



ADOLPH WOCHNER RESIDENCE

104 W. Wood St.

Bloomington, Illinois

Prepared by:

fwai architects inc.

one northwest old capitol plaza
springfield, illinois 62701

29 October 2007

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
ADOLPH WOCHNER RESIDENCE

Location: 104 W. Wood, Bloomington, Illinois

Present Owner:

Present Use: Unoccupied

Significance: Foursquare: "Mediterranean Villa" ¹.

1. Article in the Bloomington Pantagraph (Newspaper) June 2, 1991 by Elaine Graybill, who quoted Anita Schertz, from her Master's Thesis on 1989.

PART I HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction: Circa 1910 ².
2. Architect: George H. Miller ^{3, 4}.
3. Original Owner: Adolph Wochner ⁵.
4. Alterations and Additions: 2-story addition on the south side, no basement or attic. 1-story "solarium" with a hot tub added to the south of the south addition.

B. Historical Context

1. The house was designed for Adolph Wochner by Bloomington's prominent architect, George Miller, and built sometime around 1910. Mr. Wochner was born in Bloomington May 21, 1872. He was Cashier of the American State Bank until his death April 10, 1938. ⁶ The house is a foursquare in the Mediterranean architectural style. ¹
2. George H. Miller was born in Bloomington, completed his formal education at the age of fifteen, he became an architect through apprenticeship of on job training with craftsmen and architects ⁷. He was responsible for the reconstruction of many of Bloomington's downtown structures destroyed in a devastating fire of 1900 ³. Miller designed more than 120 buildings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries ⁹. His buildings included his home, a Queen Anne Style built in 1889 where he lived until his death in 1927. ^{10, 11}.

2. Bloomington Public Library. Thesis by Evelyn Shirley Griffith "An Architectural Success of Central Illinois": George H. Miller (1856-1927): Volume I: Biography
3. Bloomington Public Library. Thesis by Ms. Griffith
4. Bloomington Pantagraph; April 29, 2007: Article by Bill Steinbacher – Kemp
5. Thesis by Evelyn Shirley Griffith, p. 377
6. Bloomington Pantagraph, Obituary, April 11, 1938
7. Thesis by Evelyn Shirley Griffith, Preface
8. Thesis by Evelyn Shirley Griffith, p. 10
9. Bloomington Pantagraph Article by Karen Hansen, Dec. 10, 2004
10. Bloomington Pantagraph Article by Karen Hansen,
11. HRHP Nomination Form provided by IHPA

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Two story, brick Mediterranean Eclectic Style. Full basement below original structure; attic under hip roof frame with clay tile flooring. Brackets at cornice corners. North elevation center at attic dormer features a stepped brick façade with an arch top in a Spanish motif.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all Dimensions: 32'-3" x 74'-9" (including South Additions)

2. Foundations: Brick

3. Walls: Plaster probably on wood lath.

4. Structural System: Wood frame walls, floors and roof rafters.

5. Porch: North: Full width of north façade. Square brick piers in combination of three per column. Flat roof with flat seam metal roofing. Brick and concrete floor.

 South: Wood deck addition.

 East Stoop: Wood frame, Wood siding, Wood floor addition.

6. Chimneys:

 a. Original Building:

 (1) NE corner, brick projecting from the east wall extending above the roof line. This chimney served the living room fireplace and probably a coal fired furnace in the basement. This chimney is detailed, projecting geometric patterns in brick.

 (2) A second chimney is located in the SE section of the house. This chimney is in the area of the kitchen and likely served the cook stove.

 b. Addition: Stucco Finish

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: Wood

- (1) North entry door painted wood and full panel leaded glass set in a masonry wall with five unequal sides forming polygonal foyer.
- (2) Interior entry door: Stained wood with half-panel leaded glass
Flanked on each side with stained wood sidelights and half-panel leaded glass.

b. Windows: Wood

- (1) Typical Windows: Painted, wood double hung, single pane top and bottom sash.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape: Hip (square); Covering: Clay (Spanish) Tile
- b. Cornice, Eaves: Approximately two foot overhang wood cornice and eaves with wood brackets at each corner.
- c. Dormers: North: Brick Façade with stepped parapet and arch top with a circular window forming the north wall of a gabled dormer. East and West: Wood faced gabled dormer, tile roof, window opening at the center.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. First Floor:

- (1) North: Living room across front of the house, 30 ft. N-W by 14 ft. N-S; fireplace is in the center of the east wall; exterior entry in the center of the north wall; two windows on north on each side of entry; window on side of fireplace; double window on west wall
- (2) Dining Room off living room on the west through swing double doors sliding wood pocket door separates dining and stairwell; decorative triple window on west wall; double wood doors on south wall lead to addition.
- (3) Stairwell and stair to 2nd floor and basement connects to living, dining and kitchen in the center of the east side.

- (4) Kitchen is in the southeast corner. Rear exit is located on the south wall. Kitchen has been remodeled for updated use. Washer/dryer is located on west kitchen wall.
- (5) Addition – Living – located off dining room with access to the south entry. A full bath is located in the northeast corner. A fireplace is located on the west wall. A wood and glass double door leads to a sunroom on the south.
- (6) Solarium – A 12'x15' sunroom is attached to the south of the addition. A hot tub is situated in the SW corner. The solarium exits to the east on a wood deck.

b. Second Floor:

- (1) Stair to first floor and attic is located in the center of the east half of the house. Stair has window seat and landing between 1st and 2nd floors.
- (2) Northeast bedroom entry through door set at 45° to south wall from the stairhall. The room is 12'-6" x 14'-0"; the closet in the west wall separate this bedroom from the NW bedroom; two small double hung windows on the east wall; one large wood stained double hung window in the north wall.
- (3) Access to the NW bedroom is from the stairhall. The room is 13'-6" x 14'-0", wood floor, plaster walls, one double hung wood window in the west and north wall. A closet off the bedroom to the east has an arched double hung window. This window is centered on the north elevation, second floor, above the porch roof.
- (4) Access to the SW bedroom is off the stairhall through an east door. This room is 13'-6" wide x 16' deep. Sliding wood pocket doors in the north wall connect this room with the NW bedroom. Two double hung wood windows are in the west wall. A closet is accessed by a door located on the south end of the east wall. A door in the south wall connects to the living area of an apartment unit within the south addition.
- (5) An apartment unit approximately 15' wide x 16'-6" deep, containing an efficiency kitchen on the east and a full bathroom with tub adjacent to the kitchen in the northeast corner has been added to the original house.
- (6) A bedroom approximately 10'-6" x 9'-6" is accessed through the bathroom and hall is located in the southeast corner and part of the addition.
- (7) A full bathroom has been installed in a room south of the stair.

- (8) A laundry chute which likely to be original is located in the SW corner of the stair hall. This is no longer functional.
- c. Basement: A full basement approximately 7'x0" clear height is located below the original structure, there is no basement below the additions.
 - (1) North Room: This room is 30' E-W by 14' N-S located below the living room above. Brick foundation walls are three walls. The south wall is brick and a bearing wall for the floor system. Two awning type wood windows are each located in the top of the east and west walls. A boiler is located in SW corner of this room. A coal fired furnace was likely to have been replaced by the boiler.
 - (2) Southwest Room: A room approximately 13' x 16' (located below the dining room) has been refurbished to become living quarters. Brick walls are painted. Floor is carpeted and an acoustical ceiling is installed. A modern 6-panel white wood door is installed in the east wall. Two awning windows occur in the west foundation wall top.
 - (3) A wood stair to the basement is in the same stairwell on the center of the east half of the house. A toilet (stool only) is installed on the landing at grade level. Access to the exterior (east driveway) through the grade level door off the landing.
 - (4) Southeast Room: An irregular shaped room below the kitchen and rear entry approximately 16' x 12'. The electric service/distribution panel, hot water, washer and dryer are in this room. A 3-basin concrete sink is located on the east wall. Two awning windows are in the top of the east foundation wall.
- d. Attic: The attic is essentially an open area with wood hip framing. Rafters sloping from the corners to the center. The slope is relatively low (approximately 4/12). Three wood framed, gabled dormers occur in the center of each hip slope. New construction was underway creating an irregular shape room. This space is framed in wood and covered with drywall and attached to the west dormer.
- 2. Stairways: Wood: The stairwell is located in the center of the east half of the house connecting the basement with the attic. The flight from the basement to the grade landing is wood. The walls are plaster. A toilet has been installed off this landing to the south. The flight to the second floor landing has a newel post at the first floor square vertical balusters and wood rail, natural wood finish. A window box is installed across the width of the 2nd floor landing. An arch window with

stained glass glazing is centered on the stair. A wood door separates the 2nd floor flight to the attic where the wood stair continues. A ventilation access door is installed at the attic landing.

3. Flooring:

- a. Original: First Floor: Wood, stained tongue & groove, probably original with wood base.

