

# Perfect fit

The attraction was immediate when Bob and Pat Salamone first saw their house at 1621 Vermont

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Can love at first sight lead to happily ever after? Bob and Pat Salamone believe their strong and immediate attraction to the Queen Anne home at 1621 Vermont may be a case in point.

"We saw this house, loved it, and bought it the same day," Pat Salamone says, smiling at the memory. "We have enjoyed it so much, and we have had friends up to visit almost every weekend since we moved here."

The couple was impressed with Quincy when their son, Jacob, enrolled at Quincy University several years ago.

"People are so nice, and it's so easy to get around," Bob says. "There's a sense of community that we like."

They relocated from St. Louis last summer. The William and Ella Dwire home, just a few blocks from campus, was an eye-catching find for the couple. Built in 1897, with Ernest Wood as architect, it features many of the majestic elements of the Queen Anne style,

including prominent bay windows and a polygonal wooden tower in the front of the second story.

A south-facing sun porch at the front of the house shows evidence of being enclosed early in the home's existence. A second-floor balcony is accessible from one of the large baths at the rear of the home.

The Salamones' attraction to the structure was, in fact, many years in the making.

"We've always loved large, old homes, even when we were dating," Pat Salamone said.

Although the couple raised their family in a St. Louis home of 1,000 square feet, the transition to a space four times that size has been a smooth one.

"We're the recipients of other people doing a lot of hard work," the couple said in agreement. "We came in, and it was gorgeous."

Bill and Mary Twaddle had done "incredibly fine work" on the oak floors, the kitchen/breakfast room suite, and the dramatic décor of the home. Previous owners, Rod and Jorja Frazier, had restored the building to a single-family dwelling after many years divided into apartments, and the Twaddles retained



the open structure in preparing the home to serve as a bed and breakfast inn.

"Literally we have only had to paint two rooms," Pat Salamone says of their work so far.

The two bedrooms, which were designed around themes in the bed and breakfast days, now reflect the tastes of the Salamone's son and daughter.

They have stripped the mantle, which was white, and hope to do more, including the pocket doors, which are white on one side.

Bob and Pat are also installing an overmantle that will better frame the large mirror that hangs above the parlor fireplace.

The early arrival of warm weather has shifted attention to the outdoors, where Pat Salamone "has big plans" for a garden with flower beds that wind along the privacy fence and sidewalk.

"We'll have to go light," she says. "Victorian gardens were airy, white with pink and pastels. We'll have to rent a truck just to buy flowers."

Indoors, the couple have found a perfect setting for family antiques, including a rocker from Bob Salamone's great-grandparents that

was crafted without the use of nails and a magnificent wardrobe from Pat Salamone's great-grandparents.

"We like the Victorian style of home and furnishings," they said, adding that some of their favorite antique pieces were discovered in Quincy.

The piano in the foyer, for instance, was purchased at the Twaddles' auction "and moved right back inside." Above the instrument is a framed copy of the song "Say Yes," written by Bob Salamone's grandfather as a musical proposal to his future bride.

The home's original owners did not stay for long in their fashionable dwelling. They moved, coincidentally, to St. Louis, and the house passed through a number of hands over the years.

The Salamones plan to put a stop to that trend.

"We're going to be here a while so we'll take some time for projects," Bob Salamone said.

With so much to admire, they are in no hurry to make significant changes. As Pat Salamone says, "Why would you try to improve on perfection?"