



1405 Oak
Vernacular Queen Anne • Circa 1891
The Peter W. and Sophia Borstadt House

The Borstadts built their pleasant home on the southwestern-most corner of what 19th century maps labeled "Alstyné's Park" in Alstyné's Prairie. The proposed park was not built, but the area is known as the site of Quincy's only lynching (in the 1870s) as well as for being a circus site. In the late 1900s, Roman Catholic families were eager to build new homes in the Alstyné Prairie/ Park so they could be in the St. Francis Church parish. Borstadt was a carriage trimmer for E. M. Miller Company, as well as an active community member.

The Borstadt's genteel brick home displays appealing exterior adornments such as its multi-gabled roof, incised window carvings, Eastlake frieze and brackets on the entry-only porch, and ornate attic windows. Missing today is the coal chute under the front window, the back porch, a concrete backyard fish pond and full sized barn.

The modest entry highlights a handsome staircase with carved newel, sleek newel cap and noteworthy balusters. The front parlor boasts an up-scale art glass window, reproduction ceiling medallion—and the only non-original trim in the house—a custom made spandrel. Aesthetic Movement tripartite wallpaper mimics a high style wooden dado, dado rail and papered field.

In the last twenty five years, the current owners have renovated every room, maintaining the home's Victorian features—using a period Sears Catalog as their guide. They replaced miles of wallpaper, refinished all the wood trim, painted everything that needed painting and fashioned an attic play area. They installed new lighting that simulates period gas/electric fixtures. The most recent renovation was the kitchen, which has its original trim and four panel doors. A previous owner repurposed the original pantry as a main floor bath.

The second floor landing feels quite spacious thanks to two angled doorways and ventilation is great thanks to functioning transoms. The northeast bedroom's back window was added after original construction but the faux painted trim cleverly disguises that fact. The northwest bedroom's small extra room, now a closet, once housed a large sink.

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Behind Closed Doors Tour