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*Evansville*  
*Foot by Foot*

Walk the  
Riverside Historic District



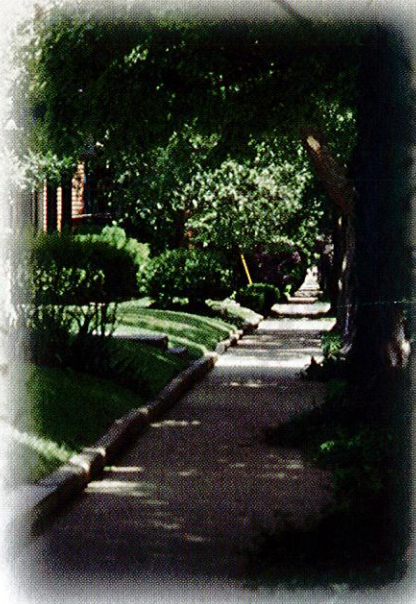


# *Leisurely Stroll or Serious Historical Tour?* *It's Your Choice.*

Use this guide to help you create a custom tour for you — whether it's a casual Sunday afternoon stroll with the family... a serious historical survey of the area... or something in between.

You'll find everything you need for the kind of experience you want in these pages.

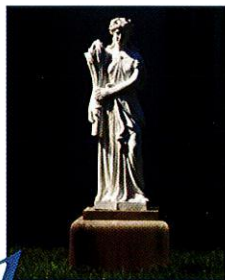
- ❖ Admire beautifully restored historical homes
- ❖ Search for examples of different architectural types
- ❖ Relax as you stroll the quiet, tree-lined brick streets
- ❖ Tour the Reitz Home Museum, Evansville's only Victorian home open to the public



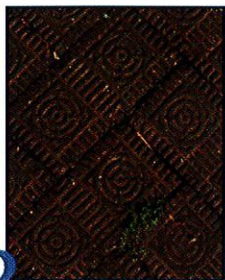
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## *Try to find these architectural highlights...*

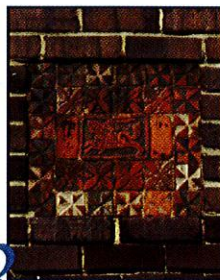
See if you can locate these unique architectural elements on your walk through the Riverside Historic District.



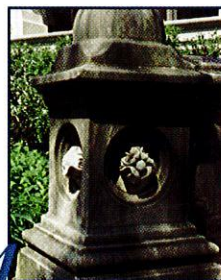
1



2



3



4



# *Your Guide to the Riverside Historic District*

Many wealthy businessmen built extravagant homes in Evansville's Riverside Historic District, which was considered the place to live between the mid-19th century and the 1920s.

## ***Take the Core Tour***

The buildings described on the following pages make up our "core tour" through the heart of the Riverside Historic District. In just a few short blocks, you will see a variety of architectural styles.

## ***Like to see more?***

After you have completed the core tour, see the map in the center of this booklet for three additional tour options... or locate the architectural style sample homes pictured on the map!

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## **Helpful Architectural Terms**

**balustrade** — a handrail and the upright posts (balusters) it supports

**bracketing** — projecting, decorative support under eaves or overhangs on buildings

**cornices** — projecting ornamental molding along the top of a building

**dentil** — a series of small decorative blocks that resemble teeth, usually found in moldings

**dormer** — a window set in a small gable projecting from a roof

**eaves** — the overhanging lower edge of a roof

**frieze** — a sculptured or richly ornamented band on a building

**gable** — the triangular wall section formed by two sides of a roof

**lintel** — a horizontal beam across the top of a door or window that supports the weight of the structure above it

**mansard** — a roof with two slopes on all sides, the lower slope being nearly vertical and the upper nearly horizontal

**molding** — an ornamental strip used to decorate a surface

**pediment** — a gablelike triangular decorative element, as over the door of a building

**pilaster** — a vertical column, often ornamental, that projects slightly from the wall

**portico** — a walkway or porch with a roof supported by a row of columns

**quoin** — units of stone or brick used to accentuate the corners of a building

**turret** — a small, ornamental tower on a building

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## ***Step back in time at the Reitz Home Museum***

