

Christmas Candlelight House Tour Features Hampshire Street

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Quincy Preserves Christmas Candlelight Tour on Sunday, December 11. The annual tour will take place between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tickets will sell for \$6 each.

The Christmas tour is a walking tour and features a particular neighborhood each year. This year the featured neighborhood is Hampshire from 14th to 18th Streets.

Luminaries will line the sidewalks while members of the Quincy Symphony Chorus serenade tour-goers with traditional Christmas carols.

The Unitarian Church, located at 1479 Hampshire and built in 1914, will be decorated for the holidays. This

stone and stucco Craftsman Style building was designed by architect Harvey Chatten. The Unitarian Church building is distinguished by superb masonry design.

Members of the Quincy Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will play the antique organ for everyone's listening pleasure. Delicious cookies and warm beverages will be served in the lower level of the church to everyone attending the tour. At 8:15 p.m. members of the Quincy Symphony Chorus along with the Guild of Organists will conduct a brief Christmas carol sing-a-long in the sanctuary. Everyone attending is encouraged to take part.



UNITARIAN CHURCH, 1479 HAMPSHIRE

Kipley

Quincy Preserves will have a Christmas gift area in the lower level of the Unitarian Church as well. There will be a wide variety of merchandise for sale including the new 1994 architectural ornaments and magnets. Also available will be John Stoeckley's prints and note cards featuring Quincy's beautiful architecture. Christmas Candlelight Tour sweatshirts, long-sleeved T-shirts and a variety of other merchandise will be for sale.

The Jesse E. and Mary P. Weems house, built in 1885, will also be featured on the tour. It is now known as the Kaufmann House Bed and Breakfast and is located at 1641 Hampshire. Harvey Chatten designed this Queen Anne Style home. The house will be decorated in its Christmas finery complete with a fire in the fireplace.

Private homes on and around Hampshire Street will also be open for the tour. Following are the names and a little information on each:

The Henry and Julia Konantz house, 1435 Hampshire, was built in 1904 and is now the home of the Tobi and Vickie Long family. The style of this home is Georgian Revival and the architect is unknown.

The Robert D. and Adelia B. Lemley house, 1476 Hampshire, was built in 1872 and remodeled in 1889. The architect of this Italianate/Queen Anne Style home is unknown, but the remodeling is attributed to Harvey Chatten. The family of Reg and Jane Ankrom currently reside here.

The John and Elizabeth Hoffman house, 223 North 16th Street, was built in 1921. The architect for this Craftsman Bungalow Style home is unknown. It is presently the home of the Kim and Valerie Mulch family.

The Dr. Charles and Louise Center house, 1671 Hampshire, was built in 1906. This Craftsman Four-Square home was designed by Quincy architect Ernest Wood. It is now the home of the families of Marsha Merkel and Barbara Helmedag. This home will have some of Quincy Preserves "giftables" for sale in the kitchen.

Christmas Candlelight Tour chairs Lee Lindsay Curtis and Vicki Ebbing invite everyone to take part in this beautiful evening. For more information call Curtis at 217-224-3755 or Ebbing at 217-224-4400.

GARDNER QUINCY ADAMS COUNTY MUSEUM
CORPORATION

Southwest Corner 4th and Maine Streets
Quincy, Illinois 62301
Phone (217) 224-6873

No.

Unitarian Church

Note:

1905: Past + Present A/C

Dec 29, 1840	organized within the Second Congregational Society (formed May 31, 1839) meetings at court house		
Oct. 1840	church dedicated leased ground on Maine, 300 B block		
		\$1,135 cost	
1851	New church South side of Jersey above 6th		
1858	"Maine St. Church - 6-7th (1868) rear Sunday school	\$18,500 \$4,400	

Signed:

The Unitarian Church

1479 HAMPSHIRE STREET
QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301
PHONE: 222-5468

Aug 12, 1982

Dear Mr. Brown,

There are several people who would qualify as church historians in our congregation. These people include:

Rev. John Brigham (minister emeritus) who is now retired and living in Quincy

Mrs. Frieda Marshall (a longtime member) who keeps a notebook updated on our history.