- (1) Living Room, Dining Room: Wood
- (2) Living Room Addition: Carpet
- (3) Toilet Addition: Vinyl Tile
- (4) Kitchen (original house): Vinyl tile – not original.
- (5) Solarium: Tile – not original

- b. Second Floor

- (1) Bedrooms, closets, stairwell: Wood matching first floor and wood base.
- (2) Bathroom (original house): Vinyl Tile
- (3) Living area (2nd floor apartment): Carpet
- (4) Bathroom (addition): Vinyl Tile
- (5) Bedroom (addition): Carpet

- c. Basement

- (1) North Room: concrete
- (2) Southwest Room: Carpet over concrete
- (3) Southeast Room: Concrete

- d. Attic

- (1) Attic Floor: Unfinished wood plank, original

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Plaster, Painted.

- a. Original house, first and second floors: plaster probably on wood lath., painted.
- b. Dining Room: Wall fabric or paper (not original).
- c. Kitchen: Tile above counter, under cabinet (not original).
- d. Bath: Original house, wainscot (not original).

e. First and second floor apartments: Drywall (addition).

f. Basement: Unfinished brick with exception of SW room.

(1) SW Room: West and south walls - painted brick; north and east walls - painted drywall.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: Wood

(1) Interior Doors: Typical stained wood, one panel door with stained wood jams and head. Door head was detailed with a cornice molding.

(2) Sliding wood pocket doors occur on the first floor, dining room and the second floor bedrooms on the west half. These doors are stained wood single panel doors with stained wood jams and head.

b. Windows: Wood/Glass

(1) Stairway: Stained wood sash arched window with stained glass full pane.

(2) Dining Room: 3-sash, stained wood, double-hung on each side, fixed center with one third height fixed stained glass panel.

(3) Second Floor North Closet: Double-hung arch window, stained glass top pane.

(4) Attic, North Dormer: Circular fixed sash.

6. Decorative Features and Trim:

a. First floor – original house

(1) Living Room: wood jams, flat stained wood, with bead at the window sash and door window head. Stained wood with reverse edge molded cornice. Floor base stained wood, plain, approx. 8" height.

(2) Fireplace: Mantle, facing and hearth: glazed tile (not original).

(3) Dining Room: Windows and doors same as living room.

(4) Kitchen: New cabinets, countertops (not original).

(5) Apartment (addition): wainscot prefinish molding (not original).

(6) Apartment fireplace: simulated brick, painted (not original).

b. Second floor

- (1) Bedroom and stairwell trim is similar to first floor trim of the original house.
- (2) Bathroom: Tile wainscot (not original).

7. Hardware:

- a. First Floor original house: Hardware on first floor appears to be original – locks are simple mortise with brass knobs and brass face plates. Hinges are brass.
- b. Second Floor Hardware: brass knobs have been replaced with glass.
- c. Hardware in the addition is brass (not original).

8. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. Heating: Original house – hot water, boiler, radiators
- b. Lighting: Electric surface mounted fixtures – none original.
- c. Plumbing: Hot and Cold water. All plumbing fixtures have been updated.

D. Site:

- 1. General Setting and Orientation: Urban setting on the south side of Wood Street, an east-west street, house faces north. The lot is the 2nd lot west of the intersection of Main Street and Wood. Two story houses are on the east and west sides.
- 2. Outbuilding: 2-car garage, brick veneer, shingle roof, 16 foot fiberglass overhead door.

PART III SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Interviews: Phone Conversations: August Wisnosky, Joseph Hurwitz, and Mercer Turner

B. Biography: Printed Material provided by Mercer Turner through Joseph Hurwitz

PART IV METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

A. Actual Research Process:

1. On-site Measurement of Existing Residence
2. Photograph Interior and Exterior
3. Oral History Phone Discussion by Mercer Turner with August Wisnosky of FWAI Architect Inc.

B. Archives and Repositories Used: Printed Material provided by Mercer Turner

C. Research Staff:

1. Primary Preparer: August P. Wisnosky, AIA, Architect, FWAI Architects
2. Photographer: August P. Wisnosky, AIA, Architect, FWAI Architects
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Lisa Mancewicz, Administrative Assistant, FWAI Architect
Trish Foley, CAD Technician, FWAI Architects

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| iii | Pantagraph Article October 01, 1983, Leonard Wochner Obituary |
| iv | Pantagraph Article June 02, 1991 by Elaine Graybill, 4 pages |

v	Pantagraph Article December 10, 2004, Source Karen Hansen, 3 pages
vi	Copy of Master of Arts Thesis by Evelyn Shirley Griffith, 17 pages
vii	National Registry of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, 3 pages
viii	Pantagraph Article, Source John O'Connor, 1 page

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION
104 WEST WOOD
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
29 October 2007

The following information was extracted from data provided by Mercer Turner Law Office, Bloomington, Illinois, and Joseph Hurwitz, Springfield, Illinois. The data includes excerpts from the Bloomington Pantagraph (newspaper): Thesis by Anita Schertz (printed in the Pantagraph by Elaine Graybill); and a Master of Art Thesis for the University of Iowa by Evelyn Shirley Griffith.

The residence at 104 West Wood in Bloomington, Illinois was designed for Adolph Wochner circa 1910 by George Miller, a Bloomington architect. The residence is a two-story brick masonry "four square" Mediterranean style architecture. The residence contains a basement and an attic. The brick is Roman brick measuring 8 1/4" by 2 1/4". It is a pressed brick with a thin 1/8" to 3/16" mortar joint. The roof is a hipped roof with clay tile in the Mediterranean style, which is likely to be original.

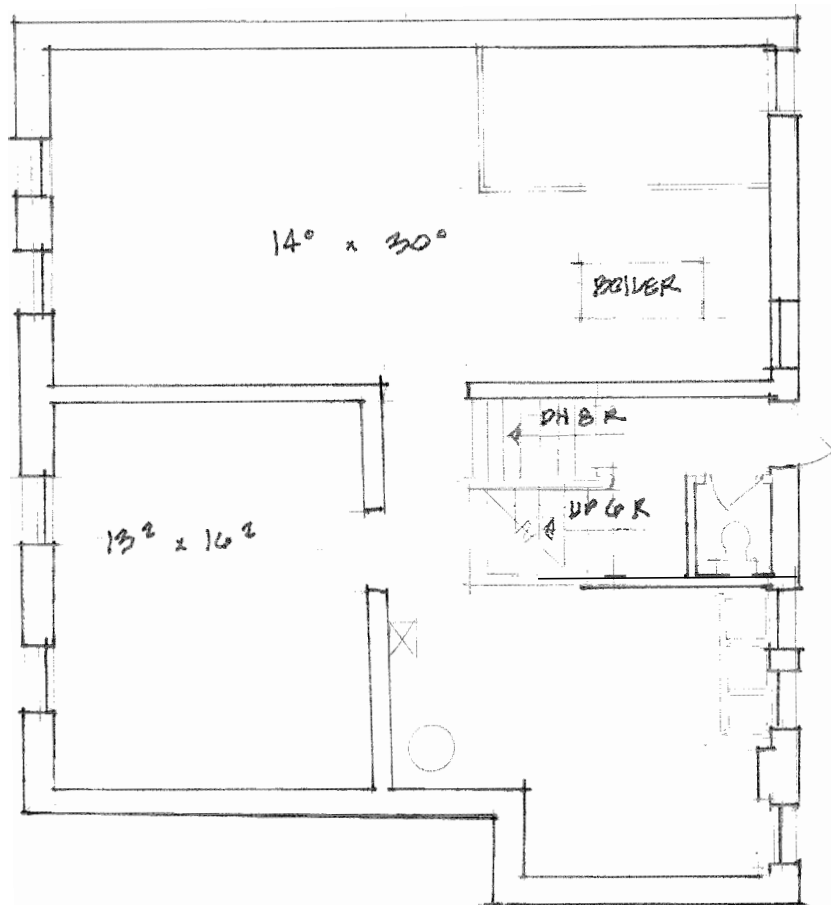
A two-story addition was constructed on the south side of the building. This is a relatively modern addition which was constructed to provide apartments, probably used for student housing for students attending Illinois State University and other Bloomington schools. This information is not documented. What appears to be the most recent addition, is the solarium on the south of the south addition, which is a Plexiglas-type construction containing a hot tub. This provides for an additional exit on the south side of the structure.

The interior of the original portion of the residence appears to be intact. Wood framing, doors and windows, and floor base appear to be original woodwork, as well as interior doors and sliding wood doors. Fireplace mantels do not appear to be original. A modern-period kitchen has been installed in the southeast corner of the structure, which was probably the location of the original kitchen. This area also includes accommodation for a washer and dryer. Some of the original fabric of the original residence may have been removed to accommodate this construction, i.e. laundry chute to the basement from the second floor.

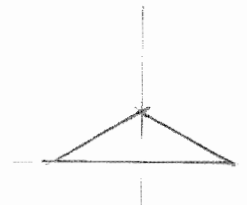
The basement area is composed of brick foundations. The earlier mention of "four-square" construction deviates somewhat, since only one room occurs on the north side of the building, where normally two rooms of equal dimension might be located. A boiler is located in this area, which is likely a conversion from an original coal-fired heating plant.

The living room area on the first floor also deviates from the "four-square" tradition in that the living room is one space across the north side of the residence, rather than consisting of two rooms.

