

NOMINATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

ALBERT DIETRICH HUESING HOUSE

842 Twentieth Street  
Rock Island, Illinois

Legal Description: Lot Number Six (6) (Except the South Ten (10) feet) of the Subdivision of Out Lot Six (6) in J. W. Spencer's Third Addition to the City of Rock Island.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

- (2) Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history.
- (3) 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.

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## History of Land

30 May 1836

United States of America to Roswell H. and John W. Spencer the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 18 N. R. 2 West, containing 126.32 acres, was entered by R. H. and J. W. Spencer.

8 June 1836

Roswell H. Spencer to John W. Spencer a Warranty Deed to the following Premises: The equal undivided half part of the following piece or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Rock Island County, Illinois, to wit: The Southeast fractional Quarter of Section 35, in Township 18 North, Range 2 West of the 4th Principal Meridian, containing 126 acres, more or less. Consideration of \$1,000.00.

Roswell H. Spencer  
1808 - 1876

On 14 March 1876, Roswell Hopkins Spencer died at the home of his brother, John W. Spencer, after a short illness. His ailment was heart trouble. He was born 4 April 1808 in Vergennes, Vermont. During 1830, he moved to Greene County and the following year came to Rock Island County with Governor Duncan's volunteers. He was a zealous patriot, serving three enlistments, one after another.

Mr. Spencer was on the first grand jury of the county in 1834. He was the first white land owner in what is now Davenport and he founded Pleasant Valley in Iowa. Roswell Spencer was a consistent mentor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He and Martha Hendley were married in 1835. She died 21 November 1872 at the age of 52 years and 3 months. Survivors were her husband, three sons and two daughters.

The Spencer family moved to Rock Island in 1864 from Pleasant Valley where he held the position of postmaster and had built two mills. The Rock Island City Directory of 1872 - 1873 gives the following information about him. "Spencer, R. H., grocer, Illinois ns 5 w Madison, res Madison ws 2 n Guyer." The grocery store was on the north side of Second Avenue and the fifth building west of Twentieth Street. The residence was on the west side of Twentieth Street and the second house north of Eighth Avenue.

John W. Spencer  
1801 - 1878

Mr. Spencer's parents were Calvin and Ruth Hopkins Spencer who were respectively natives of Bennington, Vermont and Great Barrington, Massachusetts. John was the eldest of four siblings, three brothers and one sister. His youth was spent in Vermont where he acquired a rudimentary education at common schools.

It was in 1820 that he went to St. Louis, Missouri after driving a two-horse team for 51 days. Missouri was then being admitted to the Union. He and his uncle, Mr. Brush, then took up residence in Greene County, Illinois where they worked at farming and stopped there for some six years. In 1827, Mr. Spencer learned that the Indians had left the Rock River territory, he decided to leave at once for Rock Island and was in the company of Loudon Case, Sr., whose daughter he later married. In the spring of 1829, he brought his family to Rock Island and lived in a vacant Indian wigwam.

During the Black Hawk War, he was one of the organizers of the Rock River Rangers and had the rank of First Lieutenant. He was a member of the First Board of County Commissioners for twelve years. He was the first Judge of the Rock Island County Court and performed the county's first marriage ceremony.

Mr. Spencer's first wife, Louisa Case, died in 1833, survived by her husband and one son, John C. Spencer, who died in 1871. Judge Spencer married Miss Eliza Wilson of New Haven, Vermont and the daughter of Captain John Wilson. There were six children from this union but only three survived, Edward W., Julia S. (Mrs. D. T. Thompson) and William A. Spencer. The other sons were John C., Charles H. and Roswell G. Spencer.

In 1841, John Spencer along with David B. Sears, Spencer H. White and Ainsworth & Lynde, built the first dam at Moline. The Illinois State Constitutional Convention was held in 1847 and he was a conspicuous constituent.

1 August 1849

John W. and Eliza Spencer a Warranty Deed to John H. Wilson that certain tract or parcel of land situated in the County of Rock Island and State of Illinois and described as follows, to wit: Being 30 acres off of the Northeast and Southeast Fractional Quarters, Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 2 West of the 4th Principal Meridian and bounded on the North by the South line of Spencer and Case's Addition to the Town of Rock Island; on the East by the land of Bailey and Boyle; on the South by the Indian Boundary Line and on the West by a line parallel with the West line of Bailey and Boyle's land and far enough therefrom to include 30 acres in the tract above described and meant to be conveyed. Consideration of \$2,500.00.

John H. Wilson  
817 - post 1884

Mr. Wilson was a member of the Moline Buggy Company, Vice President of the Rock Island National Bank, Superintendent of the Banner Coal Company and President of the Black Hawk Paper Company of Milan. He was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, brought up on a farm and engaged in the coal business and merchandising in Clarksville, Pennsylvania until the

spring of 1865 when he left for Rock Island. He purchased the coal lands, about 1800 acres, in Rock Island County, of Banner Coal Company and became superintendent and principal owner.

Mr. Wilson and Susanna A. Hoxie were united in marriage in Erie County, Pennsylvania during 1850. There were three daughters from the union: Clara J. (Mrs. George J. Krelzinger); Mary E. (Mrs. F. A. Head); and Nettie (Mrs. W. A. Ross). Mrs. Wilson died in 1882, and Mr. Wilson was married in the fall of 1884 to Mrs. Ella Case, daughter of Marvin Loomis and widow of Dr. Case of Chicago.

8 September 1851

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson gave a Quit Claim Deed to John W. Spencer for the parcel of land they had purchased from Mr. Spencer on 1 August 1849. However, the consideration was now \$3,140.00.

19 March 1878

Proof of death was filed by Edward W. Spencer for John W. Spencer who departed this life at Rock Island, in said County on or about 20 February 1878. In his will, "he gave and bequeathed to his wife, Eliza, all of his personal estate, including his interest in the Ferry Franchise owned by Spencer Robinson and Company with all the property connected therewith, and all bonds, stocks and bank stock and stock of the Black Diamond Mining Company, and any and all other stock of any corporation which I may die the owner thereof."

8 April 1880

Edward W. and Lura C. Spencer gave a Mortgage to Thomas J. Robinson and Edward D. Sweeney on Sub Lots 1, 2, 3 and 6, in Out Lot No. 6 in J. W. Spencer's Third Addition to the City of Rock Island. Consideration was \$6,000.00. The mortgage was released 6 October 1880.

9 June

William A. and Eliza Spencer gave a Warranty Deed to Albert D. Huesing for Sub Lot Number 6, in the Subdivision of Out Lot 6, in John W. Spencer's Third Addition to the City of Rock Island. Excepting for the South Ten feet heretofore sold to Charles Hansgen, by deed dated 4 April 1883. Consideration \$450.00.

9 June 1885

Albert D. and Charlotte F. Huesing gave a Mortgage to William A. Spencer on Sub Lot Number 6, in the Subdivision of Out Lot Number 6, in John W. Spencer's Third Addition to the City of Rock Island, excepting the South 10 feet thereof. Consideration of \$1,200.00.

