

From Sarah Brown McCulloch's *Guilford: A Walking Guide* (2012):

H. Arthur Cook, 34 Union Street, American Foursquare, 1917; Builder: Walter Beckwith.

According to *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester, the American Foursquare, or Prairie Box as it is also called, is an indigenous American style—a vernacular cousin of the architect-designed houses associated with the Prairie School of Chicago. Disseminated by pattern books and magazines, it became popular throughout the country in the first decade of the twentieth century. With its two-story, square-shaped, hipped roof on both house and dormer, its full-length front porch also with hipped roof and its two-toned exterior sheathing—half shingles, half clapboards—the Cook house is a classic example of the style. Walter Beckwith, who was in business with his sons, was the builder. Together they also built the bungalow at No. 20-22, and the house next to it which used to be a bakery.