

# Monroe County Historical Preservation Commission

Establishing guidelines for  
appropriate color palettes

# A Brief History of Paint

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- Egyptians made the first vivid earth-based pigments (white, red, black, blue, yellow, and green) by mixing oil or fat with lead, earth, animal blood, ground glass, and semiprecious stones.
- In 1718 Marshall Smith invented a machine to grind pigment and manufacture paint. In 1866 the first ready-to-use paint company was formed: Sherwin-Williams.

# Why It's Important

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- We understand color is a deeply emotional and personal choice. However, encouraging a cohesive palette enhances the character of our existing structures, preserves our “living history”, and encourages downtown revitalization
- Scarcity and certainty create value. Historic district regulations are quality assurance standards, ensuring property will be maintained and well-kept in the future.
- The Monroeville historic district was established in 2009. Property owners cannot be forced to repaint or alter their existing buildings. However, any changes or renovations, including paint color or response to Acts of God, such as storm damage, must now conform to city regulations and historic district guidelines.

# What is the HPC's Role?

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- The HPC does not provide a limited selection of colors that those seeking a COA must choose.
- We provide examples of historically accurate colors and district guidelines to assist business owners in selecting appropriate colors.
- Any color may be submitted for approval, and individuals should note that selection of a historic color is not a guarantee of approval by the HPC. Building style, location, and neighboring structures must also be considered.

# American Historical Color Charts

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- Valspar has 258 colors identified as appropriate by the National Trust for Historic Preservation: <http://www.valsparpaint.com/en/explore-colors/painter/color-selector.html>
- Sherwin Williams has the palette: <http://www.sherwin-williams.com/homeowners/color/find-and-explore-colors/paint-colors-by-collection/exterior-color-schemes/americas-heritage/>
- Benjamin Moore has 174 historical colors: [http://www.benjaminmoore.com/en-us/for-architects-and-designers/color-gallery#&ce\\_vm=2&ce\\_col=HC](http://www.benjaminmoore.com/en-us/for-architects-and-designers/color-gallery#&ce_vm=2&ce_col=HC)
- Old Village Paints has many: <http://old-village.com/colour/>

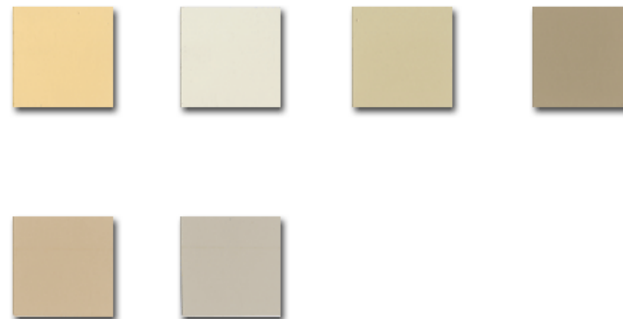
# 1880-1930s paint colors



## Colonial Revival historic color palette



## Greek Revival historic color palette



# Exterior colors, 1820-1920

Sherwin-Williams proudly presents Heritage Colors™—40 historic Nineteenth Century hues that capture the grace and elegance of another era.

Heritage Colors have been authenticated by Dr. Roger Moss, and documented in his book, *Century of Color: Exterior Decoration for American Buildings, 1820-1920*.

Restore classic beauty to your Traditional or Victorian styled home with a selection from this distinguished collection — the best of America's past.

Heritage Colors are available in  
 • SUPERPAINT™ Exterior Latex House & Trim Paint...The best paint ever made by Sherwin-Williams  
 • SWP® Gloss House & Trim Paint (Oil Base)



HERITAGE COLORS™ 1820-1920



# Appropriate Color Choices

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- When in doubt, do without.
- Black, white, gray & earth colors wear well over time & may require less maintenance.
- Choose an exterior color that distinguishes your storefront, complements adjacent and nearby structures, and reflects your building's structure, materials, and origin.

# Limestone wash



# Architectural Home Periods

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- Neoclassical 1780-1860 (Greek revival, order and symmetry)
- Victorian 1840-1900 (Folk Victorian spindles, Gothic windows, cupolas)
- Bungalow 1905-1930 (comfortable informality)
- Colonial Revival 1876-1930 (Federal, colonial, Greek revival)
- American Foursquare 1890-1930 (Sears style w/dormers and other details)

# Downtown Historic District

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- Old Courthouse Museum c1903
- Claiborne Street: Studio 205 c1925; Steeles and SweetTooth c1928,; Courthouse Café c1945, Darby's c1955
- Pineville Road: Gallery Agency c1925; Corey McDonald c1935, Ambience Spa c1925 (Office Park c1985, Womble Office c1970)
- Mount Pleasant: Bank c1909; Colquett Ins. c1928; Owens c1925
- Alabama Avenue: Post Office c1937, Swish/Dickie Williams c1925
- The majority of our contributing buildings are from the 1920s and were made of red brick.

# One Final Note : Preserving the Past, Envisioning the Future

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- The city of Monroeville and the Historic Preservation Commission do not seek to assimilate all structures in the downtown district to a former architectural ideal. Nor should all buildings be painted brick-red.
- We do request that contributing architectural components, such as brick walls and original transoms, be preserved and maintained. (Many tax breaks may be available for such preservation, which typically increases property values.)
- Architectural improvements that integrate seamlessly with historic structures are a sign of a growing, thriving downtown. Walk downtown Birmingham, Montgomery, Mobile, Auburn, or Athens, and notice how our cities have grown and changed over time.
- We want to preserve our unique history while welcoming new businesses, facades, and colors that enhance our current value. Don't assume, ask! We are here to address your questions and concerns for the benefit of all.