



Henry and Josephine Freiburg House
1431 Spring—1879

The late 1870s were not great years for house building in Quincy. But they were banner years for the Freiburgs. They marked the culmination of several successful years of operating a small shoe-making business downtown. The rewards of their success were the same as they would be for countless businessmen in the 1950's: relocation of home and business operation to the suburbs.

In the Freiburgs' case the new house came first. Its walls used the same red brick and its floor plan had the same cross shape as nearly all the better class of cottages in Quincy. But there the similarities ended. Porches and bays sprouted from all sides, gables were raked with decorative vergeboards, and ornamental ironwork leapt from roof deck to the ridges on all sides. To complete the picture of a Victorian suburban haven, the house was soon nearly wrapped in vines and shrubs.

Though the plantings have loosened up a bit and a few pieces of ironwork have disappeared, an amazing amount of the filligree and all of the original charm survive. One can still feel the Freiburgs' sense of pride and happiness in their new home. Their cottage was followed several years later by a frame shoe factory around the corner but on the same lot. This also survives, though it has been converted into apartments.

Behind Closed Doors
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