

33 East on Cedar and to the left at #420, an interesting variant of the early 20th Century Arts-and-Crafts.

34 Next block, left at #370, a brick Vernacular with typical arched window heads. Note the early period gingerbread back porch.

35 Across the street at #365, a good Queen Anne, (another Century Structure) and **36** just beyond at #345 a very common form of Arts-and-Crafts. Cast concrete blocks and decorative pillars in the early 1900's were thought to be the construction wave of the future, shaped to look like stone.

37 Next block, at 3rd, #290 on the left side, an upscale Bungalow from about 1920. This is the way Bungalows were meant to look...low to the ground with an almost Oriental look. The eave brackets made of 4x4's under very wide overhangs, the interesting design of the upper sash. This porch was originally open.

38 On the park at #20 South 2nd is the prettiest wraparound porch in town (added to an earlier Vernacular). It has appeared in TV commercials. (another Century Structure)

39 Turn right on 2nd for a block, past the little park. (If you are driving, go around the park on 1st, avoiding the one-way street.) This is Lincoln Park, where Abraham Lincoln made

a speech on the way to his inauguration. The gazebo has been used for several open-air weddings. #60 South 2nd is another registered Century Structure. Now right on Oak for a good look at several bungalows.

40 On the left at #255 is a basic unadorned one.

41 On down two blocks at #480 Oak is an unchanged perfect example. Notice that the open part of the porch has a typical heavy trellis overhead with a row of decorative projections. Now turn left onto 5th. Note the wraparound Eastlake **42** on the far corner. Now go down a block on 5th to Pine.

43 At #510 Pine is a Vernacular with some upscale extras...the intricate Early Victorian porch work and gable vents. (The eastern side of the house has had later style alterations.)

Now go west on Pine, crossing 6th. The right side of the next block has several interesting early 20th Century houses.

44 The Arts-and-Crafts at #670 is pretty much intact without changes. Notice the tapered porch columns covered with extra narrow siding. This style has endless variations. Angle left up Laurel.

45 Now you come to one of the most impressive fix-ups in town. At #795

Hawthorne you will face a beautiful Italianate. Notice the woodwork around the windows and the roof brackets between "eyebrow" attic windows.

46 In the 400 block, left, you will face the rear buildings of the old Frank Gregory estate (which faces Pine) noteworthy because this big house is built of extra long 100 pound concrete blocks. He owned the first block machine in town.

47 On your right at #305 is a Century Structure Vernacular with interesting porches. The hand-sawn fretwork, obviously original with the house, is in a design which foreshadows the Eastlake that came 20 years later.

48 Next on your right at #285, is a large Queen Anne which has also been used in advertising. Two doors down is the Sullivan Museum. You shouldn't pass by without going in for a long look. It is free.

49 Now go left up 2nd to #240, a Greek Revival possibly built on site in the 1850's. The decorative sidelight entry was a nice touch in later Greeks. The non-functional shutters are a later addition.

Your parking lot is just around the corner. Please come again to fully explore this one-of-a-kind Village.

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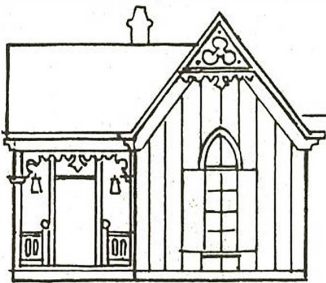
Historic houses in Zionsville

All the important styles of the last two centuries are represented in the Village area. Authorities disagree as to what to call them. Most have been modified by the continuous remodeling over the years, particularly with the addition of later styled porches.

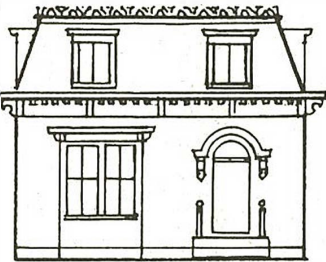
Greek Revival
Dominant style nationwide. Inspired by classic Greek temples. Prominent and complex gable ends and returns. Wide corner boards with capitals. Rarely had shutters.



Gothic Revival
First of the Early Victorian Romantics. Vertical board - and - batten siding, pointed arches, bric-a-brac trim. Never widely popular but individual Gothic details appear in other styles.



