

III. ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND FEATURES

A wide variety of architectural styles and types of buildings exist in the City of Little Rock. A particularly outstanding collection of Greek Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne structures characterize the MacArthur Park Historic District. Buildings in the district range from simple residential cottages to formal, high-style mansions, to historic churches and schools. Unifying characteristics of the area include brick construction, a strong presence of porches, buildings close to the street with outbuildings located in the rear and accessed by alleys, sidewalks and planting strips, and a grid street pattern.

While some buildings are textbook examples of certain architectural styles, others are more vernacular in interpretation or have had historic alterations. However, each *contributing* structure is defined by age, architectural ornamentation, building shape, roof form, materials and other decorative features, which characterize it as a good representative of a certain architectural style. A contributing structure is a good example of a recognized style, and retains unaltered the major architectural details of that style. When a district is nominated to the National Register for Historic Places, every structure is designated “contributing” or “non-contributing.” An area must have more than 50% “contributing structures” to be listed on the National Register.

This section of the manual identifies those features or elements of buildings that have given them visual character and embody their significance—those features that should be carefully evaluated in order to preserve them and in turn preserve the character of the entire district. Some of the styles described in this section do not exist in MacArthur Park or are not yet listed as “contributing,” since they were not fifty years old when the last survey was completed. In anticipation of new individual or district listings, more recent styles were included so that the desirable character-defining features of more recent structures may be appreciated and preserved.





*The Arsenal Building, MacArthur Park
503 E. 9th*

A. FEDERAL 1760 – 1850

The Federal style of architecture, arising from an admiration of Roman classical designs and popular in our fledgling nation, featured a symmetrical floor plan, a small porch or entrance with little ornamentation, often including fanlights, sidelights, and pilasters around a paneled entrance door. Roofs were low pitched or hipped, and separated from the walls by a simple cornice. Double-hung windows either had large panes of glass or 6 over 6 small panes, separated by thin wooden muntins. Palladian windows first appeared, having a large central arched section framed by two smaller rectangular windows. The simple geometric shapes emphasized elegant austerity. In various areas of the United States, this early style is sometimes called Georgian or Adam, as well as Federal.



The Arsenal Building (south elevation)

- symmetrical form
- flat surfaces
- restrained use of classical ornament and detail
- roof separated from walls by a simple cornice
- small, simple porches or entrances with Ionic columns
- fanlight: a fan shaped, arched transom over the front door and wider than the door; rectangular sidelights filled the extra space
- windows aligned symmetrically, both horizontally and vertically
- windows placed singly, never in pairs
- windows usually double-hung sashes, 6 over 6 panes
- Palladian windows
- lintels over windows had sharply flared ends and a keystone at the center
- shutters

Examples in the MacArthur Park Historic District:

- Absalom Fowler House, 503 E. 6th
- The Arsenal Building, MacArthur Park 503 E. 9th



Absalom Fowler House, 503 E. 6th Street

B. GREEK REVIVAL 1820 – 1860

Greek Revival buildings were characterized by symmetrical form and classical elements, including a temple-like porch, with a pediment supported by columns and pilasters, and with a heavy cornice or entablature. The building shape was usually rectangular and roofs were low-pitched gabled or hipped. A full entablature (cornice plus frieze plus architrave) separated the roof from the wall. Entrances had either four-panel doors or double doors, with a rectangular transom and narrow sidelights. Double-hung windows were multi-paned with 6/6 or 9/6 lights. Lintels over the windows were simple rectangles. Mirror-image symmetry was essential to the design of a Greek Revival building, regardless of interior function.

This style reflected the ideals of freedom and democracy, which the new country admired in ancient Greek culture. Columns, capitals, pediments and gleaming white walls arose all over the United States to witness the success of the experiment in government. In the South, large plantation houses had two-story porches with massive columns, sheltering a smaller second-story balcony.

