

C. H. BULL HOUSE *architecture*

1651 MAINE STREET, QUINCY, ILLINOIS

ITALIANATE STYLE, 1852

ORIGINAL ARCHITECT UNKNOWN, 1852

In 1852 the contractor Charles Baughman completed a large residence in the popular Italianate style for the prominent Quincy businessman Charles Henry Bull. The Italianate style derives its inspiration from villas and public buildings in Italy, and was characterized by elaborate bracketed, low pitched roofs, perhaps a tower, and a cupola or "widow's walk." It often featured a large central hall off of which were located the parlors, library and dining room. The basic square plan of the house was extended in sections to the rear, on a reduced scale, for service areas.

C. H. Bull and his brother Lorenzo came to Quincy in the late 1830's from New York state and very soon became prominent in the economic and cultural life of the community. They were in such diverse businesses as the development of the city water works, the horse-drawn streetcar system, and various other projects. The Bulls were active and founding members of the Quincy Conservatory of Music and the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. During the Civil War they engaged in banking and continued successfully in this field. C. H. Bull died in Quincy November 27, 1908. His widow Anna Bates Baldwin Bull lived until September 22, 1919. The house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Monroe in the early 1920's for their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Bonfoey. Shortly after World War II the house was sold to Quincy College who used it as a dormitory for students, and in 1964, to the present owner.

Substantial changes have occurred over the years. In 1876 Bull made additions to the library and the dining room, installing all new woodwork--cherry for the library and walnut for the dining room. The stained glass windows in the library date from this period. In addition, a central hot air heating plant was added, along with a butler's pantry. These changes are believed to be those included in a newspaper reference of the time that stated that Bull obtained a building permit "to build an addition to his home" to cost \$1,500!

In the 1890's approximately an acre of the original four acre property was sold to William L. Distin who constructed the existing stone residence on the west. For many years a wrought-iron fence extended the entire length of the front yard.

The Bull family maintained two horse-drawn carriages, riding horses, and cows, and the family pasture was on the south side of Broadway west of 18th Street. Three maids, a coachman, and a yardman served the family, occupying quarters in both the barn and the house.

During the Bonfoey ownership, one wall of the central hall was removed to create a large reception space and oak woodwork replaced the original. A sunporch was added to the west and a breakfast room on the northeast with bedrooms above. Porch floors were enlarged and covered with tile. The front drive was moved 60 feet to the east. In the 1920's most of the extensive carriage house was torn down, the large formal gardens removed, and a tennis court and swimming pool became prominent features of the yard, the swimming pool replacing a large fountain.

In recent years extensive renovation has been completed and the home serves as a background for the present owner's collection of 20th century American and European paintings, drawings, sculpture, and graphics. The grounds have been re-landscaped with an emphasis on flowering trees and shrubs, especially those native to the area.