



**William F. and Mary Berghofer House**  
**217 S. 14th • c. 1892, porch 1910s**  
**builder unknown**

In 1891 Quincy's premier manufacturer of ornamental sheet iron, W. F. Berghofer, purchased enough property for four houses to be built on 14th Street south of Jersey. The first to be built was Berghofer's own residence at 217. Its wood frame construction and large porch addition conceal the fact that it was planned very much like the Hoye house built immediately to the north a few years later.

A finely corbeled bell atop the main chimney is the chief remaining exterior mark of the house's Queen Anne pedigree. The interior is all that Europeans admired about the "modern" American house: simple milled woodwork (in this case, native butternut), a minimum of hall space, and above all a plan that flows freely between the rooms. Wide openings between the stair hall, living room and dining room create one virtual space, while sliding doors can easily produce privacy when desired.

The simplicity of the interior is enlivened by several unusual features. Machine-carved bosses in a bull's-eye pattern, a standard component of door and window casings, are shrunk to button-like dimensions. The newel post is adorned with a finial carved in an abstract curvilinear pattern. Above the stair turning, a small balustrade curves outward into a quarter circle.

An unusually large kitchen at the rear has recently been further expanded out onto the kitchen porch, forming a small dining room. The upstairs hall is characteristically old fashioned, a long narrow run with rooms branching to either side.

By the time of W. F. Berghofer's death in 1920, his firm had turned from tin ceilings and cornices to steel ranges and poultry supplies. Mary continued to live in the house with her daughter and son-in-law (who maintained the family firm) until her death in 1935.

**current owners: Rod and Phyllis Snodgrass**

**BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**  
**DATE FEB 14 1993**