



Anacortes Historic Preservation Board



Modern Style Houses

There are a number of Modern style houses in Anacortes. These were built primarily in the 1940s, 50s, and early 60s. Nationally this trend continued into the



1970s, but most of the Modern houses in the Old Town and Cap Sante neighborhoods were constructed before then. These were new innovative styles that had no precedent in American residential architecture. Particularly after World War II, Americans embraced this modern architectural ethic. There are five distinct styles associated with the Modern Movement: Minimal Traditional, Ranch, Split-Level, Contemporary, and Shed. Of these, the Minimal Traditional and the Ranch Style are the most common.

Modern style houses share a number of features. Generally they have low-pitched gabled or hipped roofs, minimal front porches, and few decorative features. And where most of the earlier house styles were oriented with the long axis of the house extending from front to rear, Modern houses tend to have the long axis extending from side to side. This was due, in part, to the development of new suburban communities that had larger residential lots.

Primary Styles

Minimal Traditional – this subtype was prevalent prior to World War II, and is fairly common in Anacortes. It was based loosely on the Tudor Revival style of the late 1920s, but with less ornament and simpler detailing. Consequently it often has a prominent front gable, and moderately



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pitched roof reminiscent of Tudor Revival houses. There is often no eave, and the massing tends to be compact. Examples of the style can be found at 1819 7th, 1202 9th and 2207 10th.

Ranch – This style was popular in Anacortes following World War II. It is characterized by a wide sprawling form, and was initially based loosely on the Spanish Revival style of the American Southwest, with some influences from Prairie and Craftsman styles. Ranch



Houses generally have wide overhanging eaves and an asymmetrical façade. As noted earlier these houses are much wider than they are deep. And this is the first style where garages or carports were included in the floor plan, often as a significant feature on the façade. Examples of the style can be found at 1618 10th, 2207 10th, and 2017 11th Street.

Contemporary – The Contemporary Style, while fairly uncommon in Anacortes, is more prevalent in the Pacific Northwest than in other parts of the country. These were often architect-designed houses constructed using local materials such as engineered lumber and stone. Roofs are often flat or nearly so, and there are often large expanses of solid glass, creating an open, airy effect. An example can be found at 2005 10th.



Split-Level - The Split-Level Style is characterized by a garage at one side of the house underneath an upper floor. This example is at 4309 Glasgow Way. Next door is another.



Shed - The Shed Style is characterized by minimal windows and steeply sloped asymmetrical roof forms like this example on 38th Street.



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Other Characteristics:



Minimal Traditional Style

Narrow eaves

Minimal ornamentation

Prominent Front Gable



Shallow roof pitch

Wide overhanging eaves

Large panes of glass

Wide facade

Ranch Style