Mrs. Caroline Sexauer (former librarian in Quincy) who comes from a family that was one of the original founding families of our church.

The Unitarian Church here in Quincy has been a part of this community since

2)

The Unitarian Church

1479 HAMPSHIRE STREET

QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301

PHONE: 222-5468

1839 so its history comes back quite a while. William Eliot, a Unitarian minister in St. Louis & founder of Washington University helped establish the Quincy Unitarian Church. We have been in our present church building since 1914. Enclosed you'll find a brief history of our church which might interest you.

I'm a new comer to the church. I've been here since August 1. But, I believe this congregation is one with a lot of spirit, history, and perseverance. If you'd like more information, don't hesitate to

Call me at the church (222-5468)
or at home (228-0276).

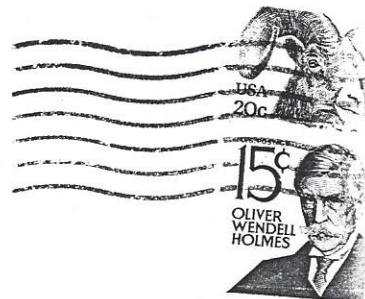
Sincerely,

Rev. Eric A. Haugen
Minister, Quincy Unitarian Church.

(P.S. : I'll announce your project
at our service Sept. 5TH & put
a note about it in our bulletin.)

Eric Haugen
Unitarian Church

AMPSHIRE STREET
QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301



Mr. Kevin Brown
Secretary, The Gardner Museum of Quincy
and Adams County
Fourth and Maine Streets
Quincy, IL 62301

(Payne)



Unitarian Church
1100 H. H. H. Street

From Quincy's Past

Unitarian Church dates to 1839

By CARL LANDRUM

The Unitarian Church at 16th and Hampshire is celebrating its 140th anniversary during April and May of this year. The church was founded in 1839 and the present building, the fourth for the church, was built in 1914.

The Unitarian Church was founded by William Greenleaf Eliot, who preached the first organizing sermon in Quincy, April 8, 1839; he was pastor of the Unitarian Church in St. Louis from 1834 to 1872. Besides his own church work he started other liberal church movements, including the Quincy church. He also founded Washington University. It has been said that Charles Dickens, who visited the Midwest and St. Louis in 1842 but did not get up to Quincy, had little to say about anything that was favorable, but did speak favorably of Eliot and his church because of its liberality in all actions.

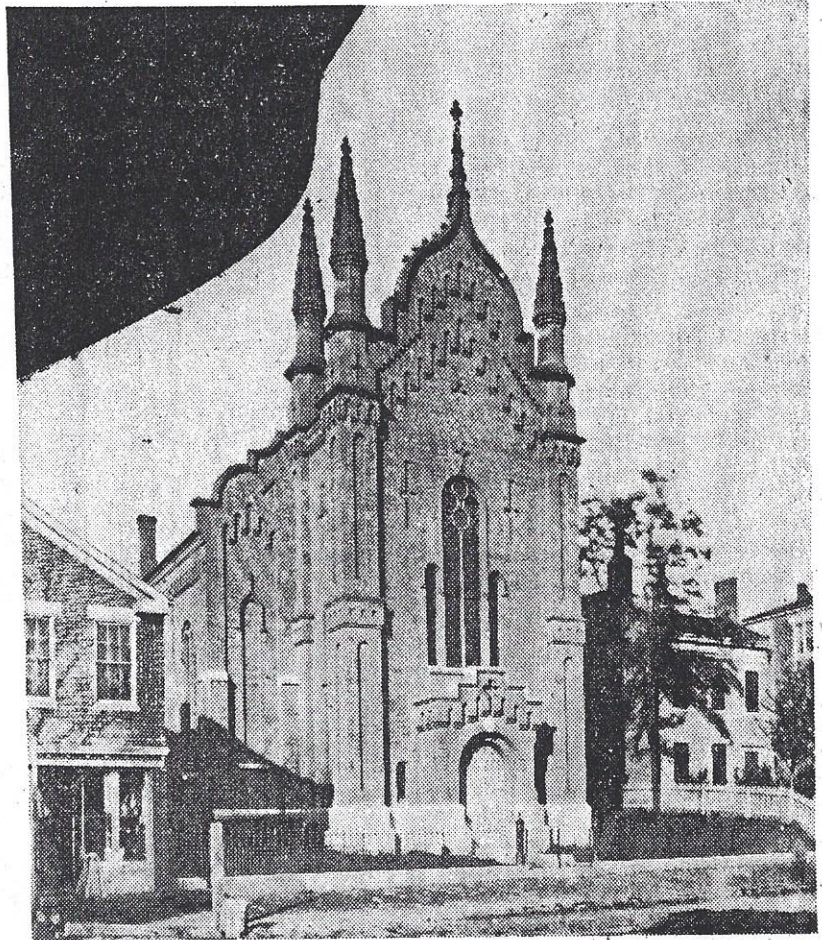
The first church edifice, a square one-story front with two-story ell, was erected on the north side of Maine between Third and Fourth, about 40 feet west of the Nathan Pinkham Livery Stable, which was later converted into the Academy of Music Theater at the close of the Civil War. This building was constructed and completed in October of 1840 at a cost of \$1,135 by contractor and builder Robert S. Benneson.

