

# Couple decided to move to Quincy from Texas when they spotted a Queen Anne house on Vermont

By Ruth Hultz

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A few years ago when Chuck and Barbara McClain were on their way from Texas to Minnesota, they decided to "take a swing through Quincy."

Touring the town, Barbara spotted the frame Queen Anne house at 1640

Vermont and fell in love with it. They soon sold their house in Texas and moved to Quincy's Vermont Street.

A graduate of Quincy College, Chuck had always liked Quincy. Barbara dubbed it "a great little undiscovered town." She thinks Quincy has the most beautiful and affordable old homes of any town they had seen in their many travels.

The two-story Victorian home attracted the McClains for several reasons.

"I always like the painted look," Barbara said. And the house is distinctive, partly because of the unusual roof line which steps up to its center point.

They both adored the front

wrap-a-round porch which they regularly use for dining and relaxing. A back porch and a second story sleeping porch are two other features they admired.

The home's interior also has special features. One is the massive master bedroom suite with its own side parlor and the cedar walk-in closets.



They liked the home's elegant interior architectural features. One is a large bay window in the family room that is flanked by butternut pedestals and turned columns. They also enjoy the unusual box-like fireplace in the family room.

The home has plenty of room for the

McClains. The family room, or back parlor, is where they spend most of their time, but the formal receiving room and front parlor are great for entertaining.

The house also was perfect for the McClains because it didn't need to be renovated. They had always planned to

buy an old home, but they were not looking to totally redo one — they just wanted to enjoy the roominess, hominess and comfort of an historic home.

Previous owners had done a massive restoration, returning it to a single-family home from an apartment house. They refinished the butternut and oak trim and sliding doors. They restored the unusual cypress baluster and rails at the top of the stairs. The large kitchen with its original wide bead board wainscoting was updated and they added a handy first floor bathroom where the butler's pantry used to be.

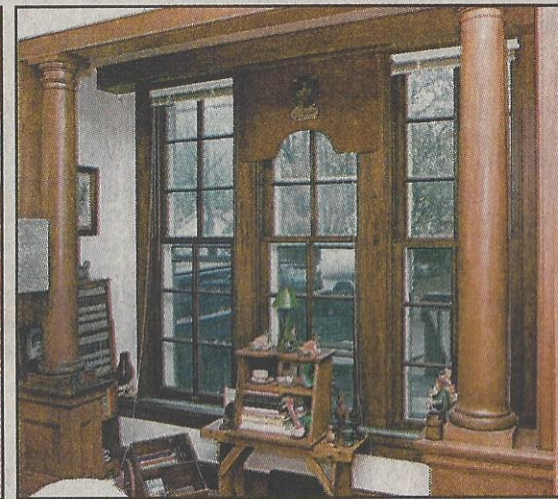
The McClains took care of some exterior maintenance when they first moved in, and were careful to preserve the integrity of the many classical Queen Anne features.

They also updated a bathroom and finished the basement where they work together in their family business.

The McClains have some plans for the future. They want to remove the wall-to-wall carpeting to expose the diagonal oak floors and they have some improvements in mind for the sleeping porch.

But mostly they plan to enjoy their historic home and the neighborhood and town that they love.

**Original owner:** Leaton Irwin, President, Irwin Paper Co.  
**Date of construction:** 1895  
**History:** Leaton Irwin came to Quincy to attend Chaddock College, planning to pursue a literary career. Instead he entered the wholesale paper trade and founded the Irwin Paper Co., which was one of the largest in the Midwest. He also organized the Quincy Freight Bureau.



This window in the family room, flanked by butternut pedestals and turned columns, is a favorite feature in the home. A staircase is shown at far left..