

kitchen and a hutch in the dining room match.

Among the classics

Story by Barbara Schleppenbach | Photos by Jennifer Coombes | Herald-Whig Staff

Colonial-revival house at 234 S. 16th fits right into the neighborhood

By Barbara Schleppenbach

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

This neighborhood is one for the books. At least that's how Nathaniel Brooks feels about the array of classic homes surrounding his stately Colonial-revival residence at 234 S. 16th.

"Every home here is beautiful. It's almost like a textbook of American architecture," he said.

A bachelor's and master's graduate of the architecture program at Judson College, Brooks has worked in major cities and is currently affiliated with New York City's The Civil Studio. He and his wife, Kerry, felt fortunate to find in Quincy a house that was strikingly similar to the one they had left behind in New York.

"It seems as if we've been here longer than two years, because it felt like home right away," Brooks said.

Quincy's historic architecture was not unknown to Brooks, who grew up in a geodesic dome built by his parents in rural Adams County. He participated in the Gardner Museum youth docent program, "influenced by buildings from an early age." On returning to the area, he and Kerry, an award-winning artist,

were captivated by the traditional turn-of-the-century home with its strong white columns and three dormers highlighting the roofline. "It just happened to be for sale, and on a lark we called about it," Brooks recalls.

He places the home's origins around 1895, explaining that the return to Colonial style marked a departure from prevailing Victorian designs. "It updates the floor plan of center hall with rooms to either side by using a more open and free-flowing style," he said. "It's a traditional American house. I love traditional architecture, especially with Greek and Roman influences. Kerry and I are lucky to have similar taste — traditional with a contemporary touch."

Brooks is pleased to detect details similar to those used by Quincy's famed Ernest Wood.

"I have a hunch that some of the builders he used in his work were involved in construction of this place," he said. "The exterior detailing, archways, and upstairs hallways reflect Wood's style."

One of the couple's favorite features is the front entry with its graceful sidelights and transom. "It fills the hallway with light, like a little jewel box," Brooks said, and it accentuates the broad front staircase.

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A guest bedroom showcases not only antique furniture, but also the Brooks' interest in color.



H-W Photo/Steve Bohnstedt

Nathaniel and Kerry Brooks say their residence at 234 S. 16th 'felt like home right away.'

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