

PARKHURST HOUSE -- 1461 Maine -- c. 1868 -- Italianate --
Architect Unknown

This white frame Italianate home, a landmark on Maine Street, was built by Jonathan Parkhurst, a native of New Hampshire, who emigrated to Quincy in 1860. He established himself as a merchant and soon became prosperous in the clothing trade. He turned his interest to politics and was similarly successful, holding several city offices before becoming Mayor of Quincy, a job he held for two terms. He was an intelligent, far-sighted city administrator who introduced electric street lights to our city, greatly extended the network of brick streets, and was responsible for many other innovative civic improvements.

The Parkhurst house has undergone some interesting exterior changes. An 1880 drawing of the house shows a wrap-around front porch, a porch for the east wing and pedimented gables over the entry of the front porch. A second floor balcony over the entry is topped by another pedimented roof. These porches, not believed to have been original to the house, quite altered the appearance of this rather elegant and simple building, giving it a fantastic gingerbread appearance. These porches have all been removed and the present entry, notable for its heavy beveled glass lights was added later.

This house is characterized by curved door and window lintels, a double-door entry, an eight-window cupola, and east and north wings. Except for the dining room and library which have somewhat lower dimensions and butternut woodwork, the other rooms have the characteristic high ceilings of the Italianate style and heavy pine molding. The front stairway and the first floor doors, as well as the ornately carved library mantel are made of butternut. Mr. and Mrs. Stonewall Jackson Bird, the owners of 1461 Maine Street, are recent immigrants to Quincy from Florida. They have begun to restore the interior of their home and are active in the movement to preserve Quincy's architectural heritage.

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