

# Chapter 5.0: Architectural Styles

---

This chapter identifies architectural styles most frequently represented within the historic districts of the City of Independence. The discussion of each style is meant to provide a brief historical overview of the general dates and characteristics that pertain to each style and can be applied nationwide. Familiarity with the defining characteristics of each style will help property owners understand what design and material considerations are appropriate for a particular home or building based on its individual historic character.

It should be said that not every structure will fall neatly into one of the identified architectural styles or types. Historically, many houses were built without architectural features associated with a popular architectural style. Builders sometimes mixed ornamentation or changed a house's design to suit current fashion. Later alterations by property owners could also have concealed or removed features to update the home's appearance to once again suit current fashion. Sometimes the only indications of a building's original style are in the floor plan, roof type, and minor decorative detailing (ornamentation). Defining the architectural style of a property is not an exact science, and can be quite subjective. If you would like assistance in identifying the style of your historic home or building, contact the Preservation Division.



**In this chapter you will find:**

**Residential Architectural Styles**

**Commercial Architectural Types & Styles**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

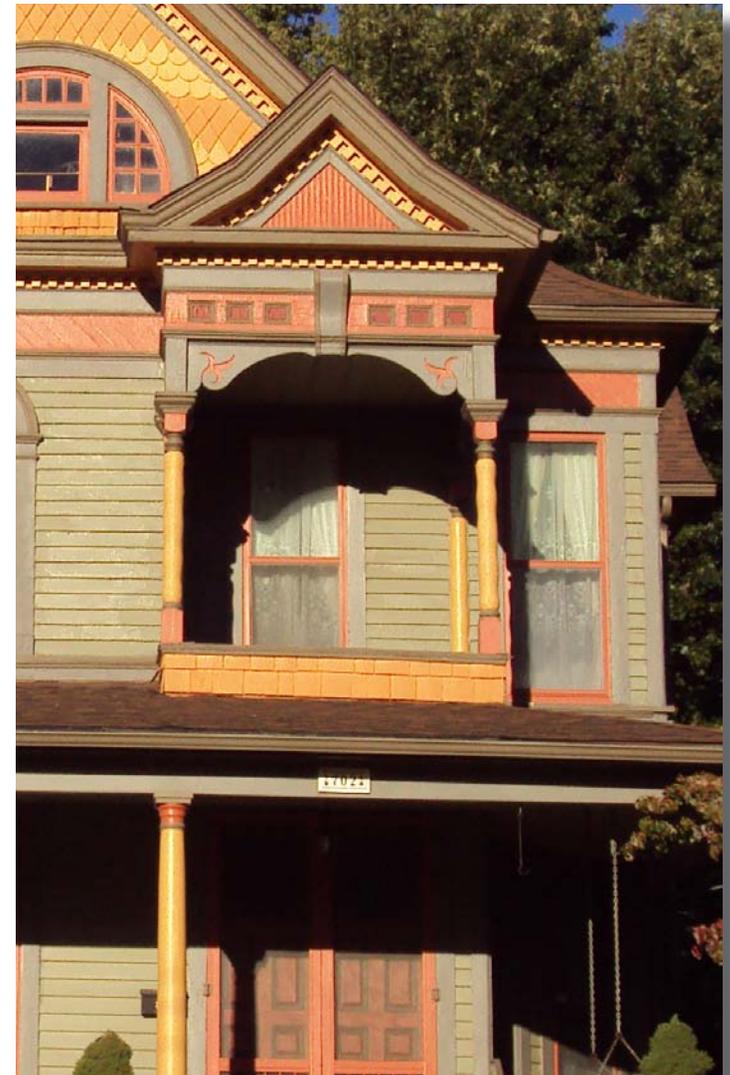
# Chapter 5.1: Residential Architectural Styles



**In this chapter you will find:**

**Residential Architectural Styles**

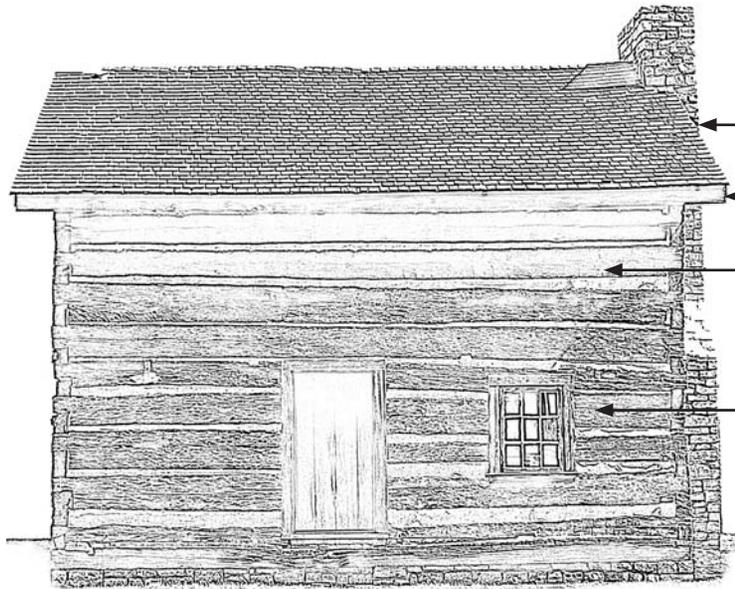
- Log Structures
- Italianate
- Queen Anne
- Folk Victorian
- Mission
- Colonial Revival
- American Foursquare
- Neoclassical
- Prairie
- Tudor Revival
- Craftsman Bungalow
- Spanish Eclectic
- French Eclectic
- Minimal Traditional
- Ranch
- Split-level
- Multi-family Dwellings
  - Colonnade Apartment Buildings
  - Apartment Buildings



Photograph on cover page:  
Bullene Choplin House, 702 North Delaware Street within the Truman Heritage District, 2010.

# RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

## Log Structures (ca. 1800s - 1930s)



### Defining Characteristics

- Massive stone or brick chimneys common
  - Gabled roof with wood shingles and shallow overhangs common
  - All log structures are made from large lengths of wood with notches at the corners where the logs intersect. Spaces between logs sometimes filled or 'chinked' with clay both on the exterior and interior
  - Usually seen with minimal windows and doors
- Typically only a 1 story, sometimes 1 1/2 stories

This building type is defined by construction materials and methods. As Europeans began to settle in America, they brought with them the techniques and tradition of building log structures for houses (or cabins), barns and other outbuildings. Log structures were relatively easy to build. Historic records show that a group of three men, with experience in log building, could build a one room cabin with chimney and fireplace in two days. Most log structures are only a single story in height because of the physical difficulty of lifting the logs; thus most structures were only six to eight logs high. Log structures were later replaced or integrated into other types of housing. These structures can be found throughout Independence and sometimes can be located apart of a now much larger house camouflaged beneath cladding, or concealed in barns.



107 West Kansas Avenue, 2010



201 North Dodgion Street, 2010

## Italianate (1850-1885)



### Defining Characteristics

- Low-pitched, and/or hipped roofs with wide eave overhangs
- Ornamental cornice and eave brackets
- Decorative lintels above windows and doors
- Tall, narrow windows, commonly arched or curved at the top
- Typically are 2 or 3 stories in height, rarely 1 story
- Simple 1 story porches
- Sometimes has a square cupola or tower

Originating in England during the 18th century, the Italianate style belongs to a period in architectural history known as the Picturesque Movement. The primary focus of this movement was the creation of buildings and landscapes that had an artistic and picturesque quality. Italian farmhouses and country villas served as models for the movement. Largely popularized by the influential pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downey. By the mid-19th century the Italianate style had become fashionable in both residential and commercial buildings in America. In the Truman Neighborhood many property owners discovered that these stylish, Italianate designs could easily be modified and adapted to suit their own personal tastes and construction budgets. A wide-range of interpretations of the Italianate style still exists throughout the Bingham, Benton and Truman neighborhoods.



718 West Waldo Street, 2011



410 West Farmer Avenue, 2010

# RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

## Queen Anne (1880-1910)

### Defining Characteristics

- Steeply pitched, complex roof configuration, usually with front facing gable
  - Decorative wall surfaces created with patterned shingles & masonry
  - Bay windows, towers, overhangs and wall projections used to avoid smooth wall surfaces
- Stained and leaded glass windows common  
Asymmetrical facades, occasionally with a tower



510 North Delaware Street, 2011



1216 South Main Street, 2011

The Queen Anne style first reached America in the mid-1870s. Inspired by the late medieval manor houses of 15th, 16th and 17th century England, the first American interpretations of the Queen Anne used half-timbering and patterned masonry in the English Tudor tradition. By the 1880's however, the influence of American spindle work dominated Queen Anne design. Pattern books and railroad delivery of precut ornamental details were responsible for popularizing the style. A period of adaptation in the 1890's revived the use of classical detailing, and wall cladding began to take on a simpler appearance that used fewer types of materials and less pattern work. A large number of spectacular Queen Anne homes, some of which are the most notable surviving examples, were constructed in Independence within the Benton, Procter and Truman neighborhoods.

## Folk Victorian (1890-1910)



### Defining Characteristics

Roof lines are most commonly front gabled, though side gabled and L-shaped roofs are also common

- Brackets under eaves are common
- Windows are often encased in simple surrounds
- Porches are found on nearly all Folk Victorian houses
- Facades are typically symmetrical
- Often with elaborate wood spindles, decorative brackets, and refined columns on porches

The Folk Victorian Style came about with the railroad. Woodworking machinery was available to local trade centers enabling a craftsman to easily produce both a large volume and variety of elaborate scrollwork. Pre-cut details were also available to home owners who would either adorn their new homes with these details or add them to their existing homes. This style was popular throughout the United States until about 1910, and was influenced heavily by the Queen Anne style. Evidence of this influence can be seen in the homes' roof lines and detailing such as spindle work on porches and bracket shapes. Most of the Folk Victorian houses in Independence were built between 1890 and 1910, with many versions of the style found throughout the city.



412 North Spring Street, 2011

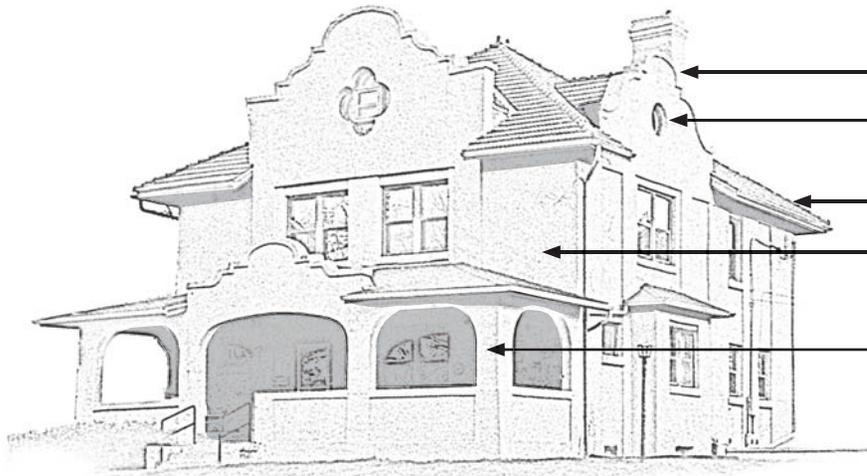


1620 North Pleasant Street, 2011

## Mission (ca. 1890-1920)

### Defining Characteristics

- Curvilinear “Mission shaped” dormer or roof parapet
- Spanish style details such as cross or circular decorative shaped windows are common
- Commonly with red clay tile roofs
- Wall cladding typically stucco finish
- Often found with an arched entry door
- Front and/or side porches supported by large square piers with arched openings



Also known as Spanish Mission, this style originated in California, where there are many landmark examples concentrated in communities originally settled by Spanish colonists. The earliest examples were built in the 1890's and by 1900, houses of this revival style were spreading East under the influence of popular architects and national builders' magazines of the time. The main identifying feature of this style is the dominant curved parapet (often referred to as a Mission-shaped, or bell shaped parapet) located at the main facade roof, side elevation, and/or at the porch roof. Although this Mediterranean inspired style is not common in the Midwest, there are scattered examples throughout. Examples within the Truman neighborhood date between 1905 and 1920.