*Conveniently located at 224 SE 1st Street, the Reitz Home Museum is the perfect place to begin or end your downtown walking tour. Spend some time exploring Evansville's only authentic Victorian home open to the public — you'll be amazed at what treasures you'll discover!*

*Be sure to stop in the Reitz Home gift shop, a place filled with lovely and delightful gifts reminiscent of the Victorian period. Call 812.426.1871 for details.*

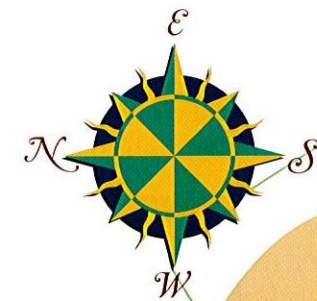




# Evansville's Riverside Historic District ❀

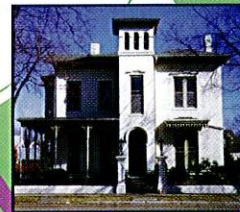
- Riverside Core Tour (Option 1)
- Riverside East Tour (Option 2)
- Riverside South Tour (Option 3)
- Sunset Place Tour (Option 4)

Arch Out These  
Architectural Styles...



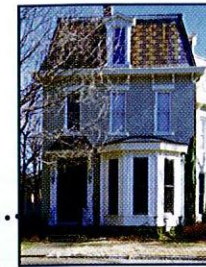
Mark Gross House  
606 SE 1st St.

- QUEEN ANNE (1885-1905)**
- 1) turrets and towers
  - 2) asymmetrical
  - 3) variety of facades and textures
  - 4) one-story porch
  - 5) steeply, multiple-pitched roof lines



George Sonntag/  
Samuel & Martha  
Bayard House  
726 SE 1st St.

- ITALIANATE (1855-1890)**
- 1) tall, narrow windows
  - 2) decorative brackets
  - 3) segmented arched window hoods
  - 4) off-center tower



826 SE 1st St.

- SECOND EMPIRE (1860-1885)**
- 1) mansard roof with dormer windows
  - 2) ornate roof cresting
  - 3) decorative bracketing



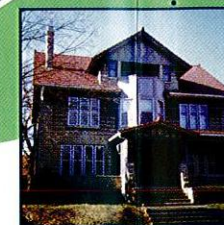
Benjamin Bosse House  
813 SE 1st St.

- PRAIRIE STYLE (1900-1920)**
- 1) horizontal emphasis
  - 2) broad, overhanging eaves
  - 3) massive, square porch supports



Marcus  
Sonntag  
House  
719 SE  
1st St.

- GEORGIAN/COLONIAL  
REVIVAL (1880-1955)**
- 1) pedimented portico
  - 2) large columns
  - 3) palladian (3-part) windows



S.V. Levi House  
715 SE Riverside Dr.

- CRAFTSMAN (1905-1930)**
- 1) use of natural materials
  - 2) decorative beams under gables
  - 3) porches with square columns





# *Let's Begin the Tour!*

## **1 The Evansville Pagoda**

401 SE Riverside Dr. (Japanese • 1912)

A concrete structure with a red tile roof, the Pagoda was designed by cement specialist Harry E. Boyle as a park shelter. In 1996, after years of neglect, the Pagoda was restored to its original splendor and now houses Evansville's Visitor Center.



## **2 Bement/Gilbert House**

320 SE Riverside Dr. (Italianate • 1863)

The Bement/Gilbert House was built in the Italianate style, though the two-story front portico dates from a 1912 remodeling that turned the building into an apartment house.

## **3 Charles Viele House**

400 SE Riverside Dr.  
(Second Empire • 1855-56)

Originally an Italianate house built to resemble an "Aladdin-like palace," Charles Viele remodeled his home in 1876 to reflect the French Second



Empire style by adding a mansard roof and elaborate cresting.

Notice the ornate entry with Charles Viele's initials carved in the lintel.

## **4 Jabez Woolley House**

408 SE Riverside Dr. (Beaux Arts • 1905)

Jabez Woolley built his home in Charles Viele's garden area.

Beaux Arts features to note are the "rusticated" limestone cladding the lower walls, copper balustrade and cornice, eared window surrounds, and inconspicuous roof line.

