

Montclair's Love Affair with Queen Anne

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THERE'S SOMETHING SO INVITING about a Queen Anne style home – one could get lost in the nooks, the porches, and definitely the turrets! Exterior details that attract the eye are plentiful: finials; applied details; elaborate strings of spindles; a variety of columns; combinations of wall surfaces, shingle patterns and colors from one floor to the next; and unexpected projections and angles. These homes are often sprawling and asymmetrical, with a dominant front-facing gable and a bevy of irregular, steeply pitched roof lines.

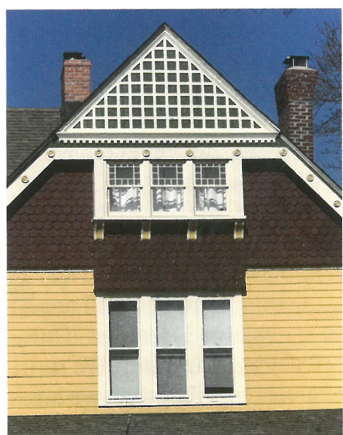
Queen Anne was a new and desirable architectural style in 1880 and it was widely built through-1910. The style is readily found throughout Montclair today, likely because its popularity corresponded with our town's growth in the decades after train service was introduced in the mid-1800s.

The style's popularity in the United States was greatly inspired by its inclusion in pattern books and architectural magazines of the late 1800s –it was even available as a mail order “kit house.” More sophisticated examples were designed by well-regarded architects for their wealthy clientele, including many who were building their homes in Montclair at the turn of the 20th century.

The style was named and popularized by 19th century English architects led by Richard Normal Shaw. However, the label doesn't really correlate to Queen Anne or the formal Renaissance architecture that was dominant during her reign in the 18th century (1702-

1714). Early English examples were much heavier and darker than the typical American examples of Queen Anne we recognize on the streets of Montclair: think masonry and heavy porch supports vs multi-patterned shingles and delicate spindle work ornamentation.

Multiple window designs can be featured in a single Queen Anne home. Transoms above windows are frequently seen, as are round-headed, round (oculus), and Palladian windows. The most iconic Queen Anne window, however, may be a single pane of glass surrounded by smaller



Textured shingles of a different color than the siding below it; ornamentation in the gable peak; knob-like beading along the gable edge, and that tell-tale detail in the window grouping: a single panel of glass surrounded by smaller panes.



A Palladian window below the gable peak, is set among varied wall surface materials in contrasting colors, a roof gable that extends beyond the curved window below it on the right, and a turret on the left with decorative swag embellishment



The paired, classic columns supporting the wide porch are common Queen Anne features, as is the front-corner turret, contrasting wall surface materials; and other unique ornamentation.

panes (bonus points if the smaller panes are of colored glass!).

Queen Anne design differed from other contemporaneous styles in several ways:

- Colonial Revival stressed symmetry and traditional details like accentuated front doors with pediments, columns, fanlights and sidelights around front doors which hardened to restrained early colonial styles such as Georgian and Federal.

- Tudor Revival is generally easily distinguishable from Queen Anne due to the prevalence of decorative half timbers (a design detail found much less frequently in Queen Anne style), steep pitched and often sweeping rooflines, and the predominantly smooth stucco and brick finishes.

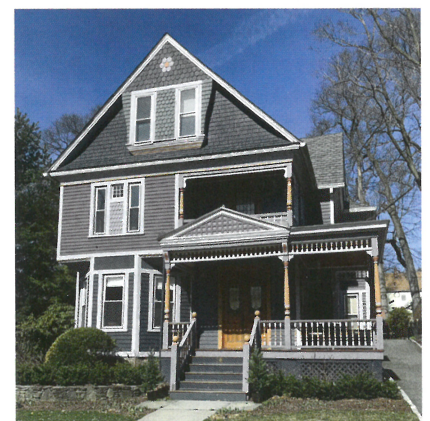
- Shingle-style homes are often confused with Queen Anne homes because the two share many traits. But, angles that are accentuated on a Queen Anne are smoothed and unified in the Shingle style, with a smoother, less varied exterior surface and a broad roof expanse that forms continuous coverage for porches underneath.

It's not uncommon to see a “Montclair mish-mash,” in which a single home harmoniously combines several elements typically

associated with different architectural styles, such as a Queen Anne turret or full-width front porch on a home with otherwise more traditional Colonial Revival symmetry.

The Queen Anne style was rather short-lived, fading in the early part of the 20th century as designs inspired by the

Classical theme of Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893 led to more interest in Colonial Revival and Neoclassical architecture. ■



Details include a front porch with spindle work at the roof line, a projection in the center gable, a recessed second-story porch, and that distinctive second-story overhang above the bay window left of the porch.