

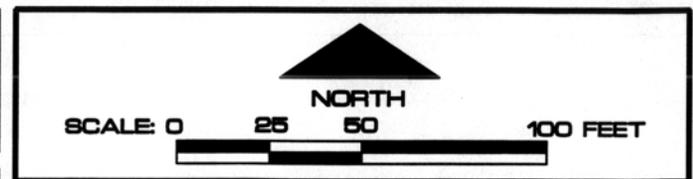
LEGEND

— SUBJECT PROPERTY
837 23RD STREET

**LANDMARK
NOMINATION**



CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION



DRAWN BY: L.R.O.
APPROVED BY: JVANC

94-13

ROCK ISLAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION
NOMINATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Common Street Address of Property:

837 - 23rd Street, Rock Island

Name and Address of Property Owner(s):

Jeffrey Wills, 837 - 23rd Street, Rock Island, Illinois 6120

Is Owner Aware of Proposed Designation: XX Yes No

Please attach a short report setting forth the reasons for requesting designation. Please refer to the criteria listed on the reverse side. (These are excerpted from the Rock Island Preservation Ordinance.) A list of other details you should attempt to provide in the nomination report is attached.

Please also attach the following:

1. Legal description of property (available from abstract or County Recorder of Deeds office).
Most recently filed deed must be attached.
2. One photograph of each elevation (side) of the property being nominated. Copies of old photographs or drawings may also be included.
3. Sources used to write the report.

Name(s) and Address(es) of Applicant(s):

Rock Island Preservation Society P. O. Box 3261
Rock Island, IL 61204-326

Name

Address

Suzanne Curry



309/786-1902

Signature

Phone Number

Return Nomination Form To:

City of Rock Island
Planning and Redevelopment Division
1528 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

OFFICE USE ONLY Case # 94-13 Date 7-28-94 Time 11:30 a.m.

NOMINATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

ROBERT MCFARLANE HOUSE

837 Twenty-third Street
Rock Island, Illinois

Legal Description: Outlot 24, Section 35, Lot 41 of George
Mixer's Subdivision in the City of Rock Island, County of
Rock Island, Illinois.

NOMINATION CRITERION

The applicant believes the Robert McFarlane House meets the
following criterion as set forth in Section 6-B. of the Rock
Island Preservation Ordinance:

- 3 Repr entative of the distinguishing characteristics
of a architectural and/or landscape type inherently
valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsman-
ship method of construction or use of indigenous
materials and which retains a high degree of integrity.

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

The Rock Island City Council on 7 June 1880 unanimously resolved
to adopt and approve the plat of George Mixer's Subdivision of
Outlot 24, bounded by Twenty-second and Twenty-fourth Streets
and on the south by Indian Boundary Line (Ninth Avenue) and
divided into 44 lots, alleys and streets, was approved by the
city council on 16 November 1891.

Charles C. Anderson of Davenport purchased Lot 41 on 1 November
1893 for the consideration of \$1,000.00. He in turn mortgaged
it to Mixer for \$435.00 which was satisfied 29 October 1894.

In consideration of \$1,200.00, a warranty deed was granted to
Rachel McFarlane, mother-in-law of Charles C. Anderson, by C. C.
Anderson and Margaret J. Anderson, his wife, formerly of Daven-
port on 11 October 1897.

Robert McFarlane, master-mason U. S. Arsenal, Rachel and Miss
Margaret J. had the address of 2516 Fifth and-a-half Avenue in
the 1891/92 Rock Island city directory.