## **5 Raleigh/Reitz House**

414 SE Riverside Dr.  
(Italianate • 1868)

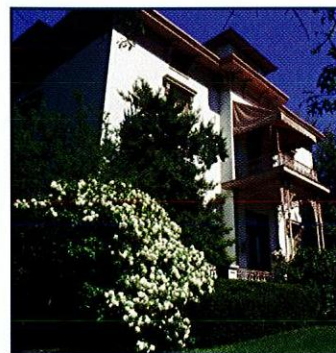
The most striking element of this three-story brick home is the two-tiered wrought iron veranda, probably installed around 1893.



## **6 John G. Venneman/ Reuben P. Hughes House**

420 SE Riverside Dr. (Italianate • 1870)

Designed by architect Henry Mursinna for wholesale grocer John Venneman, this imposing Italianate structure boasts a three-story tower



imitating the church bell towers or "campaniles" found in Italy.



## 7 **Henry O. Babcock House**

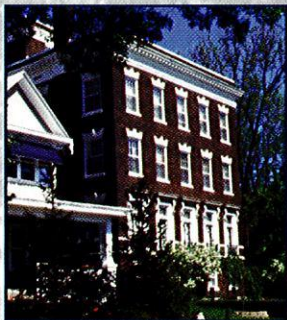
500 SE Riverside Dr.  
(Second Empire • 1854)

Though Babcock transformed his house into the French Second Empire style in 1873, it started in the Gothic Revival mode.

Pay careful attention to the metal-crested mansard roof, bracketed eaves, and graceful classical porches with Ionic columns.

## 8 **The Largey** 510 SE Riverside Dr. (Colonial Revival • 1918)

Boasting units of 2,700 square feet of living space on each of its three stories, for many years this was the most palatial apartment building in Evansville.



## 9 **Benjamin Von Behren Residence**

520 SE Riverside Dr.  
(Eclectic • 1880-83)

Note the cutaway corners. Though added sometime after 1883, the off-center tower separates this house from the ordinary.

## 10 **John Morford Stockwell/ John H. Morgan House**

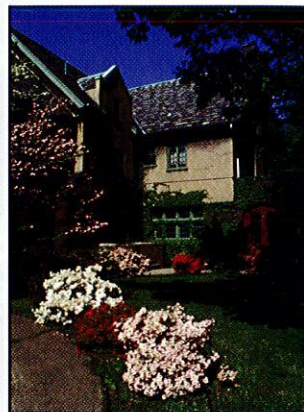
605 SE Riverside Dr.  
(Greek Revival/Italianate • 1850)

This stately “mansion” features Doric pilasters edging the building’s corners, an elegant entry, and central pedimented gable.

## 11 **Samuel L. Orr House**

603 SE 1st St. (English Revival • 1905)

Interpreted with earth-toned brick, stucco and stone, quarry-tile slate roof, second-story overhang, multiple gables, multi-pane windows, and a battle-mented Tudor-style entrance, this “English Manor House” is the first local example of the English Revival style.

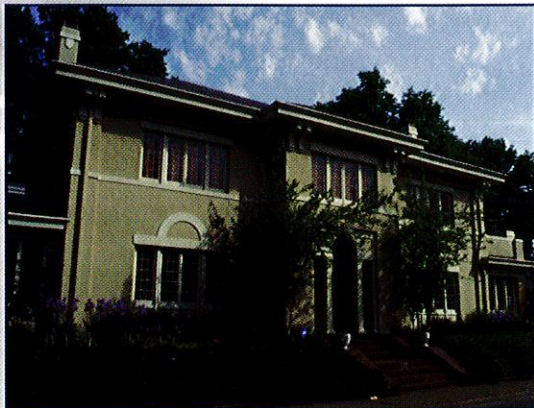


This house was the boyhood home of Robert D. Orr, Indiana governor (1981-1988) and ambassador to Singapore.

## 12 **Phelps Darby House**

100 Mulberry St.  
(Mediterranean • 1923)

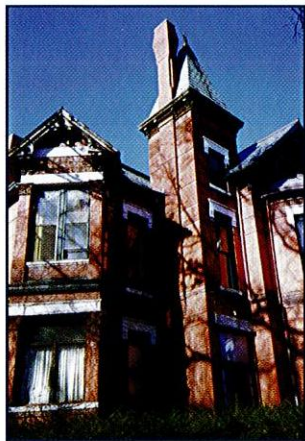
With eight rooms and three bathrooms, this stucco covered residence features brick floors and interior-wall frescoes painted by a New York artist.





