This Italianate style house was built for prominent Janesville physician Samuel S. Judd, and was later the home of businessman John Thoroughgood. The low pitched, hipped roof has wide overhanging eaves and the front porch has elaborate square posts and a spool-and-spindle balustrade. A two-story octagonal tower is missing its original roof but the current owners are planning to restore this feature.

Samuel Judd (1829-1887) was born in Connecticut and graduated from medical school in Ohio in 1857. He established a practice in Janesville after the Civil War. He practiced what was known in the nineteenth century as eclectic medicine, and served as the president of the National Eclectic Medical Society. Samuel Judd was the father of Dr. William H. Judd (see page 6).

John and Annie Thoroughgood purchased the house in 1893. A native of England, Thoroughgood arrived in Janesville as a carpenter. He became a partner in the Thoroughgood & Company cigar box and cigar box lumber manufacturing firm. By 1889, this company employed 50 workers and manufactured a variety of tobacco-related goods.

The current owners have extensively rehabilitated the house and site. The wooden siding and brackets have been restored, and there are plans to replicate the low balustrade and metal crests which once decorated the front porch. Earlier landscape features have been recreated, and a low post and railing fence follows the lines of the original ornamental fencing.

The Judd-Thoroughgood House as it appeared in 1888.
Hamilton Richardson was one of Janesville's most successful late nineteenth-century businessmen. As the 1992 National Register nomination noted, "the house he had built for him and his family in 1871 was befitting his status in the community." The cream brick, Italianate building is the best conserved of the large houses which remain in the District. Among the most eye-catching historic features are the oculus windows with brick and stone surrounds in the gable ends and massive paired entry doors which have oval, round, and teardrop-shaped panels.

A native of Genesse County, New York, Hamilton Richardson (1820-1906) arrived in Janesville in 1846 via Milwaukee and Racine. In 1850 he invested in the Excelsior Mills, which burned, prompting Richardson to try the shipping business in California. He returned to Janesville in 1856 during a period of economic boom. His investments in downtown commercial blocks and industries were very successful, and he was also elected a State Senator and a State Representative. In 1858 he married Caroline Pease (?-1912), a native of Enfield, Connecticut. Caroline's father, John R. Pease, was a prominent Janesville attorney and one of the earliest land developers and builders on Prospect Hill. Caroline and Cornelia Streets, and Pease Court all reflect family names.

Members of the Richardson family occupied the house until 1934. It was subsequently divided into apartments. The current owners of the property began restoration in 1978. Historic photographs have provided the basis for recreating some important missing features and restoring others.

*The Hamilton Richardson House in 1888.*

Mary Dimock (center) married Victor Pease Richardson, the eldest of the Richardson's six children, in 1885.