

5.10 Period Revival (1900 to 1940)

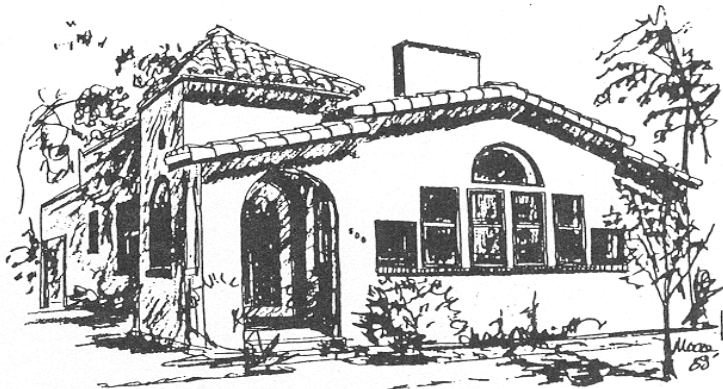
In an era of major social and cultural change, Period Revival houses were designed to conjure up the romantic times and far away places of another “period” in history. Popular styles from the past include the English Cottage, Tudor Revival, Dutch Colonial, Country Cottage, Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Colonial. There are “high-style” examples which include all the major elements of a particular style, and vernacular examples which may incorporate only one or two elements into the design. Modest examples of the English Cottage and the Mediterranean styles are found in Carson City’s Historic District.

5.10.1 English Cottage Revival

The English Cottage style is the most modest of the English Revivals, which were popular in America between 1910 and 1930. The prototype of the English Cottage is the masonry rural farmhouse of England. This quaint and charming, typically one story cottage is usually constructed of stone, stucco or brick construction. Distinguishing features include an asymmetrical composition, a steeply pitched roof with little overhang and a steeply pitched front entrance. Large expanses of wall are pierced by relatively few windows.

5.10.2 Mediterranean Revival

The key to distinguishing the Mediterranean Revival style is its heavy tile roof and restrained ornamentation. The structures are generally wood frame construction with a smooth or textured stucco wall surface painted white or a light color. Ornamentation is restrained; wall surfaces are flat with few projections. Windows are casements and framed by wooden or wrought iron grills. Small, second story balconies are typical. The Mediterranean Revival style was used for public, commercial and residential structures.



500 West Telegraph Street, built in 1926, is an example of the Mediterranean Revival style of domestic architecture. Although remodeled, the residence maintains key stylistic features of the style: a heavy red tile roof; a corner tower with hipped roof; white stucco walls and round arched openings. An example of the English Cottage style is 1008 North Curry Street.

5.11 Ranch Style (1940 to 1960)

The Ranch house was perhaps the ultimate symbol of the postwar American dream: a safe, affordable home promising efficiency and elegant, casual living inspired by California's temperate climate. California architects, such as Cliff May introduced the "A close-to-the-ground" ranch in the 1930s, evidently finding inspiration in the one-story plan of the Spanish rancho of the Southwest. By the late 1940s, this new house type had caught on across the country and still remains popular. After World War II, the popularity of the Ranch house increased, especially with dependence on the automobile and newly constructed suburban neighborhoods. In the West, where land was available, the new large lots provided plenty of room for a rambling, one-story plan, driveway, garage and expanse of green lawn.

The classic Ranch is a rectangular or L-shaped house whose low-pitched roof caps an open, free-flowing plan. The house is typically long, narrow, and low to the ground, with a strong emphasis on the horizontal. The roof is usually hipped with wide overhanging eaves. The Ranch style also features wide porches, large patios or interior courtyards, a de-emphasis of the main entrance, integral garage, large windows, and use of native materials, especially masonry as accents. The use of large glass windows or glass walls suggests the connection to the outside.

The interior of the Ranch house also differs dramatically from earlier styles by diminishing the boundaries between formal and informal spaces. Ranch houses might still have a formal living room based on the parlor concept, but more often the dining room was situated between the kitchen and the new "family" room. With its open kitchen/living area, the ranch was specifically geared to casual entertaining. Another key point was the desirable indoor/outdoor living promised by the one-story layout, which features sliding glass doors, picture windows, terraces and patios secluded in a rear yard.

5.11.1 Minimal Traditional (1935 to 1950)

With the economic Depression of the 1930s came this compromise style which reflects the form of traditional Eclectic houses, but lacks their decorative detailing. Roof pitches are low or intermediate and eaves and rake close, rather than overhanging. Usually, but not always, the design incorporates a large chimney and at least one front-facing gable. Many examples suggest Tudor cottages with the roof line lowered and detailing removed. These houses were built in great numbers in the years immediately preceding and following World War II.



A modest example of a period revival home on West Robinson St.

5.11.2 Ranch (1940 to 1975)

Asymmetrical one-story shapes with low-pitched roofs in one of three forms: hipped (the most common), cross-gabled and side-gabled. There is usually a moderate or wide eave overhang. This may be either boxed or open, with the rafters exposed as in Craftsman houses. Both wooden and brick wall cladding are used, sometimes in combination. Builders frequently add modest bits of traditional detailing, usually loosely based on Spanish or English Colonial precedents, such as decorative iron or wooden porch supports and shutters. Ribbon windows are frequent as are large picture windows in living areas. These private outdoor living areas to the rear of the house are a direct contrast to the large front and side porches of most late 19th and early 20th century styles.



A typical Ranch style home in Carson City. This is located on King Street at the periphery of the historic district.