

## Questions and Answers of John “Wes” Taylor

### ***What is an American Foursquare?***

An American Foursquare...also called the Prairie House has four external square sides and typically, a hip roof. They crept up in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the Midwest...just prior to the Craftsman. The idea spread throughout the country. Later, two story versions appeared (likely out of need whereby large families would live under one roof). If you had money, which few did back then, you would detail the outside with fancy front porch spindles, trimmed columns, dentil molding at the soffett.

### ***Why build this style home?***

People love American and historic architecture, but this style of home in affluent areas is so rare. I have built several replicas and have extensive experience with these homes but they were in the less affluent areas of urban renewal. I thought it would bring even more class, charm, pride, and value to an already booming area. They tend to be more cost-efficient to build, allowed the user to utilize more internal living space, and structurally, are very sound. And of course, if you had land, you would have had a detached garage.

### ***With so many homes on the market, why build now?***

There are so many new homes for sale. And though each of them has their own beauty, they almost all have that European influence (mini castle). Since lots are so expensive in Green Hills, builders are forced to squeeze large homes on small lots. I bought extra land in order that this masterpiece “fit” appropriately. I built now believing that even though the market is slow, people who are good with money will attract to class and quality. I believe mine is the only American Foursquare in the area.

### ***How does your house differ on the inside?***

So many floor plans of these new houses are complicated. They are a maze of tricky stairs, small hallways, tons of rooms...formal this to informal that. I meet more and more buyers who want simplicity. Though my product has internal elements of this period house (grand stairway, parlor, arches, large hallways), it also has all the amenities one would expect in a million dollar home (appliances, fixtures, excessive closet and storage space, high efficiency windows, etc.). However, the best element of this home is the floor plan. It is simple, strong, and classic. A home should be a place where one goes to re-charge and live life...not work more just to get around.

### ***To what do you attribute “quality” in this home?***

Originally, I designed and built 1742 Hillmont Drive for myself. As the economy and home sales slowed, I believed it would have been difficult to sell my existing residence. Along side each of my sub-contractors. I have personally built and supervised the creation of every square inch of the finished product. Not one single illegal has stepped foot on this property. I am living proof that one can build superior quality under budget and on time using exclusively American labor. This home will be standing long after the others are being torn down.

### ***What are your next projects?***

Let’s find the right family for this one first! OK, maybe writing videos. Please see [Marciesweet.com](http://Marciesweet.com)!