



1539 Spring
Queen Anne Style • Circa 1893
The Henry and Gertrude Brinks House

When Henry and Gertrude Brinks built their dignified home in the former Alstyn's Prairie, little did they know it would remain in the family for 117 years. The Victorian home, built on three lots, displays Brinks' skill as a carpenter-contractor. The Quincy Journal described it as "palatial." Victorian devices add texture and interest to the home, such as—carved gable motifs, bull's-eye panels, varied shingle styles, and incised window carvings. The spindled wraparound porch is its quintessential Victorian feature.

After working at Schenck Altar Company, Brinks started his own construction business and planing mill in his back yard. He is known for being the general contractor for St. Mary's Church and also carpentry contractor for Quincy College, Quincy College Chapel, the Christian Science Church.

The home has refinements expected of an upper middle class Victorian home—carved double front doors, a spectacularly carved staircase, parlor mantle and overmantle decked out with Victorian finery and sparkling beveled mirrors and shimmering stained glass windows.

The dining room's butternut trim is grand and gleaming, one example of the current owners' dedicated renovation efforts, which are evident throughout the house. Deep baseboards, corner guards, distinct corner blocks and Eastlake hardware display the first Brinks' sophistication and affluence.

In all renovations, original trim, doors and bead board was saved and re used elsewhere. The generous kitchen has undergone several renovations over the decades—the most recent one focusing on the backstairs and pantry area. The den addition is on the spot where the summer kitchen once stood and the side porch is an enclosure of an original.

The private spaces upstairs are airy and bright. Good strategists, the Liesens relocated the attic stairs to create bedroom closets. Off the master bedroom, the posh bath, owner designed and built, occupies the former nursery/sewing room. Two original doors became sliding doors on a new double closet. A bonus room/pass through leads to other bedrooms and the relocated attic stairs; they lead to three new bedrooms and a bath.

Behind Closed Doors Tour Oct. 16, 2010