

Permanent Index Number
23-2-1349-000-00.

That the historical name of the house is the John and Emma Neumann House.

That the style of the house is National I-house.

That the date of construction is circa 1868.

That the builders are the John Neumann family.

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

(1) Two-story brick National I-house. Low-pitched roof with simple wooden cornice and shallow overhang.

(2) Front porch with square fluted columns and balustrade with square balusters. The tops of the columns have milled capitals which flare into the entablature.

(3) Windows with arched brick lintels and stone sills. Original wooden window frames.

(4) Front entrance with arched brick lintel, limestone water table, and transom window.

(5) Beaded board porch ceiling.

(6) Shallow projecting chimney piercing the soffit of the west gable.

That 608 Adams Street is historically significant for its architecture. John and Anna (Annie) Neumann purchased land from Quincy's founder, John Wood, in the early 1860s and built their own house at 608 Adams with the help of their children. Julian Boone, the current owner with his wife Mari, researched the house and property and wrote in a letter to the Quincy Preservation Commission that he found this sentence in a Gardner Museum file, they "constructed a Kiln in the back yard and fired their own bricks from a clay mixture found locally, dug a basement with a foundation of local limestone."

Research indicates the house was constructed in 1868, however two other possible dates of construction have been found. The Quincy Township Assessor's Office lists the date of construction for 608 Adams as 1862. A report on file at the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design lists the date of construction as 1866 based on a study of *Adams County Tax Books* kept in the Museum's basement. See Endnotes (1)

and (2) for details.

Reasons for supporting the 1868 date of construction include a review of records at the Adams County Recorder of Deeds Office which shows the property was recorded for the first time in 1870. A study of the *Quincy City Directories* from 1859 to 1872 shows a "Jn Neumann" residing at "Adams ss 1 e Sixth" in 1868-1869. Thus, after reviewing this research, the Local Landmark Committee decided the date of construction for 608 Adams will be circa 1868 until, and if, additional research confirms the official date of construction.

In the 1871-1872 *Quincy City Directory*, John Neumann is listed as "a laborer." In the 1876-1877 Directory, Neumann is listed as "working in a brickyard." Julian Boone reported that John Neumann was a "box cutter and that he and his sons had a business that constructed crates into which river cargo was loaded onto steamships in such a way to facilitate maximum space conservation as well as to contain movement of what was stored inside." The 1887-1888 *Quincy City Directory* lists Joseph Newman as residing at 608 Adams, with an occupation of a box cutter.

The Neumann family had a strong German background evidenced by notices of unclaimed letters from Germany at the Quincy Post Office. Newspaper articles reported that members of the Neumann family visited relatives in Columbus, Ohio, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin—cities with large German communities. The Neumann family is representative of the large number of Germans who immigrated to Quincy in the 1850s and 1860s. The John Neumann family were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church located on the corner of South 7th and Adams, about one block and walking distance from the Neumann house.

This information was found in *Adams County Deed Book* 162, pg. 370: "John Neumann died on March 29, 1882, and was survived by his widow, Anna, and eight children—Gustav, Frank, Joseph, Pauline, Gerhard, Gertrude, Emma, and Grace."

On June 28, 1900, the property was purchased "from the heirs of John Neumann for a total of \$1,400.00 by eldest son Gustav Neumann." The *Quincy Herald* reported on Thursday, August 16, 1894, that "Mrs. Annie Neumann, widow of John Neumann, died at her home at 608 Adams Street last night at 6 o'clock of cancer of the stomach. Deceased

was 62 years of age and had lived in Quincy since 1867. She leaves three sons and five daughters."

It is written in *Deed Book* 195, page 448 that on May 5, 1908, the heirs of Gustav Neumann, deceased, sold the property at 608 Adams to Frank Neumann, and on the same day Frank Neumann deeded a portion of the property to Emma Neumann. A June 26, 1911, *Quincy Daily Journal* story reported that "Miss Emma Neuman of 608 Adams left last Friday for St. Louis where she will be married tomorrow to Joseph Wiggy of that place." The article went on to tell that Emma "is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Neuman, both deceased, and since the death of her parents has been making her home with her brother, Frank. The story told that "the young couple will return to Quincy in a few days where the groom has secured a position, and for the present will make their home at 608 Adams Street."

