

1677 Maine
The Ebenezer and Agnes Baldwin House • 1880
Attributed to Eaton Littlefield, early master carpenter and builder

Ebenezer Baldwin, the original owner of this mansion, was a founder of the Pope and Baldwin Agricultural Implement Company, best known for inventing the National Hand-Held Corn Planter. The Baldwins lived in their new, 12-plus room house only a short time. Next, the Frank C. Dayton family lived there briefly. They sold it to the Joseph and May (Newcomb) Emery family in 1901 and it was the Emery family who added the Queen Anne/Classical porch. Mr. Emery was a banker and owner of Channon-Emery Stove Company. The Emery family lived in the house until 1942.

The imposing home's exterior is heavily dressed in high-style Eastlake and Queen Anne details, so tour-goers may want to linger outside to see all the exterior details the mansion has to offer. Window and door surrounds display the classic Eastlake incised carvings, engaged collonettes and rosettes. The two story bay area is quite special...and wait until you see the second floor's rectangular bay area from the inside. This area's Eastlake features are especially impressive and were the home's focal point before the large porch addition.

The amount of interior details is remarkable, making it one of Quincy's premium homes. The etched glass on the entry's double doors and the stained glass transom are singular and distinctive. The entire home is swathed in original, heavily carved Eastlake style walnut trim on the main floor, with butternut on the second floor. Notice the intricate millwork throughout, including the balustrade on the stairs in the dining room and at top of the main stairs. Ceilings on both floors are 12 feet high and many rooms are outfitted with beamed or coffered ceilings. Note the difference in hardwood flooring as you tour the house, starting with the entryway's red, white and black oak floors. Lighting in the house is also special. The current owner brought all the home's chandeliers and sconces from his previous home. Original, richly carved fireplaces and mantles remain in the front parlor.

The home's floor plan is unchanged except for the kitchen where the butler's pantry and kitchen were combined to create the space seen today. The home's original summer kitchen was missing when the current owner moved in and they re-built on its foundation, creating a sunny living space.



2027 Prairie
Tudor Revival • 1936 • Russ Allen, builder
The Carl & Florence Merkel House

When Carl and Florence Merkel decided to build a home at 2027 Prairie in 1936, they were so pleased with the Tudor Revival house they had been renting that they hired Quincy contractor Russ Allen to build them an exact duplicate. Mr. Allen, born and raised in Wisconsin, moved to Quincy in 1933/34 where he founded the Allen Construction Company. In the 1940s he developed Woodlawn subdivision, the first of its kind in Quincy following World War II. He was also the contractor/builder for the CB & Q depot, Quincy College gym, the Motorola complex, Lincoln and St. Boniface schools, the YMCA, and Hansen-Spear Funeral Home.

The modest cottage aspect of the Merkel house front façade is given a stately feel by an off center shallow gable entry with an impressive classical doorway complete with pilasters and broken pediment, today painted a dark red/brown to compliment the muted gray/green exterior siding, accented with shingle detail at the top of the gable. A massive exterior brick chimney stands to the immediate right of the entry. Two shed dormers are built out from the steeply pitched roof on both side facades, extending the upper floor living space.

Inside, an open entryway leads to the staircase, which ascends to an exposed landing, then turns to continue to the upper floor. This stairway, opened to the entry and front room by a former owner in the 1990s, is graced with an elegant traditional curved handrail and turned spindles built by Dave Eversden. A sunny, west-facing window seat to the left of the stairway adds natural light to this portion of the house. The entry also retains its tan/brown slate floor.

In the spacious front room, a gas fireplace is flanked by open bookcases, and an arched opening leads to the dining room. To the right is a light filled east-facing sun porch. The removal of a wall has united the modern kitchen to the dining area, in which a small window to the north has been replaced with double glass doors which provide a view of the back yard. Throughout the house, including the second floors bedrooms and bath, original features have been retained where possible. These include a small butler's pantry, the laundry chute in the upper hallway, original doors and woodwork, the bead board ceiling in the sun room, as well as many of the homes original plaster and lathe walls.