



J.M. Qualy House, 548 East Seminary Street - 1937.

Constructed mainly of concrete, this International styled house is characterized by plain white elevations, casement window groups including a window that wraps around the corner on the lower story, metal doors and window frames, and curved metal cantilevered balconies on the upper story. Brick veneer on the façade between the lower story windows and projecting bays on the southwest corner and on the east elevation further accent this flat roofed house.

Built in 1937 for J.M. Qualy, a local insurance agent, this International styled house is directly based on the design created by architect Erick Kaeyer for Yonkers Better Housing Committee and published in the *“Architectural Forum.”* Qualy came to Richland Center from Minneapolis in 1917 to manage the men’s department of Coffland Brothers Mercantile Company and in 1921 became an agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. He was also director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank from 1934. He served on the Board of Education, the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club.

The only example of this style in Richland Center, the Qualy House exhibits the flat roof top, the smooth and uniform wall surface, large expanse of windows and projecting – cantilevered balconies that are characteristic of the International style popular generally from 1920 – 1945.

The term "International Style" describes a type of design that developed mainly in Germany, Holland and France, during the 1920s, before spreading to America in the 1930s, where it became the dominant tendency in American architecture during the middle decades of the 20th century. Although it never became fashionable for single-family residential buildings in the United States, the International Style

was especially suited to skyscraper architecture, where its sleek "modern" look, absence of decoration and use of steel and glass was ideal. It became a standard for institutional and commercial buildings, and often superseded the traditional historical styles for schools and churches.



Cape Cod Style, 514 East Seminary Street.

This Cape Cod style home is adjacent to the J.M. Qualy House. In contrast to the rather rare International Style home next door, the Cape Cod is found in almost any neighborhood in Richland Center. This home is a well-maintained example of the one and one half story Cape Cod and exhibits most design characteristics common to the style including a large, central chimney. The chimney is located directly behind the front door, with the rooms clustered around it in a rectangular shape; Cape Cods have steep roofs to quickly shed rain and snow, and a shallow roof overhang; a full Cape has two windows on each side of the door, and often has a dormer on each side of the chimney to open up the attic. Relatively affordable, the style was popular from the 1880s through the 1960s, being especially prevalent during the years from 1920 – 1960.

(Keep in mind the homes listed are private residences which are not open to the public. Please respect the occupants' privacy when viewing their homes from the sidewalk).