

KOCH HOUSE

2026 Jersey Street — 1918 — George Behrensmeyer, architect

In an illustrated article in the Herald-Whig which appeared sometime in January, 1918, the announcement of the "new Dutch Colonial residence" of Dr. John A. Koch was compared to many of the fashionable homes along the Hudson River.

Dr. Koch was born in Quincy and educated in Chicago, Washington, D.C. and in Europe. He became a medical doctor and returned to Quincy in 1889 to set up his practice. Prospering in later years, Koch had his Jersey Street home built.

The center hall runs parallel to the front of the house making the principal entrances on either side of the porch instead of the conventional front entrance. By this floor plan the front living room is separate and distinct from the general floor scheme. On the second floor the master bedroom is a true forerunner of the current master suite — with dressing room and a solarium. The house emphasizes architect Behrensmeyer's careful attention to stylistic detail.

Dr. Koch owned this home until 1949 when Julius and Nancie Kespohl purchased it. Julius was the nephew of Henry A. Kespohl. After the death of her husband, Nancie Kespohl remained in the Jersey Street residence until 1954. The house stood empty for nearly ten years after that, suffering all of the problems of a neglected, forgotten home until the Donald Busbey, Jr. family rescued it in 1964. They immediately began intensive restoration and repair in an attempt to bring the residence back to its former comfort and distinctive style. This restoration work with all of its care and attention is still being carried on by the current owners, the James Palmers.