

The red brick two story house at 323 South 16th was built in 1872 for the widow, Mrs. Walburga Fischer, and her son, George. The modest vernacular T plan home has a metal roof and 4 over 4 arched windows.

George and his partner, Benjamin Schupp, had a business at 1101 Hampshire, Schupp and Fischer. They were dealers in stoves and tin ware, mantels, tin and slate roofers and galvanized iron cornices. Incorporated into both homes are examples of the products that Fischer sold, such as the metal roof on this home and the cast iron mantel in the front parlor of 327 South 16th.

The current front porch and lapboard sided additions on the south and east side of the house were added later. The floors are maple throughout the house. The overhead fixture in the vestibule is original to the house. The front parlor features a beautiful coal burning fireplace with a butternut mantle.

The dining room also has a mantle that has been closed off and made to look like a cabinet. The open staircase is believed to have been created in a remodeling. It appears that the current window on the staircase landing was a doorway on the south side of the house. It is also believed that the stairs led into the kitchen at the rear of the house.

The upstairs consists of three bedrooms and a full bath. The bath fixtures are from the 1920s. Notice the porcelain doorknobs and beautiful cast iron hinges on all the bedroom doors. Each bedroom has a transom above each door to aid in ventilation.

The kitchen is still in its original location. On the floor near the east wall is possible evidence of a cook stove.

George built the house next door to the south (327 South 16th) when he married Euphemia Ricker in May of 1877. Mrs. Fischer lived in the house until 1895.

The iron fence was made by previous owners who also planted the gardens and changed the straight front sidewalk to the interesting path found today.



## 323 South 16th Street



**Year Built:** 1872

**Name of Building:** Mrs. Walburga Fischer Home

**Style:** Vernacular T plan

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS  
OCTOBER 18, 2003