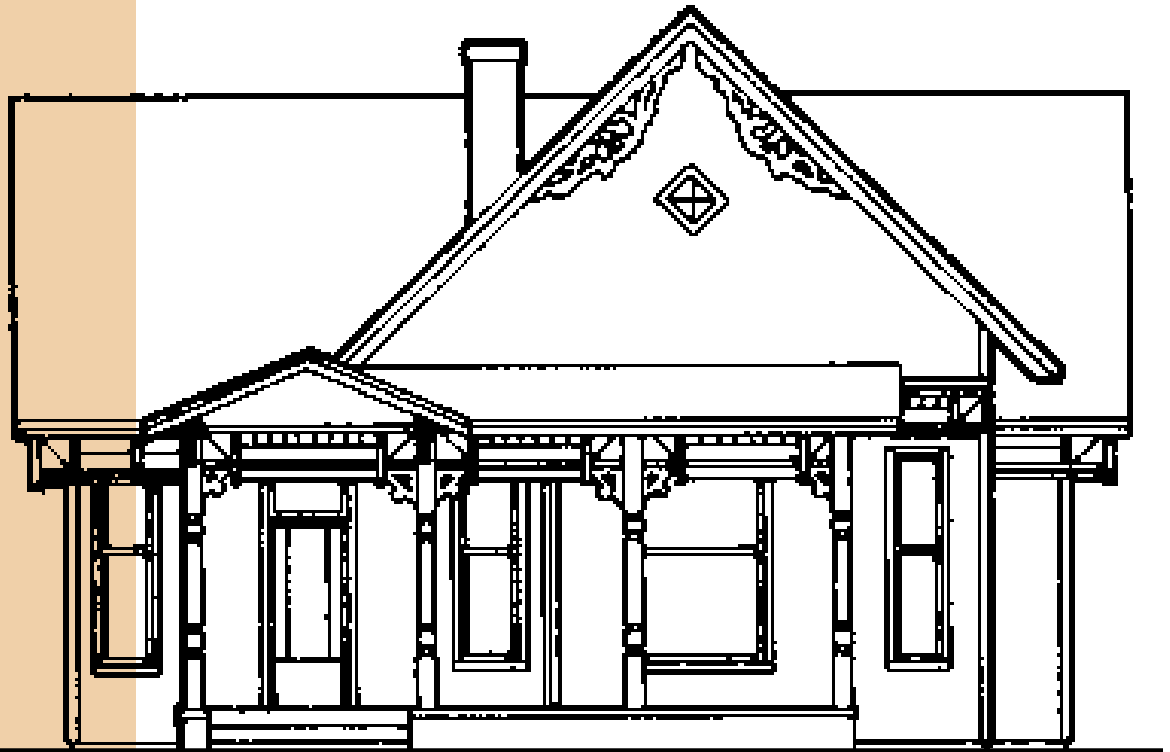




# On the Street Where You Live

Be a Building Watcher!



Although you may not realize it, architecture surrounds you every day—on your way to school, when you go shopping, when you're at church, even in your own neighborhood. All buildings are examples of architecture. Besides providing shelter for home, play, work, worship, education and transportation, architecture is a form of art. Looking at buildings can be an interesting way to study history.

By noticing the buildings around us, we improve our understanding of our history and our heritage. We learn why we should be proud of the streets where we live, and how to work for positive changes in our neighborhoods and communities.

## Be a building watcher!

Becoming a building watcher is easy. All it takes is close observation, curiosity and a little practice. Learning about architectural styles is one way to get started. To help beginners, Historic Landmarks Foundation provides brief, simple descriptions of residential and commercial architectural styles and the dates of their popularity in Indiana. Knowing style names and architectural elements can inspire confidence, but looking and paying attention are the most important attributes of a successful building watcher.

Don't be discouraged if a building does not seem to fall into a specific style classification. Some structures are a mixture of several styles; others may have been altered in ways that obscure the original style. Still other buildings were constructed on tight budgets for practical purposes, with little attention to style. Regardless of its style, a building usually displays many visual clues that tell us about its age, design and original use.

While we look at individual structures, we should also notice their context—the relationship of the building to other structures around it, to the street, to the neighborhood and to the town. In studying the streetscape, there are many elements to consider. Here are just a few:

**Building-to-building relationships:** Notice the general scale of buildings, their comparative height, distance from the street, and the spacing between them. Study the size and spacing of windows and doors, the shapes of roofs. Try to identify the different building materials used for each structure, the textures they create and how they look next to each other. Notice the colors used, and the different types of ornamentation on each building.

**Focal points:** Certain structures may be of central importance to a town or street because of their setting, monumentality, or for other reasons. Try to identify such structures and consider how different your town would be without them.