25 July

W. A. Spencer released the Mortgage to Albert D. and Charlotte F. Huesing.



## Albert Dietrich Huesing

Both the father and grandfather of Mr. Huesing had the given name of John August. His father was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany on 30 March 1835. At the age of seventeen, he left his homeland for the United States and headed for St. Louis by the Ohio River and continued on to Davenport on the Mississippi River where he arrived in 1854. John August married Charlotte Frances Steffensen who was born during 1840 in Germany and was living in Davenport at the time of her marriage. Mrs. Huesing died 12 January 1869 and was buried in Davenport. Albert D. Huesing was their only child. John August was remarried to Maria Stark. From their union were three daughters; Anna, Helen and Martha Huesing. Mr. Huesing died 4 July 1899.

In 1867, John August acquired an interest in Charles Tegeler & Company, importers of and wholesale dealers in wine, liquors, etc. The store was on the south side of Second Avenue and the second building west of Seventeenth Street. He was with the firm until 1873. The next year he was elected sheriff of Rock Island County. When his term expired, he purchased the retail department of the grocery house of Kellerstrass & Vogeles. During President Cleveland's first term of office, 1885 - 1889, Mr. Huesing was appointed postmaster for Rock Island and disposed of his interest in the grocery house. The change of administration caused the appointment of another postmaster. He then accepted the position of cashier at the People's National Bank which he held for some years.

Albert Dietrich Huesing was born 12 August 1860 in Davenport. Seven years later the family moved to Rock Island. After receiving his education in Rock Island public schools, he went to college in Milwaukee for special business training. After completing his education, he became a teller at People's National Bank.

Mr. Huesing and Charlotte F. Tremann were married 11 April 1883. There were two sons and a daughter from their union: Arthur T. and Albert D. Huesing, Jr.; Charlotte Frances was born 11 May 1900, attended Grinnell College and graduated from Augustana in 1922.

Charlotte Tremann Huesing was born 2 May 1859, the daughter of Henry Tremann and Maria Wredt Tremann who were married in 1858. He was born in Vernigerode, Prussia 2 May 1828 and came to the United States in 1850 and lived in Buffalo, New York for five years before settling in Davenport for two years before residing in Rock Island. In 1870, he purchased the property on the Southeast corner of Seventeenth Street and Third Avenue. The three storey business block served as a monument to his enterprise and success. The first floor was occupied by his meat market which was continued by his oldest three sons, John W., August and Henry W., when he retired. Mr. Tremann died 9 October 1899.

Mrs. Maria Wredt Tremann was born in Kiel, Germany 7 October 1840. She and her parents came to the United States in 1847 and settled in Davenport. Shortly afterwards, her parents died. She remained in Davenport before moving to Milan where she married Mr. Tremann. Mrs. Tremann died 19 May 1907. She was survived by three daughters and four sons.

Albert D. Huesing served as alderman for the Fourth Ward from 1883 to 1893. During 1887 he was president of Rock Island County Brush Electric Company which introduced new incandescent lamps to their patrons. The same year he was named acting cashier for the Rock Island National Bank. In the 19 May issue of the Argus, there was a notice - "Stock in Moline & Rock Island Horse Railway Company is for sale. Inquire of Albert D. Huesing."

In November of 1888, the following article appeared in the Argus. "A. D. Huesing and his friend, C. D. Hodgson, made a wager on the presidential election between Cleveland and Harrison. If Cleveland was elected then Hodgson would push Huesing in a wheelbarrow down Second Avenue. If Harrison was the winner, Hodgson would get the wheelbarrow ride." Hodgson got the ride.

The Rock Island City Directory of 1892/93 gives interesting occupations for A. D. Huesing. They are city clerk, insurance, real estate and ocean steamship agent. The office was located at 1801 Second Avenue.

Albert Huesing served as Rock Island City Clerk for the years 1893 to 1899. After his defeat in being elected as county sheriff in 1899, Mr. Huesing established the A. D. Huesing Bottling Works in July at 1822 First Avenue. The first soda water was bottled 4 July 1899. The line of drinks included lemon, cream, strawberry, birch and root beers, sparkling water, ginger ale and sarsaparilla. In 1902 the company also became the sole distributor in the Tri-Cities for Anheuser - Busch Brewing Association's keg and bottle beer, Anheuser - Busch export beer and original Budweiser. By 1909 the company had added soda and mineral waters to their line of products.

In 1914, Mr. Huesing announced plans to build a 2,000 ton ice plant. There would be enough storage room for artificial ice to guarantee against any ice shortage. The company purchased the 80' by 150' lot adjoining to the west of their building on First Avenue between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets. The ice building would cover a 40' by 60' plot and would be 40' high. The property was part of the W. O. Negus estate. The new plant was going to cost about \$25,000.00. The output of the Rock Island Artificial Ice and Coal Company, first plant in the Tri-Cities, would be twenty-five tons. His son, Albert D. Huesing, Jr., was the manager. Arthur T. Huesing was the assistant manager of the bottling works.

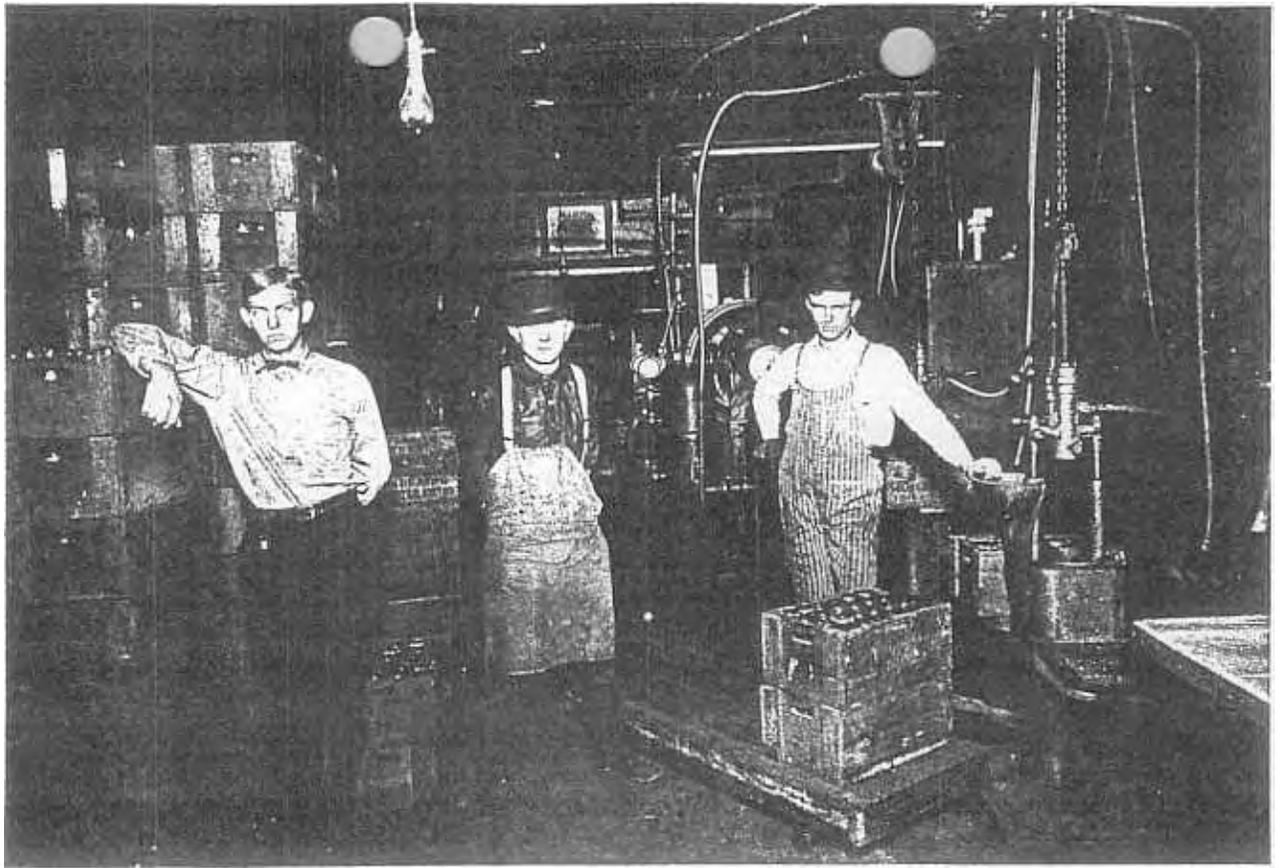
Mr. Huesing, in his early life, was an ardent enthusiast of hunting. He was also interested in baseball. In later years, a fervent fan of radio. After his business, his family and home were very important to him. He was a member of the Rock Island Lodge No. 658, Masons and Royal Arch Mason, Survivors Chapter No. 18, Elks Lodge No. 980 and No. 956, Eagles and Kiwanis.

