

**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:**

Joseph VandenBoom, Sr. House  
310 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street

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

Robert and Fran Cook  
310 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
(217) 224-2578

**Style:** Prairie/Craftsman

**Date of Construction:** 1916-17

**Architect or Builder:** George P. Behrensmeyer

**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 residence was built for Joseph Henry VandenBoom and his wife Julia in 1917. Mr. VandenBoom began his professional career working at the Ricker National Bank and later at his father's meat packing company. In 1875 VandenBoom and his brother-in-law, Henry H. Moller, founded the Moller and VandenBoom Lumber Company. The company was thriving by 1899, with three lumberyards located in the city and a fourth in Missouri. After Henry Moller's death in 1900, the business was incorporated and Joseph became the first president of the company, with Frederick Moller and Edward Moller as serving as officers.

Joseph also owned properties outside of the Quincy area, including three farms in Canada and a large cattle ranch in the Texas panhandle. He owned over 10,000 acres of forested land in Mississippi and was president of the Swartz Lumber Company and vice president of the Barton Realty Company, both located in St. Louis. He was also president of Modern Iron Works, an incorporator and director of the Ricker National Bank for many years, and associated with the VandenBoom & Stimson Lumber Company in Minneapolis.

Joseph and his family resided on North 10th Street and at the northeast corner of North 8th and Oak before moving to South 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Well-known Quincy architect George P. Behrensmeyer was commissioned to design the residence.

Behrensmeyer graduated from the University of Illinois in 1893 and moved to Quincy, where he designed many notable homes and buildings still standing today. These include his own residence at 333 East Avenue, the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, the Villa Kathrine, and the Western Catholic Union Building. A line from his obituary commented, "Remove the buildings he designed, and you would barely know the face of Quincy."

The substantial residence at 310 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street contains elements of the Prairie and Craftsman styles. The brownish, rake-faced brick house is two and a half stories and rests on a water table stringcourse and a rough faced limestone foundation. The north and south walls feature brick buttresses and medallions in the shape of an inverted triangle. A small two-story wing on the west side of the house is crowned with a low-pitched roof. There is also a contrasting white bay on the second story above the porch with a pergola-styled overhang. The main block of the house is covered by a cross-gabled roof with exposed rafters under the eaves and simple large brackets in the gables. The soffit includes a recessed panel that runs the entire length of the roof and is transferred to the fascia boards on the gables. Built-in gutters feature graceful rectangular downspouts that arc inward toward the exterior walls.

The enclosed front porch is the house's most interesting attribute. It has a low-pitched hipped roof with an extremely wide overhang, suggestive of some of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style residences. The remarkable elliptical window was installed in the 1930s by Max Freiburg, a son-in-law of Joseph VandenBoom. The window is glazed with a single pane held in place by cement. The other porch windows are simple wooden windows surmounted by transoms. The porch piers have limestone medallions. Those facing east consist of fattened T-shaped stones with a raised ring at the top. The medallions facing north and south resemble an inverted "U" balanced on a raised ring. The north porch and the south stoop are open, with stairs made of solid limestone slabs.

Overall, the house displays several different window arrangements, including 6/1 and 4/1 sashes on the main house, 2/2 sashes in the attic windows and 3/3 sashes in the front gable. All windows have stone sills and a soldier course for the crown. Square limestone pieces bracket the soldier courses on the north and south windows of the house.

The VandenBoom House is a contributing structure in the East End National Register Historic District.

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

1. Three rake-faced brick chimneys with limestone caps.
2. Multipane wooden windows including 6/1 and 4/1 Sashes on the main house, 2/2 Sashes in attic windows, and 3/3 sashes in front gable.
3. Center projecting bay above front porch with pergola overhang, including the six pane windows.
4. 1930s single pane elliptical window on enclosed front porch, including surrounding windows and transoms.

5. Stone sills and water table.
6. Stone medallions on front porch piers and east/west sides of residence.
7. Prairie Style front porch roof and low pitched cross gable roof on main house.
8. Brackets in gable and exposed rafters under the eaves.
9. Recessed decorative panel on soffits and gable fascia.
10. Built-in gutters and rectangular plan downspouts that curve in to meet the exterior wall.
11. Solid limestone stairs leading to the north porch and the south entrance.

**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:**

Lorenzo Bull Addition south 26 feet Lot 4 north 28 feet Lot 5 and south 54 feet of north 226 feet Lot 9.

**Bibliography:**

Amen, Margie, daughter of Max Freiburg and granddaughter of Joseph Vandenboom.  
 Interview by applicant, August 8, 2003, Quincy, Ill. Notes. Quincy Preservation Commission, Quincy, Ill.

Exhibit Brochure: Hometown Talent: Quincy's Architects 1860s-1930s, Spring 1986.  
 Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, Quincy.

Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design. Historic Property Inventory files, 310 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A.Knopf, 1992.

Stegeman, John, [jstegeman@whoi.edu](mailto:jstegeman@whoi.edu), to Tad Blacketer, [gardnermuseumquincy@adams.net](mailto:gardnermuseumquincy@adams.net), December 19, 2001. Transcript in the hand of John Stegeman. Historic Property Inventory files, 310 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, Quincy.

U.S. Department of the Interior. National Parks Service. National Register of Historic Places Inventory. Quincy East End Historic District, Quincy Preserves. Quincy, Illinois 1984.

