OVERVIEW OF BARRINGTON'S HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Barrington's Historic Overlay district is composed of more than 350 properties. Several architectural styles are represented in the district. Included among these styles are Folk (including the Craftsman and Folk Victorian sub-types), Victorian (primarily represented by the Queen Anne sub-type), Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival and Italianate. These styles represent a segment of the history of architectural styles popular at various times in America.

The majority of Contributing Structures in Barrington's Historic Overlay District were built between 1880 and 1939. The progression of styles popular for American home construction represented in Barrington reflects not only changing tastes, but also represents changes in technology, construction engineering knowledge and construction methods that have occurred over time. Each Contributing Structure within the district is a "time capsule" that preserves a piece of the life and times of those who came before us and created the Village of Barrington.

The goal of historic preservation and rehabilitation is two-fold: not only do we wish to preserve our historic homes- the actual historical artifacts from our past- but we also wish to maintain, restore and add to our historic homes in a manner that is faithful and complementary to the original style.

In the following discussion of the architectural styles found within Barrington's Historic Overlay District, each style will be introduced and key elements of the style will be referenced.

FOLK HOUSES

"Folk" is a broad term that encompasses several styles of homes that may bear little superficial resemblance to one another. Folk houses are perhaps the most commonly built houses in America. The term generally refers to smaller, simpler homes built for average citizens. Folk houses may incorporate, in varying degrees, elements of recognizable styles, such as Victorian, Tudor or Colonial, but usually lack the elaboration that characterizes true examples of these styles. Folk is the most common style of house in Barrington's Historic Overlay District.

Many Folk houses are primarily categorized by their basic configuration. Examples are Gable Front, Gabled Ell and American Foursquare configurations.

Among folk houses, some styles have become recognizable to the degree that they have attained recognition as separate styles. The Craftsman (also called Bungalow) style is perhaps the most familiar example, and this style is treated separately in its own section.

Folk Example #1: Gabled Ell House (548 S. Grove Avenue)
The Gabled Ell shape of this Folk house, built ca. 1900, is easily discernable. The house is very simple, with minimal ornamentation. The house retains its original two-over-two double hung windows, but the original siding has been covered with vinyl siding and the original porch has been removed. There is a large addition to the rear of the original structure.

Folk Example #2: Gabled Ell House (305 S. Cook Street)
This home has several common Folk characteristics: the Gabled Ell shape is easily recognizable, and there is not an excess of ornamentation. The windows are double hung, with six-over-six sashes, with a simple trim typical of Folk houses. Note the wood lap siding with corner board trims. The porch is tucked into the corner of the ell. This house is also shown to demonstrate its addition. The very large addition has been added to the rear of the structure, which preserves the original Gabled ell appearance at the streetscape. The decorative trim on the porch shows Victorian influence.

Folk Example #3: American Foursquare House (309 S. Grove Avenue)
The basic shape of the Folk house is square (or nearly so), with a hip roof that is very nearly pyramidal. Hip roofed front-facing dormers and hip roofed full-width front porches are frequently seen in these houses.

Folk Example #4: American Foursquare House (616 S. Grove Avenue)
This home is an example of an American Foursquare Folk house with details that are influenced by other architectural styles. Principally, the pedimented arched front entry porch supported on columns, the Palladian window directly above it and the modillions at the eaves show Colonial Revival influence.

Folk Example #5: Gable Front House (200 W. Lincoln Avenue)
The basic gable-front shape of this Folk house is a complemented by a full-width front porch supported by simple Tuscan columns with milled balusters for the railing. The original windows are two-over-two double hung.

CRAFTSMAN

The Craftsman style (sometimes called "Bungalow") was popularized in America primarily due to the influence of the Greene brothers, architects from California who took much of their inspiration from the Arts and Crafts movement in England. This style of house was extremely popular in America from just after the turn of the century until the 1920's.

The Craftsman style is typically characterized by a side-facing gable roof that often extends (with a lower pitch) over a full-width front porch. Roof overhangs are usually supported on decorative triangular brackets. Sometimes the porch roof will be a front-facing gable. Porch columns are usually somewhat massive and often sit on tapered bases. The front porch railing is often a closed "knee wall" rather than an open balustrade. Siding is typically stucco, wood lap, or shingles. Often, a front-facing dormer is included in the roof.

Example #1 of a Craftsman House (118 W. Lake Street)

This Craftsman house features traditional side-facing gables and a front-facing dormer. The entry porch is supported on massive tapered square columns. The columns are supported on relatively massive tapered brick pedestals. The porch knee wall and exposed triangular gable roof supports are classic features of this style.

Example #2 of a Craftsman House (223 Applebee Street)
Note the massive tapered piers upon which the square columns rest. The windows in the front gable are original three-over-one double hung.

Example #3 of a Craftsman House (418 S. Hough Street)
Here the style is executed in brick, but retains many of the characteristics shown in the previous examples. Note the exposed rafter ends common in this style.

