

2024 Behind Closed Doors Tour Map

- 196 S. 18th St.
- 1550 Maine St.
- 129 East Ave.
- 1624 Jersey St.
- 133 East Ave.
- 2107 Jersey St.

Please tour the above listed sites in any order convenient for you. This is an open tour, not a guided tour.

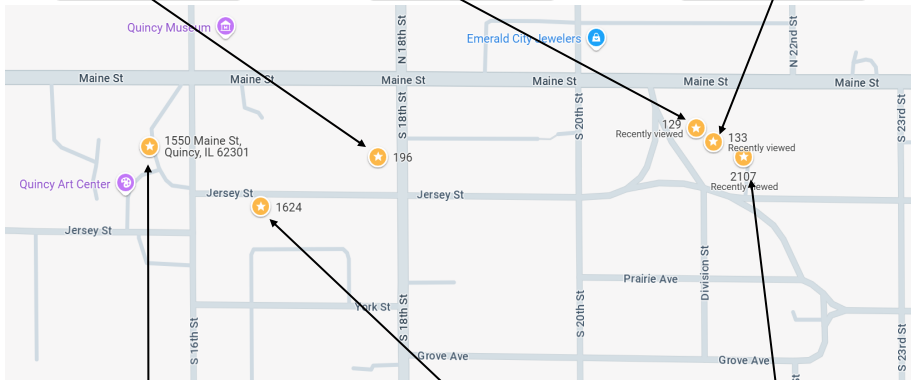
196 S. 18th St.



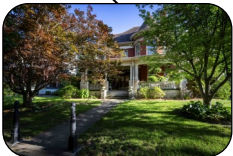
129 East Ave.



133 East Ave.



1550 Maine St.



1624 Jersey St.



2107 Jersey St.



Quincy Preserves
Preservation is for everyone.

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



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2024 Behind Closed Doors Tour



Saturday, October 19, 2024

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Quincy, Illinois

This booklet will serve as your entrance ticket to each location.

While viewing these beautiful homes, we ask you to observe the following rules:

- 1) Sponsors and property owners are not responsible for lost articles or accidents during the tour.
- 2) Smoking is not permitted anywhere. No food or beverages are allowed on the property or within the tour structure, except at a designated refreshment stop.
- 3) No photographs or videos may be taken in the properties.
- 4) You may be asked to remove your shoes or to wear shoe coverings in the homes.
- 5) Restrooms are not available at any of the tour locations.

Quincy Preserves, a community organization, is open to all and devoted to the preservation of Quincy's outstanding architecture.

Quincy Preserves tours provide an opportunity for all to enjoy the many beautiful structures throughout the city and to witness community members' ongoing efforts to preserve Quincy's architectural treasures. When we go into the tour locations, we are privileged to see the legacies of yesterday cherished today.

Funds raised from the house tours are used to promote preservation education and preservation projects in the Quincy community.

in December 1919. Elizabeth would continue to live at the residence until her death in December 1945. The Williams' are buried in Woodland Cemetery.

As mentioned earlier, they had a son named Oliver, who was known as the "Dean of Quincy History". He was known to possess the finest known collection of pictures of Quincy's past. He married Margarethe Kespohl on December 29, 1915 in Quincy. Margarethe was the daughter of Julius Kespohl who was the proprietor of "Julius Kespohl & Co. Dry Goods Store".



Want your home on a Quincy Preserves Tour?

Quincy Preserves currently conducts two architectural tours, The *Behind Closed Doors Tour* in the fall and the biennial Summer Garden Tour. Both tours create an awareness of how fortunate Quincy is to have so many architectural treasures.

The *Behind Closed Doors Tour* typically takes place on the third Saturday in October. Several homes and buildings are selected to be on this tour, representing the different architectural styles found in Quincy. The *Summer Garden Tour* takes place in June and features architectural exteriors, gardens, and outdoor spaces.

