FEDERAL-ADAM 1780-1820 (locally 1845)

Identifying Characteristics:

Federal homes are typically side-gabled with low-pitched roofs, often hidden behind a balustrade. Chimneys are often paired.

The elaborate front door is the focus of the facade. Elliptical fanlights or transoms are key elements, sidelights are also typical.

Windows are symmetrically placed and usually double-hung with six-over-six lights. Heavy lintels, sills and shutters are common.

Swags or garland ornament may be present in later examples.

Local Examples:

The Granger Homestead
164 N. Main Street
29 Gibson Street
31 Gibson Street

Appropriate Colors:

Light pastel colors were most often used for the body color, only rarely were brighter colors selected such as the yellow of the Granger Homestead. Emphasis is placed on the front door which is most often contrasted by darker earth tones.

Trim colors have been observed as either light or dark.

Body colors: white, cream, beige, light grey, pastel yellow.

Trim colors: Light: white, cream.
Dark (esp. front door): black, dark brown, deep red, dark green.
GREEK REVIVAL 1820-1860

Identifying Characteristics:

Greek revival homes are usually side-gabled with a low-pitched roof and a front-gabled porch or portico. This front-gabled entrance displays the key column and pediment features. Heavy cornice lines and entablature are typical.

A transom and sidelights are typical elements of the front entrance.

Doric, Ionic, and possibly Corinthian details are most common ornaments.

Local Examples:

The Wood Library
16 Gibson Street

Appropriate Colors:

White was used almost exclusively for the body to imitate the marble and suggest the "purity" of the Grecian temple. Occasionally very light colors such as cream, ivory, or a yellow tint were selected. Trim colors tended to be slightly darker shades than the body, yet a darker green was common. White is common on homes where the body is a light tint.

Body colors: white (occasionally cream or light yellow).

Trim colors: light tints of blue, gray, yellow, or a dark green.
ITALIANATE 1840-1885

Identifying Characteristics:

Italianate homes tend to be two to three stories with low-pitched, hipped roofs. Wide, overhanging eaves are typically supported by elaborate, over-sized brackets. A cupola is a distinctive element.

First floor windows tend to be tall and narrow. Arched windows with crown moldings, or double-hung windows with shutters are both common.

Porches are common with flattened arches.

Local Examples:

176 Gibson Street
130 Howell Street
140 Howell Street
177 Howell Street
173 N. Main Street
64 Bristol Street

Appropriate Colors:

The colors of these houses changed considerably within the period. Early examples were more pale and closer to the earth tones of the previous period. In later examples, which entered the High Victorian period, the body colors were darker, often referred to as "deep" or "warm" tones.

As the period progressed, trim was used for greater contrast against the body to accent the details. Later examples often used multiple trim and accent colors.

Early Examples
Body colors: straw, sand, beige, light gray
Trim colors: white, gold, earth, grey.

Late Examples
Body colors: deep red, olive green, brown.
Trim colors: red, green, gold, beige.
FRENCH SECOND EMPIRE - MANSARDIC 1860-1885

Identifying Characteristics:

The distinctive element of French Second Empire architecture is the mansard roof with a heavy cornice and brackets. These houses often have a central tower.

Windows may appear in paired arches, typically with elaborate detailing and heavy molding, often in dormers.

Local Examples:

67 Gorham Street
104 Gibson Street
171 Howell Street
176 N. Main Street
73 Bristol Street

Appropriate Colors:

Darker colors dominate within this High Victorian period. Body colors were used to make the house look more massive. Often multiple body colors were used, differentiating between stories. This period used extensive ornamentation which was vividly contrasted with the body of the structure. The effect, from a nineteenth century reference, was to make the building look "bejeweled". Therefore, trim was light on dark houses or less commonly, dark on light houses.

Body Colors: grey, brown, maroon, olive green, dark green.