### **13 Jacob Eichel House** 521 SE 1st St. (Queen Anne • 1884)

Jacob Eichel built this imposing red brick showpiece. Eichel, fittingly



a brick yard proprietor, was also a dynamic force in the community during the late 1800s.

Walls are constructed of hard-burned, pressed brick with limestone trimmings.

Highlights of the Queen Anne style present in this house include: stained glass windows, brick string courses, label window lintels, a central, three-story tower with a pyramidal roof and flaring chimney, multiple pitched roofs, and the round and polygonal bays.

### **14 Frank J. Schlotter Duplex** 518 SE 1st St. (Eclectic • 1922)

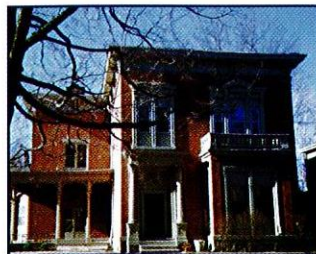
Where do architects live? For esteemed local designer Frank J. Schlotter and his wife, this duplex was their abode of choice.

### **15 Dr. Sidney J. Eichel House** 517 SE 1st St. (English Revival • 1922)

This interesting English Revival home was constructed for surgeon and physician Sidney J. Eichel using Evansville-fired rugby brick.

### **16 Cyprian Preston House** 509 SE 1st St. (Italianate • 1869-70)

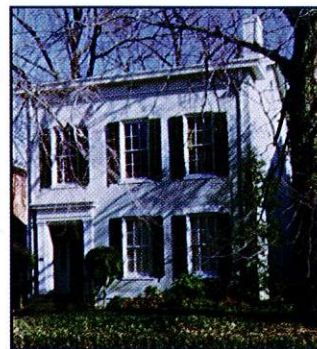
The flat roof underscored by eave brackets and paneling, curving window heads and a side porch are original elements. Early 20th-century alterations



include the front bay and the classical entrance portico.

### **17 Crawford Bell House** 506 SE 1st St. (Italianate • 1849)

One of the oldest homes on 1st Street, this eight-room house was built for drug-gist Crawford Bell and boasted many modern amenities such as gas lighting, a bath and wash room, and water in every bedroom.



### **18 Algernon Sidney Butterfield Sr. House** 500 SE 1st St.

(Neoclassical/Foursquare • 1903)

This house is a good example of a turn-of-the-century simplified house plan, developed in response to the excesses of the Victorian era.

Take note of the corner Ionic pilasters, gable dormer and the



flat-roofed classical porch with slender fluted Ionic columns, all of which embellish the simple red brick cubical structure.

## **19 Adolph P. Lahr House**

503 SE 1st St. (Queen Anne • 1902)

The present appearance of this large, mixed brick and frame house is the result of a remodeling project undertaken by president of the Lahr-Bacon department store.

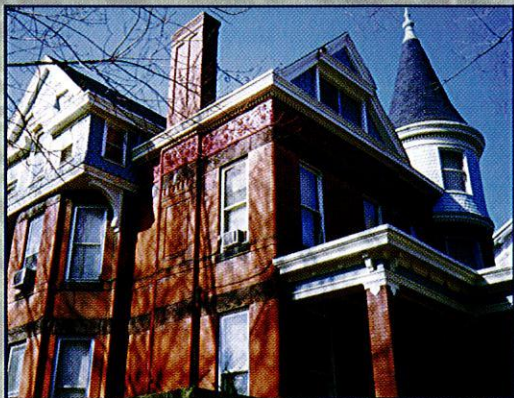
Pay attention to the rounded corners of the front brick section, the classical porch with delicate Ionic columns, the curved second story window, and the round-arched window of the gable.

## **20 Major Albert C. Rosencranz House**

421 SE 1st St. (Queen Anne • 1890)

This impressive brick home was built for one of Evansville's most progressive men, Albert C. Rosencranz, agricultural implement manufacturer and community benefactor.

The irregularity of massing, variety of textures (quarry-faced sandstone, brick and shingled surfaces), multiple



roofs, round tower, and a flared, paneled chimney of this home are all characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Note the terra cotta frieze with foliate design.

