

THE CHARLES WHITMORE HOUSE
218 South 18th Street 1868

It is difficult to imagine this lovely Georgian home as a lone frame farmhouse situated on a four-acre tract. But that's what it was in 1868 when Charles Whitmore, a pioneer Quincyan, built his house. In 1876 his four acres, now bordered by York and Jersey on South 18th Street, were platted and designated the Charles Whitmore Addition to the City of Quincy.

After three changes in ownership, the home was purchased in 1906 by Mabel Newcomb Cottrell. Mrs. Cottrell and her husband George, who lived 40 years in the home, undertook an extensive remodeling project resulting in a convincing conversion of their modest farmhouse into a handsome example of the Georgian Style. Brick veneer, decorative pilasters, round-headed roof, dentils, a railing over a pitched roof, the arched portico with four sets of twin columns, the classic fanlight doorway and paned and leaded glass windows were elements added to the home's exterior to complete the appearance of Georgian elegance.

On the interior, a central hall opens to the right into a spacious living room, which is directly beneath a large master bedroom. Both rooms extend across the north width of the house. From the living room, handsome leaded glass doors open onto an adjoining porch.

To the left of the central hall is the parlor, which, like the living room, features leaded glass doors opening onto a side porch. A corner fireplace in this room shares a common flue with the corner fireplace in the dining room. At one time there was a doorway between the parlor and adjacent dining room, but this has been closed off.

The dining room is entered via the central hallway through lovely paned glass doors. This room features an eight-branched crystal chandelier, a row of high-paned windows and the corner fireplace.

Other architectural details adding beauty and interest to the structure are: the leaded glass seen in the fanlight and sidelights of the front doorway; the vestibule; the high wainscoting seen in the hallway, the rosettes marking the corner molding on the inner doors and six working fireplaces. Current owners have restored all six fireplaces to working condition. It is interesting to note that four of the six are corner fireplaces, and two have their original mantels.

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