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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 • October 2011



1624 Jersey



1009 N. 8th

Behind Closed Doors 2011

Quincy Preserves will present the 36th annual fall architectural tour, Behind Closed Doors, on Saturday, October 15, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This year's tour will feature seven residences and a church representing various architectural styles and ranging from the late 19th century to the early 20th century.

Advance tickets will be available beginning October 1, 2011, and may be purchased for \$8.00 at the following locations: Kirlin's Hallmark, Quincy Mall and 534 Maine Street; Adam Florist, 135 North Fifth Street; Quincy Society of Fine Arts, Suite 244, 300 Civic Center Plaza; Emerald City Jewelers, 3326 Broadway; Granite Bank Gallery, 428 Maine Street; and Bank of Quincy, 1132 Broadway location only. In Hannibal, tickets may be purchased at the offices of Dempsey, Dempsey, and Moellring, 716 Broadway. Tickets will also be available for \$10.00 at any of the tour locations on the day of the tour. Proceeds from this event will fund preservation projects and education in the Quincy area.

Additional information is available on the Quincy Preserves website www.quincypreserves.org or you may call tour Chairpersons Kay Weiss (217) 257-1629 and Deb Davis (217) 223-3306.

Quincy Preserves thanks the owners of the tour sites for their generous participation in this event.

This years tour includes:

- 1624 Jersey
 - 332 S. 16th Street
 - 124 S. 24th Street
 - 2026 Hampshire
 - 2101 Hampshire
 - 1401 State
 - 7332 State Hwy 96 N.
 - 1009 N. 8th, St. Rose of Lima Church & Rectory
- Lunch will be available for sale at St. Rose of Lima Church between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Money raised from this lunch will help fund restoration of the stained glass windows.*



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 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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*"The Congress finds and declares that:
 (a) the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage;
 (b) the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people;"*

—Preamble to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966



"Historic Quincy Architecture"

Quincy Preserves has a large supply of the outstanding and well-done hard cover book, "Historic Quincy Architecture", available for purchase. This book provides a superb sampling of the varied and sometimes complex architectural styles of residences, churches, commercial buildings and others that were built in Quincy from the 1830s to the 1930s. The book is a must for all Quincyans interested in history, architecture and preservation. It also makes a great gift for those friends and relatives who have moved to other locales. "Historic Quincy Architecture" can be purchased for \$35.00 from any Quincy Preserves Board member.

Annual Picnic

Quincy Preserves held its annual picnic at South Park on Tuesday evening, June 21st.

The guest speaker was Robert Hamblin, author of *"This House, This Town,"* a book about his and his wife's experiences restoring a landmark home.

Hamblin is Professor of English and Director of the Center for Faulkner Studies at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he has taught since 1965.

A large gathering of preservation enthusiasts enjoyed a delicious meal of barbeque sandwiches from the Butcher Block and a wide variety of side dishes and desserts brought by attendees. After the meal, Dr. Hamblin gave a heartfelt and humorous presentation starting with the moment that he and his wife first noticed the dilapidated mansion for sale in downtown Cape Girardeau. He shared stories of their family journey restoring the old place that they now call home.

"Our annual picnic is an opportunity to share our enthusiasm about preservation with not only our members, but also any of our neighbors who enjoy our city's architecture and might have an interest in getting involved," said Vicki Dempsey, Quincy Preserves board president.



Quincy Preserves Scholarships Awarded

Quincy Preserves awarded \$500.00 scholarships to two area students. Emma Ridder and Jacob Smith were named as recipients of the sixth annual scholarships.

Emma is a 2011 graduate of Quincy Notre Dame and currently attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Jacob is a 2011 graduate of Central High School, Camp Point. He is currently attending John Wood Community College.

These winners were selected by a committee of board members. Applicants submitted an application form, two teacher recommendations, and an essay in response to a question on a historic preservation topic. It is the goal of Quincy Preserves that the scholarships will raise an awareness of preservation among area youth, although applicants are not required to pursue a career in the field.

A word from the Membership Chairman

Although there is still much ahead in 2011 for Quincy Preserves, including our annual Behind Closed Doors and Christmas Candlelight tours, we have already begun soliciting and accepting memberships for 2012. As Membership Chairman, I would personally like to extend to you, your family, your business and your friends, an invitation to join Quincy Preserves for the coming year. Our membership number in 2011 was among the highest we've had in recent years, and we want to continue growing the membership in 2012.

