



# Colonial Revival Style Guide

COLONIAL REVIVAL



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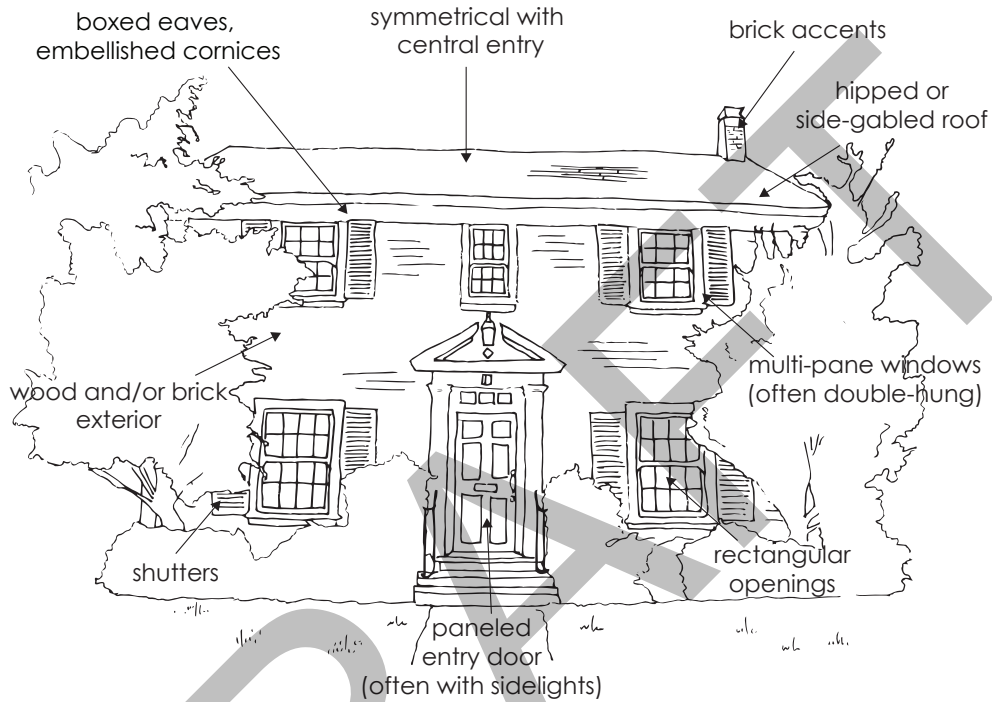
This section of the Long Beach Historic District Design Guidelines is part of a larger document created as a planning tool for the City's **historic districts**. The guidelines are intended to provide recommendations, inspiration, and advice as part of an instructive framework that will help guide sensitive changes to historic properties and encourage rehabilitation. By their nature, design guidelines are flexible. As such, outcomes may depend on the resource, the surrounding district, and the goals of the proposed project.

Any changes to the exterior of the property must be given prior approval by Historic Preservation staff through a **Certificate of Appropriateness**, and all projects may be subject to other City requirements not listed within these guidelines.

The first instance of certain terms throughout the Guidelines are highlighted in **bold** text. These terms are defined in a glossary in *Chapter 5: Additional Resources*.

For additional information, please refer to the other chapters of this document:

- Chapter 1: Purpose, Procedures & Overview
- Chapter 2: Guidelines for Maintenance and Repair
- Chapter 3: Design Guidelines by Historic District
- Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides
- Chapter 5: Additional Resources



## COLONIAL REVIVAL (1876-1965)

Colonial Revival is a mainstay in American architecture. The style was popular, through a series of reinventions, for nearly a century.<sup>1</sup> The 1876 Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia inspired new interest in America's architectural past and a revival of Georgian, Adam, Federal, Classical Revival, and Dutch Colonial styles of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, all of which fall under the more general umbrella term "Colonial Revival."<sup>2</sup> During the first few decades of the twentieth century, Colonial Revival was one of the most dominant styles in the country—nearly half of all new houses are said to have been designed in the style.<sup>3</sup> Unlike other Period Revival styles, Colonial Revival continued to be popular after World War II, although the examples became less elaborate.<sup>4</sup>

In Southern California, Colonial Revival architecture grew in popularity as more people emigrated from the Midwest and East Coast. Colonial Revival detailing was frequently applied to the bungalow house form, often in conjunction with Craftsman design elements. In Long Beach, the Colonial Revival style is primarily seen applied to residences in areas developed prior to World War II.<sup>5</sup>

## Additional Examples of the Style



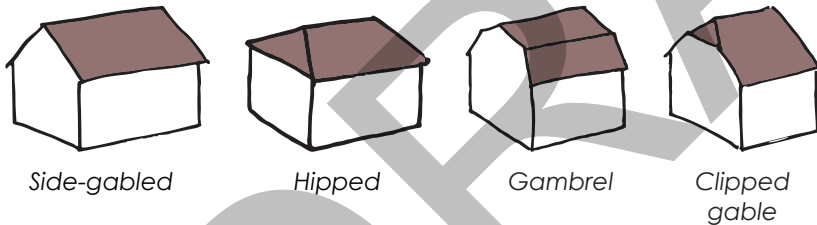
## Building Form and Massing

Residences designed in the Colonial Revival style are typically one or two stories in height. Later examples, like those found in Long Beach, are almost always symmetrical; asymmetrical examples typically date from 1910 or earlier.

