

May, 2012

1422 Maine Street
Queen Anne with Eastlake Detail 1876
Morris and Lebra Felsenheld House
Architect: Unknown

Morris Felseheld, born in Bavaria in 1835, immigrated to the United States in 1848, living in Pennsylvania, New York, and Aurora, Illinois, where, in 1864, he married Miss Lebra Jauriet of Detroit. Mr. Felsenheld moved his family to Quincy in 1871. Here, with his brother Emmanuel, he founded a dry goods business, located at 420 Maine, of which he later took sole ownership. In an article entitled "IMPROVEMENTS," published in 1876, the Quincy Whig listed a "brick dwelling, Maine between Fourteenth and Sixteenth built for M. Felsenheld, at a cost of \$6,000." During the 130+ year history of this dwelling, it has served as a private home, and in later years – through the 1980's - as a multiple family apartment house. Since that time, two families, including the current owners of the house, have lovingly returned the structure to its intended original status as a single family home.

This Queen Anne home, with Eastlake details, is a two story brick structure with steeply pitched, multiple hipped roof, and a two story wing toward the rear of the house, to which an additional one story wing is appended. Its limestone foundation and brick exterior walls are complimented by a decorative brick chimney with stone trim and decorative brickwork, on the East façade. Window and door openings are trimmed with carved stone and/or brick lintels and wood trim. Below the roof line, decorative elements include a wood cornice and brackets, decorative brick belt courses, and segmental brick arch windows with stone details. Eastlake details in the wood framing of window bays and porch supports and trimmings on the ground floor exterior are also reflected in the elaborate window and door casings in the homes interior.

On the interior, the complicated Eastlake inspired window and door moldings and framings sets a tone of understated and cozy elegance. These carved and pierced wooden elements, surrounding the more than 70 doors and windows throughout the house, are now painted a crisp white, and compliment the tall case windows to bring a wonderful sense of light to the home. At present, only the central staircase retains its original wood finish. The parlor to the left of the main front entry showcases a grand Eastlake influenced wooden mantle over a gas insert fireplace, and near floor to ceiling, one over one windows. Although the original wood sashes of these and other windows in the house have been replaced with modern double pane units, the original height of the windows has been retained by the use of custom made replacements. Further bringing light into the house are two sleeping porches located on the second floor. A former, attached summer kitchen at the rear of the house has been repurposed as cheery and sunny breakfast room.

Word count: 458