

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 328 North College  
Also listed as 463 West North (as in assessor's office)  
Legal description: Western Addition  
N 60.2' of Lot 4 Block 4 and  
N 60.2' W 23' of Lot 5 Block 4.

Date of original construction: 1870, est. assessor's office.

Name of original owner: William W. Lapham.

History:

1. A partial chain of title follows. (Source: Office of Macon County Recorder of Deeds)

May	12, 1838	William T. Crissey to David Davis.
March	12, 1839	David Davis to William T. Crissey.
August	9, 1853	William T. Crissey Estate.
June	11, 1864	Tax deed. Sheriff to Edward O. Smith.
June	16, 1864	Edward O. Smith to Thomas O. Smith.
May	7, 1866	Thomas O. Smith to William W. Lapham.
June	11, 1878	William W. Lapham to James Freeman.
February	5, 1901	James Freeman Estate.
Nov.	30, 1912	Mary L. Freeman et al to Allerton S. Freeman, trustee.
Dec.	1, 1921	Mary L. Freeman estate.
Febr.	1, 1923	Mary F. Wilmeth to Allerton S. Freeman and Andrew W. Freeman, trustees.
Febr.	2, 1928	Trustees - undivided - 1/7 interests.
Sept.	1932	Heirs of Mary Freeman to Clara Heger Freeman.
Nov.	27, 1954	Clara Heger Freeman to Jerome J. Heger and Mary E. Heger.
2. Information from city directories follows.  
(Note: Some city directories are not available)

1871-72	Lapham, William W., agent, Singer Sewing Machines, Cor. College and William.
1877	Freeman, Jas. (Freeman Bros., James and John) dealers in boots and shoes, 8 Merchant Street, res Cor College and William.
1880	Same as above.
1884	Same as above.
1885	Freeman, James (Freeman Bros., James and John, 114 Merchant Street) res Cor College and William.

Present owner's name: Jerome J. and Mary E. Heger.

History Cont'd.:

2. Information from city directories cont'd.

- 1895 Freeman, Charles W., 328 N. College.  
Freeman, James, 328 N. College.  
Freeman, James S., clerk, Freeman Bros.  
Freeman, J. Ned, clk., Linn and Scruggs, res. 328 N. College.
- 1901-
- 1917 Freeman, C. W., Shellabarger M. and E. Co., then American Hominy Co.
- 1926 Rozene, I. W.

3. June 25, 1973 - Fifty Years Ago (column in Decatur Review)

"Two apartments are being made out of the old Freeman home at 328 N. College, one of the older houses in Decatur."

(This would have been June 25, 1923 when owned by the Mary Freeman estate).

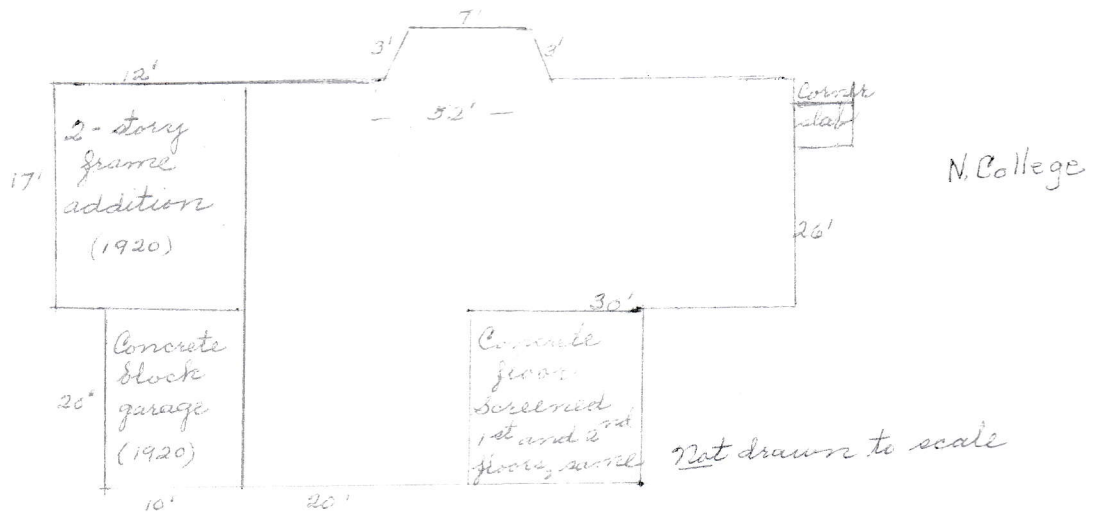
4. See biographical sketch of James Freeman, attached, as copied from a 1903 S. J. Clarke publication, Past and Present of the City of Decatur and Macon County, Illinois. According to this item, Mr. Freeman moved to Decatur in 1879.

5. See copy of a November 19, 1890 item in the Decatur Daily Republican regarding the silver anniversary of the marriage of James and Mary Willson Freeman. (Married November 18, 1865, farmed near Moweaqua, 13 years - 1878) James Freeman gained title to the 328 N. College June 11, 1878, according to the recorder of deeds office; hence, 1878 seems to check out as the date the Freeman's first lived in this house.

