

in 1861 by an early Quincy settler and carpenter/master builder, Eaton Littlefield for his own home. The exterior of this architecturally unique house features paired wooden brackets on the cornice and wooden "rope" molding around the front doorway. As a contractor, Eaton Littlefield incorporated "state of the art" details and construction techniques into the house. The two West-front, first floor windows have recessed tracking to allow the lower sash to pass behind the lintel and allow the window to be used as a door for access to the front porch. While this was common in the mid-1880's, this is the earliest known example of this type of construction in Quincy. The transom window above the front doors, currently on loan to the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, was installed with leaded glass (colored sheet glass with rondels); again, this is the first known residential installation of leaded glass in Quincy. Another unique feature of this house is the ceiling height of the first floor, which is 12½ feet, giving the main entertaining rooms a more spacious feeling. The front section of this Italianate is 40 feet by 30 feet in depth, rather than the "standard" 40 feet by 40 feet square, but the illusion of the typical central hallway is maintained by having the staircase extend beyond the western exterior wall into the middle section of the house. This arrangement also allowed for a cross hallway at the rear of the front section to provide access to both North and South porches. The exterior walls were built 22 inches thick -- three courses of brick and an insulating air-space built of wooden studs (2" x 10") and finished on the interior with plaster and lathe. The floors of the front and Kentucky Street side porches have been rebuilt on the original foundations, but lacking a photograph of the house with its porches intact, I have not replaced the missing front porch and have experimented with a solar-collecting porch on the South side.

While not a widely-known figure in Quincy history, Eaton Littlefield was responsible for the construction of numerous residential and commercial buildings in Quincy, as well as building the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River. During the Depression, the Eaton Littlefield House was used for W.P.A. classes in woodworking and sewing. The house had been nominated as a contributing structure in the Multiple-Resource Districts, later withdrawn.