

CITY OF RACINE

ARCHITECTURE STYLES

Representative Architectural Styles can be reviewed below.



GREEK REVIVAL (1825-1860)

Greek Revival was a leading architectural style during most of the first half of the 19th century and is principally found in the eastern seaboard, the Midwest and Gulf Coast states, up until the 1860s.



ITALIANATE (1840-1885)

A reaction in England during the late 18th and early 19th centuries against more formal Classical-inspired architectural forms led to the embrace of more Romantic-Picturesque ideals of asymmetry, sublimity, and beauty of the perfect building. The Picturesque movement in England led to the more refined Italianate architectural style in the United States, where residential, commercial and institutional building types feature square tower elements, heavy bracketed cornices, hooded windows, quoins and elaborate porches. The style predominated throughout the East, South and Midwest.



SECOND EMPIRE (1855-1885)

The Second Empire style can be traced to France during the reign of Napoleon III when much of Paris was reconstructed with wide avenues and monumental buildings. The style was most prolific in the Northeast and Midwest, and were considered both fashionable as well as a contemporary statement of affluence. The style is very symmetrical with decorative Victorian era details including iron cresting on the roof, bracketed cornices, quoins, and balustrades. Towers are also a common feature, protruding from the styles distinctive mansard roof.



QUEEN ANNE (1880-1910)

During the second half of the 19th century, the Queen Anne style prevailed, perhaps, as the most predominant domestic architecture style found in almost every community from the eastern states across the Midwest to the Great Plains and beyond. Queen Anne was popularized by the proliferation of pattern books and the ready manufacture and distribution of pre-cut materials and architectural features. Commercial versions of the Queen Anne are also prevalent in the Midwest, often exhibiting detailed brickwork, towers and window bays.



GOTHIC REVIVAL (1880s-1940s)

Gothic Revival architecture in the United States during the 1880s and 1890s came in the form of colleges, universities, high schools, grade schools and, undoubtedly, churches and religious institutions. The Gothic architecture of the period reflected a refined version of the style that emulated the great English universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and of the schools and university buildings being constructed in the United States at the time, such as at Princeton, the University of Chicago and Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. However, more traditional versions of the Gothic Revival were often found in religious buildings.



COLONIAL REVIVAL (1880s-1950s)

Colonial Revival may be the most prevalent architectural style in most Midwestern communities. The Colonial Revival is believed to have started after the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition where a "colonial kitchen," replete with a spinning wheel, was reconstructed. The New York architecture firm of McKim, Mead, and White is often considered the first important practitioner of the style with their Appleton House in Lenox, Massachusetts and the Taylor House in Newport, Rhode Island, their most significant works.

CITY OF RACINE

ARCHITECTURE STYLES

Representative Architectural Styles can be reviewed below.



FOURSQUARE (1890s-1920s)

The Foursquare was a popular vernacular building form in nearly every part of the country from the 1890s through the 1920s. Sometimes called the “Classical Box” or “Prairie Box,” common characteristics include a square or rectangular floor plan; medium-pitched pyramid roof; symmetrically-placed dormers; full front porches, some open, some enclosed; and wood, stucco, and brick walls. Almost all Foursquares were two-and-a-half stories in height.



TUDOR REVIVAL (1890-1940)

Tudor Revival is based on late Medieval English prototypes from grand manors to thatched roof cottages, and was popularized in the United States after World War I. In Racine the Tudor Revival style can be found in single family and cottage residential building forms.



RENAISSANCE REVIVAL (1890-1935)

The Renaissance Revival style, popular in the United States during the 1920s and 30s, was largely inspired by the large estate villas in northern Italy. Its overall characteristics are of elegance and formality and are most often found in high-style homes for wealthy and upper-middle-class property owners. The Renaissance Revival gained popularity after World War I.



