

Late-Nineteenth to Early-Twentieth Century Building Styles: Victorian/Vernacular

Vernacular buildings are representative of local and regional building traditions, unlike high-style structures that import design ideas and construction methods from another place. In Rockville, vernacular buildings include a wide variety of forms, such as the Pump House, at 401 South Horners Lane (see below) and built in 1897. Builder improvisation and influence from popular styles may change the exterior appearance of a vernacular building, although the form usually remains the same.



401 S. Horners Ln. ▲

1897

VERNACULAR/INDUSTRIAL

The Pump House is an industrial structure, whose pyramidal roof was designed to vent heat generated by the engines that powered the first public water and electricity in the city.



507 W. Montgomery Ave.

1912

GABLE-FRONT (1880-1930)

The gable-front house is an outgrowth of the Greek revival style, and was seen as readily adaptable to single lot development within the subdivisions that sprang up with the railroads. There are one-story and two-story examples in Rockville.

Gable-Front, continued



808 N. Stonestreet Ave.

1928



714 Douglas Ave.

1937



904 N. Stonestreet Ave.

1945

SHOTGUN (a variant of the Gable-Front; 1880-1930)

The shotgun house form is a narrow, gable front, one-story house that is one room wide. The house at 213 Elizabeth Avenue, built circa 1938, is a good example of a shotgun house in Rockville. The house features a narrow gable front with full-width front porch, and there is a lean-to addition.



213 Elizabeth Ave.

1938



217 W. Montgomery Ave. ▲ 1886

GABLE FRONT AND WING (1880-1940)

The gable front and wing house grew in popularity with the expansion of the railroad beginning in the mid-19th century. There are several variants, but the primary form combines a front gable building that is joined to a side gable wing at a right angle. It often has a porch in the angle formed by the building and wing. The gable front and wing form appears in Greek revival and folk Victorian style houses with some adornment; however, in the folk tradition, the form appears very plain with little decoration. The Bessie Hill House, at 602 Great Falls Road and built in 1902, is a good example of the modest gable front and wing house, although the front porch has been enclosed.



26 Wall St. ▲ 1887



9 N. Adams St. ▲ 1888



16 Thomas St. ▲ 1890

Gable Front and Wing, continued



10 Thomas St. ▲ 1890



215 Harrison St. 1892



15 Wall St. ▲ 1892



720 Maple Ave. ▲ 1896



419 Reading Ave. 1896



812 Grandin Ave. 1898

Gable Front and Wing, continued



912 Veirs Mill Rd. ▲ 1898



602 Great Falls Rd. ▲ 1902



315 Baltimore Rd. ▲ 1903



104 Lynch St. ▲ 1904



107 S. Washington St. 1906



540 Beall Ave. 1907

Gable Front and Wing, continued



12 Henson Oaks Ln.

1912



628 Great Falls Rd.

1923



919 Maple St.

1923



24 Martins Ln.

c. 1890

SIDE GABLE (1880-1940)

Side gable Victorian houses may be one- or two-story structures. They have varying floor plans, and may be one or two rooms deep. They may have a full-width front porch, and some have been expanded with side or rear additions. The house at 411 Baltimore Road, built in 1903, is a good example.



205 Baltimore Rd.

1898



213 Baltimore Rd.

1898



806 Maple Ave.

1898



411 Baltimore Rd.

1903

Side Gable, continued



319 Lincoln Ave. 1905



920 Grandin Ave. 1908



324 Lincoln Ave. 1917



704 N. Stonestreet Ave. 1945



305 Lincoln Ave. ▲ 1880/1917

I-HOUSE (18th-century roots; mid-19th-20th century)

The I-house is a folk form that was common in the United States before the advent of the railroad, and that continued to be built into the 20th century. The I-house form is two stories high, two rooms wide by one room deep. The house built at 805 N. Stonestreet Avenue, built circa 1931, is an excellent example of the I-house in Rockville. The house features a center hall plan with a central chimney, is one bay deep, and is covered by a standing-seam metal roof.



600 Great Falls Rd. 1913



100 North St. 1924



104 North St. 1927



805 N. Stonestreet Ave. 1931

TWO-THIRDS I-HOUSE

Depending on lot size and the builder's preference, I-houses were commonly reduced to two-thirds or one-third of the original form. The house at 206 Martins Lane, built circa 1887, is a good example of a reduced I-house that is one room wide instead of two and features a side entry, although the chimney still remains in the center as in the full I-house.



713 Douglas Ave.

1885



206 Martins Ln.

1887