

# ARCHITECTURAL STYLES



*What is*  
**YOUR HOME?**

*"We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us."  
- Winston Churchill*



## STYLES INCLUDED IN THIS BROCHURE:

### ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

*"High-style" that exhibits defined characteristics related to its overall exterior design, materials use, articulation, and other architectural features.*

Greek Revival (1830s – 1870s) .....	Page 4
Gothic Revival (1840s – 1870s) .....	Page 5
Italianate (1840s – 1880s).....	Page 6
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### VERNACULAR BUILDING FORMS:

*Defined by the overall massing and shape, interior space configuration and function, and materials.*

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***This brochure is intended to serve two purposes:***

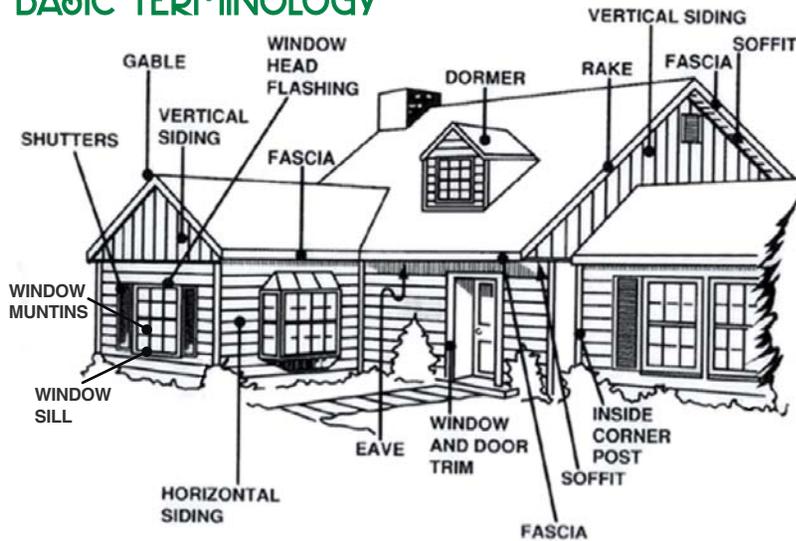
- *A resource for property owners potentially interested in landmarking their property; and*
- *A resource for people who love architecture and history.*

***This brochure includes:***

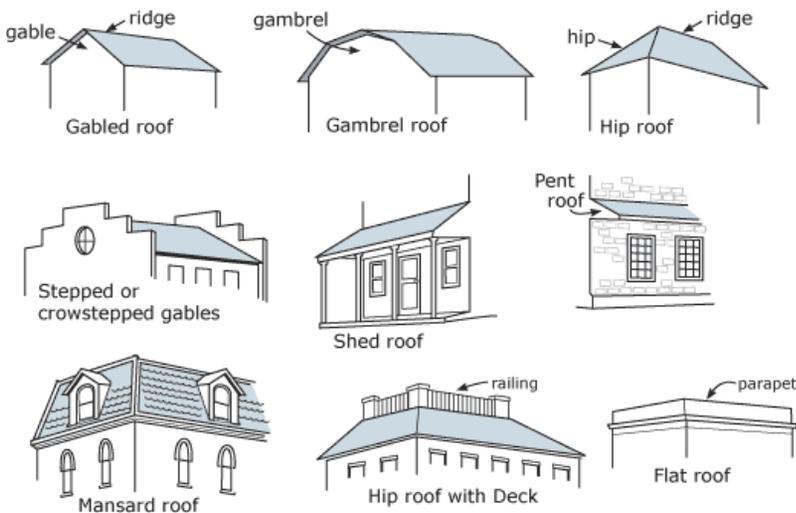
- *basic architectural features (diagrams identifying common building elements)*
- *Typical roof types*
- *Typical window types*
- *17 architectural style examples (includes picture of Downers Grove home, historical description, diagram of unique architectural features)*
- *5 vernacular form examples (includes picture of Downers Grove home, historical description, description of unique architectural features)*



## BASIC TERMINOLOGY

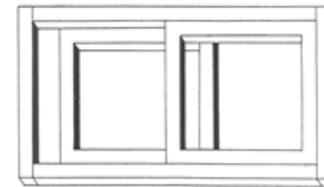


## ROOF TYPES

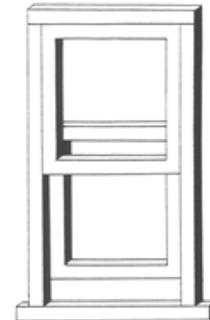


## WINDOW TYPES

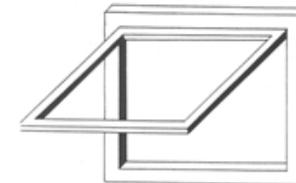
A window's purpose is to allow the entrance of light and/or for ventilation. Though we see many variations and decorative enhancements that disguise the purposes, a window's design is based on these two needs.



