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an architect or paraprofessional and constructed of higher quality materials.

In the Astoria area, I have noticed the following styles to be prevalent. However, there is a wide variety of styles. The listed elements are guidelines, not absolute rules.

**Folk National:** mid 1800s to 1930. House styles changed as railroads made building materials easier to transport. This caused a movement away from regional styles of local materials to wood frame buildings of simple style. The common form is the gabled front house of one or two stories with a covered front porch. There is little ornamentation. An example of this style is the Customs House in Astoria.

**Italianate:** 1840 to 1885. Many of the earliest surviving grander homes in Astoria are Italianate. Usually, there are two or three stories with a low pitched roof. The eaves have decorative brackets or corbels. The windows are crowned, multi-paned, tall, narrow and perfect for long lace curtains. Decorative exterior trim elements can be quite ornate, especially in the late Italianate.

**Victorian:** 1860 to 1900. Victorian is a time era, not a house style. Queen Anne, Stick, Shingle and Folk styles are numerous. An example of Queen Anne is the Flavel House with all of its asymmetry, detailed “gingerbread” wood work, observation cupola, wrap around porch, tower, etc. Folk Victorians have simpler woodwork detailing and are usually smaller in size. These house styles are an exercise in excessive ornamentation and worthy of a separate column.

**Colonial Revival:** 1880 to 1955. The American centennial in 1876 created an interest in the colonial era, ushering in this popular style. Usually, there is an accentuated front door with a portico and round columns. Doors can have fanlights or sidelights. The façade is typically symmetrical. Windows are typically a cottage size double hung. Houses can be single or multistoried, although the single story is more rare. There are multiple subtypes, as this was the dominant building style after the Victorian Queen Anne style passed from fashion.

**Craftsman:** 1900 to 1930. This was a dominant style for smaller homes in the early 20th century. The Craftsman bungalow is one or two stories, with a low pitched roof. Eaves are wide and unenclosed. Square columns or piers support a full or partial width front porch. Woodwork is without ornamentation. Rafters are exposed. Knee braces on gables are often present. There is an emphasis on natural materials, wood, stone, river rock, earth tone colors, etc.

**American Foursquare:** 1895-late to 1930s. This is a common multistory house shape with a square floor plan, “boxy” design, hipped roof and center dormer. There are typi-



**ABOVE: A Folk Victorian home in Astoria. Despite renovations, one can see the bones of a Folk Victorian. The more simpler style is more practical and affordable than the more opulent Italianate and Queen Anne styles. INSET: The Forsstrom House's 1915 extensive remodel of a 1894 one story Victorian created a modified American Foursquare in Craftsman style.**

Zillow

cally four rooms upstairs and downstairs. The boxy shape provides a large amount of interior room space to make efficient use of a city lot. These homes can be in many styles; Prairie, craftsman, Colonial Revival and Folk.

**Mixtures.** Often, homes have a mix of styles. One of my personal favorites is near 11th and Grand Avenue. It is an American Foursquare with a Queen Anne wrap around

porch with Colonial Revival columns. It is a charming house.

This summary is not meant to be complete, but it might give you an idea for further research. I have also seen examples of Tudor Revival, Prairie, Mission and others. Keep in mind that original elements of a house might be missing. The subject of house styles is complex, but understanding your house style

is essential to making correct choices for renovations or restorations in the absence of photographic documentation.

*Lauri Serafin is the owner of the Forsstrom House in Astoria's Shively-McClure Historic District. She can be contacted at ForsstromHouse@gmail.com. You can find more details about her restoration work at theforsstromhouse.com*