When he died 30 March 1930, he was survived by his widow; two sons, Arthur T. Huesing and Albert D. Huesing, Jr.; one daughter, Mrs. F. M. Helpenstell; one sister, Miss Martha Huesing and two grandchildren, Miss Elinor Huesing and Jack Huesing. Two sisters, Miss Anna Huesing and Mrs. Allen Head, preceded him in death.

Chronological Synopsis  
of the  
A. D. Huesing Bottling Works

- June 1899 founded by A. D. Huesing and plant located at 1822 First Avenue, Rock Island
- July 1899 first soda water bottled
- Anheuser - Busch distributorship
- built new factory at Fourteenth Street and First Avenue
- Rock Island Artificial Ice & Coal Company
- A. D. "Bert" Huesing became president
- 1935 Pepsi-Cola franchise
- 1938 branches in Aledo and East Moline
- 1939 second bottling plant in Davenport
- 1955 larger Davenport plant built
- 1960 moved Rock Island corporate headquarters to 527 Thirty-seventh Avenue
- Mountain Dew added to beverages
- joined Wis-Pak, a canning cooperative with branches in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska
- sold distributorship of Anheuser - Busch
- added to beverage lines - Ocean Spray juices, Campbell's tomato juice and V-8, Lipton teas, Country Time and Hawaiian Punch
- 1992 Franz "Bud" Helpenstell became president of A. D. Huesing Corporation
- 1995 bottling operations consolidated at Davenport plant with Rock Island keeping corporate headquarters and warehouse distribution





## Exterior Architecture

The Huesing residence was built in the Italianate style of architecture which was popular between 1840 and 1885. The front-gabled roof is one of six principal subtypes. Italianate details were used on the rectangular box made popular by the Greek Revival style during 1825 - 1860. This subtype is popular on narrow lots in larger cities and composes approximately ten percent of remaining examples. In 1885, Rock Island would probably not have been considered a large city.

Under the eaves of the east facing façade, are two trim boards matching the roof angle with narrower vertical boards between. Similar trim is used below the hexagonal window with a decorative finial which was reproduced by the shadow of the original finial. The three ranked windows on the second storey are double hung one-over-one. At each upper corner of the center window are trim boards going up to the one under the eaves at approximately the same angle and the shape is that of an elongated "W". The bottom trim of the hexagonal window forms the center of the "W". There are decorative corner blocks on the three second storey windows.

The roof of the wraparound porch has a balustrade with plain square balusters. The wood corner posts have a large sphere shaped finial on the top. Their side ornamentation is a medium sized rectangle with a small rectangle on top.

At the first storey the four porch columns are brick and square with wood trimming at the top similar to that used on the second storey. The fifth course down from the wood trim is brick. The porch rails are also brick. The present porch was put on after 1906 and prior to 1922. There is a photo of Charlotte Frances Huesing in a cap and gown was taken at the steps on the east end of the porch's south side.

The wraparound porch is Prairie style which was popular from 1897 - 1921. The features are massive, square porch supports, an emphasis on horizontal decorative features and contrasting caps on the porch and balcony railings. Brick was commonly used for the porch supports and the column continued to the ground level without a break at the porch floor.

According to the 1892 and 1906 Sanborn Maps, the front porch originally was the full width of the façade and extended far enough towards the front stairs for adequate coverage from inclement weather.

The wood balusters of the porch are plain vertical narrow rectangles spaced in four and then a single wide vertical with three wide cutouts which is repeated on all three sides.

The façade's first storey is also three ranked with the entrance doors to the north and two double hung one-over-one windows towards the south.

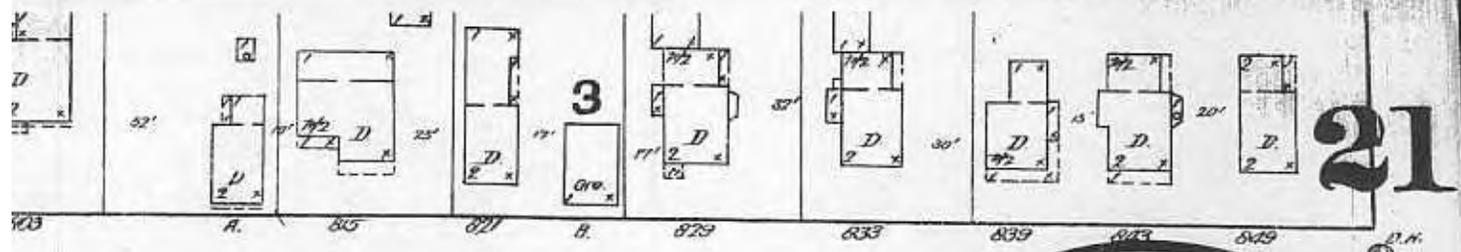
After the porch on the south elevation is a three sided bay. At the roof line there is a triangular wood pattern following the eaves and within there are vertical boards. There are two pairs of corbels just under the eave, one toward the southeast and the other towards the southwest. The windows are double hung one-over-one. Fish scale shingles are used on the bay's first storey roof. The four corbels used here were reproduced from the original shadows.