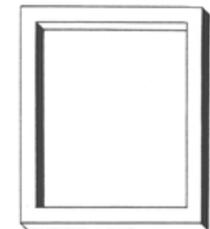
SLIDING WINDOW – This window resembles the hung window except that it rests on its side. As with the hung window, one or both members may be operational.



HUNG WINDOW – This window type is composed of two square or rectangular sashes with a frame mounted in an offset manner so that one or both can be moved to provide ventilation. If one moves it is referred to as "single hung", if both move then it is a "double hung".

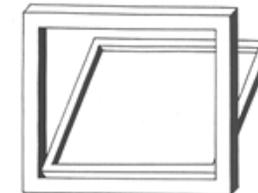


AWNING WINDOW – This window, as with the casement, is hinged or swung, but at the top or side. Normally it is used in conjunction with other window types or with doors.

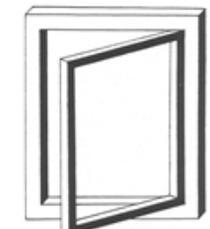


FIXED WINDOW – This window is non-operable. It doesn't move. The drawing is of a rectangular sash, but fixed windows can be seen in a variety of shapes.

*These six WINDOW TYPES, though illustrated as they would appear if constructed of wood, may be made of metal or vinyl also.*

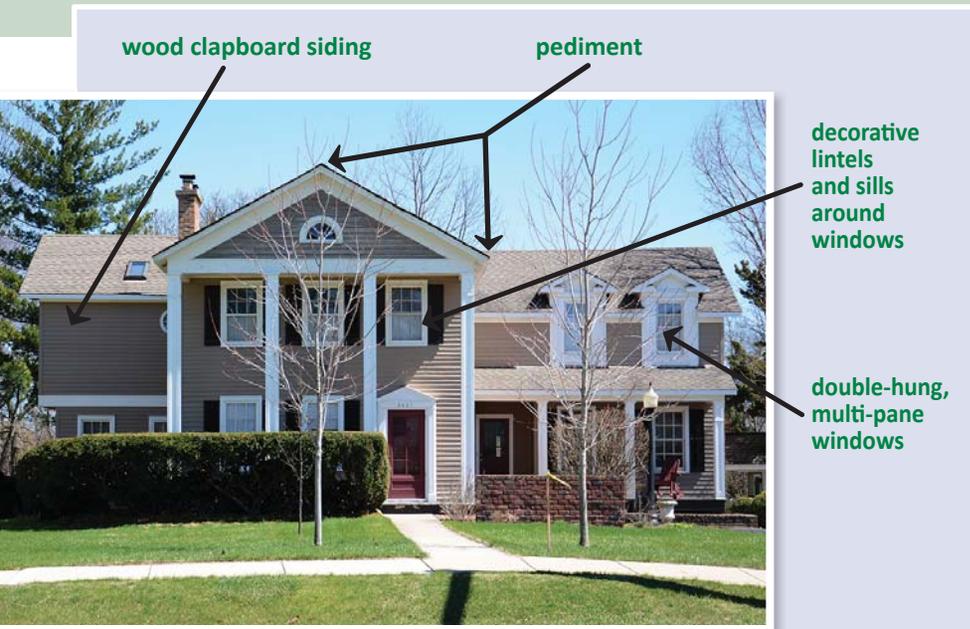


HOPPER WINDOW – This window is almost the reverse of the awning, in that it is hinged at the bottom and swings inward. In some rare instances the hopper may swing outward.



CASEMENT WINDOW – This is one of the oldest window types representing essentially the first step beyond the fixed window operating on hinges or hangers to swing open.

## GREEK REVIVAL 1830s – 1870s



Nationally, GREEK REVIVAL was the dominant domestic architectural style during the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, beginning along the Eastern Seaboard and migrating west. GREEK REVIVAL was one of the earliest architectural styles to be used for residential buildings in the Chicago area, as the increasing prevalence of pattern books and carpenter guides popularized the style. Typical attributes and characteristics include:

- a rectangular and gable-fronted building form
- one or two stories in height
- a hipped roof with cornice lines emphasizing a band of trim
- double-hung, multi-paned windows

GREEK REVIVALS were usually constructed with clapboard siding and sometimes with decorative pediments and crown moldings over doors and windows. Its most particular architectural feature is the gable cornice returns that mimic a triangular pediment in Classical Greek architecture.