A November 4, 1913, a *Quincy Daily Journal* article reported "a baby girl being born to Joseph Wiggy and wife (Emma) who live at 608 Adams." It was recorded in *Deed Book* 432 lot 5 in Block 109 of Wood's Addition that on January 11, 1962, the "property, house, contents and all valuables" were sold by Emma Neumann Wiggy to Virginia J. Liesen "for \$100.00." According to family records supplied by Joan (Mrs. Thomas) Liesen, Virginia J. Liesen was the daughter of Emma Neumann Wiggy.

Tom and Joan Liesen attended a Liesen family reunion and hand-copied family information on a tablecloth, and they have kept the tablecloth as a family heirloom and document. The Liesen family record showed that Virginia Wiggy married Francis (Frank) Liesen. Additional information was supplied by Virginia Liesen Steinkamp, a daughter of Virginia Wiggy Liesen and granddaughter of Emma Neumann Wiggy.

In 1965, Virginia Wiggy Liesen sold 608 Adams to one of her children, Joseph F. Liesen, who lived in the house for a short time with his family. In 1970, Joseph F. Liesen sold the house to his uncle, Frank Steinkamp. When Frank Steinkamp died in 1981, the house was left as part of an estate to Lawrence Steinkamp, Frank's brother. On November 2, 1981, Lawrence Steinkamp sold the property to Don Heckenkamp.

Thus, 608 Adams was owned by the same family for approximate-

ly 113 years, from circa 1868 when the house was built, until the property was sold to Don Heckenkamp in 1981.

Virginia Liesen Steinkamp lived at her grandparent's house for a short time, and visited there often. She said the original green shutters were still on the exterior of house when she was a young girl, and "the shutters were closed in the winter to keep out the cold weather." A summer kitchen (now demolished) was located in the back yard about 12 feet from the house near the west property line, and was used for cooking and laundry. About 14 feet south of the summer kitchen was another building called the "D house" (also demolished), and they were never allowed to go into it. Virginia Leisen Steinkamp thinks at one time the "D house" may have been a chicken house, and later was used for storage.

Don Heckenkamp enlarged the kitchen on the south side of the house, and 608 Adams became a rental property.

Shane Bartley purchased the property in 1998.

In 2004 Julian and Mari Boone purchased 608 Adams and continue to reside there.

It is believed the house at 608 Adams Street was built by the first owner and occupant, John Neumann, with the help of his wife and children.

The National I-house plan derives from European folk sources. This two-story National I-house is two rooms wide and one room deep on each floor. There is a central hallway with a steep flight of stairs rising to the second floor. The long dimension of the house is presented to the street to communicate the wealth and social standing of the owner. Another common I-house characteristic is placement of chimneys at the gable ends.

These classic features of a National I-house are present in the house at 608 Adams. However, instead of chimneys at each gable end, a chimney is found only on the west wall. It projects only slightly from the exterior plane of the facade to conserve heat within the building. There is stylistic evidence that the front porch was added in the early twentieth century. Dark green shutters were originally located on all windows.

This house is a fine example of a brick I-house. It has not been cov-

ered by modern siding.

The property was surveyed by the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design in 1993. It was listed as a contributing structure in the South Side German National Register Historic District (Boundary Increase) in April 1995. The Quincy Preservation Commission surveyed the house in June 2008.

Endnotes:

1. A Gardner Museum researcher determined this date based on a study of Adams County tax books kept in the Museum's basement.
2. Some whole and portions of old Adams County tax books are kept at the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design. Bob Nall, former Adams County Sheriff, and Jean Reddington, Adams County Treasurer, were interviewed by Janet Conover. They said that in the winter of 1991-92, a water pipe broke in the basement of the Adams County Courthouse while it was under renovation and many of the tax books were damaged. Water poured into the City of Quincy side of the courthouse for eight hours before the accident was discovered, and four feet of water had accumulated in the basement.

Many books and materials were damaged including the old Adams County tax books. Sharkey Transportation brought in two freezer trucks and prisoners from the Adams County jail helped retrieve tax books from the water and load them onto the trucks. The frozen tax books were taken to Springfield and many were repaired. The County considered throwing the old tax books away because they were in bad condition and moldy. A decision was made to give them to the Gardner Museum for safe-keeping. In 2008, the old tax books are located in the basement of the Gardner Museum and available for the public to look at on request. Some tax books were not salvageable so tax information for some years is not available.

Pages of many of the old tax books were photographed in Springfield and microfilm copies are available at the Adams County Recorder's Office.

Tax books dating from the year 1919 are located at the Adams

County Courthouse. Beginning in 2008, tax records are maintained in electronic files and tax books are no longer used.

