

Christmas
1992

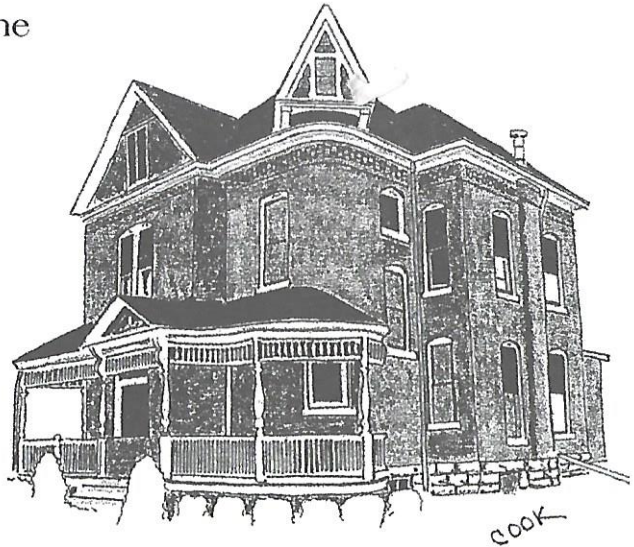
Thomas and Edith Binkert House

1244 Park Place

architect unknown

1892

Late Queen Anne



owners: David and Jennifer Rakers

In 1892 developer Antone Binkert induced his brother Thomas, a grocer and dry goods merchant, to put up a house at midblock. It had a twin next door, built for Thomas Binkert's daughter and her husband. From the street the Thomas Binkert House seems as thoroughly endued with Queen Anne whimsy as those immediately preceding it. A spindlework porch dodges and darts around a broadly curved corner, while a dormer leading nowhere perches precariously above. The gables sport medieval half-wood designs, and the brick walls terminate in elaborate corbelled cornices typical of Park Place.

But the house is really a dressed up version of the four-square plan that was soon to dominate residential architecture. Inside, the only hint of caprice is in the staircase with its curved landing window and intricate balustrade. A single parlor flanks the stairhall and opens into the dining room. The original kitchen was curiously placed immediately behind the stairhall. When it was moved to a rear addition in the 1920s, the old cookstove space was filled with a nickel-plated false fireplace front above the heat register. The original source of heat for the house was parlor stoves rather than fireplaces.