



Egbert Osborn was a Quincy real estate dealer when he built this quaint home. He later started the Adams County Abstract Company and served as an alderman. Osborn spearheaded the movement to remove cows from public streets. He brought the first bicycle and first baseball bat to Quincy and was charter member of the Bicycle Club and the Baseball Club.

The Osborns built a simple cruciform or cross plan house and embellished it with all the extras, inside and out. The interior's adornments include wide, profiled door and window trim, carved corner guards, four panel doors and an elaborately detailed Eastlake-style fireplace mantle. The floors are quarter-sawn oak.

The exterior is covered with gingerbread details, giving the house a truly romantic feeling. Take time to notice all the sawn-wood trim on the house—the decorative bargeboard and pendants on the front gable, the window trim, round second floor window and Gothic-inspired “small roof” inset dormers. Notice also, the “false shaping” on the front second-story window and the ornamentation on the front bay area. The current owner added the bracketry, spindle work and a Victorian screen door to soften the look of the “modern” front porch which was probably added in the 1920s.

Many changes have been made to the cottage over the years. One is the two-story addition on the back—a sleeping porch upstairs and a sun porch off the kitchen. The current owner uses the sun porch for his breakfast room. Another change the current owner made was removing a wall and putting the oversized French doors between the living room and foyer—highlighting the oak Craftsman-style staircase, which is the entry to the upstairs apartment and his children's rooms. He borrowed space from a back hallway and created a spa off the master bedroom. He built a deck off the master bedroom, made 64 wooden storm windows and crafted a birdhouse replica of the house for the backyard.