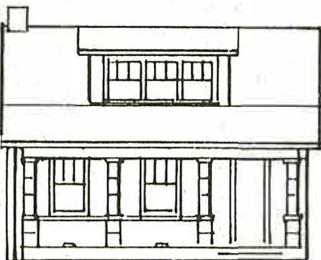
Second Empire
Last of the Romantics. A revival of earlier Mansard style by decree of Emperor Napoleon III. Originally a mansion style, later adapted for ordinary dwellings. Window lights 2-over-2.



Queen Anne
An elaboration of Eastlake. Same detailing plus some diagonal corner windows, towers, more fishscale and other surface textures. Generally larger houses with nonsymmetrical facades.



Arts-and-Crafts
Set the pace in the early automobile age. Diverse configurations but common use of decorative window patterns (muntined upper sash, plain lower), porch designs, bracketing, cozy nooks, fireplaces.



1825

1830

1835

1840

1845

1850

1855

1860

1865

1870

1875

1880

1885

1890

1895

1900

1905

1910

1915

1920

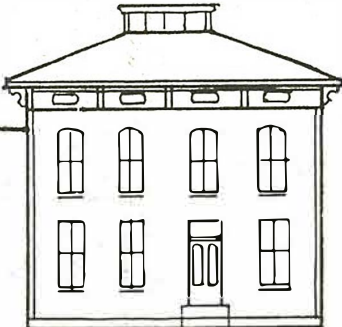
1925



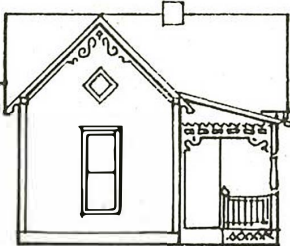
Federal
A Post-Colonial two-story style. Midwestern form is center hall, one room deep, low pitch roof with narrow overhang, plain exterior, no porches until 1850's 6-over-6 "colonial" windows.



Vernacular
Our local mid-century carpenter-builders' utilitarian design. Scores built after Civil War. Distinctive wide frieze boards under eaves. Window lights 6-over-6, 4-over-4.



Italianate
Zionsville has four of these impressive Romantics. Often cube and cupola in form. Distinctive wide eaves with ornate bracketing. Considered to be best of high Victorian.



Eastlake
Most popular Late Victorian. Factory-made fancy work on porches and gable crowns of affordable houses. Open rafter ends, fishscale shingle areas, plain 1-over-1 windows



Prairie / American Foursquare
Locally the two have blended into one. The Frank Lloyd Wright inspired Prairie Style uses very low-pitched roofs, wide overhangs and strong horizontals. Foursquare is a roomy two-story simplification.



Bungalow
One-story Arts and Crafts development with four or five large rooms. Lots of windows, often a common roof over house and porch, trellises. Considered romantic at the time. Currently popular as a desirable antique.



Settlement of Central Indiana began after the defeat of Tecumseh's Indians at Tippecanoe in 1811. The first settlers were along the new Michigan Road (U.S. 421), a path that was corduroy in places. A pioneer trading center with 30-odd businesses developed at Eagle Village in the 1830's. In 1852 when the railroad came through, a mile to the west, Elijah Cross and William Zion platted Zionsville and the town was an immediate success. Eagle Village suffered a rapid decline and its Jackson/Van Buren era houses were moved (on log rollers) across a shallow Eagle Creek ford to the boom town. Through the late 1800's the town was a commercial as well as cultural and religious center, with a well-known Chatauqua, the Academy and a busy camp meeting. The Village has thrived over fifteen decades and there are representative houses from every one of them. You can get a more detailed history from the Chamber of Commerce or Sullivan Museum.

Walking Tour

This route provides a sampling of the historic houses in the Village area. There are many exceptional structures that are not on this tour.

We recommend that you study the style chart printed overleaf before you make the rounds. All eleven styles are included in this tour. It is a 2¼ mile walk. You may want to do it in two installments, although distances are not as great as they look on the route map... these blocks are smaller than normal.

The tour starts from the town parking lot at Main and Hawthorne.

Facing North up the bricks, **1** the present tavern/restaurant is in an old factory building typical of the late 19th Century. It was the Zionsville Carriage & Wagon Works built in 1875. Buggies were completed on the second floor and rolled down a ramp through the large opening (now bricked in) which you can still see high on the rear wall.

