

Col. Jones House

Col. Jones House - 2335 N. 12th - c. 1842 - Italianate

A large country home owned or occupied by a number of prominent Quincy families was built in the last 1840's by one of the founders of the Chicago Tribune, Col. Kiler K. Jones. While he lived in Quincy Jones was in the grain business, building a terminal and piers and owning several river boats; he later moved to Chicago where he established the newspaper Gem of the Prairie, which later became the Chicago Tribune.

A full-fledged farm operation at the time the house was built, subsequent transfers reduced the acreage, but today 5 acres remain, as does one barn. Passing thru four or five ownerships, the home was at one time the property and residence of Thomas Austin, grandfather of Quincy's Mrs. C. A. Brandt. A later owner, Euphemia Doeer rented the residence to the Ray Oakley's, parents of the Quincy Herald-Whip families of T. C. Oakley and Allen Oakley, and the rest of the generation which lived there as children. Today's tour features a home at 1824 Maine owned by a son of the late T. C. Oakley.

About 1915 the family of Lucille Langhanke, (stage and movie star Mary Astor) moved into the home. Mr. and Mrs. Otto Langhanke had moved from Germany to Quincy where Mr. Langhanke had taken the position of window dresser and sign painter for the Stern mercantile store. Langhanke also taught German at Quincy High School. He took his daughter daily to Webster School where she matriculated with many Quincians who remember her well. During World War I anti-German sentiment was high enough (even in this high-percentage German community) that Langhanke lost his teaching job and ended his Quincy residence raising poultry on the old Jones farmplace.

Later owners of the farmhouse were the Al Hutmachers and Matthew Hutmachers of the Hutmacher-Kreitz Ice Company; the Matt Hutmachers were the parents of Quincy's Mrs. H. J. Berghofer, a member of Quincy Preserves! and grandparents of Matt Hutmacher, present Quincy attorney.

The house is substantially as it was when built, excepting the original porches and verandas which have been removed. Original woodwork and mantels remain, and the floor plan is unchanged. A west wing has been removed and a new family room added. The thrill comes from the realization that a 140 year old house, which has already seen so much life, because of loving care promises to be a lovely family home for generations to come.

Quincy Preserves!

An independent community organization working to preserve Quincy's architectural and historic inheritance.