



The NWX Colonial Revival Style

History and Character

The NorthWest Crossing “Colonial Revival style” home takes its cues from the rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic seaboard. Faithfully rendered exterior reproductions of British, New England and Virginia originals from the Colonial period of the 1600s and 1700s acted as the underlying theme for the upscale Colonial Revival house. This was encouraged by a wide dissemination of photographs, measured drawings and details in books and periodicals from 1900 and 1950. The new style brought with it a change in the fundamental design of buildings. Americans had progressed from walking to driving to work in their new motorcars. As a result, wide front porches began to disappear and move to the side to make room for garages. The spacious front porches of the Craftsman period were virtually unknown in the new house designs of the Colonial Re-

vival period.

Garages became more numerous, detached in the Twenties, but increasingly attached in the Thirties. Lots became larger and landscaping for ordinary homes became a theme for home magazines. The Colonial Revival style remained so popular for so long that even today many new subdivisions in and around Deschutes County, still feature houses with Colonial style detailing.

One of the more interesting characteristics of the Colonial movement was the replication of the Colonial style in all components of the home. Desks, chairs, tables, couches, and even dishes were all exact reproductions of Colonial furnishings from the 1700s. Businesses such as Sears and Wards suggested you could “Return to 18th Century Charm” if you purchased their version of a Colonial dining room set. Dishes, towels, clothes, rugs, mirrors and radios all featured Colonial themes. Even architects and contractors offered plans to build additional landscape features such as gates, trellises and gazebos that would add an additional touch to the Colonial home.

Essential elements include:

- ☐ Boxed-in eaves with cornice returns
- ☐ Ornate entrance portico having a central door with sidelights and transom.
- ☐ Medium-pitched roofs with little to no overhang
- ☐ Exterior walls clad with horizontal clapboard, brick, shingle or stucco

- ☐ Paired windows and massive chimneys
- ☐ Simple massing of one, one-and-a-half or two stories



Exterior Colors

Most Colonial Revival style homes are painted a yellow to white color to simulate the marble architecture of ancient Greek and Roman temples. However, the original Colonials from the 1700s were painted darker tones. Common to all Colonial Revival homes is the use of dark colored shutters and doors. Greens, burgundies, or blues can be found. Colonials can have up to three paint colors on the exterior; one for the body of the house and two colors for trim details. Elaborate porch designs are usually executed in white. Most local paint stores have a designated Colonial style or historic palette of colors from which to choose.

Roofs and Massing

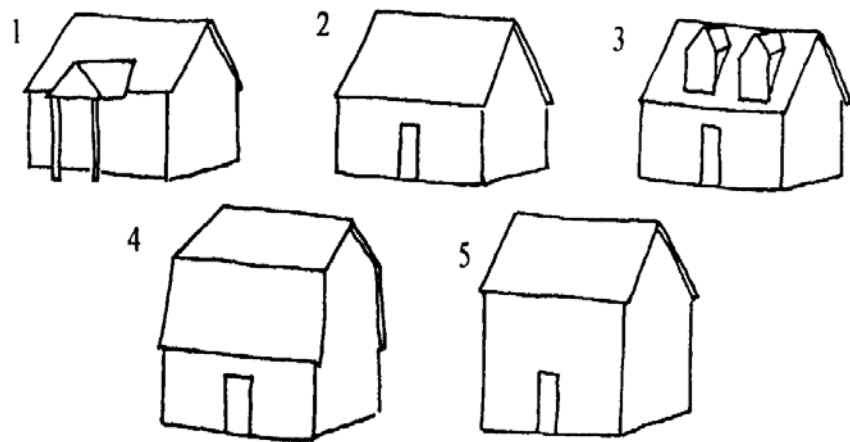
There are five basic Colonial Revival style houses: (1) the Colonial Bungalow, a small one-story home with a large entrance portico, (2) the Cape Cod, a simple one-story plan with a side facing gable roof, (3) the Williamsburg, which is similar to the Cape Cod except it has the addition of dormers, (4) a more complex Dutch Colonial plan with a gambrel style roof and (5) the Georgian, a two story plan in which the house is side gabled or hipped.

All Colonial Revival style homes are simple in massing usually having no outward projections of bay windows or intricate wall surfaces. Small one-story rooms can be added to side elevations for additional room. Shed or gable dormers may be added to Dutch Colonials, while only gable style dormers may be added to the Williamsburg or the Georgian mode.

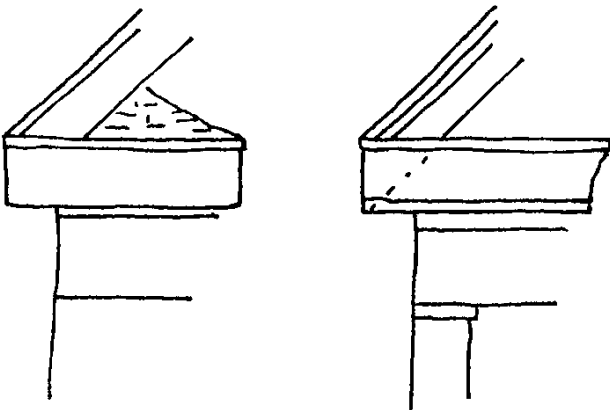
Among the most distinctive features of the Colonial Revival style is the use of symmetry on the main facade. Building mass, window placement and even landscaping are usually balanced on either side of the main entry. As a result, the entrance, which is always visible from the street, takes on a high degree of significance and is executed with a complex level of detailing.



