

It was not until 1978 that a serious effort was undertaken to restore this unique structure. Under the leadership of the Quincy Jaycee-Ettes, now known as the Illinois Women of Today, a lease was obtained for the property from the Quincy Park District. They formed a not-for-profit group called the Friends of the Castle, Inc., whose purpose was and is to restore the Villa to its original beauty, and operate it as a cultural, educational and public service community asset. The Villa Kathrine was then listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and a four-part restoration project was put in place.

Phase One included renovation of the exterior, a parking lot, driveway, outside restrooms and the complete restoration of the parlor. Phase Two included handicap accessibility and completing the interior. Phase Three will involve the furnishing and decorating of the interior, and Phase Four will establish an endowment fund for perpetual maintenance of the building and grounds.

Most of the exterior remains in recognizable condition, minus years of wear and tear. A replica of the famous Mosque of Thais surmounts the main tower with waving stripes as

decoration, covered by a dome. The original Mosque of Thais in Tunisia was the site where the priests of Mohammed stood to call the faithful to prayer.

A smaller version of a harem room graces the tower. While Metz never married or kept a harem, he duplicated the Middle Eastern model in detail. Access to the tower may be obtained from the second floor. In usual situations, the harem was kept locked in a room until the master saw fit to visit.

The original door to the Villa Kathrine was studded with brass nails to indicate that the owner was a believer in Islam. As the door opened, a welcome harp played a beautiful, slow melody. Above the door was a small iron-grated window, and on the roof of the foyer was a dome surmounted by a crescent moon. The crescent moon is symbolic of the hand of Allah, the Islamic name for God, and is said to give divine protection to the residents. The door allows entrance to the parlor, which houses Quincy's Tourist Information Center. Small diamond-shaped amber-hued windows lend a golden glow to the room in the afternoon as the sun sets, filtering through the only colored glass in the building.

The ceiling rafters are original and made from cypress. The two keyhole-shaped niches called mihrabs are decorative display areas. The light fixtures are not original, but of the period. The floor lamp is

from Egypt and the ceiling fixtures are from Pakistan. Both date back to the 19th Century. The house was furnished with chairs of rush, and some of carved wood with inlaid decorations. The stairs of half circles, which lead to the courtyard beyond the French doors, featured embossed figures on the risers.

The courtyard is a gallery supported by arches resting on eight twisted pillars. The pillars are arched and arranged as in the Court of the Dolls of the Alcazar in Seville, Spain; the capitals mounting the twisted pillars are the same as those in the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. The pillars encircle a reflecting pool. Rising above the pool is a pyramid-shaped dome roof. Small glass windows open for air movement. Suspended from the ceiling above the reflecting pool was a 29-light brass lamp.

The courtyard was surrounded by the kitchen, bath, dining room, and sitting room. All of the rooms except the kitchen had a fireplace or Franklin stove. Wall hangings, rugs and beautiful paintings collected by Mr. Metz decorated the Villa Kathrine.

Timeline in Golden Museum

Timeline of the Villa Kathrine

1897 George Metz tours North Africa and Spain for two years, gathering materials and inspiration for the building of a Moorish "villa" of his own, using the Villa Ben Ahben in Morocco as starting point.

1899 Metz returns to Quincy, collects his notes and sketches, and confers with several architects about creating a composite design.

1900 An ideal spot of Metz's villa is located on the bluff south of State Street.

Young Quincy architect George Behrensmeyer draws up the plans, reducing the Moroccan villa to 43' by 53' and specifying walls of brick with a pure white plaster veneer.

Construction of Villa Kathrine begins, with Herman Schachtsieck as the prime contractor.

1901 Villa Kathrine is complete^{ed}, its main tower decorated with latticework inspired by the Giralda in Seville, Spain, and topped with a minaret replicating in miniature that on the Mosque of Thais in Tunisia. A sky-lit interior court is surrounded by columns whose arrangement recalls the Court of Dolls in the Alcazar in Seville and whose twisted form and capitals are inspired by the famed Alhambra in Granada.

