



Quarters Six  
Built in 1905

The gracious lifestyle of the “Old Army” still lingers at Quarters Six on Terrace Drive. Quarters Six is one of the Arsenal’s two residential buildings which distinguishes itself from the earlier Officer’s Quarters found to the west of Quarters One. Although not of the same style and material as the earlier Rodman-influenced Italianate style quarters, this turn-of-the-century home was constructed in a style and scale that compliments the earlier architecture of Quarters One through Four. The design that the architect selected for Quarters Six appears to be the “best in style” with elements drawn from various sources.

When the Rock Island Arsenal expanded its mission in 1899 by adding small arms production, additional residences were required for the officers assigned to the Arsenal to guide manufacturing of the 1903 Springfield rifle. To meet this housing requirement, this mansion was built in 1905 by Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt at a cost of only \$13,500.

Quarters Six is situated apart from Quarters Four to avoid contrast. The great divide between Quarters Six and its earlier counterparts also serves to diminish any possible sense of discord between the styles of the older and newer houses on Terrace Drive. Quarters Six is a fanciful “eclectic” building with a complex yet attractive

skyline of hipped roofs and gables with curving slopes and dark eaves to contrast with light tan walls constructed of Milwaukee brick. Mansard roof covers and hipper dormers on the north and south sides add to the appeal. The size and uprightness of this structure compliment the earlier Italianate Quarters. Significantly, Quarters Six was the first officer's residence designed with electricity.

A large porch wraps around the north and east sides of the house catching summer breezes and beautiful river vistas. The porch around the north and east side of the house has Ionic columns complimented by railings and banisters made of wood that have been painted tan. The porch adds variety and softens the strong lines of the structure. The entrance has double doors which are crowned with a Palladian window. The leaded glass is beveled in a design of broken circles which is repeated in other parts of the house.

The large main foyer is characteristic of the era, and the hanging light sconces are decorated with oak leaves that are original to the quarters. Unlike the older quarters, Quarters Six was designed with coat closets built into the entrance hall with decorative windows that are right and left of the main double doors, adding to the overall detail and charm of the home. The foyer has dark oak wainscoting and beamed ceilings. The leaded glass and the paneling make this gracious entrance to this old mansion a thing of great beauty.

The focal point of interest in the entrance hall is the dark oak staircase that rises to a landing at the rear of the structure. The varnished oak staircase is highlighted with open spinners, balustrades with turned spindles and paneled newels with denticulate caps. Echoing the design of the fanlike windows at the front of the house, a large window facing south illuminates the landing of the second floor. There is another window on the third floor that is arched, repeating the lines of the fanlike windows. When the sun shines, the walls, ceiling, and floor sparkle with dancing prisms of light.

The living room (front parlor) is a large and very light room because of its eastern exposure and the painted white woodwork. One of the large windows in the bay area appears to be three long windows; however, the center window can be raised high enough to create a "door" to the porch. The fireplace is set at an angle between the two walls and shares a chimney with the fireplace in the library. Faced with tile and framed by a white wooden mantel, it is decorated with Corinthian columns on

either side joined with a flowering swag. The lining of the fireplace is metal and was forged here on the Arsenal. Pocket doors can be closed from the foyer.

Sliding pocket doors also divide the living room from the library (back parlor). This room is lined with oak bookcases which were made here at the Arsenal as was the oak wainscoting. There is a picture molding around the edge of the ceiling. The library fireplace is faced with tile and is framed by a dark oak mantel.

The most beautifully detailed room in this mansion is the dining room. A huge Palladian window overlooking the Mississippi River dominates the north wall of the dining room. The top panels of the center arch and the side lights are composed of heavy leaded glass, which is beveled and in a half-circle fanlike design. This same design of glass was used in the front door and in the two-story high window behind the stairway. The design and prism effect of the beveling can be fully appreciated in this room.

The wall opposite the window is equally interesting. The fireplace is faced with "Rose and Lemon" tile and surrounded by an oak mantel. The fireplace is centered between built-in oak china cabinets. These cabinets feature leaded glass doors in a "diamond design" with highlights of carved lion's heads.

The breakfast nook was originally a serving pantry. The modernized kitchen is lined with oak cabinets. Although it appears to be short, the window behind the sink reaches down to the floor behind a false wall. Originally, there was a chimney in the far west wall of the kitchen which was probably a vent for a wood burning stove. The servant's stairs open off the rear hall that runs across the back of the house. A small cozy room behind this hall serves as a small study. The powder room under the stairway is original.

The second and third floors of the mansion have large center halls which are wainscoted with dark oak. All the bedrooms open onto these halls. The second floor has four bedrooms, two with fireplaces. There are also two full baths on this floor. At the west end of the second floor are the servant's quarters with a full bath. The third floor has three bedrooms, one bath and a recreation room.

Quarters Six contains two pieces of furniture built by craftsmen from the Arsenal's Woodshop. The pieces were made primarily from walnut and include a freestanding chest with a white marble top and a long bench.

Records indicate Quarters Six has been home to the following service members and their families:

MAJ E. B. Babbitt 1906 – 1907	COL D.L. Hine 1955 – 1959	COL J.L. Storm 1994 – 1996
MAJ S. Hof 1908 – 1909	COL C.J. Williams 1959 – 1960	BG W.H. McManus, Jr. 1996 – 1998
LTC K. Morton 1915 – 1918	COL M.S. Herngren 1961 – 1963	COL A.D. Kruse 1998 – 2000
MAJ C.A. Waldmann 1918 – 1919	COL P.L. Nilsson 1963 – 1966	COL R.D. Corbin 2000 – 2002
LTC R.L. Streeter 1919 – 1920	COL H.A. Snyder 1966 – 1968	COL M.G. Mullins 2002 – 2004
LTC C.A. Waldmann 1920 - 1921	COL J.J. Albertson 1968 – 1970	COL C. J. Cartwright 2004 – 2007
CPT F.A. McMahon 1921 – 1922	COL F.P. Clarke 1970 – 1971	MG Robert Radin 2008 -2009
MAJ S.H. Frank 1922 – 1923	COL P.E. Martin 1971 – 1973	MG Yves Fontaine 2009 – 2011
LTC G.A. Stewart 1923 – 1926	COL T.J. Agnor, Jr. 1973 – 1975	LTG John Mick Bednarek 2011 – 2013
MAJ B.O. Lewis 1929 – 1931	COL L.F. Skibbie 1975 – 1977	LTG Michael Tucker 2013 – 2016
MAJ C.H. Traeger 1931 – 1933	COL J.C. Scholz 1977 – 1979	LTG Stephen Twitty 2016 – 2018
CPT Hartwick 1934 – 1935	COL J. Kronkaitis 1979 – 1981	LTG Thomas James 2018 – 2021
CPT F. Shawfer 1935 – 1936	COL P.L. Greenberg 1981 – 1984	LTG Antonio Aguto, Jr. 2021 – Present
COL T.A. Clark 1938 – 1943	COL J. M. Gamino 1984 – 1986	
LTC H.H. Needham 1944 – 1946	COL J.S. Cowings 1986 – 1988	
COL W.N. Leaf 1947 – 1948	COL D.T. Morgan, Jr. 1988 – 1990	
MAJ M.C. Lowe 1948 – 1952	COL R.W. Bregard 1990 – 1992	
MAJ M.L. Tippit 1952 – 1955	COL T.L. Nienhouse 1992 – 1994	