Benneson, who lived in later years at 214 Jersey, was born in Newcastle County, Del., in 1807. He moved to Philadelphia in 1828 and to Quincy in 1837. He married Electa A. Parks in 1842. He entered the lumber business in 1840 and had a lumberyard on the south side of Maine between Fifth and Sixth, approximately where the Western Catholic Union building is today. This building replaced the Benneson building, which was erected there in May of 1868 at a cost of \$60,000 and was the first home of D. L. Musselman's Gem City Business College.

Dr. Eliot came up from St. Louis the first Sunday in April, 1839, preached several sermons and urged organizing a liberal movement here, the services being held in the Court House on Fifth between Maine and Hampshire that day. He was only 28 years old and full of the missionary spirit and made a fine impression on the few gathered to hear him.

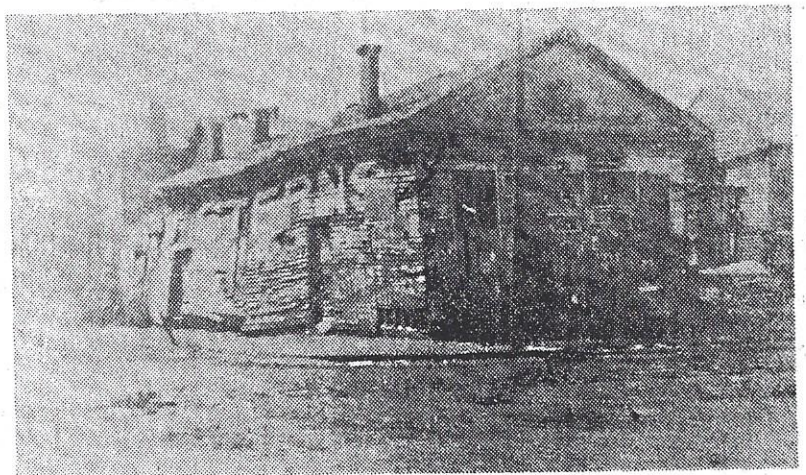
The Rev. William P. Huntington came to Quincy from Hillsboro, Ill., after Dr. Eliot and remained for six weeks, organized the church of six members and on the 31st day of May organized the church named the "Second Congregational Church of Quincy." Huntington served until March, 1840, the first church having been dedicated by Dr. Eliot in October, 1840, the latter remaining several days and giving evening lectures, setting forth the Unitarian belief.

On December 9, 1840, the Rev. George



The Unitarian Church on the north side of Maine between Sixth and Seventh sometime in the 1870s; occupant of building to the left was making

and selling hoopskirts. This church was erected in 1858 and razed in 1913 to make way for the Majestic building.



