
Sunday, May 19, 1996

2:00 p.m.

WALKING TOUR
of
RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE
1860-1900
DOWNTOWN LANSING

by
Robert J. Morris of City Visions, Inc.

• • Start at corner of Ionia and Chestnut • •

1. Greek Revival	Ionia at Chestnut & north on Chestnut	1860s
2. Greek Revival	Walnut at Ionia • Carr House (additions 1890's)	1860s
3. Italianate	Ionia at Pine • Hungerford House	1880
4. Gothic	Ionia at Sycamore	1875
5. Gothic composite	620 W. Ionia • Brown House	1879
6. Italianate	Sycamore at Shiawassee • Hull House	1879
7. Queen Anne	Shiawassee, 600 block	1890s
8. Greek Revival	Chestnut at Shiawassee	1860s
9. Queen Anne	Shiawassee at Chestnut • Sullivan House	1892

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OTHER GOOD EXAMPLES
of
LANSING'S RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE 1860-1900

1. Greek Revival	808 N. Cedar (later porch)	1860
	900 N. Washington (porch changed)	1850s
	2003 W. Main ("Governor's House")	1850?
	1017 E. Oakland (double wing)	1850s
	"Temple" variants	
	213 E. St. Joe (Kerr House) w/additions	1860s
	105 W. Hillsdale later bay, picture window	1860s
2. Italianate	213 S. Grand ("1861 House")	1861
	Gabled variants	
	402 S. Walnut (Glaister House)	1875
	909 N. Washington (w/tower)	late 1870s
	915 N. Washington (portico added)	1875
3. Second Empire	311 Seymour (Sabin-Judson House) w/Gothic elements	1879
	627 N. Pennsylvania	1880
	815 N. Capitol (later porch)	1880
4. Stick	327 Seymour (Abbot House)	1884
	214 S. Huron (Moon House)	1888
5. Queen Anne	610 N. Pennsylvania	1890
	528 N. Capitol (Rogers-Carrier Hse)	1891
	401 N. Seymour (Mich. Lung Assn)	c. 1900

CAPITOL DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE 1850-1900

DOWNTOWN LANSING

1. Greek Revival 426 W. Ionia St.

This frame house shows the second stage of architecture in Lansing, seen in the 1850s and 1860s. The first stage was a cabin of rough-hewn logs. This house is similar to the log cabin in size and plan: one story, ridge pole parallel to street, door in center, and a window on each side for the two main rooms; kitchen wing in back. Sleeping in one main room and in loft; one chimney in sitting room for heat, one in kitchen wing for cooking. No porches originally.

2. Greek Revival, variant 307 N. Chestnut St. 421 W. Ionia St.

Gable front and wing houses are Greek Revival variants, the classic Midwest farmhouse type built from the 1850s-1920. Typical are the two-story main block, two rooms deep on each floor, a side wing and back kitchen wing of various heights, and a porch in the notch. (Bay on Ionia St. house added later.)

3. Italianate 602 W. Ionia St. Hungerford House 1880

This gabled Italianate has typical symmetrical features on a tall, squarish main block containing four rooms on each floor, with a shorter kitchen wing in back. Small portico over double entry doors; larger windows with fewer panes; elaborate trims on windows, doors and eaves. Gabled Italianates rarely had cupolas. Often brick, style was built in this area from 1865-1880.

4. Gothic, composite 626 W. Ionia St. c.1880

Built in either frame or brick, Gothics are tall houses with steep roofs and gables, gingerbread, and narrow windows; kitchen wing in back. This house combines Gothic features with the gable front and wing style. Pure Gothics had center door like the early Greek Revivals, but were two stories tall with a steep center gable.

5. Gothic, composite 620 W. Ionia St. c.1880

This house also combines Gothic features with the gable front and wing style. Note the triangular bay with narrow windows, the jerkinhead roof, and the porch in the notch. Gothics were built simultaneously with the Italianate in the Midwest.

6. Gothic, variant 301 N. Sycamore c.1878

This Gothic offers a broader main block than usual and a narrower, set-back wing, forecasting a later style. It has the typical Gothic roof pitch and narrow, paired windows.

7. Queen Anne 307 N. Sycamore 1890s 309 N. Sycamore 1890s

Asymmetry reigns in the Queen Anne in window placement and roof-lines. Main block is a squarish plan which includes the kitchen; narrow set-back wing contains the stair. Large porches and windows are typical; style often has round tower. Wide variety of whimsical, exuberant decorative features, including gingerbread and stained glass.

8. Italianate

403 Sycamore St.
Hull House 1879

A hipped-roof Italianate with cupola, this house shows the typical Italianate squarish main block with symmetrical, long windows, small entry porch with double doors, and side porch in the kitchen wing.

9. Various 1890s
600 Block W. Shiawassee

This subdivision of seven houses was built at the same time, with the same basic floor plan and the same array of trim elements in gables and on porches. Variety is provided by the amount of brick used, by door and window placement, and by roof shapes to create Second Empire, Italianate, Gothic, and Queen Anne houses. (Some porches have been altered.)

10. Various 1997
500 Block W. Genesee

These six new houses are an in-fill subdivision replacing demolished houses. A limited range of style features is used to produce variety; basic design is gable front and wing in three different plans. Traditional Victorian color schemes were adapted to available vinyl siding colors.

11. Shingle Style, variant
427 W. Shiawassee 1893

This house shows typical Shingle-style features: the radically pitched roof that covers the front porch, and the eave that overhangs the side walls at the first story and is carried by brackets. On this house, the ridge pole runs parallel to the street to form enormous gables on each side of the house.

12. Stick Style

327 Seymour St. 1884

This twelve-room house is a very spare example of the Stick style, characterized by a wide variety of surface features, including panels of shingle or clapboard. Here, the effects are concentrated chiefly in the gables. Built as the retirement home of T.C. Abbot, an important president of M.A.C. (1862-1884), its impressive features include three massive chimneys and a large porte cochere containing the principal entrance. Divided into apartments for over forty years, it has been restored and adapted as an office.

13. Second Empire

311 Seymour St.
Sabin-Judson House 1879

The mansard roof, projecting bays, and tall, grouped windows are typical of Second Empire buildings. This house is a composite style, having Gothic peaks which pierce the mansard lines. Built as a private home, it became a convent in 1910, and by 1928 the Church removed the large kitchen area and added two wings for convent use. In the 1980s, the original home was restored and became one unit of The Old Convent Condominium, three other period townhouses being built in the added wings.

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Downtown Neighborhood Assoc.
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