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A newsletter highlighting events
 and information of Quincy Preserves

Quincy Preserves • P.O. Box 1012 • Quincy, IL 62306-1012 • www.quincypreserves.org • March 2009

Quincy Preserves 2009 Annual Meeting

Quincy Preserves will hold its 2009 annual meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at the Quincy Boat Club, 501 Bonansinga Drive (near Front and Broadway). Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

A short business meeting will follow the dinner. The agenda will include a review of the past year's events, reports on the organization's finances, and on its façade and scholarship programs, and membership approval of new board members. Members will also approve the slate of officers for the 2009-2010 year.

The owners of three buildings will be awarded Quincy Preserves plaques which recognize the buildings' architectural and/or historical significance and the preservation of their original appearance. These buildings are selected by a committee of Quincy Preserves members.

All Quincy Preserves members as well as anyone interested in learning about the organization are invited to attend.

The cost for the dinner is \$15.00 per person. Reservations are required and must be made by Friday, March 13, 2009. An RSVP form may be found on the back of this newsletter. Please mail this form to Quincy Preserves, P.O. Box 1012, Quincy, IL 62306-1012. Payment may be included with your reservation or may be made at the door. For more information, please contact Gary Wittler at 224-3444.

The buildings receiving plaques are:

- 401 Delaware Street, Engine House #4, Commercial Queen Anne style, built in 1898 for the Quincy Fire Department, currently owned by Craig Industries
- 200 East Avenue, Prairie Box style, built in 1918 for William J. and Esther Singleton, currently owned by Bo and Erin Knapheide.
- 1631 Maine Street, Queen Anne style with Prairie style porch and addition, built circa 1887 for William L. Distin, currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lowenberg.



Let us hear from you.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Are you on the members list? Do you wish to be a member?
 Each year's membership expires December 31. Questions?
moreinfo@quincypreserves.org, or call 217-224-3520.

- Yes**, I will be attending the Annual Meeting
 Number in party _____
 Payment enclosed (\$15 per person) _____

- Yes**, I would like to be a member of Quincy Preserves.
 Household \$15
 Business \$25

- Yes**, I am interested in helping with Quincy Preserves projects.

Please return to:
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401 Delaware



200 East Ave.



1631 Maine

"It has been most truly said at our meetings that these old buildings do not belong to us only; that they have belonged to our forefathers, and they will belong to our descendants unless we play them false. They are not in any sense our property, to do as we like with. We are only trustees for those that come after us. So I say nothing but absolute necessity can excuse the destruction of these buildings; and I say, further, that such a necessity has never yet existed in our time.

During an address at the Twelfth Annual Meeting of SPAB—William Morris



Cause For Concern

An article on the front page of the November 25, 2008, Quincy Herald-Whig reported that the Board of Education has authorized School Superintendent Lonny Lemon to look into selling the building at 1444 Maine Street which houses the Quincy School District's administrative offices. In addition, the Renewal Center behind the mansion would be sold.

The prospect of the sale of such an integral part of the Maine Street landscape should raise great concern for Quincy Preserves members as well as anyone interested in preservation in Quincy.

The mansion was built circa 1867-1868 for James T. Baker, a prominent wholesale grocer. The house's style has been described as Italianate on a grand scale. This style was common between 1850 and 1880, particularly in towns and cities in the Midwest as well as in older but still growing cities on the northeast seaboard. Quincy has a large number of Italianate buildings, including homes at 734 N. 4th Street, 332 Elm Street, 323 College Avenue, 1651 Maine Street, and commercial buildings at 135-137 N. 3rd Street (Tiramisu), and 421-423 Hampshire. Some of the identifying features of this style include a low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves having decorative brackets beneath, and tall, narrow windows. Some of the outstanding features of 1444 Maine Street include the rope molding surrounding the window frames, large-scale double bracketing at the roofline, and graceful porches. The front and rear entrances retain the original leaded glass side panels. A curved bay window at the back of the house is a departure from the usual Italianate style. The addition to the west side of the home is more austere with non-ornamental lintels and scaled down bracketing. The extensive brick

sidewalks around the house and from the house to the street are original and add charm to the entire property.

The property has an extensive history. Originally designed as a residence for the Baker family, local historian Carl Landrum reports that it was subsequently owned by merchant John McFadon and attorney William A. Richardson. According to Landrum, Richardson and John Willis Gardner traded homes, with Gardner becoming owner of 1444 Maine and Richardson becoming owner of a home at 18th and York. The home remained in the Gardner family until the death of Mrs. J. Willis Gardner in 1950 when her heirs donated it to St. John's Episcopal Church.