Those interested in having their home or business on an upcoming Quincy Preserves Tour can contact a Quincy Preserves Board Member, or by email at info@quincypreserves.org.

Deeply Rooted

Address: 196 South 18th

Date Built: 1888

Original Owner: Pliny Bliss & Elizabeth Rice Williams



Elizabeth Rice's family settled in Quincy in the early 1830's and would be instrumental in establishing some of Quincy's earliest industries. These included Quincy Engine Works, Smith Hill Elevator Company (which later merged with other companies to form Otis Elevator Company & J.R. Little Metal Wheel Company). Elizabeth's grandfather, Joel is considered one of the founder's of Quincy and he was a pioneer merchant with a business on Front Street as early as 1835 and he also planned a commercial district on Front Street, built from stone, and it was called, "Commercial Alley". Soon after this he would establish the First Wholesale Grocery and Iron Store in Quincy, which was a brick building and located at Front and Hampshire. This wholesale Grocery Store, Joel Rice & Sons would branch out and have a store in Keokuk as well. Elizabeth was born in February 1858 in Keokuk and came to Quincy after the death of her mother. Elizabeth made her home with an aunt, and lived in the home of her grandfather Joel Rice on the southeast corner of 18th and Maine.

Pliny Bliss was born on July 7, 1845 in Cincinnati, Ohio. When his family left Cincinnati they first went to St. Louis, removing to Quincy shortly before the Civil War. His first job in Quincy was at Smith Hardware Company on Hampshire, between 3rd & 4th. Pliny and Elizabeth married on February 21, 1882 in Adams County, and they had two sons James and Oliver. Oliver Williams was known as the "Dean of Quincy History" according to his obituary.

Pliny would work for several industries in Quincy but he would spend most of his time with the J.R. Little Metal Wheel Company, and eventually his son Oliver would succeed him at the company, but Pliny did hold position as General Manager up until his death

Full Circle

Address: 129 East Avenue

Date Built: 1912

Original Owner:
Mrs. Fredericka Kespohl Halbach

Architecture Style:

Prairie Style

Architect: Ernest Wood



Two family names that were household names during the early years of Quincy, were Kespohl and Halbach. They both founded stores that would be the place for Quincy shoppers to go and pick up items that they needed. This home at 129 East Avenue, is connected to both of these families, so lets get started!

In the August 8, 1912 issue of the Quincy Whig, it was reported that the "excavating for the residence of Mrs. F.W. Halbach in Lawndale. It is to be stone and brick construction, 2 stories in height, the estimated cost being \$10,000". Fredericka Kespohl Halbach was the widow of Frederick W. Halbach who was the founder of Halbach - Schroeder Department Store in 1873. Fredericka was also the sister of Julius Conrad Kespohl Sr. who founded Kespohl Dry Goods.

Fredericka and her daughter, Florence, would live together here for less than two years, as Fredericka would pass away on October 8, 1914. Following her death, her other daughter Edith, and her husband Walter Emery Lancaster, would move into the house, and Florence would live with them. Florence wouldn't live here long, as she would marry James Russell Williams in June of 1916. Florence was one of the first women golfers in Quincy and participated in Championship matches in 1914.

The Lancaster's would live here for about 30 years. Walter was a lawyer and ran for the Democratic candidate for Congress from the old 15th district, and although a close race, he did lose. Eventually they would relocate to the LaGrange, Missouri area.

The next family to call 129 East Avenue their home, was the Joseph Earl Preston family, who would live here in the 1950's. In 1964 the Quincy Herald Whig announced that the Pressons were moving to California. They had moved to Quincy in 1949, when Mr. Presson was transferred there by Central Fibre Products Company and was the V.P. Controller.

The home would be sold to John R. Coffman that same year and his wife was none other than Mary Bell Halbach. Now, there's that familiar name again! Mary Belle had first been married to Robert William Halbach Jr., whose grandmother was none other than Mrs. Fredericka Kespohl Halbach. In another twist, Coffman had actually lived next door at 125 East Avenue, but when this house went up for sale, he decided to move next door!

