

Jesse E. and Mary P. Weems House
1641 Hampshire
Harvey Chatten, Architect
1885
Victorian/Queen Anne Style

Kaufmann House Bed and Breakfast
owners Emery and Bettie Kaufmann

The house at 1641 Hampshire was built in 1885 for Jesse E. and Mary P. Weems. He was a well known and popular passenger conductor on the Wabash Railway. Weems was born August 21, 1831 in Virginia, on a farm near Mt. Vernon. His grandfather, Mason Lock Weems, was the pastor of the church at Mt. Vernon, which George Washington attended. Mason Lock Weems wrote the original life of Washington, the first to record the story of the cherry tree.

When Jesse Weems was eighteen he went to Washington to complete his education as an engineer. His first position was with the boundary line commission which located the division between the United States and Mexico.

Weems figured prominently in the early development of the railroad in this section of the country. He came to the area in 1853 as an engineer for the Northern Cross Railroad. In 1859 he built the Quincy and Palmyra road, from West Quincy to Palmyra which was later sold to the officials of the Wabash and became part of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railway. For two years Weems was the county surveyor of Hancock County and afterwards built the Illinois and Southern Iowa Railway, from Clayton, IL to Keokuk, IA, which was later consolidated with the Wabash Railway. In 1865 he accepted a position as passenger conductor on the Wabash, which he held until 1893.

In 1894 he took active management of the Pure Ice and Cold Storage Company in Quincy with his two sons, Milton and Frank, who also owned Weems Laundry Company. The original cold storage plant was located at 718 Jersey. As business increased the plant expanded into a six story building at Fifth and Jersey. The firm was sold in the 1950's to an out of town vending service.

The 2 1/2 story clapboard sided house features sunbursts in the pediments. It features stick like wood treatment in several areas and has a multipane front window. The original front porch has been enclosed. The entire house has been beautifully restored by its present owners who operate a bed and breakfast within.

The architect, Harvey Chatten was one of the foremost architects of Quincy at the time. He secured his training in the office of Robert Bunce, one of Quincy's first architects and in the offices of prominent Boston architects.