



## 1800 Grove Avenue

Queen Anne Style • 1889-1890 • Architect: unknown  
Builder: Peter H. Meyer • Mrs. Anne W. Roberts House

Mrs. Anne W. Roberts, widow of G.M. Roberts of George A. Roberts and Sons, iron dealers, built this grand home for herself and her daughter, Gracie. Her luxurious home anchors the corner of a then-private street. Grand Victorian features cover the home's exterior, clear to the third story, which features an oriel window on the east, a lancet-like window on the front gable and a significant half-round window on the west.

The carved, double front doors lead into one of the most grand stair halls in Quincy. Paneled in butternut, the stairhall's artistry speaks to Mrs. Roberts's wealth and sophistication. The original blue fireplace tiles and elaborate mantle are noteworthy, as are the carvings and finely turned balusters on the staircase. Decorative 'ribbed' ceilings like this one were favored in high style Victorian homes.

The formal parlor features one of four remaining stained glass windows, which are among the most posh in town. The artist-designed and crafted stained glass windows feature asymmetrical designs, rare bevels, round and square faceted jewels, 'globs' and bottle glass. They are works of art.

An unusual set of paneled folding doors lead to the back parlor from the stair hall. The owners found the doors in the attic, and had the unusual hinges reproduced in the Philippines using remnants of the originals. The back parlor's Inglenook, or cozy corner, provided draft-free, built-in seating for the family, as well as storage. The polished oak flooring level boasts sophisticated borders in each room and the dining room floor's center shows off a diamond pattern and a 'call button'. The dining room converted gasolier is original; the rosette is new, but appropriate to the times.

The second floor is changed slightly, since the house served as an apartment for a time. The current owners designed the master suite by closing off a hallway door. The current balcony was once a 'dust porch' or balconette. Notice that the expensive butternut trim continues on this floor. It is believed that there was a door at the east end of the hall, which isolated the domestic areas from the family area. The servants' back stairs lead to the kitchen. The original kitchen layout is unknown, but possibly had both a maid's and butler's pantry.

*Behind Closed Doors*  
*October 17, 2009*