Section 29.1115. Designation of 614-618 Maine Street—That 614-618 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois is hereby designated a landmark.

That the legal description of 614-618 Maine Street is as follows:

The East 49.5 Feet of Lot One (1) in Block Thirty-Three (33) in the Original Plat of the Town, now City, of Quincy, Adams County, Illinois, and part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section Two (2), Township Two (2) South of the Base Line, Range Nine (9) West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, described as beginning at the Northeast corner of said Lot One (1), thence East 6 feet to the Northwest corner of lot Four (4) in Block Seven (7) in Wheelock's Addition, thence South 188 feet along the West line of said Lot Four (4) to the Southwest corner of said lot, thence West 6 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot One (1), and thence North along the East line of said Lot One (1) a distance of 188 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning; EXCEPTING from the above property the South 77.9 feet thereof. Also conveying all easements of record. Reference is hereby made to plat of survey recorded in Book 13 of Plats at page 1325.

That the historical name of the building is the W. W. Benton/W. T. Duker Co. Building.

That the style of the building is Neoclassical Commercial.

That the date of construction is circa 1901.

That the architect is Harvey Chatten.

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

(1) Three-story brick commercial building with neoclassical north façade.

(2) Six curved bays, each containing three double-hung windows.

(3) Windows separated by small Ionic columns.

(4) Bays separated vertically by panels with dental molding.

(5) Decorative cornice and architrave with brackets, dental molding, and recessed soffit panels.

(6) Ionic capitals with volutes top the ionic columns: some are

original terra-cotta. Most are replicas.

(7) Ionic capitals above brick pilasters.

(8) Vitrolite structural glass panels and aluminum trim on first story façade.

(9) Terrazzo floor in street-level corridor to commercial unit.

That 614-618 Maine Street is historically significant for its architecture, for the persons associated with it, and as a prominent landmark. The W. W. Benton/W. T. Duker Co. Building at 614-618 Maine Street was built in 1901 by W. W. Benton and leased to W. T. Duker for the "W. T. Duker Company Dry Goods and Cloaks" department store.

W. W. Benton was a long-time resident of Mendon, Illinois, and owned a number of properties in Quincy. He died May 4, 1907. A February 21, 1901, article in the *Quincy Whig* stated, "A deal was closed yesterday for the erection of a handsome new building for W. T. Duker, the dry good merchant, on the site of the old Distin artificial ice plant on the south side of Maine Street between Sixth and Seventh. The building will be three stories in height, of ornate exterior, and will cost somewhere between \$35,000 and \$40,000."

The article continues, "The new building will be ready for occupancy by Sept. 15. . . . The building will be erected by W. W. Benton, and Mr. Duker will lease it for a long term of years. The site, which runs from 612 to 616 Maine Street [the address was later changed to 614-618 Maine Street], has a frontage of 55 feet, and the building will occupy every inch of it. The structure will be 120 feet deep, and will contain over 20,000 feet of floor space. . . . The big storage house on the rear of the site will not be razed, but part of it will be utilized for the boiler rooms and other adjuncts of the new structure." The rear section of the building that was formerly the storage house and connected to the new building in 1901 is owned in 2008 by Dr. Shawn Irvine and is not part of this designation. When the building served as a department store, doors connected the main building to the storage house on the first and second floors and basement. The basement door has now been bolted shut, and the connecting doors on the second and third floors are closed off.

"The frontage of the second and third floors will have bay window effects to relieve the flatness so troublesome to architects. . . . Harvey

Chatten is the architect. He already has the ground plans and dimensions completed, so that the work of razing the old buildings and putting in the foundation of the new can be commenced at once." The article explains that Chatten and Duker met in Bloomington, Illinois, on March 1, 1901, to look at new commercial buildings and "inspect them for new ideas."

The store opened for business on October 31, 1901. Carl Landrum wrote in a December 4, 2002 *Quincy Herald-Whig* column, "almost all of the clerks were men and the hours were long, with the store remaining open from 7 in the morning until 9 at night." The department store occupied three floors and a basement and had 61 employees.

William T. Duker Sr. was born in Quincy, December 14, 1860, a son of Theodore and Elizabeth Duker. As a young man, he was a clerk in a department store in Kansas City. He returned to Quincy in 1883 and formed a partnership with H. B. Menke. They opened a retail and dry goods store in "a little store building at 711 Maine, only 20 feet wide." That building is still standing in 2008 and is located on the north side of Maine Street.

