

NOMINATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

LEONARD M. DRACK HOUSE

836 Twenty-second Street
Rock Island, Illinois

Legal Description: Out Lot 27, Section 35, Lot 15 of Wilkinson's Addition in the City of Rock Island, County of Rock Island, Illinois.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history.

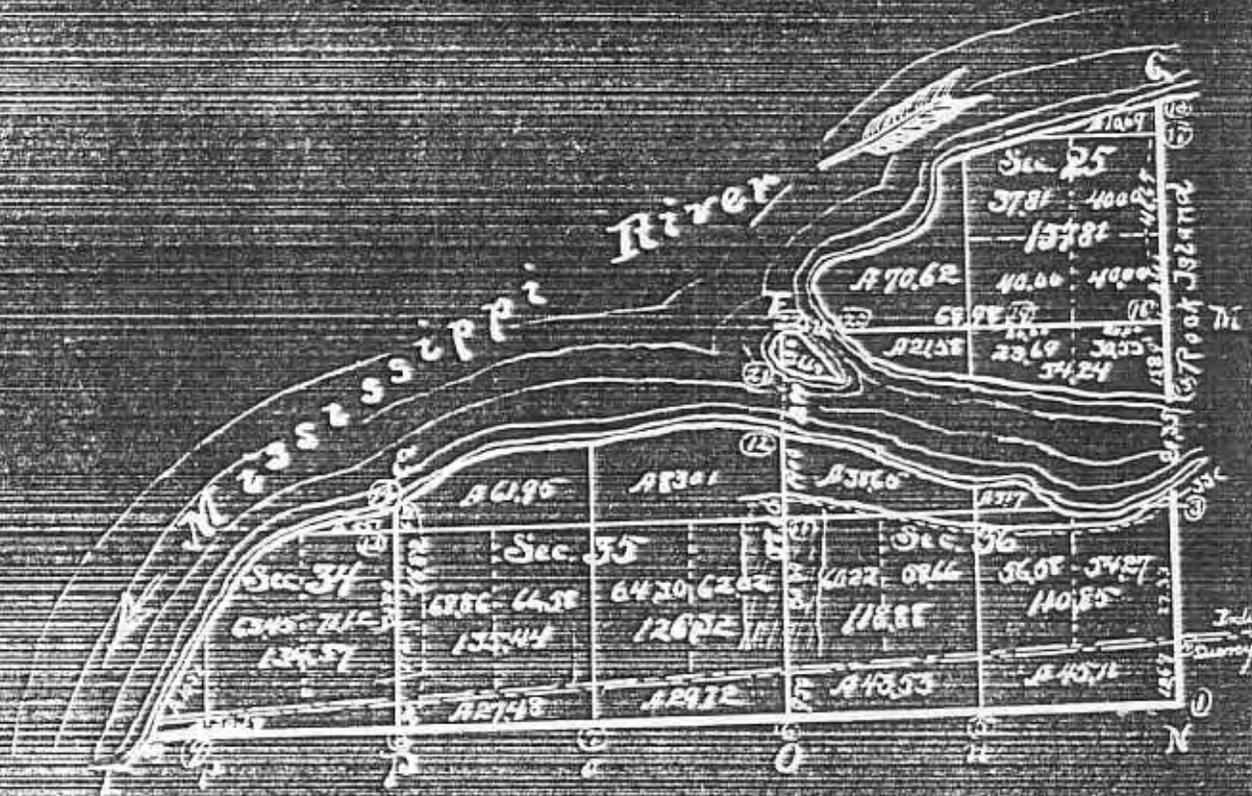
Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural and/or landscape type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials and which retains a high degree of integrity.

- (4) Notable work of a master builder, designer, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an era.

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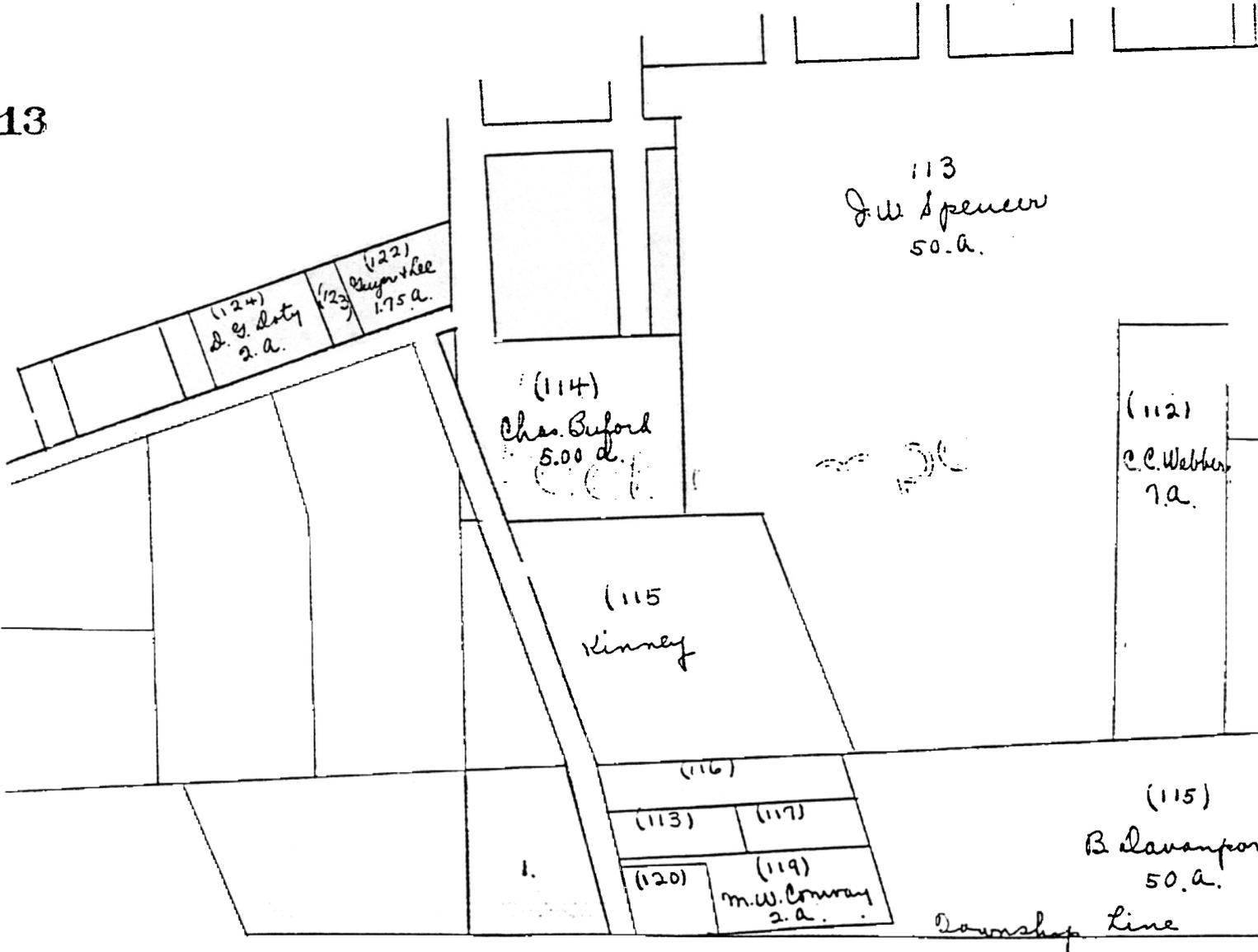


PLAT BOOK 2 PAGE 36.

