

Residential Styles Guide

The following pages include information on basic residential architectural styles found within the Town of Pittsford. The purpose of this guide is to help protect the architectural character of the town by providing planning officials and homeowners with information about the character of residential styles when considering changes to homes. The Guide is meant as a preliminary reference only, and the utilization of additional resources is encouraged.

This Guide includes basic information and examples of:

- Federal
- Greek Revival
- Italianate
- Queen Anne
- Colonial Revival
- Foursquare
- Craftsman
- Tudor Revival
- Minimal Traditional
- Ranch
- Cape Cod
- Split Level
- International
- Contemporary
- Neo-Traditional
- Neo-Eclectic

Federal



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1800 - 1835

Design: Three-bay facade with side entrance on most homes. Five-bay symmetrical center entrance on larger houses. Usually symmetrical facade layout.

Height: 1-1/2 to 2 story.

Materials: Brick or wood clapboard.

Roof: Moderate roof slope with cornice returns, full pediment gable, or stepped gable.

Porch: Typically a single bay porch at the entrance, supported by slender Tuscan columns.

Windows: Double-hung with 12-over-12 or 6-over-6 sash, uniform size and regular, symmetrical spacing.

Doors: Six-panel doors with sidelights and rounded fanlight transom window above. Simpler homes may have a projecting transom cornice over the door.

Details: Elliptical and semi-elliptical fanlights on gable ends. Multiple chimneys near gable ends or one central chimney.



Greek Revival



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1835 - 1855

Design: 3 bay facade with side entrance or center entrance, or 5 bay symmetrical center entrance.

Height: 1-1/2 to 2 story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, flush board, cobblestone

Roof: Moderate slope with cornice returns, or full pediment gable. Front gable, side gable or hip roof.

Porch: Typically a single bay porch at the entrance, supported by slender Tuscan columns.

Windows: Double-hung with 6-over-6 sash.

Doors: One or two-panel doors with sidelights and transom windows. Often framed by formal pilasters.

Details: Square porch columns with Doric capitals. Porches are more common than on Federal style. Occasional use of corner pilasters can be distinguished from federal style by wider dimensions of pilasters, columns and frieze trim.



Italianate



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1855 - 1880

Design: Front gable 3-bay with side entrance, gable and wing.

Height: 2 story.

Materials: Wood clapboard.

Roof: Moderate slope with large overhangs, overhanging eaves, often with decorative brackets. Hip roof examples have a very low slope, and sometimes have Belvedere.

Porch: Typically a single bay porch at the entrance. Full width or wraparound porches also common. Columns are often square with chamfered edges, capitals and scroll brackets.

Windows: Double-hung 6-over-6, 2-over-2 or 1-over-1 sash. Windows typically tall and narrow. Double half round windows often found on gable ends of upper floors. Floor-to-ceiling windows common on first floor. Bay windows.

Doors: Double-leaf doors often tall and narrow, with ¾ length glass panels.

Details: Trim and often incorporate bold “rolled” profile moldings.



Queen Anne



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1880 - 1905

Design: Symmetrical cross-gable or asymmetrical layout, sometimes with combination of gable and hip roof forms.

Height: 2-story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, wood shingles, brick or slate.

Roof: Steep slope, often complex shapes.

Porch: Often wrap-around corner porches with round turned posts, sometimes scroll brackets. Decorative spindle-frieze common along top of porch.

Windows: Double-hung with 6-over-1 or 1-over-1 sash. Varied window widths ranging from tall and narrow, to wide even on same structure. Detailed molded hoods over windows are common.

Door: Single or double doors, typically with 1/2-3/4 length glass panels.

Details: Special detailing at top of gable is often found, such as a transition from wood clapboard to shingles. Upper gable is often separated from facade below by horizontal break or belt course.



Colonial Revival



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1895 - 1945

Design: Symmetrical 3 or 5-bay facade with center entrance.

Height: 2-story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, shingles, stucco or brick.

Roof: Moderate pitch with cornice returns or full gable pediment, dormers. Typically side gable. Gambrel and hip roofs also found.

Porch: Single bay porch at entry with Tuscan columns or bracket supported canopy.

Windows: Double-hung 6-over-6 or 6-over-1 sash, often with shutters. Uniform size and regular spacing. Bay windows common.

Door: Six panel doors, sometimes with sidelight windows.

Details: Gable-end lunette, exterior chimneys.



Foursquare



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1905 - 1920

Design: Square or rectangular in footprint, facade often 2 bays wide.

Height: 2-story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, shingles, stucco, brick or rock-face concrete block.

Roof: Steep slope 12:12 pitch gable or hip roof, typically with dormers.

Porch: Typically 2-bay porch covers width of house. Square porch columns or 3/4 height posts set on masonry piers.

Windows: Double-hung 1-over-1 sash. Wide windows of uniform size.

Door: Single door, typically with 1/2 to 3/4 length glass panel.

Details: Upper floors or gable is often separated from facade below by horizontal break or belt course, with change in materials or colors.



Craftsman



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1900 - 1925

Design: Commonly side gable, square or rectangular in footprint. Some front gables.

Height: 1-1/2 to 2 story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, wood shingle, masonry, brick.

Roof: Moderate slope and pronounced roof. Porch roof is often an extension of primary roof above. Often large shed gable or hip dormer in center of roof. Deep roof overhangs, sometimes with support brackets. Exposed rafter tails.

Porch: Porches are typically full width of facade when present. Porch posts typically are stout square posts set on masonry piers.