- symmetrical form
- horizontal emphasis
- columns, pilasters, and capitals
- full entablature between roof and wall (cornice + frieze + architrave)
- rectangular transom and sidelights around front door
- multi-paned, double-hung windows
- smooth surfaces
- white or off-white exterior color
- landscape design in front of buildings reflected the symmetry of the design

Examples in MacArthur Park District:

- Curran Hall, 615 E. Capitol Avenue
- Trapnall Hall, 423 E. Capitol Avenue
- Pike-Fletcher-Terry House, 411 E. Seventh
- Geyer House, 523 East Seventh
- Holtzman House, #1, 516 East Ninth
- Cook House, 605 E. Sixth
- 2nd Kadel Cottage, 417 E. Tenth



Curran Hall, 615 E. Capital Avenue.



Curran Hall



Trapnall Hall, 423 E. Capital Avenue



First Lutheran Church, 314 E 8th

C. GOTHIC REVIVAL 1830 – 1880

Romantic associations with medieval history and literature helped popularize the Gothic Revival style. Many churches and schools used this style, characterized by steeply pitched gabled roofs, vertically pointed arches, towers and battlements, crenellations, bay windows, and stained glass windows. Covered porches, big enough to serve as outdoor rooms, were introduced to encourage interaction with the natural surroundings. The invention of the jigsaw allowed decorative wooden trim to be added at costs lower than hand-formed trim.

- asymmetrical, picturesque form
- vertical emphasis
- steeply-pitched gable roof
- roof edges decorated with fanciful vergeboard (“Steamboat Gothic”)
- one-story porches with fanciful trim
- pointed arches over windows, doors, porch openings
- towers, battlements, crenellations
- bay and oriel windows
- hood moldings over windows
- leaded stained glass
- rough surfaces to increase textural interest
- board and batten siding (boards laid vertically with narrow strips covering joints)
- much use of “natural” color, earth tones of reddish brown and gray
- landscape features included curved driveways and paths, arbors for vines, a “natural” approach

Examples in the MacArthur Park Historic District:

- First Lutheran Church, 314 E. Eighth
- St. Edward’s Church, 815 Sherman
- The Arsenal Building, MacArthur Park, 503 E. Ninth



Tower of Arsenal Building



St. Edward's Church, 815 Sherman

D. ITALIANATE 1865 – 1885

The Italianate style was characterized by asymmetrical or L-shaped building plan, wide eaves heavily decorated with brackets, cornices, and other trim. Decorative features were created either of cut limestone, cast iron, or carved wood. Tall narrow windows, with round arches, had decorative hoods with a flat design incised in stone or wood. Doors were usually four-paneled, and windows were double-hung with 1/1, 2/2, or 4/4 lights. Front and side porches had turned posts and large arched brackets. The Southern interpretation of the Italianate style expanded porches to two-story galleries on several sides, to provide shade and catch breezes.

- asymmetrical shape
- tall, narrow proportions
- heavily decorated brackets, cornices, porches
- large scroll-shaped brackets under wide eaves, usually in pairs
- round-headed, arched windows with hood moldings
- tall first-floor windows, paired under arches
- porches and verandas, front and side
- decorative features in cast iron, limestone, or wood
- iron roof cresting
- stone or brick quoins to accent corners

Examples in the MacArthur Park Historic District:

- Lincoln House, 301 E. Seventh
- Garland-Mitchell House, 1404 Scott
- Mills House, 523 E. Sixth
- Welch-Cherry House, 700 Rock
- Charter House, 308 E. Eighth
- Johnson House, 507 E. Seventh
- Kempner House, 521 Rock Street
- Samuels-Narkinski House, 515 Rock
- Cohn House 904 Scott
- Pheifer House 908 Scott
- Pollock House 914 Scott
- Terry-Jung House, 1422 Scott Street



Lincoln House



Mills House, 523 E. 6th



Mills House



Lincoln House, 301 E. 7th



Villa Marré, 1321 Scott Street



Caroline Row Apartments, 1002 Cumberland

E. SECOND EMPIRE 1860 – 1890

The Second Empire style was named for the reign of Napoleon III in France. The dominating characteristic was the mansard roof, which gave a monumental and ornate look. Wide eaves were supported by decorative brackets. Windows were covered with projecting hoods or large surrounds.