Colonial Revival style residences almost always consist of a single boxy volume under a primary roof. Residences will often have a small, central entry porch covered by a secondary gabled roof. Some examples may include a side porte-cochère or chimneys on the gable ends.

## Roof Shape and Materials

Colonial Revival houses typically have hipped or side-gabled roofs clad in shingles. Some examples from the early 1920s may have small, symmetrically arranged dormers on the roof, or a small clipped gable on either end of the roof or over the entry porch. The dormers may be either eyebrow-shaped or front-gabled. The eaves on Colonial Revival houses are typically shallow and boxed. Some may have decorative brackets or return eaves on the gabled ends. There are variations of the style that have gambrel roofs; these variations may be described as Dutch Colonial Revival.

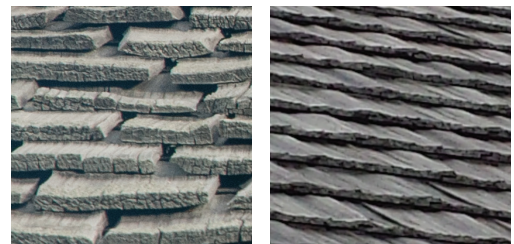


Boxed eaves

Historically, Colonial Revival roofs were clad in wood shake or shingles; however, composition shingles in a darker, neutral color are a compatible replacement material. Shingles should consist of individual units laid in a traditional, alternating pattern.



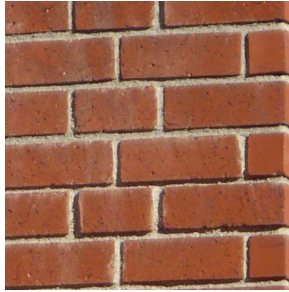
Composition shingles in an appropriate color, like the above examples, would be acceptable for a Colonial Revival style residence. Shingles should be in a darker, neutral color, but not so dark as black.



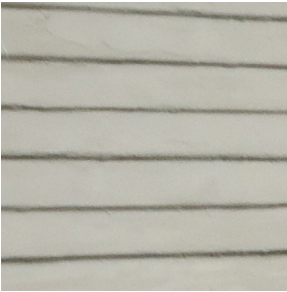
Wood shingles (left) or a visually similar substitute (right) would be compatible with a Colonial Revival residence.

## Cladding

Colonial Revival style residences are typically clad in brick or horizontally oriented wood clapboard siding. In some cases, both materials may be present.



Brick



Horizontal wood clapboards

## Foundation

The foundation on a Colonial Revival style house is not a focal point of the building. Typically, it will be exposed concrete or clad in horizontal wood siding, brick, or stone.

## Chimneys



Chimneys are a common feature for the style. They are typically arranged on a side elevation and made of masonry.

## Porches and Entryways

The entryway on a Colonial Revival residence usually consists of front doors that are flush with the front elevation and sheltered by a decorative **pediment** or small projecting porch over the door, rather than a large front porch surrounded by a railing. Higher style examples may have a gabled or rounded **portico** supported by columns, as well as central balconies over the porch or on top of a side addition, enclosed by a balustrade.

Supports are most often Tuscan columns with smooth sides, rounded edges, and simple capitals. Higher style examples may have Doric columns, which are similar to Tuscan columns but have fluted sides, or Ionic columns, which have fluted sides and more elaborate scrolled capitals.



Tuscan columns



Tuscan or Doric capital



Ionic capital

## Railings and Balustrades

Railings and **balusters** are not typically found on Colonial Revival residences as often as other styles. If a railing is present, it is often surrounding a second-story **balcony**, **balconette** or roof deck on a high style example. Compatible railings would consist of traditional, vertically oriented, turned wood balusters such as those shown below.





## Windows

Colonial Revival houses most often have **double-hung** windows. The double-hung windows typically have multi-light glazing (typically six to twelve lights) in both sashes or in the top sash. In later examples of the style, bay windows may be utilized at the ground floor, and double-hung windows may be paired or arranged in groups of three.

Windows are almost always arranged symmetrically on the front elevation. Window surrounds are milled wood, and typically feature both a sill and apron. Window surrounds on larger or higher style examples may be elaborated with pedimented headers.