1904 The "Moorish dream palace" is described and illustrated in the March issue of *Scientific American Builders Monthly*.

1912 Metz sells Villa Katherine to Quincy grocer Archibald Behrens, who turns out to be acting for the Quincy and Western Illinois Railway. The QWIR proposes to build a line to Alton, using the Metz property for a railroad yard. Behrens and his wife, an

accomplished artist, are promised the contents of the house as his sales commission, but end up with only a rug.

1917 The interurban rail project fails, and ownership of the former Metz property enters 18 years of litigation. Meanwhile the house becomes derelict and is rented out at low rates.

1928 Behrens gives up all claim to the property for \$1, and the house begins more than a decade of abandonment.

1939 Under the ownership of Fisher's company, Excelsior Stove Works, the house undergoes its first restoration. Central heating is installed, the reflecting pool is filled with concrete, and the grounds are planted with Lombardy poplars.

1941 *The Chicago Daily News* publishes a feature o the still-empty "Moroccan villa" on the Mississippi.

1942 Musician and nightclub owner Bob Moore rents the house with his wife Christine and two children, who are students at Quincy College.

1951 Harold C. McCoy purchases the house, repairs the casement windows and dome, modernizes the electricity, and landscapes the grounds with flowering shrubs and catalpas.

1954 Porter Settle, Jr., buys the house for development into a supper club but soon abandons the project.

1955 Quincy Park District purchases the Villa Kathrine and several lots to the north with a \$25,000 donation from the Moorman Company, demolishes the remaining housing, and turns the enlarged property into a neighborhood park and community center under the supervision of the Franklin neighborhood committee.

1966 The grounds of Villa Kathrine are further enlarged through purchase of a residential lot on Third Street.

1976 The Park District partially restores and upgrades the Villa and various citizens groups engage in two years of debate concerning the feasibility of restoration and reuse.

1977 The Park District estimates the costs of complete restoration at \$150,000, the figure rising to \$200,000 the following year.

1978 The Quincy Jaycettes, led by Sharron Jett, nominate Villa Kathrine to the National Register of Historic Places, spearhead a clean-up effort, and form "Friends of the Castle" as a support group for Villa Kathrine restoration and reuse.

1979 Quincy Park District leases the Villa Kathrine to Friends of the Castle, and architect Carl Fisher and Associates of Springfield develops a phased restoration proposal.

1981 The City of Quincy, the Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Department of Transportation and Quincy Park District jointly develop a program for Villa Katherine as a tourist center.

Friend of the Castle Robert Christie is to oversee restoration.

1984 The Great River Road Commission provides a \$225,000 grant for Phase 1 of the work at the Villa Kathrine, with a \$75,000 match to be raised locally.

1986 Waterkotte Construction completes Phase 1, including restoration of the exterior and front parlor, construction of public rest rooms, and a driveway and parking lot.

1987 Bergman Nurseries replants the grounds, using many shrubs of near Eastern origin.

1993 The Illinois Department of Transportation grants \$300,000 for finishing exterior restoration, reworking mechanical and electrical systems, and returning the interior to its original plan and appearance. A local match of \$75,000 is required.

Friends of the Castle retains Poepping, Stone, Bach and Associates as architects and engineers of the restoration, with Robert Christie as consultant.

Historical Significance section: insert at the bottom

1996 (?) Illinois Department of Transportation increases grant to \$551,000 ~~(X)~~,
with a local match ~~of~~ \$138,000 ~~(X)~~ raised by "Friends of the Castle."
require increase of the

1997 (?) Fischer Builders (?) completes Phase II, including restoration of the
interior, installation of basement restrooms and an elevator for handicap
accessibility.

Present The Villa Kathrine is essentially fully restored, and maintained by ~~the~~
~~Friends of the Castle.~~ It serves as Quincy's Tourist Information Center, ~~and~~ Great
River Road Interpretive Center, and home of the Quincy Convention and Visitors
Bureau. It is also open for tours, and the building and grounds are available to rent
for weddings, parties, meetings, receptions and other special events.

