

Second Empire



Second Empire style was popular in the United States from the 1860s to the 1880s. The style was never extensively used in Southern California, but some surviving structures date from the 1880s.

Second Empire style was developed in France during the reign of Napoleon III, France's Second Empire, from which the style takes its name. It was considered a very modern style at the time, in contrast to the "Picturesque" Italianate and Gothic Revival styles. The boxy roofline created by the Mansard roof was considered functional because it added another floor of useable space.

Second Empire structures are most dramatically characterized by Mansard roofs and dormer windows with an emphasis on elongation. Structures are typically one- to two- stories, have flat, Mansard roofs with domes, towers, and dormer windows, elongated windows on the lower levels, and are rich in three dimensional, sculptural detailing.

Second Empire features can also be found mixed with Gothic Revival, Italianate and Federal styles.

Second Empire - Common character defining features

Windows (pg. 61) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One-over-one or two-over-two ▪ Rectangular tops ▪ Arched or curved tops ▪ Arranged in pairs ▪ Sculptural surrounds ▪ Symmetrical 	Porches (pg. 69) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thick, turned spindles ▪ Small or large in size ▪ Square, beveled posts 	Doorways (pg. 66) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paired or single ▪ Large pane glazing ▪ Arched or rectangular
Roofs (pg. 73) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mansard ▪ Dormer windows ▪ Domes ▪ Towers ▪ Eave brackets 	Building Materials (pg. 79) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brick ▪ Clapboard ▪ Quoins ▪ Shingle 	

Notes on styles section:

- This text may be customized to include information related to this architectural style that is unique to your HPOZ. Although you may use an alternate approach, you may wish to review the recommended five paragraph approach towards writing this section as outlined below:*
- *The first paragraph contains an overview of the period of development of the style. You might want to include information about the dates such styles were popular regionally and more specifically within your HPOZ.*
 - *The second paragraph contains background information about the style's development. It may include a description of the origin of the style and its relationship to other contemporary movements.*
 - *The third paragraph includes information on the identifying hallmarks of the style. This is where you describe the main components of this style that differentiate it from others.*
 - *You may wish to add a fourth paragraph to detail more specific examples of this style within your HPOZ, including a discussion of any prominent local architects who worked in this style. Other related information regarding your local HPOZ could be added. This paragraph will most likely be unique to your HPOZ only.*
 - *The last paragraph discusses the styles with which this style is commonly found mixed. It is important to illustrate how styles are not necessarily exclusive of each other, and that elements of many different different styles may be found a single structure.*

Additional graphics:



Suggested graphics are included to help illustrate the text. They may be replaced or augmented by the graphics to the right, or you may wish to substitute local photos or other graphics illustrating buildings or styles within your HPOZ.

The chart to the left contains information to help identify buildings of this style in the community. There may be additional unique locally occurring features that characterize this style in your neighborhood which you may wish to add.