

The Eiff house is just one of the many near-north side houses that Quincy architect designed for wealthy Quincians. A one-time follower of Quincy's Robert Bunce, Frank Tubessing later developed his own distinctive style, some features of which are seen in this brick Queen Anne home. The monumental, highly ornamented parapeted front dormer gable is characteristic of Tubessing's work in the late 1800s. Tubessing added hints of Romanesque Revival in the home's round-headed windows. Note the home's decorated neoclassical pediment on the porch and the bold, faceted semicircular bay on the south side.

Joseph Eiff was a Quincy plastering contractor who started out as a laborer. He worked his way up to the position of a successful, respected Quincy businessman. The many elegant features of the house testify to his wealth--the stained glass transoms with stylized lily and honeysuckle designs, the ornamental fireplaces and the quarter-sawn white oak trim. Other evidences of his deep pockets are the brass firebox surround, the curved foyer wall and the upstairs maid's quarters terrazzo floor. Note the 24 inch plinth block trim, the door and window corner blocks that match the carving on the newel post and the front parlor fireplace's trim which echoes the exterior trim. The combination of raised panels and wainscoting in the dining room give it an especially luxurious look.

Robert Leake, has been restoring his Victorian home for 13 years. No detail is too small for Bob and Judy to attend to. There was plenty of exterior work to take care of, such as the porch's turned columns and millwork. Inside, Judy etched the glass in the vestibule doors and did most of the wallpapering herself. Together they scour specialty shops and antique stores searching for just the right pieces to restore their home to its original elegance.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

605 North 14th Street

OCTOBER 20, 2001



- Year Built:** 1896
- Name of Building:** Joseph G. and Mary Eiff House
- Style:** Late Queen Anne, 1896
- Architect:** Attributed to Frank Tubessing