

PRINCE HOUSE

1680 Maine Street — 1889/1920's — Harvey Chatten (?), architect

The Col. Edward Prince House is one of the most unusual houses on today's tour in that it has undergone such a complete transformation... thought to be by the same architect... that the original and the house as it stands today would hardly be recognizable! This large and imposing house on the southwest corner of 18th and Maine Streets was originally built as an extremely fine example of Queen Anne Style. The present owners believe that the architect was Quincian Harvey Chatten who was responsible for many other grand houses in the city. However, in the 1920's the house was completely transformed into the much heavier architectural style that we see today. Again, the architect is thought to have also been Harvey Chatten.

As one enters the house the broad porches and porte-cochere (part of the 1920's work) tend to give a feeling of seclusion to the first floor rooms. The small entry vestibule opens into a very large reception hall with a huge open staircase to the second floor. This area contains a small corner fireplace. The double windows on the west wall are thought to have originally been a door for those entering the house from carriages arriving under the covered drive. As one turns to the left and back around to the front of the house the parlor is opened to view. This rather small room contains a fine Italian marble mantel which is a later addition. Above the mantel is a large Austrian gilt mirror, with a companion in the dining room. To the east of the parlor opens a large room that at one time was divided into two rooms. A large door from the front hall was closed (although it can still be seen from the hall) as was a mantel in the southernmost part of the room. Note the corner location where the fireplace would have originally been. The front room was the library. Some shelves are still in the room but some were torn out when the alteration was done. The rear section (with the bay window) was most likely a secondary parlor. The dining room to the back of the house now has white painted woodwork although the present owner has stripped the mantel. All of the woodwork in the living rooms on the first floor is cherry. The woodwork in the reception hall is oak while the kitchen and pantry areas are butternut. To be especially noted are the floors... a combination of California white and red oak and walnut. This same pattern is continued on to the second floor... although much is covered by carpeting. The kitchen is a very recent remodeling.

The second floor is divided much in the same manner as the first floor... there being six bedrooms in addition to various closets and three full bathrooms. All of the woodwork on this floor is also butternut but painted in the private rooms. The third floor is also finished and contains yet another bathroom. There are seventeen closets in the house. Above the third floor is a full attic.

The carriage house on the rear of the property is much in the manner of the original Queen Anne Style house.

The current owners are Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tucker.