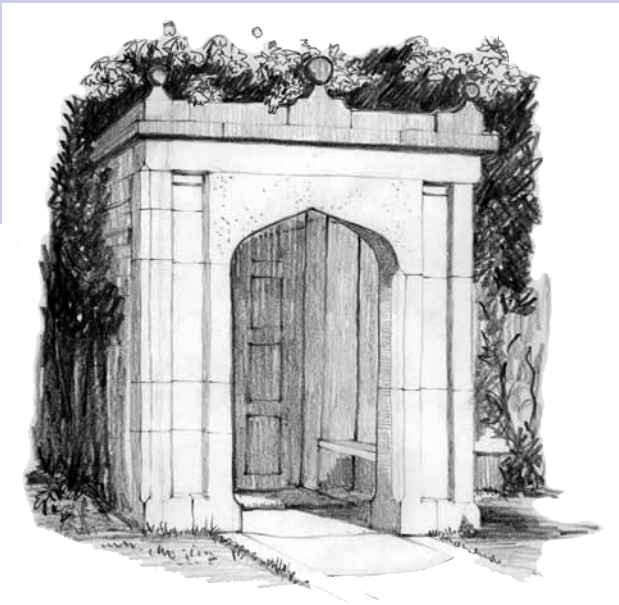


# PORCHES

## A guide for home owners and occupiers



*Porches and canopies are prominent features on many Cotswold buildings, adding interest to them as well as providing protection from the weather.*

*Porches need to be well designed and in keeping with the building to which they are attached.*

*Careful consideration needs to be given to the choice of materials, local stone, brick, timber, lead, tile or even corrugated iron porches can enhance a building if well designed.*

*This guide illustrates many attractive designs and the use of a variety of materials. We hope it inspires you to design the right porch for your property or to retain, repair and maintain an existing one.*



