



417 S. 14th Street

The John F. and Rose Wise House

American Foursquare Style • c. 1924

Current owners: Bill and Melissa Holden

This American Foursquare home is also called a Prairie Box, and it is masterful in its simplicity. The style was very popular from 1900 to 1920. Characteristics of the style are the off center entrance and two sets of windows. Other notable characteristics of the house are the geometric designs in the brick porch supports, windows surrounding the door and the through-the-roof gables with triangular braced supports on the west and north sides of the house.

When entering the living hall, visitors immediately note the home's fine craftsmanship and its understated elegance. The staircase wall paneling and the simple lines of the staircase's newel posts and balusters showcase the strong lines that the style is noted for. In spite of the large staircase, there is plenty of family space in this room.

The living room focal point is the tapestry brick fireplace with its unusual brick patterning. The fireplace brick blends stunningly with the green walls. The dining room has its original plate rack and has crown molding which is also in the living room and reception hall. Behind the dining room is the compact pantry. The three panel doors seen throughout the house are typical of the era.

Previous owners refinished the oak floors and remodeled the kitchen. They rewired the whole house, installing Internet, cable, phone lines and electronic smoke detectors in every room. They added an electrical service tube from the basement to the attic so that future wiring could be installed without disturbing walls.

The Holdens painted their entire house in an earthy color scheme. It was a lot of work, but it was made easier because the previous owners had skim coated the walls. The colors the Holdens chose are the colors of the era. They also finished attic, which is now a combination bedroom and rec room for the children. They enlivened their patio by painting it using a garden sprayer.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR
DECEMBER 11, 2005