

Arriving at an Architectural Theme

The Hillcrest at Shepherdstown is not intended to be a quest for achieving architectural purity, just as its parent, Shepherdstown was not. The development's design will, never the less, endeavor to achieve a 21ST Century architectural ambience that is clearly related to, and includes elements of, the architectural essence of Shepherdstown.

The previous chapter indicates that Shepherdstown probably came about as an unplanned grouping of residences catering to middle income families of its day. Heights of Shepherdstown, however, intends to target, in a deliberate manner, the upper 25% of the downsizing, mostly empty nester market who are interested in a convenient, low maintenance lifestyle. To this end a sense of traditional elegance will form the basis for architectural design within Hillcrest at Shepherdstown. Elegance in architecture connotes refinement, restraint, and graceful proportion. Elegant design conveys a sense of tasteful opulence while avoiding pretentiousness.

House designs in The Hillcrest at Shepherdstown would primarily take into consideration the historical styles which have been identified as the architectural tradition of Shepherdstown rather than arbitrary combinations and exaggerations of styles.

A walking tour and photographic review of the more notable homes in Shepherdstown revealed a reasonable level of consistency in architectural style. In order to describe and define these styles [A Field Guide to American Houses](#) by Virginia and Lee McAlester (Knopf), as well as various online resources were used as reference (see Exhibits). For the most part the homes that were studied appear to encompass a combination of styles that include, but are not necessarily limited, to the following:

COLONIAL: Georgian, Adam
New England
ECLECTIC: Colonial Revival

It is not by any means the intent of the developer to produce a replication of specific historical examples devoid of individual expression and interpretation.

Hillcrest at Shepherdstown, while predominantly intending to remain true to the spirit of historical styles prevalent in Shepherdstown regarding scale, proportions, materials, colors and detailing, will strive to also introduce modern interpretations of those features that are suited to the elegant, yet low maintenance, preferences of its intended residents.