In the 1892/93 edition, Robert, Rachel, Margaret J. and sons
Duncan and William R. are listed as living at the same address.
Sanborn Insurance Maps of Rock Island show the numbers on Twenty-
third Street going only to 755 in 1892. The city directory of

1895 lists the last number on Twenty-third Street as 816 and the McFarlanes were still at 2516. The 1898 map does have the residence numbered 841, 837 today, with the same foot print it currently possesses. And the city directory of 1897/1898 lists the family except for Miss Margaret J. at 837 Twenty-third Street

Five years after arriving here from Strachlan, Scotland, Robert McFarlane married Rachel Jones of Kendal, Wales on St. Patrick's Day of 1870. The couple resided at 837 until his death, at home, on Sunday, 6 April 1902. For 25 years, one source says 30, he held the position of master mason at Rock Island Arsenal. Even though no individual building can be attributed to him directly, the arsenal's stone structures commenced with the clock tower in 1862 and continued for some 30 years. Thus, it can be concluded that some of the edifices constructed were under his direct responsibility.

While doing research for the 1982 Rock Island Historic Preservation Association walking tour of Twenty-third Street, Diane Oestreich was given access to some McFarlane family records. These quotes are taken from her notes - "stone mason at Arsenal in '66", "pics of his bldgs - Arsenal, B'way, Lincoln", "Papa's last work RI Reservoir System" "scrapbook clipping \$4,500. res".

Work on the \$18,000.00 Sunday School addition of the Broadway Presbyterian Church began in 1894 under H. Curtis Hoffman of Chicago, the architect of the World's Fair model Sunday School. Although there is no written evidence of McFarlane working on the addition in the Broadway church archives, the time frame would be correct. The contract was let in September and ground broken the same year, 1894, that McFarlane and William McConochie became partners. Dedication of the addition was held 8 December 1895.

The partnership McFarlane, McConochie & Co., Contractors, Excavating and Masonry was dissolved about 1900 when the company became Wm. McConochie & Sons. Mr. McConochie was mayor of Rock Island for four terms.

Mr. McFarlane's obituary stated he was "one of Rock Island's best known citizens" and "his last work was masonry inspection of the city's water reservoirs". He was survived by his wife, a daughter Mrs. Charles C. Anderson, and two sons, Duncan and William.

The city directories of 1901/02, 1905/06 and 1907/08 list Dunca Robert McFarlane and his wife, Irene T., and Rachel McFarlane residing at 837 Twenty-third Street.

Beginning in 1909, the residence was occupied by Benjamin E. Jones, M. D., a medical examiner for Modern Woodmen of America and his wife, Kizzie. They had formerly resided at 815 Twenty-third Street. Dr. Jones remained at 837 until 1927 when the property was listed as vacant.

In 1928, Charles C. Anderson, the man who originally purchased this vacant lot in 1893, moved into the house with his wife, Margaret. During the intervening years the Andersons lived in Davenport, Des Moines, Omaha, Peoria, St. Louis where their daughter Elizabeth M. (Betty) was born 31 July 1902, and Chicago

In Rock Island, they resided at the previous McFarlane house at 2516 Fifth and-a-half Avenue (non-extant) during 1921, and 1025 Twenty-first Street from 1922 to 1928 when they began to occupy the 837 residence. Mr. Anderson began with Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad as an assistant ticket agent in 1890 and advanced to vice president of the railroad with a private car. The Andersons, including their daughter, Elizabeth, are listed at 837 through the 1949 city directory. In 1951, only Elizabeth is listed and continued to be until her death 3 February 1982.

CRITERION (3)

The Colonial Revival architectural style according to one source is dated 1870 - 1950. Another period given is 1880 - 1955. Our nominee is dated 1896. The style was very popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Many visitors viewing the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 had their taste influenced by the buildings of McKim, Mead and White, landscaping by Frederick Olmstead and the well depicted style of American Colonial architecture.

The planners of the fair had agreed upon uniform standards for architectural features and color - white. Living with homes and public buildings in dark shades of reds, browns and greens for decades, the city of white must have been a surprising scene. Even the traditionally painted grey, blue and greyed green buildings were done in white for the fair.

After the visitors returned home, when they remodeled or built, plans were based on what they had seen in Chicago. This accounted for the rising popularity of the Colonial Revival style and other styles as well, such as Classical Revival.