This picture was taken probably about 1890, showing what had been the second Unitarian Church building, moved to the southwest corner of 12th and Broadway from the south side of

Jersey between Sixth and Seventh where it had been erected in 1850. Dilapidated condition preceded its being torn down to make way for erection of Heidbreder drug store block.

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On December 9, 1840, the Rev. George Moore of Concord, Mass., was chosen by the church committee to come as the minister, he remaining intermittently until his death March 18, 1847. The Rev. Mordecai Lange, who succeeded him, remained until January, 1850, and during this year the second church was built and dedicated by Dr. Eliot in November, 1850.

The first church building was sold to Nathan Pinkham in 1849; Pinkham lived on the southeast corner of Fourteenth and Maine. In 1850 Pinkham moved the front part of the church building to what later became 1250 Maine, where it became a part of the residence of Dr. W. W. Williams, who remodeled it. When the present Junior High School was erected, the houses on this site had to be sold and moved or razed. The building owned by Dr. Williams, which had previously been the Unitarian Church, was sold to Robert Heidrich for \$210.

When the lease on the Maine Street site expired, ground was purchased by the congregation on the south side of Jersey between Sixth and Seventh, approximately 610 Jersey, in May of 1850, and the second church building erected there. It was dedicated in November of 1850. This building was used as a church until 1858.

In September of 1861 the Quincy Board of Education decided to use this building as a school, naming it the Centre School; in September of 1864 it became the first public high school in Quincy, remaining as such until the fall of 1866.

On March 7, 1868, the building was hauled to the rear of the lot on Jersey, remodeled for a dwelling, and replaced by a two-story house, razed only in recent years. This building, the second Unitarian Church structure, was moved at some time prior to 1872 to the southwest corner of 12th and Broadway, where it was occupied for a while by Hirsch and Vasen, dealers in hides and furs, and in 1885 by George Rupp. The building was razed in the 1890s to make way for the Heidbreder drug store building.

The Quincy Whig of April 29, 1857, carried a story to the effect that the Unitarians were about to erect a new church on the \$8,000 lot on the north side of Maine between Sixth and Seventh, donated by Robert S. Benneson, a member of the congregation. The cost of the new church was estimated at \$20,000, and it would be Gothic and Norman in design, with the front projection carried above the main building and ornamented turret.

The auditorium would seat 600 people, with a room on one side for the minister and on the other side for a library. The

This picture was taken probably about 1890, showing what had been the second Unitarian Church building, moved to the southwest corner of 12th and Broadway from the south side of

whole length of the church was to be 90 feet, the width, 58 feet.

Benneson agreed to give the lot on which the church was to built, and liberal gifts were made by Gen. James Morgan and Edward Wells, who also made a loan of money necessary to complete the church.

On Sept. 29, 1857, the Quincy newspapers carried another story that the two-story frame building on the north side of Maine between Sixth and Seventh, donated by Mr. Benneson, was being removed to make way for the new church building.

On June 5, 1858, the newspapers stated the church building was going up as designed by H. N. White of Syracuse, NY; it was to be the largest Protestant church in the city when completed. The auditorium was to be 92 feet deep and 28 feet high. Each wall was to have a triple arch. Carpenter work was being done by Hauworth and Reinecker, with brick work by a Macomb company. Further:

"The new Unitarian Church, now going up on Maine Street, presents a fine appearance, and attracts much attention. It is claimed that a more beautiful specimen of ecclesiastical architecture cannot be found in this country.

"The ceiling is panelled, and will be richly ornamented with a skylight and fresco. The location of the church is both central and beautiful. The lot is of ground value of \$8,000, given to the Society by Robert S. Benneson, who is adding to the gift by his energy as chairman of the building committee.

"Rev. L. Billings, through whose instrumentality this work was commenced, took charge of the Unitarian Society about four years ago, when it was struggling for existence. Since that time it has become one of the strongest of our 20 religious societies and very few societies began building under more favorable prospects. Such a building will be an ornament to our city, and a high credit, to those who have shown so deep an interest in its erection.