After the bay is the original side porch with champhered columns. It serves the kitchen and back parlor. At the second storey there is a door, much shorter in height than any of the other exterior doors. The roof of the porch has a simple balustrade with square balusters. At each end of the balustrade and in the center are square columns with acorn shaped finials. The three at the first story have decorative corbels. This porch is original including the wood steps. The door for the kitchen has six lights, three pairs of two. Then a two-over-two light double hung window. The rear parlor door has a transom and a single light.

Under the west elevation eaves there is a repeat of two trim boards following the lines of the eaves with narrow vertical boards used between. Directly centered at the second storey is a double hung window with one-over-one lights. Towards the north of this window is another window which is much smaller in length and half the size and is not original to the house. Centered directly under, at the first storey, is a double hung window with two lights over one light. This portion of the house juts out towards the east and is not on center and the roof line is lower than the main body of the house. On the north elevation of the jut-out there is a single double hung window with one-over-one lights at the second storey level. At the first storey there is a single double hung window directly below.

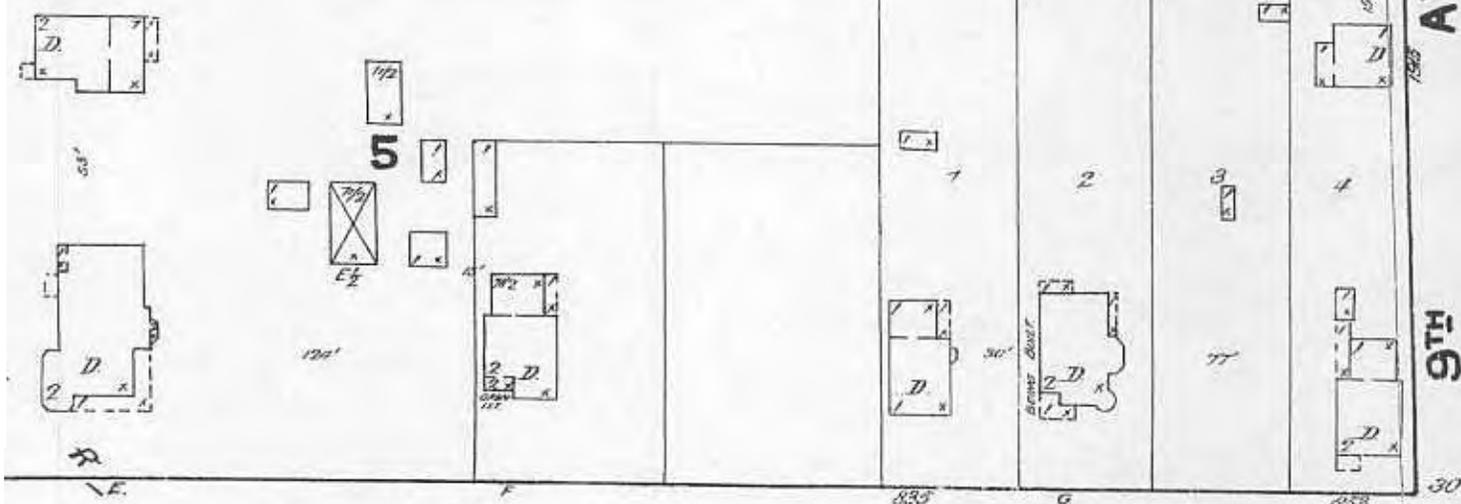
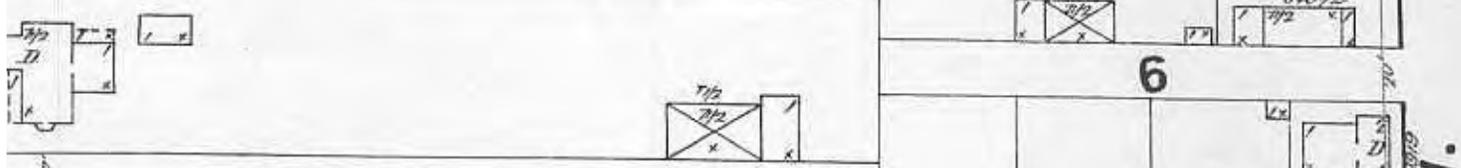
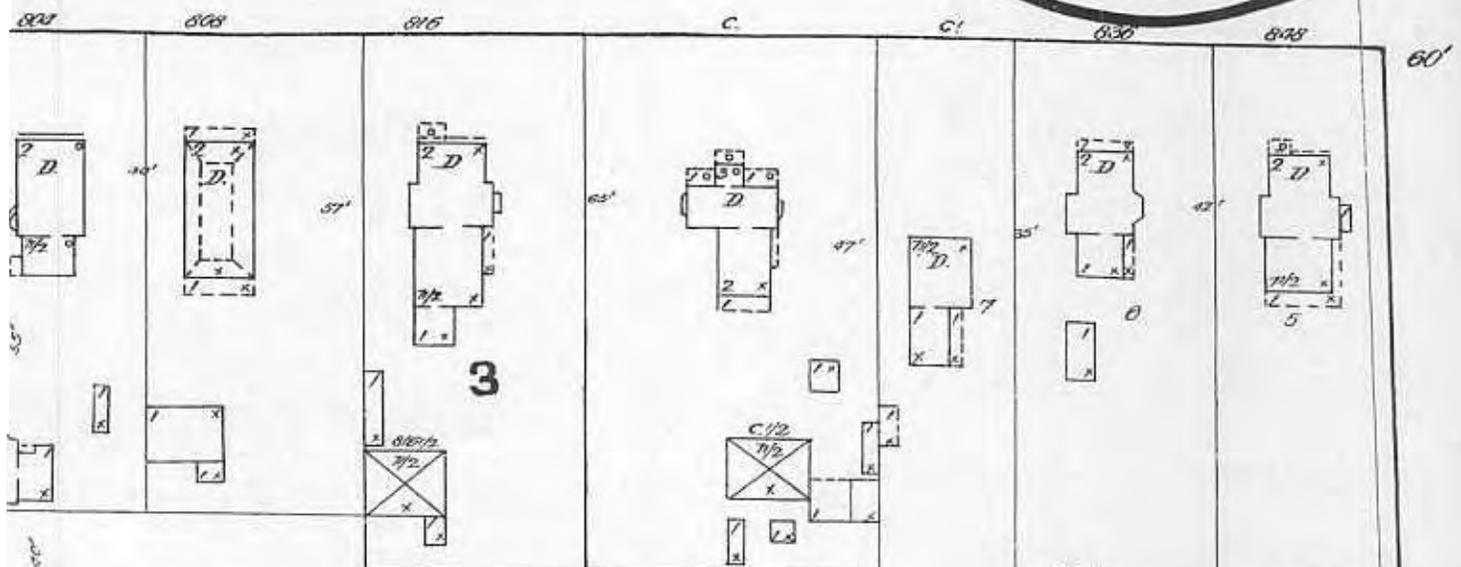
The north gable, under the eave lines, has the same trim of two angled boards following the eaves with vertical boards between. The second storey contains a single double hung window with one-over-one lights. The east side, also has the same configuration of windows. Going towards the east, there is a single window between the second and first storeys for the stairwell. All the windows on this north elevation have the decorative corner blocks.