CLASSICAL REVIVAL (1895-1950)

The Chicago Worlds Columbian Exposition in 1893 revived interest in Classical architecture as the Fair’s planners mandated a classical theme be used for all buildings constructed. From the mid 1890s to the middle of the 20th Century, Classical Revival became a popular style for both commercial and residential buildings. Signature features of Classical Revival homes are full height porches supported by columns with Corinthian or Ionic capitals and topped with a pedimented gable. Such buildings are often two and a half stories in height, rectangular and symmetrical in form, and constructed in stone or brick that was often painted white. Front entrances may have columned surrounds and arched or broken pediments.



PRAIRIE (1900s-1920s)

The Prairie Style is largely derived from the Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19th century and by Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries. The Prairie style was Wright’s unique vision of the Arts and Crafts Movement, and was suited to the open land and flat prairies of the Midwest. As such, the style emphasized horizontality.



CRAFTSMAN (1905-1930)

The Craftsman style, derived in part from the Arts and Crafts Movement, imported from England, hand craftsmanship, natural materials and simplicity in design and detailing while rejecting the Victorian-era emphasis on ornamentation and mass-production.

CITY OF RACINE

ARCHITECTURE STYLES

Representative Architectural Styles can be reviewed below.



EGYPTIAN REVIVAL (1920s-1930s)

Sometimes referred to as an Exotic Revival style, or Art Deco substyle, the Egyptian Revival was developed in the early 1920s as interest peaked in Egyptian culture and symbolism following the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922. Buildings from this period are often of grand size and scale typically reserved for public uses such as churches, banks, government offices, and theatres. Although similar to Greek Revival, or Italianate styles in form — Egyptian Revival buildings are adorned with iconic Egyptian symbolism in the form of decorative motifs. These often include the lotus, phoenix, sphinx, vulture, and sun disk and are representative of eternity and the afterlife, one of the reasons many remaining examples can be found in cemetery structures.



ART DECO (1920-1940)

Art Deco developed in the 1920s — largely from the influence of the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris — as an architectural style featured in traditional building forms but with highly sculptural ornamentation. Art Deco was mainly used in commercial and institutional buildings, although residential examples can also be found.



MINIMAL TRADITIONAL (1930s-1960s)

The Minimal Traditional Style developed in the 1930s as a simplification of the Colonial Revival, using some of the style's traditional forms but without the ornamentation. The Minimal Traditional, or Cape Cod as it is sometimes called, accommodated homeowner desires for traditional looking houses, but were easier to build and cost less than more ornamented homes. For these reasons, the style was popular during the Depression and in the post-World War II housing boom.



RANCH/STYLED RANCH (1945-1970s)

The modern Ranch house type has its predecessors in the vernacular frontier architecture of California and the Southwest where the traditional one-story Spanish settlement dwellings took root. Today, the Ranch home is often associated with the new suburban subdivisions that were developed around the country after World War II. Ranch homes are often associated with a modern design featuring little or no ornamentation. Ranch homes can have the stylistic features of other architectural styles, such as Colonial or Tudor Revival, and are oftentimes called "Styled Ranches."



ONE-PART COMMERCIAL BLOCK

The one-part commercial block is a common commercial building form found in most traditional downtowns and commercial districts throughout the country. One-part commercial blocks are defined as a one-story square or rectangular box adorned with the ornament, features and fenestration of a particular architectural style; in other cases, one-parts were entirely utilitarian in appearance having little to no ornament. One-parts were often constructed by investors to make provisional use of the land as land values would rise over time to support a larger, more profitable building.



TWO-PART COMMERCIAL BLOCK

Aside from one-part commercial buildings, the two-part commercial block is perhaps the most prevalent historic commercial building form in Racine. Two-part commercial buildings are generally considered to be two to four stories in height with the commercial storefront level considered as one zone, and the floors above as the second zone. The second zone floors were a different use such as offices, apartments, and cultural and entertainment activities where located. The two parts were often demarcated by a storefront cornice or a change in building material or facade fenestration and arrangement.