

APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT
QUINCY PRESERVATION COMMISSION
200 North 8th, Suite 102
Quincy, Illinois 62301 Telephone 228-4515

Applicant's name Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design

Mailing address 332 Maine Street

Telephone number 217/224-6873

Original name (if known) and address of Landmark or boundaries of proposed Historic District _____

The George T. Meyer House, 323 College Street

Name and address of property owner(s), if different from applicant _____

John L. & Virginia Meeks

9 North Springdale, Quincy

Description and physical appearance of proposed Landmark or Historic District:

The Meyer House, 323 College Street, is an Italianate house dominating a small northern hill overlooking Quincy and the Mississippi River. The house is two-story, T-plan, brick Italianate and is adorned by a wrap-around front porch, wooden shutters and has large cornices with paired brackets.

Describe the architectural features of the building(s). Include photograph of facade of building(s) or photographs of groups of structures for Historic District: (Include map for Historic District.)

The Meyer House was built in 1866, according to city tax records. It is identical, in style, massing, circulation, and craftsmanship to The Fries/Kespohl House, located next door at 331 College. The Meyer House is constructed of brick, laid in English common bond, and rises two stories to a wooden cornice and a simple hip roof. The cornice is relatively austere for the Italianate style with only a narrow fascia board and paired brackets as decoration. The house has two chimneys with decorative features including brick corbeling and a dog-tooth course. The windows are
(continued on Page 3)

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Provide a statement of the architectural and historical significance of the proposed Landmark or District. Note the classification of the building if it is included in any historic district or survey, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If possible, provide statements of architectural significance by persons with expertise in the subject, their qualifications, and not presently a member of Quincy Preservation Commission:

The Meyer House is significant as a typical middle-class housing stock of the post-Civil War period. George T. Meyer was typical of Quincy's entrepreneurial class just after the Civil War. Meyer was a self-made businessman, soon to share in the wholesale grocery of Meyer and Kespohl. Originally the entire block was purchased by the Board of Directors of the Chicago Theological Seminary on August 1, 1864. The Board, having little use for the land, sold the tract to William Cramer and Ludwig Fries on (continued on Page 3)

Provide legal description of Landmark as described on deed:

323 College ---- Lot 7 - except the North Forty-five (45) feet of the West Fifty-seven (57) feet thereof, in Block Twenty-two (22) in Willard Keyes Addition to the City of Quincy.

Why do you think this property merits designation? Check appropriate items:

☒ **Architecture** ☒ **Person(s)** ☐ **Event(s)** ☒ **Prominent Landmark**
☐ **Activities** ☐ **Unusual Use** ☐ **Other** _____

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

Is owner willing to consent to designation of property? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
☐ **Don't Know**

/s/ Ellen Stoner, Summer Intern

Signature Gardner Museum

7-19-90

Date

3-2-92
Date filed at Preservation Office

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Quincy Preservation Commission preliminary review

Approved ☒
 Disapproved ☐

Date 4-7-92

Quincy Preservation Commission decision on designating Ordinance

Approved ☒
 Disapproved ☐

Date 6-11-92

OTHER Adopted - City Council 8-10-92

Approved - City Council 8-11-92

(REVISED - 5/89)

