

327 South 12th Street



Sarah A. Baker House

327 S. 12th

Architect: attributed to Robert Bunce

Date: 1872/73

Carpenter Gothic Cottage

This delightful cottage, with its steeply pitched slate shingled roof and abundant gingerbread trim, is one of the prime examples of "carpenter gothic" in this section of Illinois and the mid-west. The house, one in the area of the former Gershom Dimmock farm, was built for Sarah A. Baker, a Georgia native who moved to Quincy with her mother and sister in the late 1850s. Sarah, a civic minded and patriotic individual, became a member of the local Needle Pickets, supporting the Union troops in field and hospital, during the Civil War. In 1884, when she moved to Wisconsin, Sarah sold the home to her sister, Miss Frances Baker for the sum of \$2600.

The vestibule, parlor and dining room of the cottage are finished in butternut, with sawn fret work mirroring that on the outside front entry porch and gable. Outside, the tall, narrow lancet windows are complimented by custom made shutters and the scrolling and stylized floral motif on the vergeboards and porch bracketing.

Later the cottage was home to the Hapke family, who added on to the original footprint by replacing the rear open porches with a two story conservatory built largely out of wood paneling and architectural remnants from their own ancestral farm homes. The stained glass peacock insert in the transom above the front entry was likely also added by the Hapkes. The rather narrow front façade of the cottage belies the many charming rooms, upstairs and down, which open up to the visitor upon entering the home. Each room is filled with additional finely workmanship in woodwork and wall coverings, and the present owners, who treasure the house they once admired before it was theirs, have decorated in a style to emphasize both the coziness of the home and the myriad of Gothic and cottage stylist detailing.

SPR '15