

Second Empire—1870s

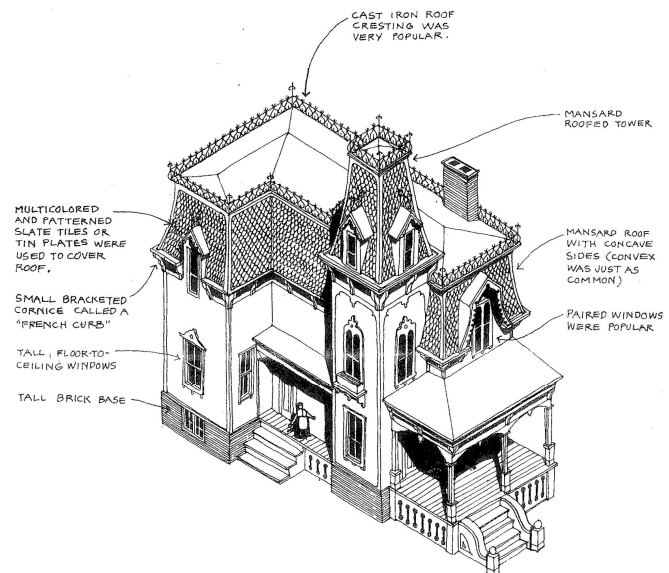
The Second Empire style takes its name from the French Second Empire, during the Reign of Napoleon III, taking design queues from the grand buildings being constructed in Paris at the time. The style became the most popular in America during the period, with many private homes and public buildings created in the style.



The Second Empire style began to die out before the Chaffey brothers founded Ontario. The style is, therefore, very rare in the City. One of the few and best example of the style within the City is the William Fallis House, Ontario’s first Historic Landmark.

Common Features

- Mansard roof
- “Widow watch” towers
- Slate or wood shingle roofs
- Dormers in mansard roof
- Wood siding or smooth plaster finish stucco for exterior walls
- Symmetrical design
- Centered front porches
- Tall brick foundations and bases
- Turned porch columns
- Horizontal banding separating floors
- Tall windows
- Cast iron roof cresting



Windows

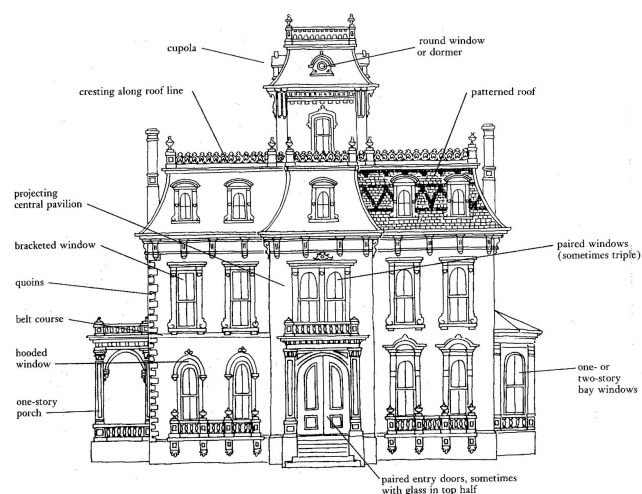
Windows were typically individual double or single-hung wood frame windows. They were often arranged in groups of two or three.

Doors

Doors were typically ornate, and could include stained or beveled glass panels. Glass sidelights, with either stained or beveled glass to match the door were also used on larger homes, as was the use of double front doors.

Colors

Homes were typically painted in color



Typical Second Empire Architectural Features

schemes consisting of 4 to 7 colors, depending upon the detail of the house. Palettes were very eclectic, ranging from bright colors to muted tones. Every detail was painted in different colors to accentuate them.