Typical Massing



Eave Details

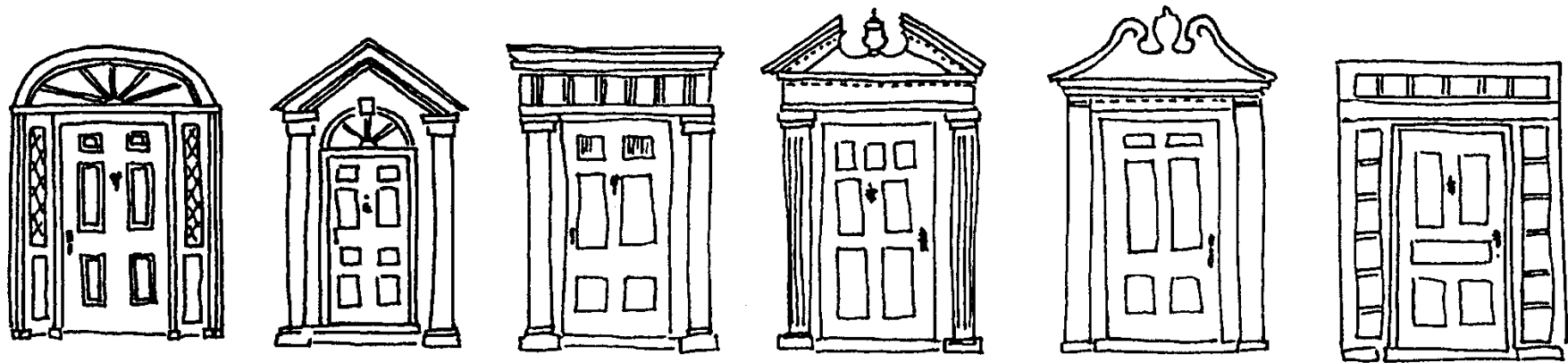


Entrances

Due to the simplicity of the design of most Colonial Revival style homes, the main entrance door becomes the focal point of the house. Its importance cannot be over-emphasized. The entrance is always visible from the street and is highly complex in design. It must be in harmony with the rest of the home in proportion, scale and detailing. Ideally, there should not be more than three steps leading up to the entrance. The walk to such an entrance, if space allows, should be curved or take an irregular course. Doors themselves are simple, while the trim and detailing around them becomes ornate. The execution of the entrance comes in many different designs. Some are shown below.



Typical Entrances



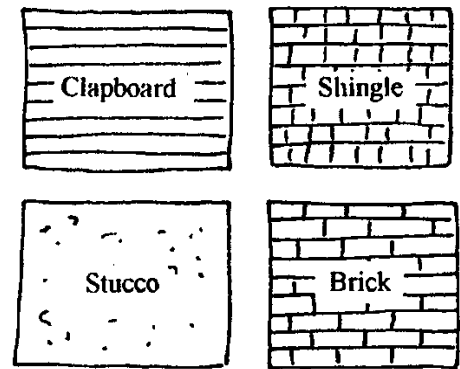
Materials

The exteriors of most Colonial Revival style homes are clad with horizontal clapboards, with a 6" minimum exposure. However, homes in the style can be sheathed in brick, stucco, or shingle. One of the more important features of a Colonial Revival home is the presence of a chimney. They should be large in size, always constructed of brick and found on side elevations or roof ridge. Roofing material can be asphalt, or wood shingle. Eaves on gable roofs are always boxed in and often return on a perpendicular elevation. These cornice returns can have considerable depth, up to a foot, or merely be decorative boards attached to the wall. Hipped roofs usually have an ornate cornice, which extends around the entire building. Exterior shutters (non-functional) are also common to Colonial Revivals and should have materials and detailing of a fully functional wood shutter. Many designs can be found, including cutouts

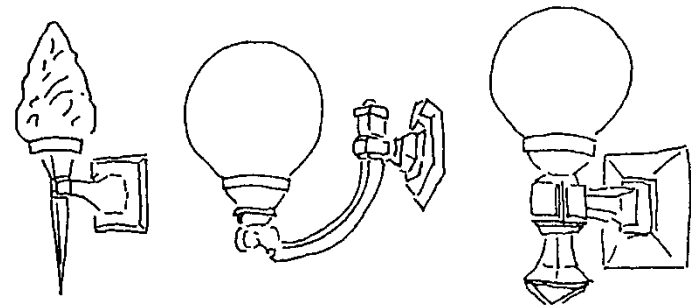
of pine trees, moon and tulips. Exterior lighting should be simple in design and discrete in color.



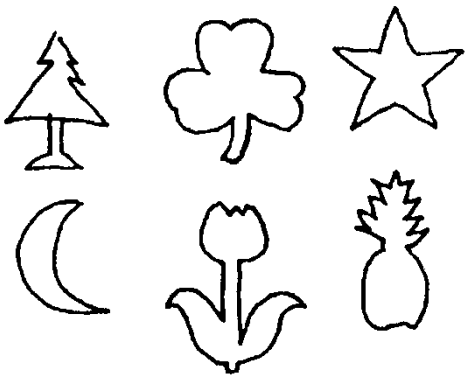
Cladding Details



Lighting



Shutter Details



Windows and Doors

Colonial Revival style windows and doors are often complex in design. Windows are usually double hung with various patterns of glazing. Common are four-over-ones, six-over-ones, six-over-six's, and eight-over-eight's. These windows are often found in groups of two or three. They are always surrounded by moldings, which set them apart from the plane of the wall. Special windows may include round windows on either side of the chimney, cameo or bull's eye windows, Palladian windows and wheel windows. Doors come in many different styles, but are usually solid in design. Fan lights and transom lights over the door, or sidelights next to the door, allow light into the entrance hall.



Typical Window and Door Styles

