

Behrensmeyer House

333 East Avenue - Prairie style - 1909 - George Behrensmeyer, architect

George Behrensmeyer, one of the most prolific architects in Quincy history, was known primarily as architect of the WCU Building, Quincy Junior High School, the Central Fire Station, and other imposing public structures. Yet one of his major accomplishments was the creation of homes in a myriad of styles. Two of these homes are on this tour--the Dutch colonial Koch home at 2026 Jersey and the mysterious and romantic Moorish castle of George Metz on the Gardner Expressway. But when building his own home, Behrensmeyer turned his back on all earlier classicism and chose the new successful "Prairie style" which had been so widely associated with the school of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Built in 1909 in the Lawndale subdivision, the tapestry brick Behrensmeyer house incorporates the wide eaves, massive hip roof, house-width solarium, heavy eave bracketting, and general modelling and horizontal orientation characteristic of the "Prairie" or "Chicago" style house. Austere ornamentation on quarter-sawn oak wood trim and ceiling beams lent a new texture to the world of interior decor at the time, as did the utilitarian look of the stairway banisters. Typical of the period and style are the built-in glass-front bookcases flanking the fireplaces.

The side-mount main entrance to the house gave the residents an uninterrupted additional room in the front of the house (where in other styles open or screened porches had been). These rooms were and are often used as interior greenhouses or garden rooms, lending a year-round outdoors atmosphere to the home.

Original blueprints of the house show a dishwasher, first in Quincy, and other features indicative of Behrensmeyer's innovative nature.

The current owners, only the third family to live in this house, are the Richard Galloways.

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