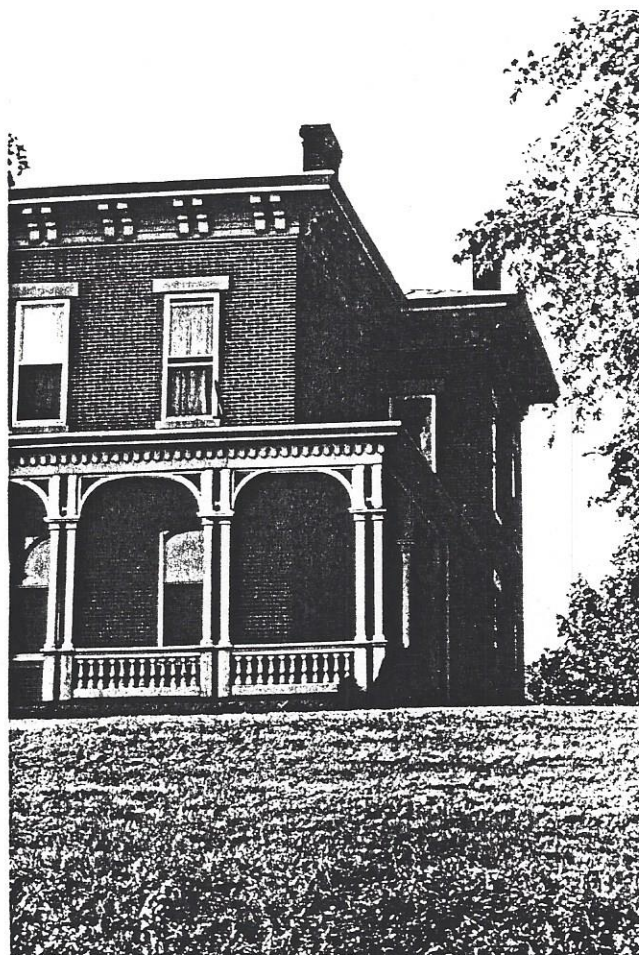
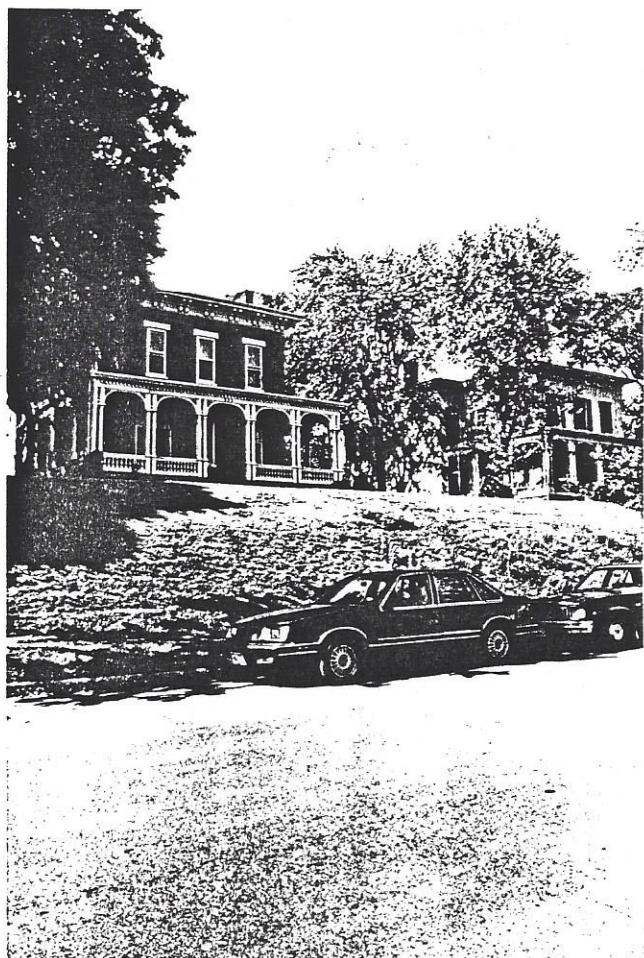
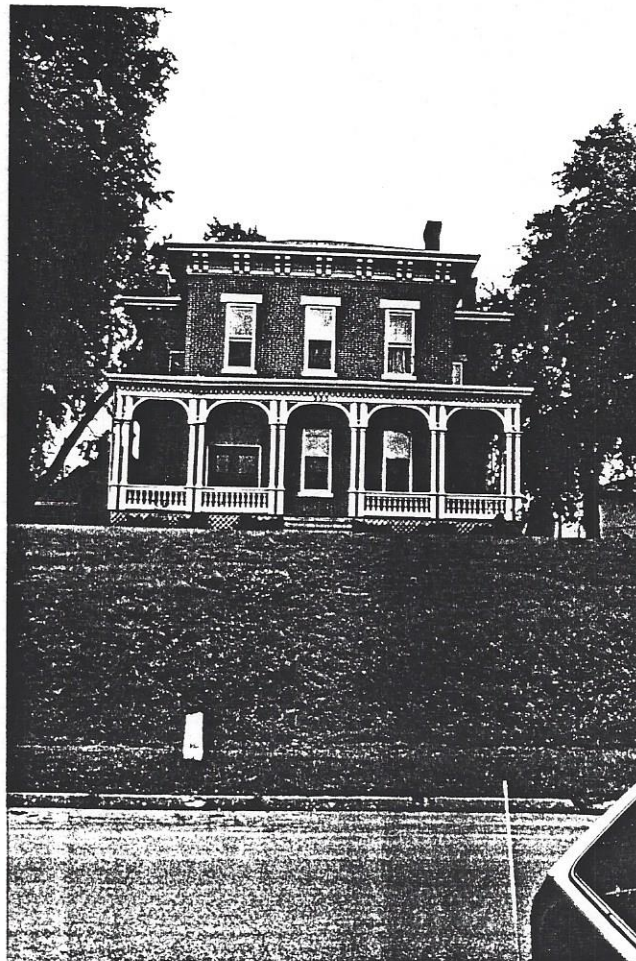
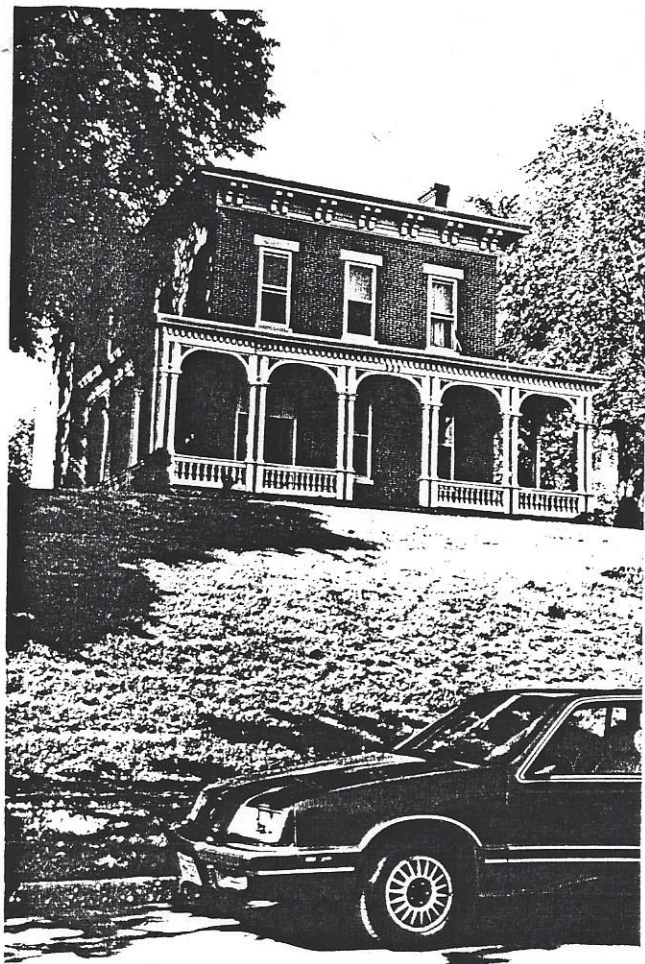
ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (cont'd.)

