

Koch House

2026 Jersey - *"Dutch Colonial style" - 1918 - George Behrensmeyer, architect

In an illustrated article in the Herald Whig run sometime in January, 1918, *the "new Dutch colonial residence" of Dr. John A. Koch was compared to many of the fashionable homes along the Hudson River. Tapestry brick and stucco were used by architect George Behrensmeyer for an interesting effect that is accented by the massive stucco columns and long porch--the most pronounced feature of the home.

The center hall runs parallel to the front of the house making the principal entrances on either side of the porch instead of the conventional front entrance. By this floor plan the front living room is separate and distinct from the general floor scheme. On the second floor the master bedroom is a true forerunner of the current master suite--with dressing rooms and a solarium. The house emphasizes architect Behrensmeyer's careful attention to stylistic detail.

Dr. John Koch was born in Quincy and educated in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Europe. He became a medical doctor and returned to Quincy in 1909 to set up his practice. Prospering in later years, Koch had his Jersey home built in 1918.

Dr. Koch owned this home until 1949 when Julius and Nancie Kespohl purchased it. Julius was the nephew of Henry A. Kespohl, one-time owner of another home on this tour at 331 College. After the death of her husband, Nancie Kespohl remained in the Jersey residence until 1954. The house stood empty for nearly ten years after that, suffering all the problems of a neglected, forgotten home until the Donald Busbey, Jr., family rescued it in 1964. They immediately began intensive restoration and repair in an attempt to bring the residence up to its former comfort and distinctive style. This restoration work with all its care and attention, is still carried on by the current owners, the James Palmers.

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