

FEDERAL REVIVAL

The Colonial Revival movement included an appreciation for the ideas and ideals associated with the early years of the American republic, for in the minds of its proponents there was little significance in the difference between the Colonial and Federal period. Architects of the Federal Revival style looked to the



Figure 29: Photograph of 3932 Prospect Street.

American examples of the Federal period for their inspiration. It was this blending that was responsible for the imaginative Colonial Revival style itself, yet some architects must have felt the need to associate their designs with the specific post-Colonial Period when the new country began to assert its own aesthetic. Critically, the austerity of appearance identified with the Federal period in the United States is in contrast to the effusive decorative treatment associated with English Georgian.

To some extent in the metropolitan area, this goal for purer American motifs manifested itself in the use of the flat facade. As the century drew to a close, and things Victorian began to seem old-fashioned, the projecting bay fell out of favor. The composition of Federal Revival structures is horizontal with a controlled order and symmetry completely distinct from the

verticality and vitality of Victorian designs. The facade is often focused on a large, central entry or doorway.

The Federal Revival style in Kensington is characterized by symmetric and ordered design compositions, with flat elevations interrupted by simply detailed entry projections or doorways. The Federal Revival structures located at 3932 and 3928 Prospect Street appear austere in comparison with their Queen Anne neighbors. Two stories high and three bays wide, these houses seem to boast of their flat facade accented by flat wood lintels. The pedimented entry porch is the singular element to break the plane of the smooth composition.



Figure 30: Photograph of 3928 Prospect Street.