*Multi-light double-hung  
(six-over-six)*



*Multi-light double-hung  
(six-over-one)*

*single-light  
bottom sash*



*Single-light double-hung  
(one-over-one)*



*Single-light double-hung in tripartite bay*

## Awnings

Awnings are discouraged on the primary elevation. Their use is acceptable on side or rear elevations, or on features like sunrooms and decks. The awnings should be canvas in a traditional, triangular shape. The fabric may be solid or striped, and may have scalloped valances if desired.



## Doors

Colonial Revival houses have traditional wood-paneled doors, with or without partial **glazing**, typically centered on the front elevation. Many examples of the style have pediments above the front door, as well as **sidelights** and **fanlights**.



*Pediment with brackets*



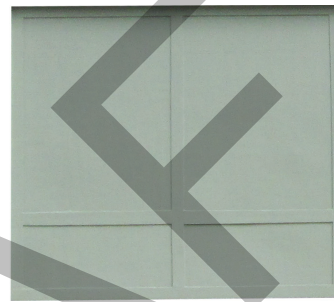
*Wood paneled door with fanlight and sidelights*

## Garage Doors

There are a wide variety of compatible garage doors for a Colonial Revival style house, including paneled or **battened** doors, with or without partial glazing or **carriage style** detailing. The doors may also feature prominent wrought iron hardware. Contemporary garage doors are available through various retailers that both mimic the attractive appearance of a carriage style door and operate using convenient electric openers. The use of real wood garage doors is encouraged, but not required.



*Wood carriage style garage door*



*Tilt-up door*



*Compatible contemporary garage doors*

## Porte-Cochères

Porte-cochères may be incorporated into larger, high-style examples of Colonial Revival, sometimes to create symmetry with another feature on the opposite side elevation, such as a sunroom.<sup>5</sup> They are typically simple features, consisting of a low-pitched hipped or flat roof supported by a Tuscan columns off of the side elevation.

## Decorative Features

Decorative features on a Colonial Revival style building typically consist of wood window shutters and trim like eave brackets and **cornices**. Entryways may be accentuated by pilasters and pediments, and sheltered by porches supported by Doric or Tuscan columns. Other decorative features may include urns flanking the porch or front walkway.



Louvered wood window shutters

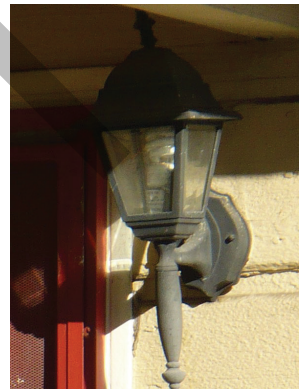


Eave brackets

Cornice

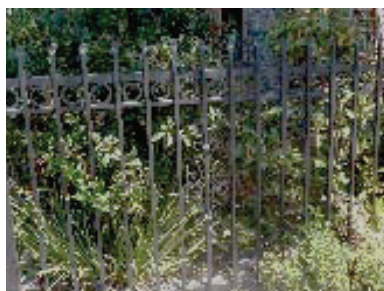
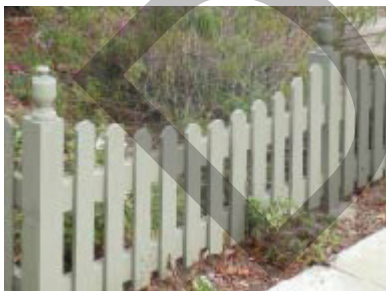
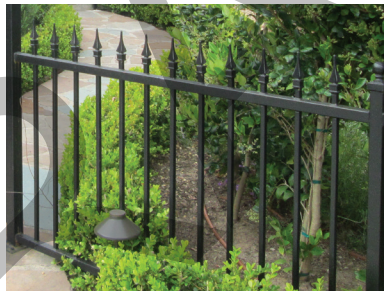
## Lighting

Consider traditional, "lantern" shaped lighting fixtures, including sconces and pendant lights, with a light or dark metal finish. Lights should be installed symmetrically on the primary elevation. For example, install one light over the door, or two lights on either side of the door.



## Fencing

Compatible fencing for a Colonial Revival property may consist of a low, wood or wrought iron fence with traditional, vertically oriented posts. The fence should have voids or spaces like the examples shown here. Wood fences may be painted or stained in a light neutral color, while wrought iron should be very dark or black.



## Paint Colors

Consider a light neutral color, or even white, for the exterior wood cladding--if the exterior cladding was historically unpainted brick, it should not be painted. For contrast, consider a darker, somewhat bold color for features like doors and window shutters: think reds, blacks, and blues. Windows and trim, such as door surrounds, cornices, and window surrounds, are traditionally painted white. Below are some color scheme ideas.

