



2531 Maine Street
Eclectic Cottage • circa 1897
Richardson House

The property lines for 2531 Maine originally went all way to Madison School where horses were allowed to roam. Records show that Albert A. and Mary E. Richardson were the first owners of a house on the property. Albert was vice president of the Richardson Lubricating Company. The house was built circa 1897 in an Eclectic Style that combines elements of several different styles. The current owners, David and Sharon Zimmerman removed previous siding to uncover the original board and batten. This removal also showed evidence of a large second floor window at the back of the house. Dave and Sharon still consider the house a work in progress, since there are many more details to restore.

A front sitting room is part of a wide bay on the south side of the house. Two pocket doors lead to the parlor. One is multipaned glass and one is wood paneled. The parlor has a large fireplace with a wood mantel and rounded brickwork. The staircase has butternut wood ornamentation. At the landing, notice the spectacular window that allows multiple light patterns to come into the house.

The corner closets on the second floor are original. Other closets on this floor have "secret" pathways that lead to other sections of the second floor. The bedrooms and bathrooms have been moved around through the years. The current arrangement has a circular flow. The old toilet in the bathroom came from an apartment that was above Illinois School Supply. The raised floor section from the bathroom to the hallway houses plumbing.

Back on the main floor the first opening into the kitchen is where a chimney used to be located. The Zimmermans added the tin ceiling in the kitchen, painted the kitchen cabinets, and added the east wall to define the space better. The family room/television area at the back of the house is not original to the house but was added by a previous owner. When the Zimmermans moved in four years ago the backyard was all concrete. They have restored the area with wisteria trees and perennial ground plants.

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