Architecture:

On an off-grid street in Quincy, Illinois, stands a house that seems to gently meld with its surroundings, a serene testament to the Prairie style of architecture. This residence, located at 129 East Avenue, was designed by Quincy architect Ernest Wood. Woods' buildings and designs were partly responsible for spreading of the prairie style in this area. Wood practiced for over thirty years in the profession and there are many examples of the style he contributed all over western Illinois. Through his design he tells, capturing the essence of an era that sought to harmonize human habitation with the natural world.

As you approach the house, you're immediately struck by its strong horizontal lines. It's as if the building is stretching out comfortably, embracing the landscape with a welcoming gesture. The low-pitched roof, extending far beyond the walls, creates a sense of openness and continuity with the sky. These wide overhangs are more than mere architectural details—they're a deliberate design choice meant to blur the boundary between indoors and outdoors, offering shelter and shade while enhancing the home's connection to its environment.

The exterior of the house is dressed in warm, earthy tones. Rich brickwork or soft stucco wraps around the structure, blending seamlessly with the natural hues of the surrounding landscape. The texture of the materials adds a tactile quality, inviting you to reach out and feel the craftsmanship.

Nehemiah Bushnell would pass away in 1873 and Eliza Bushnell would live here with the Bulls from the early 1890's until her death in 1900. Margaret would pass away in 1903 and Lorenzo in 1905. After the death of her parents, Elizabeth Bull Parker and her husband, Edward J. Parker would move into the residence at 1550 Maine and her sister, Mary Bull would join them. Edward J. Parker was the President of State Savings Loan & Trust.

Edward J. Parker is also greatly known for being the founder and developer of the Quincy Park and Boulevard Association. Quincy only had Washington Park, Franklin Park and the Old Market Place on Payson Avenue and Parker had the vision that Quincy needed more. At the time of his death in 1912, Quincy had 14 parks, 15 miles of boulevards and a park area of 244 acres. Edward would pass away in 1912, and his wife continued to live at this residence until her death in 1929. Her sister, Mary Bull would pass away the following year in Michigan while vacationing with her sister Mrs. Anna Bull Benedict. It is of note, that the Bull, Bushnell and Parker families are all at rest together in a family plot in Woodland Cemetery.

Mary was the last Bull descendant to reside in this stunning residence and it was in Mary's estate dealings that the house and premises almost went to auction as declared in the Quincy Herald Whig, June 9, 1932 issue. This led to talk of the house being leveled for a bungalow development. Fortunately for us, several women from the community would come together and raise \$10,000 to buy the property in pledges of \$50 and up during the Great Depression. This group then formed the Women's City Club which occupied and maintained the Bull House. The Quincy Park District now maintains the property now known as "Lorenzo Bull Park". I think the Bull, Parker and Bushnell families would be happy to see how their home is being preserved.

Bull, as 14 year old Lorenzo Bull Jr. listened in. Along with Turner, who had already called Quincy his home, they made their 31 day journey with the use of steamboat, stagecoach, horse drawn railway cars and some railroads.

Margaret Benedict came to Quincy to visit her sister, Mrs. Bushnell. Mrs. Bushnell was married to Nehemiah Bushnell who was a early lawyer in Quincy. He graduated from Yale in 1835 and Harvard Law in 1837. He came to Quincy and became a partner with Orville Hickman Browning. Nehemiah would also be the namesake of Bushnell, Illinois. During her visit, Margaret and Lorenzo would meet and would later marry, on January 18, 1844 in Adams County. After they married they lived in a home at Fourth and Jersey.