## GOTHIC REVIVAL 1840s – 1870s



During the early to mid-1800s, the preference for the “picturesque” in domestic architecture gave rise to the GOTHIC REVIVAL, a style that was first practiced in England during the late 1700s. GOTHIC REVIVAL was considered more compatible with rural and suburban landscapes of the time since its Romantic design was thought to not lend itself to dense urban environments.

Typical features of a GOTHIC REVIVAL home include:

- front gabled or asymmetrical building form
- gables with decorative cross-bracing and vergeboard
- pointed arch or lancet windows

GOTHIC REVIVALS in rural environments were most often constructed in wood clapboard, giving rise to the “Carpenter Gothic” vernacular version of the style.

*\*This image is not from Downers Grove since examples have not yet been identified.*

## ITALIANATE 1840s – 1880s



*ITALIANATE homes first began to appear in most eastern and midwestern states in the 1840s and soon surpassed the Gothic Revival as the dominant architectural style, especially in its detached single family home variant. The style declined in popularity after the financial panic of 1873 and the subsequent depression when home building slowed and a new style, the Queen Anne, became the dominant residential architectural style.*

*ITALIANATE homes are typically constructed in wood clapboard or masonry, two to three stories in height, and L-shaped, asymmetrical or gable-fronted in form. Its most recognizable features include:*

- ***an elaborate roof-line cornice with decorative brackets***
- ***tall, narrow double-hung windows that are often arched at the top and crowned with a hood mold made of brick or stone***
- ***roofs that are usually hipped and low-pitched***
- ***partial, full-front or wrap-around porches with ornate railings and turned columns***

## QUEEN ANNE 1880s – 1900s



*QUEEN ANNE prevailed perhaps as the most dominant Victorian Era domestic architectural style during the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The first American interpretations of the QUEEN ANNE style along the Eastern Seaboard were later popularized by the proliferation of pattern books and the ready manufacture and distribution of pre-cut materials and architectural features.*

*In the Midwest, the majority of QUEEN ANNE homes:*

- ***were constructed in wood clapboard and wood shingles in the upper floors***
- ***used wide bandboards or wood trim to mark the change in materials from wood clapboard to wood shingles***
- ***were asymmetrical buildings with steeply pitched, cross-gabled roofs***

*Some QUEEN ANNES have cylindrical tower bays that rise through the roof line, recessed balconies, and chimneys of corbelled masonry. One of the most notable features is the wrap-around porches with elaborate spindlework, balusters and pediments with stick or shingle work. Folk Victorian is inspired by Queen Anne, but with simple details and basic, asymmetrical floor plans.*

## COLONIAL REVIVAL 1880s – 1950s



The COLONIAL REVIVAL style is often believed to have started after the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition where a “colonial kitchen,” replete with a spinning wheel, was reconstructed. The New York firm of McKim, Mead, White and Bigelow is often considered the first important practitioner of the style with their Appleton House in Lenox, Massachusetts.

The most common architectural features of COLONIAL REVIVAL homes include:

- **columned entry porches**
- **entry doors with transoms, sidelights, and elaborate surrounds**
- **symmetrical building forms**
- **hipped roofs**
- **double-hung, multi-paned windows that are often paired**

In Downers Grove, COLONIAL REVIVAL homes are often two-and-a-half floors in height, constructed in brick or stone masonry, and have an asphalt-shingle roof. In addition, many homes have one-story enclosed side wings. A subtype is the Dutch Colonial, with gambrel roofs and long front dormers. (see featured home on cover page)

## NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL 1895 – 1950s



The Chicago World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 revived interest in Classical architecture as the Fair's planners mandated that Classical Revival be used for all buildings constructed for the Fair. From the mid-1890s to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL became a popular style for both commercial and residential buildings. Signature features of NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL homes are:

