

On June 6, 1835 Dr. Eells purchased lot 6, Block 19 from Rufus Brown for \$200.00.⁵ This lot was immediately south of Lot 3, where the Doctor's office was located. Purchased at the height of good construction weather, construction was started on the house shortly thereafter. A description of Quincy in 1836 was written by Charles Maertz in his *Reminiscences* in 1885. Arriving on May 17, 1836 on the Steamer Dubuque, he wrote: "There was no graded street therefore the team hauling our effects moved up through a gully from below Broadway across Vermont street up to where our market house now stands, to Hampshire and Fourth. I put up at old Rup(f)us Brown's tavern . . . Only two brick houses were in Quincy at this (time, that) of Dr. Eells on Jersey street and Turner's on Sixth street."⁶

Dr. Eells was active in his church and was an active abolitionist. He was an educated man from the east, relocated to the newly settled midwest. The population of Quincy had grown from about 400 when the Eells arrived in 1833 to that of a good sized town in 1837 of 1850 people. By the end of 1837 the number of buildings had grown from the 4 log buildings of 1825 to about 100 log and frame buildings with 4 brick buildings in 1835; 8 more brick buildings in 1836; to a city with over 170 log and frame buildings, 33 brick buildings including the Quincy House Hotel, the brick courthouse on the square, a church on 7th street; and the imposing frame mansion of John Wood at the end of 1837.

Dr. Eells house at just over 1100 square feet was small by today's standards but in Quincy in 1835 represented a substantial permanent home of the period. It was not a grand house, but a modest example of the Greek Revival Style. It afforded a comfortable home for the doctor and his wife with a formal parlor with a fireplace to the front off a separate entrance hall; a small room off the parlor that probably served as a dining room and study for the doctor; and off the rear of the stair hall was located the working kitchen with a cooking fireplace with built in bake oven in the east wall. Upstairs over the parlor was the bedroom, it contained a woodburning fireplace to the west and stairs up to the storage area attic to the east. Just north of the front stairs was a small room with back stairs down to the kitchen from the second floor storage area.

Sometime after 1838, Dr. Eells and his wife adopted two children of family members. They adopted Levi Ozias Latimer, born 1/30/1834 to Richard Eells' sister Phoebe, a son by her first husband Erastas Latimer who died in 1838.⁷ (She remarried in May of 1841 to Amaziah Case.) His name was changed to Richard Latimer Eells by the doctor. They also adopted the daughter of Dr. Eells brother William, Eliza Jane who was born June 14, 1833.⁸

No adoption dates have been found but it can be assumed that the son was adopted after the death of his father in 1838 but before the second marriage of his mother; and that the daughter may have been adopted about 1840 after William and Eliza had lost two children that year. Dr. Eells enlarged his house ca 1840-41 after the adoption of the children.⁹

⁵ Land Records, Lot 6, Block 19.

⁶ A Quincy Pioneer's Reminiscences: photocopy.

⁷ Eells Family History in America: page 124

⁸ Ibid page 125

⁹ Sale of part Lot 3, Block 19 could have been to finance the remodeling.