

APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT
QUINCY PRESERVATION COMMISSION
706 Maine Street, City Hall Annex, Third Floor
Quincy, Illinois 62301 Telephone 228-4514

Applicant's Name Paul and Pam Larson

Mailing Address 2531 Prentiss 223-7423; and

Local Landmark Committee, Quincy Preservation Commission
Telephone Number _____

Name, Address, Telephone Number of Property Owner(s):

Paul and Pam Larson

2531 Prentiss

223-7423

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

Benjamin and Electa Terrel House

2531 Prentiss

Style Vernacular Two-Thirds Double Pile House

Date of Construction circa 1840

Architect or Builder Unknown

List the significant exterior architectural features of the building(s). Include photographs of building facade for proposed Landmark or photographs of groups of structures for proposed Historic District (include map of Historic District):

1. All exterior brick and stone.
2. Windows having stone sills, brick lintels, and multi-paned sash.
3. The south entrance having a brick lintel, and transom lights and side lights of small rectangular panes of glass.
4. Raised seam metal roof.
5. East extension having a catslide roof.
6. A 1930's Garage and Garden House having:
 - a. An east side door with a brick lintel;
 - b. Windows with concrete sills and brick lintels;
 - c. Original raised seam metal roof; and
 - d. Multi-paned sash in all the windows.
7. Brick walkway and limestone curbstone to the south of the property.
8. Stone sill beneath south entry.

Landmark/Historic District Application - Page 2

Provide a statement of the historical and architectural significance of the proposed Landmark or proposed District. Note classification of building(s) included in any historic district or survey, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

Quincy Preserves House Tour, 1989

Historical and architectural significance, page 3.

Provide legal description of Landmark as found on deed:

Lot 1 in Anderson Court, in the City of Quincy, County of Adams, in the State of Illinois.

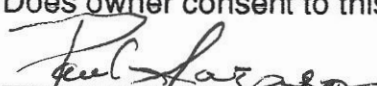
Why do you think this property merits designation? Check appropriate item(s):

☒ 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


Signature of Applicant (PCL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Filed at Quincy Preservation Commission Office

Date 1-12-95

Preservation Commission Preliminary Review

Approved ☒
Disapproved ☐

Date 2-7-95

Meeting With Property Owner

Date NONE

Public Hearing

Date 3-7-95

Preservation Commission Decision
on Recommendation to Designate

Approved ☒
Disapproved ☐

Date 4-4-95

Quincy City Council Decision
on Designation by Ordinance

Approved ☐
Disapproved ☐

Date _____

(Revised June 1993)

Historic and architectural significance:

The Terrel house is one of four surviving residences once associated with the Mission Institute Number Two. Two others are also on their original sites: the James Furniss house across Prentiss Street at 2532 and the William Beardsley house at 128 N. 25th Street. Of these three the Terrel house retains the highest degree of integrity; it is also the only brick house known to be associated with the Mission Institute.

Benjamin Terrel purchased the land on which the house stands from Mission Institute cofounder and trustee Rufus Brown on September 8, 1840. Terrel is listed with his wife in the midst of known Mission Institute figures in the 1840 census, showing that he occupied the land at or shortly after the time of purchase. Two men and two women, all aged 15-20, are also listed as living with them. This suggests that the house was already built and being used to house students by the time of the census. Together with the purchase date that fixes the time of construction at late 1840. The use of the house by the institute is borne out by the unusual fenestration of the dining room at the rear. Its connected series of three windows would have been an extraordinary arrangement for a house of the period, but a natural accommodation for a small classroom or for congregate dining.

The Terrel's were both born in Connecticut and were about 47 years old at the time of their move to "Theopolis," the familiar name of Mission Institute Number 2 and the residential settlement to the east grounds. Apart from the use of their house, the only direct association either Terrel is known to have with the institute was their membership in the church established there in November 1837, presumably when the institute chapel had been completed. In 1846 Electa wrote or transcribed a short poem and signed her name in an album of Mission Institute friends kept by Elizabeth Hunter, daughter of headmaster Moses Hunter. Benjamin was clerk at the church meeting nine years later authorizing the "dismissal" of its few remaining members. So we have excellent specimens of both of their handwriting, but very little else.

What drew the Terrel's to the institute area was probably the enrollment of Charles and Mary Terrel as students at the institute on November 4, 1840. The 1850 census (by which time Mary had married John Reynard) provides ages and places of birth that are consistent with their being children of Benjamin and Electa, and the three families appear consecutively. Charles Terrel, who was a physician, became one of nineteen known missionaries sent out by the institute between 1840 and 1853.

The Mission Institute has achieved local notoriety because of the abolitionist stand taken by all of its founders, administrators and teachers. But the primary significance of the institute was as a missionary training school in which students could earn their tuition, room, and board by farm labor. Its success in fulfilling that task through the fifteen years of its existence has been unfairly deprecated, while its role as an underground railroad site has been vastly overstated. The burning of the institute chapel in 1843 inspired two instructors at Theopolis, Elijah Griswold and William Beardsley, together with its agent, James Furniss, to write the *Quincy Whig* admitting their abolitionist beliefs but swearing that they never knew of any instance of a slave being hidden at the institute and soundly disapproving of the undertaking. The institute students who were caught helping a slave to escape in Missouri were apparently acting on their own and without the knowledge or approval of the institute.

The Terrel house has undergone significant alterations in the last fifty years, but little change to its footprint, roofline, or general appearance. It was originally a typical two-thirds double pile house. The defining characteristics of the type are a side hall with staircase and two

rooms on each floor, one behind the other. In addition, the original house had a small kitchen wing to the east. Around 1950, when the parcel of land on which the house stands was subdivided into Anderson Court, two evenly spaced front windows on the ground floor were placed next to each other and one of the upstairs front windows was walled in. The living room was enlarged by removal of the hall, a small room was created off of the dining room, and a central fireplace constructed. In addition, the kitchen wing was extended to the east to create a family room. All original window frames and sashes affected by these alterations were retained and moved to appropriate new locations.

The garage and garden shed was built in the late 1830s to replace a barn constructed during the brief period in the late nineteenth century during which the property was used for farming. Closely matched to the house in scaling and materials, only close inspection reveals that its brick walls are veneered on frame, and its masonry window sills are concrete rather than limestone. Because of its compatibility with the house and its erection over fifty years ago, this secondary building is included with the house in the recommendation for landmark status.

Historical and architectural information by Paul Larson, 1995
Photographs by Meg Kindelin, Quincy Preservation Commission
Summer Intern, 1993

