

1640 Vermont



Year Built: 1895
Name of House: Leaton Irwin
Style: Queen Anne
Architect: unknown
Current Owners: Charles and Barbara McClain

*BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 16, 1999*

Mr. Irwin was the first owner of 1640 Vermont. He came to Quincy, entered Chaddock college and pursued a literary career rather than attending West Point. In 1887, he engaged in the wholesale paper trade and in twelve years he built up the business of the Irwin Paper Company, of which he was president. It was one of the largest in the west. He also organized the Quincy Freight Bureau. It dealt primarily with shipping. He lived at 1640 Vermont for several years and then later he had a house built at 1651 Maine Street.

The two-story frame house has an unusual roof line; it steps up and goes to a point. It has elements of classical Queen Anne and wide pronounced trim. The altered porch has piers and tapestry brick from the 1930s. The entry door is quarter sawn oak with original hardware and with modern clear and beveled lead glass. On the right of the entry way is a receiving room. Typically this room was used for the owners to receive guests. It has two sets of sliders. To the right of the receiving room is the formal living room. The entry also leads to the present day family room. The woodwork in this room is butternut and there is a bay window that is flanked with pedestals and turned columns. The fireplace does not appear to be original to the house and was possibly added in the 1930s. The dining room off of the family room has cypress trim and it is thought that there was once an opening between the dining room and formal living. White pine flooring is under the carpet on the main floor.

Placement of the cypress baluster and rails at the top of the stairs is unusual. All of the bedrooms have cedar-lined closets. The master bedroom has a unique double door entry. The present owners remodeled the bathroom. The upstairs porch or sleeping room was added on. At one time, the upstairs had an outside stairway and was a second apartment. The full bath in the downstairs was once a butler's pantry. This change might have occurred when the house was made into two apartments. Notice the cabinet in the bath which is original to the home. The kitchen has beaded board on one wall which is typical for that time period. The kitchen was modernized by previous owners.

The owners have filled this home with their collectibles and antiques.