310 North Delaware Street, 2011

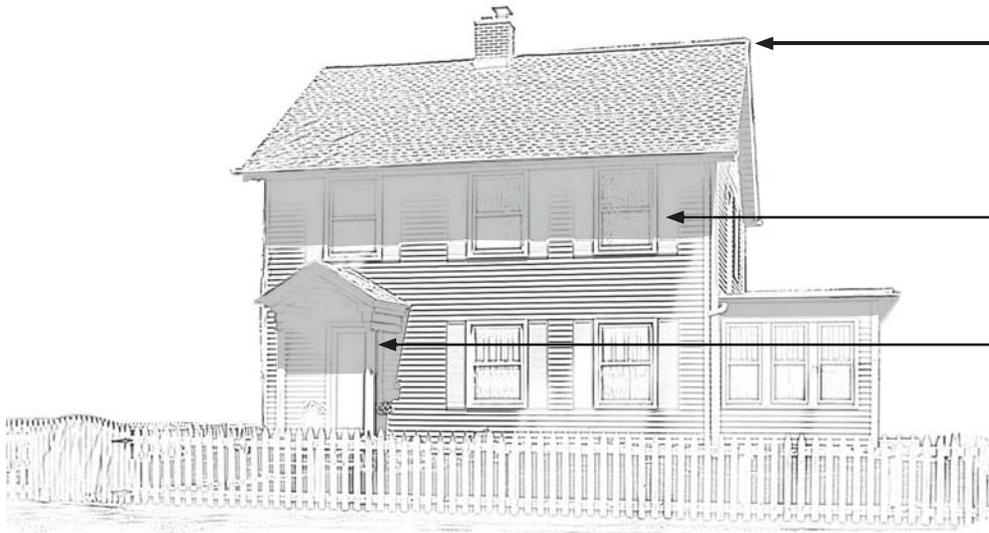


310 North Delaware Street (Detail), 2011

## Colonial Revival (1890-1955)

### Defining Characteristics

- Side-gable or gambrel roofs  
Typically 2 stories, with symmetrical facade  
Windows are often paired and have double-hung, multi-pane sashes
- Simple window surrounds, commonly found with shutters  
Sidelights and fanlight surround at entry are common
- Dominant front entrance, usually with a decorative pediment supported by slender columns or pilasters



After Philadelphia's Centennial Exposition of 1876, Americans began to experience a renewed interest in their Colonial Heritage. Trends in modern building design fell under the influence of early American English and Dutch houses constructed in the Colonies during the 17th and 18th centuries. Colonial style buildings showed America's revived sense of patriotism and history. The first attempts at Colonial Revival architecture merely altered Colonial style decorative elements and design characteristics to fit the size and scale of the buildings during the Victorian era. Later the style adapted to more proportional buildings with applied Colonial details. Colonial Revival architecture was influential both after the turn-of-the-century, and during the post WWII period, and can be found throughout Independence.



610 North Delaware Street, 2011

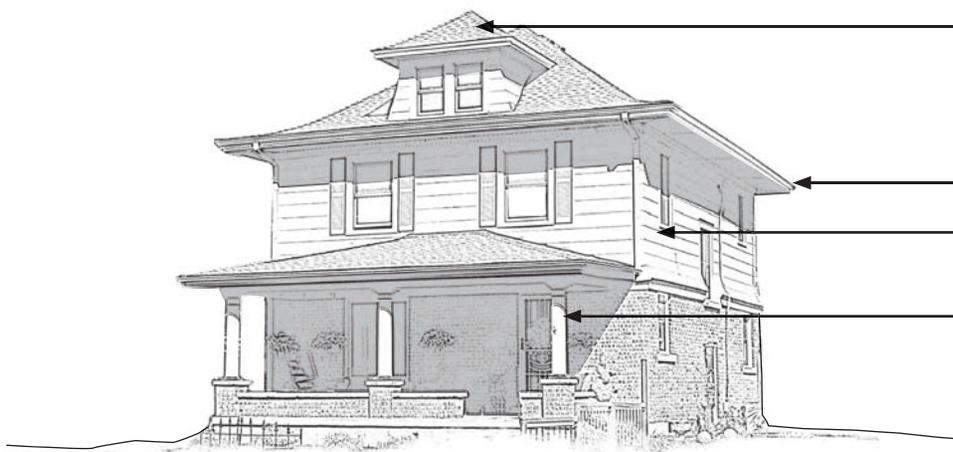


11328 Winner Road, 2010

## American Foursquare (1895-1930)

### Defining Characteristics

- Large central dormer
- Typically 2-1 /2 stories high
- Simple symmetrical box shape with four room plan
- Low-hipped roof with deep overhangs
- Commonly clad with wood siding, stone, brick or stucco finishes
- Dominant, elevated, large front porch with large porch columns and stairs



This popular American house style, (also sometimes known as the “Prairie Box”) was a post-Victorian style, plain in comparison to the mass produced elements of the Victorian and other revival styles of the last half of the 19th century. Foursquare houses may be built with a variety of materials including: brick, stone, stucco, concrete block, and wood. Known for being economical to build, the Foursquare also was ideal for downtown city lots or smaller plots of land. They are efficient houses that make use of every square inch of house and land. Their simple, square shape also made the Foursquare style practical for mail order house kits from Sears, Roebuck Co. and other catalog companies. They were commonly used as infill houses in established, older neighborhoods such as Procter, North and South Main and Truman neighborhoods.