Lorenzo worked in several facets of business in Quincy. He, along with his brother Charles H. Bull, who came to Quincy in 1836, dabbled in the hardware trade, eventually adding crockery and agriculture implements. For a number of years all banking business was transacted in the Bull's first hardware store. There was no other bank in the city. In 1846, other parties established a banking house, and the Bulls gladly confined themselves to the sale of iron and steel. But in 1861 the Bank of L. & C.H. Bull was founded and located in the Wells Block, at the SW corner of 5th and Maine & there remained until incorporated under the state law and housed in its own building.

In November 1890, the old firm of the merger of L. & C.H. Bull's Savings Bank and E.J. Parker and Co.'s Commercial bank, was authorized to reorganize under the state law as the State Savings Loan & Trust Company, with a paid up front capital of \$300,000 and a term of 99 years. The State Savings Loan & Trust building was built in 1891 and still stands witness to the everyday life on Quincians in The District.

Lorenzo and Margaret would have 6 children and they lived in this beautiful home for more than 50 years. When they first bought the property the land had only one tree, and included two lots that extended across Jersey street, one a pasture, and the other a lot with a hired-man's house a peach orchard with strawberry beds under the trees.

Wooden details, from the sturdy trim to the intricate carvings, complement the primary materials, bringing an added layer of warmth and character.

Windows, grouped together in horizontal bands, stretch across the façade like eyes that look out onto the world with a sense of calm and perspective. Each window is a frame capturing the changing seasons outside, and many are adorned with delicate stained or leaded glass patterns. These artistic touches filter the light, creating a soft, warm glow inside the home that dances across the wooden floors and walls.

A prominent feature of this Prairie-style house is its front porch, a space that invites you to pause and savor the moment. Supported by robust columns or piers, the porch extends a gracious welcome, providing a perfect spot to enjoy the outdoors while being sheltered from the elements. The low stone or brick walls that edge the porch echo the horizontal lines of the house, further blending the structure with its setting. Step inside, and you'll find an interior that mirrors the architectural harmony of the exterior.

The house at 129 East Avenue is more than just a residence; it's a narrative in architecture, a story told through lines, materials, and spaces. It reflects a style when architects sought to create a seamless connection between the built environment and the natural world, crafting homes that were not just places to live, but also expressions of harmony and grace. As you stand before this Prairie-style home, you can't help but feel that it's not merely a structure, but a living testament to Ernest Woods architectural vision.

Like a Phoenix, Rising From the Ashes

Address: 133 East Avenue

Date Built: 1892

Original Owner:

Edward Irving Martin

Post Fire Owner :

Mrs. Elenora "Ella" Payne Rogers

Architecture Style: Shingle



This beautiful residence at 133 East Avenue, is like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, as the original house was built by Edward Irving Martin in 1892, but it would be gutted by fire only 4 years later, on January 22, 1896, with only the stone remaining. The fire originated in the sewing room on the northeast side of the house and was noticed by a servant in the early morning hours of January 22. Everyone escaped without injury, but they lost everything.

Edward Irving Martin and Charlene Hodgson would marry on January 25, 1886, and Edward was employed by Julius Kespohl & Co., but would eventually branch out on his own and have a Dry Goods, Notions and Cloaks store at the Southwest Corner of 7th and Hampshire. Edward would be one of the first residents of Quincy to build in the newly platted Lawndale Neighborhood, with the address being 131 East Avenue in early newspapers and directories. Lawndale was platted in February of 1889 by Conrad Embeck. The Martin family would live on 18th Street after the fire and then relocate to Pasadena, California.

The house would lay in ruin for about 7 years, until Mrs. Elenora "Ella" Payne Rogers would purchase the property in the early 1900's and reconstruct it. Ella Payne Rogers was the wife of Edward A. Rogers, as they were married on January 1, 1868. Edward was the son of Timothy Rogers, who is laid to rest in the beautiful Rogers Mausoleum in Woodland Cemetery. Edward and Ella had one son, Archer who was born on October 25th, 1885. Previous historical histories have said that Archer was Ella's nephew but according to census records and death record, Archer Billings Rogers is their son. We will talk more about Archer and his wife in a few minutes.