ASSESSOR'S PLAT for 1856

Filed January 19, 1856

13



WARRANTY DEED

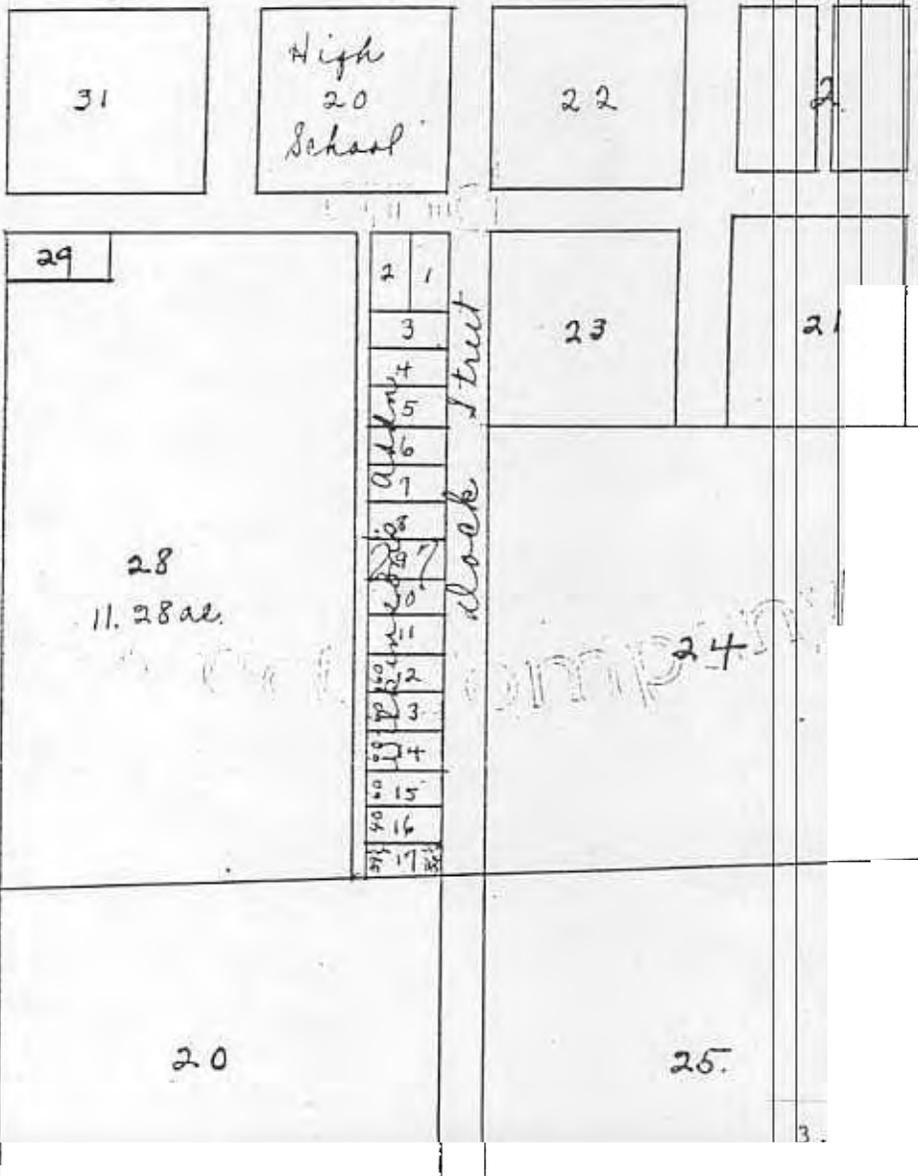
Port Island Title

RECORDED ASSESSOR'S PLAT OF 1864, RECORDED IN BOOK 2
PAGE 39 THEREOF.

29

Madison Street

Dock Street



	704 P	704 P
No 2	2	1
Filed & recorded		
5th August 1864	3	60
Class H. Brown		
Number	4	60
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Book 36		
Page 2	6	60
	7	60
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Dark Street

J.W. Spencer

Indian Boundary Line

State of Illinois }
 Rock Island County }
 I hereby certify that the above is a correct Plat of a survey which I executed for Ira O. Wilkinson as an addition to the City of Rock Island, situated in the County of Rock Island and State of Illinois and being the subdivision of Oak Lot to the City of Rock Island numbered 27 in Section 35 Township 18 N R. 2 W of the 22d PM. There was a Post set at the corner of each and every Lot. The size of the Lots are marked on the lines thereof. Given under my hand this July 28th 1864
 C.H. Stoddard Surveyor

State of Illinois }
 Rock Island County }
 I Alex F Swander a Justice of the Peace of said County do certify that the annexed Plat of a Survey by C.H. Stoddard of Oak Lot No 27 in the City of Rock Island was this day July acknowledged before by Ira O. Wilkinson, the Proprietor thereof as and for an addition to the City of Rock Island in the County of Rock Island and State of Illinois. Given under my hand and seal at my office in the City of Rock Island this 5th day of August 1864
 Alex F Swander J.P.

Lots 1 through 17 in Wilkinson's Addition (Out Lot 27) were granted to Cyrus J. Dart by Ira Wilkinson for \$2,500.00 on 1 March 1865.

Cyrus J. Dart died 11 December 1893 and surviving him were his widow, Frances C. Dart and four children; Grace Dart (30 years), Cyrus V. Dart (20 years), Florence H. Dart (17 years) and Worthy L. Dart (19 years).

The estate was closed 7 May 1902. Grace Emeline Dart had married Henry Carstensen on 4 November 1894. Her sister, Florence H. Dart, was married to Warren H. Reck 22 February 1898 who began as a salesman at McCabe Bros. and within less than 10 years became treasurer of L. S. McCabe & Co.

The widow granted a Quit Claim Deed to her four children in January 1900 for consideration of \$1.00 and U. S. Revenue Stamps \$4.00. All interest in Out Lot 27 described as: "Commencing at a point in the Indian Boundary Line of Flack and Bean where the same is intersected by the West Line of 22nd Street in said City of Rock Island and County of Rock Island and State of Illinois, thence North along the West line of said Street 30 feet to the North line of 9th Avenue in said City for the place of beginning; thence North along the said West line of said 22nd Street 470 feet to an Iron Stake, thence West 140.7 feet to an iron stake; thence West 10 feet; thence South 473.2 to the said North line of said 9th Avenue; thence in an Easterly direction along said North line of said 9th Avenue 10 feet to an Iron Stake; thence Easterly along said North line 140.5 feet to the place of beginning."