523 West Maple Avenue, 2010



209 South Spring Street, 2011

## Neoclassical (1895-1950)



### Defining Characteristics

- Typically seen with hipped or gabled roofs and a front-gabled roof (or pediment)
- A major character-defining feature is the tall, full-height porch with classical columns  
Typically 2 stories, rarely 1 story
- Symmetrical facade with centered front door. Front entry door commonly seen with decorative Greek Revival surrounds

Neoclassical style is defined by a full-height porch with gabled roof which is supported by classical columns. Columns typically have Ionic or Corinthian capitals, but can also have simple Doric column capitals. The Neoclassical style is very similar to the Greek Revival style, popular from 1825-1860, which was most common on the East Coast of the United States. The Neoclassical style was very popular throughout the first half of the 20th century. Character-defining features also include a symmetrical facade with evenly spaced windows and a centered front door. The front entry door is often found with elaborate, decorative surrounds and mouldings based on Greek Revival ornamentation consisting of engaged columns and triangular or semi-circular pediments.



20309 East Blue Mills Road, 2011



715 West Waldo Street, 2010

## Prairie (1900-1920)

### Defining Characteristics

- Typically 2 stories, with 1 story porches
- Low-pitched roof, hipped roof, or gabled roof with wide overhanging eaves
- Geometric patterns of small pane window glazing
- Porches, eaves, cornices and facade detailing emphasizing horizontal lines very common
- Massive square porch supports
- Brick, stone, stucco and wood wall cladding



Prairie style is one of the few indigenous American home styles. It was developed by a creative group of Chicago architects known as the Prairie School, from which Frank Lloyd Wright was a notable figure. Outside the Chicago area, local architects produced Prairie style houses throughout the Midwestern states. The style spread throughout the country by home pattern books produced in the Midwest. It is most common to see homes in this style built between 1900-1920. These houses sometimes have a form similar to the American Foursquare, and details similar to Mission or Italian Renaissance styles (such as tiled roofs or cornice brackets). Many great examples of Prairie style and “KC Shirtwaist” houses (a subset of the Prairie style) are located within the City of Independence and Truman Neighborhood.



318 North Delaware Street, 2010



701 Park Avenue, 2010

## Tudor Revival (1900-1950)



### Defining Characteristics

- Steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
  - Massive chimneys, with decorative chimney pots on each flue
  - Facade dominated by one or more prominent gables
  - Brick, stone and stucco wall cladding typical and decorative half-timbering common
- Tall narrow windows, grouped with multi-pane glazing
- Arched front entry doors common

The first American houses to be constructed in the Tudor Revival style were patterned closely after elaborate late Medieval and Renaissance architecture popular in 15th, 16th, and early 17th century England. Preferred for its association with the tastes of England's wealthiest class of citizens, Americans found that the solid masonry construction and unique detailing of the Tudor Revival were ideal for creating the picturesque qualities and grand spaces sought after during the Victorian era. After the turn-of-the-century, Americans returned to a simpler life, resulting in modest interpretations of the Tudor style using details like steeply pitched gables and half-timbering with more traditional frame house forms. Examples of the Tudor Revival style in Independence were primarily constructed in the 1920s and 1930s.



615 North Union Street, 2010

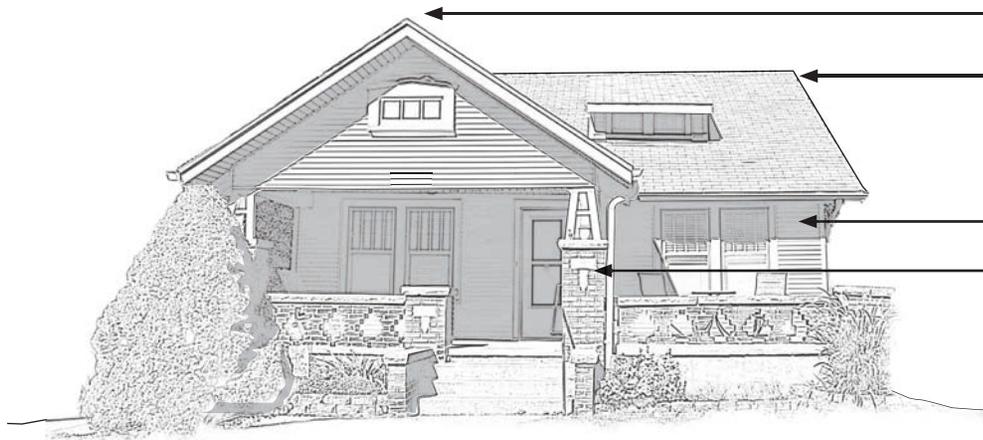


1936 South Lake Drive, 2011

## Craftsman Bungalow (ca. 1905-1940)

### Defining Characteristics

- Low-pitched, front or side-gabled roofs
- Wide eave overhangs, typically with exposed rafters and triangular knee braces
- Usually 1 or 1-1/2 stories in height
- Commonly clad with wood siding, stone, brick or stucco
- Commonly have full-width porches with heavy, square tapered columns and piers that extend to the ground



As early as 1880, the 17th century term “bungalow”, meaning a simple one-story dwelling with a wide porch used for relaxation, was being used in the U.S. to define this architectural style. It was not until ca. 1905 however, when introduced as a new house type of the Craftsman-style, that the bungalow began its period of widespread growth. Craftsman bungalows became the first stylized architecture in the U.S. to be designed specifically with the middle-class in mind, and were successfully marketed as an ideal starter home for the ambitious American family. Popular publications like *The Craftsman*, *Bungalow Magazine*, and the Sears, Roebuck and Co. mail order catalogues popularized the style, which resulted in the construction of bungalow subdivisions and infill houses in older neighborhoods. This style can be found throughout the traditional neighborhoods of Independence.