**Landscaping and street furniture:** Notice paving materials for streets, curbs, sidewalks and steps. Look at fences and try to determine if they are original or recent additions to the streetscape. Are the streets tree-lined, or were they at one time? Are the streetlights old or new, and how do they affect the appearance of the street?



## Terms to know

**Adaptive use** The conversion of a historic building that has outlived its original function to a new use, such as turning a school or factory into an apartment building.

**Architecture** The art or practice of designing and building structures.

**Historic district** A geographically definable area that contains buildings that are united by historical associations or by architectural design, setting, materials or other visual or historical attributes. Areas recognized as historic districts generally are listed in the National or State Registers and/or receive protection under local preservation ordinances.

**Landmark** A building, district, site or object that holds special historical, cultural or architectural significance on a local, state or national level. Official landmarks are structures or districts that are listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, or that receive protection under local preservation ordinances.

## National Register of Historic Places

The official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. To be eligible for listing, a building or site must in general be at least 50 years old and considered of local, state or national significance. The National Register also includes historic districts and multiple property listings (significant structures linked by a common property type or historic context).

**Preservation** Saving an old building, site or structure from demolition or deterioration and guaranteeing its future through restoration or rehabilitation and maintenance.

**Restoration** "The act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared in a particular period of time..." (Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation).

**Streetscape** The visual character of a street as created by the combination of its form, paving materials and street furniture with the design, materials and relationship of the surrounding buildings.

## Helpful Publications

### *Historic Indiana*

An illustrated booklet listing all Indiana properties included in the National Register of Historic Places. Available from the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. 317-232-1646.

### *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*

A paperback photographic guide to architectural styles and terms by John G. Blumenson. Published by John Wiley & Sons, revised edition 1990.

### *Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory Interim Reports\**

Illustrated reports of architectural surveys conducted on a county-by-county basis by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. Reports are available for over half of Indiana's 92 counties. (The state survey is an ongoing, joint program of Historic Landmarks and the state of Indiana.) Reports cost from \$5 to \$30.

### *The National Register of Historic Places in Indiana\**

A brochure outlining the National Register program and explaining the nomination process. Single copy free of charge from Historic Landmarks Foundation.

### *Stories Buildings Tell\**

A resource kit loaned to teachers with emphasis on grades four through six. The kit assists teachers in bringing architecture into the classroom and making learning fun. Activities, games and lessons open students' eyes and minds to their built environment. Call the director of education at Historic Landmarks Foundation.

### *Historic Preservation in Indiana\**

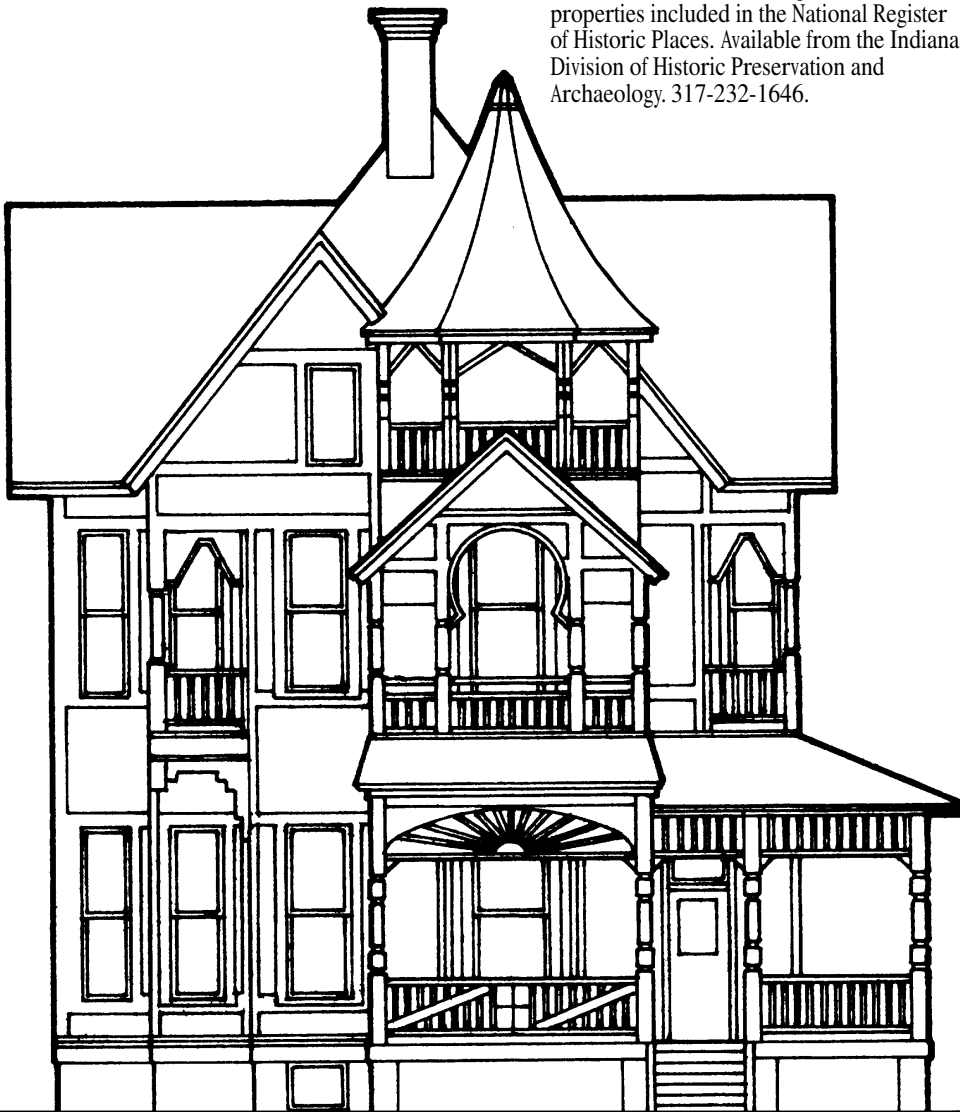
Directed toward students at the middle and secondary levels, this video and study guide teaches students the value of historic preservation. The kit includes a 25-minute video, teacher's guide, *Indiana Preservation Directory*, and *Historic Indiana* booklet. Call the education coordinator at Historic Landmarks Foundation.