typically rectangular with stone lintels and sills. Another dominate feature is the wrap-around front porch which hugs the central portion of the main block. The one-story wooden porch has paired columns connected by elliptical arches, a scalloped cornice and a recently added balustrade. The service wing of the house is also two stories high, but is capped by a simplified cornice with single brackets. The Meyer House has had little alteration except for the new double front door which replaces the authentic glass transom and side lights.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

April 24, 1865. The following day, the two men entered into a deed of conveyance for the purpose of partitioning and selling of the land. This deed resulted in Cramer owning the north half of the block, lots 1-4, and Fries owning the south half, lots 5-8. On December 16, 1865, George T. Meyer and his wife, Louisa, purchased lot seven (7) from Fries for the sum of \$3,000. The following year, the two identical Italianate homes (the Meyer House at 323 College and the Fries/Kespohl House at 331 College) were constructed. The social connection between Fries and Meyer is not clear, but having identical houses constructed simultaneously leads one to conclude that the two men were not merely business acquaintances but friends.

Then in 1869, Henry A. Kespohl, a local grocer, moved with his family into the home at 331 College, next door to George T. Meyer. In that same year, 1869, Meyer and Kespohl became partners and opened a wholesale grocery. The grocery busines was very prosperous for Meyer and Kespohl, as they became one of the leading suppliers of the city and the entire Midwest. In 1875, with further expansion of their grocery, Meyer and Kespohl erected a three-story building on North Third Street between Hampshire and Vermont. At the time, the location was ideal for several other wholesale businesses, such as S. J. Lesem Bro. and Co. and Warfield Grocery Co., all operating from the same district known as Wholesale Row.



Geo. T. Meyer Hse.