Grace E. Carstensen, a widow; Florence H. Reck and Warren H. Reck, her husband; Cryus V. Dart and Beulah W. Dart, his wife; and Worthy L. Dart, unmarried; the Cyrus V. Dart heirs, granted a Warranty Deed to Cynthia O. Woodruff for consideration of \$1,500.00 on 14 July 1904. The description of the conveyed property was: "That part of Out Lot Twenty-seven (27) in the South East Quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of Section number Thirty-five (35), in Township number Eighteen (18) North, Range number Two (2) West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, as shown upon the Assessor's Plat of said Section of the year A. D. 1864, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point on the Indian Boundary Line of Flack and Bean, where the same is intersected by the West line of Twenty-second Street, in the City and County of Rock Island, in the State of Illinois, said point being in the center of Ninth Avenue in said City; thence North One hundred ninety feet (190 ft.) for a place of beginning, thence North Sixty feet (60 ft.) to the South East corner of a certain tract heretofore conveyed by the grantors herein to Ida Mosenfelder, thence West along the South line of said Mosenfelder's tract, One Hundred forty and seven tenths feet (140.7 ft.), thence South Sixty feet (60 ft.), thence East One hundred forty and seven tenths feet (140.7 ft.) to the place of beginning."

And as a further consideration for this conveyance covenants with the grantors that no building shall at any time be erected on said premises, the front or East wall of which is nearer to the West line Twenty-second Street in said City than twenty-five (25 ft.) excepting bay windows, verandas or porches; that no building shall be erected on said premises, excepting a private dwelling house and out buildings therefor, and no building erected thereon shall at any time be used

except for residence purposes, and no more than one such dwelling house shall ever be erected or moved upon any part of the premises herein described. And the covenants in this clause contained shall be construed as covenants running with the land.

Also the party of the first part hereby grants to the party of the second part and to those who may hereafter become the owners of the land abutting on the same, the joint use for the purpose of an alley in connection with the said above described premises, the West ten feet of the South five hundred and three and 2/10 feet of said Out Lot number twenty-seven aforesaid, in order to widen the alley extending North and South on the West of said tract to the width of twenty feet, situated in Rock Island County.

Cyrus V. Dart, Beulah W. Dart, his wife; Worthy L. Dart, unmarried; Grace E. Carstensen, a widow; Florence H. Reck and Warren H. Reck, her husband; granted to Ida Liphardt Drack on 23 April 1904, in consideration of \$1,500.00 that part of Out Lot 27 described as: Commencing at a point in the Indian Boundary Line of Flack and Bean where the same is intersected by the west line of 22nd Street in the City and County of Rock Island, in the state of Illinois, said point being in the center of 9th Avenue in said city; thence north 130 feet for a place of beginning; thence North 60 feet; thence west 140.7 feet; thence South 60 feet; thence east 140.7 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as Lot 15.

The property was mortgaged to Central Trust & Savings Bank on 4 January 1905 for \$1,500.00 by Ida L. Drack and Leonard M. Drack, her husband. The mortgage was released 20 December 1905. A new mortgage for \$4,000.00 was taken out from Central Trust the same date. The purpose of which was to satisfy a Mechanic's Lien by John Volk & Co. dated 30 October 1905 in the amount of \$2,033.64. The lien was released on the mortgage date of 20 December 1905.

Consequently, it can be stated the Drack House located at 836 - 22nd Street was built in 1905 by John Volk & Co. The date is also confirmed by the Rock Island City Directory of 1905/1906 with the listing of 836 as the residence of Leonard M. Drack and his wife, Ida.

On 1 May 1907, Morris Geismar was granted a Warranty Deed to the property for \$9,000.00. Mr. Geismar was secretary and treasurer of Moline Wagon Company when he and his wife purchased the property. By 1919 his occupations included president and treasurer of Gearless Automatic Pump Company and vice president of Collieries Sales Company and finally Morris Geismar & Company, Stocks and Bonds.

Since the sale to Morris and Carrie G. Geismar, owners of the property have been: John C. and Minnie M. Searle. Mr. Searle was a lawyer and later on a realtor. He went by J. Clinton Searle when he practiced law and as a realtor by John C. They were followed by Rosario Santa Lucia and his wife, Josephine; Omri D. and Ella C. Mayhew; William H. and Frances I. Dickman; Peter A. Ortiz and Ann Christine Ortiz; then on 31 October 1978 Robert C. and Nona L. Williams received their Warranty Deed. Mrs. Williams, a widow, is currently residing at the Drack House.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Architect Leonard M. Drack's own home which he designed contains forms from the Colonial Revival (1870-1950) and the Queen Anne (1880-1910) styles of architecture. It has none of the main identifying features of the Colonial Revival style. Some of which are an accentuated front door, a symmetrical facade with a center door and balanced windows, double hung sashes often with multiple panes in either one or both sashes and usually paired windows.

However, the ediface does have some of the characteristics of the asymmetrical subtype which makes up approximately ten percent of Colonial Revival houses. Examples range from simple box shapes with porches and windows placed asymmetrically to the free classic style of Queen Anne. Of the nine principal subtypes, this one was used for about one third of the Colonial Revival houses prior to 1910.

Queen Anne identifying features are an irregular, steeply pitched roof, oftentimes a front gable, cutaway bay windows, patterned shingles and other methods of ornamentation to avoid a plain, smooth face.

Free classic, a decorative detailing subtype, makes up about one third of Queen Anne houses. Classical columns instead of turned posts are used for porch supports. The columns may be full height or raised on a pedestal to the porch railing which is usually not delicate and the columns are usually grouped in twos or threes. Palladian windows, cornice-line dentils and other classical details are often found. After 1890, this subtype became common and has a lot in common with asymmetrical Colonial Revival houses.

The house at 836 - 22nd Street has incorporated many of the features of the Queen Anne free classic style with the asymmetrical subtype of the Colonial Revival style.

Under the oversize eaves of the belcast hip roof, on a large frieze, balls have been regularly spaced instead of dentils. They are about the same size as a small cannon ball. This same ornament as been repeated at the base of the balustrade over the north rectangular bay and can also be found as the base of the balusters on the south porch.

The front porch columns are in groups of three on each of the three pedestals. These columns are not of any classical order. Rather they have a stylized ribbon and bow at the top of their square, tapered shape.

The porch railing, stair railing, column pedestals and skirt are constructed on rock-faced concrete brick. In order to soften the massive "brick" work, the architect has used sweeping lines on the porch railing and hand rails of the stairs. Imitation concrete block and brick fell out of favor as a cheap building material in the 1920's due largely to problems with quality control. Both the stair and porch railings are wood on top of the concrete brick. In the center of the skirting, on each side, there is a large arch, semi-circular in shape with a metal mesh curtain for air circulation and animal prevention.

The entrance door is quite plain with a rectangular, rounded corner glass insert. The glass has uncommonly wide beveling. Beyond is a pair of swinging vestibule doors which repeat the simplicity of the entrance door's wide beveling on the glass.

The stained glass fixed light over the front cottage window is not original to the house. The windows on the south and northeast bay are also not original. The transom bars have dentil moulding with the sash divided vertically into thirds. Both are located in what used to be the front parlor. The colonnade separating the front and rear parlors was removed many years ago.

