

**APPLICATION FOR LOCAL LANDMARK  
QUINCY PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**706 Maine Street, City Hall Annex, Third Floor  
Quincy, Illinois 62301 Telephone (217) 228-4515**

**Original name (if known) and address of proposed Landmark:**

Robert C. Gunther House and Carriage House  
1269 Kentucky Street

**Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Property Owner:**

Charles M. and Barbara McClain  
1269 Kentucky Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
(217) 228-7936

**Style:** Queen Anne

**Date of Construction:** 1891

**Architect or Builder:** Unknown

**Provide a statement of the historical and architectural significance of the proposed Landmark.  
Note if building is included in any historic district or survey, or listed on the National Register of  
Historic Places:**

The Robert C. Gunther House is significant for both architectural and historical reasons. The house is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. Robert C. Gunther was a prominent Quincy businessman from the time he moved to the area in 1879 and founded his hardware business. The business was continued after his death by his son, Robert F. Gunther. This house was built by the Gunther family in 1891 and remained in the family until the 1960s.

*Architectural Significance*

This two-story brick house follows the Queen Anne style seen throughout this neighborhood, particularly around the corner along Park Place. The house was built on one of the original south Park Place lots at the same time the first Park Place houses were under construction. It does not have as many facade variations as the most elaborate masonry Queen Anne houses, but the details are carefully considered. It is brick construction with molded corners, a stone foundation, and a hip roof of pressed tin. The cornice is carved with a projecting band of bricks above and below the basketweave frieze that extends around much of the house.

The south facade of the house is spanned by a front porch with turned spindlework. Both the pediment and left side triangular corner of the porch are carved in a sunburst pattern. The double door entry is set to the left side and has a transom window. The two first floor windows also have transom windows. These windows and the entry have flat segmented brick arch lintels. The second story windows are paired one over one pane sashes, with a stone sill. A basketweave pattern of bricks on the frieze serves as the lintel for all of the second story windows. In the center of the second story facade is a panel of decorative molded brick. Identical hip roof dormers mark this side and the west side of the house. The dormer windows are multipaned.

The west side also has a central arch window with stained glass in the half circle and a brick relieving arch lintel. The paired first floor windows have a shared stone sill and flat segmented brick arch lintel. Both the second story windows use the frieze as lintels, but the rear window is the only window in the main portion of the house without molded corners. It is also wider than the other openings, so

perhaps the window was added after the original construction. Basement windows are cut into the stone foundation on this side.

The east, 14th Street façade has both a chimney and turret. The chimney has molded brick corners and is decorated with slots and a molded brick panel. The angular turret has a hip roof. The basketweave pattern frieze does not extend around the turret, but the projecting brick bands do continue. All the windows are one over one sashes with stone sills. The first floor windows, including those in the turret, have flat segmented brick arch lintels.

The portion of the house to the rear of the turret is also brick with a shingled gable. A partially square chimney is on the north side with stepped brick detail where it disappears into the wall. A second square chimney penetrates the roof in the middle of the point where this addition attaches to the main house. A shingled projection is above the small porch at the rear entry. On the east and north side of this part of the house, windows are four over four sashes with stone sills. These windows have flat segmented brick arch lintels on the first floor and brick relieving arch lintels on the second story. The west side also has four over four sashes, but here all the lintels are brick relieving arch lintels.

The carriage house is at the far rear of the property on the alley. It is constructed of brick laid in common bond. Access is through large doors on the east (street) side. The north side also has a small door. Access to the hay loft is above this door. All windows have brick relieving arch lintels and are multipaned. The north side of the carriage house has a lean-to addition.

#### *Historical Significance - Persons*

Robert C. Gunther moved to Quincy from St. Louis in 1879 at the age of 28. His wife, Clara Fiebbe, died in 1877, two days after the birth of their son, Robert F. Gunther. He established the Gunther Hardware Company, starting with tools and builders' supplies and expanding to include sporting goods and kitchen utensils. This store was established at 420 Maine and moved to 505 Hampshire in 1899. In 1881, Gunther married the sister of his first wife, Anna Fiebbe, and they had four children, Agnes, Elmer, Edward, and Felix. They moved to 1269 Kentucky after the house was constructed in 1891. Beyond his business, Robert C. Gunther served the community as a member of the school board for seven years. He died in 1916.

