

FALL 2014 SPRING 2013



501 N. 13th

Queen Anne • 1898 • Architect: Harry Chatten
The Leonard M. and Frances M. Schmitt House

Two houses on this year's tour stand back to back on Spring between 12th and 13th. The Queen Anne style house at 501 N. 13th was designed in 1898 by Harvey Chatten for Leonard Schmitt, a druggist who was born in Quincy in 1848 of German immigrant parents. His father who arrived in Quincy in 1836, was a cabinet maker by trade, but soon turned to contracting and general contracting, and built many commercial and private structures in Quincy between 1845 and 1865. Leonard Schmitt grew up in the family home, built by his father, at 810 Hampshire; attending St. Boniface School and St. Francis College. He began work in the drug business in 1862, and spent five years in Chicago in that business in the 1880s. In 1882 he returned to Quincy, marrying a girl from his parent's home town in Germany and by 1896, Mr. Schmitt was proprietor of the Occidental Drug Store, later known as Fischer and Schmitt Drugs at 629 Hampshire.

On the east façade of the Schmitt home, the main entrance is reached through a small porch, beneath a hexagonal second story turret, which opens into an entry and stairway leading to the second floor. The front parlor, to the left of the entry, has as its southeast wall a semi-circular half turret which is repeated in the large bedroom above. The open stairway to the second story of the house begins with a shallow two-step landing, then rises to an upper landing four steps below the upper level, at which point a second, enclosed stairwell branches off to return to the first floor in the original kitchen/pantry area.

The fireplace mantel, brick surround and hearth in what was originally the dining room, now repurposed as a parlor, was added by the home's second owners, the William Papp family of Pape and Loos Milling, who purchased the home in 1912. Today, the house has been carefully refurbished and opened as a day spa by the current owners, who have, where possible, re-exposed and/or retained many of the home's original features.