\*Published by and available from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. 800-450-4534 or 317-639-4534.

For information on other books, reports and audio-visual programs about architecture for adults and children, call Historic Landmarks Foundation's library at 317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534.

*Illustrations by Jack Wells and Dustin Eggink*

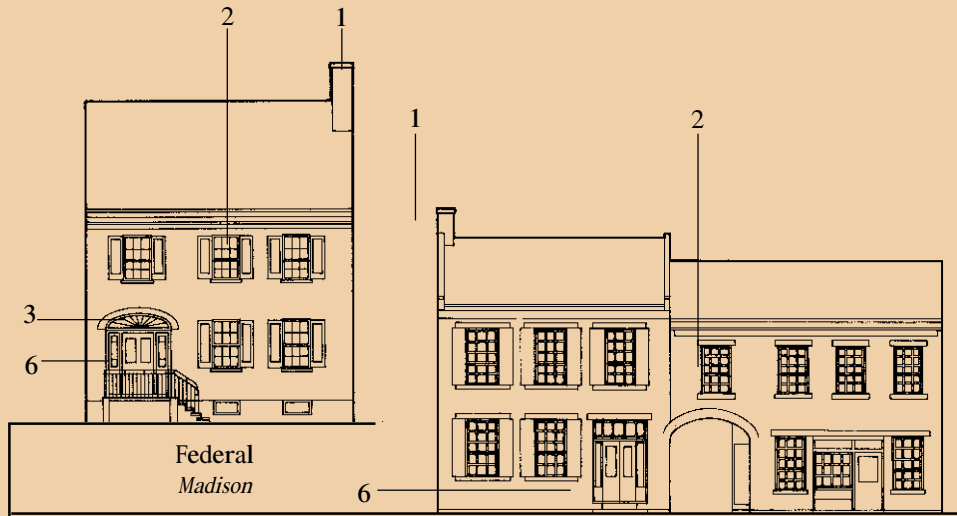
Sixth edition, August 2002



# Architectural styles

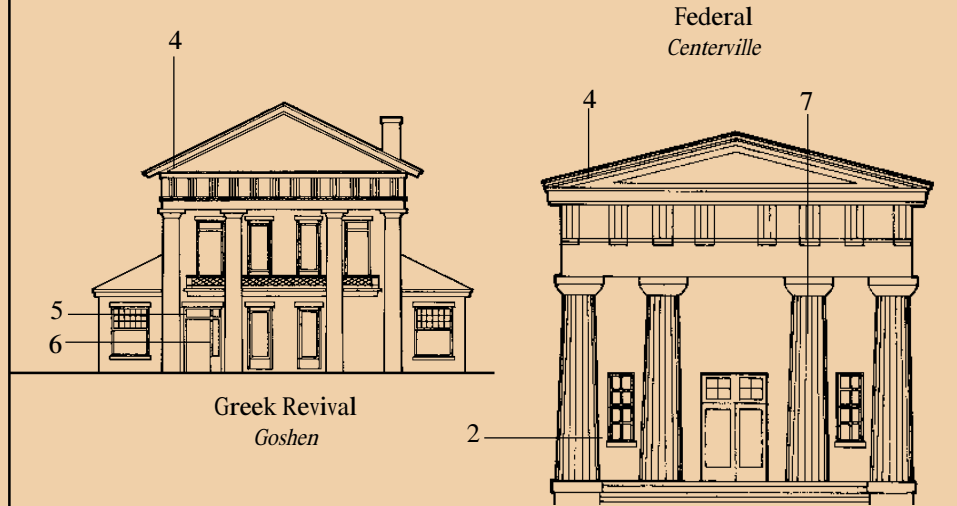
## Federal (1810-1845)

