

AMERICAN FOURSQUARE IN BANFF 1905-1914

American Foursquare houses, or Prairie Boxes, are the most common vernacular form of the early modern Prairie architectural style. In Banff, their light framing and simple design brings them closer to Folk construction than to the traditional Prairie style. Most remaining American Foursquares in Banff were constructed within a brief, three-year period in the 1910s.

Architectural Principles

- Light framing
- Horizontal emphasis, through contrasting horizontal materials between storeys, horizontal siding, contrasting colours at roof line
- Moderately-pitched hipped roof
- Single-storey porches and additions
- Wide, enclosed eave overhang

IDENTIFYING FEATURES

- Square floorplan, with four rooms on each floor
- Two storeys
- Wood siding wall cladding
- Hipped dormers, sometimes gabled
- Prominent fascia board
- Full-width porches and rear extensions
- Substantial, boxy porch supports
- Double-hung sash windows
- Geometric or floral decorative detailing (primarily in windows)

