



1269 Park Place

The George and Maude Jasper House
Queen Anne Style • 1890-1892

Current owners: Russ and Angel Knoverek

No longer the “pink house”, this magnificent Queen Anne style house was rescued by Angel and Russell Knoverek in 2004. They transformed it from being the “ugly duckling” of Park Place to being the beauty it was when Park Place was developed as Quincy’s first subdivision.

As was the intention when it was designed, the reception hall wows visitors with its many grand features. The fireplace mantelpiece is spectacular with its Romanesque columns, embossed tile and detailed carvings. To the Victorians, fireplaces were of great decorative importance to the house, often displaying the most intricate carpentry and decorations, which, in turn, displayed their wealth.

The staircase is as well tooled as a piece of fine furniture and, as was often the case, displays the most intricate carpentry of the house. Note the heavily carved newel posts, the beaded banister and its spindle work with centered rosettes. The basket weave pattern on the newel replicates the basket weave tiles on the outside of the house. Note the butler’s bench, which is tucked in the corner opposite the mosaic-tiled vestibule.

In the front parlor, the Knovereks have a traditionally decorated tree in the window. Last year, their Christmas tree carried a construction theme, decorated with yellow construction tape for garland and hanging tools for ornaments. The back parlor, or sitting room, is separated from the front parlor by pocket doors, which Russ found in the garage. He built the pockets when he rebuilt the wall, which had been removed when the house was divided into apartments. The sitting room’s fireplace has exquisite ornamentation and glazed relief tile. Note the stained glass transom window. Off the dining room is the former Smoking Room, which has a corner fireplace with a hunting motif in the brown tiles.

Russ and Angel designed the large kitchen with their family of six in mind. They achieved its size by incorporating the former side door hallway, modifying the back stairs and covering the back set of basement steps. They uncovered the old wallpaper on the backstairs landing wall and instead of removing it and painting the wall, they framed it as a work of art.

With the exception of the roof, Russ did all the restoration work himself with occasional help from a few high school students. It has been a monumental job. It is Russ’s first “attempt” at doing any work of this kind, because the Knovereks lived in a condominium in Lombard, Illinois before moving to Quincy. Russ said that with each new task, he just “figured out” how to do it!

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR
DECEMBER 11, 2005**