

HDCSC Architectural Review for 920 South Blvd. Rochester Hills, MI

Style: Colonial Revival

Built: This style was popular between 1900- 1940. This home was probably built on or after 1910.

Identifying Features: Accentuated front door, normally with decorative crown (pediment) supported by pilasters, or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form entry porch; doors commonly have overhead fanlights or sidelights; façade normally shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door (less commonly with door off-center); windows with double hung sashes, usually with multi-pane glazing in one or both sashes; windows frequently in adjacent pairs.

Side-Gabled Roof: About 25% of Colonial Revival houses are simple, two story rectangular blocks with side gabled roofs. This type was built throughout the Colonial Revival era but predominates after about 1910.

Revival Examples: Many of these style houses had one-story side wings, either open or enclosed, usually with flat roof.

Windows: As in the originals, most Colonial Revival windows are rectangular in shape with double-hung sashes. In the more accurate copies, each sash has six, eight, nine, or twelve panes. Equally common are multi-pane upper sashes hung above lower sashes that have only a single pane, a pattern never seen on colonial originals.

Other Details: All common wall materials were used, but masonry predominates in high style examples. Vernacular examples were generally of wood before about 1920, with masonry progressively more common as veneering techniques became widespread in the 1920's.

Occurrence: This was a dominant style for domestic buildings throughout the country during the first half of the 20th century.

Comments: The term "Colonial Revival" refers to the entire rebirth of interest in the English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic seaboard. In the years between 1880 and 1900 the Colonial revival movement also influenced two other architectural styles: Queen Anne and Shingle.

Reviewer's Opinion: This building is a very good example of the Colonial Revival style. It appears to be in very good condition. I agree with the Inspection Report performed by the RH Building Department. The so-called barn is basically a storage building and not worth saving unless the whole site is restored. The siding on this home is probably not original, but I would need to do additional research to verify this. This building should not be dismissed off hand. It is probably one of the last homes of this era and style still remaining in the city. The problem is always where to draw the line and what battles are we all willing to fight for. Is this house worth the effort? I believe it might be and we should consider working with the new owners to see if it can be appropriately incorporated into their development.

Photos: Attached are some photographs for your further information.