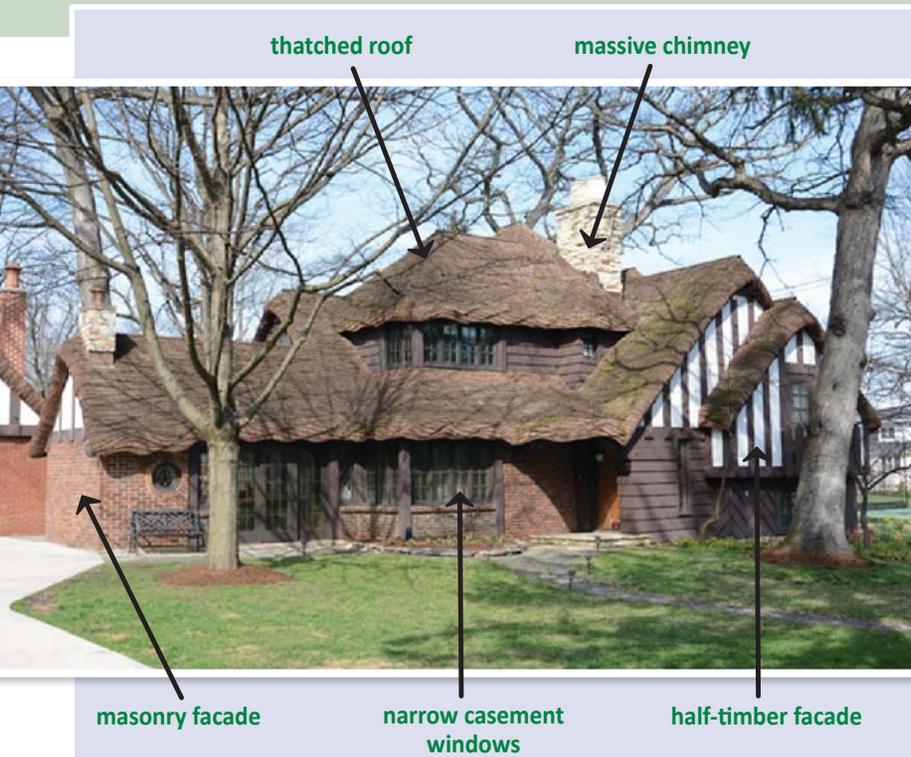
- **full height porches supported by columns with Corinthian or Ionic capitals**
- **topped with a pedimented gable**

These homes are often:

- **two and-a-half stories in height**
- **rectangular and symmetrical in form**
- **constructed in stone or brick that was often painted white**

A variant of NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL is the Beaux Arts style, which was popular in the United States from the mid-1880s to the 1930s, and often used for monumental commercial buildings such as banks and office edifices. Beaux Arts buildings share many of the same features and elements of NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL buildings but they may also incorporate balustrades at the roof line, elaborate window surrounds and crowns, pilasters and floral patterns as decorative elements.

# TUDOR REVIVAL 1890s – 1940s



*TUDOR REVIVAL is based on late Medieval English prototypes from grand manors to thatched-roof cottages and was popularized in the United States during the same period as the Colonial Revival prior to World War II. The TUDOR REVIVAL style features:*

- **steeply pitched roofs**
- **a dominant front gable**
- **half-timbering**
- **masonry walls**
- **massive chimneys**
- **narrow casement windows**

# FRENCH ECLECTIC 1910s – 1945



*Like Tudor Revival, FRENCH ECLECTIC or French country house architecture became popular during the 1920s, 30s and 40s. French Eclectic became popular in the United States as soldiers returned from France after World War I, where they had gained first-hand familiarity with the country houses of Normandy and Brittany. Published photographic studies were also circulated to American architects who quickly adapted the style for residential homes. FRENCH ECLECTIC homes typically:*

- **were designed in brick or stone with steeped asymmetrical roofs**
- **had massive masonry chimneys**
- **had a dominant tower bay and multi-paned casement windows**

## CRAFTSMAN 1900s – 1920s



The CRAFTSMAN style derived from the Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The movement valued hand craftsmanship, natural materials, and simplicity in design and detailing that rejected Victorian-Era excesses and mass-production. CRAFTSMAN Style houses feature:

- a mix of wood clapboards, shingles, stucco and sometimes half-timbering
- rough cuts and uneven application if stone or brick was used, for a more textured look
- low-sloped hipped or gable roofs with deep overhangs supported by wood brackets and knee-braces
- double hung or casement windows with multi-paned or diamond-paned glass
- wide front porches supported by brick or stone piers

The CRAFTSMAN style was applied to common building types such as the Bungalow and Gable-Fronted houses. The style was popularized by national design plan books and magazines such as *The Craftsman*, published by Gustav Stickley between 1901 and 1916. Though high-style, expensive CRAFTSMAN homes are not uncommon, it was generally promoted as an affordable, middle-class style for Americans and was, ironically, mass-produced.

## PRAIRIE 1900s – 1920s



The PRAIRIE style is largely derived from the Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and was practiced by prominent architect Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries in Oak Park, Illinois. The PRAIRIE style was Wright's own 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 with:

- low-slope hipped roofs
- deep eave overhangs
- horizontal bands of trim
- single-pane casements, often featuring art glass, and banded together in rows

PRAIRIE houses are generally of lower overall height compared to Victorian houses, even when two stories tall, and emphasize the use of straightforward building materials of stucco and wood. Wood siding is often horizontal board and batten.