Robert F. Gunther continued his father's business, serving as both president and treasurer. In 1893, at the age of 16, he completed his education and entered into business with his father. He married Lillian Bimson in 1899, and their daughter, Geraldine, was born two years later. (Geraldine later married Clarence Quest and lived in Quincy until ~~in~~ the late 1980s.) When his wife died, he married her sister, Mrs. Jessie Klem.

The Gunther Hardware store was remodeled in 1920, and Robert F. continued to operate it until it closed in 1943. The stock was purchased in 1947 by J. Emmett Wilson and his son Robert, and the store was reopened and operated until it was renamed Wilson Hardware in 1957. Robert F. Gunther lived in the house at 1269 Kentucky from the 1920s until his death. He was also active in the community, helping to form the Chamber of Commerce and serving as president in the late 1930s. He was the oldest member of the Rotary Club of Quincy when he died in 1961.

**List the significant exterior architectural features of the building. Include photographs of building facade for proposed Landmark:**

#### House

1. Brick construction with stone foundation.
2. Molded brick corners.
3. Basketweave brick pattern on frieze, projecting brick bands.

4. Molded brick panels - center of second story facade, upper portion of chimney.
5. Molded brick chimney with decorative slots and panel.
6. Flat segmented brick arch lintels.
7. Brick relieving arch lintels.
8. Double door entry with transom windows.
9. Large pane porch windows with transom windows.
10. Carved porch detail - pediment, west side.
11. Hip roof dormers - south and west - multipane windows.
12. Two story angular turret with hip roof.
13. Arched window with stained glass semicircle, brick relieving arch lintel.
14. Four over four sash windows.
15. One over one sash windows.
16. Shingled rear gable end.
17. Square chimneys - north side and middle of house.

#### Carriage House

1. Brick construction in common bond.
2. Small first floor windows on east.
3. Second floor east triple windows and north window - one over one sashes.
4. East and north entrances, hay loft door.
5. Brick relieving arch lintels.

**Why do you think this property merits designation? Check appropriate item(s):**

☒ Architecture   ☒ Persons   ☐ Event(s)   ☐ Prominent Landmark  
☐ Historical   ☐ Unusual Use   ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Is owner aware of this application?**   ☒ Yes   ☐ No

**Does owner consent to this designation?**   ☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ Don't know

#### **Legal Description:**

Park Place Lot 30.

#### **Bibliography:**

1269 Kentucky. File. Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, Quincy, Illinois.

Anton Binkert's Addition to the City of Quincy, Deed Records, Recorder of Deeds Office, Adams County Courthouse.

Landrum, Carl. "Wilson Hardware store evolved from former Gunther Hardware," Quincy Herald-Whig. April 27, 1986.

Quincy City Directories. Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, Quincy, Illinois.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1927. Quincy Public Library.

Tax Records. Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, Quincy, Illinois.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Applicant's Name:** Quincy Preservation Commission

**Mailing Address:** Quincy Preservation Commission  
706 Maine Street  
City Hall Annex, 3rd Floor

**Telephone Number:** (217) 221-3663

**OFFICE USE**

**ONLY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Filed at Quincy Preservation Commission Office**      **Date** 1/29/04

**Preservation Commission Preliminary Review**      **Approved**\_\_ **Disapproved**\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting with Property Owner**      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Hearing**      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preservation Commission Decision  
on Recommendation to Designate**      **Approved**\_\_ **Disapproved**\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