Only two styles are portrayed on a chart giving the years when most frequently built Colonial Revival sub-types in McAlester's A Field Guide to American Houses for the beginning of Colonial Revival in the 1880's: one is asymmetrical and the other is side gabled or hipped without a full width porch and with exaggerated details. Both continue through 1910 with the hipped roof predominate pre-1910 and the gabled post-1910. A third sub-type, hipped roof with full width porch begins in 1890 and continuing through 1915. The fourth sub-type, front or cross Gambrel or Dutch Colonial also enters in 1890, running to 1920. The subject property, 837 Twenty-third Street was built in 1896 and fits none

of the above sub-types Nor does it fit any of the five other types illustrated.

Of the seven Colonial Revival structures on the Rock Island significant list, only 837 and one at 917 Nineteenth Street have side gabled roofs. The residence at 837 is individual because of its side gabled roof and the distinction of having a full width front porch. Interestingly, the illustrations in McAlester book of side gabled houses do not show a single one with a full width porch.

The main identifying features of the Colonial Revival style are: a front door emphasized with a pediment and pilasters or brought forward with columns to make a porch; the addition of an overhead fanlight or sidelights; fenestration exhibits symmetry; and often the double hung windows are in pairs with multi-panes in either one or both sashes.

The subject property's front door is accented not with a crown but with beveled and leaded oval shaped panes in three lights - one over the door and one over each sidelight. The glass of the side lights is also leaded and beveled with diamond, elongated diamond and rectangular panes.

On each side of the front entrance is a large single glass with an ornate beveled and leaded transom consisting of a stylized fanlight surrounded by glue chip glass "fretwork" bordered with rectangular pieces.

The facade of the rectangular, two storey, basement and attic structure is symmetrical and highlighted by a gabled dormer with cornice returns, as is the main roof, and a multi-paned Palladian window.

Originally, the house was painted a Peanut Shell color, followed by a Sage Green and then white. The present color is a Wedgewood Blue with white trim. The color names were taken from a recent Pratt & Lambert pamphlet of exterior colors which best described the ones found on a paint chip taken from the house.

The lower porch has replaced lattice skirting and stone steps with red sandstone sides. The red sandstone blocks are repeated at the corner supports of the porch alternated with sandstone in the more common color and both are rock-faced. The balustrade between the Tuscan columns and engaged columns had to be replaced. However, the single urn shape balusters and railings were patterned exactly after the original ones.

Rather than matching the balusters of the lower porch, the original builder designed the balcony balusters a little shorter and used a double urn with center bead shape.

On the north side, east corner, there is the back porch which has the same structural details as the one in front - a Tuscan column

and balustrade. No engaged column but corner boards as used on the other corners of the house.

On the east face of the structure, there is a bulkhead door from the basement. The kitchen window to the south of the rear porch is a replacement and not located where it was originally. This was probably done when the kitchen was remodeled.

At the rear of the south side of the property, there is a double garage with a newer front extension to accommodate longer cars when they were in vogue. The south face of the house exhibits the same symmetry as the other three sides.

Entering the front door which is beveled glass for the top two panels of the five paneled door, into the foyer, one sees the center Colonial Revival staircase with Tuscan columns, arch and fretwork all done in pine as is all the interior woodwork. To the left is the modernized kitchen and to the right a hall closet. The dining room is to the right of the closet. Just inside the front door, one can go left through a doorway with its original portiere rod into the parlor with its Victorian fireplace and firebox cover.

On the opposite side of the foyer is the sitting room. Beyond the sitting room is the dining room with a built-in china closet with glassed doors and drawers. Continuing counter clockwise, there is the pass through with original cupboard and drawers on one wall. Across from that, a half bath has been installed. This was possibly done in the mid/late 1980's along with the kitchen. There are remnants of original details such as some chair rail remaining and doors. The kitchen pantry has been gutted with most, if not all, of the bins, shelves and cupboard doors stored in the basement. There are back stairs and stairs down to the basement from the kitchen.

