



506 SHERMAN

HISTORY

The land on which this house was built was originally owned by Edward C. Lovell. Brother and business partner of Vincent, whose home is on this year's tour, Edward also served as a 2-term Kane County judge, the Elgin City Attorney, President of the Board of Education, Mayor of Elgin and a member of the State Legislature.

After Edward's death in 1902 at the age of 60, the property was purchased from his estate by a long-time employee of the watch factory, Harry J. Daveler, who had his home built there in 1904. In 1910, Daveler sold 506 to Dr. W.W. Payne, the distinguished astronomer who had been hired by Elgin National Watch Company to supervise the building and equipping of the factory's observatory. Appointed its director in 1909, Payne held that title until he retired in 1926. After the deaths of Payne and his wife, their daughter Jessie took possession of the house, living there until 1941.

In August of 1987, the home was purchased by the current owners. Arlington Street residents since 1980, they had been looking for a larger home. When 506 Sherman became available, they did not hesitate. Not only was it the best house for the money, but at 506 Sherman, they and their children could remain in a neighborhood of people who are truly neighbors, people with whom relationships they hope will last a lifetime have been formed.

EXTERIOR

Style. Neo-Colonial (See Glossary)

Victorian/Queen Anne Features

Built in 1905, later than the other Neo-Colonials on tour, 506 Sherman is, interestingly, more reminiscent of Victorian/Queen Anne architecture than are the others.

Still present, for example, is a 2-story, 6-sided tower, complete with witch's cap or candle-snuffer top.

Though unobtrusive enough to be overlooked, to the right of the entry is a 2-story, or double, bay. A similarly restrained bay is on the west side of the house. Both are angled.

Also present on the west side of the house, though best appreciated from the interior, is a full-length, arched, stained glass window of floral design.

Transitional Features

In shape, the house is more simplified, more rectangular.

The wrap-around porch of the Queen Anne is gone, but the porch still extends across the entire front in a most un-Adams/Georgian fashion.

The entry, though still asymmetrical, has moved closer to the center of the house.

The roof, a hip roof, has 4 uniformly pitched sides.

Classical Features

Borrowed from the Adams/Georgian colonials are the following classical details:

- 1) gables at front and sides pedimented to form the triangle found in Greek temple design;
- 2) a Palladian window in the pedimented gable of the front bay;
- 3) a horizontal band of dentils running across the top of the porch, the only place where these little "teeth" appear in this house;
- 4) porch columns capped with the scrolled capital of the Ionic Order of Greek architecture.

Other Features

That the columns' capitals are constructed of terra cotta is evident from the chip that appears in that of the column on the southeast corner of the porch.

A quick tour around the exterior will reveal that the leaded glass windows throughout the house are similar in design.

INTERIOR

Floors Unglazed porcelain tile in squares of white/green/black/brick red are featured in the vestibule.

The foyer and main rooms of the first floor, as well as the hallway of the second, were floored with oak.

In the bedrooms, pine was used.

Woodwork In the living room, the woodwork is, inexplicably, ash. Throughout the rest of the first floor, however, it is of oak. On the less-public second floor, it is of pine.

Staircase The oak staircase attests to the increasing popularity of classical detailing. Of the Doric Order in Greek architecture is the square shape of the newel post.

The flutes, or grooves, of the newel post and balusters supporting the rail are of the Ionic Order.

Pocket Doors All 3 pocket doors allow the foyer to be closed off in order to retain heat in the living and dining rooms.

Unusual is the horizontal paneling of the doors.

Each of the doors—one 6½ feet, another 4½, the third 3—is a single unit. Extending the full length of the doorway, each slides back into only one side of the wall.

The hardware on the doors is original.

Living Room Though the pocket doors might suggest otherwise, there is no evidence that this room was originally divided into 2 parlors.

Fireplace Like others on tour, this fireplace originally burned coal.

Framing the fireplace are modified columns, fluted in a classical Greek fashion.

Other decorative details carved into the wood are leaves, beading and the alternating egg and dart.

The tiles are ceramic.

Glass The plate glass in the entry doors has beveled, or slanted, edges.

Also beveled to cast prisms of color on a sunny day is the leaded glass in the living room windows.

Upstairs, the leaded glass is not beveled.

Adding color to the foyer is the stained glass in the arched window in the stairway.

Dining Room Windows Interestingly, the 3 windows in the north wall are features of neither the Queen Anne nor the Colonial Revival. Instead, their oak banding and the fact that they are casement windows, windows which open out instead of up, reflect the then-emerging Prairie School.

Second Floor

Features of this floor still to be mentioned are the following:

- 1) 3 bedrooms, 2 of which have leaded glass windows;
- 2) a spacious bathroom, remodeled by a previous owner;
- 3) at the end of the hall, a built-in unit comprised of 6 drawers and a 4-shelved cupboard.

Basement Unlike the chamber of horrors that exists in some old homes, the basement of 506 is so habitable that a family room has been built into it.