TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories
Architectural Styles: Residential
Architectural Style:

- Domestic buildings fall into two categories:
  - Folk
  - Styled
- Most American houses are styled: built with some attempt to being fashionable, showing the influence of shapes, materials, detailing of styles in current vogue.
Architectural Style

Style: “A definite type of architecture, distinguished by special characteristics of structure and ornament.”

• Essentially visual, not related to function
• Distinct from historical periods
• Many buildings defy stylistic labels
• Sophisticated examples serve as models for simpler buildings
Reference Materials

Stylistic Influences: Residential Buildings

• American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Architectural Styles (Marcus Whiffen)
• Identifying American Architecture (John J. G. Blumenson)
• What Style Is It? (John Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, Nancy B. Schwartz)
• A Field Guide to American Houses (Virginia and Lee McAlester)
Architectural Styles

FOLK
• Native American
• Pre-Railroad
• National

ECLECTIC
• Colonial Revival
• Neoclassical
• Tudor
• Chateauesque
• Beaux Arts
• French Eclectic

MODERN STYLES
• Craftsman
• Prairie
• Modernistic: Art Deco/Art Moderne
• International

MEDITERRANEAN
• Italian Renaissance
• Mission
• Spanish Eclectic
• Monterey
• Pueblo Revival

COLONIAL STYLES
• Early Spanish, French, English, Dutch
• Georgian
• Federal/Adam
• Early Classical Revival

ROMANTIC STYLES
• Greek Revival
• Gothic Revival
• Italianate
• Exotic Revivals
• Octagon

VICTORIAN-ERA STYLES
• Second Empire
• Stick/Eastlake
• Queen Anne
• Shingle
# Architectural Styles

## Pictorial Key

### Walls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF YOU SEE</th>
<th>TRY THESE FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>logs</td>
<td>Pre-Railroad Folk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>half-timbering</td>
<td>Tudor, Craftsman, Queen Anne, French Eclectic, Prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adobe</td>
<td>Pueblo Revival, Spanish Colonial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough-faced stone</td>
<td>Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle (first story only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smooth stone</td>
<td>Beaux Arts, Charasseneque, Italian Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stucco</td>
<td>Tudor, Mission, Spanish Eclectic, Prairie, Modernist, International, Italian Renaissance, French Colonial, occasionally in most other styles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snowed</td>
<td>Queen Anne, Shingle, Folk Victorian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plain wood shingles</td>
<td>Shingle, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Postmedieval English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patterned stack</td>
<td>Stick, Queen Anne, Exotic Revival (Swiss)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Roof form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF YOU SEE</th>
<th>TRY THESE FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>straight-gable</td>
<td>Tudor, Queen Anne, Stick, Gothic Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moderate or varied pitch</td>
<td>Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam, Early Classical Revival, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, Shingle, National Folk, Pre-Railroad Folk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low pitch</td>
<td>Craftsman, Spanish Eclectic, Greek Revival, Mission, Neoclassical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flat</td>
<td>Beaux arts, Italian Renaissance, Adam (rare), town house subtypes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>symmetrical</td>
<td>International, Modernist, Pueblo Revival, Spanish Eclectic, Spanish Colonial, town house subtypes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pent or visor</td>
<td>Georgian, Colonial Revival, Mission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Roof-wall junction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF YOU SEE</th>
<th>TRY THESE FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parapet on flat roof</td>
<td>Tudor, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, French Colonial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no eaves (little or no overhang)</td>
<td>International, Modernist, Spanish Eclectic, Postmedieval English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slight eave overhang</td>
<td>Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Adam, Georgian, French Eclectic, Early Classical Revival, Charasseneque, Italian Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slight eave overhang, open, not boxed</td>
<td>Greek Revival, Italianate, Craftsman, less commonly Spanish Eclectic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Empire, Folk Victorian, Italianate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Architectural Styles