Going up the front stairs, on the west side of the house there are two large chambers across the front. One has an alcove located at the center of the facade. On its interior wall there is a large glue chip glass window to provide light for the stairwell. The doors to these two chambers have glass transoms. From the front hallway, one goes towards the rear of the house with its hall running across the width. There is, along this hallway, a full bath, the back stairs, attic stairs, servant's room and another chamber as well as a linen room.

Except for the front door with its beveled glass for two panels, all the doors are five panel with ornate Victorian hardware. The firebox and cover, furnace registers and return air covers are much the same as is the hardware for the cupboard doors and drawers. The interior is typically Victorian except for the center staircase.

The facade and other three sides of this structure show symmetrical fenestration appropriate to its architectural style. Only one of the single paned windows is not double hung and this is in the back stairwell. Appropriate to the house is the bevel siding. There is no string course but the siding is completed with a water table.

This structure has all the architectural features of the Colonial Revival style and more. It is unique among the significant Colonial Revival structures in Rock Island and a grand example of the style. All of this for \$4,500.00 in 1896.

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Broadway Seventy-fifth Anniversary & Rededication, Broadway Presbyterian Church 1875 - 1950, The Historical Committe

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Church Reopened, 9 December 1895
His Death Sudden, 7 April 1902
Death Occurs Suddenly for Pioneer of City, 25 February 929
Funeral of Mrs. McFarlane, 26 February 1929
Trainman Dies, 25 July 1949
Succumbs, 21 June 1952
Miss Anderson, 4 February 1982

Telephone Conversations

Mrs. Edward L. Hill, mentioned in E. Anderson's Will
Jack Leiby, Trust Officer, First National Bank of Moline
Gene Merdian, friend of Elizabeth M. Anderson
Diane Oestreich, Rock Island Preservation Society
Thomas J. Slattery, Historian, Rock Island Arsenal
Mrs. Donald Stahl, mentioned in E. Anderson's Will

