



KLAISS 2009

Hand-drawn by Klaus 2009

The Klaiss Home - 416 W. Lawrence

Built in 1895, by Judge Jacob McPeck, the home has been owned by Neil and Leila Klaiss since 1975. A well-loved family home, the furnishings are an eclectic mix of antiques, family pieces, and auction finds.

While restoring and updating the home, the Klaisses have kept it comfortable in style, not adhering strictly to the Victorian era during which it was built. The house has undergone many changes since 1895; the first in the late 1920s when the back porch and upstairs sleeping porch were added and, then again, in 1953 when the original porches and downstairs fireplace were removed.

In the living room, which was three rooms originally, the entire fireplace end of the room was redone by the Klaisses, using a fireplace that is very similar to a fireplace upstairs.

In the dining room, the table is set with dishes which belonged to Leila's mother and a collection of Early American Pattern Glass in the Apollo pattern. Also notice the large 1878 Bird's-eye-view of Charlotte, a part of the Klaiss' extensive collection of Charlotte memorabilia which is displayed throughout the home.

In the kitchen, a small table is set using Leila's every-day restaurant dishes and depression-era kitchenware.

From the kitchen, you will go up the back stairs which end on the sleeping porch Leila uses as a craft and computer room. One of the three bedrooms features a fireplace that is original to the house. Notice the tile on the hearth - it matches tile in the 1895 Eaton County Courthouse, as does a lot of the hardware in the house. It's probably no coincidence that Judge McPeck was building the house the same time the 1885 courthouse was being rebuilt after it burned. The master bedroom features a separate sitting room.

