



1707 N. 12th
Italianate Style • 1854
Edward A. Dudley Mansion

Illinois Veterans Home • Administrator's Residence

The Edward A. Dudley Mansion, on the grounds of the Illinois Veterans Home, is steeped in history. Edward A. Dudley, a wealthy Kentuckian, moved to Adams County in February of 1851. In 1854, Mr. Dudley built his Italianate Style mansion. Over the next twenty-five years, Mr. Dudley built up a large group of buildings in order to maintain his staff and his famed racehorses. In 1886, the Dudley property was chosen as the site for the Soldiers and Sailors Home and the Mansion became the Administrator's residence.

The house has rich architectural features inside and outside. Outside features include bracketed eaves, squared columns and stone lintels. The original home had a side and front porch. The current Prairie Style porch was added in the 1940's. The sunroom, offering stunning views of Deer Park, was added to the home in the 1980's and was made possible with a generous donation from the AmVets.

Upon entering the house, notice the graceful banister constructed of black cherry. Matching fireplaces in the front and back parlors were added in the late 1800's. Wood ornamentation includes the egg and dart pattern, dentils, and twin columns. The elegant dining room, which spans the width of the house, was added in 1879. An impressive built-in china cabinet with Corinthian columns was also built at this time. Furnishings in this room are a mix from the State of Illinois and the current residents. While touring the large efficient kitchen, take notice of the hand painted details. In 1986, painters spent three months completing a seven step process of graining, with the final step being done by a feather. Current residents are Administrator Mike Hutmacher and his wife Barb.

*Behind Closed Doors
October 16, 2004*