Flat, undecorated wall surfaces of local materials, usually brick or wood weatherboard. Low-pitched gable roof. End chimneys. Large, multi-paned windows. Fanlight and narrow sidelights at entrance. Most common along navigable waterways and early transportation routes such as the National Road.



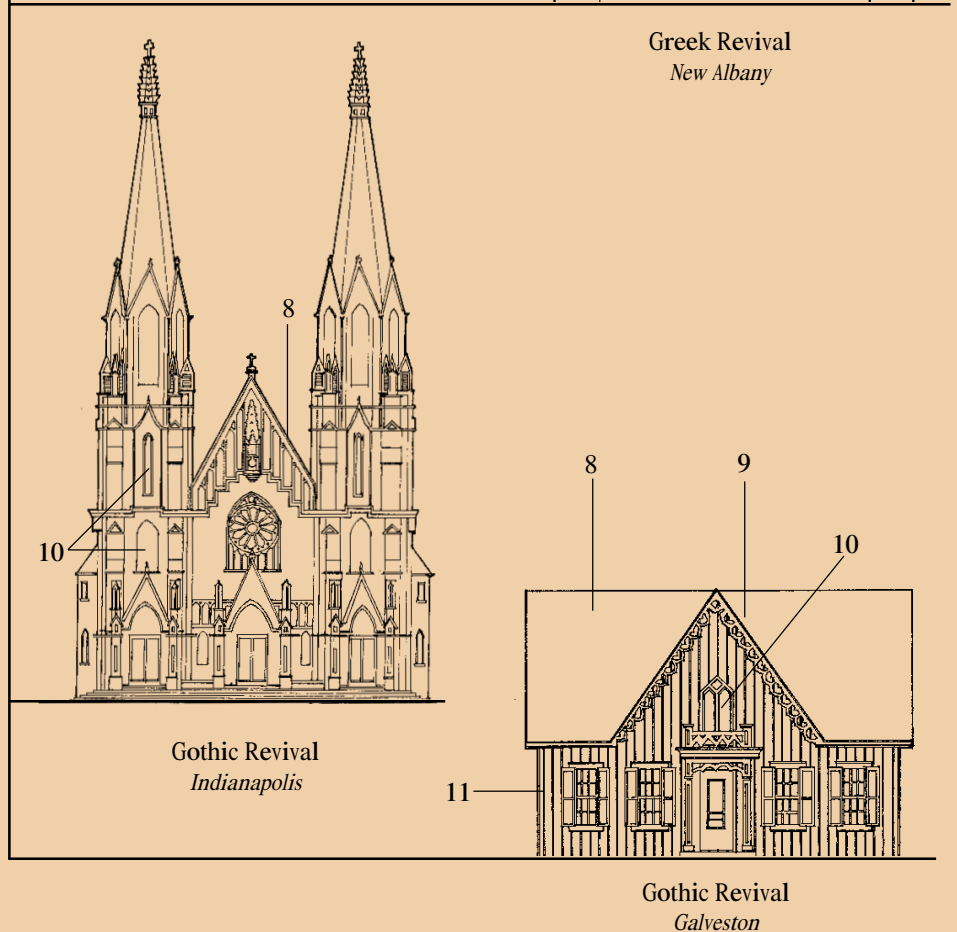
## Greek Revival (1840-1860)

Inspired by classical Greek temple forms, with a heavy cornice and Doric, Ionic or Corinthian columns and pilasters. Customarily of smooth-faced stone, brick or wood. Sidelights and transom at entrance. Popular for courthouses and churches as well as houses.



## Gothic Revival (1850-1870)

Emphasis on verticality, typified by steeply pitched roof, pointed arches, and vertical board-and-batten siding. Straight-headed and hooded openings. Bargeboard trim at gable. Later examples distinguished by enriched wall surfaces created through the use of materials of contrasting color and texture. Though Gothic Revival ceased to be favored as a style for houses by the 1870s, it remained popular as a style for religious architecture well into the twentieth century.