April 2004

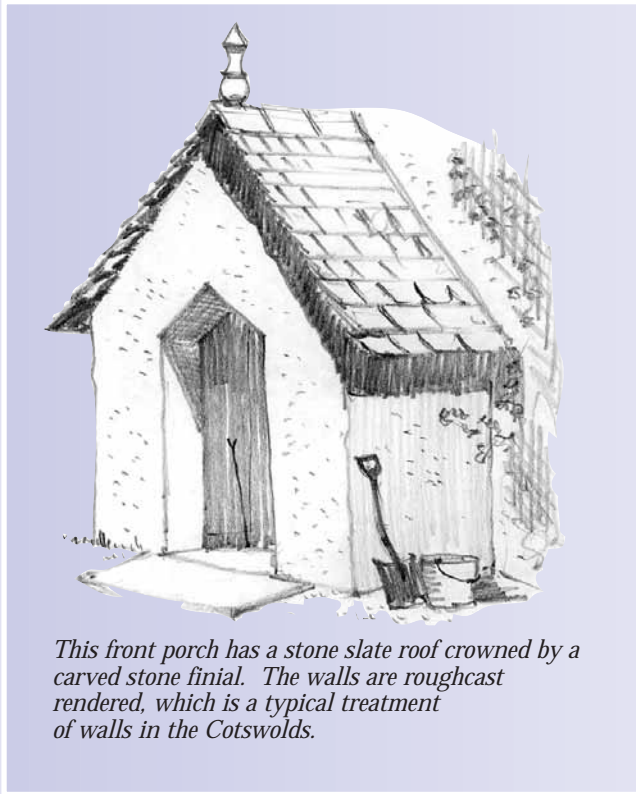
Tewkesbury Borough Council

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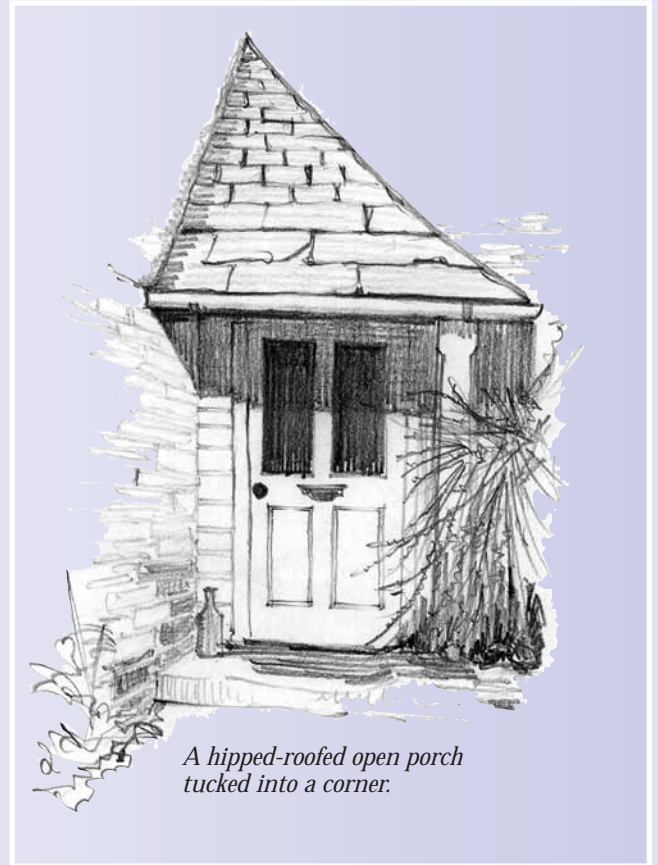
## History

Historically, many traditional Cotswold houses had stone porches to provide shelter at their principal entrances.

Victorian and Edwardian builders often elaborated upon the local vernacular style and produced richly detailed examples with steep roofs, coped gables, carved kneelers and finials.

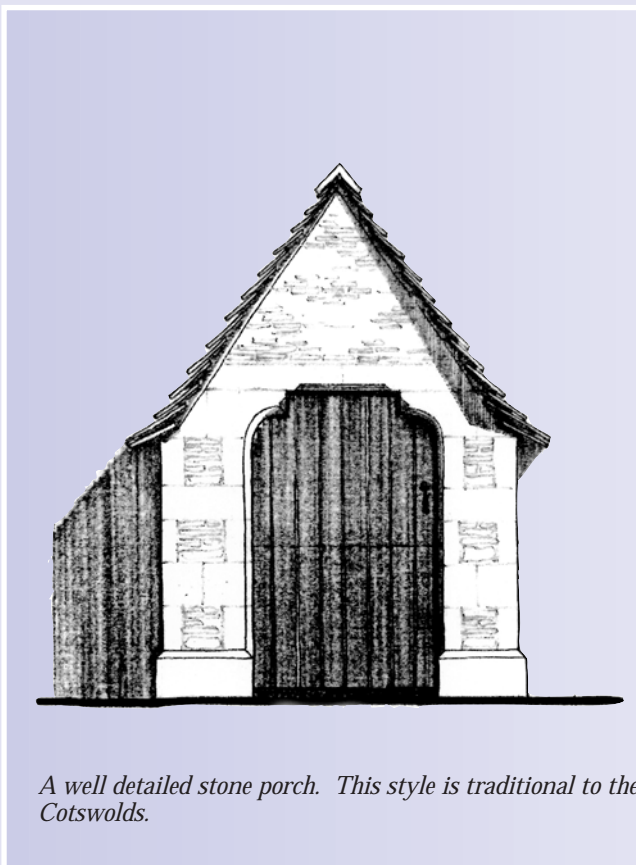


*This front porch has a stone slate roof crowned by a carved stone finial. The walls are roughcast rendered, which is a typical treatment of walls in the Cotswolds.*

