

Architectural Styles found in Lettered Streets, South Hill & York Neighborhoods

Greek Revival



The Greek Revival style gained popularity in America in the early 1800s, especially in public buildings as symbolic of democracy. The style's popularity dwindled in the east by 1840 but could still be found through the end of the century in Washington State.

The style is based on Greek Classical buildings and is characterized by a temple front with pediment and columns, symmetrical façade, and a flat or low-pitched roof. The cornice is emphasized with moldings and often dentils. Windows are ordered across the façade, have multiple panes and are often quite large.

Gothic Revival



Emerging in the late 1830s, Gothic Revival style's greatest proponent was Alexander Jackson Davis who popularized it through his book *Rural Residences* in 1837. The style was already outdated on the East Coast by the time it reached the Oregon Territory.

Gothic Revival appears primarily in residences and churches and is characterized by an emphasis on the vertical, with steeply pitched gable roofs and jigsaw ornamentation. Complex bargeboards, brackets, and porch trim are principal characteristics. Lancel windows with leaded glass are common, as is vertical board-and-batten exterior cladding. The style was popular in Washington from around 1850 to 1880, especially for churches.

Italianate



The Italianate style emerged as part of the picturesque movement of the 1830s along with the Gothic Revival. The Italianate style emphasized an asymmetrical plan, flat or low pitched roof, and paired brackets at the eaves. Windows usually had arched tops and were often paired. Most Italianates will also have a three-sided bay window either in front or on the side. Larger Italianates will have a square tower or belvedere on the roof.

Vernacular



"Vernacular" describes buildings that were constructed to address local needs using readily available materials, in a style typical to a period and/or place. Often owner-built, "vernacular" is used to describe buildings that have few or no distinctive stylistic classification elements.

Queen Anne

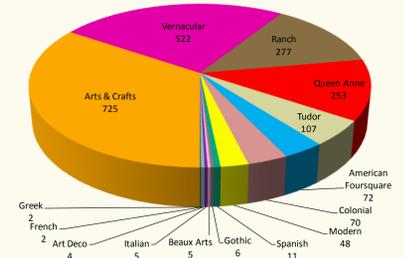


The Queen Anne style is characterized by asymmetrical massing, wrap-around porches and a variety of decorative surfacing materials. Towers are a common feature, as are a variety of window types and turned decorative elements. The style dates back to the late 1870s and was most popular in Washington State between 1880 to 1900.

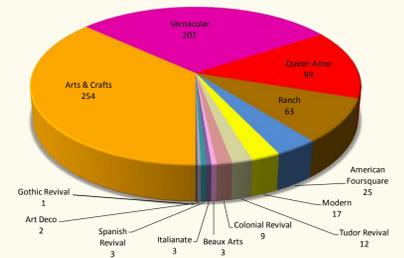
A subcategory of the Queen Anne is "Free Classical," and was popular around 1900 when the Colonial Revival style became popular. A Free Classical style house has the asymmetry and cladding variety of the Queen Anne style, but with decorative colonial details such as Tuscan columns, eave returns and dentil courses.

Summary Statistics

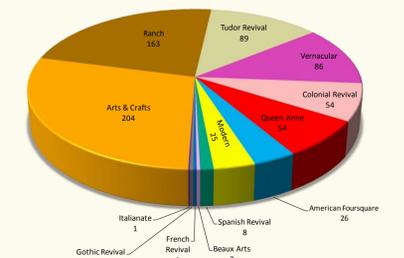
All 3 Neighborhoods



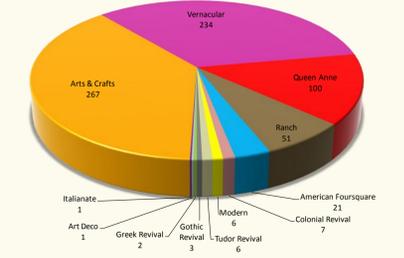
LETTERED STREETS



SOUTH HILL



YORK



Colonial Revival



Colonial Revival style houses started appearing around 1900 in Washington State. The full complement of classical decorative elements were used and applied to symmetrical forms. In the 1920s, Colonial Revivals found their way into catalogs in a Bungalow form. Naturally symmetrical with minimal classical detailing, Colonial Revival style houses are usually side gabled with multi-pane windows. The Dutch Colonial Revival is a variant on the Colonial Revival and follows the same chronology. Its character-defining feature is a second story concealed in a gambrel roof.

