

**APPLICATION FOR LOCAL LANDMARK
QUINCY PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**706 Maine Street, City Hall Annex, Third Floor
Quincy, Illinois 62301 Telephone (217) 228-4514**

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

Unitarian Church of Quincy
1479 Hampshire St.
(Second Congregational Church of Quincy)

Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Property Owner:

Unitarian Church of Quincy
1479 Hampshire St.
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 222-5468

Style: Tudor

Date of Construction: 1913

Architect or Builder: Harvey Chatten

**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 Unitarian Church is significant in a several respects. The Tudor style this church follows is the original design and detailing, a style which is uncommon in the churches of Quincy. This church follows the general layout of the Unitarian church body. It was also one of Harvey Chatten's last projects in Quincy. The Unitarian Church is historically significant in the Unitarian Church heritage. It was one of the first three church bodies in Quincy, and the third congregation of its kind in Illinois. W.G. Eliot, a dominant figure both inside and outside the church, began this church body in Quincy. It is listed as a significant structure on the Quincy East End Historic District of the National Register of Historic Places.

Architectural Significance

In 1911, the Unitarian Church hired Harvey Chatten to design an addition to their current church. After a few years, they decided to sell the old building and build a new structure on Hampshire and 14th. The organ was moved to the new site, and construction began. On February 5, 1914, the church was dedicated and has been used continuously since then. The Tudor building is a combination of ashlar blocks and stucco with half timbering. The entry area rises up into the front tower under the tent roof. Behind this area, the east side is spanned by the Heritage Room, ending in the parlor tower in the rear. The rest of the building, beyond the strip on the east side, is the meeting room. This design follows the common plan of Unitarian churches throughout the Midwest, whose only deviation from this plan is which side the Heritage Room spans.

The windows are all painted glass rather than stained glass. The south window, at the rear of the meeting room, is an artist's rendition of the road to Jerusalem. The north window, the chancel window, is the Founders Window which depicts a scene from Indian Mounds Park. The Heritage Room windows show the signing of the Mayflower Compact and William Penn's treaty with the Delawares. The organ is the oldest organ in Quincy. It was built by Steere Organ Company of Springfield, MA in 1875. The organ is a tracker action design, and the only minor modification through the years occurred when the hand pump was replaced by an electric motor.

Harvey Chatten

Harvey Chatten was a dominant architect in Quincy at the turn of the century. He apprenticed under Robert Bunce in Quincy and took over the practice when Bunce moved to Chicago in the early 1880s. Chatten officially obtained his license through the design of City Hall (1887) and Quincy High School (1891) though the majority of his residential projects were already constructed by this time. The Unitarian Church is one of the very few projects he undertook in the last twenty years of his life.

Historical Significance - Unitarian Church heritage

In the 14th century, the Unitarians split from the church body due to the rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity. They were officially organized in America in 1825. Throughout their history, they have been associated with the Congregational Church in one aspect or another. On May 31, 1839, after four years of meeting with interested people in Quincy, W.G. Eliot delivered the first sermon of official Second Congregational Church in Quincy. They constructed their first church on Maine the following year, distinguishing them as one of Quincy's oldest church bodies and the third oldest Unitarian group in Illinois. As the church grew, they moved to their second meeting house on Jersey in 1850 and to their elaborate third meeting house further out on Maine in 1858. At the time of its completion, this third meeting house was the largest Protestant church building in Quincy. A Sunday school was added in 1868. Throughout these changes of location, the name also changed to the Second Congregational Unitarian Church then shortened to the Unitarian Church. A number of these early ministers were recognized nationally for their intellectual and moral leadership.

