

Colonial Revival Architecture

Most Colonial Revival style houses have a rectangular shape and are normally one to two stories tall.¹ They tend to have a medium pitch side-gable roof with narrow eaves, but in some cases a hipped roof and dormers are present.² The buildings are symmetrical with a large door in the center of the house and have multi-pane windows, which are double hung.³ The centered door is accented with columns, pilasters, pediment, and/or maybe hooded to create a covered porch.⁴ The door may also have a fanlight, sidelight, or maybe paneled.⁵ Brick or wood is most commonly used as siding and some other design elements include two-story pilasters, a portico or dentil trim under the eaves.⁶

The Colonial Revival style is one of the most classic building styles. It is stately and distinguished, which show the owners are people with solid center and traditional values.⁷ The common Colonial Revival style building is symmetric and each side is a mirror image of the other. Typically decorative elements are restrained and drawn from Greek and Roman architecture.⁸ In the 1890s, when the Colonial Revival period of architecture was started, it could be found everywhere. One of the big influences that helped the style spread was the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which influenced architects everywhere to have an appreciation for classical architecture when they left.⁹

The Georgian style of the Colonial Revival period was one version of the design. It was symmetrical with a centered door and double-hung windows.¹⁰ Georgian style buildings built of wood had decorative pediments over windows while ones of brick had decorative brick headers over windows.¹¹ Georgian style building mainly had hipped roofs, because they were more symmetrical than the standard gable roof.¹² Dormers were more commonly found on Georgian buildings, and the dormers showed that the houses had slaves working in them.¹³ The Georgian style house was commonly found in Northern cities like Boston and Philly but are now overcrowded with the industrialization of those cities; the best place for Georgian architecture is in Annapolis and Williamsburg.¹⁴

The Federal style of the Colonial Revival period branched off from the Georgian style. The Federal style is more asymmetric and some even have polygonal shaped rooms.¹⁵ The exterior is more subtle with the Georgian style. The main focus is on the porch or entry, and the columns moldings are simple and narrow.¹⁶ The Federal style is more geometrical with either elliptical, circular, or fan shaped motifs.¹⁷ The Federal style can be found more commonly in the south. The Federal style is based off of the Federal system of politics from the time after the Revolutionary War.¹⁸

Looking at the Elizabethtown College campus, there are many examples of Colonial Revival Architecture. Steinman Hall is one of the best examples of Georgian revival architecture on campus. It is large and rectangular

¹ Antique Home Style, "Colonial Revival Style", accessed October 22, 2017, <http://www.antiquehomestyle.com/styles/colonial-revival.htm>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Wentworth Studio, Historical Style: Georgian Style, accessed October 23, 2017, <https://www.wentworthstudio.com/historic-styles/georgian/>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Wentworth Studio, Historical Style: Federal Style, accessed October 23, 2017, <https://www.wentworthstudio.com/historic-styles/federal/>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

in size and the accented door in the middle. The door, along with the four Roman columns, and double-hung windows make the house symmetrical and the sides' mirror images of each other. On top of the columns rests a large triangular portico. The windows are double-hung and six-over-six, which is a very common window for the Georgian revival style. Above the door is a pilaster which adds more of an accent to the symmetry. And the building is made of brick, which was the most common material used during the Colonial Revival era.

There is also evidence of Federal style architecture around campus. For example, the original part of Baugher Student Center is a major example of the Federal style. The building is still symmetrical, is made of brick and has double-hung windows. The difference is the fact there is no outlandish and extravagant entrance. There is a small, symmetrical pilaster across the front of the building but otherwise, there are no over the top additions. The High Library, even though it was built after the Colonial Revival era, is also an example of Federal Revival. It too is made from bricks and is symmetrical. One of the biggest pieces of evidence which classifies it as Federal style is the polygonal floor plan. The library has a hexagonal room going up three floors, which is a big difference from the rectangular base of most Georgian style buildings. The library also has double-hung windows and doesn't have extravagant details. It is the modern day Federal Revival architecture.