



Willis and Zenobia Brent House, 1892
401 South 18th Street
Architect/Builder: Unknown

This unassuming house and its site capture a rich slice of Quincy history. The first known house on the lot was built by a plasterer, William Butler, in 1872. In 1879 the property passed to Zenobia Brent of Boonville, Missouri, who moved here with her husband Willis, her father-in-law and four children. They were one of very few black families to live in what was soon to become the East End. Willis' father was a Civil War veteran and he was a schoolteacher.

In 1892 the Brents built a new house closer to the corner. Originally a shotgun house with one room behind another, it grew an addition to one side as the Brent children grew up and brought their spouses home. By 1920 the house had been completely remodeled inside and turned into a duplex. It continued to sprout additions and alterations through the 1930s.

The only visible vestiges of 19th century construction are a faceted dining room bay to the south and a massive, and perennially dry, limestone basement. When the house was duplexed, the plan of each floor evolved into a typical bungalow layout with the living and dining areas on one side and the bedrooms on the other. The trim is of the Craftsman period "Mission" interiors that were locally popular from around 1910 to 1930.

The current resident is Coni Triplett.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR
DECEMBER 10, 2000



Willis and Zenobia Brent House
401 S. 18th
c. 1892, remodeled several times
builders unknown

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In 1892, the Brents built a new house closer to the corner. Originally a shotgun house with one room behind another, it grew an addition to one side as the Brent children grew up and brought their spouses home. Susie Brent followed her father's vocation as a teacher at Lincoln School before marrying Richard Smith. Another daughter, Emily, married grocer Wilbert W. Fields. By 1920, the house had been completely remodeled inside and turned into a duplex. It continued to sprout additions and alterations through the 1930s.

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BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 16, 1993

current residents: Ron and Coni Triplett