

# Appendix F

## Historic Precedents for Color

Whenever possible, exterior building colors should reflect the basic colors of the architectural style or period of the building. Historic color palettes based on research, old photographs and historic records are strongly encouraged. The Sherwin-Williams Preservation Palette or similar paint manufacturer pamphlets can also be consulted for information on historic color schemes. The following section identifies major color selections used on buildings during various periods.

### Pre-1900 Victorian (about 1870 to 1890)



This period experienced three-color transitions in much of southern California. The earliest examples generally had the main body of the building painted pale colors, usually tans or white. Most were painted with just two colors with the predominant

being the body of the house. Trim was usually of the same color, but in a deeper tone. Roofs were generally wood shingles stained green, red or black.

From 1884 to 1895 darker colors were used. In some cases, the number of colors on a single building increased to three or four, partly as a result of two different exterior materials. The two different materials were painted different colors, each with its own trim color. Roofs were still generally wood shingles stained green, red or black.

About 1895, colors were affected by the classical influence. The main body colors reverted to lighter colors – light grays, yellows and tans. Trim was often white, and the window sashes black. Roofs remained composed of green, red, or black stained wood shingles.

### Turn of the Century (about 1900 to 1920)



Buildings of this period were generally white or light colors. Shingles were

usually used at the upper level, with siding below. The upper area might be stained green or brown with white or tan used at the lower level. Building trim was generally white with window sashes generally painted black. Roofs continued a composition of green, red, or black stained wood shingles.

**Bungalow/Craftsman (about 1910 to 1920)**



Buildings of this style generally had rough wood siding or shingles, with finished wood usually used as trim. The shingles or siding were often stained “earth” colors of brown, green or left in their natural color. They were often painted light to medium, semi-neutral soft shades such as yellow, brown, red, green or gray. The trim was often painted white, ivory or cream. Roofs were generally wood shingles, stained green, red or black. Crushed brick and white gravel roofs were also introduced on flatter pitches at this time.

**California Bungalow (about 1910 to 1925)**



The material on the main body of the structure was generally wood siding. Wood siding or shingles were often stained a dark color. Shingles or siding were also painted a light to medium, semi-natural shade such as yellow, brown, red, green or gray. The wood trim, which had a smooth finish, was often painted a lighter color such as ivory, white or cream. Roofing materials similar to the Craftsman style continued.

**Period Revivals (about 1920 to 1935)**



The period includes many different styles, including Spanish Colonial/Mediterranean, Colonial and Tudor. Stucco was generally used as the primary material of the main body of the building with rough or smooth finished wood trim and either wood shingles, shakes or clay tile roofs. The main body was usually dark brown. The smooth wood trim was usually painted a dark color such as green or brown. Roofing materials were generally left in their natural state.

**Colonial Revival (1880 – on)**

highlighted by bright contrasting shutters or trim.



Since the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, the popularity of the Colonial Revival movement and the inclusion Colonial Revival elements – is evident in home design. Colonial Revival homes provided an alternative to the traditional earthy, progressive bungalow. Generally, Colonial Revivals were painted brighter and bolder tones than bungalows. Typical recommendations for paint selection for Colonial Revivals included a body of “Colonial yellow” with white trim and dark green shutters. White was also a popular body color with shutters and sash painted in a darker contrasting color to accentuate the white. In the 1920s and ‘30s, the Colonial Revival became a popular style choice, with many houses built in brick with white or yellow trim. All-wood Colonial Revivals also experienced lighter and whiter tones through the World War II era and into the 1950s. During this time, a white body was typically used and

**Tudor and Tudor Revival (about 1905 to 1940)**



From the beginning of the century until World War II, the Tudor Revival-style house offered an alternative to the symmetrical and clearly classical Colonial Revival. Tudor and Tudor-Revivals typically included steeply pitched roofs, half-timbering, and mixed of unpainted stucco, brick or stone, Tudors did not typically utilize a diverse palette of colors seen on other styles. Dark brown (almost black) was the most popular choice of trim color and contrasted with lighter stucco. Stucco often included a sparkled appearance with embedded mica or other minerals. Various browns were also favorite trim colors. Occasionally, Tudor trim was painted white.

**Spanish and Mission Revival (about 1915 to 1940)**



By the 1920s, the rich palette was replaced by colors that were characterized as being light, bright, pastel or muted. Spanish and Mission Revival residences typically had walls covered with cement plaster. The cement plaster was often left its natural color or slightly tinted. Painted plaster cement was typically painted with white and pale cream colors. Popular trim colors were often dark green, blue/green, gray/greens and medium to dark brown. Entry doors in the Southern California area were typically stained rather than painted.