Thanks to the efforts of ~~the~~ Friends of the Castle and many other volunteers, the
Villa Kathrine stands as a wonderful and unique architectural example that can be
seen from miles away in several directions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- 14. Don Hilgenbrinck, Director of Business Services
- 16. Ed Seger, Director of Parks
- 22. Mike Bruns, Director of Program Services
- 25. Matt Burry, Director of Golf

PARK DISTRICT CONSULTANT'S REPORT: Attorney, Matt Hutmacher

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 28. Emerson Community Center – Red Cross Shelter: Recommended Use of Emerson Community Center

NEW BUSINESS

- 35. Independent Audit Report FY2007
- 37. Villa Kathrine, Quincy Preservation Commission Proposed Landmark
Status: Recommended Approval *Write endorsement proceeding with Pelus' review*
- 63. Berrian Park "Flying Wheels" Play Equipment: Recommended Removal *+ compliments*

*all in favor,
who contact? → Jim?
Mike Podus*

PUBLIC INPUT

EXECUTIVE SESSION: In accordance with 5 ILCS, Par. 120/2c, I move that the Board convene into Executive Session to discuss: (ROLL CALL VOTE)

- 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.
- 5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.
- 6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.
- 11. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.
- 21. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

ADJOURN

8010Legal
Notices**Notice of Public Hearing
on Proposed****Local Landmark Designations**

The Quincy Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at the Department of Planning and Development, City Hall Annex, 706 Maine St., 3rd Floor, Quincy, Illinois. The following properties have been nominated for designation as Local Landmarks: the Villa Kathrine/W. George Metz House, 532 Gardner Expressway; the Anton B. and Emma Wichmann Jr. House, 613 North 12th St.; the Bushell/Parker House, 1673 Maine St.; the John and Anna Neumann House, 608 Adams St.; and the W. W. Benton/W. T. Duker Co. Building, 614-618 Maine St., all in Quincy, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing is to explain the purpose and effect of designation; to explain and take testimony concerning the criteria for designation; to explain the review process for any alteration, construction, demolition or removal affecting the exterior architectural appearance; to present and discuss any specific standards for review of exterior alterations; to discuss economic incentives that would be available from local, state, federal, or private sources; and to hear testimony from any interested party concerning the proposed designation.

Janet Conover, Chair
Quincy Preservation Commission
227591, Jan. 4, 2009

Bids



QUINCY PRESERVATION COMMISSION
706 MAINE STREET, 3RD FLOOR, CITY HALL ANNEX
QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301
217-228-4515
FAX 217-221-2288

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Spring and City Council Members
FROM: Janet Conover, Chairman
DATE: April 24, 2009
SUBJECT: Report and Ordinance to Designate Five Properties as Local Landmarks

The Quincy Preservation Commission is pleased to report that it voted at its regular February 24, 2009 meeting to recommend Local Landmark designation of the five properties listed below. **All of the property owners have signed owner consent forms** in support of designation. A draft designation ordinance is available for your review.

The Commission plans to present a **short slide show** on these properties to the City Council on May 4.

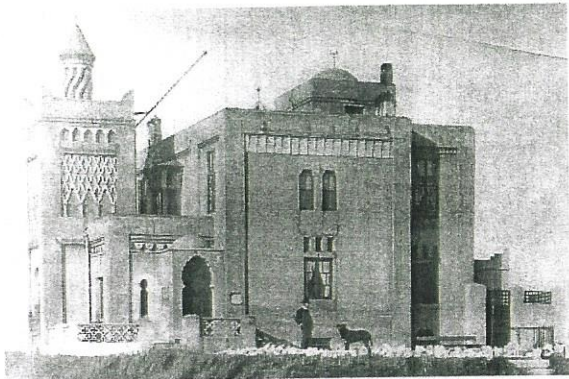
Please feel free to call me at 653-4254, or call Tom Fentem at 221-3663 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