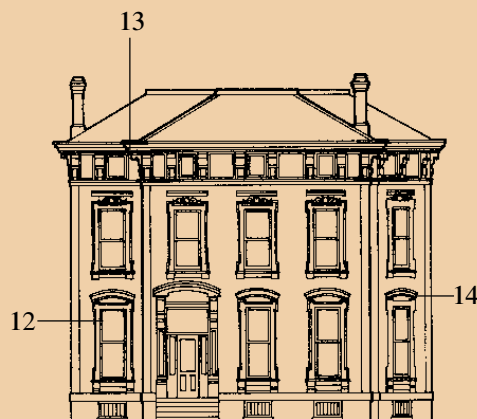


## Elements

1. End chimney
2. Multi-paned window
3. Fanlight
4. Cornice
5. Transom
6. Sidelight
7. Doric column
8. Steeply pitched roof
9. Bargeboard
10. Pointed-arch opening
11. Board-and-batten siding

### Italianate (1855-1890)

Predominant style in Indiana during the late nineteenth century, loosely derived from Italian villas. Vertical composition. Tall, narrow, slightly arched windows with segmental or round arched hoods. Low-pitched hipped roof supported by decorative brackets and often topped with a cupola.



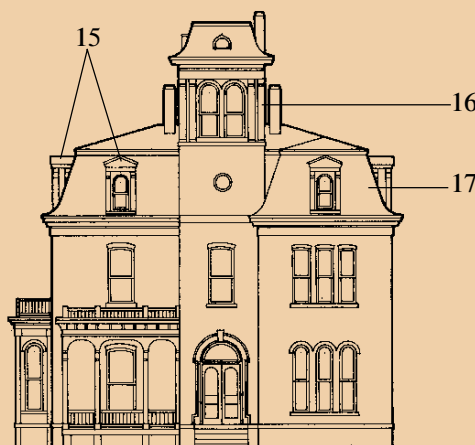
Italianate  
*Indianapolis*



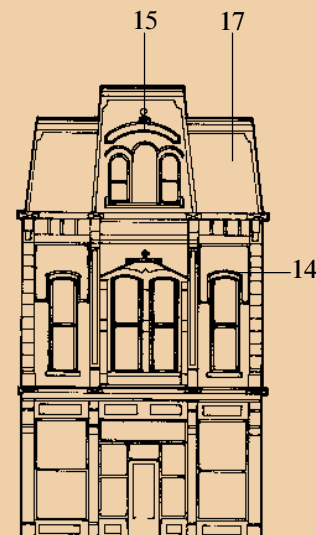
Italianate  
*Logansport*

### Second Empire (1860-1885)

Americanization of nineteenth-century French Renaissance Revival style popularized in Paris during the reign of Napoleon III. Typified by mansard roof, usually of slate, with elaborate brackets and projecting dormers. Polychromatic ornamentation. Often features central pavilion or tower.



Second Empire  
*Indianapolis*



Second Empire  
*North Manchester*

### Romanesque Revival (1880-1900)

Adapted from European medieval architecture. Massive scale. Rock-faced stone exterior relieved by trim of contrasting color or texture. Short, grouped columns support thick, round arches. Windows of varied size and shape. Steeply pitched roof. Towers and turrets common. Most often used for large public buildings.



Romanesque Revival  
*South Bend*



Romanesque Revival  
*Rochester*

#### Elements

- 12. Tall, narrow window
- 13. Decorative bracket
- 14. Segmental-arched window hood
- 15. Dormer
- 16. Tower
- 17. Mansard roof
- 18. Short, grouped columns
- 19. Large, thick arches
- 20. Turret
- 21. Balcony
- 22. Spindled porch

**Queen Anne (1885-1905)**

Combines medieval and classical elements to create the most exuberant of nineteenth-century styles. Asymmetrical composition, with towers, turrets, tall chimneys, bay windows, projecting pavilions, spindled porches and balconies. Contrasting materials on wall surfaces. Stained glass windows.

