

HOUSTON HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICTS DESIGN GUIDELINES



City of Houston, Texas
Council Adopted: July 2018

PLEASE NOTE:

The City of Houston now uses a standard reference, *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia McAlester, to classify buildings by architectural style. Inventories for the Houston Heights Historic Districts may include different style names that were used when the districts were designated.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES IN THE DISTRICTS

The Houston Heights Historic Districts contain both one- and two-story houses in a variety of styles, as well as some commercial and institutional buildings. Houses in these districts were mostly built with wood siding, on pier-and-beam foundations, and featured a prominent front porch. The architectural styles found in the districts reflect the changing tastes and trends around the turn of the 20th century, as the exuberant Queen Anne style gave way to the more subdued Craftsman bungalow.

The most common architectural styles in the Houston Heights Historic Districts are Craftsman, Queen Anne, Folk National, and Folk Victorian.

Craftsman

One-story Craftsman bungalows were very popular in Houston between 1905–1925. Characteristic Craftsman details include prominent front porches, low-pitched roofs, wide bracketed eaves, and groups (or “ribbons”) of windows. Roofs may be gabled or hipped, or a combination of the two.



Craftsman bungalows in the Heights



A Craftsman bungalow in the Heights

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS: 1-STORY CRAFTSMAN HOUSE/BUNGALOW



KEY:

A	Gabled Roof (can also be hipped)
B	Chimney
C	Decorative Roof Beam/ Triangular Brackets
D	Attic Vent or Window
E	Exposed Rafter Tail
F	Double-Hung Windows (often paired or multiple in the same frame)
G	Columns/Posts (sometimes tapered)
H	Squared Piers
I	Porch Railing
J	Foundation Piers
K	Foundation Screening

Typical Mass/Form/Scale:
one-story, front-gabled, two rooms
wide by three rooms deep