400 North Delaware Street, 2010

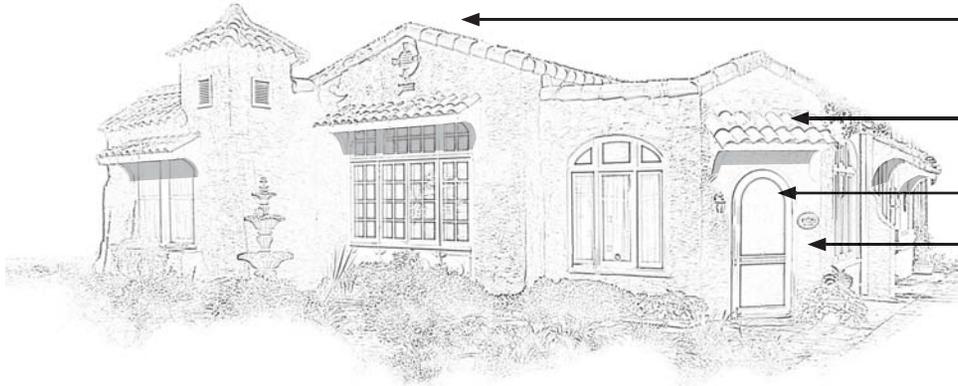


605 West Truman Road, 2010

## Spanish Eclectic (ca. 1915-1940)

### Defining Characteristics

- Typically low-pitched, red clay tile roofs  
Also found with flat roofs and parapet walls
- Commonly found with projecting eaves, usually with little or no overhang
- Arched doors and/or windows
- Wall surfaces usually stone or stucco finish  
Front or side porches common, typically with arched openings and large square porch supports



The Spanish Eclectic style uses decorative details borrowed from the history of Spanish architecture. The signature identifying feature is the red tile roofs. These roof tiles have two basic types: Mission tiles, which are shaped like half-cylinders, and Spanish tiles, which have an S-curve shape. This style has either a low-pitched roof, or a flat roof with parapet walls. Wall cladding is almost always stucco, but can also be stone. This Mediterranean inspired style is most common in the southwestern states and in regions where the original Spanish Colonial building occurred, but can also be found sprinkled throughout the country. Spanish Eclectic style reached its peak during the 1920's and early 1930's and declined after the Second World War and a few examples exist in the Procter and Truman neighborhoods.



604 West Maple Avenue, 2010

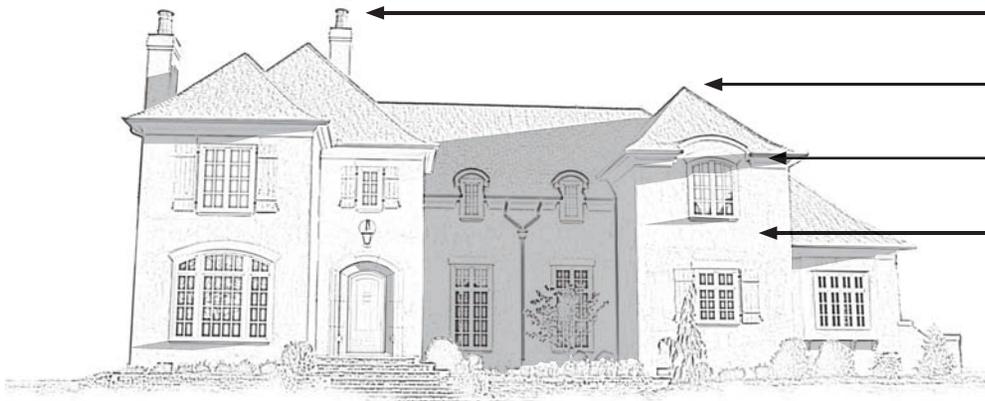


604 West Maple Avenue (Detail), 2011

## French Eclectic (1915-1945)

### Defining Characteristics

- Massive chimneys, sometimes with decorative chimney pots
  - Tall, steeply pitched hipped roof (occasionally gabled), eaves commonly flared upward
  - Commonly with dormers or windows that break the roof line
  - Brick, stone and stucco wall cladding typical
- Arched windows, dormers, and/or doors
- Occasionally with a tower form incorporated



This style is based upon preceding centuries of French domestic architecture and shows a great variety of shapes and architectural details. The style is generally identified by its unique roof shape. Traditions in French architecture dating to Medieval times are represented in this style. This style is relatively uncommon, but is found throughout the country in eclectic suburbs of the 1920's and 1930's. The French Eclectic style is thought to have been popularized by Americans who served in France during World War I who brought back with them their familiarity with the style. A few French Eclectic homes can be found within the City of Independence, and are good examples of this post WWI influence.



701 Proctor Place, 2010



629 Park Avenue, 2010

## Minimal Traditional (ca. 1935-1950)

### Defining Characteristics

Basic rectangular shape with little ornament or detailing

- Front facing roof gable, gabled or hipped roofs with low to medium pitch, and shallow eaves, cross gables common

Typically 1 story, occasionally 1-1/2 stories

- Wood, brick, and/or stone wall cladding common

Detached or single attached garage, rarely a two car garage is present



828 Red Road, 2011



808 Manor Road, 2011

This style was common during the 1930's until the 1950's when it was replaced by the popular ranch homes of that time. The Minimal Traditional incorporates forms from other styles such as Colonial and Tudor, but characteristically has little ornament or great detail. The height of this style was during the Depression, but again it surged in popularity post WWII as the GI Bill influenced the rate of home building and homeownership. Typical features include: a front facing roof gable, commonly with gabled roofs, one story (but can also be 1-1/2 stories), a prominent chimney, and built of wood with brick, stone, and wood cladding materials. Minimal Traditional homes were designed for the growing number of families and the rising number of families with automobiles. These homes are prominent in Golden Acres, but can also be found throughout Independence.

