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Henry Basse was the manager of the August Basse Jewelry Store, which was owned by August Basse who immigrated to Quincy in 1856 and opened his store at 518 Maine Street. Henry and his wife, Malinda, built a gem of a home at the beginning of the 20th century.

The American Foursquare/Prairie Box was one of the most popular home styles of the early 1900s and was often thought of as the All-American family home. It was an economical, practical house, as its cubical shape makes use of every buildable inch.

The exterior of the house is simple and solid, built of undecorated natural materials that Prairie homes are known for. The porch eaves and roof cornice have simple brackets. Two decorative bands of tapestry brick adorn the home.

The home's interior sparkles like a jewel. It is built on the foursquare plan of three rooms and entry hall on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor. Light pours into the home from the first floor's three sets of French doors, from the geometrically designed triple windows in the dining room and from the other large windows with vertical muntins. As with most Prairie homes, the beauty of the home is in its simplicity, in the way the walls "disappear" and in the way the "outside comes inside". Arts and Crafts detailing is found throughout the house. The staircase is golden oak with a special Juliet balcony on the landing.

Tom and Kerry Dickerson had extensive renovation done on their home. All the oak trim was professionally stripped and refinished. After stripping layers and layers of wallpaper, they had the walls skim coated and new ceilings installed. New crown molding replaces the original that couldn't be salvaged when new ceilings were hung. Craftsmen faux grained some porch trim with feathers to make it match the oak in the rest of the house.

They finished the third floor of their home for Tom's treetop office and their son's get-a-way bedroom. Not open for the tour is the family's theatre room in the basement.