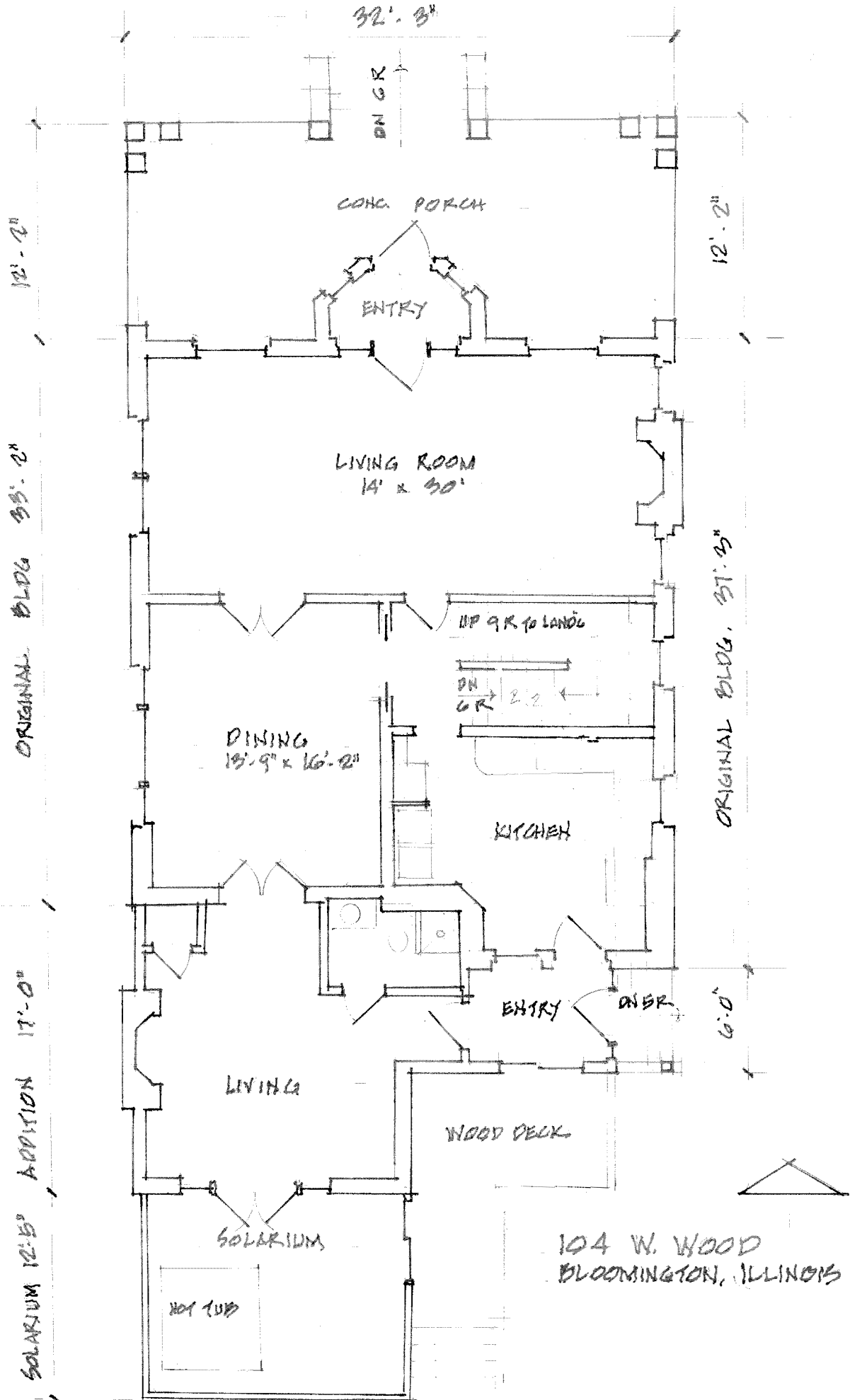
The attic space is primarily a space provided by the framing of the hip roof and the attached dormers on the east, north and west sides. The south side has been altered with the attachment of the south addition. The construction of an irregularly-shaped room is underway in the attic. Drywall has been hung and finished when construction ceased.



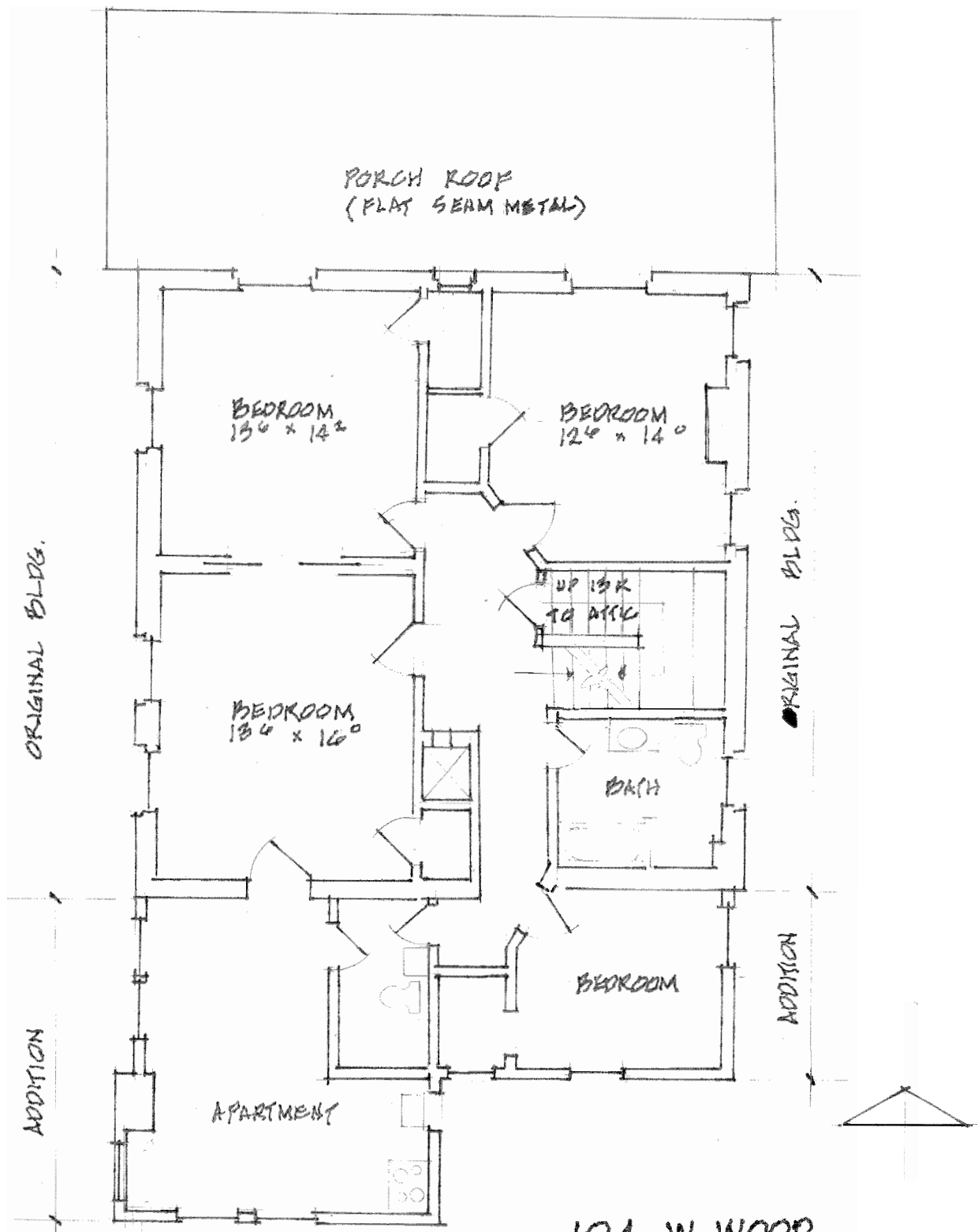
BASEMENT
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104 W. WOOD
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