The façade of the carriage house faces east. The architectural style is best described as eclectic. The structure is approximately a single storey with the south and north ends rising above the main structure. The roof line mimics a thatched roof. The front edge and side edges are rolled. The wide double doors are centered. At each corner of the structure there is a pair of wood brackets with a narrow window between that contains six lights, three pairs of two lights. Each door has a large diamond shaped light which visibly appears to be two-thirds of the doors. The structure is rock faced concrete block. The north and south walls rise above the roof by two courses of block. There is a pair of windows on the south elevation with eight lights each, four-over-four. The west elevation has a one-over-one double hung window which is a replacement. The north elevation contains a window with twelve lights, six-over-six. There is also a chimney. The tops of the north and south walls stairstep down towards the east. They are reinforced with steel rods with exterior stars on the ends. The south wall retains one star and the north wall has two stars.



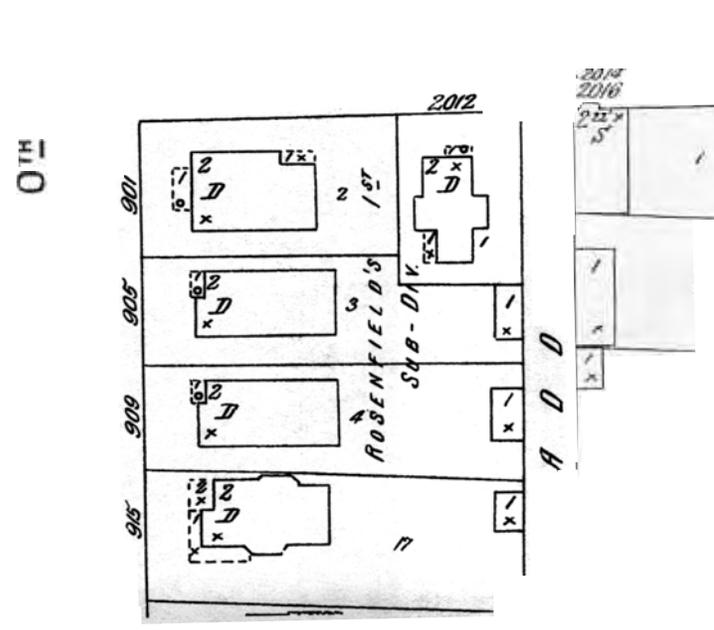
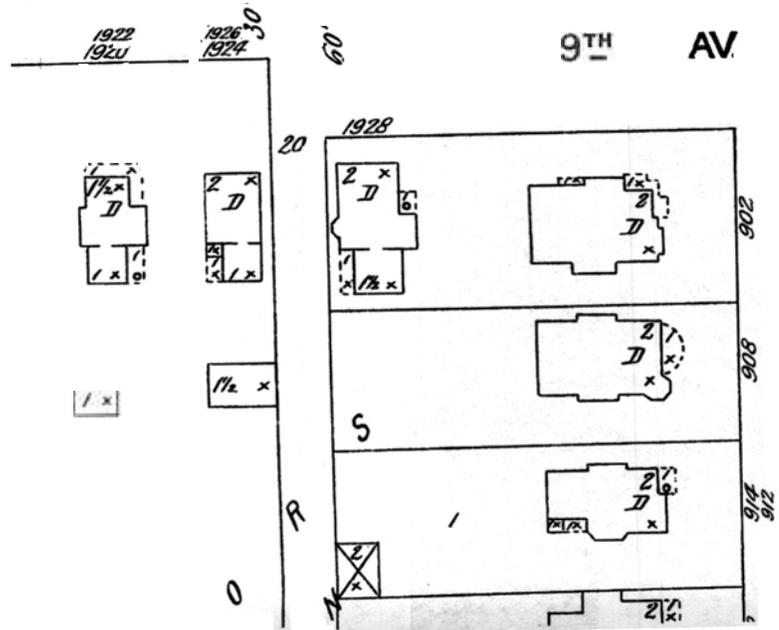
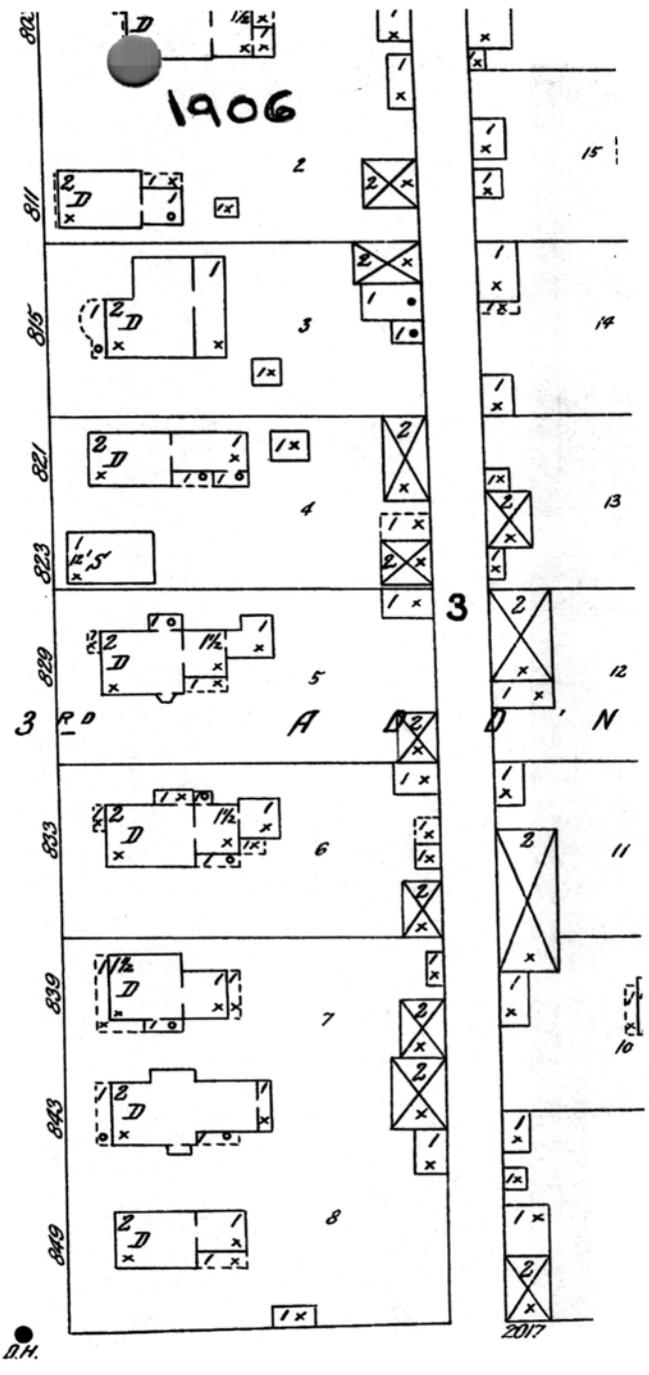
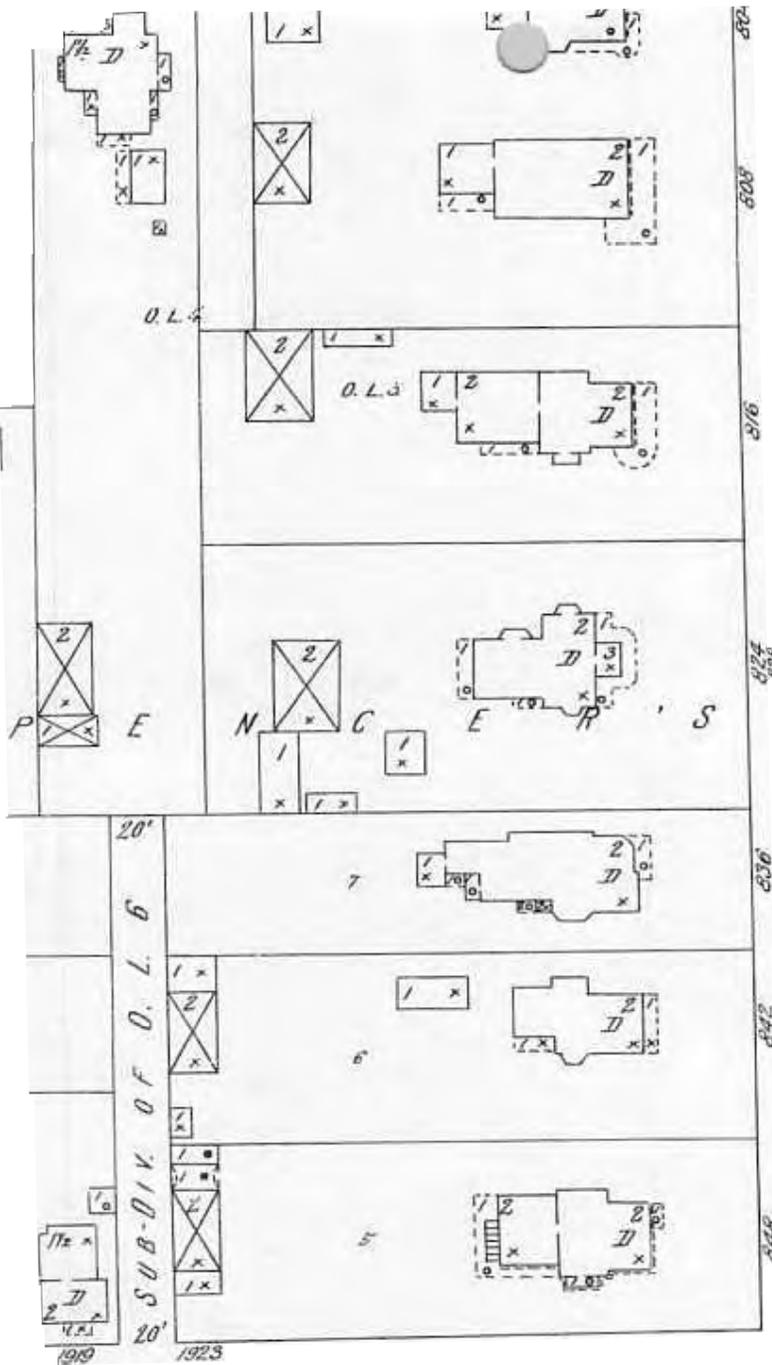
JAN. 1892  
**ROCK ISLAND**  
 ILL.

