

GUIDE TO ARCHITECTURAL STYLES THAT INFLUENCE HOUSE DESIGN, ADDITIONS, AND RENOVATIONS

Each style has distinctive characteristics that help define it and should be considered in any rehabilitation activity occurring to the building.

FEDERAL (1800-1830)

Many early structures were designed in the Federal style which was popular in the first part of the 19th century. The majority of Federal houses has two stories with gable roofs and is constructed of brick. Their facades always contain symmetrically placed openings. Windows have small panes and are often capped with a flat brick arch. The doorway may be contained in an arched opening and usually has a small classical portico with columns surrounding it. The cornice is also classically inspired and may contain modillion or dentil blocks.

GREEK REVIVAL (1830-1860)

The Greek Revival style differs from Federal architecture in several ways: the roof is usually hipped instead of gable; the openings are wider and often have sidelights; and the lintels above the windows frequently have raised corner blocks. Porch supports are classic columns, round or fluted in design. Like the Federal style, the openings are always symmetrical and the entrance is usually centered within the facade.

VICTORIAN (1840-1900)

Industrialization brought many innovations in architecture. Victorian styles include Gothic Revival, Italianate, Stick, Eastlake, Queen Anne, Romanesque and Second Empire.

GOTHIC REVIVAL (1850-1880)

The Gothic Revival was a rebirth of a medieval style which represented a romantic reaction to the formal designs of the Federal and Greek Revival periods. It is characterized by the pointed arch, steeply pitched gable roofs, and frequently an irregular floor plan. Chimneys are tall and can be capped with pots. The eaves of the roofs are usually decorated with bargeboards and finials and the entire effect is more vertical than earlier periods.

ITALIANATE (1850-1880)

The Italianate style also dates from the romantic Victorian era and it can be identified by the large brackets under widely overhanging eaves and a shallow

pitched roof. The windows are often arched or segmental in their design and may be capped with decorative hood molds. The structure usually consists of well-defined sections that are asymmetrically grouped, sometimes with a tower on the more elaborate examples.

SECOND EMPIRE (1870-1890)

The Second Empire style can be identified by the distinctive mansard roof which is its trademark. This feature usually contains dormer windows and rests upon large decorative brackets. The effect is often vertical, particularly if a tower is part of the composition. Windows usually have decorative caps and large two-over-two or one-over-one panes.

QUEEN ANNE (1880-1910)

The Queen Anne style was very popular during the Victorian era. It has many variations but is usually associated with a complex, irregularly shaped steep roof and a variety of surface materials such as shingles, wood siding, brick, and stone. Towers and turrets are often present as well as bay windows and large one story front and side porches.

COLONIAL REVIVAL (1900-1930)

The Colonial Revival style is based on the earlier Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival periods. It has a rectangular plan and a symmetrical facade. The roof may be a gable or more often a hipped design. The details are always classical and porticoes over entrances are common. Like earlier periods, the windows have small panes, but their proportions are often more horizontal; and the first floor may contain paired or triple windows. Doorways can have various elements including sidelights, fanlights, pediments, and columns or pilasters.

FOLK VICTORIAN (1870-1920)

This style of residential dwellings is also known as the Frame Vernacular style. Three variations of this style are: the "L" gable which reflects the shape of the floor plan and of the roof; the two story gable roof form; and the pyramidal cottage with its hipped roof.