

Story by Barbara Schleppenbach

◆ Photos by Jennifer Coombes

◆ Herald-Whig Staff



The Wollaston family, clockwise from top left, Jill, Antony, Charly, and Chaney with their dog Shaggy, sit on their Queen Anne inspired porch that is a prominent feature of the house and a favorite place for the family to spend time.

Nothing beats a strong first impression. The graceful Queen Anne structure at 125 East Avenue displays the star quality that winning impressions are made of.

A favorite stop on the very first Quincy Preserves home tour in 1976, the home was recently featured during the 30th anniversary of the popular event. A generation later, the house still charms visitors as a prime example of its style and of the value of thoughtful preservation.

Jill Wollaston is one who fell under the home's spell when it was on the market three years ago. "I visited during an open house, and I knew I loved it as soon as I walked in," Jill recalls. "I immediately went downstairs and wrote a deposit check."

Although Jill and her husband, Tony, had never lived in an older home, the 1897 structure was perfect for the needs of their growing family. The open, expansive floor plan offered plenty of room for family hobbies and play space for their daughters, Chaney and Charly, and their son, Wyatt.

"It's across the street from the (Lawndale) triangle," Jill says, gesturing toward the lively neighborhood group gathered on the island. "The kids can walk to school, and my husband can walk to work."



Decorating the staircase are the framed christening gowns of each of the Wollaston children.

In fact, the Lawndale area retains the combination of family friendliness and gracious living that founder Theodore Poling wanted to capture. A respected and successful attorney and investment banker, Poling established several important residential and commercial areas in Quincy, building homes for himself and for his three children in Lawndale.

His daughter, Florence, and her husband, James Nielson, were the first owners of 125 East Avenue.

The home reflects the exuberance of the Queen Anne style, with many roof forms, dormers, and a generously curving front porch. Varied windows punctuate the exterior and augment the open character of the interior with a play of light in every room.

A massive front door of solid oak with beaded window trim opens onto a magnificent stair hall with an elaborate front stair — just

steps away from a back (servant's) stair nearly as grand. The landing of the front stair features a window seat with brilliant art glass that echoes the pane in the front door.

A pair of window seats flank the fireplace in the main parlor, where angled windows create a shallow bay. Pointed arches between the rooms and unusual windows — some round and some subdivided with muntins — suggest the playful ornamentation of the style.

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wedding vows at 2 p.m. Sept. 3 in Calvary Baptist Church in Hannibal, Mo. The bride, of hoka, Mo. is