20<sup>TH</sup> ST.

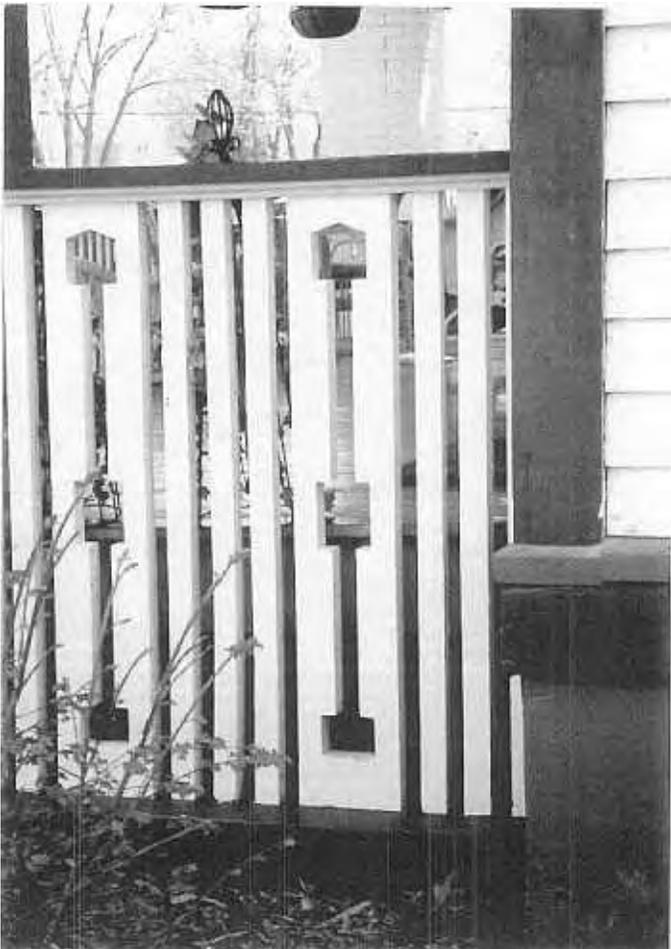


19<sup>TH</sup> ST.

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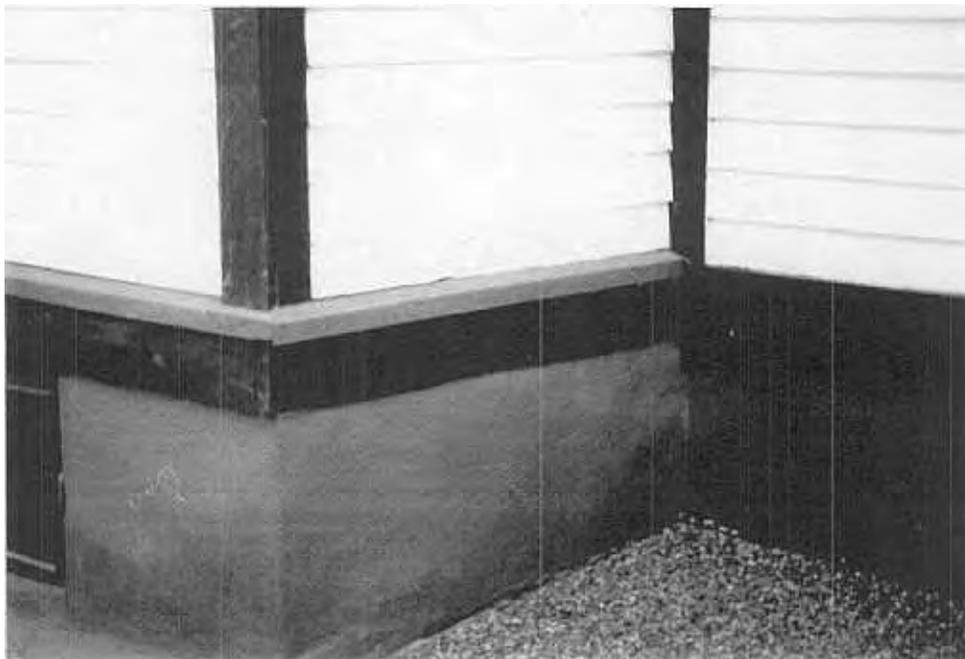




