



**Ray E. and Edna Lee House**  
**Cape Cod**

When the Lee family built this charming World War II Cape Cod house, Ray Lee was part owner of Quincy Automotive Supply Company, which was located on North 6th Street. The Lee family lived in this house for over 40 years.

Arguably one of the most popular American house styles, the Cape Cod style house is found in most neighborhoods that are over 50 years old. The style is based on American folk houses of 16th to mid-17th century New England. In 1800 Yale University president Reverend Timothy Dwight dubbed the style Cape Cod. A sub-type of Colonial Revival and with characteristics of what Virginia McAlester calls Minimal Traditional, most Cape Cods were built in the 1930s and 1940s.

Cape Cods were revitalized in the 20th century, partly by architect Royal Barry Willis, who sold his Cape Cod house plans nationwide. Although for many families, they were a “starter house”, they were considered very modern and full of conveniences. Their small rectangular footprint allowed for the easy addition of rooms, when finances allowed.

The charming 20th century Cape Cod differs in several ways from the original folk house, and the differences are seen in the Lee House. Those 20th century modifications include the addition of gable and shed dormers to create second story living space, non-functioning shutters, and a medium-pitched, rather than steeply-pitched roof. Twentieth century Cape Cod fireplaces are located on the outside wall, rather than on middle wall, where originally found. The first Cape Cod houses were devoid of most ornamentation, while 20th century examples sport decorative door surrounds, scalloped or dentil molding, and other “colonial” features.

This sweet home manages to be both homey and formal—graciously meeting a traditional family’s cooking, dining, entertaining, sleeping, and fresh air needs—all in a manageable space. Original details are sprinkled throughout the home— small doorknobs with rosettes instead of escutcheons, narrow, but profiled Colonial Revival door and window molding, six-panel doors, an original powder-room sink, and one and one half car garage.

The Lee home has seen few changes over the years, but the current owner has updated the kitchen, added crown molding and an over-mantle mirror, refinished floors, added exterior lighting and created a new courtyard space—all completely fitting with the home’s era.

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