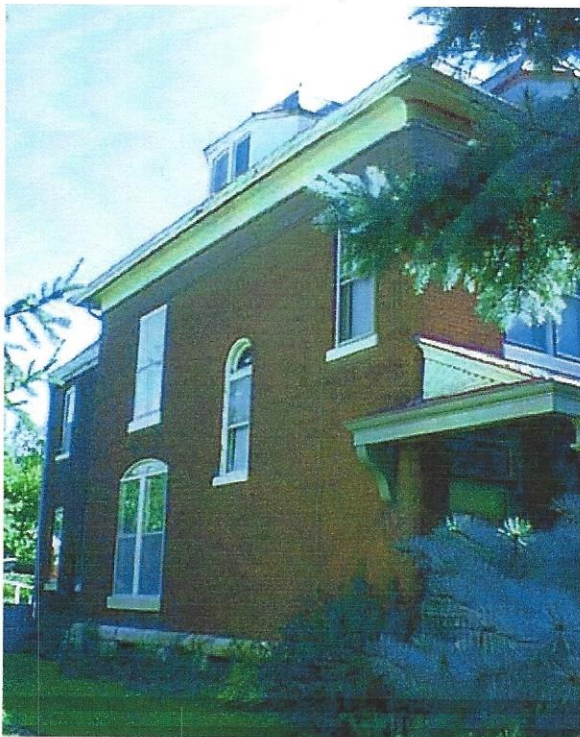
**City Council Decision on  
Designation by Ordinance**      **Approved**\_\_ **Disapproved**\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**1269 Kentucky - Robert C. Gunther House**



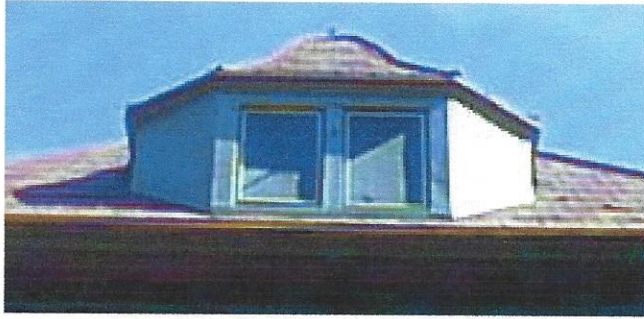
South facade - front porch, carved pediment detail, double door entry