"Rev. Billings has been selected to deliver the address before the Agricultural and Mechanical Association at their annual fair to be held in October next."

On Oct. 18, 1858, the Quincy Whig reported that the walls inside the church were marbled and the ceiling frescoed and it would soon be ready for occupancy. The files of the Quincy Whig for the next few weeks are missing, and by the time they occur again, in February of 1859, the church had been dedicated by Eliot and put into use by the congregation.

The greatest growth of the church began under the Rev. S. S. Hunting in 1858, after this third church was erected, and continued to the end of the 19th century. During this period of creativity, church ac-

Jersey between Sixth and Seventh where it had been erected in 1850. Dilapidated condition preceded its being torn down to make way for erection of Heidbreder drug store block.

tivities were of great interest not only to members of the Unitarian Church, but also to the entire community.

Four ministers of this time became nationally famous as well as locally recognized for their intellectual and moral leadership. They were the Rev. Frederick L. Hosmer, the Rev. Newman Smyth, the Rev. James Blake and the Rev. Charles Bradley.

In 1890 the congregation held a semi-centennial celebration of the church, and the booklet published at that time substantiated this writer's theory of the locations of the earlier church buildings; Dr. Joseph Robbins wrote a history of the church at the time.

On Dec. 6, 1911, the newspapers published a story that the members of the Unitarian Church proposed to remodel the church and had hired architect Harvey Chatten to draw the plans. The plan called for a new front 80 feet, replacing the old 50-foot front on the 80-foot lot; four store rooms would then be in front of the building with an entrance to the church auditorium between the store rooms.

However, on April 5, 1912, Quincy was startled by the rumor that the site of the Unitarian Church was to be used for a theater; Judge Lyman McCarl then stated that he had found a buyer for the church property and that the man would not go into the entertainment field.

A week later the announcement was made that the church property had been purchased by department store owner Otto A. Mohrenstecher for \$29,000, the use not having been decided upon at that time. The congregation was given the privilege of use of the building until July 1, but was considering the purchase of another lot, on the southwest corner of Fourteenth and Jersey. Then, on Dec. 6, 1912, it was announced that the Unitarians would build a new church at 16th and Hampshire; the Maine Street building was razed in 1913 and replaced by the big four-story Majestic building. Perhaps we should add that Mohrenstecher was a member of the church, in fact a trustee, and gave valuable service in the construction and furnishing of the new church, as did other trustees, William Woodruff, Judge Lyman McCarl and Dr. E. B. Montgomery. E. F. Bradford and Samuel W. Eldred also were of great service in traveling to examine other churches. With the money acquired from the sale of the old church and furnishings, \$31,250, it was possible to build and furnish the new one, pay \$2,000 for the lot, and to buy a parsonage for \$6,000 and have a balance left over of \$2,000. The church at 16th and Hampshire was dedicated in February of 1914.

Social Security questions, answers

The Unitarians' churches during 150 years

The first building erected by the Unitarian Church of Quincy was on the north side of Maine between Third and Fourth about 40 feet west of the Nathan Pinkham Academy of Music, later the site of the Jefferson-Johnson auto agency, and today a parking lot for the Lincoln-Douglas Apartments. This first church was a square one-story front with a two-story ell. The contractor was Robert S. Benneson, and it was dedicated in October of 1840 at a cost of \$1,135. The church had been occupied on May 13, 1839. Before this, meeting services had been held in James Havens' meeting house on Third Street between Maine and Hampshire.

This first church was called the Second Congregational Church, later changed to the Second Congregational Unitarian Church, and then to the Unitarian Church. In 1849, the building was sold to Nathan Pinkham, and he moved the front part of the building to 1250 Maine, where it was

Carl Landrum



remodeled into a residence by Dr. W. W. Williams. When the houses on the south side of Maine between 12th and 14th were purchased by the Board of Education to make way for a new high school, this building was torn down along with the others.

The congregation's second meeting place was erected in 1850 at 610 Jersey.

In 1857, the Unitarians decided to build a new edifice on the north side of Maine between Sixth and Seven on land donated by a member of the congregation, Robert S.

