

The William and Mary Bull House
222 South 16th Street
1887

William and Mary received this house as a wedding gift from William's father Lorenzo. When the two of them left on their honeymoon it was still only a project; on their return two years later it was finished. Out of their wedding came Quincy's finest expression of the Shingle Style, a mode of design distinguished as much for its continuous interior spaces as for its flowing exterior surfaces. The entry hall is coffered and lined in quarter-sawn oak, consecutive sitting rooms (now joined into one) are trimmed with walnut and butternut, and the dining room is finished in cherry. Wonderful ornament abounds, from the Romanesque motifs of the main fireplace to the modern patterning of the staircase landing window.

Prominent Chicago architect J. S. Silsbee designed the house. Inventive open planning schemes were his greatest legacy to his apprentice Frank Lloyd Wright, while the rectilinear elegance of the staircase window design is a clear anticipation of Wright's Prairie Style; perhaps it was executed by the young Wright himself. Much of the magnificence of the house, both inside and out, has been brought back by its current owners.