

Rumor has it that William Cramer and Ludwig Fries were partners in the Cedar Creek Distillery located on Front Street. The two staked their entire worth that the government would pass a tax on whiskey. To escape it, the partners made all the whiskey they could, double-shift, storing whiskey all over the town in whatever buildings they could rent for storage, cellars, attics, etc., even mortgaging his wife's cook stove to produce more stock. Finally the pair owned thousands of barrels and July 1 the government declared a \$1.25 per gallon tax on all whiskey produced after that date. Each man made about \$75,000 extra on the gamble.

Both decided that a portion of their new found wealth should go into new homes, so they bought back to back lots on Vine Street (now College) and Elm Streets on the west side of Fourth Street. Glimpses of the Mississippi river can be seen from the two high-banked lots.

Cramer built the rather austere Italianate home on Elm. It is a two story brick with a low pitched standing seam metal hip roof. It has a one story full facade porch, wood, with decorative brackets at the corners. Double hung 4 over 4 windows are on the second floor; 4 over 6 floor to ceiling double hung windows are on the first floor. Windows have stone sills and lintels with the first floor stone sills continuing as a watertable.

There is a semicircular arched entry with top light and continuous sidelights surrounding the door. Decorative brick chimneys can be found on the east and west sides of the home. There have been two additions to the home: a two story gabled roof addition with porch and brackets and a one story addition behind that.

The front door is original but has been altered with a window. The double arched panel door is unique to Quincy. The cast iron hinges are original.

The spacious parlors of the first floor and the dining room have original pine filled and painted woodwork and 12 foot ceilings. The staircase is probably mahogany with walnut steps.

The floors under the carpet are 5¼ inch boards grained many times to look like more expensive wood.

The front windows can be raised and walked through like a door. The shutters on the front windows are original as well as the plaster moldings on the ceilings. Some door knobs are the original porcelain or Bennington marble.

Both front rooms had mural stenciling in early years. The downstairs bath had been a butler's pantry. The original kitchen is where the doctor's offices are now.