

Jefferson Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone

Chapter Three: Paint Colors

This is a historic picture of Jefferson Park. The body of the houses is stained or painted a dark color (most likely a dark brown or green) and the trim is a lighter color.



COLOR: Most houses in Jefferson Park are in the Arts and Crafts style. Arts and Crafts houses in Jefferson Park were often stained a dark bottle green or a dark brown. This example is in the process of being stripped revealing the original colors. The body was stained brown, and the frames around the windows and architectural details a contrasting brown. The sashes were a lighter color. Typical is the three color paint scheme: A color for the body, another for the trim, and a third contrasting color for the sashes. Arts and Crafts houses should be painted in natural earth colors: historic greens and browns. In addition to greens and browns, ochre and cream can be used for trim, and a rust color can also be used for sashes. White is NOT an appropriate color for trim or sashes. When a lighter color is desired for the trim, cream or ochre is a more historic choice. The paint should be flat (matte).



This house is also in the process of being stripped, revealing the other popular stain color for Jefferson Park: dark bottle green. The ceiling of porches was typically finished wood (not painted). The dark green houses could have brown or as in this case cream trim and again a third contrasting color for the window sashes such as ochre or rust. Doors and door frames were typically finished wood (not painted).



This house is in the process of being stripped to reveal its original color scheme. The body was stained dark bottle green, the trim was a cream color and the sashes were painted black. The door and its frame were finished wood. The porch ceiling was typically finished (not painted).



This is another house stained in the fashionable dark brown color. The owner is stripping the paint off the house, revealing the original stain and color scheme. The body is a dark brown, the trim is almost black and the sashes a contrasting brown.



When choosing an appropriate paint color for the house, the best approach is to scratch through the top layers of paint and try to duplicate the original brown or green color. This house shows the original dark brown stain under the paint.



Arts and Crafts houses in appropriate paint color schemes. These two houses were stripped and restored (stained) to match the original colors scheme.



Houses painted in the dark brown color scheme.



More houses in the dark bottle green.



More houses in the browns.



More houses in appropriate colors.



Still more appropriate colors.



There are also examples of American Colonial Revival in Jefferson Park. They should be painted in light colors: white, cream, pale yellow with black or dark bottle green for the window sashes. Again, three colors for the body, trim and sashes.



RESTORATION (NOTE: a change in the house paint color scheme requires HPOZ approval)

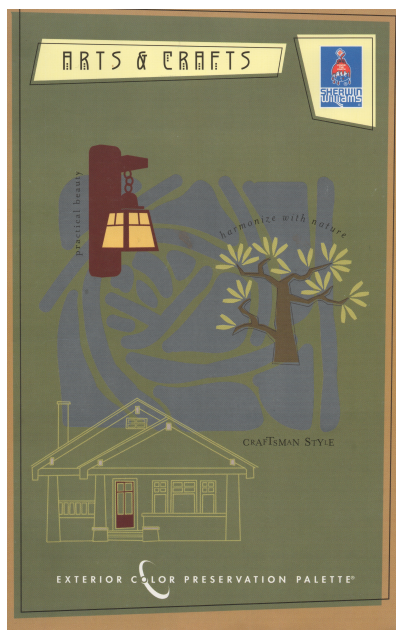
For color ideas, it can be helpful to scratch through the paint and find the original brown or green of your house. Typically there were three colors: body, trim, and sashes.

When choosing paint colors it is best to use the historic color palettes provided by the paint companies.

To the right is a booklet put out by Sherwin Williams, an old paint company that was producing paint during the Arts and Crafts period.

Here is a link to more Sherwin Williams historic colors (click on 'Select Color Collection' and 'Historic Colors'):

<https://www.sherwin-williams.com/homeowners/color/find-and-explore-colors/paint-colors-by-family#/active/color-wall/section/historic-colors/>



Another old paint company, Benjamin Moore, also has an extensive historic color palette:
<https://www.benjaminmoore.com/en-us/color-overview/find-your-color/color-collections/HC/historical-colors>

As do other major paint companies:
<https://www.oldhouseonline.com/repairs-and-how-to/guide-to-period-appropriate-paints>

More color ideas and information:
<https://modernbungalow.com/blogs/news/the-ultimate-guide-to-craftsman-color-palettes>