VICTORIAN
The Victorian style appeared late during the reign of Queen Victoria of England (1837-1901). This style actually evolved from earlier reproductions of medieval styles. Some of Barrington's most prominent examples of this style are found on West Lake Street, and are of a sub-type known as Queen Anne. (This is a somewhat misleading name; Queen Anne reigned from 1702-1714!) Most of Barrington's Queen Anne homes were built in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Several Folk homes in the district, though not strict Queen Anne interpretations, are nonetheless strongly influenced by the style, and are properly called Folk Victorian.

Victorian styles represent changes in building technology that enabled people to construct homes of more complicated exterior shapes than were previously feasible. The spread of railroads also contributed to advancement of building styles, as mill-produced trim, siding and other items could be readily transported to various regions of the country, including Barrington.

Victorian homes celebrated the new-found freedom of design by use of complicated roof shapes, usually steep and often incorporating a round, square or multi-sided tower. Irregular wall shapes created by cut-in bay windows are often accompanied by varying siding materials and extensive trim work. Wrap-around porches are typically accompanied by exuberantly trimmed balustrades and fretwork under the roof.

Example of a Victorian (Queen Anne) House (216 West Lake Street)
Built in 1889, this house shows complicated steep roofs, tower, irregular walls and varying siding materials typical of Queen Anne and other Victorian styles.

TUDOR REVIVAL
The Tudor Revival style has its roots in Medieval dwelling styles and pays homage to the post-and-timber style of construction used in England from the fourteenth century onwards. Many of Barrington's homes of this style were built in the 1920's and 1930's.

Tudor Revival houses typically have steep roofs of side-facing gables with a front gable element. Casement windows are typical, often with diamond-patterned muntins dividing the individual panes. Stucco with exposed faux timber framing is a common siding treatment, but Tudor Revival homes also often have brick or shingle exteriors. Doors frequently have arched openings. When towers are incorporated, they are usually round with conical roofs.

Example #1 of a Tudor Revival House
The steeply pitched roof and separate accentuated front entry gable are hallmarks of this style, as is the rounded arch front door. The chimney with tapered flue tops and stone accents is also a typical feature of the style. The double hung windows are perhaps somewhat unusual, with casement windows being most commonly seen in Tudor Revival examples. The basic house configuration is Gabeled Ell.

Example #2 of a Tudor Revival House (416 S. Grove Avenue)
Here the style is executed in brick veneer. The casement windows and the round archway over the round-arched door are classic Tudor Revival features. The terra cotta tiled roof and detailed three-flued chimney top also represent features common to the style. The garage is constructed in the same style.

COLONIAL REVIVAL
The Colonial Revival style harkens back to some of the earliest forms of houses built by European settlers in America. Most of Barrington's examples of this style were built from after 1920. The most familiar form of this style is a rectangular plan with side-facing gables. Often, a centered front-facing gable is included. Entry features of Colonial Revival homes are among its most distinguishing characteristics: entries typically have a pediment supported on pilasters, or a small pedimented overhang supported on columns. Windows are double hung, are sometimes paired, and often have pediments. Corners may have pilasters, and dentils are often incorporated in the frieze. Entryways and porches, if present, are usually supported on columns.

A simple type of Colonial Revival house is the common Cape Cod style, which typically will not include the column-supported porch and some of the detailing described above. Another common type is the Dutch Colonial style, which is characterized by the presence of a gambrel roof.

Example of a Colonial Revival House (645 S. Hough Street)
This simple interpretation has square columns supporting the entry. The wide corner trim boards are likewise a simple interpretation of the pilasters common to this style. The gentle arch on the underside of the gable roof of the entry is typical of Colonial Revival.

Example of a Dutch Colonial Revival House (239 W. Russell Street)
This Sears and Roebuck "Honor Bilt" house shows the gambrel roof and shed dormers that are typical of the style. The windows are original eight-over-one double hung. The pedimented entry porch is traditional for this Colonial Revival homes.

Example of a Dutch Colonial Revival House (129 Coolidge Avenue)
The gambrel roof shows the Dutch Colonial influence. The entry porch (partly obscured by the tree in the photograph) is arched, beneath a front-facing gable, and the original six-panel wood door is intact. The windows are ten-over-one and eight-over-one double hung.

ITALIANATE
The Italianate style was part of a trend of successive group of so-called "Romantic" styles that enjoyed the height of their popularity in America from about 1830 into the 1880's. This group of styles was inspired by European forms, and also included the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles. The majority of Italianate examples in Barrington are Folk homes that show influence of the style.

Perhaps the most easily recognized feature of Italianate houses is the presence of decorative brackets supporting the eaves. The supports are often found in pairs. Wood lap siding, stucco and brick were all used for exterior wall finishes.

Example of an Italianate House (127 West Lincoln Avenue)
This house is distinguished by its highly ornamental paired eave brackets that are the hallmark of Italianate influence. The elaborate trimwork above the windows is also characteristic of the style.