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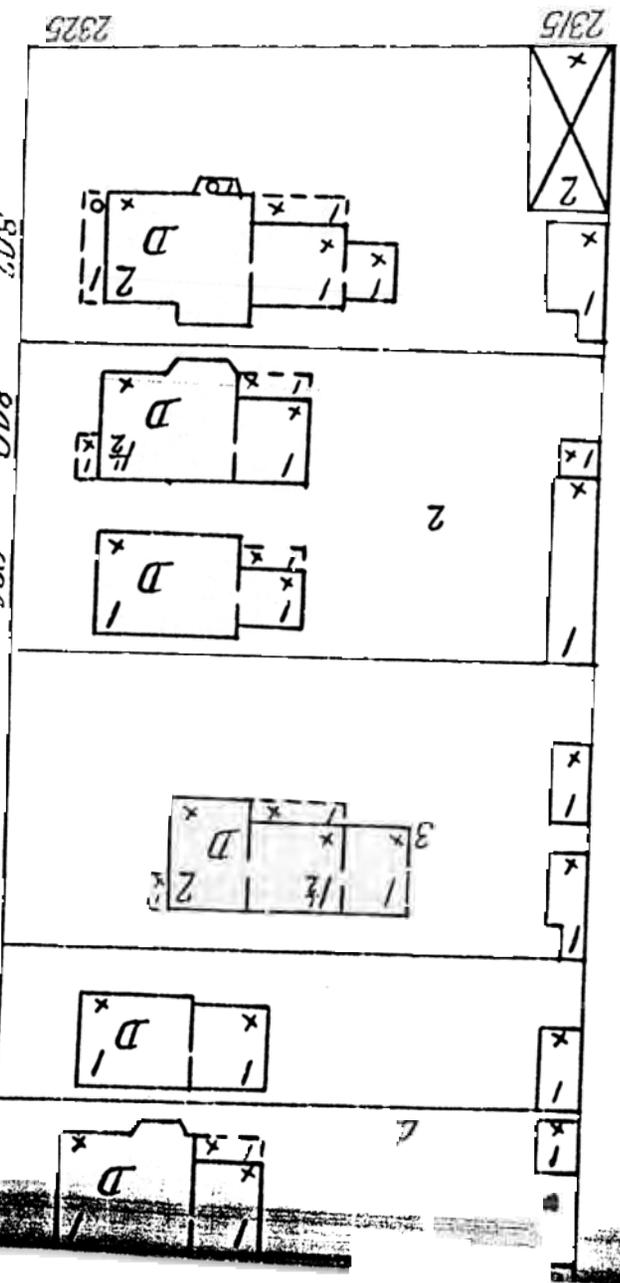
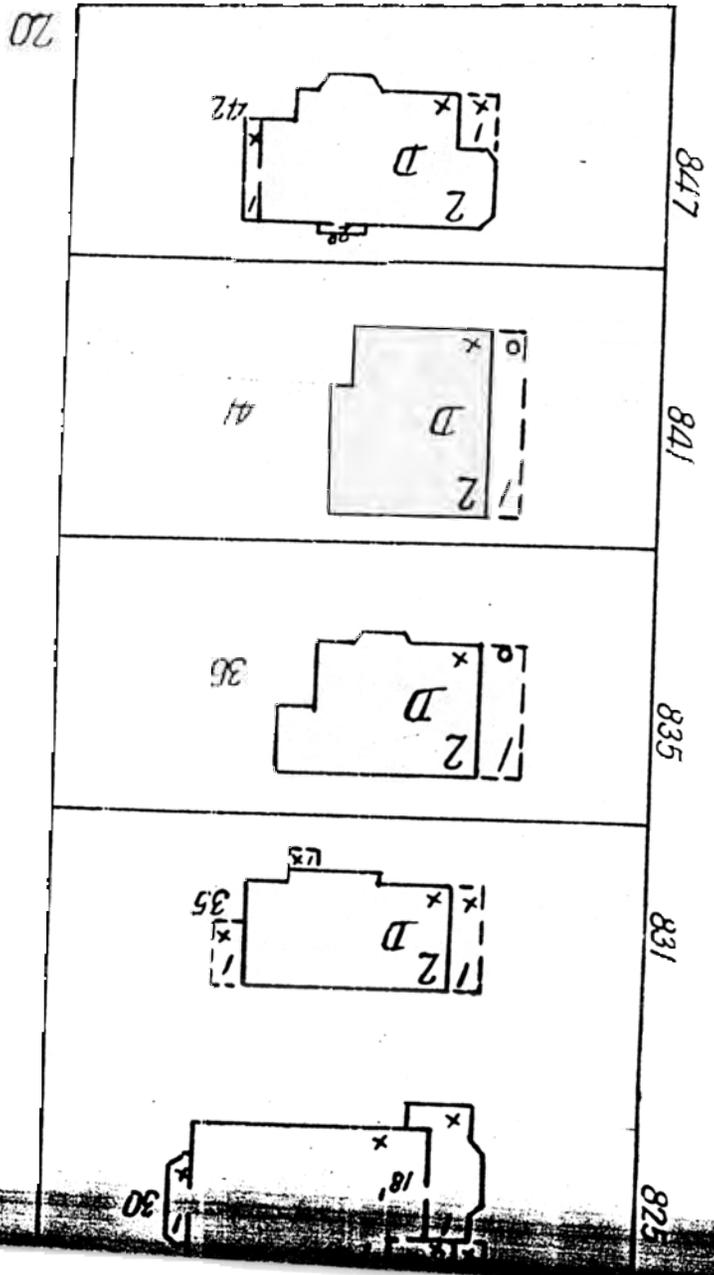
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