



John Willis and Helen Gardner House, 1892  
228 South 18th Street  
Shingle/Romanesque Style  
Architect/Builder: Harvey Chatten

This stately, roomy house is a combination of the popular Shingle and Romanesque styles. The lighter and more delicate appearing Shingle style of the upper part of the home finds foundation on the strength of the stoned, lower Romanesque level.

The house has undergone few changes in appointments over the years. The glass is an outstanding feature of this home. The house seems to have been designed around windows. There is a wonderful arched window in the dining room that carries an art nouveau theme in grape clusters and leaves. On the opposite side of the house is a series of windows set with shield-patterned stained and leaded glass. Stained glass windows frame the top of the windows in the home's sunroom and leaded diamond-patterned glass panels flank the front door.

An unusually high curved glass window that faces the front porch lights the spacious entrance hall. The yellow cast to the fan-shaped Tiffany window in the dining room gives an almost perpetual, sunny atmosphere.

This house has many curved, sweeping external walls, a number of bay areas and several semi-turrets or towers. The house is also characterized by graceful staircases, with balusters that are turned in an alternating rope pattern. At the landing is a Tiffany window, one of the many seen throughout the house.

Elaborate cornices with curved dentils distinguish the rooms on the first floor including the entrance hall, parlor, study, living room, dining room and kitchen. The second floor matches the first in roominess. Quarter-sawn oak woodwork is featured throughout the home.

The house has more than 7,000 square feet of floor space.

The current owners are Walt and Diane Giesing.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR  
DECEMBER 10, 2000