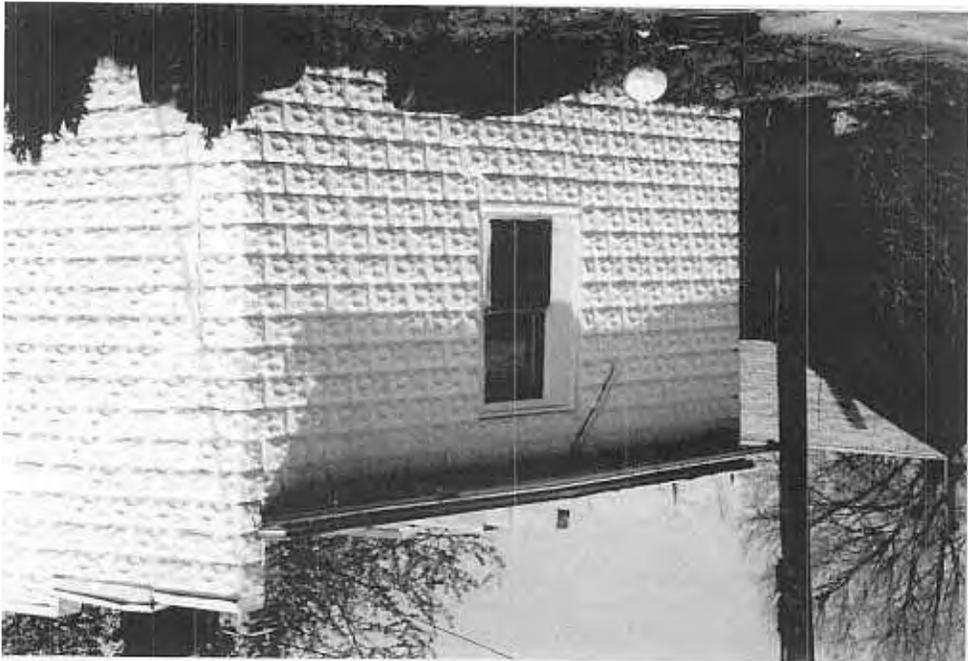












## Interior Architecture

Entering through the front doors, one is in the entrance hall. The staircase is on the north wall and turns towards the south about halfway up. The newel post is Italianate and combines both elegance and simplicity. Under the curve of the staircase is an area deep enough for a piece of furniture such as a desk, table or a few chairs. Except for the kitchen, all the floors are oak.

The front parlor is located at the southeast corner and contains a very elaborate fireplace which was originally coal burning. A gas line was later installed. The surround is made of scagliola which literally is "little chip" in Italian. It is an imitation of ornamental marble consisting of finely ground gypsum mixed with glue. The product is still being made in Italy and the method is being taught in Pennsylvania. The hearth is the original tile.

On the north wall is a wide doorway from the entrance hall. It still has the original wood drapery rod hanging across the doorway. There are two windows on the east wall and one on the south wall. The west wall has pocket doors which would have been used to close off the rear parlor.

The south wall of the rear parlor has a three window bay. There are two doors on the west wall. One to the side porch and the other towards the north for the kitchen. Both have transoms. There are pocket doors which lead to the dining room on the north wall. Over these doors is another original wood drapery rod. There is also a regular door leading into the hallway opposite the area under the stairs.

The kitchen retains its original bead board on the four walls, as well as the original maple flooring. Two changes have been made in this room. The pantry was made into a half bath and an island installed for the sink and a counter top working area. The back door leads to the side porch. On the north wall are two staircases, one to the basement and the other to the second floor. The basement floor is outstanding. It is composed of striated brick laid in a herringbone pattern.

Returning towards the east is the dining room with a large built-in china cupboard with drawers below. Located in the northwest corner is a radiator with an attached ornate slanted right angle shelf which directs the warmth outwards into the room. Because of the slant, one could not use it for warming dishes.

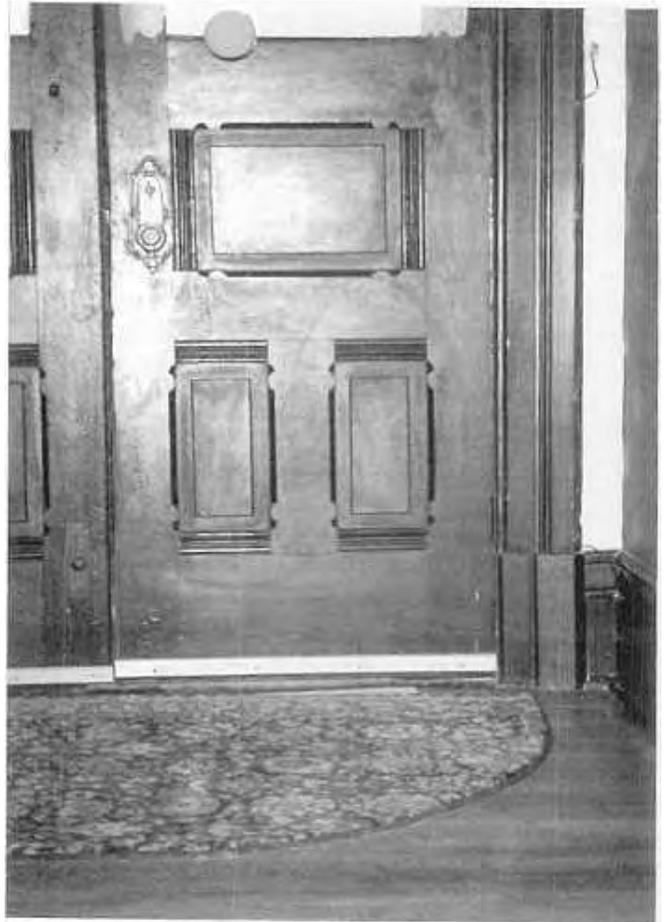
The second floor rooms are located above those on the first floor and are approximately the same size.