After World War I, the style's popularity declined but continued to influence mass-produced housing, such as bungalows and American Foursquares. Bungalow or Foursquare PRAIRIE style houses typically feature:

- wide front porches
- stucco exteriors with hipped roofs and deep eave overhangs
- some horizontal trim
- bands of windows

## CHICAGO BUNGALOW 1900s – 1920s



- low-hipped roof with roof dormer
- double-hung windows
- stone details at front porch
- masonry facade

The CHICAGO BUNGALOW is a unique variation of the bungalow house type that developed in Chicago and spread throughout the Great Lakes region. The style features all of the typical characteristics of a bungalow house:

- one or one-and-one-half stories
- front porch
- low gable or hipped roof
- an efficient, compact floor plan

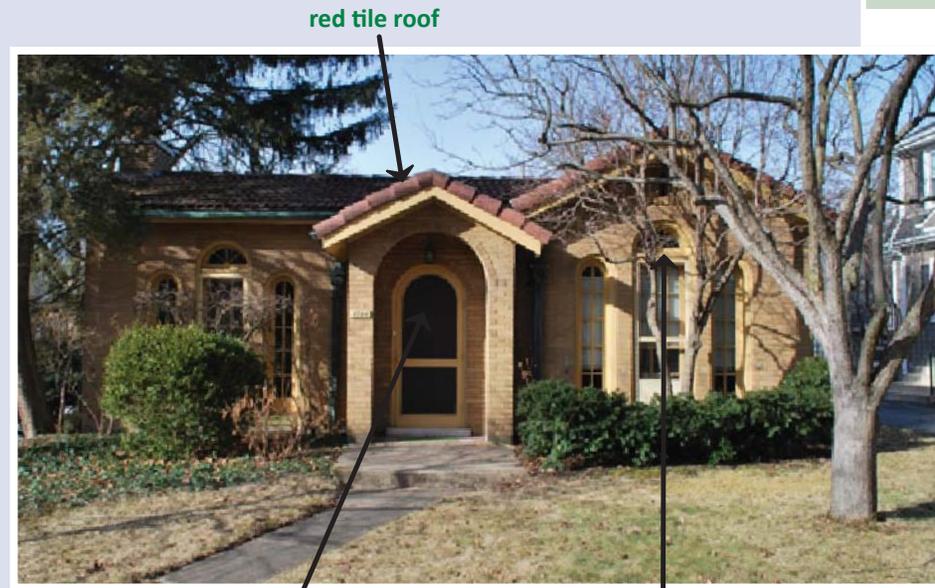
The CHICAGO BUNGALOW developed to suit the unique conditions found in the region, including weather and land costs, and narrow but deep city lots. CHICAGO BUNGALOWS:

- are rectangular in plan with the short end facing the street
- have a front porch or an enclosed front room
- are typically constructed of brick, which was a requirement in the city

To save costs, the front sometimes featured nicer looking “face brick”, while the sides and rear used cheaper “common brick.” Roofs are low hipped or gable roofs with modest overhangs. Roof dormers allowed for usable space in the attic. Windows are typically double hung, and often the front sun-porch windows have Prairie style art glass.

CHICAGO BUNGALOWS were speculative and often constructed by developers for middle or working class families. They had a wide range of ornamentation and could be quite elaborate with built-in features to leaded glass windows, or could be simple and more straightforward with minimal ornamentation. This housing type developed in the housing boom after World War I and ended with the housing bust of the Depression.

## SPANISH REVIVAL 1920s – 1940s



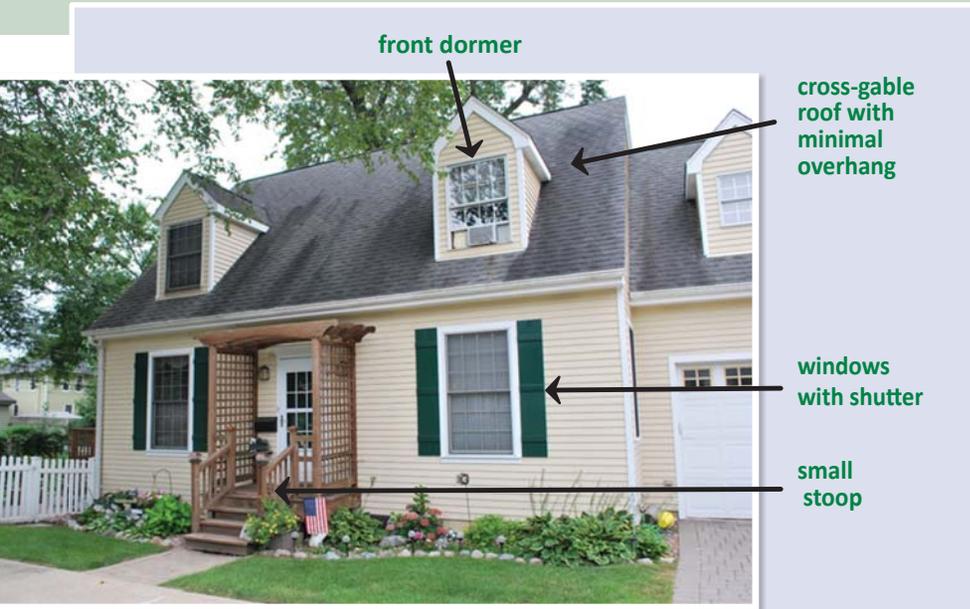
- red tile roof
- arched door with small covered stoop
- arched windows