#### Roof-wall junction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roof-wall junction</th>
<th>TRY THESE FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>slight cave overhang with wide band of trim below</td>
<td>Greek Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wide cave overhang, boxed without brackets</td>
<td>Prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wide cave overhang, boxed with brackets</td>
<td>Italianate, Renaissance, Prairie, occasionally Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wide cave overhang, open, not boxed</td>
<td>Craftsman, Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof-top cupola</td>
<td>Italianate, Octagon, Empire, Greek Revival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other roof elaborations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you see</th>
<th>TRY THESE FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>towers, square</td>
<td>Italianate, Stick, Second Empire, occasionally Queen Anne, Mission, Italian Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>towers, round</td>
<td>Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Chateauesque, Shingle, French Eclectic, occasionally Spanish Eclectic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof-top cupola</td>
<td>Italianate, Octagon, Second Empire, Greek Revival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Dormers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you see</th>
<th>TRY THESE FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hipped</td>
<td>Prairie, French Eclectic, Shingle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gabled</td>
<td>Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Adam, Georgian Shingle, Queen Anne, Stick, Gothic Revival, Tudor, Chateauesque, French Eclectic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shed</td>
<td>Dutch Colonial, Craftsman, Colonial Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arched top</td>
<td>French Eclectic, Second Empire, Beaux Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round or oval</td>
<td>French Eclectic, Beaux Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pedimented</td>
<td>Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall dormers</td>
<td>Gothic Revival, Chateauesque, Richardsonian Romanesque, Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barrel</td>
<td>Shingle, Richardsonian Romanesque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exposed rafters</td>
<td>Craftsman, Stick, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Tudor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dormers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other roof elaborations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you see</th>
<th>TRY THESE FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pinnacles</td>
<td>Chatreuse, Richardsonian Romanesque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pediment</td>
<td>six-to-eight-panel door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof top or roof line tabulation</td>
<td>Queen Anne, Chateauesque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>metal roof covering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Arched doors, windows, porches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you see</th>
<th>TRY THIS FIRST</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>segmental</td>
<td>Georgian, Adam, Colonial Revival, Italian Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round</td>
<td>Italian Renaissance, Richardsonian Romanesque, Spanish Eclectic, less common in Adam, Colonial Revival, Beaux Arts, Mission, Tudor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian</td>
<td>Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pointed</td>
<td>Gothic Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>broken pediment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Windows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you see</th>
<th>TRY THIS FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>casement</td>
<td>Prairie, Tudor, Spanish Eclectic, Postmedieval English, Dutch Colonial, Modernistic, International (metal only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fixed</td>
<td>Chatreuse, Beaux Arts, Italian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>half-tubular</td>
<td>Exotic Revivals, Chatreuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>casement</td>
<td>Palladian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palladian</td>
<td>Adam, Queen Anne (Free classic), Shingle, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Doors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you see</th>
<th>TRY THIS FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>transom lights</td>
<td>Georgian, Colonial Revival, Pre-Railroad Folk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round transom and side lights</td>
<td>Greek Revival, Neoclassical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rectangular transom and side lights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>six-to-eight-panel door</td>
<td>Adam, Georgian, Colonial Revival, Early Classical Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>six-panel door</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Archways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you see</th>
<th>TRY THIS FIRST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pilasters to sides of door (may have pediment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pediment</td>
<td>Colonial Revival, Italian Renaissance, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, French Eclectic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>broken pediment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*The table above contains examples of architectural styles and their corresponding characteristics and features.*
National Folk

After 1850-1890

Medium-pitched roof

Minimal to medium eave overhang

Simple and minimal detailing

One to two stories in height

Six house shapes:
- Gable-front,
- Gable-front-and-wing,
- Hall-and-parlor,
- I-house,
- Massed-plan/side-gabled,
- Pyramidal
National Folk

Hall-and-parlor

Gable-front-and-wing

Pyramidal

I-House
Greek Revival

1825-1860

Gable or hipped roof with low pitch

Cornice line emphasized with wide band of trim

Full-width or entry porch supported by Classical columns (typically Doric)