Going clockwise to the south, the facade of the residence faces east, there is a five window bay. According to the current owner, the addition of the second storey sleeping porch did not eliminate the bay on the second floor - it only had been a single storey bay. The windows of the house are mainly one over one, but not divided into halves. The scale of division is approximately one third over two thirds.

The small single garage located on the southwest corner of the lot is post 1906. Like the house, it has bevel siding. Over the years there have been three additions to it extending to the east.

There are two west facing rear porches for the house. The one located at the south side has balusters which repeat the cannon balls used under the eaves with large dowels making up the balustrade. The northern porch uses a Tuscan column for supporting the roof.

The gable dormers have shingled sides as the original roof probably had. The dormer corners are not square to the sloping roof rather they are slightly belcast. The four have a set of three windows set flush to the walls.

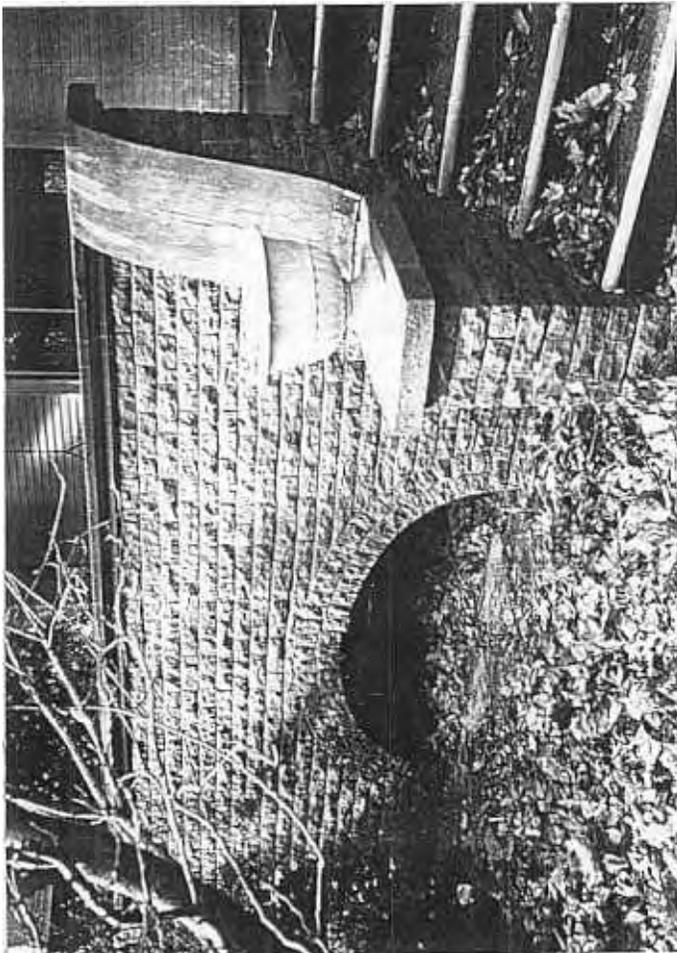
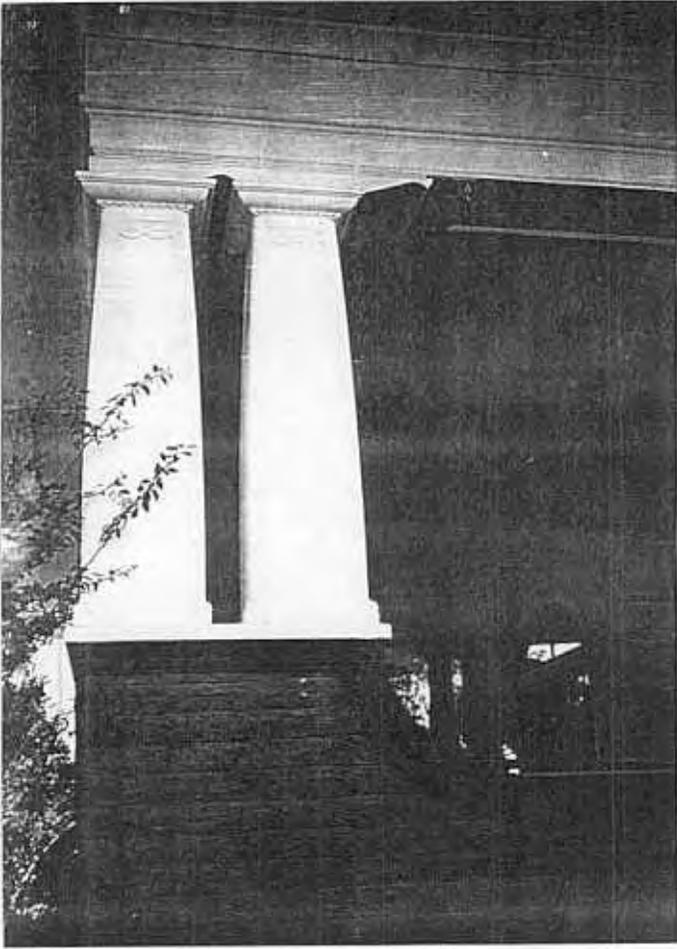
There are some interesting details on the north side. The rectangular three sided bay with its original leaded, tulip pattern glass window is one. Its balustrade again repeats the cannon balls on the balusters. Another is the stairwell window design. Not the usual single one but three half arch shaped windows going up at the stairway angle. The northeast corner of the residence consists of a quintuple cutaway bay. It is a single storey which as been cut off by the porch roof. A definite Queen Anne item even though it's not at the base of a tower.