According to several Quincy directories, it is evident that Ella took in boarders during her ownership of the house. The house went up for sale a few times, with one listing in 1912, and with the home described as follows, "A lovely home in beautiful Lawndale at a bargain; all modern, 10 rooms, 3 baths, hardwood floor, gas and electric light & furnace heat". It then was listed again around 1916 with an ad for quick sale, with address in the ad being 131 East Avenue. Eventually the home sold, most likely to John Guinan who was the proprietor of the Quincy Barrel Company.

The rise of the Queen Anne style coincided with significant social changes, including the expansion of the middle class and increased urbanization. As cities grew, so did the demand for more distinctive and personalized homes, reflecting individual tastes and status. The Queen Anne style catered to this desire for unique, visually stimulating homes that stood out in burgeoning suburban neighborhoods. This style was known as the most eclectic style of the Victorian era.

The residence at 1624 Jersey Street is more than just a well-preserved example of Queen Anne architecture; it is a reflection of Quincy's growth and prosperity during the late 19th century. Harvey Chatten's design choices indicate a desire to embrace contemporary trends while also expressing a unique individual identity. As the city expanded, homes like this one became symbols of the affluence and cultural aspirations of their owners.

All in the Family

Address: 1550 Maine
Date Built: 1850

Original Owner: Lorenzo and Margaret Benedict Bull



Quincy is a city full of historical families from Quincy's early days, but few are as well known as the Bull family. Lorenzo Bull was born on March 21, 1819 in Hartford, Connecticut and he arrived in Quincy in 1833 at the age of 14. How Lorenzo came to Quincy, is quite the story. According to his daughter, Anna Louise Bull Benedict, who wrote a historical background about her parents at the age of 93 and was published in the Quincy Herald Whig in 1955, states that her father came to Quincy with a group of likeminded people, spearheaded by Reverend Asa Turner, who was married to Lorenzo's cousin Martha. Turner was looking to organize a Church in the wilds of the Middle West. Turner had already accomplished this in other parts of the country and was in a discussion with the elder Lorenzo

advertisements for Palmolive Soap, Cadillac, Lucky Strike, and Coca Cola. In 1936 General Mills would commission her to create the image of Betty Crocker. It should also be noted that she was active in Women's Suffrage in New York.

ARCHITECTURE:

Nestled in the historic district of Quincy, Illinois, the residence at 1624 Jersey Street stands as a distinguished example of late 19th-century American residential architecture. Designed by the noted architect Harvey Chatten, this is one of two homes designed by Chatten in the Queen Anne architectural style that is on this year's tour.

Constructed in the early 1890s, the residence at 1624 Jersey Street reflects an ideal interpretation of the Queen Anne style. Known for his ability to blend intricate detailing with innovative design, Chatten created a home that not only captures the aesthetic essence of the era but also showcases his architectural prowess. The residence features an asymmetrical design, a hallmark of Queen Anne architecture, which defies traditional symmetry to create a more dynamic and visually engaging appearance. The entrance is marked by a wide sweeping porch that is anchored by the tower feature. Note, unlike 196 S. 18th Street, the front elevation is the void of a gable, and you are present with the steeply pitched roof. Notice the two detailed chimneys extending high above the roof, contributing to the home's grandeur and verticality.

Harvey Chatten's attention to detail is evident in the residence's ornate features. The front porch, a central gathering space, is supported by turned wooden spindles and features a wraparound design, reflecting period details. The porch is supported by doric columns that extend around the house.

The exterior of the residence features a blend of materials typical of the Queen Anne style. Chatten utilized a combination of brickwork and decorative wooden shingles on the 2nd floor to create a textured and visually stimulating surface. The brickwork, laid in an elaborate pattern, highlights the craftsmanship of the era, while the wooden shingles, often painted in contrasting colors, enhance the home's distinctive character.

