



1617 Hampshire Street

Italianate Style • 1861

Current owner: Jean Reddington

This large brick house was built by Matthew Finlay, an Irish native in the clothing business. At a time when houses cost on average \$2,400.00 to erect, this Italianate house cost \$10,000.00. The "sister" structure of this house is the Morgan-Wells House (the former YWCA) at 421 Jersey Street. It is a good probability that the architects Eaton Littlefield and George Baughman were commissioned to build this structure as well as the structure at 421 Jersey.

Since 1916, Inghram family members have owned the house. They have preserved the past during restorations especially in the 1960's. They have furnished their home with antiques and collectibles from past Inghram/Brown generations.

The outstanding exterior features include symmetrical massing, a wooden double cupola with arched windows and brackets, a deep overhanging roof with a bracket pattern, and stone hood moulds.

While passing through the semi-circular brick front door opening, take notice of the arched toplight and sidelights. The sidelights have some of their original reversed etched panels in a grape motif. The height of the ceilings measure fourteen feet.

The graceful staircase was built by Robert H. Norris, great grandfather of John T. Inghram III. The music room and the family room on the west side were originally one parlor. One of the most notable features of the lovely dining room is the heavy gold fruit frieze in the ceiling. The dining room also has many pieces of silver and crystal that are antique collectibles from the Inghram and Brown families.

The parlor on the east side originally had two fireplaces. The carpet in this room was once throughout the first floor of the house and is a replica of the carpet in Lincoln's home in Springfield.

The cradle in the front east bedroom is an Early American cradle that has been in the family for many years. The fireplace mantle in this room has a faux paint treatment on the cast iron resembling marble. Most likely the servant's quarters were originally three rooms for the staff and a trunk room.

The staircase continues up to the third floor where entrance to the double cupola is gained. The cupola was once a small studio for Jean's brother, Jack Inghram, when he was a youngster.

*Christmas Candlelight Tour
December 12, 2004*