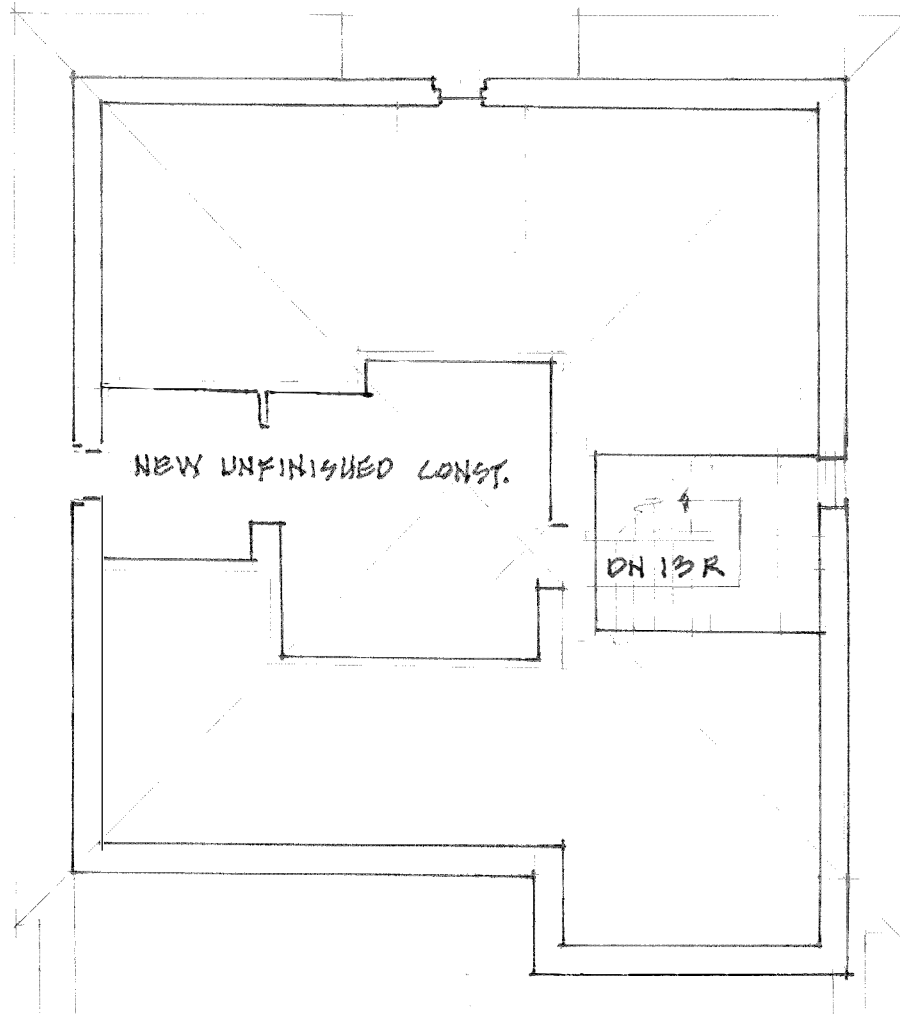
FIRST FLOOR
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104 W. WOOD
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

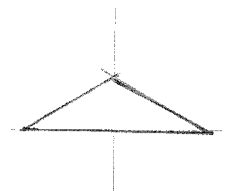
SECOND FLOOR
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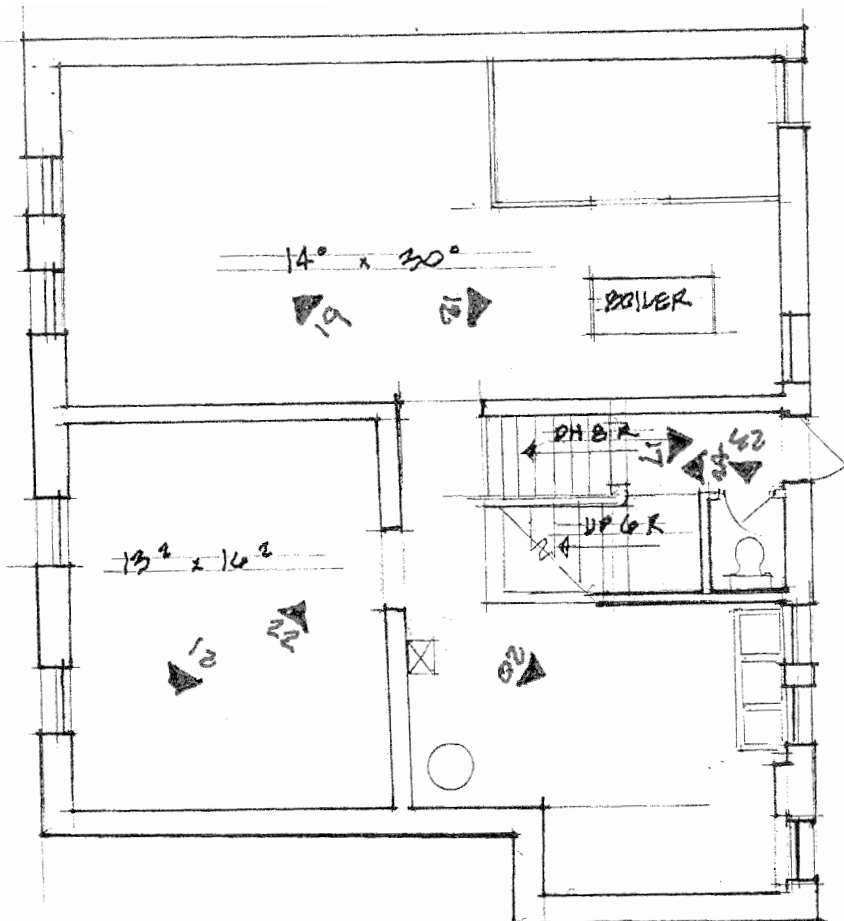


← ADDITION →

ATTIC
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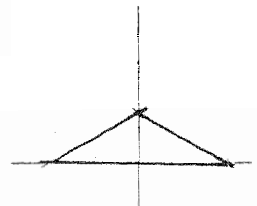


104 W. WOOD
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



BASEMENT

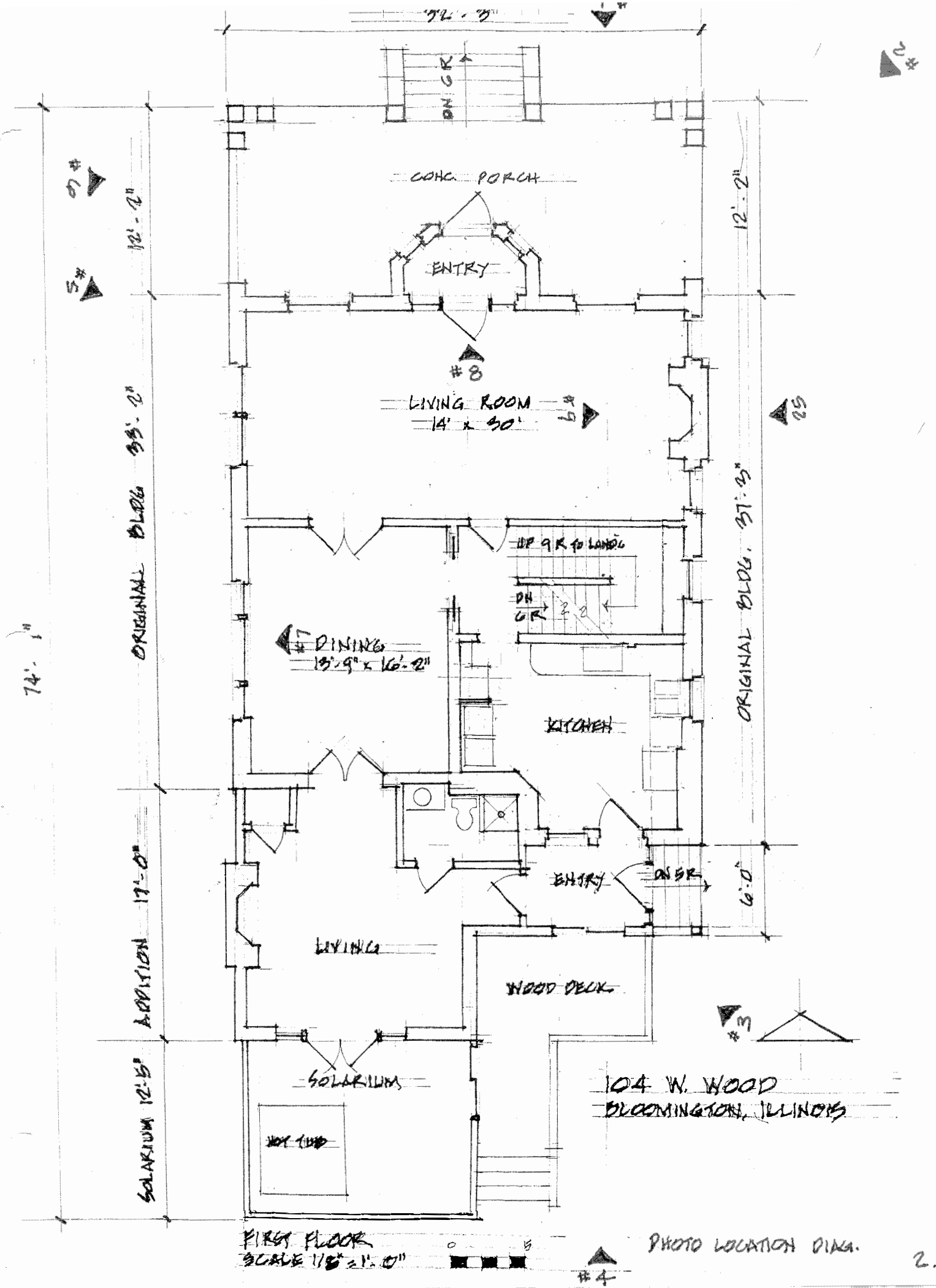
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104 W. WOOD
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