2 On your right are two late Victorian houses. The one by the restaurant is a typical 1890's Eastlake. The fancy porch was a recent restoration. The one on the corner does not have the identifying porches intact but the unusual wooden "quoins" blocks at the wall corners are noteworthy.

3 To the left of the parking lot is the oldest Rolls-Royce dealership in the U.S. The service entrance on the south is flanked by antique gas pumps.

Now you go north on Main Street. It has the original brick pavement from 1911. A plan is underway to re-pave, using the old bricks on a smoother base. The separate brick section in the center is where the old "interurban" tracks ran from 1903 to the 30's. These high-speed electric cars ran (often at 70 and 80 miles per hour) over most of the state...a rapid transit system way before its time.

4 One block up at the Pine Street corner is a building from the same period as the buggy factory, recently stripped of its 1950 aluminum and plywood outer skin. The sidewalk porches were once quite common as a front for small-town stores.

5 In the next block at #165 is a good example of the Federal style, the Greek Revival roof notwithstanding. (The Federal configuration took on many mutations over its long life.)

6 Directly across the street is an attractive old business building in Victorian Romanesque style, with half-round window heads.

There are many restaurants in Zionsville: main street; side street; ethnic; bistro; tea room; luncheonette; breakfast gathering place; pizza and fast food. The drugstore retains its old-fashioned soda fountain.

Most of the shops are highly specialized, displaying some wares not available anywhere else in the area.

A directory of these places is available at the Chamber of Commerce, #135 South Elm and the restaurants and business themselves.

7 At Cedar Street turn right for one block. You will pass the Old Town Hall, built in 1902. It once housed a theater for traveling vaudeville shows and concerts. Later it was the local movie house.

8 At Elm Street, over on your right at #35, a scholarly restoration, a very small Greek Revival, now a law office. It was probably built in Eagle village about 1830 or 1840. It was moved here in 1880. These were the first houses after the log cabins. This one started out with only two rooms...no separate bedrooms. The untypical long "saltbox" or "catslide" slope on the rear is from additions made at this site. Most Greek Revivals were painted white or light stone color...not the soot-defying middle tones that were the fashion.

The oval plaque on this house was awarded by the Historical Society's Century Structure program. It verifies that the building is over 100 years old and essentially unaltered.

As you go up Elm to Poplar you pass a couple of unrestored old Greeks...greatly modified with substitute siding, replacement windows and wrong porches. This is what most restorationists start out with. Left again onto Poplar. At the Maple intersection are two beauties.

9 The house at #105 Maple is a simple Vernacular that has had a pretty porch added in Eastlake times.

10 Across the street at #60 Poplar is an Eastlake charmer with unusual solid bracketing.

11 Back at Main Street, on your left is a showplace former church...mostly Queen Anne. Built in 1895, it has the Century Structure plaque.

12 Across at #100 Main, the fancied-up building was once a much plainer coal yard office. Now turn right up the bricks.

13 On your right at #125 is another Eastlake with a typical galleried porch.

14 Then, at #155 you will see, up in the front gable, a many-textured half-timbered surface treatment. This usually puts the house in the Stick Style category (not on our chart) an Eastlake variant. The porch is later Arts-and-Crafts and the bay is present day Colonial. (On the left side of the street on #180 is a real Victorian bay window.)

15 Back on your right #165 North Main is a big square house with strong Prairie characteristics.

Now go left on Walnut, crossing 1st Street. First was not meant to be a street. It was the railroad right-of-way before the trains were moved to the west edge of town.

16 On your right at #120 Walnut is a Gothic Revival (a modern replica reusing a lot of 130 year old trim). This is the kind of house in the famous Grant Wood painting "American Gothic".

17 Next to it at #150 is an 1867 Vernacular with added scrollwork that is typical handmade Early Victorian...simpler, larger scale and thicker than the lacy Eastlake which came later.

18 Across the street at #145 is a similar restoration from the same period. There is a built-in dining room cabinet from a later time in perfect Gustav Stickley style.

19 At #315 (corner house on your left) is an 1868 Vernacular. There must have been a Southern influence...narrow sections for cross ventilation. These last three houses all have the Century Structure plaque from the Historical Society.

