

Glendale Design Guidelines for Residential Buildings in Adopted Historic Districts

Foursquare Style

Dating from approximately 1900 through the 1920s, this residential style is related to both the Prairie and Craftsman styles. Simple and pragmatic, the classic Foursquare home is found in nearly every part of the United States. Popularized by pattern books and Sears Roebuck & Company mail order kits, the American Foursquare spread to residential neighborhoods throughout California. This style features a simple box shape, usually two-and-a-half stories in height, generally a four-room floor plan. The roof is low and hipped with deep overhang, often with a large central dormer. A full-width porch with wide stairs generally dominates the front elevation, and in California these are almost always wood-frame structures with wood siding. The Foursquare's boxy shape provided roomy interiors for homes on small city lots. Many Foursquares are trimmed with tiled roofs, cornice-line brackets, or other details drawn from Craftsman, Mediterranean Revival, or Mission Revival styles.



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Siding & Exterior Finishes

character - defining features

- Wood clapboard siding is most common
- Shingles may be used in combination with clapboard siding

design guidelines

- Wood clapboard or shingles should be preserved and maintained.
- Wood elements should maintain a protective finish of paint or stain.
- Repairs to exterior surfaces should be in-kind and should match the original in profile, shape, texture, color, and finish.
- Original exterior surface finishes should not be covered with synthetic materials, such as aluminum or synthetic brick or stone veneer.
- Stucco over original siding material is not appropriate.
- Removal of non-original inappropriate stucco is encouraged, when feasible.

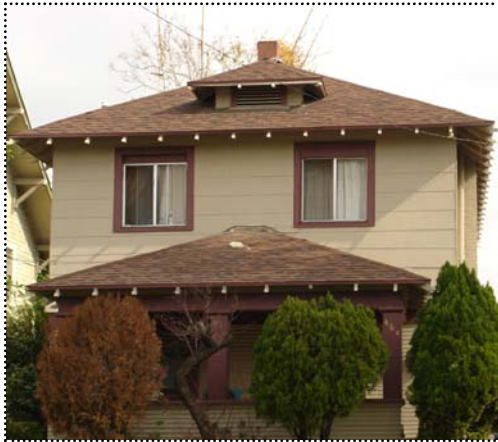


Above: This Foursquare style home in Glendale has narrow wood clapboard siding.

Below: This house is clad with wooden clapboards on the first floor and wooden shingles on the second.



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Above: The roof's pyramidal hip and open eaves are characteristic of the style and are duplicated on the porch roof.

Below: Windows or vents are common in the central rooftop dormer.



Roofs

character - defining features

- Low-pitch hipped
- Wide unenclosed overhanging eaves, usually open with exposed rafter tails
- Central front dormer, typically hipped

design guidelines

- The historic hipped roof form and low pitch should be preserved.
- The historic eave depth and configuration should also be preserved.
- Exposed rafter tails should not be removed, sawed off or boxed in.
- Dormers should be preserved and maintained.
- Dormers should not be enlarged.
- Replacement roof materials, when necessary, should convey a scale and texture similar to those used originally, typically wood shingle.

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Porches

character - defining features

- Typically, full- or partial-width one-story porch
- Hipped or flat roof on projecting porch is most common
- Solid balustrade is most common
- Central portico may be used in place of a porch

design guidelines

- Historic porches should be preserved.
- Restoration of porches that have been previously filled in is encouraged.
- The roof form of a historic porch should be preserved, whether flat or hipped.
- Decorative details, such as square or battered piers, that help to define a historic porch should be preserved.
- Missing or deteriorated elements should be replaced to match the existing original elements.
- Original exterior surface finishes should not be covered with synthetic materials, such as aluminum or synthetic brick or stone veneer.
- Porches generally should not be enclosed with doors or walls or other opaque materials. It may be appropriate to enclose a porch, in a transparent manner, with wood-frame windows or screens.
- Additional porch elements, such as rails or decorative woodwork, should not be added if they did not exist historically.



Above: The porch has square piers and a gabled pediment to mark the building's entry.

Below: This house has a central partial-width porch. Its second story balcony is an unusual original feature.



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Above: Paired wood double-hung sash with notched corners. The simple flat wooden surrounds are typical.

Below: This oriel window has characteristic component parts--wood double-hung sash as well as a stylized fixed upper sash in the center window.



Windows & Doors

character - defining features

- Windows are typically wooden, double-hung sash and may have stylized muntin and mullion patterns, particularly in upper sash
- Windows are generally arranged singly or in pairs
- Doors may include partial glazing
- Doors may be flanked by sidelights

design guidelines

- The arrangement, size, and proportions of historic openings should be maintained.
- Windows and doors should maintain a protective finish of paint or stain. It is preferable to maintain a stained, rather than painted, finish on doors that were stained historically.
- Windows or doors should be repaired wherever possible instead of replacing them. Additional care should be given to the retention and preservation of sash and doors that characterize the style.
- Window replacements, when necessary, should be double-hung sash that match the profile of the original windows as closely as possible. Vinyl or aluminum windows are not appropriate replacements, unless no other options are available.
- Contemporary mass-produced doors with ornate "Victorian"-style glazing are generally not appropriate replacements.
- New window openings should maintain the cubic massing of the facade.

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Architectural Details

character - defining features

- The structure may exhibit ornamental detail from the concurrent Craftsman, Mediterranean Revival, Mission Revival or Colonial Revival styles.
- Some Foursquares houses are designed with a limited use of Classical ornamentation.

design guidelines

- Original architectural details, which are generally wood, should be preserved and maintained with a protective layer of paint or stain.
- Original architectural details should not be covered with stucco, vinyl siding, stone, veneers, or other materials.



Above: Classically-inspired porch details on this house include a pedimented gable and fluted pilasters with capitals.

Below: This Foursquare house has a unique roofline balustrade above the porch, a feature typically seen in the Neo-Classical or Colonial Revival styles.



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Above: Cubic form and symmetrical composition are characteristic of the style.

Below: Unusual for the style, this house has a one-story wing on the secondary facade. Both the siding and the pitch of the roof reflect the character-defining features of the main house.



Massing & Additions

character - defining features

- Simple cubic form defines the style
- Two stories
- Composition is generally symmetrical

design guidelines

- Additions should be located at the rear of the building and away from the main façade in order to minimize their visibility from the public right-of-way.
- Additions should be compatible in size and scale with the original structure, although subordinate in massing. Additions should not disturb the cubic massing of the Foursquare style.
- Additions in excess of two stories are generally not appropriate on Foursquare structures as they would likely detract from the cubic massing, the primary character-defining feature of the style.
- Additions should use similar finish materials as the original structure, typically wooden clapboard or shingles. Generally, additions should not use the following exterior finish materials on Foursquares: plywood, rough-finish stucco, imitation stone or brick.
- Additional roofing forms and materials should echo those of the original structure. Low-pitched hip roofs are generally appropriate for Foursquares but should remain subordinate to the primary hipped roof form. Composition shingle is typically the best roofing material. Pattern should be considered to match the original roof.
- Additional rooftop dormers are generally not appropriate due to the low-pitch of the roof on the Foursquare style.
- Additions should use similar fenestration patterns, generally double-hung sash, arranged singly or in adjacent pairs. However, windows need not precisely match the originals. For example, a simple one-over-one sash is appropriate.

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Multi-Family Foursquare Buildings

Generally, the Foursquare style was used for single-family homes. Some examples may have been historically or more recently converted for multi-family use. Property owners of multi-family Foursquare residences should adhere to the guidelines for single-family residences.