

## **BROSE – HARDER HOUSE** **305 SOUTH SIXTEENTH STREET c. 1858**

Mr. Brose came to this country from Germany as Johann Gottlieb Brose, but shortly after his arrival he anglicized his first name to John. He built this red brick Italian Villa in 1855-60. The architect is unknown. Mr. Brose was a stonemason and owned and operated a quarry. The stones in the path leading to the front entrance of the house came from his quarry. The property was mortgaged on several occasions and in 1878 Mr. Brose sold the property to Berkley A. Summers, Marion County, Missouri for \$3500.00

Originally there was a cupola on the roof of the house which later was removed. Now there is a balustrated platform or "widow's walk" in its place. Other changes were made throughout the years.

Parquet floors were installed in the living rooms during the 19th century, as were the stained glass windows in the hall. In 1956 the floor in the servants quarters, which was a step-down, was raised to correspond to the level of the floors in the front part of the house. Fireplaces in the parlor and library were faced with white marble, framed with pilasters and given new wooden mantles. Bookcases were built in the library. Cornice moldings in the downstairs living rooms were added later.

Mr. and Mrs. John Harder acquired the property in 1984. They have cleaned, repaired and painted inside and out. Due to the heavy overgrowth of shrubs and trees the house was barely visible from the street. All this excess was cleared out and now the house is in plain view and is a shining example of what can be done to restore a house to its original beauty.

The Harders are to be congratulated for their careful restoration of this significant house. They, indeed, have a beautiful home!

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR  
DECEMBER 4, 1988