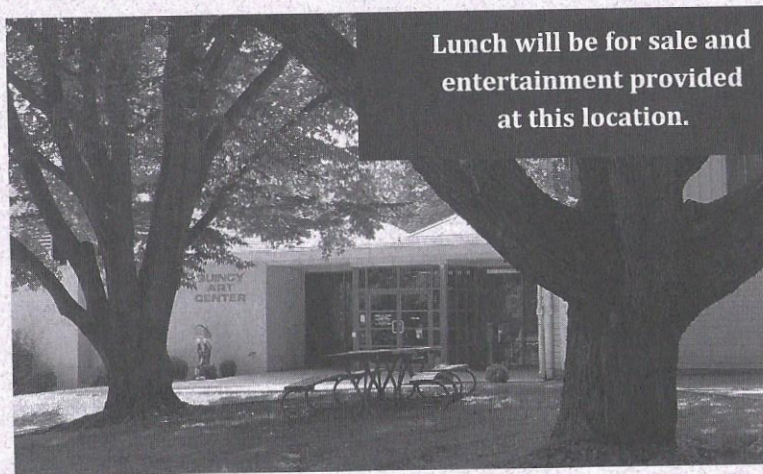




Lunch will be for sale and
entertainment provided
at this location.

1515 Jersey Street

Carriage House Architect: Joseph L. Silsbee • Circa 1887
Sympathetic Contemporary Design Addition by Architechnics 1990
Quincy Art Center

Over 75 years and an award winning addition later—the Quincy Art (Club) Center is one of Quincy's important, vibrant cultural venues. Established in 1923, Quincy Art Club's first home in 1932 was in the Lorenzo Bull carriage house. The building was designed by Joseph L. Silsbee, a Harvard and MIT trained architect for whom Frank Lloyd Wright worked as a draftsman apprentice in 1887.

Early on, the carriage house was a perfect space for artists to teach and work, but limited space meant art exhibits were held in other venues. In 1946, the Art Club remodeled the interior of the carriage house and created an on-site exhibit area—the Elizabeth M. Sinnock Gallery, an art moderne gallery designed by Charles F. Behrensmeyer.

A beguiling building, the carriage house is a blend of styles, notes University of Illinois architecture professor, Frederick Koeper, who dubbed it, "a charming design, with vertical siding, free from any commitment to a particular architectural style." A little bit of Eastlake, a dash of Carpenter Gothic with plenty of Stick Style thrown in, the carriage house is a delightful building. Board and batten siding dresses the Art Center, as well as plenty of scroll-cut fenestrations, chamfered posts and braces. Note its slender 'weathervane tower', which offers more architectural details and the interesting upper windows on three sides of the carriage house.

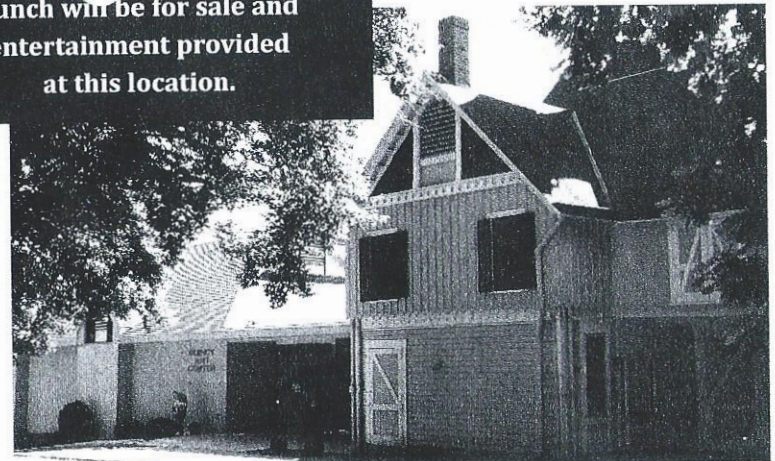
In the mid 1980s, growing pains hit the Art Center. The board engaged Architechnics to design an addition, to give the Center the new gallery, classroom and office space. It was quite a task designing a complementary gallery space to the Victorian carriage house. Architechnics handled the challenge by borrowing forms/shapes found in the carriage house and simplifying them in the addition.

A low-roofed entrance vestibule separates—and helps define—the old and new sections of the Art Center. Quarry tile begins on the entry court and continues into the interior glass-walled reception/foyer that is flooded with light from above. The new main gallery has a 16 foot complicated vaulted ceiling, which allows for the display of large pieces of art. Dormers allow natural light to wash over the gallery's exhibits. The addition won the 1991 Central Illinois American Institute of Architects Award for outstanding quality and for meeting national standards of excellence.

Oct. 16, 2010

Behind Closed Doors Tour

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Behind Closed Doors
October 17, 2009