West side - arched window, dormer, brickwork



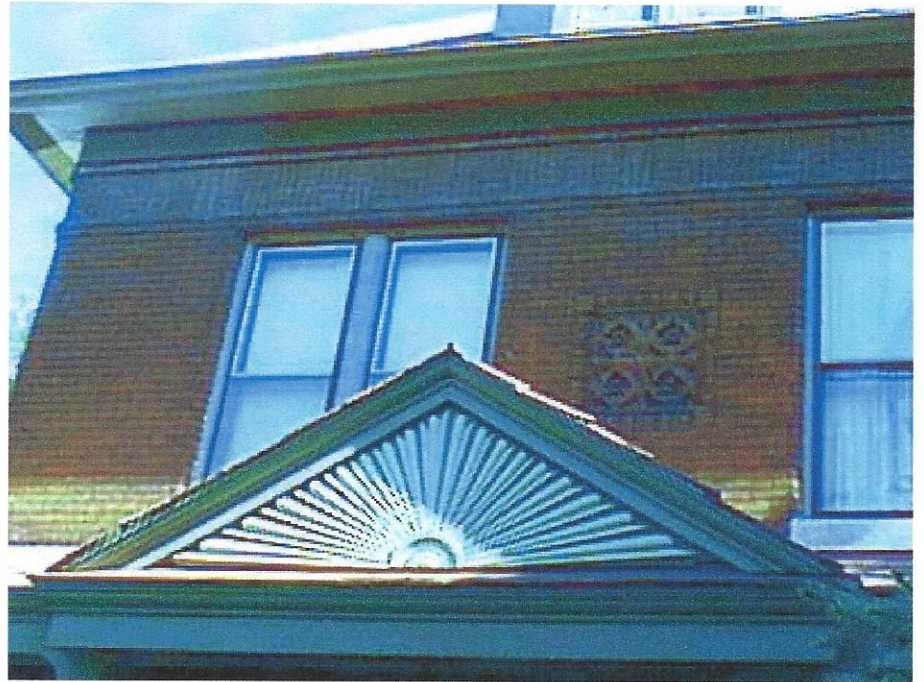
East side - chimney, turret, brickwork





Hip roof dormers -  
south and west sides

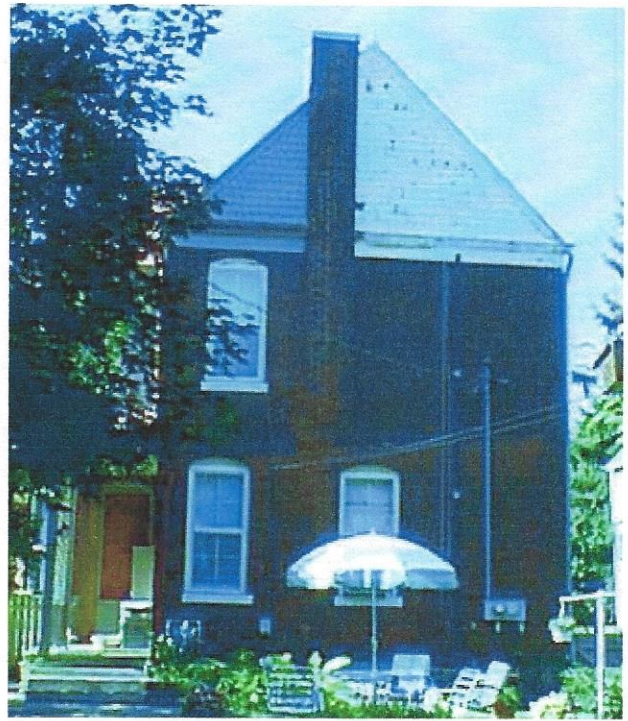
Cornice detail -  
basketweave  
frieze, double  
windows, molded  
brick panel,  
carved sunburst  
porch pediment



Entry detail -  
double door entry  
and transom windows,  
flat segmented arch brick  
lintels



North side - chimney detail, four over four sash windows, flat segmented arch lintels



North side - (rear addition) - shingled gable, chimney, window detail

Rear addition , west side - middle chimney, brick relieving arch lintels, frieze, four over four panes

East side of rear addition showing shingled room



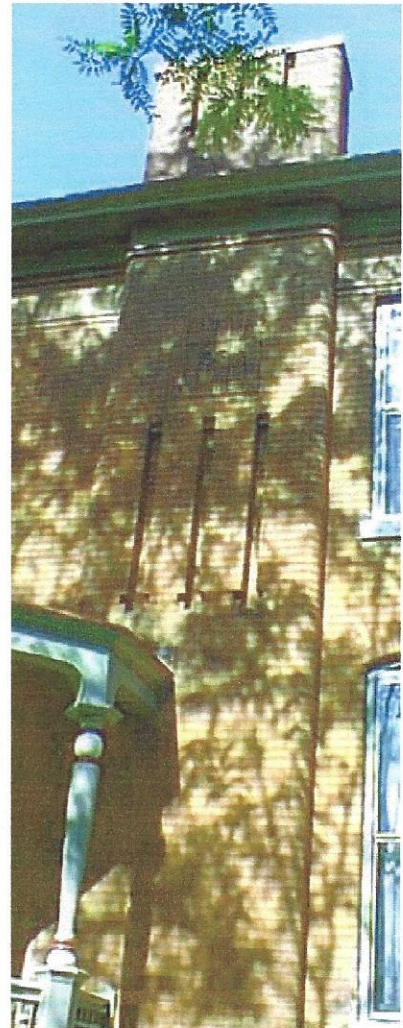


Carriage house - alley entry, brick relieving arch lintels



Carriage house – east side

Pilastered, molded brick chimney with vertical slot detail



Window detail - flat segmented brick arch lintel, one over one sashes, stone sills



Arched window detail – relieving arch lintel, stained glass

