

Lemley-Johnson House

PLEASE RETURN TO FOLDER

OF THE MS. FILE *Quincy*

picture

Lemley-Johnson House - 1476 Hampshire - 1868 - Italianate/Queen Anne

Moving into a Victorian House and beginning to surround himself with items of the Victorian Era was the fulfillment of a dream for Jim Sibbing. The house he found had as a bonus a varied and interesting history. This house and the one just east were built from the same plans and were identical Italianate houses in every respect. The twin homes were built in the early 1860's by two brothers, Robert and Joseph Lemley, who were partners in one of Quincy's early mercantile businesses. Then something unusual happened.....

The second owner, a Dr. Johnson purchased the house in the late 1880's. The doctor was very much enamored by a new and pictureque style called Queen Anne which had recently found it's way to Quincy from the east. This most flamboyant architectural style was hardly compatible with Johnson's rather sedate Italianate house. But a considerable architect was hired (name unknown) and in 1890 an artful and structurally ingenious transformation to Queen Anne was accomplished to the west side and interior, while retaining the original Italianate character of the east exterior.

At this time, the entire interior was gutted, rearranged and all the austere Pine woodwork replaced with beautiful one-of-a-kind cherry, butternut and oak trim. The parlor is a warm pink cherry, the dining room an unusual fluted butternut. The inset panelled oak vestibule, foyer and staircase are of exquisite craftsmanship, as is the pink cast brass hardware which matches throughout the house. The owners have collected and restored the lovely gas/electric fixtures throughout the house except the one in the parlor which is original to the 1890 Queen Anne renovation. The Sibbing's are desperately looking for an appropriate fixture for the dining room.

All structural work done by Mr. Sibbing has been in keeping with original materials and methods used at the time of the original building and renovation. Mrs. Sibbing is a native of Taiwan; on a recent trip to her homeland she had shipped numbers of items of furniture and accessories which bring a most unusual mixed decorative look to the interior.

Changes made in the house since they found it include a modern kitchen, conversion of the servants' rooms into a large bath and utility room, and a ½ bath in a small room which had once served as Dr. Johnson's office.

Quincy Preserves!

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