The SPANISH REVIVAL style was inspired by Spanish Colonial architecture of the Southwest Region and Mexico and its distinguishing characteristics are:

- asymmetry
- stucco or brick exteriors
- clay-tile roofs

Front porches are rare but many SPANISH REVIVAL houses have a terrace or stoop and a small protective overhang. Side porches protected under arched arcades are not uncommon. Arched doors or windows and exposed wood beams and protruding “vigas” that appear to support the roof are also typical features. Fancier houses will have wrought iron railings, balconies and light fixtures and ornamentation, such as twisted columns.

# MINIMAL TRADITIONAL 1930s – 1980s



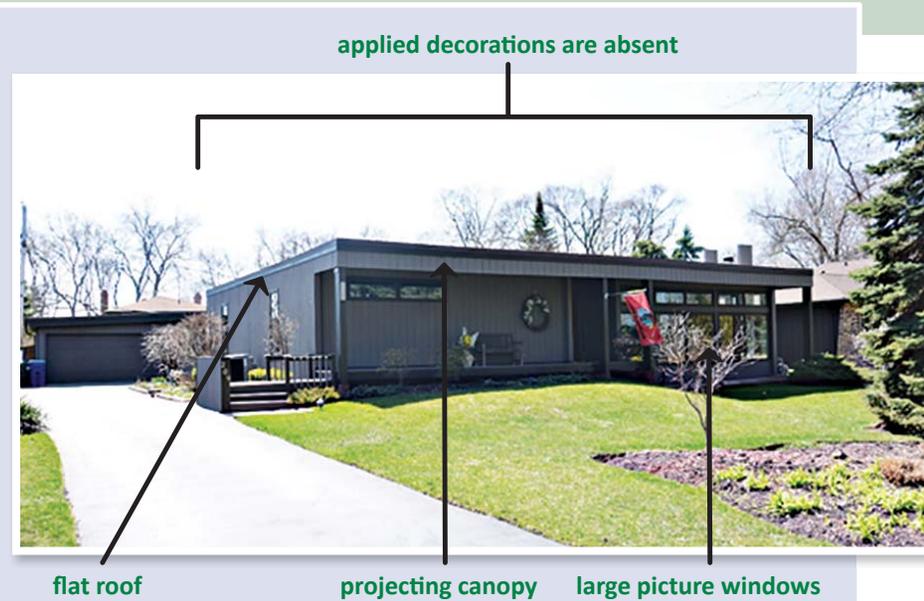
The *MINIMAL TRADITIONAL* style developed in the 1930s and was popular through the 1960s. This style accommodated an owner's and builder's desire for a more traditional-looking home that was easier to build and cost less than a more highly-designed and ornamented Colonial Revival house. For these reasons, the style was quite popular during the Depression and in the post-World War II housing boom.

The style is a simplification of the Colonial Revival. Minimal Traditional houses typically:

- **are one and one-half stories**
- **have hipped or gabled roofs with short overhangs**
- **protect the entry with a small porch, stoop, terrace or roof overhang**

Exterior materials included brick, stone, wood clapboards, aluminum siding and asbestos siding. Two siding choices were often included to provide character to the home. Windows are sometimes flanked with shutters, and it is common to find a picture or bay window in the living room.

# INTERNATIONAL 1930s – 1960s



The *INTERNATIONAL* style evolved in the 1930s from Europe as a rejection of historic associations and revivals. The style often has:

- **no applied ornamentation**
- **flat roofs with parapets instead of overhangs**
- **no porches**

In lieu of porches, cantilevered balconies with solid walls are often included, especially in multi-family buildings. Windows often have steel frames and are larger picture or casement windows. Commercial buildings in the *INTERNATIONAL* style built after World War II often have glass curtain walls with steel or aluminum frames. The style became very popular in the Chicago region after Mies van der Rohe, its most famous exponent and practitioner of the style, emigrated to Chicago from Germany in 1938.