## **21 Marcus Sherwood House**

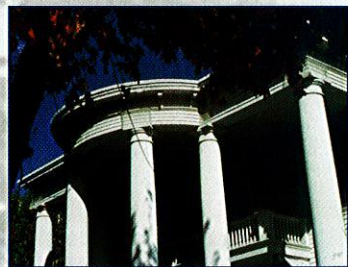
420 SE 1st St.

(Italianate/Neoclassical • 1867)

Marcus Sherwood, owner of the elegant Sherwood House Hotel, had this home constructed in the fashionable Italianate style.

The original design included an inconspicuous roof line, bracketed eaves and a slightly projecting entrance pavilion.

The present two-story classical portico and balcony dates to 1909.



## **22 McJohnston-Orr House**

414 SE 1st St. (Italianate • 1868)

Originally built for Charles McJohnston, this house was occupied for several decades by the wholesale/retail businessman James L. Orr and his family.

The house's ornamental porch and window heads are outstanding examples of the Italianate style.





## 23 **Henry M. & Mary Sweetser Double House**

409-411 SE 1st St. (Eclectic • 1883)

When built, each side of this interesting Eastlake-flavored double house was a mirror image of the other, both inside and out.

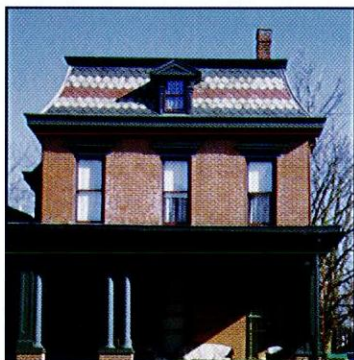
Notice the porch posts that resemble upside-down table legs, window lintels with a fringed motif, “fish scale” (imbricated) slate roof, and limestone quoins which accent the angles of the polygonal bays.

## 24 **George Warren House**

408 SE 1st St. (Second Empire • 1872)

Professor George Warren designed this house. The front porch is a replacement for an earlier “veranda,” but the (north) side cast-iron entry

porch is original. The multi-colored slate on the roof is eye-catching.



## 25 **Frank & Cornelia Caldwell House**

406 SE 1st St. (Queen Anne • 1895)

This popular late nineteenth century house plan featured a front projecting bay and an array of decorative wood elements (shingles, spindles, narrow weatherboarding and lathe-turned porch posts) used liberally and imaginatively to give texture and interest to the design.

Be sure to observe the round-arched attic window, spindle soffit, and pyramid-roofed wall dormer.

## 26 **John Ingle Jr. House**

401 SE 1st St. (Italianate • 1874)

John Ingle Jr.’s house was one of the first residential homes in Evansville to use hard-burned, pressed brick. Notice the heavy eave ornamentation and elaborate window heads.



## 27 **Samuel L. May House**

321 SE 1st St.

(“Old English Style” • 1916)

Designed by a Cincinnati architect, this house has textured gray brick, a tile roof, and an interior solarium (window-enclosed porch).



## 28 *Stockwell-Wheeler Double House*

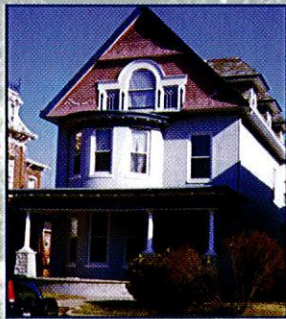
313-315 SE 1st St. (Federal • 1836-39)

The oldest extant building in the downtown area, this double house features a symmetrical facade and round-arched corner entrances framed with molding accented by a wooden keystone.

## 29 *Johnson/ Mackey/ Little House*

318 SE 1st St. (Queen Anne • 1860)

Constructed for Judge Morris S. Johnson, this house was originally a simple, two-story gable-fronted house. Its present appearance resulted from a remodeling program in 1899 by the third owner, Samuel Little.

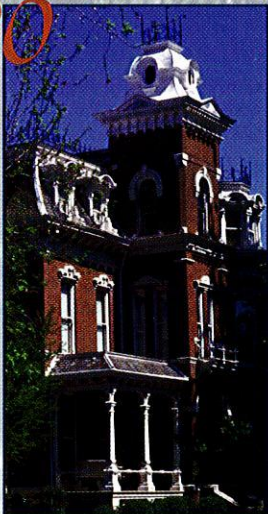


## 30 *Watkins F. Nisbet House*

310 SE 1st St.

(Second Empire/ Victorian • 1878-79)

This house, built to accommodate Watkins F. Nisbet, his wife, 8 of their 10 children, and 3 servants, is a celebration of Victorian design.