PHOTO LOCATION DIAGRAM

PHOTO #



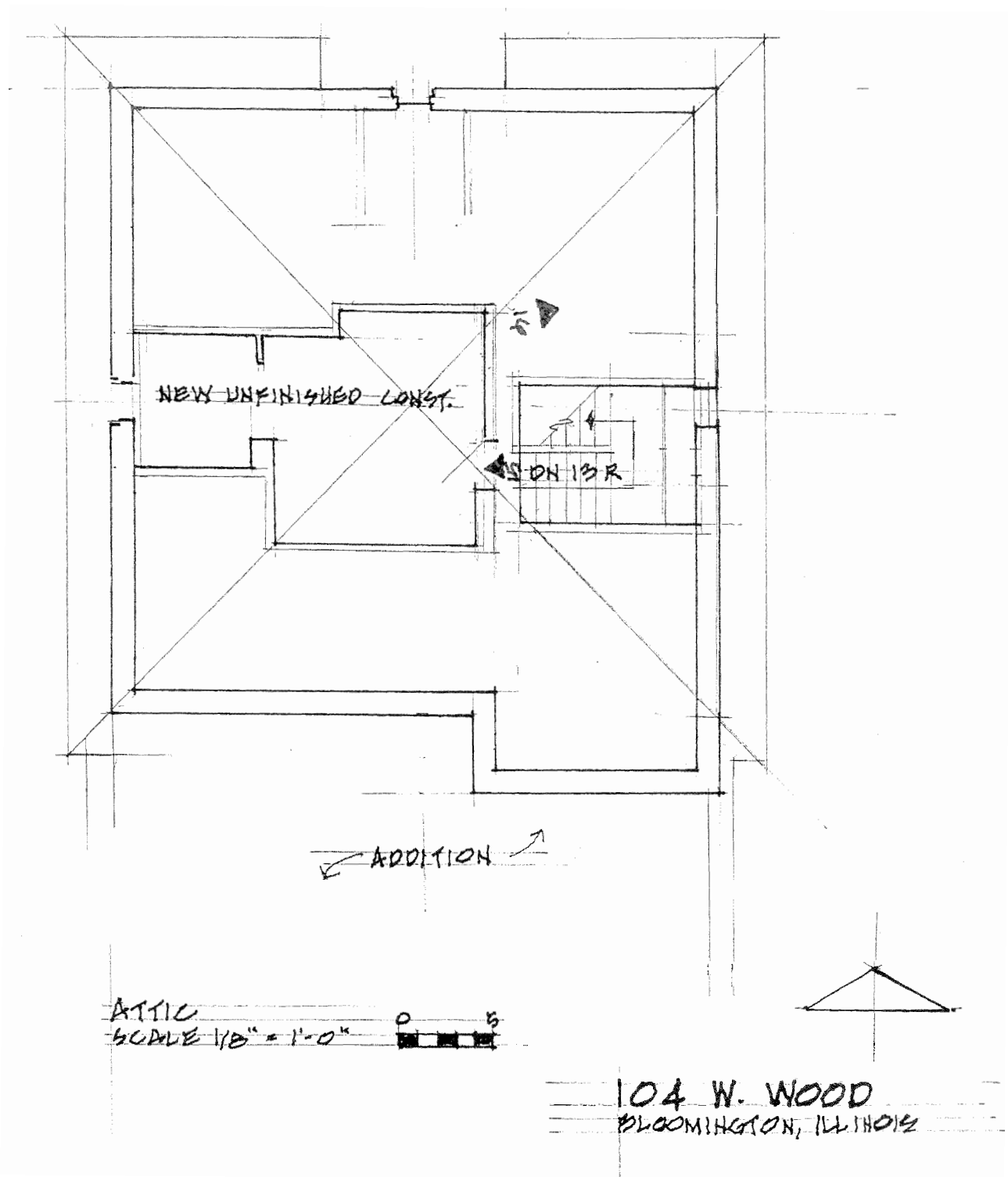


PHOTO LOCATION DIAGRAM



North (Front) Elevation

104 W. Wood
Bloomington, IL

File: IL_McLeanCounty_Wochner1.tif



East Side

104 W. Wood
Bloomington, IL

File: IL_McLeanCounty_Wochner2.tif



South Looking Northwest



South Side



West Side



North Porch Looking East



Dining Room Window Looking West



Entry Door



Living Room Looking East



Interior Door Design



Second Floor Bedroom Northwest Corner



Second Floor Bedroom Sliding Wood Doors



Second Floor Bedroom Looking South to Addition



Second Floor Electric Panel and Laundry Chute



Entrance to Attic – New Unfinished Construction



Attic – Roof Framing



East Entry at Basement Stair Landing



Basement Northeast Corner - Boiler



Basement Northwest Corner



Basement Southeast Corner



Basement Southwest Room



Basement Southwest Room Looking Northeast



Toilet at Basement Stair Landing



Basement Stair



Masonry Detail on Original Chimney

From our past: Libraries among architect's most recognized work

By Bill Steinbacher-Kemp
 Archivist/Librarian McLean County Museum of History

"He thought his buildings would last forever," Betty Moratz Singh recalled in a 1990 interview concerning her grandfather, the prominent Bloomington architect Paul O. Moratz.

Singh said her grandfather looked ahead to a time when a curious onlooker would stumble across one of his libraries, schools or homes and say, "What a beautiful building — I wonder who built it?"

Born in Germany in 1868, Moratz settled with his family in Bloomington when he was about 2 years old. He attended — but likely never graduated from — the University of Illinois, and his architectural background reflects less the theory of the classroom and more the day-to-day practicalities of managing the family business.

Herman Moratz, Paul's father, opened a woodworking shop in the predominately German neighborhood of South Hill, situated south of downtown and east of Miller Park. Paul succeeded his father in the late 1880s, a time when Queen Anne architecture and its "gingerbread" styling placed a high demand on mill work.

As a result of this Queen Anne "rage," Moratz and the craftsmen under his employ were kept busy meeting the demand for locally produced doors, sashes, frames, moldings and veneers. Eventually, he relocated the planing mill to a site near the old Nickel Plate Railroad tracks between McLean, Bell and Evans streets.

For Moratz, the disciplines of architecture and mill work melded into one, and his "up-to-date" (that is, modern) homes were born of "ready-made plans" and "massed-produced materials."

After a fire destroyed the planing mill, Moratz rebuilt at the same location, but shifted his business focus to the production of hardwood flooring.

Moratz served as the primary architect for Samuel R. White's two-block residential boulevard White's Place (today known as White Place without the possessive).

He designed the stone gate at Empire Street, and several of the homes mirror the style and layout of those found in his 1899 plan book "Up-To-Date Homes."

One could argue that Moratz's greatest legacy rests with his prolific body of work relating to public libraries, many of them Carnegies. Moratz-designed libraries include those in Edwardsville, El Paso, Fairbury, Farmington, Greenville, Paxton, Pekin and many other small and medium-size communities.

Unfortunately, several of Moratz's major works have fallen to the wrecking ball.

One of his more well-known public buildings was the old Coliseum, located at the corner of Roosevelt and Front streets. Opened in late December 1892, the concert and convention hall was razed in April 1961 to make way for a used car lot. U.S. Cellular Coliseum, across the street from that site, is named after the original.

In 1991, local preservationists suffered a grievous blow with the razing of the Moratz-designed J.W. Van Schoick home at 103 W. Wood St.

The nearly century-old residence, with its signature Queen Anne-style corner tower, was torn down to make way for a gas station and convenience store.

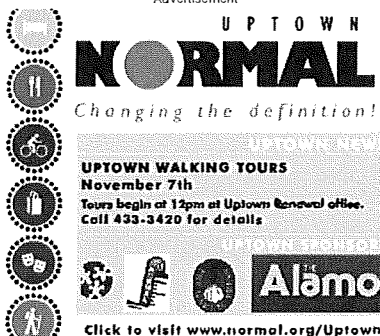
Sadly, history may repeat itself. Today, the block immediately to the south of the BP station is threatened by commercial development. This historic block features Moratz's own home, 108 W. Wood St. Although this Queen Anne residence has weathered significant modifications, including the loss of the two-story gazebo porch, the original design is still visible. This block also includes the architecturally significant Adolph Wochner home, located at 104 W. Wood St. and designed by George H. Miller, another major Bloomington architect.

Currently on display at the McLean County Museum of History is a recently restored rolltop "secretary" desk designed and built by Moratz when he attended the U of I. Visitors will find this golden oak "confection" in the south hallway just off the main floor rotunda.

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Archived issues

Note: All views and opinions expressed in reader comments are solely those of the individual submitting the comment, and not those of the Pantagraph or its staff.

we wrote on Apr 30, 2007 7:45 PM:
" may not need a walgreens but we cant survive any longer without a cvs "

we wrote on Apr 29, 2007 4:57 PM:
" need to stop wasting all the older historical buildings. other countries preserve their history "

Minimum wrote on Apr 29, 2007 10:41 AM:
" At a minimum the Miller home should be saved. No one wants or needs a Walgreens there. All one way streets around it. Dumb place for a Walgreens. Tear down one of the gas stations or pick a site with falling down decrpit buildings. "

Normal wrote on Apr 29, 2007 10:39 AM:
" Why don't we just buldoz everything put up Walgreens and Starbuck on every corner. Oh yeah then we would have to call ourselves Normal. "

Main archive page
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Saturday, October 20
Friday, October 19
Thursday, October 18
Wednesday, October 17
Tuesday, October 16
Monday, October 15
Sunday, October 14
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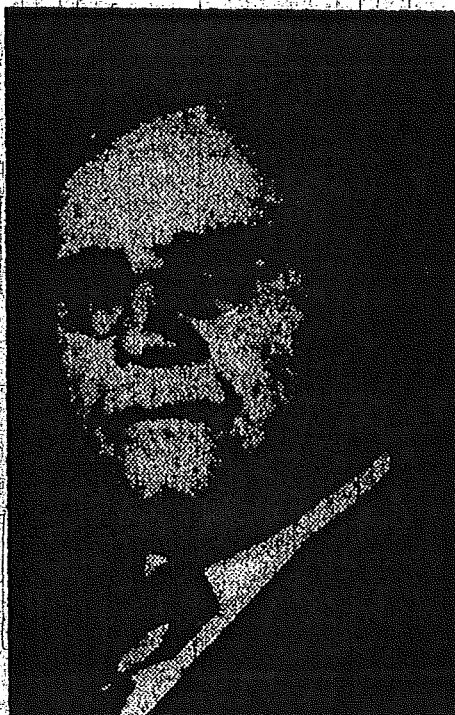
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Adolph Wochner

bits gained entrance to the house.

