112. PALACE OF WESTMINSTER (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT). LONDON, ENGLAND. CHARLES BARRY AND AUGUSTUS W. N. PUGIN (ARCHITECTS). 1840–1870 C.E. LIMESTONE MASONRY AND GLASS. (3 IMAGES)
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FORM

- Gothic Revival. Options were either Gothic or Neoclassical/Elizabethan style.
- Asymmetrical
- Towers act as vertical elements with upward reaching spires to balance out the horizontality of the building
- Long axial plan
- Repetitive, regular spacing
FUNCTION

- Serve as the House of Parliament
  - Primary function; practical and not based in aesthetic appearance, more so the reinforcement of traditional values
- Still today the seat of government
  - House of Commons
  - House of Lords
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CONTEXT

- Rebuilt after an earlier one was burned down in 1834. Westminster Hall (right) was the only part to survive (Built in 1100)

- Why Gothic?
  - Nationalism: Britain associated Gothic with their own history
  - Parliament started in the Gothic period
  - Harmonized with the Gothic Westminster Abby
  - Neoclassicism was associated with USA
  - Pushing against the styles of the industrial revolution, saying the Medieval period was better
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CONTENT

- windows framed with lacy tracery stonework
- sculptures in niches
- outside ornamentation it isn't generally Gothic