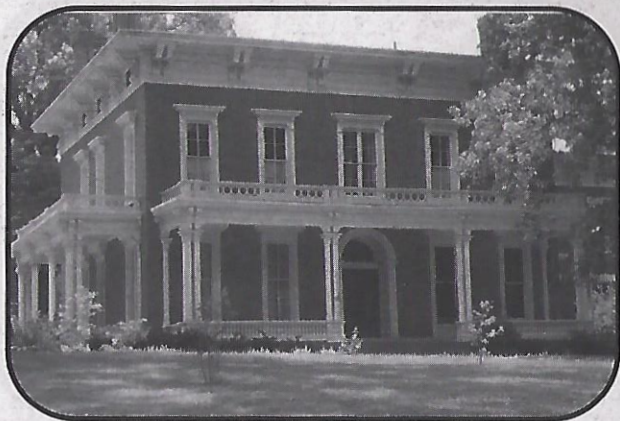


1444 Maine Street (1864/68)



James T. Baker House

Italianate 1864/68

W.B. Hauworth, Architect/Builder

The James T. Baker house, better known to many as the "School Board Offices" at 1444 Maine, is a brick Italianate mansion that is undergoing a massive renovation, returning it to its past grandeur as a private dwelling. This home will amaze visitors with its high end appointments.

Constructed for Baker, a prominent Quincy wholesale grocer, this impressive home was designed on a grand scale by William B. Hauworth. With grounds running from Maine to Jersey, it features extensive and original brick side walks, and a grand façade with elaborate and graceful rope molding surrounding its nearly floor to ceiling windows. The large scale, deep bracketing under the soffits and original leaded glass side windows flanking the front and rear entrances, plus spacious, full length porches, present an imposing and stately front exposure on Maine, placed well back from the street.

Inside, the current owners have done a massive amount of work to re-expose original features covered over during the years when the home was first the board offices of the Gardner Denver Company, and later Quincy Public School District #172. While two original marble fire place surrounds remain in the formal parlors to the left of the entry hall, an additional six fireplaces, minus their original mantels have now been uncovered both downstairs and up, and period, antique mantels have been added to each.

In the large parlor to the right of the front entry, an elaborate coffered wood ceiling has been installed, helping to add a sense of weight and grandeur to a room that will be the library. In the entry hall, an elaborate plaster ceiling medallion, re-discovered during the removal of the dropped ceilings, has been fully restored, and is matched by similar ceiling features in the two parlors to the left of the entry.

At the top of the central oak staircase rising from the wainscot paneled foyer, the second story contains a series of large bedrooms now painted in deep jewel tones and complimented by original and newly installed private baths and dressing areas. As in the main floor rooms, original woodwork has been retained and fireplaces exposed and rehabilitated with antique surrounds, each a unique period piece.