"It was about 9:30 p. m. We had just arrived home from the store and I heard a noise on the porch. I thought it was Jane coming home. When I opened the door, the men faced me with drawn pistols. They forced their way in before I realized what was happening."

Wait For Daughter

Finding the daughter was not home, the men forced Mr. and Mrs. Palmblade to sit down and wait until Jane did come, he said. When Jane arrived, one gunman ordered Mr. Palmblade to let her in. After explaining the situation to the daughter, the short stocky bandit forced Mr. and Mrs. Palmblade to drive him down town, while the other remained with the daughter.

When the two men entered the home, each held one hand over his face, Mr. Palmblade said. A few minutes afterward, they slipped into the bedroom and tied handkerchiefs over their faces. Both men wore gloves and left no fingerprints, according to Mr. Palmblade.

New Tear Gas Gun Received by Police

Bloomington police Saturday received a new tear gas gun, a dead-ly looking little weapon designed

Adolph Wochner Of American Bank Dies

Was Cashier There For 25 Years—Ill About Four Months

Adolph Wochner, cashier of the American State bank, died at his home, 104 West Wood street, at 7 p. m. Sunday. He had been ill four and one half months.

The body was removed to the Murray and Carmody funeral home, but will be returned to the residence Monday evening. The funeral will be held at 8:30 a. m. Wednesday at the residence and at 9 a. m. at St. Mary's church where he was a member. Burial will be in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Mr. Wochner, better known in Bloomington as Dave, was born here May 21, 1872, son of Francis X. and Amelia Wochner.

He married Miss Estella Schierberg of Cincinnati, Ohio. She died Feb. 19, 1931.

He is survived by a son, Leonard C., at home, and the following brothers and sisters: Albert and Herman, Mrs. Emma Maurer and Pauline and Olga Wochner, all of Bloomington.

Mr. Wochner had been cashier of the bank the last 25 years. He was a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph's society, St. Vincent, DePaul's society, Holy Name society, St. Francis society, Modern Woodmen, Bloomington club, Lake-side Country club and the Association of Commerce. He was treasurer of the Williams Oil-O-Matic Heating corporation.

\$678.50 for Damages Awarded C. H. Fort

A circuit court jury Monday

Mrs. Hauser Has Lead in Drama

The mother of Saul, portrayed by Mrs. J. G. Hauser, was the central character in a drama written by Dr. L. M. Thompson, First Methodist Episcopal pastor, which was presented Sunday night at the First Methodist church. The play was called "Spring Dawn Comes to a Mother."

James Ward was cast as Saul, the Roman who became a Christian and was imprisoned for his beliefs. One of the most powerful of the play's five scenes was that in which Saul's mother disowned him because of his faith. Four of the scenes were set in a Roman home; the fifth, a scene between two guards, was acted only by the light of torches they carried.

Robert Ferber, Oliver Kirby, Robert Theobald and Miss Olive Craig were among the players. The costumes were arranged by Mrs. C. H. Bower and Mrs. P. C. Somerville and the stage by Mrs. C. H. Baumgart.

(Political Ad)



grandchildren.

A brother and a sister preceded him in death.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

American State Bank president Wochner dies

Leonard C. Wochner, 71, of 612 Fairway Drive, Bloomington, president of the American State Bank, 211-213 N. Main St., Bloomington, for nearly 39 years, died at 11:30 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 29, 1983) at St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center, where he had been a patient for 12 days.

His funeral will be at 9:30 a.m. Monday at Carmody Funeral Home, and at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, the Rev. Stephen Schneider officiating. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

He was born Aug. 29, 1912, in Bloomington a son of A. Dave and Estelle.

He married Antoinette Obekoetter Jan. 12, 1939, in Peoria. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons, David C., 909 N. McLean St., Bloomington; Leonard M. and John F., both of 812 N. Evans St., Bloomington; and James J., Northbrook; two daughters, Mary E. Neels, Pewaukee, Wis., and Ann E. Gould, Peoria; and 18 grandchildren.

He was a lifelong member of St.

CLINTON (PNS) — Elby Gaines, 54, of 525 E. Washington St. died at 6:35 a.m. yesterday (Sept. 30, 1983) at University of Chicago Hospital.

He was taken to Herington Calvert Funeral Home.

10/1/1983 Pantagraph C-3, Col. 4-2

Mary's Church, and was a member of the Rotary Club, McLean County Historical Society and Illinois Bankers Association. He was formerly on the boards of Beich Candy Co., St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center and St. Mary's parish.

Mr. Wochner was a 1935 graduate of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., and also attended the University of Michigan and Loyola University law schools.

Mr. Wochner's family has been connected with the 81-year-old downtown bank since it was chartered May 2, 1902. He continued as president after its pending sale to Marine Bancorp Inc., a Springfield multibank holding company, was announced March 21.

Mr. Wochner became president Oct. 17, 1944.

During Mr. Wochner's presidency, the bank headquarters was more than doubled with the purchase of the adjacent Cole Building in 1978.

He also was a member of the bank board of directors and was an assistant trust officer. He was named in October 1954 to the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. Board of Directors.

Memorials may be made to St. Mary's Parish Fund or Central Catholic High School Foundation.

was featured in a March 24 Pantagraph article, which scribed him as a philosopher, student, storyteller, self-educated man who subs to 20 publications.

He attended schools in Bar Ky. He was a World War I veteran and a member of the World Barracks and a former member of the American Legion.

He was a Christian Scientist, lived in Pontiac for more than 20 years. He also was a fixture many years in Memorial Grades until ill health forced him to stop.

He was an avid violinist, giving instruction from some of the top violinists in the world. He was a free-lance writer, articles published in newspapers and magazines.

Memorials may be made to the Elks Lodge or to a charity of donor's choice.

BLOOMINGTON NORMAL

Bertha I. Norman

The graveside funeral of Bertha I. Norman, 88, of 1204 N. Livingston St., Bloomington, who died Tuesday (Sept. 29, 1983), will be at 2 today at East Lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington. Rev. Donald Wheeler officiating.

Kibler-Smith Memorial Home in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Norman was born Nov. 1894, in Leipsic, Ohio, a daughter of Joseph Edwin and Emma Kn

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Bloomington Pantagraph

Pantagraph, The (Bloomington, IL)

June 2, 1991

FOURSQUARE

House design fit the spirit of the new century

Author: ELAINE GRAYBILL

Edition: FINAL

Section: HOME

Page: F1

Index Terms:

BUILDINGS

HISTORY

HOUSING

Article Text:

The foursquare house hasn't gotten much respect. This plain, practical and above-all reputable dwelling somehow got lost between the Queen Anne style of the Victorian era and the post World War II split level.

Foursquare houses, sometimes called Cornbelt Cubes, were the architectural meat and potatoes of the upper middle class early in this century. The basic style was a two-story cube with a hip roof. A hip roof has four sides converging to a point. Beyond that, each house was an individual creation distinguished by various styles of construction material, porch, pillars, dormers, windows and chimney.

Inside, the standard design consisted of four square rooms on each floor - one at each corner. Variations on that theme as well as individualized stairways and added-on back porches or sun rooms gave personality to the houses.

Bloomington residents, probably inspired by the emergence of mass production and interior decorative arts, went mildly wild with the foursquare house. Foursquares can be found scattered generously in older neighborhoods, particularly on the city's near-east side.

A few years ago, Anita Schertz, then an Illinois State University graduate student in home

economics, was looking for a useful topic for her master's thesis, incorporating architecture and history. Someone suggested a study of local foursquare houses.

The time finally had come to give this quiet and hard-working architectural style its due respect.

Mrs. Schertz, a teacher at Normal Community High School, spent weeks in the summer of 1989 driving around Bloomington-Normal photographing the exteriors of foursquare houses. She made specific notes of the frequency of architectural features, and got a few owners to fill out questionnaires about interior features. She analyzed and photographed 319 houses, which she estimates to be about half the foursquares in a 10-mile circle with Bloomington-Normal in the middle.

She identified four major variations of foursquares. Fifty percent of the houses she photographed were Craftsman-, Prairie- or Bungalow-style foursquares. Twenty-seven percent were Standard foursquares! ; 18 percent were Classical and 5 percent were Eclectic.

The accompanying photos and descriptions illustrate a few of the features of well-preserved foursquare houses in the Bloomington-Normal area.

1323 E. Washington St., Bloomington

This Standard foursquare belonging to Albert K. and Carole Semmler exhibits the simplest characteristics of the type: hip roof, nearly symmetrical front, porch with four pillars and open railing.

