

sees one. Voth says that he "majored in the listing, sale, and appraisal of older homes and served on the architecture committee of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts for many years."

In the process, he became something of an expert on the various woods used in homes during certain time periods. He was also frequently dismayed to find that the fine cherry, walnut, butternut and oak woodwork in these homes had been covered with multiple coats of paint.

His own home at 2903 Maine, bought in 1960, was an exception, at least on the main floor.

"I can tell that this house was built between 1890 and 1900 because of the woodwork. That was the butternut era,"

he says. "The wood used in these homes was grown right here, and having such natural resources is one of the reasons Quincy was called the 'Gem City.'"

Voth first saw his future home as a young boy following the circus parade out Maine Street to Baldwin Park.

"Thirtieth Street was a gravel road from Broadway to State, and this was the only house out here, a red brick."

The Voth family bought their home from Quincy High Principal R.S. Brackman. Other previous owners were Tom Daugherty and the Amen family, who ran a grocery store at 34th and Broadway.

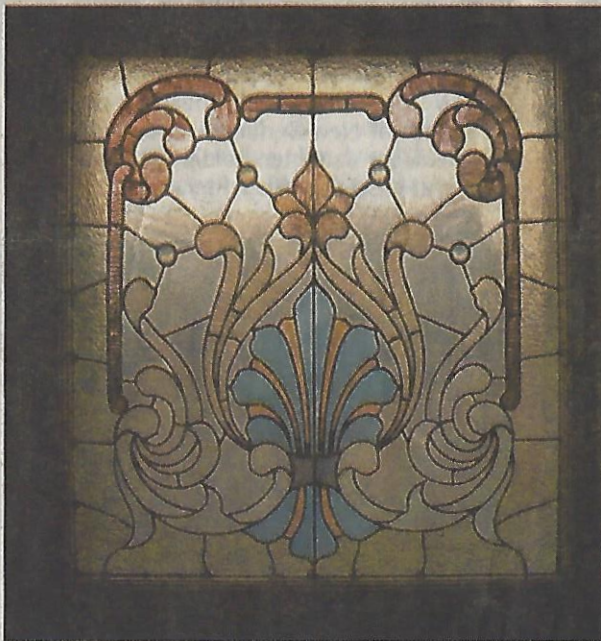
The two-story home features a mixed style, with clean lines that lend themselves to the Colonial interpretation favored by the Voths.

"We painted the exterior white, added

The family enlarged a white brick fireplace in the living room to accommodate the burning of logs, removed small pipes that formerly served the gaslight system and sealed upstairs transoms no longer needed for air circulation.

The "heavily built" brick home remains quiet despite Maine Street traffic and holds the warmth even on a frigid day. In summer, "the neighbors turn on their air three weeks before I have to," Voth said.

Sunlight streams through dramatic full-length windows on both floors. An art-glass panel highlights the front stairway, which features a nook at the head of the stairs large enough for a



walnut desk and chair.

A snug den fits neatly under the front stairway, "my favorite place during the winter," says Voth.

In the summer, that honor is claimed by a two-story screened porch on the east side of the house.

On the first floor, the porch is adjacent to the kitchen, making it ideal for leisurely breakfasts and dinners. "My wife loved to sit on the second-floor porch, which is attached to a dressing room and laundry area," Voth says. She designed the dressing room, which is adjacent to a spacious bath, to include extensive built-in storage.

Although most of the main floor is carpeted, Voth chose not to cover the original two-inch oak flooring that is a focal point of the foyer. The blond wood highlights the generous lines of the newel post and banis-



H-W Photos/Philip Carlson

**Don Voth's home at 2903 Maine is a mixture of modern comfort and old-fashioned charm. Built between 1890 and 1900, the home features an array of butternut woodwork typical of that era. Clockwise from upper left, Voth stands in the home's entryway; screened-in porches on both floors decorate the home's back corner; butternut woodwork is prominent around the front door; this stained-glass window along the stairwell was in place when Voth bought the home in 1960.**

ter on the front staircase.

"When I was a boy, we used to pick up the butternuts, hickory, and walnuts; the butternuts are all but extinct now," he says.

In his profession, Voth has

"owned many houses, but this is the only home I owned and lived in."

He treasures its connection to a bygone era, knowing that it doesn't take much polish to make a true gem shine.