

Definitions starting with B

Buildings

Traditionally most [DWELVING HOUSES](#) in the Bahamas have been modest. Only wealthy people can afford an [UPSTAIRS HOUSE](#) with [GABLE-ENDS](#) high enough for a [CEILING](#) (accessible through a [MANHOLE](#)). Such grand houses often have [TABBY](#) walls and a [BANISTER PORCH](#) (also called a [PIAZZA](#) or [GALLERY](#)). Many people still live in simple wooden houses, sometimes small [CRIBS](#) or [SHACK HOUSES](#). While city people cover their [HOUSE-TOPS](#) with [SHINGLES](#) or [TINS](#) (also called [ZINCS](#)), on the outer islands people often live in [TRASH HOUSES](#) with roofs of [LEAF](#) or [THATCH](#) supported by [LARTIN](#). The simplest houses lack wooden floors and are called [DIRT HOUSES](#). Floors are usually elevated a foot or so above the ground, supported by [GROUND-PINS](#). Should such a floor start to sag, it has to be [COTCH-UP](#) with a [PRY-STICK](#) or [WATTLES](#). The [DOOR-MOUTH](#) has to be above the level of the yard in case of flooding. The windows are usually without [GLASSES](#) or [SCREAM-WIRE](#), having only shutters that can be fastened with [BATTERS](#) in case of a hurricane. Such small houses usually have only a [HALL](#) and one or two [ROOMS](#) and perhaps a [PANTRY](#). Heavy cooking is still sometimes done in a separate [COOK KITCHEN](#), and if there is no plumbing the back yard includes an [OUTSIDE CLOSET](#) (also called a [LATRIN](#) Or [BACK-HOUSE](#)). Crops might be stored in a [LODGING](#), while the [PACKING HOUSE](#) or [BARN HOUSE](#) is used for general storage and animals are kept in a [STAPLE](#). Protection from the sun is afforded by a simple [PICK HOUSE](#) or [SHADE](#). A group of homes forms a [TOWN](#), and a group of towns forms a [SETTLEMENT](#). Larger settlements may have a [TOWNSHIP](#), with a [PARADE](#) consisting of a [DOCTOR SHOP](#), a [FOOD STORE](#), a [PETTY SHOP](#) and a [GUARD ROOM](#).

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