The building's history now becomes a story of adaptive reuse. The church used the building as the Gardner Parish House for church functions. In 1957-1958, after upkeep and maintenance costs proved to be higher than the church could afford, the building was sold to the Gardner-Denver Company for use as a memorial and a meeting place for its board of directors. In 1966 it was sold to the Quincy Board of Education with the agreement that the exterior of the building would not be altered for ten years without the express consent of Marion Gardner Jackson.

The building is one of the oldest on Maine Street. It is a contributing structure to the National Register East End Historic District which was certified in 1985. The City of Quincy designated it a local landmark in 1990.

The Quincy Preserves Board of Directors acknowledges the excellent job that the Board of Education has done in preserving the property for the last 42 years. The current superintendent has

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restored three historic homes. They have set a fine example of commitment to preservation for the entire community and contributed to the reputation the city has nationwide for its historic architecture.

However, if economic necessity dictates that the building and its surrounding property be sold, Quincy Preserves is concerned that these four decades of preservation effort not be wasted.

The Board of Directors has written a letter to the Board of Education expressing the organization's concerns. We have offered to help in whatever way we can to ensure the preservation of the property continues.

The Board urges Quincy Preserves members and other citizens to express their opinions. Urge the Board of Education to take great care in the transfer of the property to ensure

A Dozen Distinctive Destinations

In the October 2008 issue of Quincy Preserves Post, an article described Quincy's application to be one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2009 Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Unfortunately, Quincy was not chosen. However, the winners may merit a visit: Athens, GA; Bristol, RI; Buffalo, NY; Fort Worth, TX; Franklin, TN; Hot Springs, SD; Lake Geneva, WI; Lititz, PA; Santa Barbara, CA; Santa Fe, NM; Saugatuck-Douglas, MI; and Virginia City, NV. For more information, go to the National Trust's website: www.preservationnation.org.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

Recently, all active Quincy Preserves members were sent a letter acknowledging the payment of their 2009 membership dues. If you did not receive such a letter, your membership may not be up to date. To check on your membership status, please contact membership chair Curt Gardner at 224-3520.

2009 Quincy Preserves Scholarship

Applications for \$500 scholarships offered by Quincy Preserves may be picked up at guidance counselors' offices in any Adams County High School. Any college-bound senior is eligible to apply. Applicants must complete an information sheet, write an essay answering one of three possible questions about historic preservation, and submit two letters of recommendation. Applicants need not be planning a career in historic preservation. Applications will be judged by a committee of Quincy Preserves board members. Deadline for submission is March 15. For more information, contact Susan Schwartz at 223-4356.

that any new owners value its history.

It is important that our city government know our opinions. Contact the mayor and your aldermen and ask them to do whatever they can to ensure the building's preservation.

Write a letter to the editor of the Quincy Herald-Whig. The more people who know about this situation, the more chances we have to find a solution.

It is important that we members of Quincy Preserves generate ideas. If you know of an individual, group, or business that could utilize the building and maintain it, please speak with them. If you have an idea that might help, make it known!

The time to take action is now. Many historic structures have disappeared from our city. We can do nothing about losses from fire or from natural disasters. We have a chance to save this building. We must do all we can.

Preservation Month Is Coming.

Last year 27 Quincy and Adams County organizations participated in the planning activities celebrating May as National Preservation Month. Their efforts resulted in events held throughout the month. One such event was the "Open House of Historic Properties" held on the third Sunday of May when eighteen sites were open.

Planning for this year's observance is beginning. Already scheduled is the Annual Preservation Dinner scheduled for Thursday, May 7. Save the date!

Donations To Quincy Public Library

The following titles are just some of those purchased by Quincy Public Library with a recent \$1000 donation made by Quincy Preserves:

FOR JUVENILES

The ABC Book of American Homes by Michael Shoulders, *Architects Make Zigzags: Looking at Architecture from a to z* by Roxie Munro, and *Architecture* by Don Nardo.

FOR ADULTS

Chicago Architecture: 1885 to Today by Edward Keegan, *Chicago's Classical Architecture: The Legacy of the White City* by David Stone, and *Materials and Skills for Historic Building Conservation* by Michael Forsyth.

WE NEED YOU!

The Board of Directors of Quincy Preserves is looking for a few good people. We need several people who are willing to serve on the board. Meetings are held once a month on the third Tuesday. If interested, contact President Bruce Gardner at 224-9332

QUINCY PRESERVES 2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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