In 1911, they determined the third meeting house did not meet their needs any longer. They hired Harvey Chatten to remodel this building, but a department store owner made them an offer they could not refuse. The sale of the church and furnishings amounted to \$31,250 which paid for the new lot, building, furnishings, and a new parsonage and still left \$2000 in their account. The organ moved to the new site with the congregation, and on February 5, 1914, the fourth meeting house, the current Unitarian Church, was dedicated. The members of this church were prominent leaders within the city of Quincy, working to improve the area for everyone. As a noncreedal religion, they look for the commonalties between people and the other religions. Each person is allowed the freedom to seek the knowledge and inspiration they need to grow as an individual. The Unitarians call and ordain their own ministers according to their potential contribution to the group as a whole. Since 1961, they have been combined with the Universalist Church, a strong believer that all souls are saved. These attitudes led to the opening of their doors to other small religious groups within the community and their strong contribution to the improvement of Quincy through humanitarian and ecological efforts.

William Greenleaf Eliot

The Rev. W.G. Eliot was a dominant figure in the history of the Unitarian Church and an advocate for other liberal church movements. He officially served as a pastor in St. Louis from 1834-1872. Eliot traveled around the Midwest throughout this period to help form Unitarian congregations. He arrived in Quincy to meet with people interested in the church on April 8, 1835 and delivered the opening sermon

for the new congregation on May 31, 1839. He also was the founder of Washington University in St. Louis.

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

see attached pictures

- * ashlar block, stucco/half timber construction
- * southwest tower with tent roof
- * painted glass windows
- * cross brace detail on entry roof area
- * X half timber detail on front gable
- * south painted glass window - road to Jerusalem
- * north painted glass window - Indian Mounds Park
- * east painted glass windows - Mayflower Compact, Penn & Delawares
- * flat row of voussoirs above windows and doors on stone sections

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:

Nevin's Survey
south 118 feet of Lot 18

Bibliography:

"Harvey Chatten." File. Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design.

Landrum, Carl. "Unitarian Church dates to 1839," Quincy Herald-Whig. April 8, 1979.

Landrum, Carl. "The Unitarians' four churches," Quincy Herald-Whig.

Landrum, Carl. "The Unitarians' churches during 150 years," Quincy Herald-Whig. January 14, 1990.

"Unitarian Church." File. Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design.

"Unitarian Church." File. Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.

"Unitarian Church." Quincy Preserves!

"Unitarian Church observed its 100th anniversa[r]y in 1939," Quincy Herald-Whig. April 30, 1989.

Wagner, Holly. "Unitarian Church will celebrate 70th anniversary with rededication," Quincy Herald-Whig. February 2, 1984.

"Welcome to the Unitarian Church." Pamphlet. Quincy, IL: Unitarian Church, 1998.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Applicant's Name: Becky Lawin
Preservation Intern, City of Quincy
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 7-2-99

Preservation Commission Preliminary Review

Approved__Disapproved__Date 8-3-99

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 _____

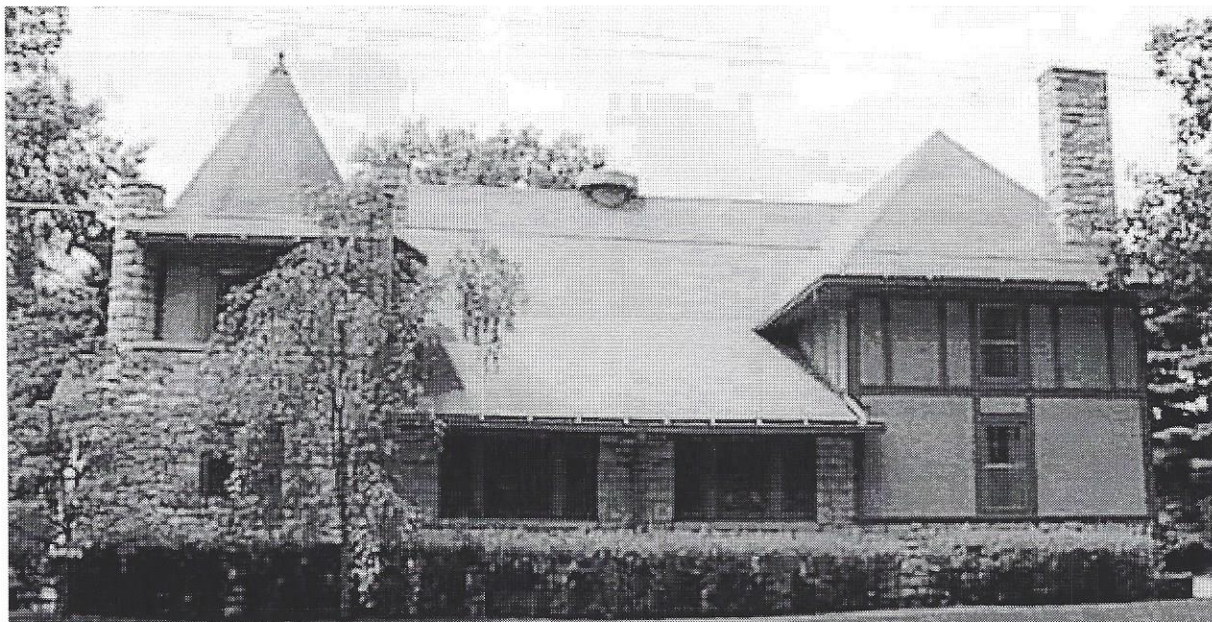
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Unitarian Church



