

## The Peter W. and Sophia Borstadt House

1405 Oak Street

Vernacular Queen Anne circa 1891

The Borstadts built their pleasant home on the southwestern-most corner of what 19<sup>th</sup> century maps labeled "Alstyne's Park" in Alstyne's Prairie. The proposed park was not built, but the area is known for being the site of Quincy's only lynching (in the 1870s) as well as for being a circus site. In the late 1900s, Roman Catholic families were eager to build new homes in the Alstyne Prairie/ Park so they could be in the St. Francis Church parish. Borstadt was a carriage trimmer for E. M. Miller Company, as well as an active community member. He later launched his own business located on Maine Street.

The Borstadt's genteel brick home displays appealing exterior adornments such as its multi-gabled roof, incised window carvings, Eastlake frieze and brackets on the entry-only porch, and ornate attic windows. Missing today is the coal chute under the front window, the back porch, a concrete backyard fish pond and full sized barn.

The modest entry highlights a handsome staircase with carved newel, sleek newel cap and noteworthy balusters. The front parlor boasts an up-scale art glass window, reproduction ceiling medallion and the only non-original trim in the house—a custom made spandrel which the current owners added to disguise missing pocket doors. A fireplace originally stood on the parlor's east wall. The diningroom décor uses Aesthetic Movement tripartite wallpaper to mimic a high style wooden dado, dado rail and papered field.

The attractive millwork has stylized flower corner blocks which show up throughout the house. Since moving in twenty five years ago, the current owners have renovated every room, carefully maintaining the home's Victorian features—using a period Sears Catalog as their guide. They stripped and replaced miles of wallpaper, refinished all the wood trim, painted everything that needed painting and fashioned an attic play area—adding a swing for fun! In addition, they installed new lighting that simulates period gas/electric fixtures. Their most recent renovation was the kitchen, which still has its original trim and four panel doors. A previous owner repurposed the original pantry as a main floor bath.

The second floor landing is a handy sewing area today which feels quite spacious thanks to two angled doorways—one leading to the attic and one to an east bedroom. Ventilation is great thanks to functioning transoms. The northeast bedroom's back window was added after original construction but the faux painted trim cleverly disguises that fact. The northwest bedroom's small extra room, now a closet, once housed a large sink.