

Commercial—1883 through 1900



The Commercial style was created to address the vernacular brick commercial buildings built in Ontario from 1885 until the early 1900s, as shown to the left. The buildings were made of brick and were influenced by a variety of styles, including Queen Anne and shingle styles. This style, while needed to address local vernacular architecture, is not an approved architectural style by the California Office of Historic Preservation and cannot be used in Historical Resource Surveys.

Many of these buildings were altered in the 1950s to give them a more modern appearance, but most of the features are hidden under the alterations.

Common Features

- Brick walls
- Flat roof with decorative cornice
- Towers and other vertical projections at corners
- Recessed and projecting elements
- decorative pilasters

Windows

Windows were typically individual casement or single-hung wood frame windows.

Doors and Storefronts

Storefronts were typically large plate glass windows with a short bulkhead located on the ground. Above the storefront windows were small transom windows (operable or non-operable). Doors were glass with painted frames and occasionally decorative solid doors were used.



Colors

The base color of the building was the exposed brick. It was not painted. Accent colors for window and doorframes were typically darker, richer colors.