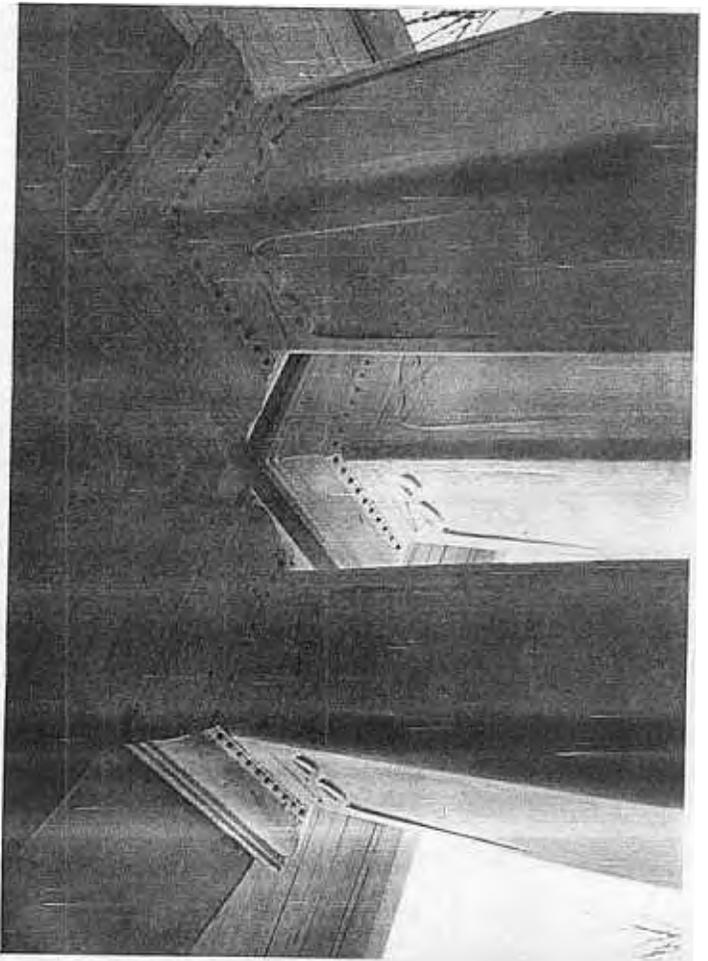
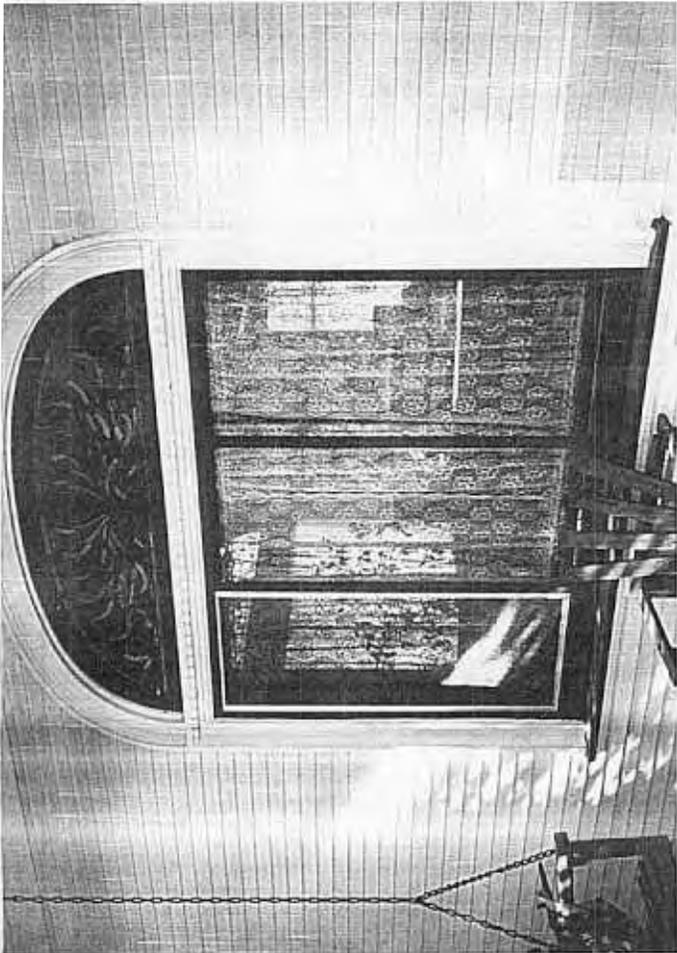
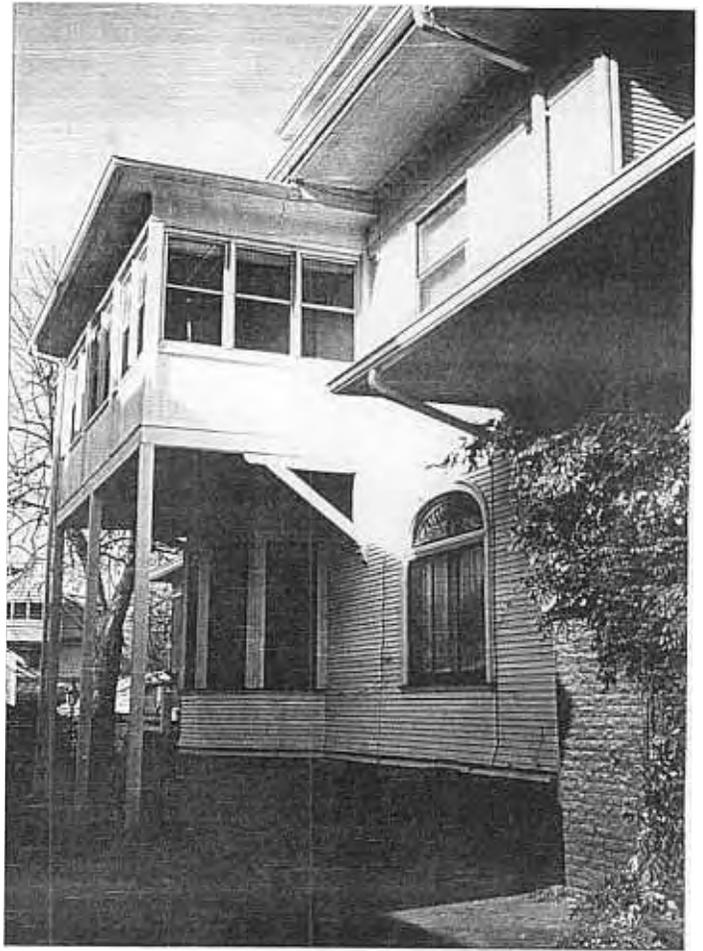
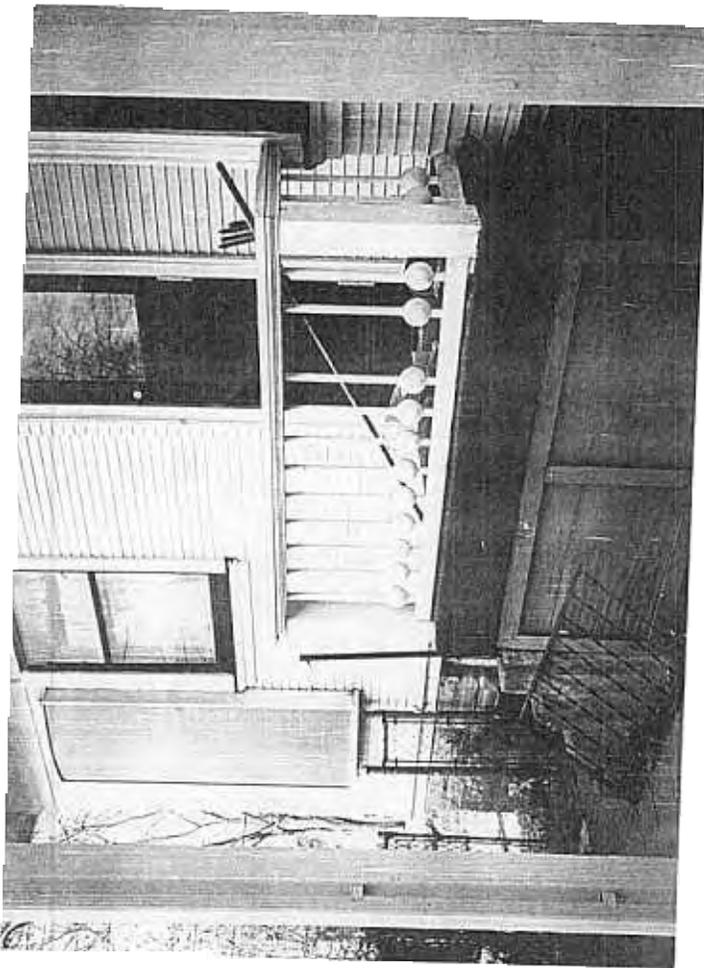
At the second storey window sill level, there is a dripstone course around the house. There is also one at the bottom edge of the bevel siding over the rock-faced foundation.

