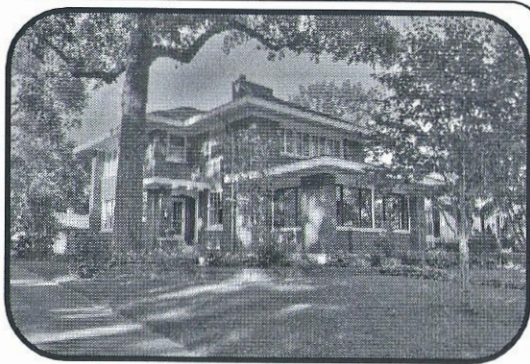


Maurice and Ione Vasen House
2107 Jersey Street



George Behrensmeyer, architect of the 1921 Maurice and Ione Vasen house, designed it with distinct Prairie style characteristics. Although a two-story house, the low-pitched hip roof and wide overhanging eaves with box gutters accentuate the house's horizontal lines. The house has a sense of being nestled on the ground. Details such as the horizontal row of narrow casement windows on the second floor and the front porch's wide openings on the ground floor also help create a sense of spreading the house horizontally rather than up; even the chimney is low and broad. The front door is recessed and to the side, quietly keeping the entry from being the most important aspect of the house. The house is red brick which contrasts with white wood trim and the cast stone water table, window sills and accent blocks.

Decorative details include the broad pointed arch at the entry door and porch quarry tiles. The entrance is also distinguished by the boxed rafter overhang. The entry porch's pointed arch pattern is carried inside the house where it is repeated twice in the entry area, in the dining room and in hall woodwork. The house has a wide central staircase, which is the decorative heart of the house. The floors and hall woodwork are quarter-sawn oak, and the staircase landing has triple double-hung windows which bring light to the upstairs and ground floor. The house is full of light from groups of casement windows in the dining room, master and guest bedrooms. Today's living room has had alterations, however, which now give the room a traditional appearance.

Vasen was an attorney and practiced law in Chicago from 1905-1909 with Howe, Fordham & Vasen, but returned to Quincy in 1913 and joined his father, Benjamin, in the family business, the Quincy Savings Loan and Building Association. He also married Ione Ode Ellis, November 6, 1913, and the Vasens' first home was at 1817 Vermont. Ione was a well-known local vocalist who performed at Quincy events, in church and belonged to local choral groups. She often hosted teas and bridge parties at the house. The Vasens had one son, Spencer. Maurice died in 1972, and Ione remained in the house just a few more years.

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