

1.3 Statement of Significance

The Dr. Richard Eells House is of architectural significance as an outstanding example of the transitional evolution of architecture in Quincy of the mid 19th century from Greek Revival style of 1835 to the Italianate style of 1873. It is of historic significance because of its association with Dr. Richard Eells, a Quincy abolitionist of national import, and its association with subsequent owners who were key participants in the expansion and development of Quincy.

The house is a contributing structure in the "Downtown Quincy Historic District", 1983 listing. The house has been designated a local landmark by the City of Quincy and the Quincy Preservation Commission.

Archeological and architectural investigation has revealed the original size and floor plan of the earliest remaining brick house in Quincy which is also the only extant structure associated with Dr. Richard Eells.

Research is currently underway to document a series of renovations ca. 1841 to 1873 that substantially enlarged the house and changed the architectural style from Greek Revival to its current size and Italianate style.

The structure at 415 Jersey Street represents the rare survival of an early residential structure near the commercial core of the city and embodies the changes that affected the City of Quincy during the period of its rapid development as a major city during the third quarter of the 19th century. The house contains rare examples of early building materials, techniques and a wealth of information for study of building materials, techniques, and social trends that influenced changes in the house and in Quincy.

Quincy and the entire State of Illinois is fortunate to have such a well preserved example of early residential architecture with such important historic significance.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The historic structures report could not have been completed without the generous support of the Founders and Board of Directors of the Friends of the Dr. Richard Eells House. Congratulations are in order for their foresight and perseverance in successful acquisition and stabilization of the house. Their commitment of time, knowledge and enthusiasm has been appreciated by the entire team. We would like to thank the staff of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County and the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design for ready access to resource material. The efforts of all involved will assure the successful preservation and interpretation of this unique asset.