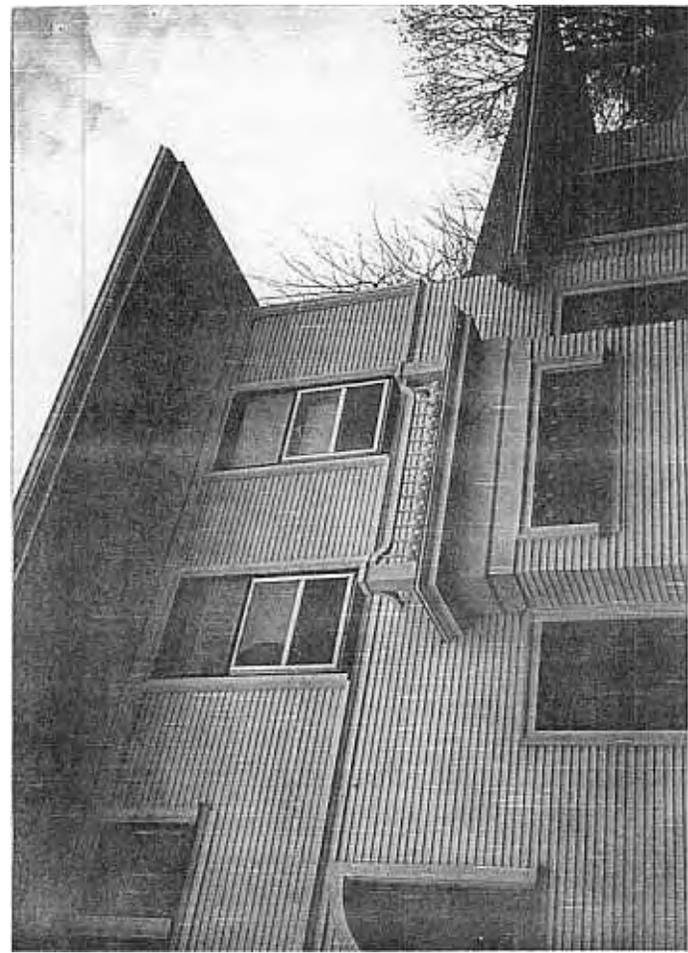
The architect-owner left a definite signature on his house and the one next door south by the massiveness of both front porches and the use of the cannon ball detailing on the exteriors.

The first floor interior plan is typically Victorian in arrangement. The stairs on one side of the front hall, two parlors, dining room, lavatory, kitchen and pantry. The cutaway bay provides a small octagonal room.

The plans of 836 by the architect, Leonard M. Drack, provide an extraordinary combination of the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles.







LEONARD M DRACK, ARCHITECT

The Rock Island City Directory for 1891/1892 lists Leonard M. Drack as an architect with G. Bick, carpenter and builder whose business was located at 1236 - 38th Street and residence at 1230 - 38th Street. The following year, 1892/1893, Drack worked as a draughtsman for Collins Bros., Contractors and Builders.

During the period of 1894/1895, George M. Kerns and Leonard Drack became partners in the architectural firm, Drack & Kerns, Architects & Superintendents.

George M. Kerns, Drack's partner, first appears in the Rock Island City Directory for 1891/1892 as a draughtsman for D. S. Schureman and residing at 1102 Third Avenue. The following year, 1892/1893 his listing is given as an architect at 814 Second Avenue. From 1899 through the 1901/1902 issue, he and his wife, Edna, are noted as residing at 832 - 23rd Street. It appears he arrived in Rock Island abruptly and left the same way - no listing after the directory of 1901/1902.

One of their built designs was the German Lutheran Church (Immanuel Lutheran) on the northwest corner of 20th Street and Fifth Avenue. Dedication services were held Sunday, 20 December 1896. Ministers of the same faith were present from the surrounding area for the three services. Two of which were in German and the evening service in English. In 1860 the congregation numbered just seven and grew to some 170 voting members and three ladies' societies by 1896.

The cost of the new church was \$25,000.00 and built of St. Louis pressed brick. The edifice has a large finished basement with seating accommodations for meetings and socials. A seating capacity of approximately 1000 is in the nave and more can be accommodated in the balconies on both sides. These are joined by a choir loft on the south wall. N. Juhl was the contractor and Henry Voegel, also of Rock Island, did the fresco work. Mr. F. C. A. Denkmann donated the brass chandeliers.

The Rock Island County Board of Supervisors chose Drack & Kerns as their second choice for the county court house design with 15 votes in March of 1895. The firm Gunn & Curtis of Kansas City received 19 votes and the contract. The designs were given code names. Drack & Kerns was "00" and the one by Gunn & Curtis was "Dome". How ironic it is no longer on the structure.

June Drack Harrison credited her grandfather, Leonard Drack, for designing the Modern Woodmen Building (Rock Island County Administration Building), built in 1898, in a letter dated 18 April 1984 to the former owners of 830 - 22nd Street.

The Dispatch of 16 April 1900, announced the plans were completed for L. S. McCabe's new business block on the north side of Third Avenue between 17th and 18th Streets. The plans for the building, prepared by Drack & Kerns, called for the most expensive, \$75,000.00, structure for purely mercantile purposes ever built in Rock Island. Collins Bros. of Rock Island received the general contract. The newspaper article described the building to be "of the Renaissance order". The first storey alley end of the building as well as the Third Avenue

front were designed largely to be plate glass. The glass was also used in the upper two storeys for maximum natural lighting. The building was connected to the Second Avenue store by means of a bridge from the second floor over the alley.

The evening edition of the 6 June 1901 Dispatch praised highly all the features of the new McCabe's Store which was open for business.

On 11 January 1901, the Rock Island Public Library Board examined the four sets of designs submitted for their new building. There were three by local firms and one from outside. D. H. Burnham, the world's fair architect, assisted the board in their decision.

"A Modern Library" headlined an article in the Argus of 15 January 1901. It was planned to be built during the coming construction season and not to exceed \$60,000.00. The structure was designed by Drack & Kerns and the "general style of architecture is classic, or, speaking more particularly, ionic." It was mentioned that the building would require about a year for completion. The architectural firm also supervised the construction. The general contractor was Collins Bros.

The Drack House, 836 - 22nd Street was built in 1905 for Leonard M. Drack, his wife, Ida, and their children, by John Volk and designed by Drack.

In 1907 Leonard Drack was the architect for the Young House located at 830 - 22nd Street, next door to his own home. Since it was John Volk who sold the land to Caroline Young, it is reasonable to assume he built this residence, also.

Mr. Drack is listed in the Rock Island City Directories through the 1907/1908 issue. In May of 1907 his home was sold and the Dracks moved to 905 - 20th Street and listed as boarders there. His office is given as 312½ - 20th Street.

