

## Brosi House

305 South Sixteenth - Italian villa style - 1868 - Architect unknown

A rock path leads to the door of the stately home built in 1867-1868 for John Gottlieb Brosi. Mr. Brosi was a stonemason who operated a quarry near his home at the corner of Sixteenth and York, and the rocks in the path to his door were from that 1867 quarry. The owner came to this country from Germany as Johann Gottlieb Brose, but anglicized his name to John Brosi upon arrival here.

One of the most striking features when approaching the home is the beautiful landscaping. The grounds are lush with trees and shrubs. Two very tall hemlock trees outside the service wing are worthy of note for their height and age, possibly planted by the first owner of the house.

The structure originally had a wrap-around porch that extended across the front and north sides of the house with a belvedere or cupola on the roof of the house. The cupola was removed and replaced with a balustraded platform or "widow's walk" by Dr. and Mrs. T.L. Stebbins when they acquired the property in 1956. Extensive remodelling was carried out at this time by the Stebbins. On the second floor in the servant's area the step-down floors of that wing were raised to correspond with the level of the rooms in the front part of the second floor. The original brick fireplaces in the parlor and library were faced with white marble, framed with pilasters, and given new mantles of painted white wood. Book cases were built in the library. Cornice moldings in the downstairs living rooms are a later addition, probably added by the Stebbins.

A straight flight of stairs with a sharp turn at the top leads to the second floor from the hall which runs the length of the house. The newel post at the foot of the stairs is an 1860 style post, not as heavy as most of that period and later times. The parlor or living room and library are to the right of the hall with the dining room at the end. The kitchen is directly behind the dining room in the service wing. The ceilings of the downstairs rooms are very high with floor length windows. The exceptions to this are the hall windows, one of which at the foot of the stairs shows two different coats of arms in leaded stained glass. The other hall window, also of leaded stained glass, carries two different emblems of a European design. The doors between the parlor, library, and dining room are high, wide openings. The entrance door to the house has a fan light with light tracery in the lunette over the door. This is not original to the house. The parquet floors throughout the living area were installed around the turn of the century as were the stained glass windows in the hall.

The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Jan H. Krummrich, who are active in local preservation and restoration work.

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