

Style Guide -

Commercial / Public Architecture



Federal (1800-1840)

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Flat, unadorned wall surface
- ◆ Side-gabled or hipped roof
- ◆ Multi-pane windows



Gothic Revival (1850-1940)

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Vertical emphasis
- ◆ Steeply pitched roof
- ◆ Pointed arches



Greek Revival (1840-1860)

Character-defining features:

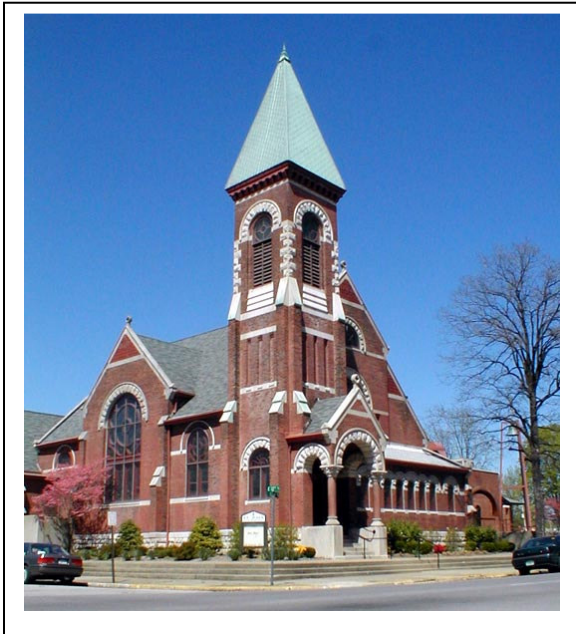
- ◆ Simple, symmetrical form
- ◆ Three-part design – base, columns, pediment
- ◆ Sidelights and transom at entry



Italianate (1850-1890)

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Vertical orientation – multi-story
- ◆ Tall, narrow windows, often arched and with hood moulds
- ◆ Decorative cornice with brackets



Romanesque Revival (1880-1900)

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Massiveness
- ◆ Round (Roman) arches
- ◆ Masonry construction, often combining different materials and textures
- ◆ Steeply pitched roof



Neoclassical (1895-1930)

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Classical elements – columns, round arches, heavy entablature
- ◆ Elaborately detailed, often with sculptural elements
- ◆ Symmetrical



19th Century Functional

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Open storefront with lots of glass
- ◆ Vertical emphasis – typically two or more stories in height
- ◆ Simplified ornament



Chicago Commercial (1900-1920)

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Simple building form
- ◆ Flat roof
- ◆ Geometric details, stylized floral motifs



Art Deco (1925-1940)

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Simple building form with vertical emphasis
- ◆ Flat roof
- ◆ Geometric details, stylized floral motifs



20th Century Functional

Character-defining features:

- ◆ Open storefront with lots of glass
- ◆ Minimal surface ornamentation
- ◆ Horizontal emphasis – often single-story



Art Moderne (1925-1940)

Character-defining features

- ◆ Sleek, streamlined shape
- ◆ Horizontal emphasis
- ◆ Flat roof
- ◆ Little or no ornamentation