

and 1870s. Although the exterior stickwork only hinted at the structure beneath, the decoration implied an “honesty” in building. • Usually a gabled-roof dwelling or townhouse built with balloon framing, the Stick style is identified primarily by various patterns of wood siding and shingles, and horizontal, vertical, and diagonal stickwork ornamentation on its exterior walls, ornamentation intended to hint at the structural skeleton of the building itself. Additional features common in gabled examples include towers, intersecting gabled roofs, long covered porches and eave braces.

Queen Anne • 1880 – 1900s • Interestingly, the Queen Anne style recalls not the architecture from the time of Queen Anne but of the preceding late medieval Elizabethan and Jacobean Periods. Although based on late Medieval English building traditions, the Queen Anne, specifically its spindlework and free classic subtypes, seems to have been an American phenomenon. The popularity of the style was boosted by mass production of pre-cut architectural decorative elements and improved shipping capabilities due to the spread of the railroad during the late nineteenth century. • The style stresses embellishment, the use of as many decorative elements as possible to create complexity and eliminate monotony, providing the eye with variety in shape, texture, and intricacy. Queen Anne buildings often feature steeply-pitched roofs of irregular shape, spacious porches, balconies, bay windows, towers, turrets, and overhangs. The four variants of Queen Anne dwellings gain their names from decorative details including spindlework and shaped shingles, classical elements, half-timbering, and masonry patterns. The spindlework variant is also known as Eastlake, after Charles Eastlake, an English furniture designer who utilized similar designs in his work.

Colonial Revival • 1880 – 1950s • The Philadelphia Centennial in 1876 created an awakening in interest in colonial American architectural heritage. The Colonial Revival style was a rebirth of the early English and Dutch houses of the

Atlantic seaboard. The style emerged in the late nineteenth century as a strain of influence on Queen Anne and Shingle-style houses, flourishing in the early twentieth century in new suburban developments and a wide variety of public buildings. • Colonial Revival houses both mimicked and reinvented the house forms of the colonial period. However, they also utilized features that were rarely or never seen on colonial precedents, including broken pediments; sidelights with no fanlight or transom above the front door; porticos with curved undersides; paired, triple, or bay windows; continuous dormers; and combinations of single-pane and multi-pane sashes.

Tudor Revival • 1890 – 1940 • Although Tudor Revival architecture is named for the English architecture of the sixteenth century, most examples are more loosely based upon late medieval English structures. The style often exhibits half-timbering, an element found on many earlier Stick and Queen Anne buildings which also drew their influence from medieval English building traditions. • This style was popular for a wide range of forms, from mansions to modest suburban homes. The key features to Tudor Revival architecture are half-timbering and very steeply pitched roofs. Exterior cladding typically varies between brick, stone, and stucco. Details often include multi-pane double-hung windows, casement windows with diamond-shaped mullions, and arched doorways.

Craftsman • 1905 – 1930 • “Craftsman” refers to the Arts and Crafts ideals of skilled hand carpentry and the use of natural materials. The style originated in California inspired by the work of two Californian architects, and quickly spread throughout the county through pattern books and magazines. • Most often associated with modest cottages and bungalows, Craftsman elements are also seen in two-story hipped dwellings. Craftsman features include shed or wide gable dormers, broad cutaway porches (often supported by squat or tapered square posts on pedestals), exposed rafters in the eaves, false beams in the gable ends, and three-over-one windows.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

HARB HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD North Wales Borough, Pennsylvania

