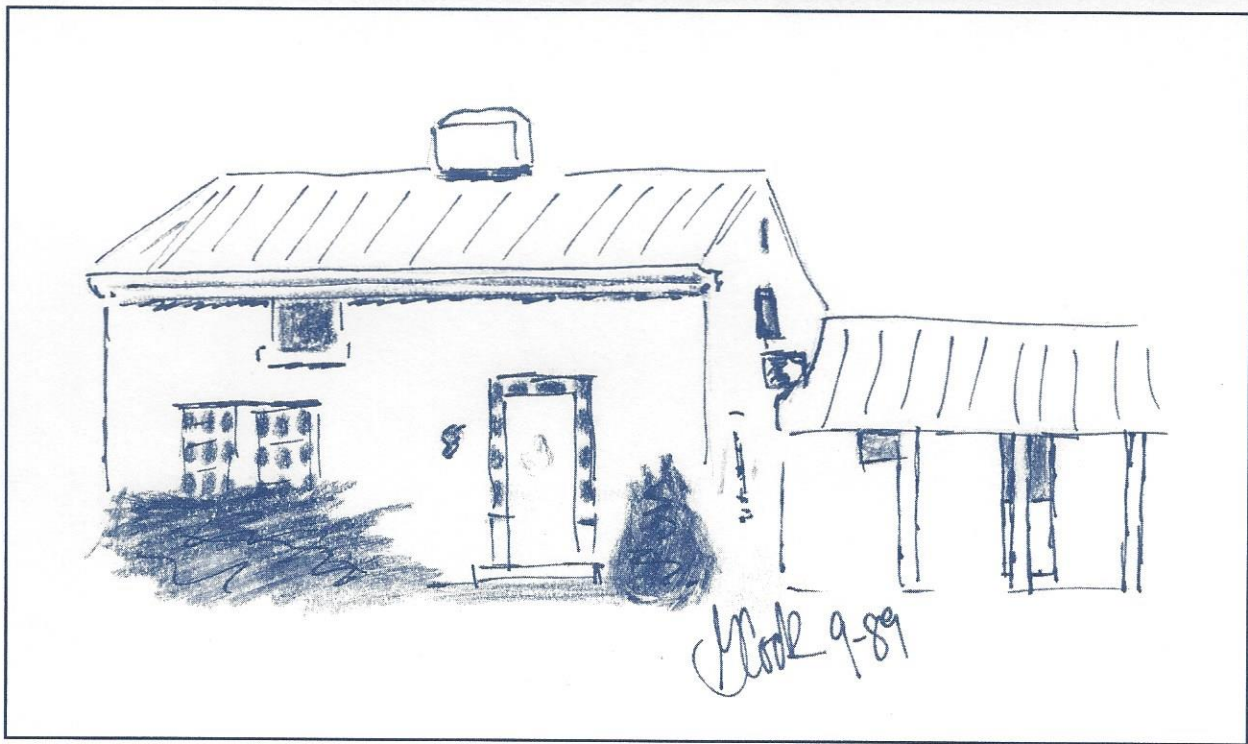




MISSION SCHOOL HOUSE

2531 Prentiss Avenue
1836-1839—Architect Unknown

Local historians have established that the home at 2531 Prentiss Ave. was built between 1836 and 1839 as one of the residences affiliated with a Mission Institute which was founded in Quincy around 1836 by Dr. David Nelson. Dr. Nelson, a surgeon in General Jackson's army, hunted in Missouri for his anti-slavery sentiments, escaped by boat to Quincy where he found protection and later established the underground railway in conjunction with the Mission Institute.

This Mission school was located just outside the existing city limits and was situated on a sizable plot of land extending from Twenty-fourth to Twenty-sixth, from Maine to Broadway, and encompassed some 11 acres. It was a self-supporting school conducted in a large square four story building erected near the present site of Madison school. When the Institute was destroyed in 1868, bricks were salvaged from the school and later incorporated in a new building which became Madison school.

The home, and several neighboring residences, all of which are gone now, apparently was built as a residence for the Mission Institute teachers and also served as slave depots.

All were on the site of the Mission Institute property and all figured in the underground railroad which passed slaves from house to house on routes to freedom through Missouri into Quincy, up to Galesburg on to Chicago, and then to northern states or Canada. The basement is evidence enough of the residence's role in abolitionist activities. It contains a brick room which apparently served as a secret hiding room. The space, since opened, appears to have been enclosed solid by brick walls. Just how the slaves gained access to the room is a matter of conjecture. Since the days

of the underground railway, doorways have been roughly knocked out.

From the abstract it is difficult to determine the actual builder of the home. The home has long been known as Anderson place because four Anderson families, all unrelated, have owned the property from time to time.

The first Anderson was Ashur Anderson, the first Quincy merchant, who purchased the property from William Brishban, the first entry on the abstract, who received 120 acres north of Twenty-fourth as a land grant from the U.S. government in 1830.

In 1838 the property was owned by Edward B. Kimball, who was prominent in Mission activities, and later that same year by Rufus Brown, also an active Mission abolitionist. From the date, the names and their link with the Institute, it would seem one of these men erected the building.

The second Anderson family appears on the abstract in 1914 when the property was purchased by Christian N. Anderson, who in turn, in 1927, sold the residence to Edward A. Anderson. The Everett Andersons purchased the property in 1936 and occupied the home until 1966. Mr. and Mrs. Tony Oakley bought the residence from Mrs. Anderson, and later sold it to the present owner.

Although both the kitchen and bathroom have been updated, much of the original house remains. The living room floors, for instance, are random pieces put together in tongue and groove fashion and nailed with square nails. The old summer kitchen to the east of the kitchen was converted into a family room and equipped with a fireplace by the Everett Andersons.

This house is not only a testament to the past but a comfortable home for today.