"Then, having outgrown this building," Landrum continues, "they secured the services of architect Frank Tubbesing, and work was started on a new three-story building at 704-706 Maine. This store opened on Sept. 24, 1888." Today in 2008, this building is owned by the City of Quincy. A bank occupies the first floor, and the second and third floors house township and city offices, including the Quincy Preservation Commission.

"In 1893 the partnership with Menke was dissolved and Duker became the sole proprietor of the business." In 1901 Harvey Chatten was hired to design a new department store and the 612-616 Maine Street building was constructed. The W. T. Duker Dry Goods and Cloaks Department Store remained at this location for 17 years. (This is the building being proposed for Local Landmark designation).

The business grew steadily and when Duker wanted even more space, he leased and then purchased the Doerr Building [formerly the Quincy Opera House] located on the northwest corner of 6th and Maine Street from Mrs. Euphemia Doerr." He "hired George [H.] Behrensmeyer to draw up plans for a major renovation of the building.

[The new store] had about 60,000 square feet of space and the W. T. Duker Department Store had its grand opening on Sept. 10, 1918."

The Duker Department Store continued to operate until 1929 when it was sold to the Hudson-Whig Co. "In 1935 the J. C. Penney Co. purchased the Hudson interest . . . and remained in this location until it moved to the Quincy Mall in 1982." Sadly, the building was destroyed by fire on November 4, 1993 while it was being demolished.

After the W. T. Duker Company vacated 614-618 Maine Street, "the Steele Department Store occupied the building in the 1920s. Later many different stores occupied the main floor—Three Sisters, Carl's Shoes, Astor Hat Shop, DiOre's, to name a few. In 1945 Walter Harvey rented the second and third floors of the building for Harvey's Upstairs Store 'Where You Take Steps to Save,' and remained there until 1955." Patrick and Robin Taylor purchased the building in June 2003 and converted the second story into a loft apartment for themselves and their two children. The third story is used for storage space.

Today in 2008 the ground floor businesses include (on the west side) Gallery Outré—owned and operated by the Taylors, and (in the center space) Premier Diva—a jewelry store. The east side is under renovation.

A terrazzo floor in the entrance to the central commercial unit contains the name "Astor Exclusive Millinery." A painted sign advertising W. T. Duker Co. Dry Goods and Cloaks can still be seen on the west wall of the building.

The architect of 614-618 Maine Street was Harvey Chatten. Chatten was born in Quincy on February 17, 1853, a son of B. L. and Elizabeth Chatten. His father, who served as a city engineer for Quincy, played a part in laying out the Town of Quincy. Chatten studied architecture in Boston, then returned to Quincy to do his apprentice work with architect Robert Bunce, the first significant architect to practice in Quincy. When Bunce retired and moved to Chicago in 1882-83, Chatten took over Bunce's office. Chatten went on to design many residences in what is now the East End Historic District, including the Martin/Rogers House at 133 East Avenue, the Paul and Rhoda Gardner House at 2325 Maine, the Theodore and Ella Poling House at 2016 Jersey, and his own house, "Ivy Wall," at 1838 Jersey. Surviving pub-

lic buildings include the Luther Memorial Church and the Unitarian Church of Quincy. Chatten lived in the Hotel Newcomb after the death of his wife, Anna. He retired circa 1925, and died on May 6, 1930.

The architectural style of 614-618 Maine Street is Neoclassical Commercial, an eclectic style common on America's "main" streets and commercial districts around the turn of the nineteenth century. The style is derived from Beaux Arts and classical traditions popularized by the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. Facades are symmetrical and incorporate Classical elements, such as slender Ionic or Doric columns or pilasters.

In the Benton/Duker Building, columns with Ionic capitals are present as window separators. A set of four brick pilasters extend the length of the upper two stories and separate three window bays. The pilasters also have Ionic capitals. The outer bays project only slightly from the plane of the facade. The projection of the central bay is more pronounced.

The original first floor facade was modernized in the Art Deco style using Vitrolite structural glass panels and aluminum trim.

The W. W. Benton/W. T. Duker Co. Building at 614-618 Maine Street was surveyed for a historic property inventory by the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design in 1975. It is a contributing structure in the Downtown Quincy National Register Historic District.

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JENNY HAYDEN
City Clerk

APPROVED: April 28, 2009

JOHN A. SPRING
Mayor

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