

THE KEYSER HOME

The home was built in 1909 by W. H. and Mary Keyser for their family home. At the time the home was built there were 2 sons, 2 daughters and 2 small granddaughters living at home.

Cost of the building was \$2000.

The Keyzers had come from Percival, Iowa with the George Forrester family about 1882. The Forresters settled in the site where Harold Days now live and the Keyzers where Jack Days reside. When the Keyzers retired they moved to Miller and the Forresters went to Hastings to educate their family.

The families had lived in the fertile but flood area of the Missouri just east of Nebraska City. When they were selecting their home sites in Buffalo County, they chose the hill country at Grandview in preference to the Wood River as they feared flooding of this river also!

You will notice the house is very similar to the way it was built.

The house was lived in by the Keyzers until 1942 when it was purchased by their granddaughter, Harold and Mabel Keyser Day. Max Brandt's lived in the house four years and it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. McKelvy who lived in the home 25 years, after which it was sold again to the Days in 1971. The home is in its original condition with the exception of wallpaper, varnishing and painted woodwork in the kitchen. No remodeling, electrical, plumbing, or cupboard work has been done since the fixtures were originally installed.

Downstairs

Bedroom - was built for the parents - the master bedroom with the large walk-in closet.

Front room - was used for entertaining. It was closed off in the winter by plush curtains. The frosted window above the picture window was permanently located. The large window could be opened for ventilation.

Dining or family room - this was where the family lived.

Kitchen — the equipment consisted of a kitchen coon stove, kitchen cabinet and table and chairs.

Pantry — was for storing food. The sink was installed when water system came to Miller in 1924. The home had its own water system with a large (150 gallon) storage tank in the bathroom above the lavatory and stool. The tank had an indention possibly 1 foot square in which a cupboard was built in the kitchen. The cupboard went back into the wall with the tank enclosing on all sides. The wind mill supplies water and as it came into the storage tank it was cool and kept the items in the cupboard cool. Butter, milk, eggs, and other perishables were kept in the cupboard.

Bathroom — the tub was put in the house when built (1909). The stool and lavatory were installed when water came to Miller in 1924.

Back porch ~ original - notice the fabric over the screen door (insulated storm door).

Upstairs

Northwest bedroom — Boys room - closet 10 feet by 30 inches.

Southwest bedroom - was the spare room. Also had a large closet.

East bedroom - 20 feet by 12 feet with closets on each end 12 ft. by 40 inches. The north end was for Fern and Mabel, The south end for Gladys and Jennie with a dresser and bed at each end near their closets.

Electricity was installed in Miller prior to 1922. Fancy fixtures were put in living and dining room and pull chains in all other rooms. There are 2 electrical outlets in the house — one by outside dining door and other by the refrigerator in the kitchen. There are no other outlets.

The front porch - Much time was spent on the porches, sitting, relaxing to get away from the heat. (courting too!)

Births and Funerals

A grandson, *Gene Keyser*, was born in the house in 1919.

When *Mr. Forrester* passed away in Hastings they brought him back to Miller to be buried. The funeral was held in the home.

W.H. Keyser died in 1916 and his funeral was also held in the house.

Carbide lights lighted the home. Grandpa had an alcohol torch and he would go from room to room and light all the lights in the evening. The lights had fancy shades.