southeast corner - stone/half-timbered Tudor design, turret with tent roof, entry roof

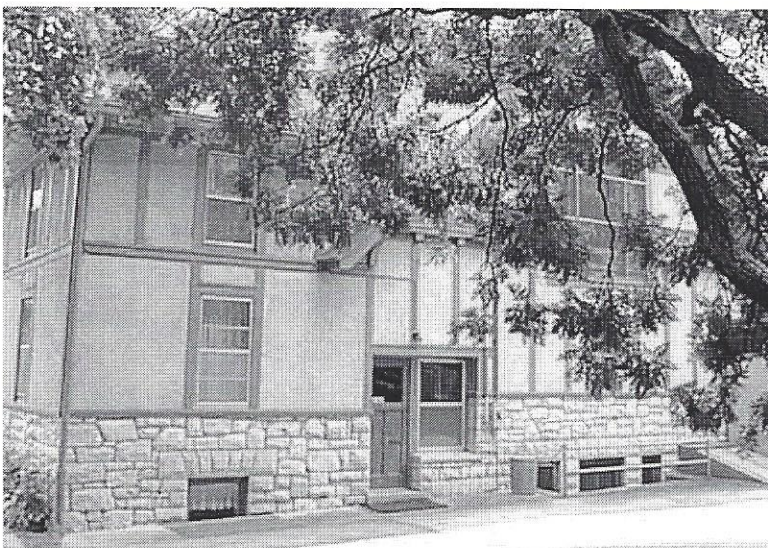
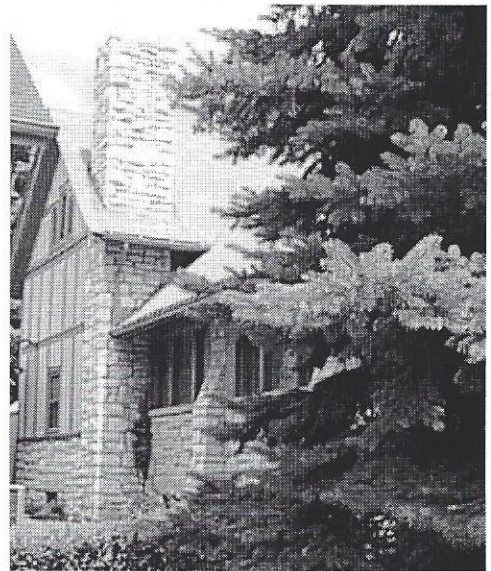
east side - stucco/half-timbered rear, stone chimney, low roof line, painted glass windows



