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PAINTS



A Guide to Color, Styles and Architectural Periods

This guide provides general descriptions of the architectural styles of homes and buildings found across America. There are overlapping brackets of time and many interior and exterior colors were popular in more than one era.

The descriptions and color lists serve as a springboard to what is possible when painting a building's exterior, trim, interior walls and floors as well as details like accents, decorative stenciling and overlays.

Using this guide and the Historic Colors of America, homeowners and professionals can create the effect of a given historic period while applying variations to suit personal tastes.

To view color stories for the Historic Colors of America, visit www.californiapaints.com

● Mid 1600's-1780 Colonial

The early colonists arriving in the New World from Europe brought the prevailing architectural styles and building practices of their native countries with them. Most Colonial dwellings built during the 1600's might be classified as folk houses if they did not so strongly reflect the distinctive traditions of their countries of origin. Old World practices persisted in Colonial empires well beyond the end of European rule.

Original Colonial styles were built primarily along the east coast, gulf coast and portions of the southwest. They were built before the era of industrialization, and unaltered examples have a characteristic "handmade" quality in such details as doors, windows, brickwork or siding. The most characteristic Colonial house is usually a one or two-story box, two rooms deep with symmetrical windows. Many examples of Colonial houses survive today and are among the most popular styles of American building.



● 1780-1830 Federal

The Federal style was the dominant style of the new Republic. During this period the population tripled in size and expanded to the west and south. The style was mostly concentrated in prosperous port cities of the eastern seaboard in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New York, South Carolina and Georgia. Diversity of spatial planning found in interiors of the period reflected the style of Robert Adam, the gifted English architect who also popularized design elements such as swags, garlands and urns.

Symmetry, lightness and delicacy characterize the Federal or Adam style. One of the earliest examples of this style was the ceiling in the Mount Vernon dining room, executed for George Washington in 1775. In general, Federal houses may be rectilinear and boxlike, with perhaps an elliptical fanlight over the front door and sidelights flanking the door. Door trim may include thin columns or pilasters and curved or octagonal projections may reveal the shape of interior rooms. Also characteristic are curving steps and windows recessed within arches. The roof is often concealed behind a balustrade.

● 1825-1855 Greek Revival

The Greek Revival period began and ended in this country with public buildings built in Philadelphia. One of the most familiar icons of American architecture is the full-colonnaded Greek Revival mansion of the southern states with its large veranda or living porch. The front-gabled house was popularized in the early nineteenth century and became the predominant form of urban houses in the northeast and Midwest well into the twentieth century.

The classical temple form with a portico across the entire front and the roof ridge running from front to back is employed for buildings of all kinds and sizes including cottages. Dormers are rare and roofs are generally gabled or of low pitch. The front door is typically surrounded by narrow sidelights with a row of transom lights above. The most common types of ornament are the anthemion and the Greek fret, wide pilasters and deep, heavy cornices. Wooden buildings were invariably painted white.



● 1840-1900 Victorian

The styles that were popular during the long reign of Britain's Queen Victoria are generally referred to as "Victorian." Growth of railroads and industrialization led to changes in mass productions and shipping of house components, while the development of mechanized saws and lathes led to a profusion of wooden ornamentation. The extravagant use of complex shapes and elaborate detailing are clearly reflected in these landmark houses.

Late Victorian styles of this period, also known as "Stick" and "Queen Ann," became intertwined and tend to overlap each other. Characteristics such as multicolored walls, asymmetrical facades, and steeply pitched roofs are common features. Dwellings were built with every conceivable type of trim including wooden lacework, patterned shingles, porches and towers with conical roofs. Roofs are often complex with cross gables, conical turrets, dormers and decorative brackets beneath eaves. Finials and crestings were frequently used to decorate the roof ridges.

● 1900-1955 20th Century Eclecticism

By the end of the 19th century, two major trends, one moving toward precise copies of historical architecture, and the other moving away from traditional architectural forms, evident in residential architecture. These two architectural "camps," traditional vs. modern, characterize much residential construction at the beginning of the 21st century with the traditional approach continuing to dominate for new house construction.

Among the traditional architectural styles of the early 20th century are styles reminiscent of the Georgian and Colonial Revival, Southwestern Colonial revival and Tudor revival. Contrasted with these are modernist styles built with stuccos, brick and stone veneers. Paint colors varied according to style. Features identified with the Tudor style often include dark trim colors of browns, maroons, deep olives and greens. Georgian and Colonial Revival houses were generally light: white, gray, gray-blue, gray-green, or yellow on the body, with white trim and window sashes and dark shutters and doors. Modernist house tended to be painted in light neutrals with dark sashes and bold accents of bright, primary colors.