## Ranch (ca. 1935-1975)

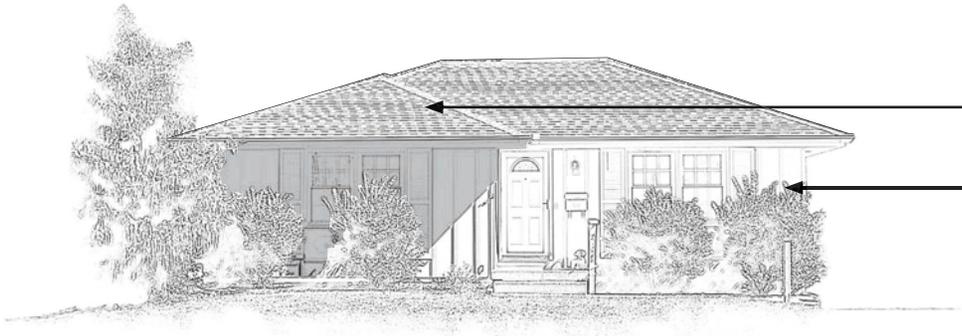
### Defining Characteristics

Basic rectangular shape with little ornament or detailing

Typically 1 story in height with long horizontal roofs with little to moderate overhangs

- Front facing roof gable, gabled or hipped roofs, low to medium pitch
- Wood, brick, and stone wall cladding

Single car garage sometimes attached to primary facade or in rear, rarely a two car garage is present



717 North Delaware Street, 2010



714 East Red Road, 2011

The Ranch style originated during the mid-1930's in California and gained in popularity during the 1940's. The Ranch house was the dominant housing style built post WWII as Americans bought automobiles and moved to suburbs. Compact houses of the early suburbs were replaced with long, low, sprawling designs due in part to the larger lot sizes of the new postwar suburbs. These single-story houses often have a large, open front yard, typically with a driveway leading to the garage, and a sidewalk or pathway to the front door. Ranch homes are found throughout the country and Midwest, and are common as infill in older neighborhoods, and can be found in numbers in South and Southeastern Independence.

## Split-Level (ca.1955-1975)

### Defining Characteristics

Basic rectangular shape with little ornament or detailing

- Side gabled, hipped or cross gable roofs common
- Two stories with attached, two car garage common
- Visible horizontal projection over the lower portion of the home
- Wood, brick, and stone wall cladding common
- Unobstructed front door



722 North Delaware Street, 2010



820 East Lake Drive Court, 2011

The Split-Level style became popular during the 1950's as a multi-story variation of the dominant Ranch style home. This style retains the Ranch home's low-pitched roof, horizontal lines, and overhanging eaves. However, it adds a second story that can be seen from the exterior usually by a break in the house's main facade by a roof eave extending across the facade, or as a projection out from the main facade over the lower portion of the house. The intent of this added story was to move the quiet living and bedroom spaces away from the noisy living spaces. Split-Level homes often have an attached, two car garage on the lower level with the rest of the house built above and around. These homes are common throughout the country, and can be found throughout the City of Independence.

## Colonnade Apartment Buildings (1900 - 1930)

### Defining Characteristics

- Flat roofs, occasionally low slope pitched roofs
- Multiple stories, typically 3 or 4 stories
- Open front porches with wood or brick columns, vary in size, shape and level of detail, variety of capitals
- Rear porches common with exterior exit stair
- Wood, stone or brick wall cladding common
- Elevated central entry door and hall to interior stairs



709 West Truman Road, 2010

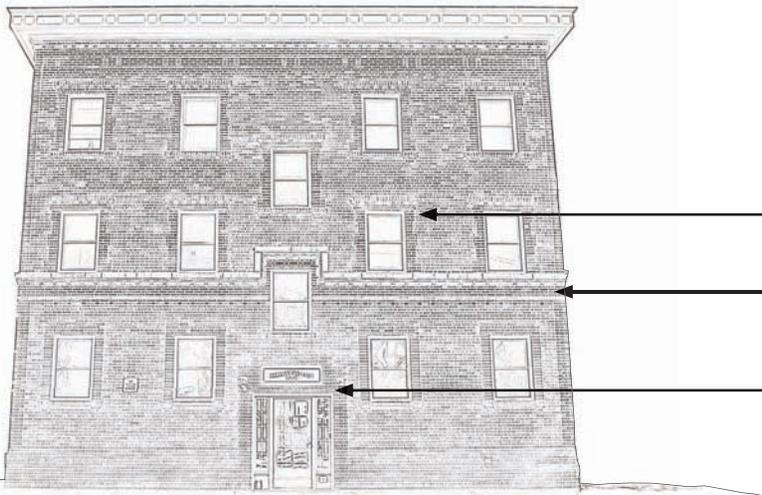


100 East Linden Avenue, 2011

This style of multi-family dwelling is recognized officially as the Kansas City Colonnade Apartment Style. It evolved around the turn-of-the-century with the first examples and precedents seen ca. 1880. The style applies Beaux Arts and Neoclassical elements such as symmetry, central elevated entrance and the use of classical columns and column capitals, and often incorporates details from other architectural styles and eras. The predominant architectural feature for this building type is the colonnaded open front porch. There are several sub-types such as the “Classical Colossal Column Porch,” the “Combined Column Porch,” the “Square Brick Column Porch,” and the “Transitional Colonnade Apartment Building.” These highly recognizable buildings can be found throughout the metropolitan area around Kansas City.