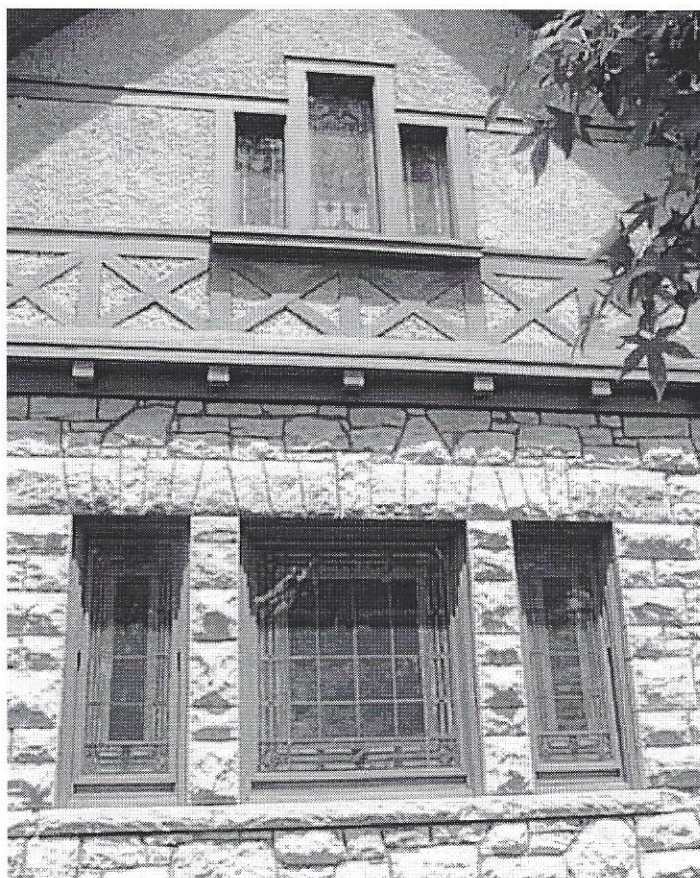


south side - stone/half-timber, front gable with painted glass
window lintel stone detail, painted glass windows

west side - rear
stucco/half
timber gable,
stone chimney
low roof line



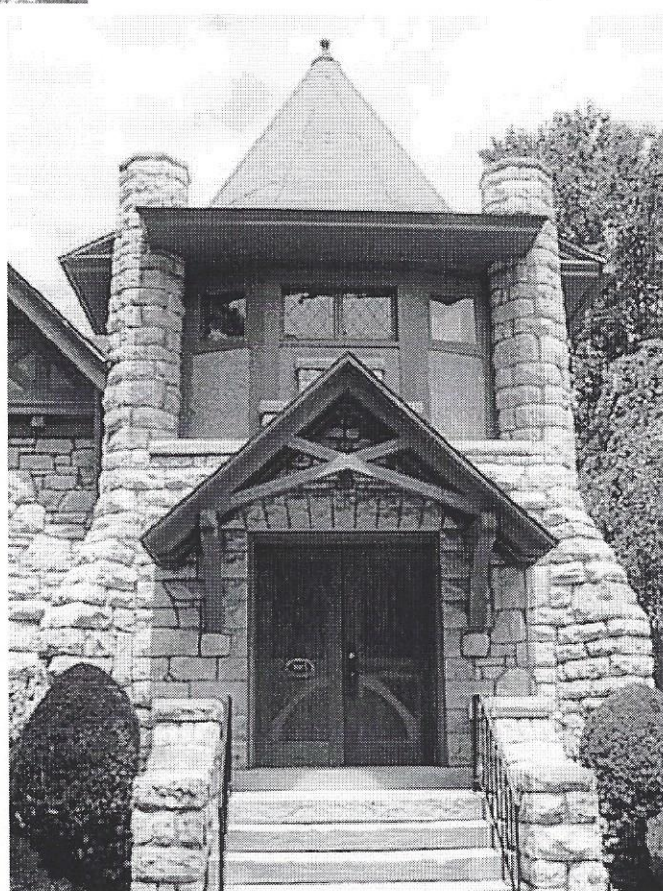
north side -
stucco/half timber,
stone foundation,
window lintel detail
rear gable with
painted glass