Front door with sidelights and transom windows

Symmetrical facade
Greek Revival
Colonial Revival

1880-1955

Windows with sashes, usually with multi-pane glazing in one or both sashes

Windows frequently in adjacent pairs

Accentuated front door, normally with decorative crown supported by pilasters or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form entry porch

Sidelights and transom windows may be present

Facade typically symmetrically balanced windows and central door
1895-1950

Façade dominated by full-height porch supported by Classical columns (typically Ionic or Corinthian)

Elaborate detailing on cornice lines, doors, and windows

Front door with sidelights and transom windows

Symmetrically balanced facade
Italianate

1840-1885

Low-pitched roof

Widely overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets

Tall narrow windows commonly arched above

Frequently with elaborated window crowns

Quoins

Two or three stories (rarely one story)
Italianate
Second Empire

1855-1885

Mansard roof with dormer windows, often with iron cresting and decorative patterns and colors.

Molded cornices, often with decorative brackets under eaves.

Detailing such as hooded windows, belt coursing, and quoins.
Folk Victorian

1870-1910

Medium-pitched gabled roof

Decorative shingles in gable ends, often with pent roofs

Porch set into ell, often with decorative posts, brackets, and railings
Folk Victorian
Queen Anne

1880-1910

Steeply pitched roof or irregular shape

Intricate detailing or ornamentation: spindlework, jigsawn trim, cresting, finials, etc.

Partial or full-width asymmetrical porch, usually one-story high and extended along one or both side walls

Textured surfaces used to avoid smooth-walled appearance

Asymmetrical facade
Queen Anne
Tudor Revival

1890-1940

- Steeply pitched gables dominate the façade
- Substantial chimney with decorative cap and chimney pots
- Groups of tall narrow windows, often multi-paned
- Asymmetrical facade
Tudor Revival
Mission

1890-1920

Mission-shaped dormer or roof parapet

Red tile roof with overhanging eaves

Stucco wall finish

Porch supported by large square piers, commonly with arches
Spanish Eclectic

1915-1940

- Low-pitched red tile roof, with little or no overhang
- Stucco wall finish
- Asymmetrical façade
Spanish Eclectic
Monterey

1925-1955

Low-pitched gabled roof

Second-story balcony, usually cantilevered and covered by principal roof

Visible beams supporting balcony

Asymmetrical façade

Two stories
Craftsman

1905-1930

- Eave brackets
- Low-pitched gabled roof
- Exposed rafters
- Porch supported by square columns or piers (often tapered)
- Masonry column bases continuous to ground, no break at porch floor
Not Craftsman
International Style

1925-present

Flat roof, usually without coping

No decorative detailing

Smooth unornamented wall surface

Windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls, sometimes wrapping around corners

Asymmetrical facade
International
Minimal Traditional

1925-present

- Low to medium pitched roof
- Minimal eave overhang
- Often with front-facing gable
- Typically small one-story residences
- Minimal detailing
Ranch

1935-1975

Low-pitched roof

Carport or garage incorporated under main roof

Asymmetrical façade

Low, horizontal lines

Variations: no carport/garage, with carport or garage (1-car or 2-car)
Ranch
Contemporary

1940-1980

Flat or low-pitched gabled roof

Deep overhangs, often with exposed roof beams

Ribbon windows and fixed glass

Low, horizontal lines on asymmetrical facade

Variations: carport or garage (1-car or 2-car) on the side
Contemporary
Stylistic Influences: No Style

More common in the real world: no dominant style

Craftsman Style
- roof: low pitch, exposed rafters

Form is more Greek Revival:
- porch under main gable, classically inspired entablature and columns

“No Style with Craftsman and Greek Revival influences”
Architectural Styles
Contact Information

Texas Historical Commission (THC)  
www.thc.state.tx.us

- Historic Resources Survey
  - Historic Resources Survey Coordinator: Leslie Wolfenden
  - 512.463.3386
  - leslie.wolfenden@thc.state.tx.us