Windows: Double-hung with 6-over-6 or 6-over-1 sash, often paired. Some casement windows. Windows vary in size and placement.

Details: Sturdy, simplified appearance with rustic look. Not much ornamentation.



Tudor Revival



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1900 - 1945

Design: Asymmetrical layout, often with small gable over entry.

Height: 1-1/2 to 2 story.

Materials: Stucco, stone, brick or wood shingles, often with a mixture of materials on the same structure.

Roof: Steep slope with little or no overhangs, complex roof forms with multiple gables, shed dormers. Slate roofs are common.

Porch: Small entrance porch, if present, or side porch. Posts and brackets detailed to resemble heavy timber construction.

Windows: Often wide casement windows, paired in 2's or 3's, often with leaden sash.

Doors: Front door is often faced with vertical stained or natural finish wood planks.

Details: English cottage or manor house appearance. Often has asymmetrical gables.



Minimal Traditional



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1935 - 1950

Design: Asymmetrical, with main roofline often parallel to road and gable.

Height: Typically 1-story, some 2-story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, brick, stone, often in a mix.

Roof: Low to intermediate roof pitch. Minimal eave overhangs, minimal or no rake overhangs.

Porch: Some small entry porches with iron or simple wood post supports.

Windows: Double-hung, casement.

Details: Typically has one wide chimney.



Ranch



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1935 - 1975

Design: Long asymmetrical layout, often with garage at one end. Sometimes small gable over entry. Maximizes facade width along road.

Height: 1 story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, stone or brick.

Roof: Very low slope with medium to wide overhangs. Main roofline typically runs parallel to street. Hipped, cross-gabled and side-gabled. Asphalt shingles most common.

Porch: Small entrance porch area sometimes found, often with roof which is an extension of main roof above.

Windows: Often wide picture or casement windows, or sometimes double-hung with shutters.

Details: Decorative Iron or simple wood posts for roof supports near entry.



Cape Cod



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1920's - Present

Design: Ridgeline parallel to road, symmetrical center entrance common.

Height: 1 - 2 story.

Materials: Wood siding (wide clapboard or shingle), may be brick.

Roof: Steep gabled roof, ridgeline parallel to street, with a small overhang and dormers.

Porch: Usually no front porch.

Windows: Relatively tall with small panes, usually double hung.

Door: Paneled wood door with simple Colonial-inspired detail surrounding it.

Garage: Detached, or attached with a breezeway and clearly subordinate to the main house form; earlier examples were built without garages.

Details: Usually simplified Colonial revival.



Split Level



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1955 - 1975

Design: Asymmetrical layout, with garage at one end often underneath second story. Two-story section of home is intersected at mid-height with single-story area on one side.

Height: 2 story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, vertical wood siding, stone and/or brick, often mixed together.

Roof: Low to moderate roof slope with medium to wide overhangs. Hipped and side-gabled roof shapes. Asphalt shingles most common.

Porch: Porches uncommon. Small covered entry areas sometimes found which are extension of main roof above.

Windows: Double-hung or casement windows, often with shutters.

Details: Often utilizes mixture of different materials and colors along facade.



International



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1925 - Present

Design: Generally simple smooth exterior form and massing with little or no detailing or ornamentation, asymmetrical layout.

Height: 2 story.

Materials: Smooth exterior surfaces, typically stucco, without ornamentation or detailing.

Roof: Flat roof without any edge detailing or coping.

Porch: No porch.

Windows: Picture or gridded windows set almost flush with exterior wall. No trim. Ribbon windows or windows which wrap around corners often found.

Details: Very little ornamentation. Exterior areas which do not have windows are typically left as large blank areas of wall. Use of cantilevered overhangs common.



Contemporary



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1940 - 1980

Design: Asymmetrical layout.

Height: 1 – 2 story.

Materials: Typically vertical wood siding, stone or brick.

Roof: Low to moderate roof slope with overhanging eaves, often with exposed rafter tails. Asphalt shingles most common. Some flat roof examples.

Porch: Small covered entrance area sometimes found, often with roof which is an extension of main roof above.

Windows: Typically wide picture or casement windows.

Details: Exposed rafter tails or roof beams. Asymmetrical gable shapes, where one side of gable is cut short.



Neo-Traditional



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1980 - Present

Design: Asymmetrical layout with gabled roof and steep roof pitch, one or more cross gables. Generally imitates traditional styles such as Queen Anne. Attached garage.

Height: 2 story.

Materials: Wood clapboard, often mixed with brick or sometimes stone. Asphalt shingles.

Roof: Steep roof pitch, often with complex forms, hip roof and smaller gables nested inside of larger gables.

Porch: Small covered porch or entry area sometimes found, often with roof which is an extension of main roof above.

Windows: Typically double-hung, simulated divided light, often with decorative (non-functional) shutters.

Details: Full pediment gables.



Neo-Eclectic



Common Characteristics:

Typically Built: 1980 - Present

Design: Asymmetrical layout with prominent front facade, gabled roof and steep roof pitch, one or more cross gables. Attached garage.

Height: 2 story.

Materials: Most commonly brick, with some wood clapboard, sometimes mixed with stone. Asphalt shingles most common.

Roof: Steep roof pitch, broken pediment gable. Roof often made of complex forms, hip roof and smaller gables nested inside of larger gables.

Porch: No porch. Shallow covered or recessed entryway often found.

Windows: Typically double-hung or casement with simulated divided light. Decorative (non-functional) shutters often found. Bay windows common.

Details: Very prominent front entryway, often 2 stories in height highlighted with large windows above and/or flanked by large columns.

