

Warfield House

Headquarters - Oct. 13, 1979 (Sat.)

1624 Maine - Romanesque Revival style - 1886 - J.L. Silsbee, architect

The Romanesque pink quarry stone house of William S. Warfield was designed and built in 1885-1886 by Joseph L. Silsbee. The original plans included the more austere barn behind the home. Mr. Warfield had the home built for a cost of \$40,000.

William S. Warfield came to the Gem City in 1866 as the founder of the Warfield Grocer Co. In later years Warfield was president of the First National Bank, later to become the State Savings, Loan, and Trust Company which grew to be the strongest financial concern in the state outside of Chicago. Mr. Warfield was responsible for the rebuilding and extension of the street railway system of Quincy. He was instrumental in securing the Soldiers and Sailors home for the city, the Newcomb Hotel, the building of the public library, and the maintenance of Blessing Hospital and the Woodland Orphans Home.

In 1885, in order to enable the architect to locate the house and barn toward the east side of the property and to insure the impressive view from that point in the property, Mr. Warfield had a large two-story brick home on 16th moved to the corner of 16th and Jersey where it still stands today.

The elaborate exterior trimmings, intricate carved stone, and red slate roof add to the picturesque quality of the residence with its elements of the Queen Anne style in the use of dormers and gables. This elegant residence is an excellent example of the style of architecture so popular at the time.

The floor plan is such that it gives a feeling of open, spacious living. The interior of the residence originally was furnished naturally in a variety of fine woods. Cherry is used extensively, along with red oak, sycamore, and Georgia pine. The stairway in the home once extended three stories in height ending at the entrance of the third floor ball room.

The home is laid out around the large central living hall, which is dominated by a massive stone fireplace. The west room was originally the library with elaborate carved bookcases (now destroyed) and natural cherry woodwork. The parlor reflects a Gothic feeling with its ornamental plaster ceiling.

The dining room has been restored as nearly as possible to the original. The iridescent green fireplace face tile with brass fittings is the only original tile left in the home. One of the major decorative features which has remained intact over the years is the unusual stained glass--in the double doors of the living hall, on the stair landing, and in two of the five second floor bedrooms.

The Warfield House and barn with three acres of grounds is currently serving as a center of adult education conferences, meetings and social functions. The offices of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts are located on the second floor. The home was acquired and restored by the Quincy Foundation in 1973. In so doing, the Foundation has given the city an excellent demonstration of adaptive reuse of one of the fine east end homes of a long ago, more romantic era.

Quincy Preserves!

An independent community organization working to preserve Quincy's architectural and historic present.