

Christmas
1992

Edward and Matilda Menke House

1206 Park Place

John Batschy, architect

1891

High Queen Anne



owners: John and Kim McDonald

look

Shortly after Cruttenden had moved into the corner house, Edward Menke built next door for himself and his new wife, Matilda Dick. The marriage united two powerful Quincy families, stone contractor F. W. Menke and the Dick Brothers of brewery fame. An unusual combination of stock ornamental brick with carved stone from Minnesota, Ohio, and Indiana adorns the walls. Probable architect John Batschy gave Menke a design that laced together stock patterns with original modern Romanesque carving. Though still Queen Anne in feeling, the facade is classically balanced; dormers and chimneys are paired, the masonry frieze is continued in wood over the porch, and the facade is exactly halved by the living room bay and recessed entry.

The interior features walnut casework in the front and side parlors and a number of fireplaces with unusual ceramic surrounds. In the living room, a bird perches in each upper corner of the tilework, while the dining room fireplace has cameos. A brilliantly colored artglass transom light in the living room mixes together beveled, pattern, ripple, opalescent, jewel, and cathedral stained glass. In the dining room a hand-painted canvas ceiling has miraculously survived.