PRESERVING HISTORIC NORTH WALES BOROUGH

North Wales Borough has its origins in a small farming community along the Sumneytown and Spring House Turnpike in an area settled by Welsh colonists in the middle of the 1700s. North Wales is a name derived from an English translation of the Welsh “Gwineth” or “Gwynedd,” the name given to the township in which the community was located. Until the introduction of the North Pennsylvania Railroad in 1857 the community consisted of only a few farms and a church. The railroad linked the village to the markets of Philadelphia and beyond, inviting industrial, commercial, and residential expansion. As a result of this growth, the village was incorporated as a borough on August 20, 1869. In the decades following incorporation, the built environment of North Wales grew to include numerous industrial and commercial buildings as well as a train station, a post office, a fire department, an academy, a newspaper, multiple churches, and residences to house both its wealthier middle-class residents and its working-class population. Although the dominance of the railroad decreased during the twentieth century the borough still supports a mixture of industry, commerce, and residential properties. The wide variety of buildings in the borough conveys its historical development as a thriving community. The architectural heritage of North Wales Borough is a testament to that development, reflected in a spectrum of structure types and styles.



Main Street, North Wales. Circa 1900.



Main Street, North Wales. Circa 1949.

Since 1996, North Wales Borough has been committed to preserving its architectural and historical heritage to reap the rewards of maintaining the unique character of its built environment, rewards ranging from increased community pride to economic benefits. Through the efforts of the North Wales Commission on History, Parks and Culture a North Wales Historic District was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. In 1999 the North Wales Borough Council established the North Wales Borough Historic Preservation District through enactment of an ordinance pursuant to state legislation, the Historic District Act of 1961. The ordinance includes provisions to help property owners make informed decisions when planning building projects so that the community’s heritage is retained for current and future generations to enjoy.



WHAT IS THE HARB?

Established concurrently with the North Wales Borough Historic Preservation District in 1999, the five-member Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) is comprised of professionals and District property owners interested in guiding the community towards project choices that will maintain the historical and architectural heritage of North Wales Borough. The HARB considers the effects of proposed exterior changes to street-facing façades of buildings located within the Historic Preservation District using design guidelines set forth in the 1999 ordinance and the Borough’s set of Design Guideline bulletins. The HARB is a public advisory body that makes recommendations to the North Wales Borough Council regarding the appropriateness of building projects in relation to preserving the historic architectural character of the Borough.

The HARB reviews:

- permanent changes such as window replacement, siding or roofing installation, and various alteration and construction projects.
- street-facing façades only. Two (2) façades are reviewed on corner properties.

The HARB does not review:

- non-permanent changes such as painting and installation of window air conditioners.
- interior spaces.



Main Street, North Wales. 2005.

North Wales HARB meetings:
7:00pm on the 2nd Monday of every month

North Wales Borough Council meetings:
7:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month

North Wales Borough Municipal Building,
300 School Street, North Wales
215-699-4424

THE HARB PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

You must obtain all the necessary permits before beginning any construction work. Buildings located within the North Wales Borough Historic Preservation District usually also need a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA), issued by North Wales Borough Council under recommendation of the HARB. The HARB process is initiated with the submission of a building permit application.

- You should submit one (1) completed application for a building permit or Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to North Wales Borough.
- An application regarding a contributing building to the North Wales Borough Historic Preservation District (to be determined by the HARB upon evaluation) will be reviewed by the HARB at the next regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting. It is recommended that you submit your application at least 2 weeks prior to a regularly scheduled HARB meeting. At least 10 days prior to that meeting, the meeting’s date and time will be confirmed and you will be invited to attend. You are strongly advised to take this opportunity to explain your project plans and be available for clarification.
- The HARB will review the application using the guiding principles of architecture and history, considering established design guidelines.
- Within 30 working days of the meeting (frequently at the meeting) the HARB will make a decision and provide the North Wales Borough Council with a recommendation. If the HARB disapproves your application you will be notified and given 5 days to decide whether or not you would like to make HARB suggested changes to your plans. The HARB will then submit to Borough Council their final recommendation regarding issuance of a COA.
- Upon receipt of the HARB’s written recommendation, Borough Council will review your application at the next regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting. You will be informed of the meeting’s date and time and invited to attend.
- Borough Council will consider the HARB’s recommendation and review your application using the same guidelines as the HARB.
- Within 15 days of the meeting you will be notified of Borough Council’s decision. Upon approval by Borough Council a COA is issued authorizing a building permit to be issued providing all other Borough code requirements are met. In the event Borough Council disapproves your application, recommendations will be made indicating appropriate changes to your plans.
- You may appeal Borough Council’s disapproval of your application.

TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The HARB is here to help you preserve the architectural character of your property and your community. You can do your part in making the HARB process educational, successful, and agreeable by becoming familiar with the application process and design guidelines early in your project planning. Potential applicants (and their contractors) are encouraged to attend a HARB meeting to informally review project ideas and plans prior to formal application.

When submitting an application, provide to the HARB as much information as possible. The HARB will best be able to make informed recommendations if they are aware of the architectural history of your building and fully understand your project plans. A minimum submission of dated current photographs is requested, however it is understandable if additional information is unavailable. The HARB recommends the following supplemental application materials:

- Date of construction and available historic background of the building, if known
- Project plans and drawings, including detailed design and material information
- Photographs: historic, current, and potential (i.e. a computer generated image showing proposed changes)
- Supplier catalog information
- Sample materials
- Cost estimates if financial feasibility is an issue (minimum of 3)

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES FOUND IN NORTH WALES

The style of a building can be determined by its form, shape, and structural design. It can also be determined by architectural details and embellishments. Some buildings are “high-style” examples while others are “vernacular” examples that employ stylistic elements combined with simple or modest building forms. By observing the mix of architectural styles found in North Wales Borough you can see the historical evolution of the community, the history that makes North Wales special.

Does your building exhibit any of the characteristics and details described below? The accompanying Design Guidelines are intended to help you make choices that will preserve those architectural elements that indicate your building’s architectural style, ultimately preserving your building’s contribution to North Wales Borough’s architectural and historical heritage.

Gothic Revival • 1840s – 1860s • This style is based on medieval building traditions and popularized in pattern books. Blurring distinctions between the sacred and the secular, Gothic Revival residences of the mid-nineteenth century embodied romanticism and



North Wales Baptist Church. Postcard
Circa 1910.

love for the picturesque. Gothic Revival churches, on the other hand, often reflected renewed spiritual values encouraged by religious reformers. Gothic Revival buildings are usually irregular in plan and profile. • Characteristic features include multiple steep gables, clustered chimneys, towers, crenellations, vertical siding, scrolled vergeboards under the eaves, ornate porches, and pointed lancet windows, sometimes with wood tracery. Older houses were often updated with Gothic detailing.

Italianate • 1840s – 1880s • The style carried an association to Renaissance Italian villas, but was inspired by the English picturesque movement. Popularized in pattern books, they are impressive two- to three-story dwellings that were intended to express culture and status. • The most common form of Italianate house is roughly square with a hipped roof, although

other examples include L-shaped plans with a square corner tower, townhouse models, and centered-gable or gable-front varieties. Characteristic details include wide overhanging eaves with decorative cornice brackets, narrow segmental (curved-top) and fully arched windows with elaborate crowns, one-story porches supported on square posts with beveled corners (chamfered), and a tower or cupola.

Second Empire • 1860s – 1880s • Taking its name from the reign of Napoleon III, the French Second Empire style began with new additions to the Paris Louvre constructed in the 1860s, which in turn recalled the France of Louis XIV’s reign. This monumental style was particularly favored for, though not restricted to, public buildings in the United States. • Characterized primarily by dual-pitched mansard roofs with dormer windows, Second Empire houses stand two to three stories tall and occur in a variety of forms, employing many of the same decorative details as Italianate dwellings, such as towers, brackets, and elaborate window crowns.



Stick • 1860s – 1890 • Stick developed as an adaptation of medieval English building traditions, particularly Elizabethan half-timbered houses. Like many Victorian housing styles, Stick was promoted through house pattern books in the 1860s