Next ahead are two modern replications. #345 is Second Empire, #355 is Queen Anne.

20 At #320 on your right is a nicely restored larger Eastlake. All the bric-a-brac had been destroyed by the siding people.

The house west of it was originally a barn for the horse and buggy. There are lots of these in the village...converted to garages.

21 Down at the 4th Street corner is the 1870 "Butternut" Church in Victorian Romanesque style. It is now an interesting loft type residence with a monstrous two story bare-brick walled great room and a balcony. Big parties have been no problem.

Turn right and go north on 4th, past two nice old Eastlakes at **22** #420 Walnut, built in two dissimilar stages (registered Century Structure) and **23** #410 Linden.

24 At #315 on 4th is a modern Eastlake replica, a major modification of a brick ranch house. Now turn left onto Ash.

25 At #450 Ash is a picture book specimen of the Queen Anne style. The balanced symmetry is unusual.

26 At #520 is a cube-and-cupola type Italianate, one of the Early Victorian Romantic styles.

West Ash was the closest thing there ever was to a rich men's row. Where the Bailey Court ranch houses now stand was once the town showplace...the large estate of banker Philander Anderson with its three story Octagon house...unfortunately torn down in the 1950's.

Actually, very few old Village houses have been demolished. The modern houses now spotted here and there are on lots that were gardens, stable sites or vacant. The lots were cheap (average \$100) in the 1860's and 70's. Many of the old-timers bought two or three.

Now turn left (south) on 5th. Off of this

tour, (behind Eagle Elementary School) is the site of the old Camp Meeting and Chatauqua, as well as the dammed-up pond known grandiloquently as Lake Como. It is now a deeply wooded valley of nice homes.

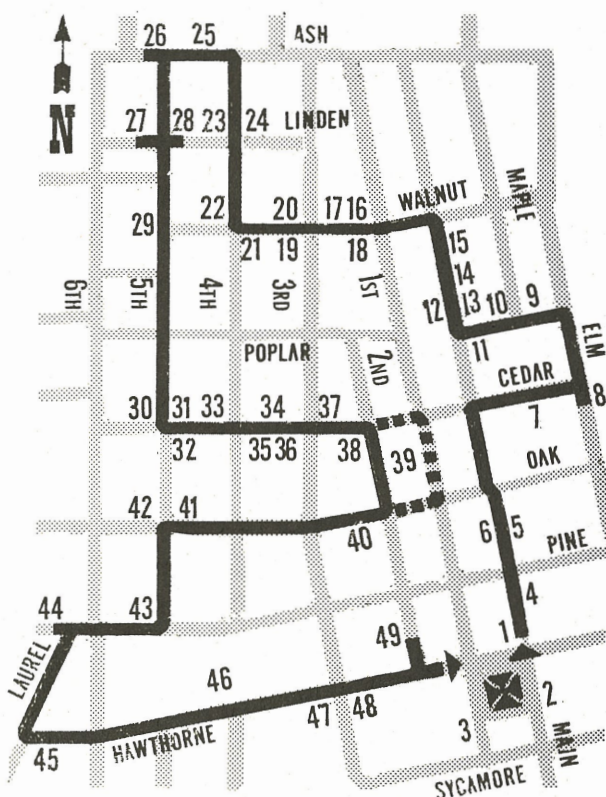
Just off 5th on Linden are two excellent examples of 1860's "generic" houses, a Vernacular design favored by local carpenter-builders of that time.

27 To the west at #550 is the 1½ story version.

28 To the east at what would be #480 is a small one story, unchanged, exactly as it was built...and no shutters.

29 On your right you will pass Walnut Hill, presently occupied by the library and gym...once the sight of the beautiful Zionsville Academy. It was an 1872 cupola'd Romanesque/Italianate.

At the corner of 5th and Cedar, **30** on the right at #520 Cedar is a good mixed Vernacular/Eastlake. **31** On the left at #480, a latter-day Italianate. (It originally had an ornate Victorian porch.) **32** at #465 Cedar, a turn-of-the-century Free Classic, a lesser-known style not on our chart.



This old Zionsville house



A walking (or driving) tour through the village area of Zionsville, Indiana and the facts about this fascinating old town. Length is 2¼ miles.