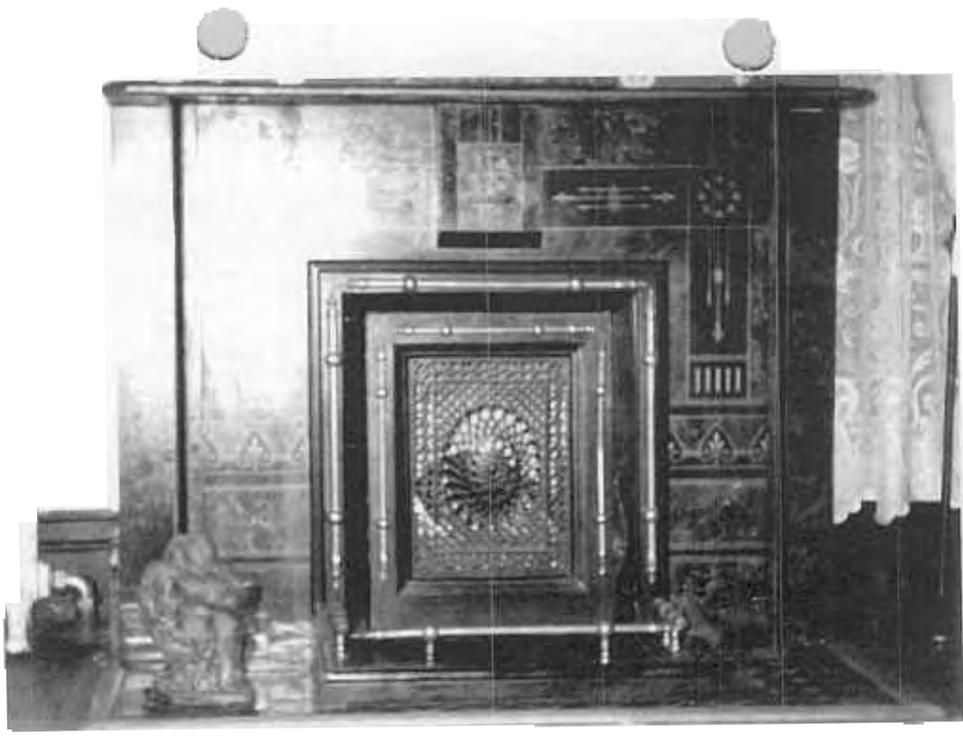
The east end of the second floor has the master bedroom with a small room on the north with an archway. This was most likely used for the nursery. The bedroom is directly over the front parlor and the nursery is over the north end of the front hall.

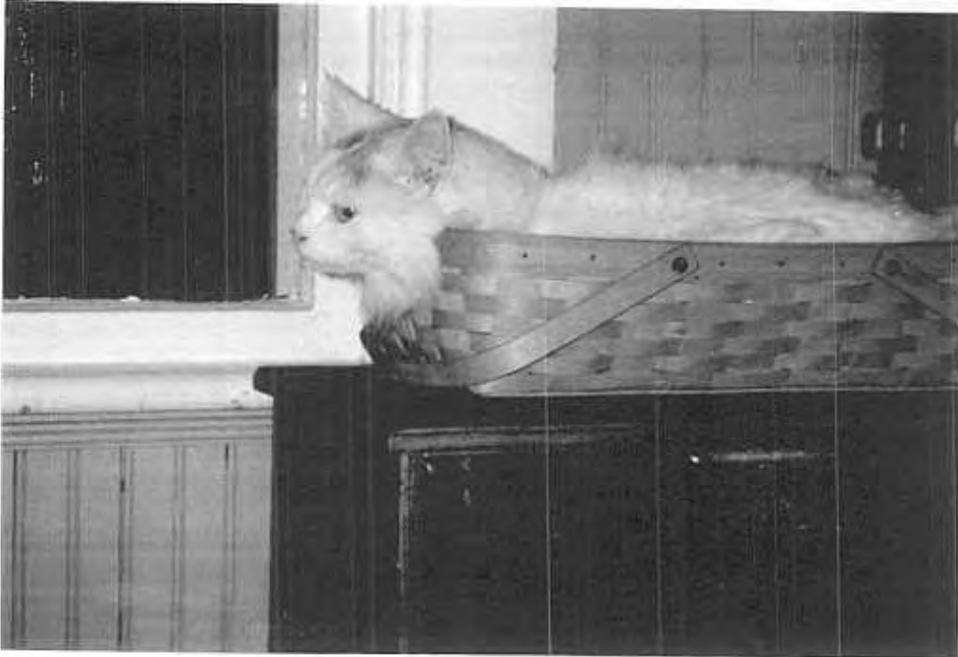
Going towards the west there is a shallow area with shelves on the north and a closet on the south. Located over the rear parlor is a second bedroom with a shelved radiator like the one in the dining room. At the west end of the bedroom there is a seven inch step-down to the full bath on the south. The claw foot tub is the original one. And on the south wall leading out to what was a sleeping porch is a small door which is only four feet nine inches high. Stored in the basement is a metal tank which had hung over the bathroom sink.

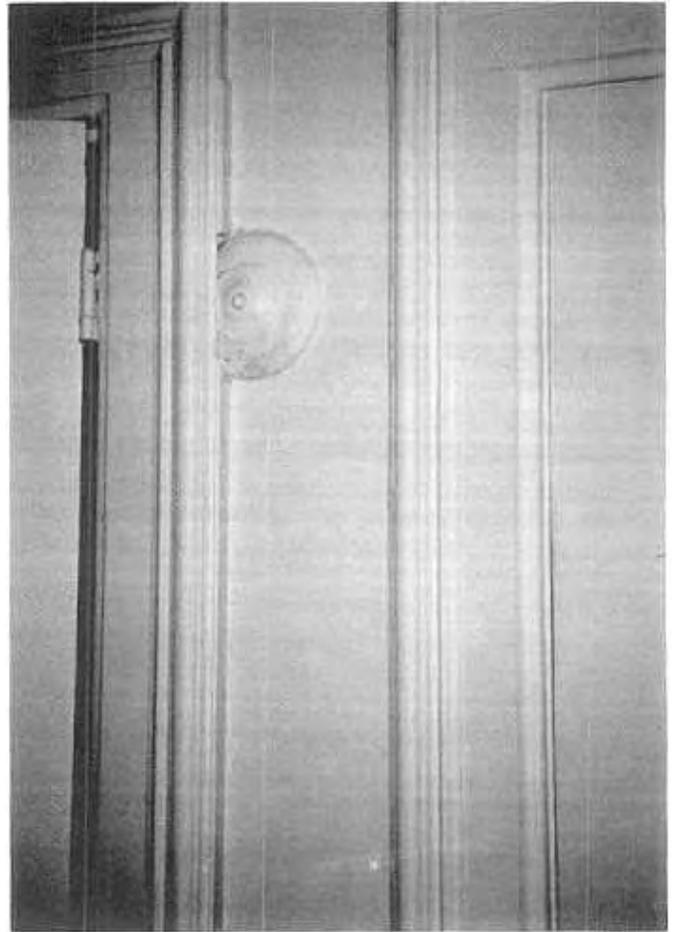
The north side of the jut-out contains two small rooms. The back stairs come into this area. The first room, now called the bar room, may be reached by a door in the full bathroom. The second room floor is nine inches high than the first room.

Continuing towards the east is the hallway with doors on the south to the attic and to the other two bedrooms.













## Bibliography

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Looking Back 11 November 1988