- Villa Kathrine/W. George Metz House, 532 Gardner Expressway, Quincy Park District, owner
- Anton B. and Emma Wichmann Jr. House, 613 North 12th Street, Ralph and Sheila Druffel, owners
- Bushnell/Parker House, 1673 Maine Street, Greg Lueckenhoff, owner
- W. W. Benton/W. T. Duker Co. Building, 614-618 Maine Street, Patrick and Robin Taylor, owners
- John and Anna Neumann House, 608 Adams Street, Julian and Mari Boone, owners

Attachment: Property illustrations

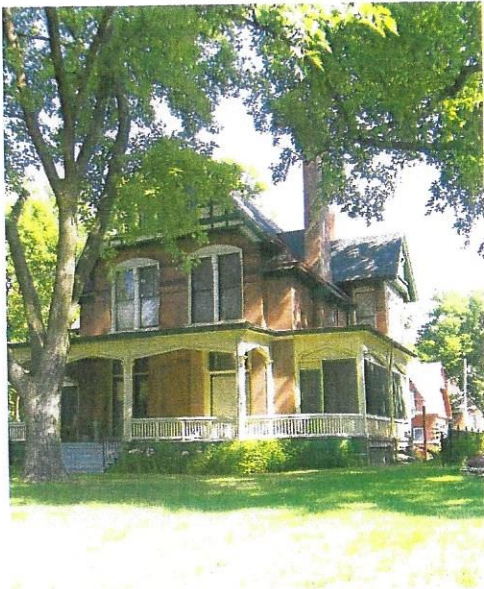
Properties Recommended for 2009 Local Landmark Designation



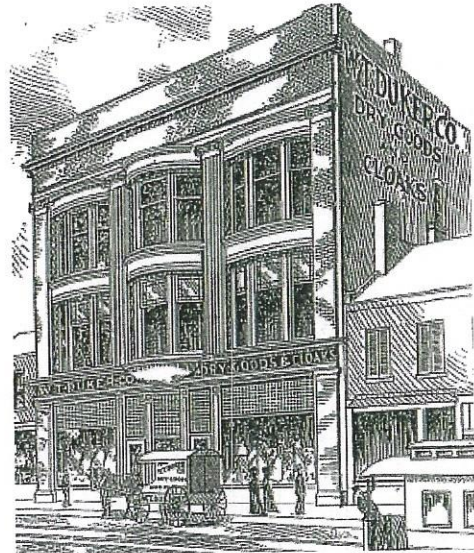
Villa Kathrine/W. George Metz House
532 Gardner Expressway



Anton B. and Emma Wichmann, Jr. House
613 North 12th St.



Bushnell/Parker House
1673 Maine St.



W. W. Benton/W. T. Duker Co. Building
614-618 Maine St.



John and Anna Neumann House
608 Adams St.

Friends of The Castle

Villa Kathrine
P.O. Box 732
Quincy, Illinois 62306
(217) 224-3688



August 2017

Dear Friends

Thank you for your support of the Tourist Information Center, the Villa Kathrine and Friends of the Castle. This year we are celebrating 30 years of the Tourist Information Center providing service in the Villa Kathrine to the Quincy area.

We invite you to join us in celebration of our 30 year anniversary at a reception at the Tourist Information Center in the parlor of the Villa Kathrine on Thursday, September 7, 2017. We will have light refreshments at 5:30 pm, followed by a brief program at 6:00 pm, with cake cutting to follow. This is a great opportunity to tour the Villa and see how we continue to serve the public.

We have been welcoming the world to Quincy for 30 years since opening in the Villa Kathrine at 532 Gardner Expressway, Quincy, Illinois on September 7, 1987.

Sincerely

Trudy Rollins

Trudy Rollins
President

Friends of the Castle Board of Directors:

Julie Bell, Paul Brown, Karrie Butterfield, Judy Gay, Donna Haire,
Rich Howell, Linda Moore, Joel Peck, Trudy Rollins, Judy Litchfield, Nicole Paxton