

... Kyle has also enjoyed the chance to begin returning the house to its original splendor, even though owning an older home means that you spend our weekends fixing things.”

It's easy to imagine that the original owner, Henry Borstadt, felt the same husbandly pride when he presented the home to his bride, the former Emma Binkert.

The young couple were among the first to settle in Quincy's first planned neighborhood, which was developed between 12th and 14th during the period of 1889-1917. The homes generally exhibit the era's popular Queen Anne style, but with fascinating variations.

Kyle Day notes that the house immediately to the west appears to be almost a twin of his family's. The similarity is obscured by the addition of a large enclosed porch on the Day home, possibly to replace a smaller one damaged by weather.

The porch, of 1950s vintage, features banks of covered windows and a stucco finish that has been extended over the facade of the second story as well. Like several other homes on the block, this one experienced service as a multiple family dwelling; a side “entrance to nowhere” has since been enclosed.

Today Kyle and Rena are continuing the restoration of the home to its charming past. It retains gleaming unpainted woodwork, including crown molding and broad baseboards, as well as hardwood floors, most notably a parquet entry.

Tall windows, including a bay in the dining room, create a light and airy space on both floors, and the couple “never need to use the air conditioner” because of the natural flow of cool air in the summer.

The home's 19th century style makes it the perfect backdrop for a large and elegant collection of antiques from Kyle's family. Several pieces have been in the family for generations, and Kyle's grandfather refinished furniture and dealt antiques.

An ornate chair from the Philippines, a gift from Kyle's mother, is a focal point of the front parlor along with a baby grand piano destined



Clockwise from upper left: Kyle and Rena Day fell in love at first sight with the Queen Anne-style home at 1248 Park Place. Above: As with the rest of the house, the dining room features high ceilings. Below: The parlor features a grand piano and several antique furniture pieces. H-W Photos/Steve Bohnstedt

for Sabina's first piano lessons.

A Civil War musket inscribed with a soldier's initials stands in the corner, a reflection of Kyle's passion for history.

“It was recovered near Memphis when the Mississippi changed course,” he says.

Upstairs Rena points out a century-old pitcher and bowl set from London and a heart-shaped mirror from her native Azerbaijan.

“It's the custom there to bring a mirror into your new house,” she explains.

One modern touch that the Days wouldn't sacrifice is the expansive deck off the large master bedroom. Overlooking a spacious backyard with huge maples, sprawling redbuds, and carefully tended gardens, the deck provides a quiet retreat for breakfast or for a relaxing glass of wine in the evening.

“We're thinking of screening it in to use as a sleeping porch,” Kyle says.

From this vantage, the Days can also appreciate the beauty of their neighborhood and the friendliness of the “wonderful people” who live

there.

“We love the character of our home,” Rena says. “New homes seem all alike. And we really like the park” that extends between the brick streets of Park Place.

Like so many families before them, the Days enjoy being part of a tight-knit community within the city of Quincy, a place where history is valued and friends gather on the parkway to celebrate the warm days ahead.



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