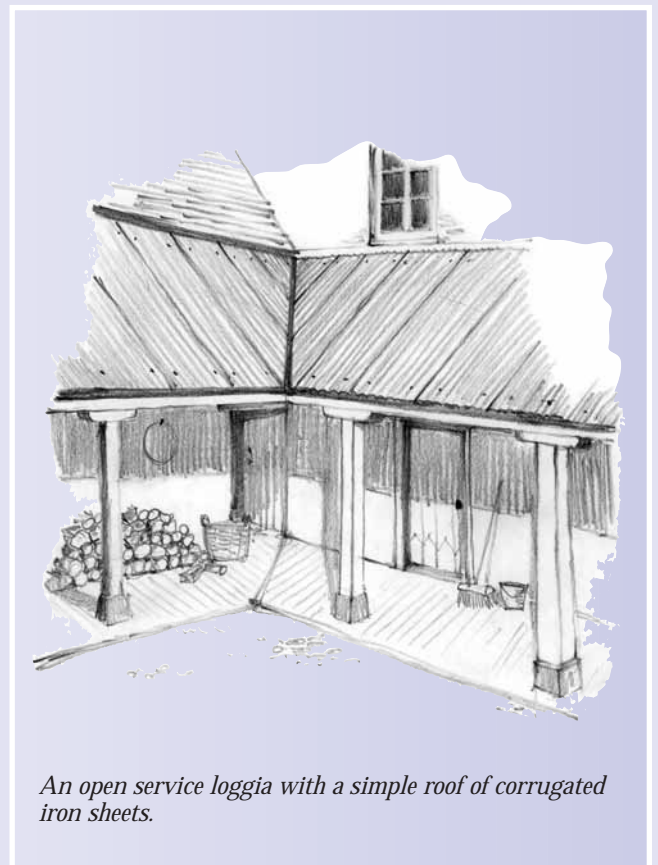


*A hipped-roofed open porch tucked into a corner.*

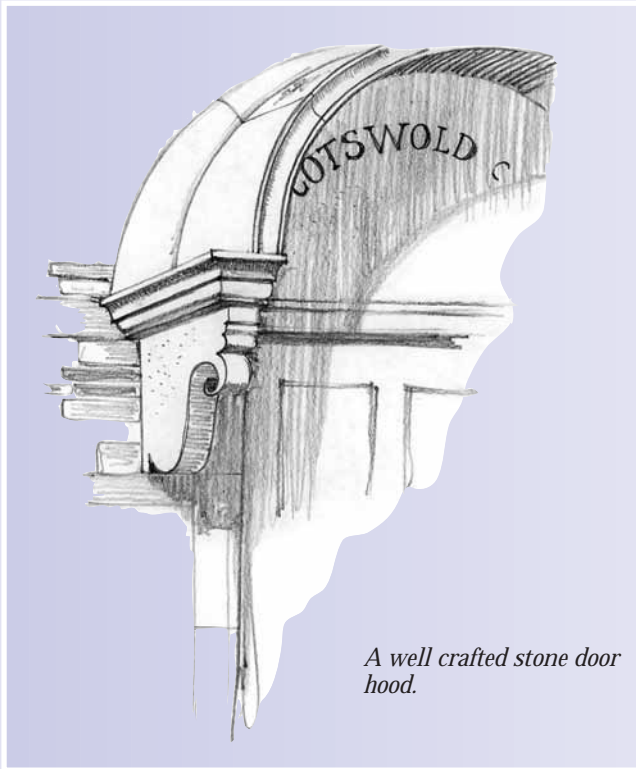
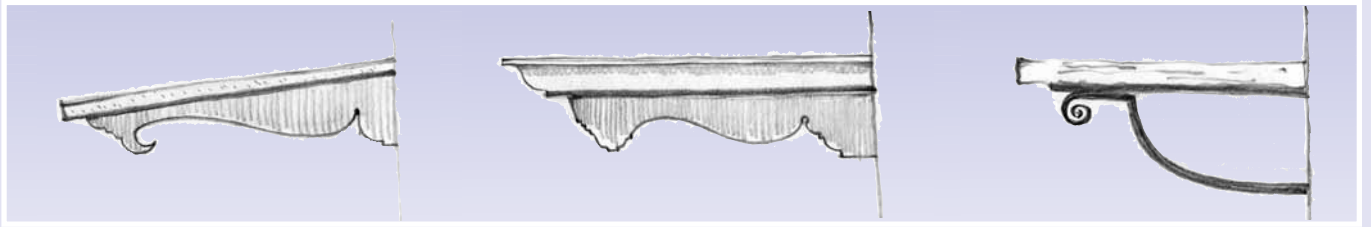
Simpler porches or open loggias are found protecting service entrances. The loggias were usually supported on timber posts set upon tapered stone plinths, and were roofed in corrugated iron as well as Cotswold stone slates, plain clay tiles or blue Welsh slates.