Trim Colors: beige, oak, gold, rose, light purple, light gray.
STICK - QUEEN ANNE  1860-1910

Identifying Characteristics:

These two styles share many attributes including an asymmetrical form and steeply-pitched, intersecting-gabled roofs. Towers were common to both styles as were long, covered porches.

The key feature in the Stick style is the vertical, horizontal, or diagonal stickwork from which it takes its name. Overhanging eaves and porches often incorporate diagonal bracing. The effect is that of exposed structure and angular form.

Where Stick homes are angular, Queen Annes use more rounded forms. Towers are often conical and arches are used as decorative bracing.

Fish-scale shingles are a distinguishing characteristic.

Local Examples:

78 Gibson Street
84 Gibson Street
144 N. Main Street
148 N. Main Street
203 N. Main Street

Appropriate Colors:

This Late Victorian period displayed some of the boldest house colors. Pigments which were used solely for trim in the past were selected for body colors. Multiple colors were almost mandatory. Between three and seven different colors were selected to accent structure, details, massing, and material changes. Dark colors with "warm" or "rich" tones were used on the body.

The trim and accent colors were bright, bold contrasts to the dark body.

Body color: dark brown, maroon, purple, olive green, jade, dark green.

Trim color: dark brown, terra cotta, dark red, orange, amber, dark green, purple.
GOTHIC REVIVAL 1840-1880

Identifying Characteristics:

Gothic revival homes are typically side-gabled with a front cross-gable. The roofs are steeply pitched with ornamental vergeboard (gingerbread). Wall dormers are common. Board and batten siding was typical to add to the vertical image.

Windows are tall and narrow, usually a pointed arch with hood moldings.

Porches are common often with low-pointed arches.

Local Examples:

253 Fort Hill Avenue
40 Gibson Street
100 Gibson Street
48 Howell Street

Appropriate Colors:

Andrew J. Downing is often referenced in association with the Romantic or Early Victorian period. He advocated colors derived from natural features for the house to be in harmony with the environment. Within the period there was a trend from lighter to darker pigments for the body of the house.

Trim colors were usually darker earth tones. White is appropriate as a trim color on early examples with a light body.

Body colors: fawn, straw, sand, gold, leaf green, earth, slate, oak.

Trim colors: leaf green, earth, slate, white on the lighter body colors.
BUNGALOW - ARTS & CRAFTS 1900-1930

Identifying Characteristics:

The Bungalow style home is typically one and one half stories with long sloping roofs, heavy eaves with exposed rafter tails. The image is that of a low, bulky form. Shed dormers are common. Deep front porches are supported by distinctive, tapered piers.

Local Examples:

167-179 West Gibson Street

Appropriate Colors:

Colors of this period were natural shades derived from the environment. Body colors were either light or dark earth tones. Trim colors were used to emphasize structures and materials but not as boldly as in previous periods. Downspouts were painted the color of trim.

Body color: oak, earth, olive green, sand.

Trim color: dark brown, olive, bronze, rose, straw.
COLONIAL REVIVAL 1880- Present

Identifying Characteristics:

Colonial Revival houses are quite similar in appearance to the Federal style house of the previous century, although the revival tends to be more eclectic.

The form is a simple side-gable with symmetrical windows and a relatively elaborate entrance, possibly an entrance porch. Dormers are common.

Sidelights and transoms are common for the front entrance. Fanlights are less common in the revival.

Windows are double-hung with six-over six lights and shutters.

Other Colonial sub types include Cape Cod, Garrison, and Saltbox.

Local Examples:

61 Howell Street
69 Howell Street
222 N. Main Street
286 N. Main Street

Appropriate Colors:

This period witnessed the return to lighter pastels giving the homes a more delicate appearance. There was usually only slight contrast in the color of the trim with the exception of a dark green.

Body color: white, cream, pastel yellow, pastel blue, light blue-gray.

Trim color: white, cream, light yellow, rose, occasionally dark green.
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