His business card of 1905 lists him alone as an architect and superintendent with an office over Peoples National Bank in Rock Island. It could possibly have been in 1909 that he moved to Washington or Oregon. His granddaughter's letter of April 1984 states "At the time of his death he was Superintendent of Construction for the Union Bridge Company of Seattle working out of Portland. He died in an accident while trying to catch a train to return to an area near Hood River, Oregon where he was working on a bridge. He was killed by the train."

It was a tragic loss for architecture and construction. However, he left many architectural legacies in the City of Rock Island.

Rev. A. Prauer, of Beacon, Ill., will preach in German in the morning; in the afternoon Rev. Prof. F. Streckfus, of Springfield, will speak in German, and the evening sermon will be delivered in the English language

beautiful of which was the broken wheel sent by the Brotherhood, of which Engineer Dyer was a member. The pallbearers were: George E. Scott, W. W. Scott, F. L. Hodgdon, W. M. Arnold, John Horns and John

Itary glories, to win, but was knocked out at the polls, nevertheless. As for the city attorneyship, Mr. Haas has said repeatedly in the past year that he would not be a candidate, and if he gives serious consideration to the mention of his name for mayor that would naturally take him out of the field of those mentioned for the municipality's legal adviser. Should he not aspire to higher distinction, or should he fail to attain that recognition, his plans might, however, be changed. Mr. Kelly was a candidate two years ago, and is again now. Adair Pleasants is also spoken of for the nomination for attorney.

They All Enter In.

There are many things this year in particular that are apt to enter into the considerations preceding the republican nomination in the spring. The matter of federal appointments may cut something of a figure, and hence the struggle for the mastery in the municipal situation will involve, maybe, the fight for recognition before the powers that be at no less a court than the White House at Washington.

Stranger things have happened in this great land of ours.

A Nice Treat.

The ladies of Rock Island and Marine are respectfully invited to attend an exhibition of examples of fine lace curtains, draperies, linens and art embroidery at the Harper house parlors Monday afternoon between 2 and 5 o'clock. The above mentioned samples of Huber, Durler & Co., of St. Gall, Switzerland, embrace some of the most artistic productions of European artists, and no true lover of art can afford to miss this opportunity of inspecting the same. This invitation is extended through the courtesy of M. Paradise, representative for Chicago and the northwest of the above mentioned firm.

The Bakraw, Block & Bigley Importing company, United States agents.

Refunds the Bonds.

The board of education held a special meeting last night to straighten out its financial matters. Nov. 1 \$25,000 of the bonds outstanding matured, but not having the ready money to liquidate them, arrangements were made with the holders for an extension of five years.

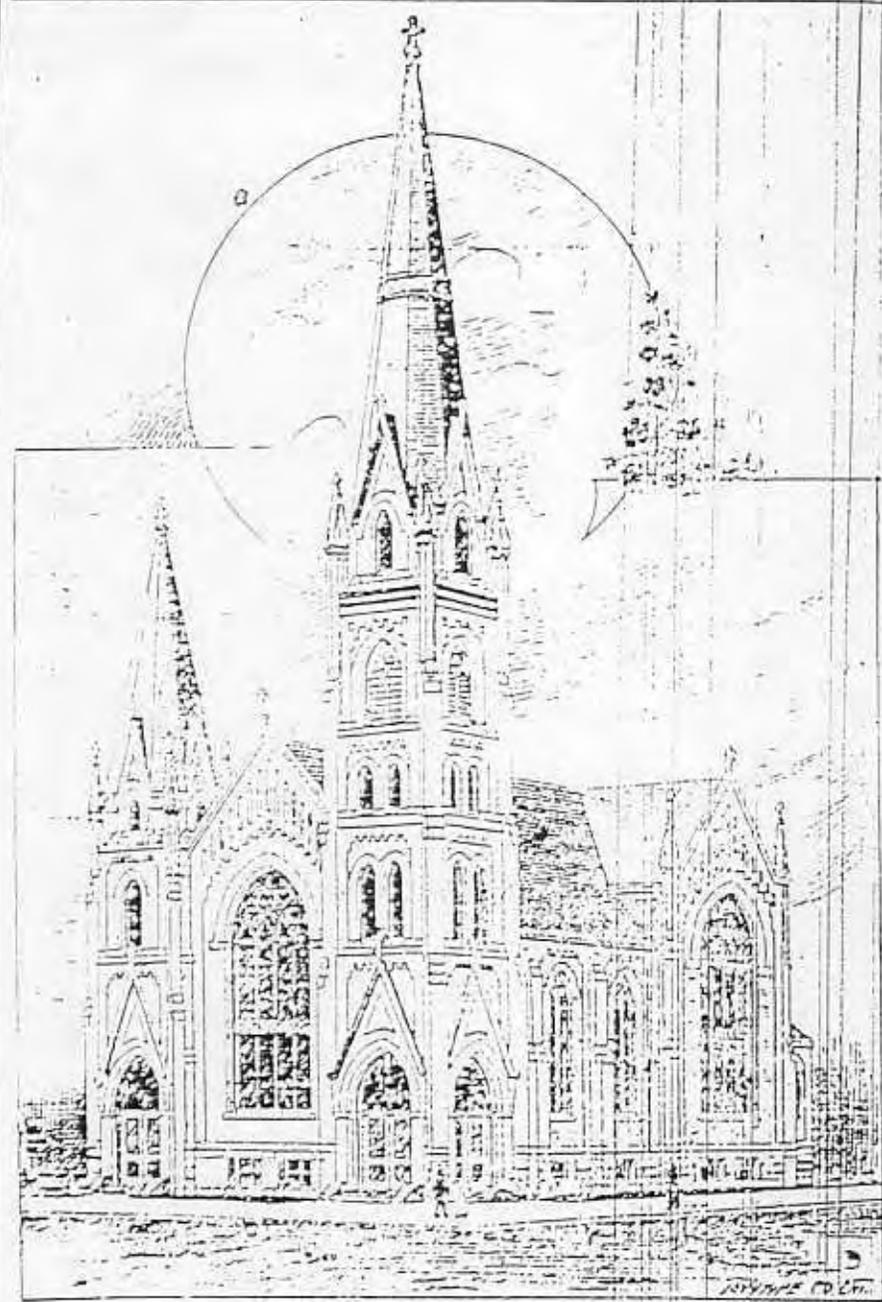
The board has an indebtedness of about \$95,000, which will be reduced \$20,000, when the money from the tax levy is available next June.

Resting on Parade.

"Ratus" White was paraded before Magistrate Schroeder this morning for a preliminary hearing to a charge of assault with intent to commit murder, but owing to the inability of his victim, "Ratus" Thomas, to appear, the trial is again continued. Thomas is at St. Anthony's hospital.

Winter Tourist Made.

Now in effect via the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railway, to southern



THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

by Rev. Prof. L. Wassell, of Springfield.

The cost of the new church will be \$25,000. It is built of St. Louis pressed brick and is a beauty from an architectural standpoint. It is designed more after the style of the churches in the metropolis, with its tall steeple and cathedral windows.

Interior Arrangement.

The edifice is provided with a large basement, which is neatly finished and furnished with seating accommodations. Here it is intended to hold society meetings, socials, and the like. At present services are being held in the basement.

