

The Savage/Cassidy/Monckton House
Italianate Style, constructed 1865

1419 Locust

This large and gracious house of over 7000 square feet and some eighteen rooms was built for the Charles Savage family in 1865. Born in Bangor, Maine in 1814, Charles and his brothers A.E. and William moved west to Quincy in 1839, where Charles, a Bowdoin college graduate and lawyer, formed the early Flagg and Savage Bank in 1848. A dedicated believer in the Midwestern Internal Improvements movement, he became a major promoter and investor in a number of early railroad companies including the Quincy and Toledo, Quincy & Palmyra, and Quincy & Chicago. He also organized the Meredosia Bridge Company and served as secretary of the association which constructed the first steel railroad bridge across the Mississippi at Quincy.



The original Savage home, built at the northern edge of the city, featured typical Italianate styling, including an essentially squarish footprint and balanced facades, a low-pitched hipped roof with overhanging eaves surmounted by a large cupola, decorative crowns over tall, narrow, single pane, double-hung windows, and large and elaborate masonry chimneys.

Over the history of the house, a number of modifications have altered its originally rather severe and symmetric Italianate footprint. Third owner John Cassidy, founder of the Egg-O-See cereal company of Quincy, added a complicated but graceful series of porches and terraces, including the imposing, terraced wrap-around porches of the front façade. The cupola which once crowned the center of the house was destroyed by a series of arson fires attributed to a gang of "fire bugs" hired by the home's 7th owner Samuel Darr in the early 1900s.

Inside, the house boasts large open parlors and bedrooms with 12 foot ceilings, glittering Italian glass and brass chandeliers, and eight original Italian and French marble fireplaces, all of unique, carved designs.

Perhaps the most locally famous inhabitant of the home was Leo Monckton, who, with his wife, became the 10th owner of the estate in the early 1930s, adding a number of spectacular and innovative decorative elements. On the grounds, these included a gazebo, wading and swimming pools, and inside; a series of full scale wall murals – serene and sylvan to slightly risqué in subject matter and content. One of the double kitchens, toward the back of the house, was exuberantly decorated in hand-painted Pennsylvania Dutch motif by local Quincy artist Helen O'Hare Smith.

Although many of the more colorful decorative elements of the Monckton era have since been covered over or replaced, photographs of their former splendor exist, and the current owners are tastefully modernizing and restoring the grand bones of the house.

Fall '15