I would like to take some time to talk about Archer, and his wife, who no doubt everyone has heard of. Archer Rogers married Marion Gardner on October 11, 1911 in Lee County, Iowa. Marion was the granddaughter of Robert William Gardner, founder of Gardner-Denver. Archer and Marion would have three children, Helen Gardner Rogers, Eleanor Rogers and Edward A. Rogers. Archer would die young in October, 1918 and Marion would re-marry on June 5, 1920 to Royal Welty Jackson. Before her death in 1976, Marion Gardner Rogers Jackson set up a perpetual charitable trust account to help religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational organizations in the Quincy area. This trust still distributes money today.

Architecture:

Nestled gracefully at 133 East Avenue in Quincy, Illinois, is a striking Shingle-style house crafted by the renowned local architects Harvey Chatten and Ernest Wood. This residence stands as a fine example of the style, as these homes were often built on stone foundations that seemed to emerge from bedrock. Thus, the massive, horizontal structures appeared to hug the ground.

As you approach the house, its presence is immediately captivating. The upper façade is clad in a rich mosaic of shingles, each piece carefully arranged to create a texture that seems to flow organically across the building. The shingle siding allows for a continuous surface of material, unifying the irregular outline of the house. However, it is the granite stonework that truly commands attention. The lower portion of the façade is adorned with robust, intricately detailed granite, anchoring the house firmly to the ground contrasting the textured shingles above. The granite's cool, solid presence underscores the house's enduring strength and complements the warm, natural tones of the shingle cladding.

The front porch extends a warm invitation, its broad, overhanging eaves supported by sturdy arched openings. This spacious, sheltered area serves as a transitional zone between the exterior and interior, offering a place to pause and enjoy the surrounding scenery. The porch's open design and wooden deck reflect the Shingle style's emphasis on comfortable, relaxed living.

Stepping inside, the home unfolds into a series of interconnected spaces that exemplify Chatten's commitment to a harmonious interior layout. The open floor plan flows effortlessly from one room to the next, creating a sense of continuity and spaciousness. Large, multi-paned windows allow natural light to pour into the interior, illuminating the rich textures and warm tones of the wooden floors and walls.

The roofline is a compelling feature of this Shingle-style home. Chatten's design showcases a gambrel roof with dormers that rise and fall in a fluid, asymmetrical rhythm. Only about 25% of Shingle houses have a gambrel roof, as a traditional gable was more common. This style reached its highest expression in the seaside resorts of the northeast. Think of Newport, Cape Cod, Eastern Long Island circa 1880-1900. The style itself was unusually free-form and varied from house to house, with the primary linking element being the shingle cladding. One reason for the variations in Shingle style is it was known as a primarily high-fashion, "architect's style", rather than a widely accepted design present in mass vernacular housing. However, from this fashionable base, the style spread throughout the country and examples can be found in all regions of the United States. It never gained wide popularity, such as its predecessor, the Queen Anne style, and thus this unique residence and the architect's variations should be celebrated.

It should be noted that the original structure designed by Chatten was completed in 1892. In 1896 the structure burned down leaving only the stone foundation intact. The structure was reconstructed by another local architect, Ernest Wood in 1903. Ernest Wood originally worked for Chatten as his primary draftsman from 1886-1891 before starting his firm. This is not documented but given the date overlaps, it is highly feasible that Wood worked on the original design and leveraged that knowledge for the reconstruction effort. It is also interesting that Ernest Wood was selected as the architect for the next-door neighbor at 129 East Ave.

McMein would marry Lydia Warfield in January of 1886 and Lydia's father William Warfield would gift them the land that their house at 1624 Jersey would be built upon. William's estate is across the street at 1624 Maine, and this was also the setting for their wedding. At the time of their marriage McMein was still working in the editorial department at the Daily Whig. Lydia was a superb golfer and was regarded as cultured and intelligent, with an amazing sense of humor. She would die of typhoid fever with complications of pneumonia in 1915. She is buried in the Warfield plot in Woodland Cemetery. McMein would remarry in 1918 to Mabel Sholl.