## MID-CENTURY MODERN 1940s – 1960s

low-sloped gable roof



vertical wood siding

deep cantilevered overhang

*MID-CENTURY MODERN is a more overtly ornamented version of the International style. Though devoid of traditional ornament, the style does feature ornamental applications such as unusual roof lines and contrasting wall panels of differing materials. The exterior materials include stone, brick, concrete block and sometimes wood clapboards or aluminum siding. Typically, several materials may be used in a typical MID-CENTURY MODERN building. Long, narrow Roman-style brick, sometimes stacked in neat rows, is often the primary building material.*

*Sometimes, concrete blocks are used as a low-relief feature or cut-out geometric shape. Roofs vary from low-sloped gable and hipped roofs to flat, but they often have deep, cantilevered overhangs. Windows are often framed in steel as casements or multi-pane picture windows that sometimes turn the corner. Glass block windows are common for entries and bathrooms. Porches are rare but a projecting canopy or roof overhang will often protect the entry.*

## LATE MODERN ECLECTIC 1970s – PRESENT

low hipped roof

arched windows



stoop protected by roof overhang

masonry facade

*The LATE MODERN ECLECTIC style developed in the 1970s as an alternative to Modernist buildings, but with greater detailing and ornamentation similar to the earlier Minimal Traditional Style. It can be difficult to describe the characteristics of the style since by definition it is highly eclectic in nature. Typical exterior materials include brick, stone, clapboard siding, aluminum and vinyl. In most cases, two or more materials are combined to provide visual interest to the building's elevation.*

*There is rarely any distinct stylistic ornamentation to such homes, but shutters and Colonial-styled porch posts are common. The entry is usually protected by a portico and large, attached garages are the norm. The overall building massing is usually irregular and asymmetrical but may also be found in a Ranch or Split-Level form. The LATE MODERN ECLECTIC style is often referred to as Neo-Eclectic.*

# NEO REVIVAL 1980s – Present

gable roof with dormers

wood siding



attached garage

covered front porch

*The NEO REVIVAL style is a latter-day revival of earlier architectural styles, Tudor Revival, French Eclectic, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Prairie styles. Neo-Revival homes will have many of the characteristics and features of the original style but are interpreted and constructed with modern materials and of a different scale and proportion than their earlier counterparts. The exteriors will range from brick, stone, stucco, synthetic stucco, vinyl siding or fiber cement siding depending on the original style's material palette. Roof forms will also vary depending on the style revived. In addition, windows usually do not closely match the openings and proportions of the original style. Ornamentation and detailing is often simplified and large attached garages are typical.*

# VERNACULAR BUILDING FORMS

## GABLE-FRONT AND GABLED ELL 1850s – 1920s

*A gable-front cottage or house was one of the more common vernacular building forms throughout the mid to late-1800s and features a dominant "open" gable elevation facing the street.*



*The gable-ell cottage or house was also a common building type from the 1870s through the 1920s and featured a dominant front gable with one or two short wing extensions on the rear elevation.*

*Usually, an entrance porch would be on one side of the house along the street. Like the GABLE-FRONT, the GABLE-ELL may also have Queen Anne and other architectural stylistic characteristics.*



## FOURSQUARE 1890s – 1920s



*The FOURSQUARE was a popular vernacular building form in nearly every part of the country from the 1890s through to the 1920s. Sometimes called the "Classical Box" or "Prairie Box," common characteristics of the FOURSQUARE include:*

- ***its square or rectangular floor plan***
- ***its medium pitched pyramid hip roof***
- ***one or more symmetrically placed dormers***
- ***full front porches, some open, some enclosed***
- ***wood, stucco, and brick walls***

*Almost all FOURSQUARES were two and-a-half stories in height. In Downers Grove, a majority of the FOURSQUARES were designed with Prairie, Craftsman, or Colonial Revival features. Prairie FOURSQUARES are often noted for their wide eaves. Colonial Revival elements may include Palladian windows, pilasters as corner trim work, and porch columns topped with capitals.*

## BUNGALOW 1900s – 1930s



*As noted previously, the BUNGALOW, along with the Foursquare, was one of the dominant building forms in Downers Grove. The name "bungalow" is a British import, derived from the Hindi word "bangle," meaning a low house with a porch. In the United States, bungalows have come to be known as one general residential building type even though they may be designed in different architectural styles. American BUNGALOWS typically:*

