

Christmas
1992

Sarah A. Baker House

327 S. 12th

attrib. to Robert Bunce, architect

1872 or 1873

Gothic Cottage



owners: Keith and Jean Delap

This delightful gingerbread cottage was one of the first suburban residences to go up on Gershom Dimock's farmland. It was built for Sarah A. Baker, a Georgia native who had come to Quincy with her mother and sister in the late 1850s. We attribute the design to Quincy architect Robert Bunce because of many similarities to his church designs of the 1870s. A profusion of gables and the peaked attic windows, reiterated in the shape of the shutters, are particularly clear references to Gothic sources. Also noteworthy is the delicate interweave of scrolls and stylized honeysuckles in the vergeboards and porch bracketing, another assertion of Gothic taste.

The hall, parlor, and dining room are finished in butternut, with fretsawn work in the casings matched to that outside. A corner living room fireplace and dining room buffet also appear to be architect-designed, which is unusual for so small a house. Some time after the house was built, a handsome peacock window was inserted in the transom light above the entry. The current owners have put remnants of their ancestral homes to novel use in a solarium replacing the kitchen porch.