

INDIVIDUAL COLOR SYSTEMS

The Detroit Historic Districts Style and Color Guide was originally created and published in 1986. The guide was developed according to the study of architecture styles in designated historic districts and the determination of historically accurate colors for those houses. A basic classification system was developed consisting of twenty-three architecturally stylistic classifications and six color systems. These twenty-three classifications include composite and miscellaneous categories so that every building receives a classification number and corresponding color system. Below you will find the different color systems and styles to browse.

NOTE: The online style guide is provided for the public's convenience by the Detroit Historic District Commission. The colors that appear on your screen may not be exact representations of the appropriate colors to use on your building.

Commission approval is not required for touch up painting with the exact same color. **However, if painting with a new color, Commission approval is necessary.** Please be sure to contact the commission staff to view the original Style and Color Guide samples and make sure you are painting correctly.

COLOR SYSTEM A



Mid-Century Vernacular (1830-1860)

COLOR SYSTEM B



Composite Victorian (1850-1900)
Eastlake (1870-1890)
French Renaissance (1860-1890)
Gothic Revival (1840-1880)
Italianate (1830-1890)
Queen Anne (1880-1900)
Queen Anne/Romanesque (1870-1900)
Romanesque Revival (1870-1900)
Second Empire (1840-1880)
Shingle (1880-1900)
Stick (1860-1890)

COLOR SYSTEM C



Colonial Revival (1890-1900)
Neo-Dutch Colonial (1910-Present)
Neo-Georgian (1900-1940)
Post-1940 Colonial (1940-Present)

COLOR SYSTEM D



English Revival (1900-Present)

COLOR SYSTEM E



Bungalow (1900-1940)
Prairie (1900-1920)

COLOR SYSTEM F



Mediterranean (1900-1940)
Neo-Classical (1890-1920)

COLOR SYSTEM C, D, E, F



20th Century Composite (1900-1940)

MISCELLANEOUS COLOR SYSTEM



20th Century Miscellaneous (1900-Present)