

Appendices

6.3 ARCHITECTURAL STYLES IN COVINGTON



Federal

The Federal style was common in the United States from late eighteenth through the mid nineteenth centuries. Federal style buildings are symmetrical in plan with the entrance located in the middle bay. Ornamentation is simple with most architectural features concentrated around the entrance. These ornamentations may include a small entry porch, a fanlight over the door, and sidelights and pilasters on either side of the door. Some examples of the style have simple dentil-molded cornices that run the width of the building. Since Federal style buildings are amongst the oldest in Covington, not many examples are extant.



Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was the most prominent form of American domestic architecture from 1820 to 1860. Defining features of the style include a low-pitched roof (either gabled or hipped), symmetrical floor plan and façade, heavy classical cornice lines, and usually a prominent porch supported by large square or round columns. Greek Revival style structures in the Ohio River Valley usually feature a small portico over the entrance or perhaps no porch at all. High-style examples feature classical columns of the Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian orders, elaborate lights in door surrounds, as well as pilasters and door or window crowns. Windows are usually balanced on either side of the central entrance, with multi-paned sash. Examples of buildings that feature elements of the style are characterized by their simplicity and lack of ornamentation, as well as the proportions of elevations and windows of wide to low height.

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Italianate

Italianate style buildings are usually two or three story structures with low-pitched roofs supported by decorative brackets. Most Italianate style buildings are designed on a symmetrical square or rectangular floor plan, although asymmetrical examples are not uncommon. Stylistically, Italianate buildings are tall and narrow, with tall, narrow one-over-one or two-over-two sash. Arched hoods often decorate windows and doors. Simple, one-story porches are common features, and may cover only the entrance or stretch across the primary façade. Italianate style architecture was extremely popular for both residential and commercial buildings between 1850 and 1890, particularly in Midwestern cities and towns. Examples of the Italianate style are ubiquitous throughout Covington.



Second Empire

Originating in France during the 1850s, Second Empire Style architecture was common between 1855 and 1885. Buildings constructed in this style are distinguished by a Mansard roof, which is a double-pitched roof designed to provide more room and light in the attic space. Decorative elements are similar to the Italianate style, with bracketed cornices, arches, and bracketed lintels comprising some of the more common features found on Second Empire style buildings. Massing varied from simple, symmetrical box-like buildings to elaborate, asymmetrical plans. The Second Empire Style is common throughout Covington.

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Queen Anne

Queen Anne style houses were built between 1880 and 1900, and the hallmarks of the Queen Anne style are variety and asymmetry both in plan and elevation. Usually at least two stories tall, Queen Anne style houses are distinguished by a steeply pitched roof, often hipped with cross gables, and large elaborate porches. Further indicators of the style include a variety of sidings, elaborate “gingerbread” spindlework, patterned slate roofs, textured walls, rich paint colors, and stained glass windows. More common are restrained designs that feature two or three of these decorative elements. Queen Anne style buildings are usually frame, although masonry examples are found; these examples blend brick, stone, and terra cotta ornamentation.



Craftsman

Craftsman Style houses were built between 1900 and 1930s. The style originated in southern California and most landmark examples are concentrated there. Like vernacular examples of the contemporaneous Prairie style, it quickly spread throughout the country through pattern books and popular magazines. In Covington these were typically early infill buildings. Typically a one- to two-story building with a low-pitched, gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang; roof rafters usually exposed; decorative beams or braces commonly added under gables; full- or partial-width porches with roof supported by tapered square columns; columns and/or pedestals frequently extend to ground level.