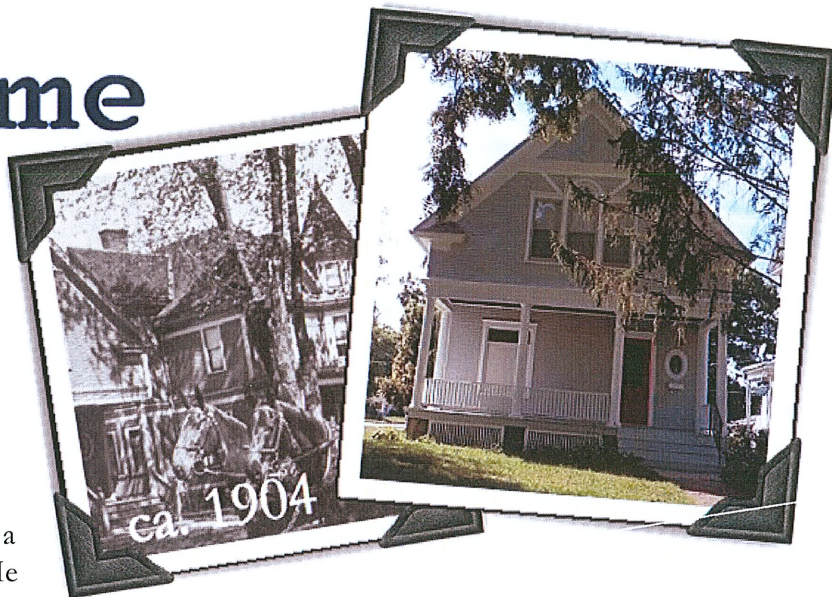


# *A History of* **Our Home**

850 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Circa 1902

**H**ISTORY: The home was built about 1902, probably for Albert L. and Isabel "Belle" Richards. Mr. Richards, a native of England, was a civil engineer in the U.S. Engineering Office at Rock Island Arsenal, a predecessor of the Army Corps of Engineers. He came to the U.S. in 1867 and was about 40 years old when he moved into this house with his wife and daughter, Alberta, then 8 years old. Alberta would later become a society editor for the "back page." The Richards family remained in the home through the mid 1930s. Other families who followed them include those of Louis V. & Bessie Mallory and Robert & Evelyn Knerr.



**A**RCHITECTURE: In 2011, the property underwent an extensive renovation and restoration by Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Because of its location in the National Register Broadway Historic District, all of the historic features were retained, while modern amenities, including energy efficient enhancements, were incorporated.

The most noticeable part of the restoration resulted from the unveiling, the removal of inappropriate siding. For over half a century, the exterior of this home was hidden beneath ugly shingles. An open back porch that had been enclosed for decades was found under the siding, restored, and is now a comfortable feature of the home. Siding removal also revealed the beautiful detailing of the home, which has changed very little since it appeared in a circa 1910 photograph. The clapboard is narrow, which is typical of the era. The gabled roof and simple rectangular shape of the house can be seen in the architecture of many eras, although the recessed front porch is less common. The influence of the Colonial Revival style, which grew in popularity in the early 1900s, is apparent in the gable returns, the tall classical porch columns, and the beautiful Palladian window in the front gable.

The Victorian era is reflected in the fan motif in the front gable and the four outstanding stained glass windows that feature cobalt opalescent glass. In front, an oval window has a fleur-de-lis design while a window transom features swags and fleurs-de-lis. Twin windows that step up along the stairway on the north have a torch and wreath motif. Although not original, the garage dates from before 1957 and has three separate doorways. The recent renovation of the home restored the garage doors to their historic appearance.