**Vernacular Victorian (1870-1910)**

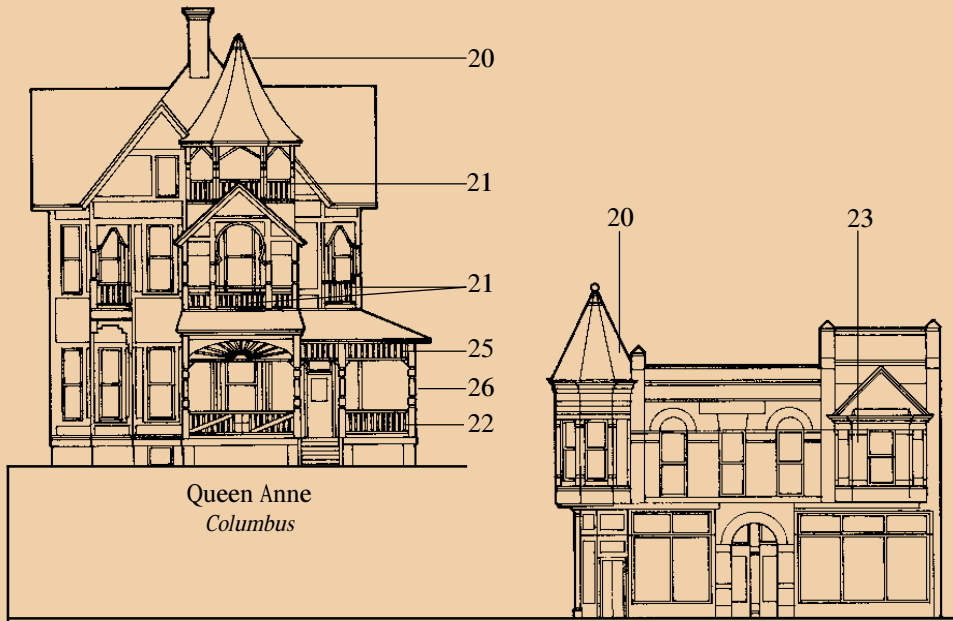
Simplified house form with T, L or rectangular plan, embellished with details derived from late-nineteenth-century styles, usually Queen Anne or Italianate. Also used for commercial buildings of modest size. Most detailing is manufactured wood elements applied at cornice and on porch, such as gingerbread trim in gable, spindled friezes and turned porch posts.

**Neoclassical (1895-1930)**

Originated by the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, in the U.S. the style became popular for large buildings after the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Bold and symmetrical in form and lavish in detail, sometimes embellished with sculpture. Elaborate Greco-Roman classical details such as freestanding columns, heavy moldings, pediments, and balustrades applied to facade. Favored as style for banks, libraries and courthouses.

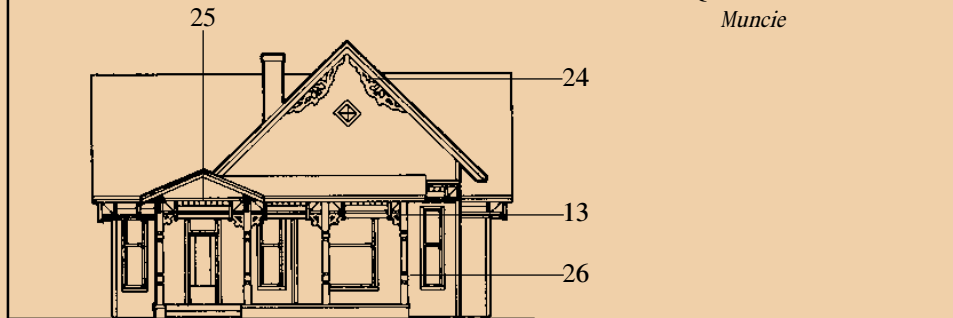
**Colonial Revival (1890-1940)**

A revival of eighteenth-century colonial architecture and one of many revival styles popular in the early twentieth century. Symmetrical massing. Commonly used details include Palladian windows, quoins, garlands, heavy dentils, pedimented dormers, classical columns or pilasters. Multi-paned windows with shutters. Entrance with fanlight and sidelights.

