

JOSEPH H. VANDENBOOM HOUSE

310 South 16th street

Mr. VandenBoom, who was in lumber business, built his Prairie style home, using tapestry brick, in 1917. George P. Behrensmeyer, well known Quincy architect designed it. This style of architecture was popular in the early 1900's. One of the originators of the Prairie style was well known architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The intent of this style was to reflect its surroundings, thus the broad, flat expanse of the midwestern prairie was reflected in the structure by the long, low horizontal design. Prominent characteristics are the low overhanging roofs, broad chimneys and windows arranged in bands and geometric ornamentation. A unique feature in architect Behrensmeyer designed structures is a keystone design as an inverted triangle. Such a keystone appears on each side of the frontis piece of the fireplace and also on the staircase.

Quartersawn oak is used throughout the house except for one bedroom, which has mahogany woodwork. A member of the family said her grandfather went to a mill in Louisiana and hand picked the lumber for this room.

In the 1930's the front porch was closed in and converted into a room, which adjoins the living room. Judge and Mrs. Robert Cook and their family are very happy with their home.

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