

AMERICAN FOURSQUARE

1900s

The Foursquare is easily recognized by its square plan and overall simplicity. The majority of these houses were built during the first three decades of the 20th century. The typical Foursquare is a two-story hipped roof structure with central dormer, minimal decoration, broad overhanging eaves with brackets or modillions, classical frieze with dentils, and a porch with hipped roof supported by simple Doric columns or square posts. Occasionally, a Foursquare will feature a shaped gable or will be considerably larger with more elaborate ornamentation. But, in each case, the basic square plan is predominant. Later Foursquare houses often had the same type of interiors as Bungalows with open floor plans, lots of built-ins, and fireplaces. It was popularized by pattern books and Sears Roebuck & Company mail order kits, the American Foursquare spread to residential neighborhoods throughout the United States. Sears also offered a machine that could manufacture cement blocks on site.

The majority of foursquare houses in Ontario are located on the West Side of Downtown. There are several along Euclid Avenue including the Pollock House, which is pictured below.

COMMON FEATURES

- Box Shape
- Two-and-a-half stories high
- Four-room floor plan
- Brick, stone or wood siding
- Simple Low-hipped roof with deep overhang
- Large central dormer
- Side bays
- Doric columns
- Decorative brackets
- Dentils
- Classical frieze
- Modillions

WINDOWS

Windows were typically individual casement, or single-hung windows with wood frames.

DOORS

Doors were typically simple wood doors. Doors were also stained.

COLORS

Homes were typically painted in three colors. Earth tones were commonly used. On some occasions, when the siding material changed between the first and second story (i.e. shingles and clapboard siding), two shades of the same color would be used to distinguish the change in material, typically the darker shade would be painted on the upper story.