In 1902, he was a part of the printing business Volk, Jones & McMein and two years later, after the death of his business partner Volk, the business became known as McMein Printing Co. McMein would retire in 1924. McMein died on February 21, 1927 and is buried in Graceland Cemetery.

McMein was the Uncle of Marjorie Frances McMein, also known as Neysa McMein. Marjorie was born in Quincy on January 25, 1889, the daughter of Harry Moran McMein and Isabelle Parker.

During the Great War, President Woodrow Wilson created the Committee on Public Information, the CPI whose job was to rally Americans by stressing our positive values while encouraging Patriotism. One notable section was the Division of Pictorial Publicity : Staffed by the country's leading artists and illustrators. They would contribute by creating posters, paintings, cartoons and magazine covers that portrayed patriotism and nationalism. She eagerly joined this effort, however the CPI didn't realize she was a woman and this created a problem, so to resolve this "problem" she volunteered to be a YMCA performer. The problem that arose from her being a woman was that she wouldn't be allowed to go to France, which is why she volunteered for the YMCA. Shortly after changing her given name to Neysa her fortunes changed and she sold a cover illustration to the Saturday Evening Post and overnight her work gave her financial security.

She went on to have illustrations that graced the covers of the Saturday Evening Post, McCall's, Sunday Magazine and Women's Home Companion. Sixty of her illustrations would appear on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post from 1923-1938. She also did

The Prairie Style represents a significant shift in architectural thought during the early 20th century. Architects like George Behrensmeyer sought to create designs that were not only aesthetically pleasing but also in harmony with the American landscape. This approach was part of a broader cultural movement that valued simplicity, functionality, and a deeper connection to nature.

The residence at 2107 Jersey Street is a key example of this architectural movement, reflecting the values and design principles of its time. As Quincy and other American cities grew, homes like this one became symbols of progressive architectural ideas and a desire to integrate modern living with natural surroundings.

Printing & Prints

Address: 1624 Jersey
Date Built: 1888

Original Owner:
William Hubert & Lydia
Garfield McMein

Architecture Style:
Queen Anne

Architect: Harvey Chatten



The McMein family has attachments to the printing world, from owning a printing business in Quincy, to being the birthplace of a celebrated artist who would gain fame during WWI and become the highest paid artist of the Jazz Age.

William Hubert McMein was born February 9, 1860 in New York City, the son of Hugh and Frances Gallagher McMein and with them he came to Quincy in 1865. As a boy he was a carrier for the Quincy Whig and at the young age of 14 he apprenticed to the printers trade and became an expert in that field. He was foreman of the newsroom of the Whig and then became the telegraph editor and city editor. His career track at the paper was to eventually lead to becoming the managing editor but he went into the printing business instead.

A Phenomenal Family Legacy

Address: 2107 Jersey
Date Built: 1919

Original Owner:
Maurice & Ione Vasen

Architecture Style:
Prairie Style

Architecture: George
Behrensmeyer



This home was built in 1919 for the Maurice Vasen family. Maurice was the son of Benjamin G. Vasen. Benjamin, along with his parents, Gerson (George) & Catherine, moved to Quincy from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1866/67. George was engaged in the commission business, and was then employed as a traveling salesman for a wholesale liquor house, in which he held until his death in 1888. He and his wife, Catherine, had 10 children and today we will talk about two of them, as well as their grandchild Maurice.

Ben Vasen, came to Quincy at the age of 10 and later in his life he was employed by Morton & Nichols where he began his connection with Building & Loan Associations. Eventually his son, Maurice would be his assistant in this business. He would also establish the Quincy Building and Homestead Association. At the time of his death in 1916 he was the President of the B'Nai Shalom Congregation. His wife, Julie was also well known in Quincy, and mostly for her compassion for others in the community, especially those who were poor and unfortunate. She once held a fundraiser to raise money to buy shoes for children, who's parents could not afford to purchase shoes.