- mansard roof, sometimes covered with colored slate or tile and topped with iron cresting
- prominent projecting and receding surfaces
- projecting central bay
- towers
- dormer windows
- classical elements of columns, pediments and balustrades
- arched windows with molded surrounds, usually in pairs

Examples:

- Villa Marré, 1321 Scott
- Caroline Row Apartments, 1002 Cumberland
- Apartments, 217-219 E. Tenth



Villa Marré

F. STICK STYLE 1860 – 1890

The Stick Style was a wooden structure which used decorative wooden details to imitate the medieval half-timber building methods. Vertical, horizontal or diagonal boards were applied over clapboard siding to achieve the effect of structural members. Houses were usually asymmetrical with steep roofs, large porches, with decorative trusses in the gables.

- wood structure
- boards applied over clapboards to simulate structural members
- asymmetrical plan
- steep roofs with decorative trusses in the gables
- large porches with diagonal braces and simple columns
- simple ornamentation which reflects structural elements

Examples:

- Chisum House, 1320 Cumberland
- Terry-Jung House, 1422 Scott
- Butler House, 609 Rock



Butler House, 609 Rock



Terry-Jung House, 1422 Scott



Chisum House, 1320 Cumberland Street



Chisum House



Hanger House

G. QUEEN ANNE (VICTORIAN) 1880 – 1910

The Queen Anne, or Victorian, style was popularized in the late 19th Century and featured an asymmetrical floor plan with extensive exterior detailing, including various building materials, textures, and colors. This eclectic style, combining medieval and classical elements, was generally two-stories high and often had corner towers, turrets or projecting bays. Exterior wall surfaces were often rich mixtures of brick, wood, stone, and wood shingles cut in various patterns. Large wraparound porches with milled trim—columns, brackets, balusters, and fretwork—were usually present on the main façade. Porches were stacked on top of porches. For the first time, the upper and lower window sashes had different number of lights. Frequently, the upper sash was bordered with small colored panes. Entire windows might be leaded stained glass. Huge medieval-style chimneys towered over the steeply pitched roof, which was frequently surfaced in decorative slate or standing-seam metal. Gables included decorative verge boards and other trim. Smooth, plain surfaces were avoided.



Hanger House



Hanger House, 1010 Scott Street

This exuberant style championed individualism and fanciful detail, made possible by the new industrial developments. Landscape design also reflected variety in design and plant materials.

- picturesque and eclectic
- asymmetrical form, irregular plan
- sharp outlines broken up
- corner towers or turrets, with conical or pyramidal roofs or steeples
- projecting bays and balconies
- steep gable roofs with dormers
- huge “medieval” chimneys, patterned and corbelled
- wrap-around one-story porches; also double porches
- contrasting materials and colors; multiple patterns, textures, carvings
- molded brick and cut shingle trim
- milled wooden columns, brackets, balusters, gable trim (“gingerbread”)
- stained-glass windows

Examples:

- Hanger House, 1010 Scott
- Holtzman-Vinsolhaler-Vogler House, 512 E. Ninth
- Holtzman-Vinsolhaler-House, 500 E. Ninth
- Ferling House Apartments, 401-403 E Tenth
- Bein House, 1302 Cumberland
- Bell Rent Houses 1 & 2, 608 & 604 E. Sixth
- Apartments, 305-07-09 E 7th, 815 Rock
- Gemmil House, 1415-1417 Cumberland



Holtzman-Vinsonhaler House, 500 E. 9th



Holtzman-Vinsonhaler-Vogler House



Holtzman-Vinsonhaler-Vogler House 512 E. 9th