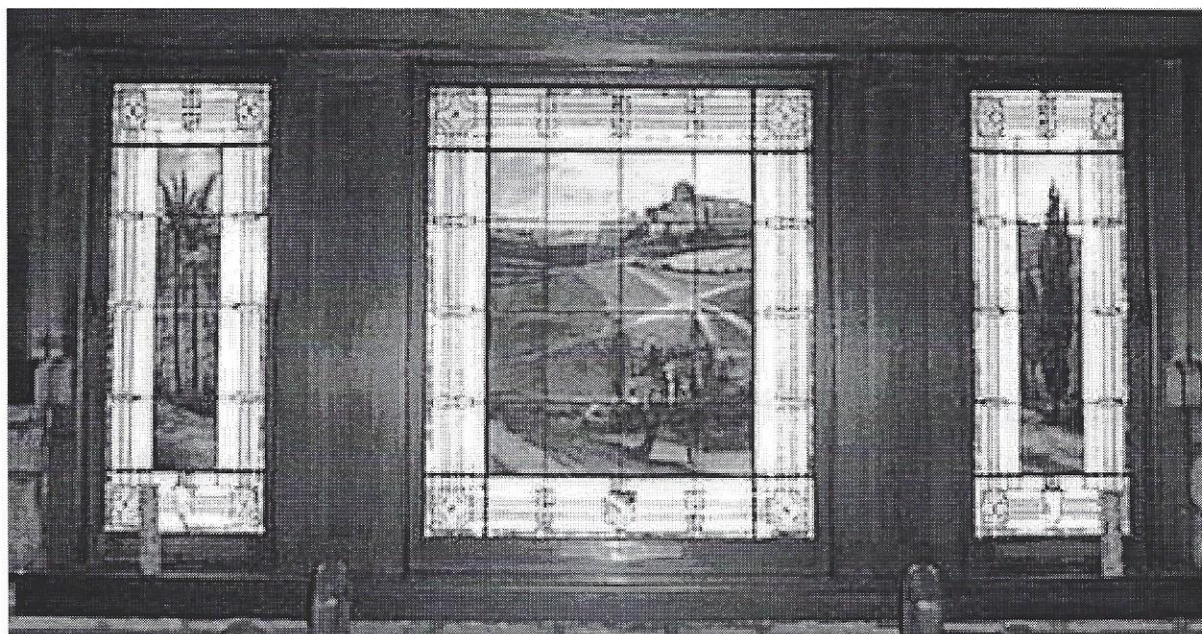


front gable detail -
 gable half timbering,
 gable painted glass,
 window stone lintels,
 painted glass windows

entry detail - tent roof turret, painted glass
 turret windows, half timbered turret set in
 stone corners, wooden double door entry,
 brackets and cross braces under entry roof

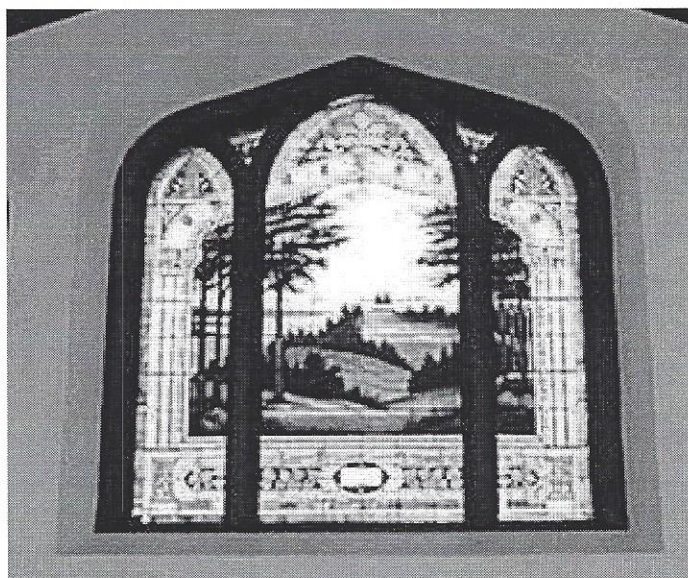
interior - wood detail, organ, painted glass
 side windows





south window - painted glass - road to
Jerusalem

north window -
painted glass -
Indian Mounds



east windows - Heritage Room - painted
glass - Mayflower - Penn & Delawares

