

# Overbrook Farms Architectural Styles

prepared by Edith L. Willoughby and others

**Overbrook Farms is a showcase of architectural styles current at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Keep in mind that styles are not always "pure," meaning that some structures combine the features of several styles.**

## **Colonial Revival**

Colonial Revival became a popular American house style after it appeared at the 1876 the US Centennial Exposition. Reflecting American patriotism and a desire for simplicity, the Colonial Revival house style remained popular until the mid-1950's. Between World War I and II, Colonial Revival was the most popular historic revival house style in the United States.

## **Federal**

Inspired by the work of the Adam brothers and also by the great temples of ancient Greece and Rome, Americans began to build homes with Palladian windows, circular or elliptical windows, recessed wall arches, and oval-shaped rooms. This new Federal style became associated with America's evolving national identity.

## **Gothic Revival**

This romantic new style was a welcome change from the stately, symmetrical architecture of the day. By the 1800s, fashionable houses throughout England began to resemble churches, convents and storybook castles. Queen Victoria took delight in these fanciful Gothic Revival buildings.

## **Carpenter Gothic**

This new style lavished modest wood frame cottages with scrolled ornaments and lacy trim.

## **Arts and Crafts**

The Arts and Crafts style was part of a larger movement that encompassed many aspects of design other than architecture, including the design of fabrics, wallpapers and home furnishings. Rooted in the work of Englishman William Morris, proponents of the style strove for simple and finely crafted work. The Arts and Crafts movement became popular in America primarily through such widely read publications as *House Beautiful* and *Gustave Stickley's Craftsman* magazine.

## **Tudor Revival**

The Tudor house has attracted America homeowners for more than a century. Its basic elements - the steep-gabled roofs, mullioned windows made of leaded glass, and half-timbering - are instantly recognizable.

## **Richardsonian Romanesque**

The Romanesque Revival style was very nearly the creation of one architect, Henry Hobson Richardson. The style was built exclusively in stone and featured massive, often rustic-looking construction, along with heavy arches on the porches, doors, and windows, and a near-complete lack of applied decorative detail.

## **Italianate**

The Italianate Style evolved from the earlier Italian Villa Style. A popular house style, Italianate was also favored for commercial buildings in the late 19th century.

## **Queen Anne and Shingle**

Of all the Victorian house styles, Queen Anne is the most elaborate and the most eccentric. The style is often called romantic and feminine, yet it is the product of a most unromantic era -- the machine age.