



Quarters Three
Built in 1871 – 1872

This mansion was built under the direction of Colonel Daniel Webster Flagler at a cost of \$35,000. The architect was Captain Clifton Comly. He prepared the plans in 1871, while he was temporarily in charge of Rock Island Arsenal because General Rodman was ill. It is believed that Captain Comly was also the architect for the other quarters on the island. The Italianate style plan for this residence mirrors, on a less grandiose scale, the general style and detailing of Quarters One. It contains approximately 7,500 square feet; the foundation is limestone masonry, and the exterior walls are Joliet limestone. The front porch is girded by Arsenal forged grillwork and is supported by eight elaborate cast-iron columns. The decorative front fencing was also forged on the Arsenal and made from captured ordnance and horseshoes.

The foyer features a black and white checkered marble floor, solid walnut doors to the outside and double doors with frosted glass design between the foyer and entrance hall. The foyer doors retain elaborate cast brass knobs with the silhouette

of a Renaissance soldier. Most of the doorknobs in the house are brass; however, several of the upstairs bedroom doors have the original white porcelain doorknobs. The main stairway is a straight run staircase with walnut wainscoting and chair rail on the left side. It is made of walnut with a molded railing, turned balusters, and an octagonal tapering newel post with square base and turned cap. The floor in the hallway and dining room is varnished alternating ash and walnut. The hallway floor was replaced in the summer of 2021.

The first-floor plan is a typical Italianate residential center-hall plan with fourteen-foot ceilings. The center stair hall on the main block has a foyer to its north. The hall is flanked on its west side by a double parlor, on its east side by a dining room, on the northeast corner is a butler's pantry and breakfast room. The breakfast room (formerly two small pantries) retains original tall wood china cabinets, now painted white. A small powder room is tucked beneath the main stairway. The wing extends south of the butler's pantry and contains a kitchen and a laundry room. The kitchen had a large open fireplace that also opened to the laundry; the flue is six feet by eight feet. The fireplace was enclosed in the late 1980's.

The dining room has a painted, pressed-metal cornice and rosette in conjunction with a pressed-metal ceiling. The cornice has a running molding along the wall with a ceiling border of square panels. The rosette is a large square panel with running molded borders surrounding an inner square. Inside the square is an inner circle having twelve radiating segments. The metal dining room ceiling is an ornate, late Victorian pattern of square panels having an anthemion in each corner radiating from a central boss. It also contains a molded, varnished, walnut plate rail and large varnished walnut corner guards. Walnut shutters grace the 10-foot windows. The dining room fireplace has an elaborately cut and polished gray Italian marble mantel. The floors of ash and walnut match the hallway. There is an old, but not original, china cabinet featuring double doors with beveled leaded glass within a diamond pattern which may have been made at the Arsenal. A beautiful hunting sideboard (originally in Quarters One) with elaborately carved animal figures on the front doors has been moved to Quarters Three. These two pieces may have been made at the Arsenal. A Tiffany style lamp is on the sideboard.

The front parlor fireplace has an elaborate cut and polished light gray Italian marble mantelpiece and hearth. It has a beautiful ceiling medallion. In the early 1900s when electricity was installed, crystal chandeliers hung in the front and back

parlors. They have been removed. An 1880's cabinet in the front parlor was made at the Arsenal and is the only one remaining of the original five or six that were built. The back parlor has an elaborately cut and polished brown/gray Italian marble mantelpiece and hearth. Forged on the Arsenal, the fireplace screen contains a brass ordnance bomb representing the Ordnance Corps. Floor to ceiling windows in the front and back parlor room and dining room allow access to the porch.

In the ceiling of the stairway is an approximately three feet by six feet skylight which, at present, is filled with debris keeping light from shining through. There are plans to have it cleaned and a light tube installed which will eliminate the problem. At one time, there was an identical skylight in the roof. It has been replaced by a modern vent. The attic in this house has a tin-lined redwood tank, three feet by five feet by four feet deep, which was used for a gravity-fed water system. It was filled with rainwater collected from the roof. The attic has a maze of chimneys for the many fireplaces in the house. The brass doorknobs and hinges were cast at the Arsenal. Cabinets and closets also have brass drawer pulls; many are engraved with the initials "US".

The second floor consists of four large bedrooms at the front of the quarters. The house was originally plumbed and two of the bedrooms have an adjoining bath or contain a separate lavatory. The other two bedrooms share an adjoining closet. Three of the bedrooms have elaborately cut and polished, white Italian marble mantels and hearths all the same style but different from each other in small decorative details. A step down into the lower part of the second floor leads to two smaller bedrooms (servant's quarters) separated by a bathroom which contains an old, but not original, claw foot tub. One of the small bedrooms has been converted to a walk-in closet. A very narrow, steep stairway leads from this part of the second floor to the kitchen. The second floor has varnished narrow oak (not original) flooring. The back wing has varnished maple flooring.

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

1LT W.P. Butler 1872	COL T.I. Sawyer 1963 – 1966	COL K.G. Karr 1989 – 1993
MAJ E.D. Bricker 1908 – 1910	BG H.G. Davisson 1966	COL T.F. Springer 1993 – 1996
MAJ T.L. Ames 1911 – 1212	BG C.H. Johnson 1968	COL J. Fairall 1996 – 1998
LTC C.A. Waldmann 1919 – 1920	MAJ C.E. West 1968	COL T. Benson 1998 – 2001
LTC B.W. Simpson 1920	MAJ E.W. Bennett 1968	COL C.R. Hobby 2001 – 2002
MAJ W.F. VanderHyden 1930 – 1932	BG A.H. Sweeney 1968 – 1970	COL D.D. Bain 2002 – 2004
LTC A.G. Gillespie 1933 – 1934	COL C.P. Alter 1970 – 1973	COL J.B. Elliott 2004 – 2007
LTC Crump 1935 – 1938	COL G.W. Million 1973	COL Craig Cotter 2007 – 2010
COL C. A. Waldmann 1938 – 1944	BG H.F. Hardin, Jr. 1973 – 1975	LTG J. Mick Bednarek 2011
COL R.L. Gaugler 1944 – 1945	BG A.A. Nord 1975 – 1977	MG Patricia McQuiston 2011 – 2012
COL W.J. D’Espinosa 1945 – 1947	COL L.F. Skibbie 1977 – 1978	MG John F. Wharton 2012 – 2014
CPT J.E. Kuffner 1947 – 1950	COL T.F. Broadway 1978 - 1980	MG Kevin O’Connell 2014 – 2016
LTC F. Gemble, Jr. 1950 – 1952	COL R. Schroder 1980 – 1983	COL Grant Morris 2016 – 2017
LTC C.L. Siegel 1952 – 1954	COL F. Cunningham, III 1983 – 1984	MG Duane Gamble 2017 – 2019
COL A.R. Cyr 1954 – 1957	COL J. C. Staehler 1984 – 1985	MG Stephen Shapiro 2019 – 2020
LTC J.R. Rastetter 1957 – 1961	COL T. Hall 1985 – 1987	MG Dangel Mitchell 2020 – 2021
COL D.J. Durrenberger 1961 – 1963	COL S. Etzel 1987 – 1988	MG Christopher Mohan 2021 – Present
	COL R.C. Williams 1988 – 1989	