

Ranch Houses in Talmadge

There are both early examples of ranch houses in Talmadge, as well as later examples that were built in the 1960s (outside the period of significance). The style is loosely based on early Spanish Colonial architecture in the American Southwest. Sprawling Ranch style homes were made possible by increasingly large lot sizes that became more common with the rise in automobile ownership. The style was introduced to the nation when Cliff May published his book *Sunset Western Ranch Houses* in 1946. It included some of his own designs for modern interpretations of Spanish Colonial residences. Ranch style design gained popularity in part because of its reputation as an approachable and casual modern style.

Character-Defining Features of Ranch houses include:

- Informal, asymmetric façade
- Broad low one story
- Attached garage
- Moderate to wide eave overhangs
- Sheltered entry
- Wide picture windows
- High, horizontal secondary windows
- Built low to the ground
- Stucco, board and batten, and lap siding
- Brick half walls

References:

McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 597-600.