



1230 Park Place
Queen Anne Style • 1889 • Architect: John Batschy
Julius Silberman House

Designed in the late Queen Anne style in 1889 by Swiss born architect, John Batschy, the Julius Silberman House was one of the earlier structures to be built in the planned Park Place neighborhood. The original owner, Julius Silberman, held various positions with the firm of F. Silberman & Bros., dealers in hides and wool. In the late 1870's, the firm transacted a business estimated at \$1,000,000 a year. The family was active in the establishment of Valley of Peace cemetery where Mr. Silberman is buried.

A brick house with a flat facade, its corners are molded into curves. Detailed brickwork is seen on every side; even the large chimney on the east side has molded corners and large vertical slots in the brickwork. The front gable suggests Shingle style with a recessed pair of windows, three panes over a single pane, with the shingled sides of the gable curving back to meet the windows and a curved top projection above. The east gable has the same curved style as the front but the window is in the Palladian style.

The original recessed entry is now an enclosed porch, with a new slate floor added by the present owners, William Maier and Michael Kaminski. All the wood trim in the house has been cleaned and refinished by Mr. Maier, a restoration professional, thereby changing its appearance from a dark oak color to the glowing butternut it is today. The large pocket door in the foyer was returned there after years of being stored in the basement. A spandrel of beaded fretwork has been added to the parlor entry which has Eastlake furnishings. The east parlor wall features a stained glass panel with rippled glass and geometric designs. Similar designs grace a semi-circular window on the landing and a radiant panel in one bedroom.

The split staircase to the second floor is somewhat unusual with entry points in both the foyer and the kitchen. Notable upstairs features are the variety of door hardware and the atypical corner moldings. An enlarged bath area off the master bedroom includes a marbled shower area, reclaimed bead board walls, and a washbowl-look sink installed in a tiled cabinet.

Maier plans to redo the kitchen in Eastlake style while leaving the basic arrangement as it is. The large dining room houses one of two of the home's remaining fireplaces with elaborate carving and rich ceramic tile that Maier used to replace damaged originals. The family room and the deck above it are features added by a previous owner.

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Behind Closed Doors