Built in 1903, the clapboard house has the standard four-room layout downstairs, plus an added-on sunporch and laundry room in the rear. It has two stairways inside.

801 Broadway, Normal

This brick Craftsman foursquare, built in 1913, has had only five owners, including the current owners, Steven and Rebecca Landau. They became acquainted with the daughter of the family that built the house, and learned she was born in what is now their bedroom.

Mrs. Landau, curator at the historic David Davis Mansion, gave The Pantagraph a tour of the house's interior, which has as many of its original architectural features.

The house has much original woodwork, some of which is painted. Mrs. Landau thinks all of it was painted at one time. The woodwork throughout the house is birch or ash and walnut, stained different shades in different rooms. The floors are oak.

The woodwork in the dining room is called skeletal wainscoting, and it is topped by a plate rail. The Landaus use the plate rail to display ornamental plates, just as people would have done in the early 20th century.

One living room wall is taken up by a fireplace flanked by symmetrical bookcases and high windows, which is a typical feature of foursquare houses.

Throughout the house, the wallpaper chosen by the Landaus is authentic to the general era of the house. However, the dining room, now wallpapered and painted, originally had embossed leatherette on the walls.

When it was built, the house had both gas and electric lights. The Landaus found a stub of a gas

pipe in the downstairs hallway.

The floor plan downstairs varies in that the kitchen was added on to the back of the basic cube.

The house's main stairway features a landing and return steps. A smaller back stairway, which Mrs. Schertz described as uncommon in foursquares, led from the kitchen to the bedrooms.

Upstairs, the layout has been modernized by converting two bedrooms and a large closet into a master suite.

104 W. Wood St., Bloomington

The house of George Ventura Jr. is a distinctive foursquare on several counts. It falls under the Eclectic style identified by Mrs. Schertz, and within that, it is classified as a "Mediterranean Villa."

Built in the early years of the century and once owned by banker Adolph Wochner, it was designed by architect George H. Miller, who drew the plans for many of Bloomington-Normal's prominent structures. Miller was a key figure in the rebuilding of the city after the 1900 Bloomington fire.

Ventura, former proprietor of Ventura's restaurant, bought the house from the Wochner family in the early 1950s. He said the house was blessed by the Roman Catholic bishop of Peoria after it was built.

This brick house with tile roof is an example of a foursquare with rather elaborate architectural flourishes.

Inside, Ventura said, the house maintains its original features, including stained and leaded glass, natural woodwork and wood floors.

Still, the floor plan adheres to five rooms upstairs and four down, with an added-on sunporch.

Rural Carlock

The name of another architect prominent in Bloomington-Normal's history comes up in connection with Kenneth and Grace Keighin's brick Craftsman foursquare farmhouse.

Mrs. Schertz found most foursquare farmhouses near the Twin Cities are brick or concrete block. Apparently, the clapboard houses didn't survive, she said.

Mrs. Keighin said Arthur L. Pillsbury, an architect of the same era as George Miller, designed the expansive foursquare, which was completed in 1914 by farmer Milo Lantz.

Mrs. Keighin's grandfather, Ed A. Kinzinger, bought the house in the late 1920s. She and her husband made the foursquare their home in 1951, and raised their children Kevin and Valerie there. All the house's occupants have been farmers.

Her house shows the Craftsman influence through its rectangular shape, wide eaves and strong horizontal lines. Also, the square porch columns are typical Craftsman.

The floor plan has four big rooms plus a large hallway downstairs, with three big rooms, one small room and a large hallway upstairs. The Keighins' house has front and rear stairways, and "beautiful" natural woodwork, Mrs. Keighin said. "We really haven't changed hardly anything in it."

Caption:

MAUREEN O'CONNORPHOTOS

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Article from the **Pantagraph** (Bloomington, IL)

A tour of history

Published: **December 10, 2004**

Section: News

Source: Karen Hansen

'It's **Miller's** Time'

130: The Holy Trinity rectory, Main and Locust streets, is among the Bloomington buildings on the "It's **Miller's** Time" fund-raising tour. The 1898 building is an example of romanesque Revival architecture.

What: "It's **Miller's** Time," fund-raising tour of historic Bloomington buildings and homes designed by Twin City **architect George Miller**, including the first public look at the interior of **Miller's** home, 405 W. Market St.

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Tour begins at Fat Jacks, 511 N. Main St., Bloomington.

Cost: \$25. Proceeds will be used to pay expenses the Old House Society Foundation incurred in the move of the historic Mandel-Cohn home, also designed by **Miller**, last month.

In addition: People can also purchase raffle tickets to win a signed Ken Kashian panoramic photo of downtown Bloomington or an original drawing of the Mandel-Cohn home by Irv Tick.

Information: (309) 820-0548.

BLOOMINGTON -- A weekend tour of historic buildings designed by Twin City **architect George Miller** will provide the community its first opportunity to see the interior of the 1889 Queen Anne home where **Miller** once lived.

But for 82-year-old Jean Hornberger of Fort Wayne, Ind., that glimpse will be much more personal.

Hornberger is **Miller's** granddaughter, and she lived there too.

Hornberger and six members of her family will travel to the Twin Cities this weekend to take the tour. For most of them it will be the first time they've seen the home.

"I love the house," Hornberger said of the home her grandfather designed for himself at 405 W. Market St.

It will be open to the public for the first time Saturday and Sunday as part of "It's **Miller's** Time."

The fund-raising tour for the Old House Society Foundation will raise money to offset expenses connected with last month's move of the historic Mandel-Cohn home, also designed by **Miller**.

In addition to the **Miller** home, the tour includes the **George** Cox home, 701 E. Grove St.; the Holy Trinity

rectory, Main and Locust streets; and the former Moses Montefiore Temple, 315 N. Prairie St.

It will begin at the **Miller** building that houses Fat Jacks, 511 N. Main St., with a discussion of **Miller's** life and a slide show of his work, which includes many of the Twin City's most recognizable buildings.

"They are going to see some of the best examples -- **Miller's** greatest hits," said Bloomington resident Judy Stearns, among the tour's organizers. "He put a face on the city of Bloomington."

The prolific **Miller** designed more than 120 buildings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Among the more well-known structures are the **Miller** Park pavilion, St. Mary's Church and the Livingston Building; all in Bloomington, and Illinois State University's Cook Hall.

For Hornberger, this weekend's visit will mark the first time she has been in the home, now owned by Peoria resident Larry Knuth, in about three decades.

For some members of her family traveling with her -- including her husband, four children and granddaughter -- it will be the first time they've ever seen it.

The octogenarian, a 1944 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University, "just vaguely" remembers her grandfather, who died when she was 4 years old.

"I always knew as I got older that he was an **architect**," said Hornberger, who is avidly interested in her grandfather's work. "My father (**Miller's** son, Raymond) talked about him a lot."

Hornberger also lived at the home with her aunt and grandmother for a year while she attended IWU.

She said she can remember "just about everything" about the house, including its round room and several fireplaces -- including one with ceramic bricks "in the prettiest blue."

The tour also will showcase the range of styles **Miller**, a son of German immigrants, had mastered, Stearns said.

In addition to the Victorian homes, with their asymmetrical design and pitched roofs, the tour will include the Holy Trinity rectory, which Stearns called "the last best Romanesque Revival structure in Bloomington."

By contrast, that style is characterized by its symmetry and masonry construction.

"He really was so prolific," Stearns said.

The tour begins at Fat Jacks, 511 N. Main St., in downtown Bloomington. The building was once known as the Akers building.

The former **George Miller** home is located at 405 W. Market St. The Queen Anne was built in 1889.

George Miller

The Victorian home at 701 E. Grove St. was built in 1886 and formerly owned by **George Cox**, a flour mill manager. It cost \$20,000 to build.

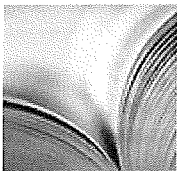
The building at 315 N. Prairie St., the former the Moses Montefiore Temple, is an example of Moorish Revival architecture and is currently a private residence.

The building at 315 N. Prairie St. was at one time the Moses Montefiore Temple. The 1889 temple is an

example of Moorish Revival architecture and is currently a private residence.

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AN ARCHITECTURAL SUCCESS OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS:
GEORGE H. MILLER (1856-1927)
Volume I
Biography

by

Evelyn Shirley Griffith

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in the History of Art
in the Graduate College of
The University of Iowa

May 1985

Thesis supervisor: Professor Robert L. Alexander

Graduate College
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

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PREFACE

George H. Miller (1856-1927) was a midwestern architect who was born, trained, practiced, and died in Bloomington, Illinois. For this medium sized Illinois city Miller provided an unusual number of public and private structures at a time of the community's economic stabilization. No longer a raw frontier town, Bloomington reached a stage when its citizens, businessmen, and organizations were sufficiently developed and prosperous to demand artistic structures of durable materials at the same time Miller entered the architectural profession. Trained in the Old World manner, Miller was one of the last in a group of architects who learned its trade on the job rather than in a school. He completed his formal education at age fifteen and learned his profession apprenticed to a carpenter-builder. Though lacking academic certification, Miller demonstrated his architectural skills to the satisfaction of his patrons, many of whom repeatedly returned to him for new projects. He built structures in Bloomington, in Central Illinois, and was involved with buildings in four other states, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Texas. He was honored by his architectural peers when one of his designs

was chosen for display at Chicago's Columbian World Fair of 1893. Miller was second-ranked, but never second-rate.