*A well detailed stone porch. This style is traditional to the Cotswolds.*



*An open service loggia with a simple roof of corrugated iron sheets.*



*A well crafted stone door hood.*

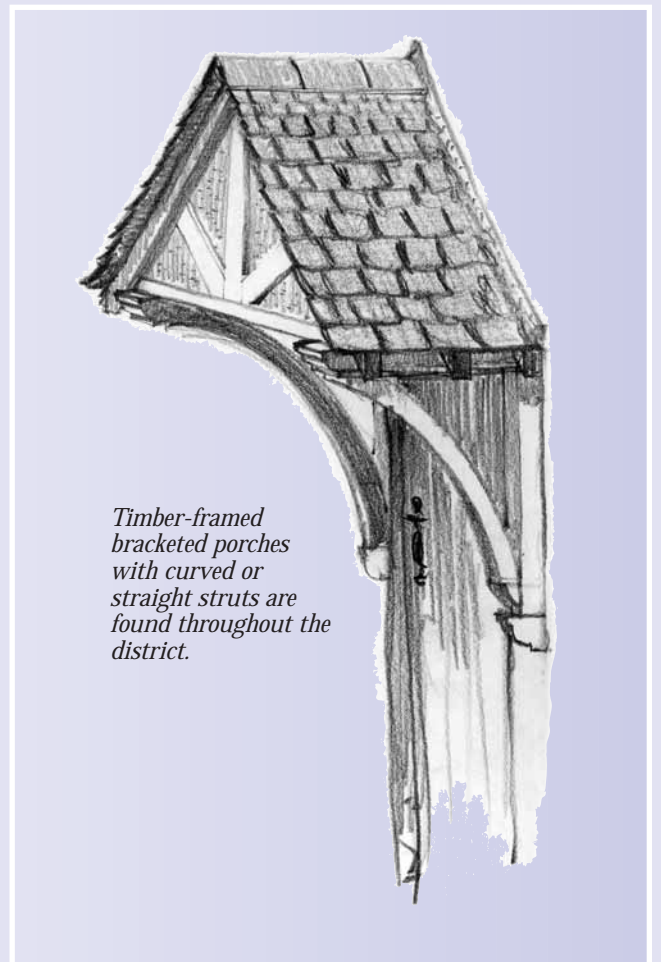
In the 18th and 19th centuries, arched timber or stone door hoods became popular, sometimes carved or fashioned in plaster to create a shell motif. These often display a very high standard of craftsmanship.

Simple, flat timber or stone cantilever canopies are by far the most common form of protection. The more basic are, quite simply, massive slates or slabs of stone, scarcely dressed at all; others, more commonly, are dressed limestone with either squared or *cyma recta* moulded edges or lead covered boards. These are variously supported on brackets of stone, timber or iron, the pattern differing between areas (see top illustration).

Timber porches, roofed in Cotswold stone slates, plain clay tiles, Welsh slate or corrugated iron are also commonly found. Two basic types exist: those cantilevered from the wall, and braced back to it by straight or curved struts, and others supported on corner posts with either open, solid or lattice sides. Later enclosed examples are sometimes partly glazed.