An apartment building for many years, it is now once again a single-family house.

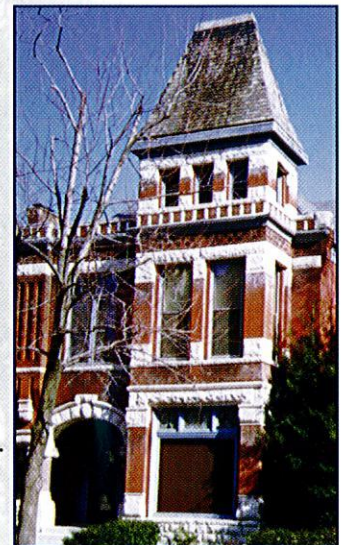
Interesting exterior elements include the ornate slate mansard roof with dormers, intricate window heads, front and side bays, front porch, ornamented chimney, and bracketed roof eaves.

## 31 *North Storms House*

304 SE 1st St. (Romanesque • 1860)

Added in 1889, the present front façade gives this house a decidedly monumental appearance with its quarry-faced limestone, robust Romanesque-style arch and supporting stout columns of polished red granite, and off-center tower.

Notice the ornamentation on the projecting remnant of the chimney on the corner opposite the tower.



## 32 *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

301 SE 1st St. (Gothic • 1886)

James and Merritt Reid, designers of the Willard Library, also planned this magnificent limestone-faced church. Gutted by fire in 1938, the interior was rebuilt in 1939.





The church has fine painted Gothic style windows. Its walls are made of quarry-faced Bedford (Indiana) limestone, highlighted by lighter, smooth-faced Green River (Kentucky) limestone.

### 33 **Dr. Isaac Casselberry / Robert Dunkerson House**

210 SE 1st St.

(Italianate/Neoclassical • 1855)

Originally two stories tall, with a straight roof edge and side gables, this home was Dr. Casselberry's home and office.

Improvements made in 1883 include a third story crowned by a parapet with a cornice, window hoods, and a recessed, double-door front entrance. The portico is from the 20th century.

### 34 **Thomas Edgar Garvin House**

214 SE 1st St. (Greek Revival • 1858)

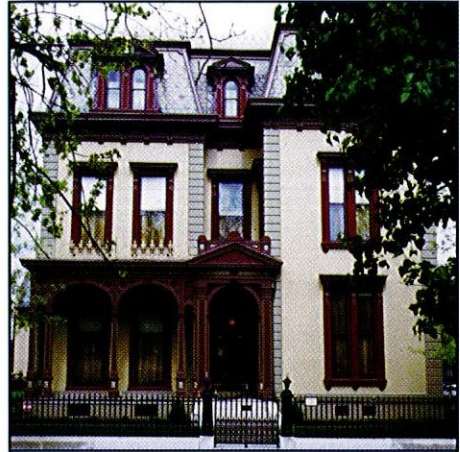
Built for the highly respected lawyer, Thomas Garvin, this house features a two-story portico with a pediment outlined in delicate dentil molding and a lunette window.

The cast iron door and window enframements are more in the Italianate taste, a style coming into vogue as the Greek Revival style was on the way out. It is now open as the Starkey Inn Bed & Breakfast.



### 35 **John Augustus Reitz Home**

224 SE 1st St. (Second Empire • 1871)



Designed and constructed for successful businessman and philanthropist John A. Reitz, this beautifully restored home was placed on the National Register in 1973 and is Evansville's only Victorian home museum open to the public.

On the exterior of the house, notice the mansard roof with dormers, metal roof cresting, window enframements and corner quoins (both made of cast iron), and the arcaded porch with ornamental tile floor. The interior of the three-story, 17-room residence is lavishly outfitted with opulent Victorian enhancements such as gold leaf cornices, pier mirrors, elegant woodwork, chandeliers, parquet floors, watercolor-on-canvas ceilings, elaborate and unusual mantelpieces (one of onyx), and stained glass windows.