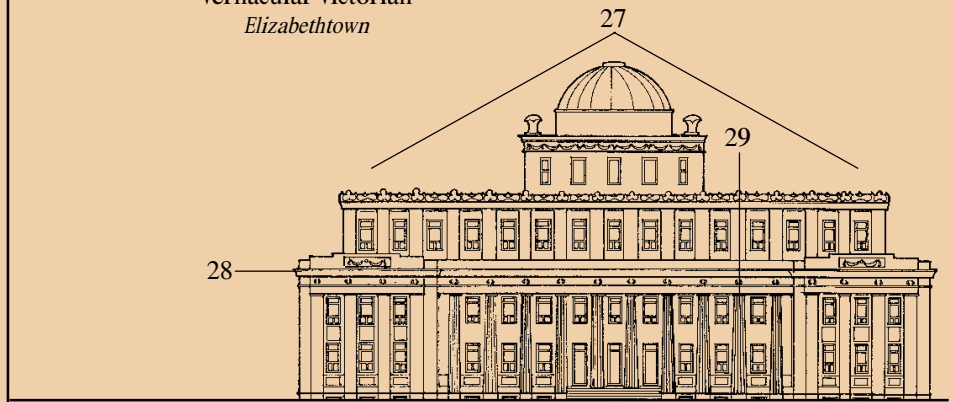


Queen Anne  
*Columbus*

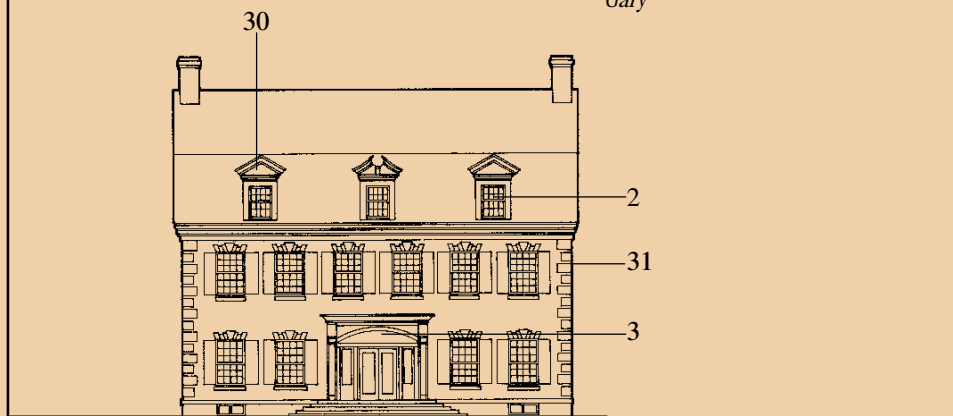
Queen Anne  
*Muncie*



Vernacular Victorian  
*Elizabethtown*



Neoclassical  
*Gary*



Colonial Revival  
*Indianapolis*

**Elements**

- 23. Bay window
- 24. Gingerbread trim
- 25. Spindled porch frieze
- 26. Turned post
- 27. Symmetrical massing
- 28. Classical cornice
- 29. Column
- 30. Pedimented dormer
- 31. Quoins
- 32. Half timbering
- 33. Hipped roof

### Tudor Revival (1900-1940)

Revival style modeled on English manor houses and cottages. Light stucco wall surfaces and dark half-timbering. Steeply pitched slate roof with prominent gables. Leaded glass windows, often with diamond-shaped panes. Tudor-arched entrance. Usually built of brick or stone and stucco.

### Prairie (1900-1920)

Originated by a group of Chicago architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, the style's most famous proponent. Marked by horizontal, ground-hugging quality, with low-pitched hipped roof, widely overhanging eaves, and horizontal bands of windows. Two-story central portion flanked by low, one-story wings or porches. Usually built of brick or stucco and wood.

### American Four Square (1900-1930)

Square or rectangular house plan with two full stories, imparting box-like appearance. Large attic under hipped roof, usually with hip-roof dormers and wide, projecting eaves. Balanced and plain facade of brick, clapboard or stucco. Windows often arranged in pairs, with multi-paned upper sashes. One-story porch spans front facade.

