

(now Quincy University) and at the age of 15 began employment under Ernest Wood, where he remained for seven years. He then spent a number of years in the office of Harvey Chatten. Geise designed many commercial structures in Quincy, including the Illinois State Bank Building, the Block & Kuhl Building, Jefferson and Irving Schools and the Elkton Hotel.

The Oakley House is an outstanding example of the Prairie Style, constructed of stucco with a low-pitched hipped roof with gables and overhanging eaves typical of Prairie Style architecture. The house contains a rusticated limestone foundation wall with interrupting basement windows. The prominent front porch wraps around the east and part of the south facade. The porch includes a stucco porch wall and stucco piers. The front entrance way includes side lites and a transom. A dormer on the front facade roof includes double-hung windows with patterned glazing on the top lite. First and second floor windows have large 9/1 windows with 6/6 side lites on the second floor front facade.

The south facade includes a two-1/2 storied bay with gabled dormer, double windows in the gable with patterned glazing, and four single-paned continuous windows along first floor facade.

The west facade includes a first floor bay with overhang, matching roofline and a two-story wood porch with the second floor enclosed. The three porch windows on the west facade are double windows with nine lites. A single story entrance way includes a transom.

The north facade includes a three-window bay with 9/1 lites, and the bay has an overhang at the one-1/2 story level.

The house is listed as a contributing structure in the East End National Register Historic District.

Section 29.1063. Designation of 909 Maine Street --- That 909 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois is hereby designated a Landmark.

That the legal description of 909 Maine Street is as follows:

Church Survey Lots 26-27-28 and N 45ft of Lots 29-30 and of W 1/2 of Lot 31 and E 1/2 of Lot 31 and all of Lots 32-33.

That the Historical Name of the building is George Keller & Sons Implement Company.

That the Style of the building is Commercial.

That the Date of Construction is 1927.

That the Architect or Builder is George P. Behrensmeyer.

That among the architectural features which will be provided protection are as follows:

- (1) "L" plan configuration.
- (2) Stone trim sills and lintels on second floor windows on the south and west facades.
- (3) Stone geometrical patterns and decoration on the south and west facades.
- (4) Soldier brick pattern on the south and west facades.
- (5) Three-bay store front configuration on the south and west facades.
- (6) Transoms above store front windows (five on the south facade and three on the west facade).
- (7) Second floor windows containing 12 lites on the south and west facades.
- (8) Brick parapet with stone cap.
- (9) Brick exterior walls on the east, south and west elevations.

That the historical significance of 909 Maine Street is as follows:

George Keller & Sons, at 909 Maine Street, is a significant structure worthy of local landmark status for several reasons. Architecturally, it is a fine example of the Commercial Style of the early 20th Century. Also, George Keller & Sons, for whom the building was built, has been in business in Quincy since 1880 and is a prominent local business. Another significant factor in landmarking the building is that it is the work of a prominent Quincy architect, George Behrensmeyer.

George Keller and his partner, J. P. Wenzel, founded a farm implement business in 1880 known as Wenzel and Keller. A two and one-half story frame building was erected on the northeast corner of 9th and Maine in 1882 and was occupied until the new building was opened next door in 1927, after which the 1882 structure was razed. George Keller acquired the sole ownership of the firm in 1893. Later, his four sons were taken into the business; Oscar Keller in 1898, Art Keller in 1907, Roy Keller in 1912, and Ralph Keller in 1915. A farm seed department was started around 1900 and as the business expanded, the four sons assumed separate responsibilities within the business with Oscar as general manager and buyer, Arthur as office manager, Roy in charge of the seed department, and Ralph