



### Painting

Painting can be one of the simplest and most dramatic improvements one can make to a façade. It gives it a well-maintained appearance and is essential to the long life of traditional materials

Colors should visually relate building elements to each other, and also individual facades to each other. The colors chosen for any façade should relate to the neighboring façade, and to the blockscape as a whole.

- from The City of Monroe's Downtown Façade Study

### Choosing Colors

First, determine how many body colors your home will have. Second, pick one family of colors to start with, e.g., yellows, greens, browns, etc. Third, decide on a "look" for your house, i.e., bold, dramatic, elegant, traditional, cool, urbane, folksy, historically correct and so on. Fourth, start narrowing down the alternatives. Fifth, decide from the beginning who is going to play a major role in the color-decision process. Sixth, once you have come to a decision, stick with it.

When choosing trim and accent colors...try for some contrast. Using dark colors for the body and the trim diminishes the overall effect of both. Using a stark white, however, might be too much contrast. Look at homes similar to yours in the area and see what they've done. Make a list of your favorites...But don't try to adapt the color schemes of one architectural style to another architectural style as the scale of buildings is often different and, as such, the areas for color differ as well.

Some people allow the process of choosing colors to become too complex. This can be a fun time and a rewarding experience. So most of all relax and enjoy!

- Robert Schweitzer, historic paint expert, columnist, and author of Bungalow Colors (Gibbs Smith, Publisher) [www.historichousecolors.com](http://www.historichousecolors.com)

City of Monroe  
Historic Preservation Office  
(734) 243-0700  
<http://www.monroemi.gov>

# Monroe's Historic Palette



Colors provided by The Sherwin-Williams Company.  
Samples approximate as closely as possible the actual paint colors.  
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Due to individual computer monitor and printer limitations, colors seen here may not accurately reflect Sherwin-Williams paint colors. To confirm your color choices, visit your neighborhood Sherwin-Williams store and refer to our in-store color cards.

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Cover photo courtesy of Jeffrey Green © 2009



Colors selected from the  
Monroe Downtown Façade Study.

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Jersey Cream  
SW 6379



Oak Barrel  
SW 7714



Yearling  
SW 7725



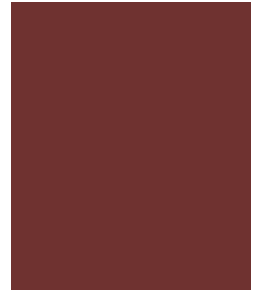
Smokey Topaz  
SW 6117



Reynard  
SW 6348



Spicy Hue  
SW 6342



Crabby Apple  
SW 7592



Colors provided by  
The Sherwin-Williams Company



Sunbeam Yellow  
SW 0078



Ligonier Tan  
SW 7717



Antiquarian Brown  
SW 0045



Jute Brown  
SW 6096



Rookwood Terra Cotta  
SW 2803



Fired Brick  
SW 6335



Rookwood Dark Brown  
SW 2808



Sand Beach  
SW 7529



Sandbar  
SW 7547



Zeus  
SW 7744



Peristyle Brass  
SW 0043



Mossy Gold  
SW 6139



Status Bronze  
SW 7034



Black Fox  
SW 7020



Sanderling  
SW 7513



Riverway  
SW 6222



Gale Force  
SW 7605



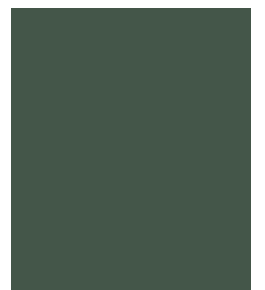
Relentless Olive  
SW 6425



Secret Garden  
SW 6181



Billiard Green  
SW 0016



Rock Garden  
SW 6195