### Bungalow (1905-1940)

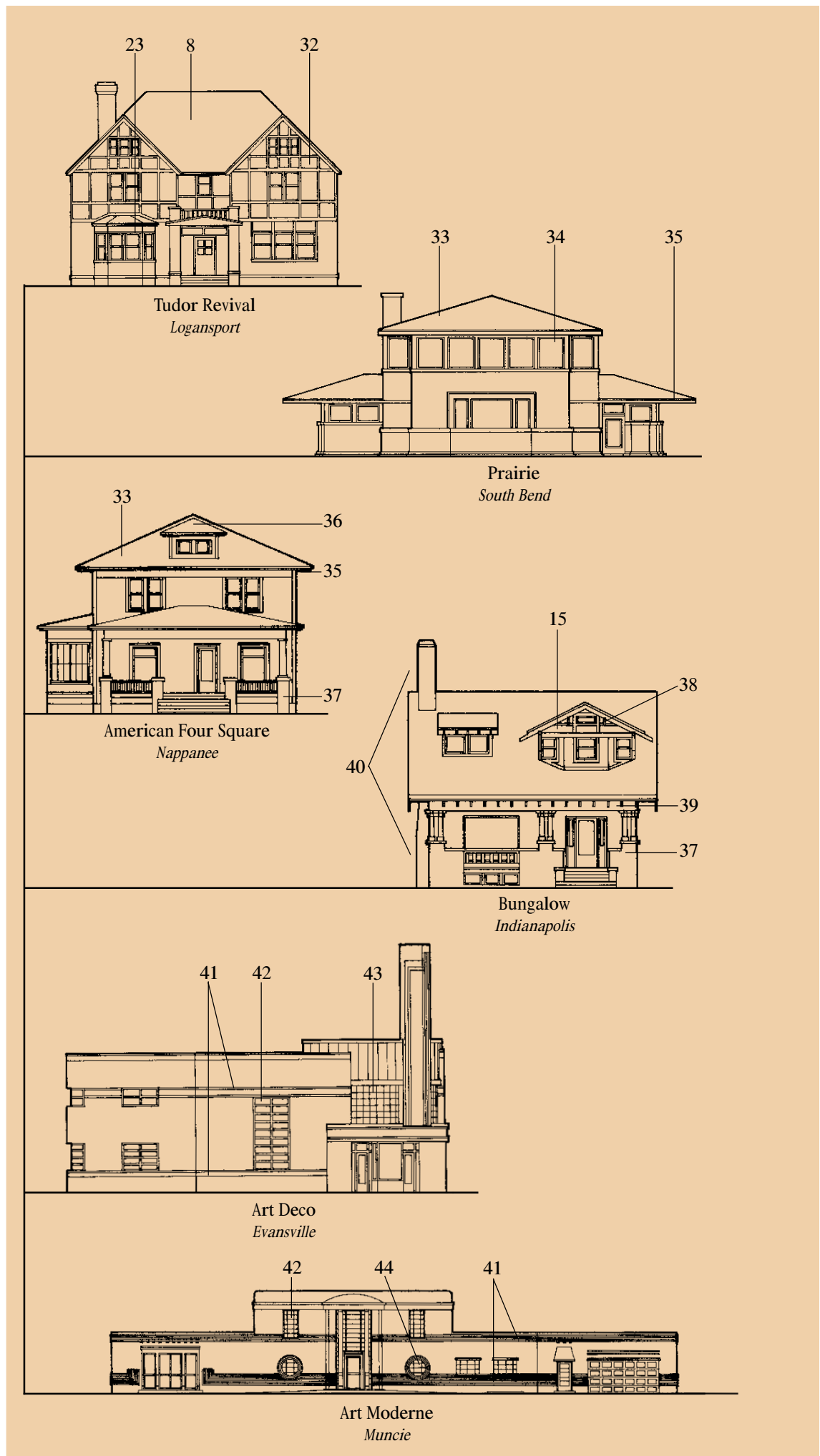
One or one-and-a-half story house. Low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves and prominent dormer. Full or partial front porch. Roof rafters usually exposed, embellished by straight brackets or knee braces. Prominent chimneys and porch piers of field stone, rubble or rough-faced brick.

### Art Deco/Art Moderne (1925-1940)

Art Deco characterized by bold geometric form and stylized decoration often of Egyptian influence. Low-relief ornamentation, often in form of zigzags, chevrons and/or volutes executed in colored glazed bricks, terra cotta, mosaic tiles or metal panels. Casement or metal sash windows often arranged in vertical strips. Art Moderne applies streamlined and aerodynamic compositions used by industrial designers to convey newness and speed. Often used in residential buildings. Characterized by horizontal bands, portal windows, glass block, flat roofs and corner casement windows.

### Elements

- 34. Horizontal band of windows
- 35. Widely overhanging eaves
- 36. Hip-roof dormer
- 37. Porch pier
- 38. Knee brace
- 39. Exposed rafter end
- 40. Prominent chimney
- 41. Horizontal banding
- 42. Casement sash
- 43. Glass block
- 44. Portal window



## For more information

While curiosity, observation and practice are the primary requirements for becoming a building watcher, sometimes you need the help of an expert to identify an architectural style, determine a structure's significance, or save a landmark building or neighborhood. In the Hoosier state, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana is the expert in preserving the best of the past.

Historic Landmarks Foundation, a private nonprofit organization, is the largest statewide preservation group in the U.S. and works to save and protect places of architectural and historical significance. From its network of regional offices, Historic Landmarks leads and assists individuals, organizations and communities in preserving and revitalizing endangered landmarks through education, advocacy, and financial support. Historic Landmarks Foundation seeks to enrich contemporary life and leave a legacy of landmarks.

The research library at Historic Landmarks' headquarters offers information on architectural styles and restoration techniques as well as Hoosier history and landmarks. The library also loans videos and slide-tape programs on a variety of preservation-related topics.

Members of Historic Landmarks Foundation receive the bimonthly magazine *Indiana Preservationist* in addition to an illustrated annual report and invitations to special events and tours. To join or learn about the benefits of membership, please call or write Historic Landmarks at any of the offices listed on this page.

## Historic Landmarks' Offices

### State Headquarters

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Indianapolis, IN 46202  
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### Morris-Butler House

Indianapolis  
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### Heritage Tourism

317-639-4534, Fax 317-639-6734  
E-mail: [tours@historiclandmarks.org](mailto:tours@historiclandmarks.org)

### West Baden Springs National Historic Landmark

West Baden Springs  
812-936-4034, Fax 812-936-7755  
E-mail: [wbs@historiclandmarks.org](mailto:wbs@historiclandmarks.org)

To obtain information on nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Sites and Structures, write or call the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology  
402 West Washington Street, Room W274  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-232-1646



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