Despite the number of structures attributed to Miller, his reputation declined after his death; and information concerning him was dispersed, destroyed, and forgotten. But in the last decade interest in him has been revived, and many of his structures have been added to the National Historic Register. Fortunately many contemporary photographs and etchings of Bloomington structures still exist so when a building can be attributed to Miller, its original style can be determined. Because so many of this architect's buildings are dated precisely and recorded visually, Miller can be useful to scholars dating midwestern architectural styles and the lag-time transplanted styles needed to reach the secondary cities of the interior.

This thesis is the first attempt to compile information on Miller's life, work, and artistic accomplishments. Much of the information concerning Miller has been gleaned from newspapers. No index exists for the Daily Pantagraph, which necessitated a visual search. Since newspaper searches are tedious and often unrewarding, I did not attempt to read every daily paper in Miller's forty-six year career. Instead I skimmed slowly through the fifteen year period wherein the bulk of Miller's attributed structures date, 1885-1900. That leaves this work unevenly weighted in the

amount of material available for this period and provides only scanty coverage of the other thirty-one years of his career which deserve closer scrutiny. Because this thesis is already lengthy, I have not attempted to include any information regarding the interiors unless I chanced upon contemporary descriptions. Nor have I vigorously searched for information on structures located outside of Bloomington or Normal. Only such information as came accidentally to my attention has been included.

1.5 1927 - George H. Miller's Obituary

"George H. Miller, One of Pioneer Architects of the City, Summoned," Daily Pantagraph, 7 March 1927, p. 3, col. 4.

"Well Known Bloomingtonian Passed Away Sunday Afternoon

After an Illness of Four Years Duration--Was Born in Evergreen City in 1856--Drafted Plans for Many of the Large Business Buildings and Was a Veteran in This Profession in This Vicinity--Was Quite Active in Community Affairs.

Following an illness of four years, which commenced with a stroke of paralysis, George H. Miller, Bloomington pioneer architect, breathed his last at 2:10 Sunday afternoon at his home, 405 West Market street. While an invalid, he was able to be up and around, and had the possession of most of his faculties up to a week ago, when he became bedfast and sank into a state of coma, which continued until the end.

Mr. Miller was born in Bloomington, May 7, 1856, the son of John George Miller and Louise Scherer Miller, who were natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, and who came to McLean county in 1854, settling upon a farm [sic]. They became the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters. George was reared upon a farm and received his education in

the public schools. When but 15 he decided to start out upon the career of architect, which brought him fame. He entered the office of Richter & Bunting,⁹ at that time the only architects in Bloomington. He was fortunate in receiving such eminent tutelage as both members of the firm were artists in their field and masters of their profession. Mr. Richter later went to Indianapolis, where he rose to prominence, while Bunting went to Springfield, where he became state architect. Harris, who succeeded the firm, went to Columbus, O., in 1874, taking Mr. Miller with him. Remaining in that state one year, Mr. Miller returned to Bloomington and became engaged with Henry A. Miner as architect. In those days it was the custom for a contractor to have an architect associated with him to prepare plans. Mr. Miller continued with Miner for 14 years.¹⁰ In 1885 he opened up an office for himself, hanging out his shingle at the corner of Main and Front streets. He later moved to the Eddy building and still later to the Evans Building, remaining at the latter point until his retirement in 1917.¹¹

⁹ This is probably incorrect. No evidence has been found indicating any partnership between Richter and Bunting.

¹⁰ This is incorrect and not even valid within the dates already stated in the article. 1874 plus 14 would give the date of 1888, although the stated date that he left Miner is 1885.

¹¹ This leaves out several of his offices. See his

Was Pioneer Architect

For many years, Mr. Miller was Bloomington's only architect and scores of the finest structures are permanent monuments to his ability and talent. One of his first important jobs was the county jail. He later drew plans for the Ferre building at the corner of Center and Front streets. When but 19, he drew the plans for the Oberkoetter building on South Main street and also the present Pantagraph building.

Planned Many Buildings

He was especially active after the great fire of 1900 when Bloomington's business district was swept away, preparing plans for the Durley block; the Corn Belt bank; the Isaac Livingston building; the McLean county bank building; the Metropole hotel; the George Brand building; the Thompson-Marble building; the C. W. Klemm wholesale building; the Evans building; the First Presbyterian church¹² the Normal University gymnasium, and scores of notable residences, among them being the A. E. DeMange, now the Wesleyan dormitory, and the J. T. Snell, both on North Main street. He also drew plans for many structures of note

biography for a complete list.

¹² Although the sentence structure seems to date this and the following buildings after the 1900 fire, they all preceded the fire with the exception of the DeMange residence.

in Peoria, Decatur, East St. Louis, Ottawa and other cities. He was the first to introduce the modern system of side lighting in school buildings at the Normal University Training School and which system has since grown into universal use.

For several years he was engaged as supervising architect for government buildings and had charge of the construction of the federal structures at Saginaw, Mich., and also at Bloomington.

Mr. Miller ranked with the leading architects of the country and his talent and skill was of the highest order. He sought to provide not only the substantial, and catered to permanency, but he also had an artistic conception which embellished many structures and yet which did not detract from other necessary characteristics. His fame was carried over a wide area and his services were in constant demand for a period of over 30 years.

In October, 1887, Mr. Miller was married to Miss Rose Stautz, daughter of Jacob and Bibiana Stautz, early settlers of this county. Three children were born, Kenneth A., now an architect of Decatur; Raymond, with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; and Sallie at home. He also leaves two brothers, William B. Miller and Charles L. Miller, both well known business men [sic] of Bloomington and one sister, Miss Ida Miller, also of Bloomington.

Mr. Miller was a member of the Unitarian church, of Damon lodge, Knights of Pythias, being past chancellor, and also served for four years as alderman of the fourth ward.¹³ In the late eighties,¹⁴ he made the race for mayor on the Democratic ticket and in a three corner fight with Smith and Heafer¹⁵ ranked second.

It has been decided to hold the funeral of Mr. Miller from the late residence on Wednesday afternoon."

¹³ This is incorrect. He served as alderman from the Second and Third Wards.

¹⁴ He ran for mayor in 1894.

¹⁵ Technically it was a four cornered race. The fourth candidate was Belcher, on the Prohibition ticket.



Figure 5. Map of Bloomington and Normal, Illinois
Most of Miller's structures are within the circled areas.



Figure 56. G. H. Miller's Residence
South facade in 1982.



Figure 139. A. Wechner's Residence
east and north facades. The porte-cochere of F. X.
Wechner's Residence can be seen at right. (Illustrated
Bloomington, Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: The
Illustrated Publishing Company, 1916.)



Figure 3. George H. Miller
Dates circa 1910. (Photograph in the possession of Mrs.
Jean (Miller) Hornberger, Fort Wayne, Indiana.)



Figure 4. George H. Miller in front of
His Home
Dates circa 1920. (Photograph in the possession of Mrs.
Jean (Miller) Hornberger, Fort Wayne, Indiana.)

brackets. The horizontal eaves interplay with vertical brick wall planes. The eaves creep in on the front gable, and the walls break the eaves as they rise to hipped dormers. Limestone trims the window sills, the basement, and the porch which sweeps from the front around to the porte-cochere on the left. Unlike most of Miller's porches, this is uncovered except for the porte-cochere and the center front. Patron profile:

Charles Van Pelt was a real estate developer with fourth floor office in the Corn Belt Bank building (1.106) where Miller rented office space on the sixth floor.

1.123 A. Wochner's Residence

Adolph Wochner's Residence (Figure 139)
104 W. Wood Street

The Adolph Wochner's Residence is of an uncertain date. Pictured and attributed to Miller in Illustrated Bloomington, Illinois (1916), the home probably dates circa 1910. Stylistically the Spanish elements of the facade link it to the C. A. Van Pelt's Residence (1909-1913); and the porch shape and brick link it to A. E. DeMange's Residence (1906). Typical of most of Miller's oeuvre at the turn of the century, Wochner's residence has a simple cubic shape constructed of mottled gray Roman brick and sheltered under a hipped tile roof. Except for the stepped gable cutting through the eave, the two story home has a Craftsman flavor.



Porch elements are all simple rectangular shapes composed of brick and limestone blocks. Patron profile:

Adolph Wochner built his home adjacent to his brother's home, another Miller design. For more information on the family's connection with Miller, see the entries for F. X. Wochner's Residence (1.94) and the Metropole Hotel (1.102).

1.124 An Unknown Structure,
Decatur, Illinois

An unknown structure
Decatur, Illinois

In Miller's obituary there was a scant reference to "...plans of note...in Decatur..."⁵⁸⁵ but to what that refers is unknown.

1.125 An Unknown Structure,
East Saint Louis, Illinois

An unknown structure
East Saint Louis, Illinois

Miller's obituary refers to "...plans of note...in East Saint Louis..."⁵⁸⁶ but they have not been identified.

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