



Robert and Adelia Lemley House
1476 Hampshire
architect unknown, 1872;
remodeling attributed to Harvey Chatten, 1889
Italianate Style with Queen Anne addition and verandah

current owners: Reg and Jane Ankrom

In 1864 the Lemley brothers, Robert and Joseph, opened a dry goods store in Quincy. They must have gotten along well, for eight years later they put up identical houses next to each other on Hampshire. In the mid 1880s, Joseph moved into a larger and more fashionable house a block away at 1601 Vermont. Not to be outdone, Robert hired an architect to update his own, creating the strange mix of Late Italianate and High Queen Anne that we see today.

The Italianate portion of the Lemley House is typical of master-builder designs of the 1870s. Quite possibly it is the work of Frederick Reinecker, whose own house was built around the same time just a block away. The Queen Anne remodeling, on the other hand, carries a definite architect's stamp. The melding of the two halves of the house is masterfully handled, with the set-out entry bay providing a clear break between old and new and the verandah tying it all back together. But the architect was also respectful of the older building, as the fret-sawn bracketing was allowed to remain in spite of its contrast to the unadorned clipped eaves of the addition.

A number of quirks in the design point to Harvey Chatten as the likely architect: the opposition of massive square piers to bulging columns and finely turned balusters in the porch; the insertion of delicate iron grillwork in the balcony over the porch; and above all, the introduction of Romanesque detail to the interior. All the interiors were redone with the Queen Anne remodeling, changing some of the room configurations and replacing pine woodwork with cherry in the parlor, oak in the vestibule, and butternut in the dining room. Examples of fine craftsmanship abound in the stained glass entry transom light, the complex tilework of the vestibule floor, the boldly sculpted fireplaces (both with some references to Romanesque patternwork), and the elaborate staircase with its paneled sides and interlace carvings.