# MULTI-FAMILY ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

## Apartment Buildings (1900 - 1960)



### Defining Characteristics

- Variety of roof configurations, flat or pitched
- Typically 2 or more stories
- Occasionally with front and/or rear porches
- Often with operable windows, various configurations and window types
- Wood, stone or brick wall cladding common, often with simple details from various styles
- Central entry door and hall to interior stairs

The City of Independence has a variety of apartment buildings from various time periods. Historically, this type of multi-story building was often built as a boarding house or apartment building with multiple rooms or units which could be rented by the day, week or month. Defining characteristics of this broad style evolved over time drawing from regional and national building trends, and were built based upon the local need for affordable housing. Typically these buildings are two to four stories in height, and have a prominent central entry door which leads to an interior hall and stairs to upper floors. The apartment buildings in Independence are typically multi-family dwellings, and also may include front and rear porches, exterior stairs, and can have a flat roof or a pitched roof. Apartment buildings are often found closer to commercial centers and are found throughout Independence.



200 North Delaware Street, 2010



701 West Maple Avenue, 2010

# Chapter 5.2: Commercial & Institutional Architectural Styles

---



In this chapter you will find:

## Commercial, Civic, and Religious Styles

- One-Part Commercial
- Two-Part Commercial
- Moderne
- Gothic Revival



Photograph on cover page:  
200 North Liberty Street, Independence Square, 2010.

# COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

## Commercial, Civic, and Religious Styles

- One-Part Commercial Block
- Two-Part Commercial Block
- Moderne
- Gothic Revival

Many of the commercial buildings in Independence were constructed as One or Two Part Commercial Block buildings and are concentrated within the downtown area. These buildings were the most common forms used for commercial and institutional structures in small and developing communities, and range from one to four stories in height. Sometimes these buildings can be further defined by architectural styles, for example: Victorian, Federal, or Modern. In Independence, Two-Part Commercial Block buildings are



Downtown Independence, Missouri, Image from Google Earth, 2010



Downtown Independence, Missouri, ca. 1890.  
Photograph courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum



Downtown Independence, Missouri, 1950.  
Photograph courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

two or more stories in height and have a distinct horizontal separation between the first and second floors, with the first floor serving the public and the second floor utilized as private offices or residential space. One-Part Commercial Block buildings are a single story in height and often have a single business occupying the space. Typically these buildings were constructed of masonry with a large, framed storefront system set between masonry pilasters that had modest decorative treatments. This form was mostly

## COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

used for retail stores and occasionally these single story buildings appear as stand-alone buildings. Traditional commercial centers or districts in Independence include the Independence Square, Englewood, Fairmount and Maywood.



View of a historic Maywood commercial building , 2010.  
Photograph courtesy of the City of Independence

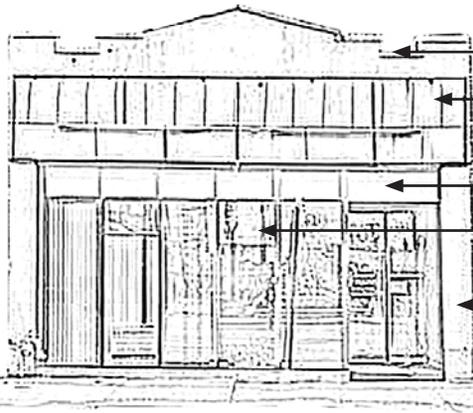


Example of institutional architecture, Palmer School, 2010.  
Photograph courtesy of the City of Independence



View of Main and Lexington looking southwest, 2010.  
Photograph courtesy of the City of Independence

## One-Part Commercial Block (ca. 1850-ca. 1940)



### Defining Characteristics

- Typically 1 story
  - Simple brick detailing at parapets and cornices
  - Commonly with signage on a horizontal band, projecting signage from brackets or storefront windows
  - Upper transom windows common
  - Large storefront and display windows with glass transom windows and entry
  - Typically masonry construction with pilasters
- Fabric awnings common

One-Part Commercial Block buildings were often constructed to simply meet the needs of a single business or user. They were modest structures with simple brick detailing at parapets and cornices. The main defining characteristic for this building type is a large storefront system set between masonry pilasters which can be clad in stone, terra cotta, pigmented structural glass, metal or wood. Sometimes the main entry has additional decoration such as tile, and leaded or colored glass transom windows. It is common for these structures to have flat roofs and fabric awnings to shade the large storefront windows. This is a very prevalent style throughout the downtown area and is therefore an important element in the context and history of Independence.



112-114 North Liberty Street, 2010



214 West Maple Avenue, 2010

## Two-Part Commercial Block (ca. 1850-ca. 1950)



### **Defining Characteristics**

- Decorative brick detailing and cornices
- Typically between 2 and 4 stories with a flat roof
- Tall narrow double-hung windows with stone sills
- Projecting brick pilasters
- Distinct horizontal separation between first (public) and upper floors (private)
- Commonly with signage on a horizontal band, projecting signage from brackets or storefront windows
- Glass transom windows above storefront and entry

Two-Part Commercial Block buildings are the most common type of buildings for small to moderate sized commercial and institutional buildings throughout the United States. The main defining characteristic is the horizontal separation between floors and is typically two to four stories in height. The first floor was typically utilized as a business or public space and the upper floors were more private spaces such as offices, residences or meeting halls. Ornamentation varies by building with some Two-Part Commercial buildings and can be clad in stone, terra cotta, pigmented structural glass, cast iron, metal or wood. It is common for these structures to have flat roofs, fabric awnings, and multiple signage locations. This style is also very prevalent throughout downtown Independence and is important to the history and context of Independence.