The nave has a seating capacity of about one thousand. A balcony extends along both sides of the wall, adding considerably to the seating

Thompson, all fellow engineers. Interment was made at Chillicothe.

Congressman and Mrs. George W. Prince have lost their infant son, born Oct. 8, last. The child died in Washington, whether the family went Nov. 18, for the winter, and the remains were shipped to Galeburg for interment, arriving there today. Mr. and Mrs. Prince have four children left, all boys. They are Fred, 13 years; George, 10; Henry, 7; and Irving, 4. The people of Rock Island will extend their sympathies to the congressman and his wife in the bereavement that has come upon them.

Mrs. Thomas L. Johnston, of Reynolds, who died last Sunday, was 63 years of age and her death came very suddenly. She had resided just over the Mercer county line for 43 years. She was the mother of 11

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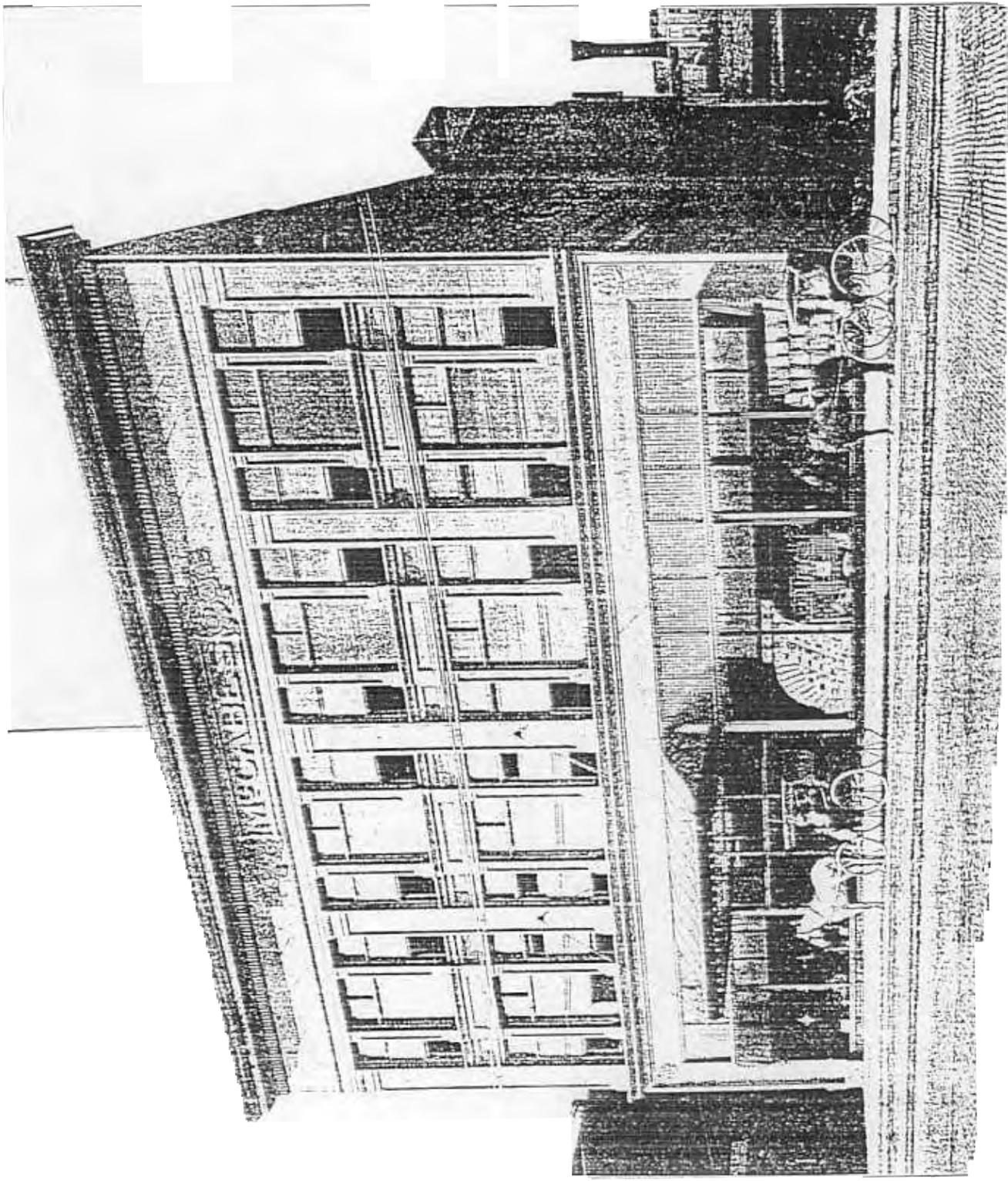
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PUBLIC LIBRARY
ROCK ISLAND ILL.

JOHN VOLK, BUILDER

The veteran contractor and builder, John Volk, died 6 May 1922, at the age of 84.

A native of Pfullingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, he was born 28 October 1838. His father was a cabinet maker and after receiving common schooling, became an apprentice under his father's tutelage. A year after the family moved to the states, John came to Rock Island and worked for J. H. Muckle and Thomas Brittingham, Contractors. He became self-employed as a builder and contractor in 1865.

Two years after the land for the John Volk & Company plant was purchased by Mr. Volk, a three storey brick building for a carpentry plant for the manufacturing of doors, windows, blinds and other types of building materials was built. A partnership was formed with Gottlieb and John Weiss in 1876. His reputation was established throughout the midwest as well as Rock Island. It wasn't long before he acquired the nickname of "Honest John".

The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad gave him their large contracts. More than 400 depots in the cities along their lines were built by John Volk. The State Normal School at Alva, Oklahoma was also built by him.

His Rock Island structures include the Peter Fries Building 1869; the 1896 original First Church of Christ, Scientist on 23rd Street, non-extant; the Harms Hotel, non-extant; Rock Island High School Plant, non-extant; Masonic Temple; Watch Tower Inn, non-extant; Isaac Negus 1874 Row House; the Rock Island Line stations in Rock Island and Davenport; carpentry work on the second Huber's Brewery 1880, mostly non-extant (the buildings have been covered but a small amount of original brick is exposed); and restoration work on Colonel Davenport's home. The Hansgen House, a Rock Island Landmark, is yet another.

Along with building much of Rock Island, Mr. Volk was one of the organizers and first directors of the Rock Island Savings Bank formed in 1890. He served on its board continuously until his death.

Car

JOHN VOLK & CO., GENERAL CONTRACTORS

AND HOUSE BUILDERS.

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Sash, Doors, Blinds,
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Work for Builders,

Eighteenth St., between Third and Fourth avenue,
Rock Island.



LIVERY, Boarding

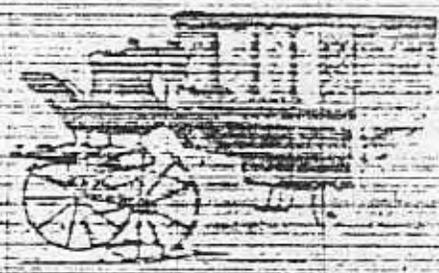
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The finest carriages and buggies in
the city can be had at any hour
of the day or night.

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