*A Victorian porch. The robust posts are stop-chamfered and the brackets distinctively shaped.*



*Timber-framed bracketed porches with curved or straight struts are found throughout the district.*



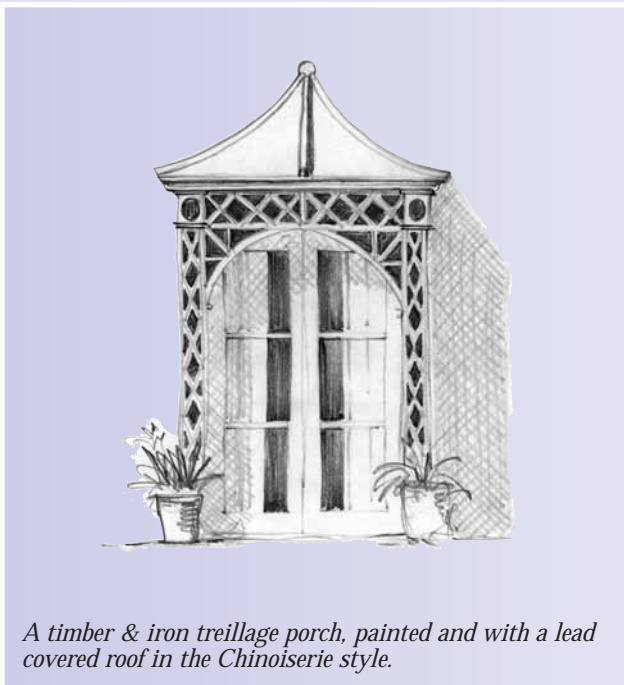
A simple bracket porch with a corrugated iron roof and "dagger" boarding.



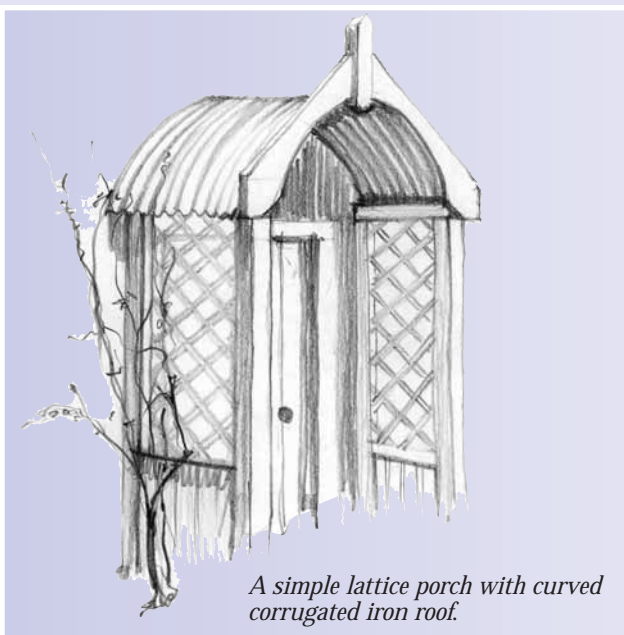
A "rustic" porch patterned with slender logs.



Timber-framed part-glazed porches were popular additions throughout the twentieth century.



A timber & iron treillage porch, painted and with a lead covered roof in the Chinoiserie style.



A simple lattice porch with curved corrugated iron roof.

Elegant, painted lattice or treillage porches became fashionable in the 19th century and were usefully employed to add a touch of urbane distinction to otherwise quite plain buildings.

Many farm labourers cottages have porches constructed of corrugated iron. There are good examples on the Bathurst Estate and in the villages of Calmsden and Chedworth. Cheap and easy to construct, they generally have a pleasing, simple appearance especially when painted in cheerful colours.

The tradition of incorporating porches on buildings has a place in the architecture of today. Historic examples such as those illustrated may prove inspiring. However, porches are not appropriate to all buildings. Caution should be exercised over those that are Listed or situated in a Conservation Area. It is important that new porches are appropriate in design and scale, to their "host" building. **Please note that Listed Building Consent and/or Planning Permission, may be required before the construction of a porch. Further advice is available from Planning & Development Services.**

#### Glossary of Terms

**Cyma recta** - a moulding whose profile resembles a wave.

**Finial** - an ornament which sits atop a verticle feature.

**Kneeler** - a large stone situated at the base of a gable.

**Loggia** - an open-sided covered and colonnaded structure.

**Treillage** - trellis-work.

**Chinoiserie** - influence by Chinese art & architecture

*Front cover illustration: An unusual and elegant early nineteenth century "box" porch crowned with three ball finials, South Cerney.*

For further advice and information contact:

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