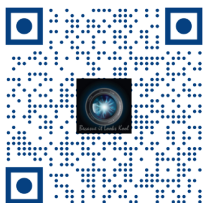
Ben and Julie had four children, and one of them is the original owner of this home. Maurice was born in Quincy in September 1885, and attended QHS, and went on to attend college at the University of Illinois, and then he would go on to practice law in Chicago, returning to Quincy in 1913. He would marry Ione Ode Ellis on November 6, 1913. Ione was a well known vocalist in Quincy. As

mentioned before, Maurice would join his father in the family business as Secretary of Quincy Savings Loan and Building Association which later became Quincy Peoples Savings & Loan and then First Financial Bank. After Maurice's death in 1972, Ione would live in this house until her death a few years later.

Now I would like to take a moment to talk about Dr. Sarah Vasen, who is Ben Vasen's sister, and Maurice's Aunt. Dr. Sarah Vasen attended Quincy Public Schools until age 16, and then studied medicine privately with Dr. Melinda Knapheide Germann, who was one of Quincy's first female doctors. In 1890 she enrolled at the Keokuk College of Medicine where she graduated March 8, 1892 and then returned to Quincy. Sarah was on staff at Blessing in the 1890's, being one of the first females appointed at the hospital. After her mother's death in 1897, she went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and enrolled in post graduate training in obstetrics and became the Superintendent and Physician of the Jewish Maternity Home. In 1900 she resigned and returned to Quincy, suffering from a skin ailment, that was most likely psoriasis, and so she decided to leave Quincy and permanently reside in California, where he brother Nathan lived. She was the first Jewish woman doctor in Los Angeles and the First Superintendent and resident doctor of Kasparie Cohn Hospital, which eventually became Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. She is known as the "Pioneer in Obstetrics and Hospital Leadership". She would retire at the age of 42, and would marry Saul Frank. There is more information about Dr. Sarah Vasen, just too much to give you while on this tour, but I will leave you with this. In both L.A. and Quincy she was the First Jewish Female Physician and in Quincy she helped build up the maternity ward.

The Vasen family left a huge imprint on Quincy, and to that we should all be supremely grateful.

All photography donated by:
Brandon Khoury



Architecture:

Situated in the east end historic district of Quincy, Illinois, the residence at 2107 Jersey Street offers a valuable educational example of Prairie Style architecture. It was designed by the Quincy architect George Behrensmeyer in 1919. This home is a prime illustration of the Prairie Style's key principles, reflecting the broader architectural trends of its time.

Prairie Style architecture emerged in Chicago in the late 19th and early 20th centuries from the work of a group of young architects, including architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright. This style is recognized for its emphasis on horizontal lines, integration with the landscape, and the use of natural materials. It represents a departure from the ornate and vertical elements of previous architectural styles such as Queen Anne and Victorian. This new style favors a philosophy of simplicity that promotes harmony between structures and their natural surroundings.

The residence at 2107 Jersey Street exemplifies Prairie Style principles through its design and use of materials. George Behrensmeyer's approach to this home showcases the hallmark features of the style:

Horizontal Emphasis: One of the defining characteristics of Prairie Style architecture is its low, horizontal profile. The residence features a broad, hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, which extend outward to create a sense of continuity with the landscape. This horizontal emphasis helps the structure blend with its surroundings rather than dominate the landscape.

Integration with Nature: Prairie Style architecture is designed to harmonize with its environment. The residence at 2107 Jersey Street uses brick for its exterior, a material chosen for its natural appearance and durability. The use of warm, earthy colors and textures helps the building integrate seamlessly with its setting, reflecting the Prairie Style's focus on an organic connection with nature.

Overhanging Eaves and Windows: The wide, overhanging eaves and bands of windows are quintessential features of Prairie Style homes. These elements provide practical shelter from the elements and contribute to the horizontal lines of the design.