- ***are one-and-one-half stories in height***
- ***have gently pitched gable or hip roof***
- ***have partial or full front porches***

*BUNGALOWS designed in the Craftsman style may have wood clapboard siding and exposed rafter tails; those in the Prairie style may have wide eaves and stucco cladding. The Chicago BUNGALOW is entirely constructed in brick.*

## RANCH 1930s – 1970s



*The modern RANCH house 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 all around the country after World War II. A majority of the RANCH homes in Downers Grove exhibit Mid-Century Modern design characteristics, although some may have features of other architectural styles, corner trim work, and porch columns topped with capitals.*

## SPLIT LEVEL 1950s – 1970s



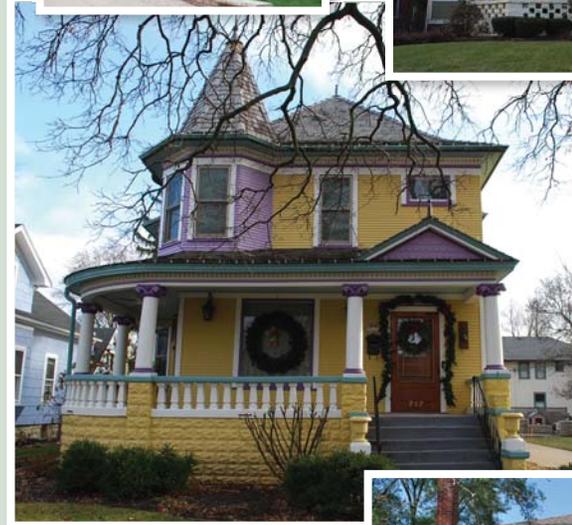
*The SPLIT LEVEL combines some of the best features of the Ranch house with the traditional two-story house in an efficient, cost-effective way. Generally, the main entrance leads to the middle level of the house with the shared living quarters. From the middle level, stairs lead up to the bedrooms, and down to a family room or basement.*

# THE MARRIAGE OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLE AND VERNACULAR BUILDING FORM

## MID-CENTURY MODERN Architectural Style and SPLIT LEVEL Vernacular Building Form



*When a building form like a Split Level house is combined with architectural elements of the Mid-Century Modern style, the final product is what you see above - a home that contains the shape and functionality of one (e.g., middle floor entrance with 2-3 sets of stairs leading to staggered levels) and the styling of the other (e.g., vertical wood siding and deep cantilevered overhang). The popularity of the Architectural Style and Vernacular Building Forms change over time and varied combinations result.*





## RESOURCES

To learn more about the historic resources in Downers Grove, see the Village's new [Historic Resource Application \(maps.downers.us\)](https://maps.downers.us). Enter an address to find out if the property was identified in two previous surveys.

- The early 1970s Illinois Historic Structures Survey (IHSS).
- The 2009 Village [Historic Preservation Plan](#) identifies IHSS buildings, designated Downers Grove Historical Society properties, and Sears Homes.
- The 2013 Village [Historic Building Survey](#) surveyed 865 properties in Denburn Woods, Shady Lane Estates, E.H. Prince Subdivision and Maple Avenue/Main Street corridor.

The Village has mapped the properties identified in these documents to help property owners determine if their home is a potential Historic Landmark. Not all areas have been surveyed, and many other potential landmarks exist.

Other local resources include:

The Downers Grove Historical Society

<http://downersgrovehistory.org/>

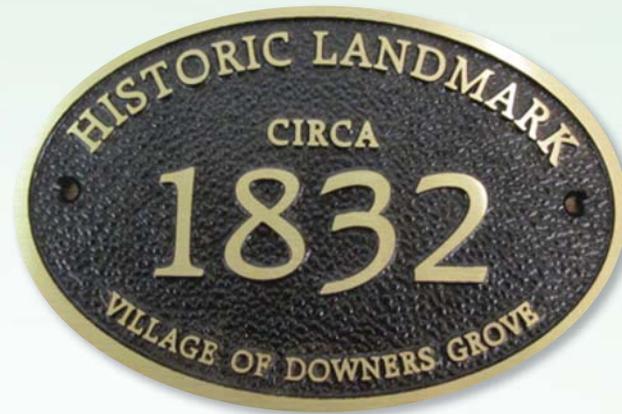
The Downers Grove Museum

<http://www.dgparks.org/places-to-go/the-museum>



*Preserving your property as a historic landmark is easier than ever and there's no cost, so call the Village or visit us on the web and let us help landmark your historic home today.*

630.434.5515 | [www.downers.us/govt/historic-preservation](http://www.downers.us/govt/historic-preservation)



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Springfield, IL 62701**

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