

Bradshaw House

Bradshaw House — 819 N. 5th — 1882 — Eastlake

David and Connie Smith hope that someday soon their distinctive Eastlake house will have all the style and excitement it had when it was built. To that end they have been working on the house continuously since buying it in 1979. The painting that is presently under way is high work and exacting; and the porch work that is under way has to be done to original specifications. But it's "all in a day's work" as the Smiths look at it.

One of three or four exceptionally stylish Eastlake examples in Quincy, this home was built near the end of the period of affluence in near-north Quincy. Homes in the neighborhood had been built and occupied by many of the merchants and industrial leaders of the period of Quincy's greatest growth and industrial expansion.

The Eastlake style of architecture is included in the "picturesque" achievements in the latter half of the 19th century. It derived its name from Robert Eastlake, English designer of Victorian furniture. Some of the ornamentation on his furniture pieces found their way into homes of the last 20 years of the century, thus the designation "Eastlake". Rosettes, stylized vines, sharktooth borders were some of the designs often found in the houses of the period and those purely Eastlake. Steep-hipped roofs, scattered dormers, porch stoops are also characteristics of the style.

The butternut interior trim in the Bradshaw house is severely plain except for the center carvings in the lintels. Woodwork throughout is butternut except for the mahogany stair rail. Plaster work, sash casings, and some other minor structural work remains to be done in the Smith's dogged, deliberate way. But as the Smith's plan to make this their last home, their determination is to make the house original.

The house was built in 1882 by James T. Bradshaw, a photographer and art dealer, who lived here only about three years, sold his business and moved from Quincy. Following Bradshaw, a physician named _____ lived here for a number of years.

Quincy Preserves!

An independent community organization working to preserve Quincy's architectural and historic inheritance.