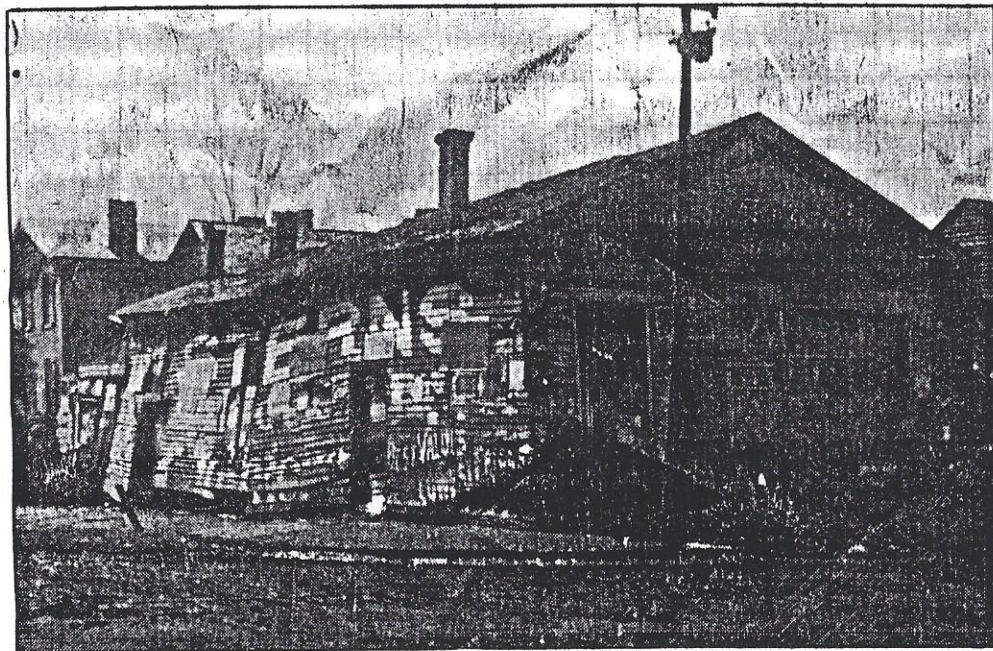
Benneson. The cost of the new building was estimated at \$20,000 and was Gothic and Norman in style. The building was designed by N. White of Syracuse, N.Y.

This third church building continued to serve the congregation until 1911 when it was proposed that this building be razed and a new one erected at 16th and Hampshire. The old church on Maine was purchased by Otto Mohrenstecher and torn down to make way for a new office building (the Majestic) and theatre. The new church was opened in February of 1914. The congregation is now (1989-1990) observing its 150th anniversary, and the writer salutes Mrs. James Drew for her work in preserving the history of the church.

Our picture today shows the second church building erected by the Unitarians after it was moved to the southwest corner of 12th and Broadway. In September of 1861, this building that had been erected by the Unitarians at Sixth and Jersey was leased by the Board of Education and renamed Center School. The Quincy Teachers Institute was held there and it became the first Quincy High School. In the fall of 1866, the high school was moved to the old Jackson School at Eighth and Oak, and then to Franklin School on South Fifth between York and Kentucky.

In 1868, the old church building was hauled to the rear of the lot on Jersey and remodeled as a residence, and replaced by Porter Smith with a tenement house costing \$12,000.

Shortly thereafter, Smith moved the old church building to the southwest corner of 12th and Broadway. On October 8 that year, it was in the intersection of 12th and Hampshire while a foundation was being installed at 12th and Broadway. It was expected that it would be used for a liquor store. However, it was soon occupied by Hirsh and Vasen hides and furs. Then years later, it had become the home of the George Rupp & Son junk yard, which it remained until the fall of 1899, when it was torn down to make way for the big Heidbreder building that is there today.



Old Unitarian church building at 12th and Broadway as it appeared about 1890

Quincy Herald - White - 14 Jan 1990

(a copy in Ms Quincy - HISTORY, 1818 - 1843)

