

### 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 a 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 ornamentation that is more elaborate. In each case, however, 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. Popularized by pattern books and Sears Roebuck & Company mail order kits, the American Foursquare spread to residential neighborhoods throughout the United States.

The majority of American Foursquare houses in Ontario are located on the west side of the City’s original downtown. There are several such homes located along Euclid Avenue, including the Pollock House, pictured above. Additional examples of the American Foursquare home are 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 overhangs
- Large central dormer
- Side bays
- Doric or square columns
- Decorative brackets
- Dentils
- Classical frieze
- Modillions

#### *Windows*

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



### *Doors*

Typically, simple wood doors were used. Doors were also stained.

### *Colors*

Homes were typically painted in three earth-toned colors. 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.