By joining Quincy Preserves, you help in preserving and promoting awareness of the rich architectural heritage of Quincy. Quincy Preserves, through the contributions and hard work of its

members, has accomplished much this year. There is still more to do, and we need your help to do it. Individual and family membership dues are \$15.00, and business membership dues are \$25.00. Your membership information and dues can be mailed to:

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We are looking forward to another good year for Quincy Preserves, and look forward to your participation as a Quincy Preserves member.

—Curt Gardner

"Oakland" the Dr. David Nelson House

Melrose County, East State Street • Builder: Dr. David Nelson, ca. 1838

David Nelson, born in Jonesborough Tennessee in 1793 to parents who both taught at nearby Washington college, obtained a medical degree in 1809, and soon after enlisted as a surgeon in the Kentucky Militia and participating in the war of 1812. In 1829 Nelson, now also a Presbyterian minister, moved his family to Union township, Marion County, Missouri, where he purchased 600 acres of land. There, near Philadelphia, he chartered his first educational institution, Marion College, to educate ministers and missionaries. By 1836, however, due to Nelsons dedication to the cause of abolition, he was forced to flee Missouri, crossing the Mississippi to the free state of Illinois, and the city of Quincy. For a time, Nelson lived with an associate of Dr. Richard Eells, the well known Quincy abolitionist and supporter of the Underground Railroad, before purchasing 185 acres of land from Edward B. Kimball, in Melrose Township, approximately five miles east of Quincy.

It was on this land that he built his home, "Oakwood", and established his second educational institution, the "Mission Institute," a complex of some 20 small log cabins built by the students of the Institute, with nearby chapel. This complex was in turn conveyed to Rev. Asa Turner, for the establishment of a "manual labor missionary college", organized on the same principles as Marion College, across the river.

While the buildings of the "Adelphia Theological Seminary" have long since disappeared, Dr. David Nelson's house, in which he lived, raised his family of 12 children, and often preached Sunday sermons, still stands as a private residence, now proudly owned and maintained by the Deters family. Through research conducted by the Deters (recounted in Mrs. Deters' 2008 publication *The Underground Railroad Ran Through My House!*, available at all Quincy Museums and local bookstores), it was determined that hiding places were built into Oakwood by Nelson. These spaces came to the attention of Mrs. Deters when one of her daughters, one of 12 children, reported that one of her brothers had hidden from the babysitter "in that hole in the floor upstairs." Further searching revealed that a trap door in the floor of an upstairs bedroom, directly below a chimney flue opening where it could have easily been covered by a free standing heating stove, led to a small enclosure—capable of holding several children and/or adults, which surrounded the chimney and fireplace in the first floor parlor below.

Dr. Nelson's Federal style home was built with flanking outer wall chimneys and fireplaces in two first floor parlors on each



side of a formal semi-circular entryway and front staircase, entered through a 12 light front door with fan window above. A dining room and library were located behind the front parlors, as well as a large pantry and attached kitchen toward the rear of the house. The second floor of the house contained four bedrooms over the main portion of the house, plus servant's quarters located at the back of the house over the kitchen below, and reached from a back staircase. There are no extant photographs or drawings of the house as Dr. Nelson built it in 1837-38, and the present two story porch on the front façade of the house was restored by Mr. Deters from period plans, plus architectural hints left on the house itself. It is interesting to note, however, that a photograph of Dr. Nelson's residence at Marion College (Deters 2008, p. 38) shows a house similar in overall form to "Oakland" with a smaller, very ornate two story semi-circular porch enclosing the front entry. Such a semi-circular porch would have complemented the reverse semi-circular front entry and stairwell still extant at "Oakwood", producing a 360 circular floor plan for porch and front entry hall.

In March 2011, Quincy Preserves was proud to present the Deters family with a bronze plaque in recognition of their part in preserving this architecturally and historically important part of Quincy and Adams County history. "Oakland" represents a still occupied private home which played an important part in the history and operation of the Underground Railroad, built by a man who was instrumental in leading enslaved Americans to freedom well over a century ago.

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