



Glossary of Architectural Styles



Arched Roof: This roof has a curved slope and can be pointed in the middle (called Gothic; flatter , curving roofs are called rainbows). It is most often found on barns.



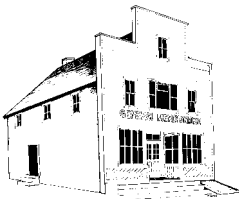
Art Deco (1925–40): The earliest example of what most people think of as modern architecture, Art Deco buildings look very flat, with geometric patterns that decorate the surface. Most of the walls are smooth-concrete, stucco (cement, sand, and lime), or stone—often with glass or tile accents. In general, people preferred Art Deco for small commercial structures, public buildings like courthouses, post offices, and apartment buildings.



Art Moderne (1930–45): “Streamlined” is the best way to describe Art Moderne (modern) architecture. Art Moderne buildings took their shapes from the aerodynamic appearance of automobiles, airplanes, and ship designs. Smooth cement, brick, or stucco like Art Deco, many Art Moderne buildings are painted white or are light in color, with curved walls and sleek bands of windows that wrap around corners. The Art Moderne style was popular for commercial structures, including gas stations, auto showrooms, restaurants, and diners.



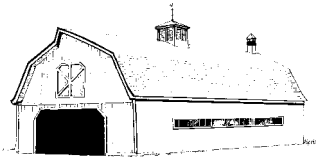
Bungalow (1890–1940): The Bungalow style was popular for smaller one- and two-story single-family houses. They look cozy and somewhat squat. They often have a front porch (sometimes enclosed) with large square posts supporting the roof. Like Prairie School houses, bungalows often look more horizontal than vertical.



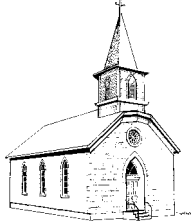
False Front or Boomtown (1870–1915): Boomtown buildings tend to be commercial structures on main streets in town centers. Most often, these structures are wooden and look like the buildings of the Old West as seen in cowboy movies. The false front (often flat on top) is taller than the roof and hides it from view.



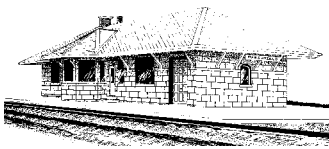
Gable Roof: This roof has two slopes that meet at the top, forming an upside-down V.



Gambrel Roof: This roof has four slopes. The two slopes at the top have a slight pitch; the side slopes are longer and steeper than those at the top. It is most often found on barns.



Gothic Revival (1830–80): This style is popular for churches and occasionally houses. You can recognize a Gothic Revival church by its tall steeple and its pointy or Gothic arches over doorways and windows. Gothic Revival buildings are made of wood or stone.



Hip Roof: The pitch (angle) of this roof is less steep than the others. The meeting of four equally sloping roof surfaces gives the hip roof its easily recognizable pyramid-like shape. In many houses, the shorter sides tend to be triangular in shape, and the wider sides are trapezoidal.



Italianate (1830–80): Boxy in shape and no less than two or three stories high, Italianate (it-tal-yun-ate) buildings have wide eaves (overhangs at the lower edge of a roof) held up by pairs of carved supports. Many Italianate windows seem to have eye brows. This popular style was adapted to houses of all sizes and types and to many late-nineteenth-century commercial buildings.



Mansard Roof: This roof has two slopes on all four sides; the lower slope is generally curved and is much steeper than the upper slope, which appears flat on top. Mansard roofs are one of the most noticeable features of Second Empire buildings.



Neoclassical (1890–1920): The architecture of ancient Greece and Rome inspired this style. It was most popular for public buildings (courthouses, churches, schools, and colleges) but was sometimes used for homes and apartment buildings. Neoclassical buildings are usually made of red brick or white stone, with a great deal of decorative trim—columns, window arches, and triangular pediments over the main doorway. These buildings almost always have a tidy, formal appearance, as if they are on their best behavior.