Arts & Crafts



Arts and Crafts is a stylistic term under which the term Craftsman falls. Derived from the house designs published by Gustav Stickley in *Craftsman Magazine* from 1901 to 1916, the style promoted use of natural materials, hand craftsmanship, good air circulation, sterile bathrooms and kitchens and generous living spaces, and assured health and happiness through design. Craftsman style is characterized by wide eaves with exposed rafter tails and brackets, and full porches with tapering posts and solid rails. A variety of window types and decorative surfacing were employed. Rarely is a Craftsman style home seen in Washington State before 1900.

American Foursquare



Less of a style than a form, the American Foursquare is a hip-roofed, two-story house with a square plan two rooms deep and two rooms wide. Sometimes called a "Classic Box," the Foursquare was a common style in Washington State at the turn of the century, from around 1900 until 1915. However, Foursquares in Bellingham have been found dating between 1890 to 1936, showing how tenaciously the form endured. Foursquares usually have full-width front porches and dormers. Decorative elements are usually confined to the rafter tails and the porch.

Beaux Arts



The Beaux Arts style was popular in the U.S. between 1890 and 1920, and was often used for public buildings such as schools and train stations. The style is characterized by a symmetrical facade, low pitched roof, and an exuberance of detail. Beaux Arts buildings are built of "permanent" materials such as stone, terra cotta and/or brick. Often the facade projects and recesses giving an articulated footprint, and the roof usually steps upward to highlight the entrance. The term American Renaissance is often used interchangeably with Beaux Arts, although usually considered more absent of detail.

Tudor Revival



In addition to revivals of early American building types, in the mid-1920s, there was a resurgence of the Tudor style. Tudor style homes typically have steep roofs, half-timber walls, round-top doorways, and leaded casement windows -- all reminiscent of Tudor England, or at least an American's interpretation of 16th century Tudor architecture. Tudor residences were particularly popular in the suburbs of the late 1920s and early 1930s, and Bellingham has a particularly large sampling of them in South Hill.

Spanish Revival



Like Tudor Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival was an American interpretation of what architects saw in Mexico and California. Characterized by red clay tile roofs and stucco walls, the style took its inspiration from the Spanish Colonial architecture, particularly California missions and presidios. Arches and large porch areas characterize the style, and larger houses have courtyard entries. Windows are often casement with leaded panes. Small details in terra cotta can sometimes be found on both the exterior and interior features.

French Revival



Like Tudor Revival, French Revival was an American interpretation of what architects saw in France, particularly on the coast of Normandy. Soldiers returning from World War I brought memories and photos from France and were inspired to recreate the quaint cottages they had seen. The French Revival style is characterized by stucco walls, steeply pitched roofs without eave overhang, and leaded glass casement windows. Entrances are often highlighted by a round tower, and the massing of the chimney is often quite large.

Art Deco



The Art Deco style favors curvilinear forms and geometric patterns inspired by cubism and the machine age, and spread to the world from an international fair held in Paris in 1925. Primarily a style of decoration rather than an architectural concept, most Art Deco style buildings in the United States are commercial, industrial, and civic -- there are few single-family residential examples. Art Deco style buildings may have symmetrical or asymmetrical, but are always massed in a form that is consistently bold and pronounced. Edges are sharp and crisp, especially where the roofline meets the sky, though rounded corners are not uncommon. Rooflines are stepped or flat and often feature towers and other vertical projections. Windows are large with divided pane metal sash. The key to Art Deco is its ornamentation, generally applied in low relief. Favored motifs are geometric and include chevrons, zigzags, sunbursts, horizontal and vertical banding, as well as stylized figure sculpture, often reminiscent of machines.

Ranch



The "Ranch" style originated with California architects in the mid-1930s and was the most popular style of architecture from the 1940s through the 1960s. Ranch houses tend to maximize facade width and have attached garages. The style thrived on the increased use of the automobile, as it was no longer necessary to live in proximity to bus and streetcar lines. This style is dominated by asymmetrical, one-story plans with low-pitched roofs and moderate overhangs, and is characterized by large picture windows in the living area, decorative iron or wooden porch supports, and either wood or brick wall cladding. Partially enclosed patios or courtyards were influences from early Spanish Colonial precedents.

Modern



Modern refers to architect-designed, high-style fusions of the International and Ranch styles being produced after World War II. With an influential architecture program at the University of Washington, this building style is found throughout the state, often in commercial and public buildings as well as for housing. Modern buildings have flat or low-pitched gabled roofs, exposed structural members such as beams or posts that support wide roof overhangs. Large expanses of glass with narrow mullions are characteristic of the style. Many of these one-story buildings employ a variety of exterior surfacing materials such as wood, brick, and stone -- often used in conjunction with each other. As with most modern styles, no traditional detailing is used to frame windows or otherwise embellish the exterior.