

LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD

"Help save yesterday for tomorrow"

WHAT STYLE IS THAT BUILDING ?

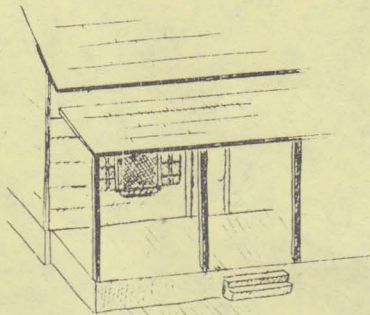
(Illustrations by Michael Tassano)

Livermore's architectural heritage is an important historic and cultural asset. The Heritage Guild actively works toward the preservation and conservation of this asset. The Guild hopes that the information below will help you identify some of the significant architectural contributions in the city.

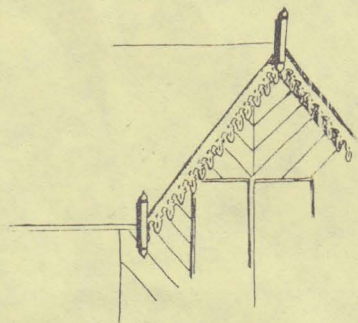
PIONEER (or Salt Box)

The Pioneer is a distinctive form rather than a true architectural style, with its combined gable and shed roof. Since it was brought to California by New Englanders, mostly in the 1850's, it is referred to as the Pioneer style. Many of the houses in this form carry elements of the Greek Revival (a very popular style in the Eastern United States from 1825 to 1850) such as a pedimented gable, and often blend in Italianate elements like window hoods.

Most of the surviving Pioneer examples in Livermore date from the 1860's to the 1890's.



CARPENTER GOTHIC

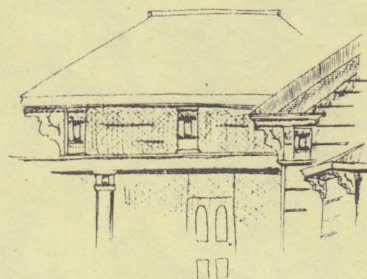


The Carpenter Gothic style typically has steeply pitched gables decorated with lacy bargeboards trimmed with elements called finials and pendants. Windows are often quite tall and narrow, sometimes coming to a "lancet" or spear-point top. Another traditional characteristic is vertical board and batten siding.

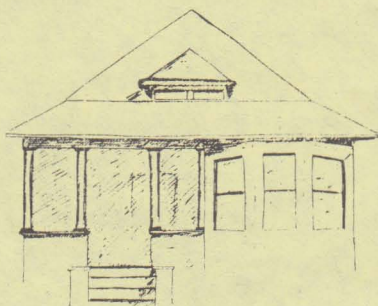
The only easily recognizable Carpenter Gothic in Livermore is at 679 South L Street.

ITALIANATE

The domestic Italianate style was quite popular in the 1870's and 1880's, although commercial Italianate remained architecturally important until the turn of the century. The earliest Italianate houses are square with hip roofs, truncated in some cases like a chopped-off pyramid. All Italianates are characterized by heavily bracketed cornices, tall narrow windows with flat or rounded tops and prominent window hoods; many Italianates also have square or angled bay windows.



QUEEN ANNE

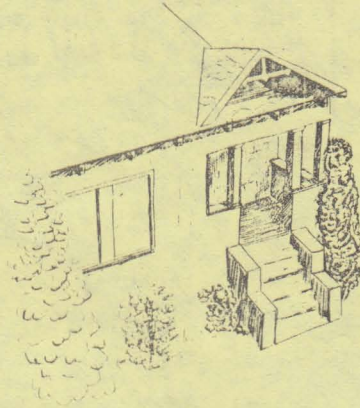


More informal than most Victorian architectural styles, the Queen Anne house, which dates from the 1890's, sought uniqueness with an asymmetrical floor plan, complex roofline, prominent gables and sometimes a corner tower. Queen Annes often display a variety of textures and colors in bands of different siding materials and shingle variations. They have bay windows which are usually rounded and called "swell" bays; they also have large porches, balconies, panelled or modeled chimneys and a variety of predominately classical ornamental details like capitals on porch columns and "rincaux" used on belt courses and in window treatments. Livermore's only example of a Queen Anne tower house is at 737 South M Street.

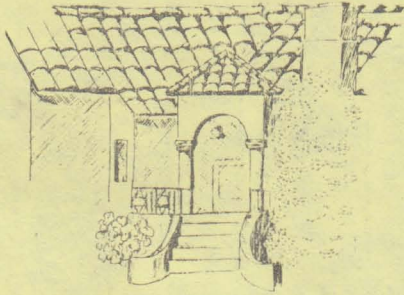
SHINGLE

Although similar to Queen Anne in shape and size, the Shingle style displays a greater simplicity of detail. Walls and roof are distinctly covered with shingles, originally stained brown.

A row of Shingle style houses in the 2400 block of Sixth Street, in Livermore, is flanked by a Queen Anne at either end which offers a good contrast between the two styles.



MISSION REVIVAL



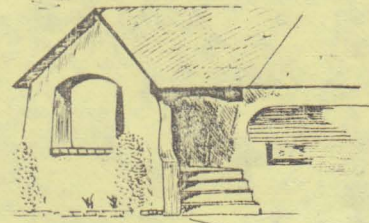
Mission Revival is an acknowledgement of the California Spanish architectural contribution, and appeared shortly after the turn of the century. It became a popular building form in Livermore in the 1920's and 1930's. The style is characterized by stuccoed walls, arches, tiled roofs and parapets, sometimes towers and balconies and by wrought-iron work.

Commercial buildings in Livermore are still being built in the Mission Revival style, such as the Pacific Telephone building on Second Street, and the U.S. Post Office building on South Livermore Avenue.

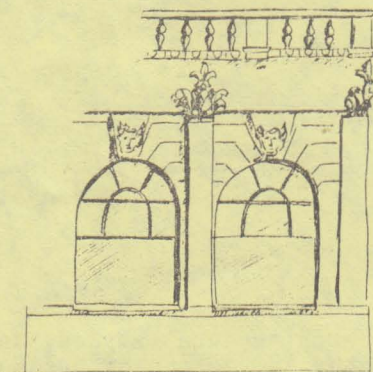
CALIFORNIA BUNGALOW

California Bungalow was one of the first architectural styles to reflect the West Coast's informal mode of living. The Bungalow house is usually a small informal structure, identified by a low-pitched roof, a broad gabled porch with massive tapered columns, and a clinker-brick chimney.

Besides those in stucco, many structures in Livermore in the style were constructed with ship-lap siding.



DERIVATIVE (or Period Revival)



In the early part of this century a broad range of historical building styles were revived in domestic architecture. Together, these are called Derivative, and include such styles as Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival and French Provincial. Often they were executed by builders who knew little of their sources, and as a result they are primarily adaptations of an earlier style. Banks, libraries and commercial buildings are outstanding examples of this classification.

In Livermore, the City Hall and the Schenone Building, both on First Street, and the Carnegie Library on Third are all representative of the Derivative style.