



Architectural Styles

The following glossary provides a brief explanation for architectural terms used in the Inventory database (addresses in brackets are example(s) of that style). For a more detailed description including photos, please visit www.ontarioarchitecture.com.

Art Moderne (1930-1960) – usually asymmetrical; distinguished by streamlined forms such as rounded corners, flat roof and curved bays giving a generally horizontal appearance to the building. (16 Wellington Road)

Art Deco (1920-1945) – stresses verticality, a multiplicity of planes and angles, and geometrically decorated flat surfaces; (Dominion Building; 457 Richmond St.)

Arts and Crafts (1900-1920) – derived from the ideas of William Morris and Phillip Webb who emphasized the importance of using local materials and craftspeople with buildings showing careful attention to details. (808 and 813 Talbot St.)

Bungalow – often features a gently pitched front roof extending over the verandah concealing second storey living space. (27 Erie)

Collegiate Gothic (1900-1945) – a style commonly used for academic buildings and some other structures in the early 20th. Century Gothic details, rounded doors and windows, and, sometimes, steep gables forming a central frontispiece. (St. Peters Seminary, 1040 Waterloo)

Colonial Revival (1900-) recalls North American heritage, variations include American colonial, Early and Late Georgian, Southern Colonial, American Federal, Dutch Colonial. Often may be distinguished from the original by the use of modern materials, a different scale and a mixture of elements. (825 Talbot)

Dutch Colonial – the dominant characteristic of this style is a gambrel roof usually extending over a front porch. (17 Elmwood Avenue East)

Eclectic – exhibit characteristics of two or more recognized styles. (15 Stanley, Lancaster Terrace)

Edwardian (1900-1930) Balanced in design, with a moderately pitched, gable roof, these, often red brick buildings have a prominent entrance and porch with classical details and brick piers. (430 Waterloo)

Foursquare (1910- 1930) square or rectangular in plan; two storeys with one storey porch characterized by large square piers; pyramidal hip roof with a front dormer; often embellished with wide overhanging eaves and decorative brackets. (46 Palace Street)



Georgian (1750-1820) –characterized by symmetry and simplicity. It was used in both residential and commercial buildings. Often in brick or stone with a double pitch gable-end roof. Palladian windows were common. (481 Ridout St- Eldon House)

Georgian Revival – built in the Georgian style after it had gone out of fashion. The style has been revived several times. (653 Talbot St.)

Gothic Revival (1840-1870) – characterized by steeply pitched, asymmetrical roof, pointed window and door openings and decorated vergeboard –“gingerbread” around eaves and finials (639 Talbot-Raleigh House)

High Victorian (1860-1880) – a conscious, picturesque combination of several styles. Buildings are irregular in outline and designed for their setting; often associated with Gothic Revival. (466 Dufferin- Fitzgerald Corners)

Italianate (1850-1870) symmetrical, often found with short, square towers, tall, rounded window and door openings, hipped roofs, strongly accentuated corners and cornice brackets which are often paired; usually two – three storey buildings (301 Piccadilly-Shanly Town House)

International (1930-1960) asymmetrical; often a flat roof; windows flush with walls, horizontal windows, corner windows; simple, box-like appearance, smooth walls with no decoration at doors and windows.(75 Bathurst)

Late Victorian (1880-1900) more restrained adaptations than High Victorian: asymmetrical composition but greater consistency within a single building (442 Adelaide-Banting House)

Neo-classical (1800-1860) - distinguished by an elaborate doorway usually with an elliptical transom; small pedimented portico or porch; side-gabled roof with chimneys dominant along the ridge at both gable ends (272-274 Dundas- old City Hall)

Ontario cottage –has a hipped roof and a central doorway flanked by one or two symmetrically placed windows identical in design (23 Cathcart)

Ontario Farmhouse – one and half storey with a central doorway and a central gable; built of timber, brick or stone (700 Pond Mills- Baty House)

Prairie (1910-1930) – strong horizontal lines, broad, gently sloping or flat roof with wide eaves; windows in groups, often with stained glass and geometric shapes, usually casement style; often massive square porch supports (379 Wortley Road)

Queen Anne (1880-1910) asymmetrical with wings and porches; irregular outlines and silhouettes; frequently has gables, two-storey bays, tall decorated chimneys and may



use a variety of building materials; decorated surfaces and trim, fish scale shingles.10
Grand Avenue- Waverley)

Queen Anne Cottage – Queen Anne style adapted to a single storey house with an attic. (332 St. George)

Red Brick Commercial (1890-1920) - usually buildings have a grey or grayish tan stone lintel and sills, with square headed windows and decorative brackets below the eaves. (167 Dundas)

Regency (1830-1860) closely related to Georgian but always with a hipped roof, long narrow windows (particularly on the first floor) and sometimes with a trellis-like support on the verandah. (198 Elmwood Avenue East)

Renaissance Revival (1870-1910) often used in commercial buildings, banks and offices; two styles –astylar (without columns) and columnar; formal in balance and harmony; reflective of 16th. c. Italian palaces and town houses (267 Dundas- J. Alley Taylor Building)

Romanesque Revival (1850-1910) – asymmetrical, solid, massive often using brick and red sandstone; round-arch windows and doors; walls can have smooth brick surfaces or irregular rusticated stone surfaces; columns, round towers. (482 Dundas- Dundas St. United Church)

Second Empire (1860-1890) – generally symmetrical; style recognized by its mansard roof, generally concave; commonly used for institutional, commercial or major residential buildings which can be highly decorated; tall double windows, dormer windows. (229-231 Dundas)

Shingle – frame building dominated by gabled rooflines and shingled walls. (26 Woodward)

Side-Hall Plan (SHP) Cottage – has a front door on the side of the main façade. (360 St. James)

Spanish Colonial – characteristics include white stucco walls, red tile roofs, columns, wrought-iron railings and arches. (101 Windermere Rd.- Elsie Perrin Williams Estate)

Terrace –nineteenth century term for row housing.

Tudor Revival (1920-1940) asymmetrical; inspired by medieval English Tudor architecture; features steeply pitched gabled roofs, casement windows, projecting second storey floors and half-timbering.(1071 Waterloo - Goodholme)



Vernacular- exhibit local designs characteristics and use easily available building materials. They may be influenced by, but not defined by, a particular style. (873 Hellmuth)

Victory House (1940-1950) small, compact, without decoration: steeply pitched gable roof, small sash windows; bungalow or one and one half storey.