HISTORICAL PERIOD COLOR INDEX

● Mid 1600's-1780 Colonial

● 1780-1830 Federal

● 1825-1855 Greek Revival

● 1840-1900 Victorian

● 1900-1955 20th Century

● Eclecticism

PERIOD	COLOR NAME
●	Alden Till
●	Amelia
● ●	Amish Green
●	Andover Cream
● ●	Appleton
●	Asher Benjamin
● ● ● ●	Asian Jute
●	Baize
●	Bargeboard Brown
●	Barrett Quince
●	Bayberry Wax
●	Bean Pot
●	Beaumont Aubergine
●	Beetroot
●	Biloxi Blue
● ●	Blonde Lace
●	Blue Winged Teal
●	Boardman
●	Bold Bolection
●	Bowen Blue
● ●	Brattle Spruce
●	Bristol Green
●	Britches
●	Brookside
●	Brownstone
● ●	Bulfinch Blue
●	Burnished Pewter
● ● ●	Burnt Umber
●	Canyon Gold
●	China Aster
●	Chocolate
●	Citadel Blue
●	Clementine
●	Coastal Sand
● ●	Codman Claret
●	Cogswell Cedar
●	Concord Grape
●	Coral Springs
● ●	Cottage Green
●	Covered Bridge
●	Cummings Oak
● ●	Curry
●	Danish Pine
●	Elise
●	Emily
●	Emma
● ● ●	English Bartlett
● ● ●	Farmhouse Ochre
● ●	Fieldstone
● ●	Flaxen Field

PERIOD	COLOR NAME
●	Flowering Chestnut
●	Gable Green
● ●	Gedney Green
● ● ●	Georgian Yellow
● ●	Ginger Root
●	Glacier Bay
●	Goldenrod
●	Grasshopper
●	Grassy Meadow
●	Green Bonnet
●	Gropius Gray
●	Hawthorne
●	Hazelwood
●	Hickory Nut
●	Historic Morning Dew
●	Hitching Post
●	India Trade
● ●	Jackson Antique
● ● ●	Jewett White
●	Jonquil
● ● ●	Knightley Straw
●	Lady Banksia
● ● ●	Langdon Dove
●	Lexington Blue
●	Liberty
●	Longfellow
● ●	Lucinda
●	Lyman Camellia
●	Madder
●	Maple
●	Marrett Apple
● ●	Meetinghouse Blue
●	Melville
●	Milkweed
●	Monument Gray
●	Moss Glen
●	Mountain Laurel
●	Muted Mulberry
● ●	Nankeen
● ●	Newbury Moss
●	Newport Indigo
●	Otis Madeira
●	Pale Organza
●	Palomino
● ● ●	Parsnip
● ● ●	Pettingill Sage
● ●	Phelps Putty
●	Phillips Green
●	Picholine
●	Pitch Pine

PERIOD	COLOR NAME
●	Plum Island
● ●	Plymouth Beige
● ●	Pointed Fir
●	Polished Pewter
● ●	Portobello
●	Portsmouth Blue
●	Portsmouth Spice
● ● ●	Pumpkin
● ● ●	Quincy Granite
● ●	Rain Barrel
●	Rawhide
● ●	Redrock Canyon
●	Richardson Brick
●	Robin's Egg
●	Rocky Hill
●	Roseland
●	Rundlet Peach
● ●	Sandy Bluff
●	Saxon Blue
● ● ●	Sayward Pine
●	Seal Blue
●	Shaker Red
● ●	Stagecoach
●	Standish Blue
●	Sturgis Gray
● ●	Tailor's Buff
●	Tankard Gray
●	Toffee
● ●	Tory Blue
●	Tudor Ice
●	Tyson Taupe
●	Venetian Glass
●	Veranda Blue
●	Vermont Slate
● ● ●	Vinal Haven
●	Viscaya
●	Volute
● ●	Wainscot Green
●	Warren Tavern
●	Whispering Willow
● ●	Wild Oats
●	Winter Balsam
●	Winter Harbor
● ●	Winter Meadow
● ●	Wooden Nutmeg
●	Woodstock Rose
● ●	Wooly Thyme
● ●	Yarmouth Oyster
●	Yorke Bisque



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For more information, please contact:

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at www.HistoricNewEngland.org



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