200 West Maple, 2010



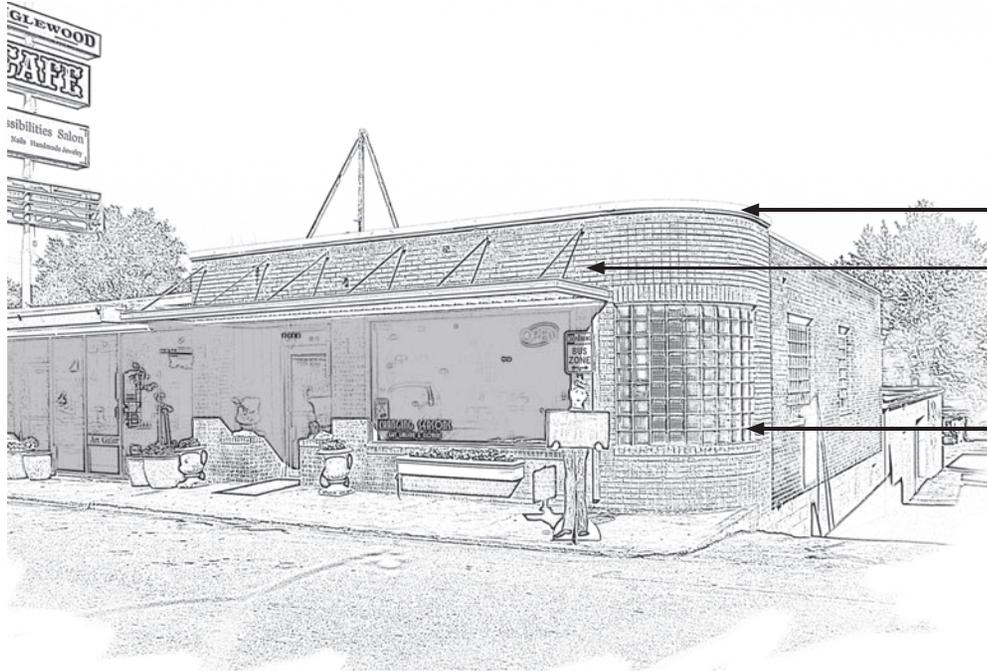
104 North Liberty Street, 2011

# COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

## Moderne (ca.1920s-1940s)

### Defining Characteristics

- Typically 1 to 2 stories in height, sometimes multiple
- Typically seen with flat roofs with metal coping
- Horizontal orientation with horizontal features
- Commonly found with subdued exterior color schemes (light earth tones) with contrasting detail colors, chrome or silver hardware common
- Glass block, rounded edges, corner windows, rounded horizontal grooves on exterior wall surfaces, and horizontal projecting canopy at main entry



201 North Liberty Street, 2010



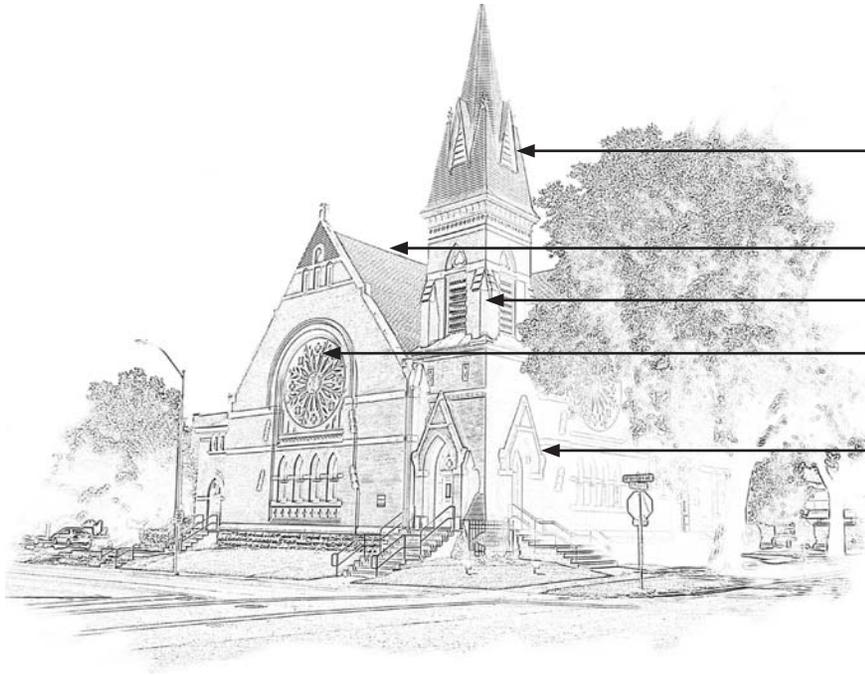
201 North Liberty Street (Detail), 2010

Moderne Style (also referred to as Streamline Moderne Style) evolved from the Art Deco movement of the 1920s and 1930s. The character-defining features of this style are curved building corners, curved entrances, and emphasis on long horizontal lines. Unlike the Art Deco style preceding it, Moderne emphasizes form and has simple ornamentation. Materials common to the style are brick, cast concrete, glass block, glass, and stucco. Large metal storefronts and windows, and projecting canopies are typical for this style. This style was very popular and was highlighted during the 1939 New York World's Fair. Moderne style embodied the optimism and prosperity of the American middle class. Its popularity was so widespread that the style was applied to everything from buildings and automobiles, to toasters and radios.

## Gothic Revival (1905-1935)

### Defining Characteristics

- Prominent towers common with either a steeply pitched roof or castellated parapet
- Steep gabled roof
- Brick, stone and wood wall cladding common
- Large round rose window with decorative tracery (common on churches)
- Typically with pointed arched windows and door openings



100 North Pleasant Street, 2010



614 Brookside Avenue, 2011

The Gothic Revival style can be applied for both residential, commercial and institutional architecture. This style was popularized in America by the first house plan book published in the country by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1832, and is based on the Gothic movement of the Medieval era. In the 1870's, the writings of John Ruskin popularized the use of the Gothic Revival Style for public and religious buildings. There are a number of sub-movements and styles such as English Gothic, French Gothic, and vernacular adaptations such as Carpenter Gothic (the majority of which are small churches in North America). Typical Gothic elements include steep gables, arched (often pointed) windows and doors, large center (round or arched) window with decorative tracery, and towers with steeply pitched roofs or castellated parapet walls. This style is found throughout Independence.