

1982

## *Pfanschmidt House*

The story of the interesting vernacular Victorian home built by Edward Pfanschmidt is a story of change. The home was built on the southeast corner of 16th & Maine in 1878 by a partner in the Gould & Pfanschmidt Planing Mill at 5th & Ohio. The planing mill was in the business of manufacturing sash, doors, blinds, mouldings, pump tubing, ballusters, boxes, and turning and scroll work. It would be natural that the builder of this house would have access to good lumber and an interest in the rich appointing of his personal home..

The home did not remain on its prominent site, however, as in 1887, Orrin Skinner purchased the house and large lot south and east of the house (now occupied by the Warfield House) and moved to its present location. A Chicago firm accomplished the intricate move, taking the house from its previous basement and setting it down on its new basement. (Originally the house faced north). The house was then sold to Edgar Schmidt of E. & A. Schmidt & Co. and was occupied for several years by Samuel Emery Jr. of Quincy Straw Box Co. and E. W. McClure of Meriam & Co. It was during this occupancy that changes began to take place in the original Pfanschmidt house.

A wrap-around porch was added together with a portacachere, and this with the aid of Harvey Chatten. Inside the house changes occurred too. The original basic wood trim is native black walnut, with lovely carvings and turnings believed to have been done in Pfanschmidt's mill. However, the original parlor mantel was replaced under the Schmidt ownership to a cherry one, the dining room mantel was changed to a classical one of brass and slate. On the first landing of the stairway is a window, which with its trim and panneling was done shortly after the move. The walnut sliding doors between rooms have the original burling. The sitting room and solarium wood trim is painted butternut and the mantel is original. The cherry cabinetry in the kitchen is all part of a major rebuilding of the kitchen under its last ownership. While the inner doors of the vestibule are walnut, the exterior doors are pine. The maple and walnut floor frames in the dining room and sitting room are original. Servants quarters are on the second floor rear atop the back stairway from the present kitchen.

The interesting casket niche in the stairwell wall, and the window at that level, are original to the house. Most of the second floor wood trim is painted grained pine. While it functions well, the cabinets in the butler's pantry are not original, but fit well and perform well for formal dining situations.

The home provides a priceless catalog of some of the millwork done by one of the local mills, as well as a practical floor plan. Additionally, the exterior displays some of the finest masonry and carpentry skills in Quincy at the height of Quincy's Golden Age.

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