**Signature of Applicant**

**Date**

**Applicant's Name:**

Ben Coggeshall  
Quincy Preservation Commission Summer Intern

**Mailing Address:**

Quincy Preservation Commission  
City Hall Annex  
706 Maine Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Telephone Number:** (217) 228-4515

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Filed at Quincy Preservation Commission Office Date 1/30/04

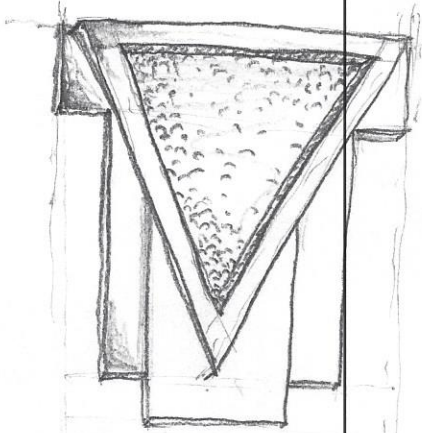
Preservation Commission Preliminary Review Approved\_\_Disapproved\_\_Date \_\_\_\_

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

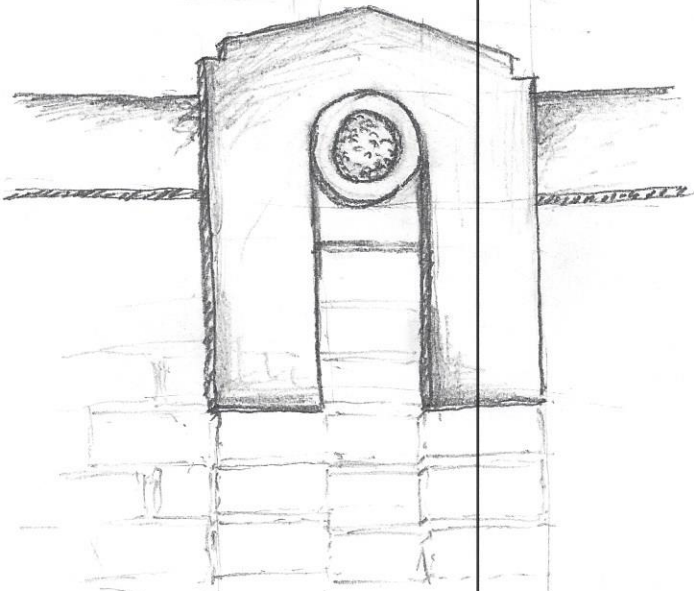
Public Hearing Date \_\_\_\_\_

Preservation Commission Decision on Recommendation to Designate Approved\_\_Disapproved\_\_Date \_\_\_\_

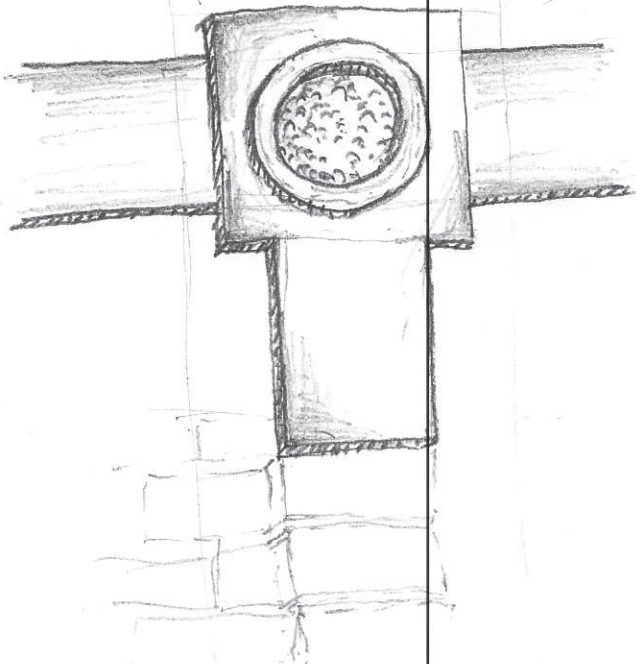
City Council Decision on Designation by Ordinance Approved\_\_Disapproved\_\_Date \_\_\_\_



- ON THE MAIN BODY OF HOUSE  
BELOW GABLES



- ON BOTH PORCH POSTS  
FACING OUT TO THE SIDES



- ON BOTH PORCH POSTS  
FACING FRONT



General views showing low-pitched Prairie Style porch roof and Craftsman-influenced cross gable main roof.



Views of Prairie Style front porch and large elliptical window held in place by concrete. Other porch windows are rectangular units surmounted by transoms. Limestone decorations and sills are at right.



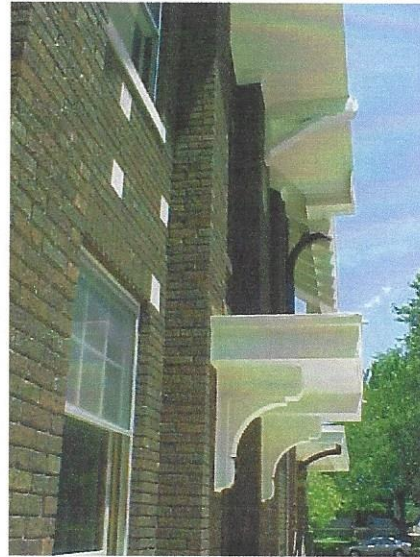
Wide front porch overhangs, patterned brick with limestone medallions.



Large brick pier and limestone accents including Behrensmeyer's signature inverted triangle.



Eaves feature exposed rafters and curving rectangular downspouts.



South side of the house showing different types of brackets.



Front gable and projecting bay with pergola-styled overhang.



South regular pitch craftsman gable with recessed panel fascia boards.