

833 Kentucky Street



Year Built:

c. 1855

Name of Building:

Henry Holtgrieve House

Style:

**Federal Style, T shaped,
brick**

*BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 19, 2002*

The Henry Holtgrieve House at 833 Kentucky has been home to the Quincy Steamboat Company for the past 24 years. The 147 year old house is a wonderful example of early vernacular houses in Quincy's German Village and one of the first Quincy businesses to practice adaptive reuse of a historic structure.

The front door of the shop today was the original front door of the house. The side entrance may have been used for upstairs rental, a common practice of the thrifty Germans.

The house had two parlors, and the floors in the front parlors are random width white pine. This is the typical floor found in Quincy homes prior to 1890. The perimeter was often grained to look like a more expensive wood and the center was covered with a large rug.

The western parlor is thought to have had a woodstove. This was considered a sign of affluence in the 1850s. There is also a closet found in this room that was believed to have held all of the clothes for the family.

Also of note, in the west parlor is the cobalt blue transom window above the doorway. The blue window is a flash acid etching. These windows are drawn by hand with wax and then dipped in acid to achieve the desired effect.

This window was added by Mary Keefe, original owner of Quincy Steamboat Company. It came from her Grandfathers' store at Front and Hampshire Streets known as C.L. Adams Boat Store. A photo of the store is on display in the next room. Keefe had originally wanted to open a store in that building, but it collapsed before she was able to.

The adjoining room is thought to have originally been two bedrooms or a room and a back porch. The beadboard in the room is from the 1890s and thought to be original to this addition. Please note near the cash register the little pantry doors under the stairs. These are from the 1850s house.

The farthest North rooms of the business were added much later. They are currently used for merchandise display and for the cooking classes and catering business. Quincy Steamboat Company is also the place to find that special gift as well as any gourmet cooking supplies your favorite recipe calls for. Today there is a children's Halloween cooking class. Showers, private parties and other special events are also at home in this favorite Quincy spot.

When exiting the building make special note of the little out building in the back. Possibly a summer kitchen, it is thought to be original to the property.