6. The following data is from the office of the Macon County Assessor:

2 story house  
3 apartments  
12 rooms

Exterior walls - brick, except for frame addition.  
Gable roof, medium pitch



1920 remodeling and new garage  
West North

The Freeman House  
328 North College

West side (front) of house



North side of 328 N. College  
Sometimes listed, 463 W. North



Photos by Margaret Meyer, December, 1974

328 North College



Photo, courtesy Kathryn  
Freeman Kuhle and  
Andrew Freeman  
Date unknown

• MAR 75

## JAMES FREEMAN.

In commercial circles in Decatur James Freeman was long an active and prominent factor, having established and conducted one of the large mercantile enterprises of the city. Indolence was utterly foreign to his nature and his activity, keen discernment in business affairs and indefatigable energy enabled him to develop an enterprise of importance to the city and which at the same time proved an excellent source of revenue for himself and family.

Mr. Freeman was a native of Boston, his birth there occurring on the 6th of April, 1836. He was a representative of one of the old families of New England, his ancestors having emigrated to America in 1632, only twelve years after the Pilgrims landed on the shores of Massachusetts from the Mayflower. Benjamin

Freeman, the father of our subject, was born in New England and during the boyhood of his son James brought his family to Illinois, settling in Hillsboro, where he entered land, but as he died a few years later the family returned to Boston, where our subject resided for a number of years.

It was on the 16th of November, 1865, that Mr. Freeman was joined in wedlock to Miss May L. Wilson, of Jacksonville, Illinois, the second daughter of Andrew F. and Louisa (Wheadon) Wilson. Mrs. Freeman was born in the city of Jacksonville, her parents having settled there in 1838. Subsequently they removed to Moweaqua, Illinois, where the father died in 1901, in the ninety-first year of his age. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party and he never failed to cast his ballot for its men and measures. For many years he was a member of the Baptist church and his life was in consistent harmony with his professions. Mrs. Freeman, like her husband, comes of good old Revolutionary stock, the grandfathers on both sides having been patriots in the Continental Army in the war for American independence.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman began their domestic life upon a farm near Moweaqua and there he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1879, when he retired from that field of labor and removed to Decatur, making his home in this city until his death. Here he opened a large boot and shoe store, the first extensive one here, and was thus connected with the mercantile interests of the city until his life's labors were ended. For a long period he was associated in business with his brother, John Freeman, but for the last few years was sole proprietor of what was one of the leading commercial institutions of the city. He carried a large and well selected line of boots and shoes and received an extensive patronage, which he well merited because of his progressive business methods, his straightforward dealing and his earnest efforts to please his customers.

In early life Mr. Freeman took an active part in politics and served for a number of terms as supervisor in a manner which reflected credit upon the county and his constituents. He was also deputy United States marshal under his uncle, Watson Freeman, and was ever conscientious and prompt in the performance of any public duty or the execution of any public trust. Of the Decatur Club he was a valued and popular member and he was past grand director and a member of the supreme lodge of the Knights of Honor. Pleasant and genial in manner, he was admired and respected by all. He appreciated friendship and therefore won it, and he was quick to recognize the good in others and render them his regard because of this. It is a well known truth that we see about us that which we have in ourselves and this trait of character in Mr. Freeman showed that he was the possessor of all the sterling qualities which he respected in his fellowmen.

*From Past and Present of the City of Decatur  
and Macon County, Illinois, Chicago,  
The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1903.  
pp. 828, 829.*

### AN ANNIVERSARY DAY

Mr. and Mrs. James Freeman Celebrate  
Their Silver Wedding Saturday

The large comfortable home of Mr. and Mrs. James Freeman was decorated and lighted last night throughout, and filled with guests, their friends, who came to celebrate with them and congratulate them on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their marriage. That notable event occurred on November 16, 1865, but that date falling on Sunday this year, of course the following day was chosen for the celebration of it. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman were assisted in receiving by Mr. and Mrs. John Freeman, of Moweaqua, and Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Spaulding. The brothers Messrs. James and John Freeman, married sisters, and Mr. and Mrs. John Freeman were married on Nov. 16, 11 years ago. Their daughter, Miss Alice Freeman, was married to O. F. Spaulding on Nov. 18, 67, 28 years ago, so that the party last night was really the celebration of the three weddings.

James Freeman and Miss Mary Wilson were married at Jacksonville 24 years ago and went at once to Moweaqua, where they lived on a farm for 13 years, then removing to Decatur. For these 13 years Mr. Freeman has been engaged in the shoe business with his brother, except one year, when, as he expresses it, he was "farming by telegraph." They have six sons and one daughter, none of whom are married. Mr. Freeman is known as one of the solid business men of Decatur, prominent in republican political circles, and a member of the board of supervisors.

To all present last night the evening passed rapidly and agreeably, and at 10 o'clock the guests were seated to an elegant and delicate lunch. After most earnest congratulations and wishes from all that Mr. and Mrs. Freeman may enjoy another 25 years of married life, the company dispersed about midnight.

The presents received were numerous and elaborate, and made a very beautiful display of fine silver. The rooms were decorated with flowers, evergreens and cat tails. Music was furnished throughout the evening by the Opera House orchestra.

The invitations issued numbered more than 400, and a very large proportion of those invited were present. Regrets were received from all over the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Those present from out of the city were the father and mother of Mrs. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Willcox, who are still in excellent health and spirits and enjoyed the occasion as much as any one present. Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Day, Mrs. Tolley and Mrs. Friedley, all of Moweaqua; Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Miller, Marcus; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Goodrich, Taylorville; Mrs. Lewis Mason, Mrs. M. A. McAllister, Jacksonville; D. F. Freeman, Boston; Mrs. George M. Reed, Moweaqua and Mrs. Edna Hanson, Forsyth.

*Decatur Daily Republican*  
November 19, 1890.

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James Freeman and Miss Mary Willson were married at Jacksonville 25 years ago and went at once to Moweaqua, where they lived on a farm for 13 years, then removing to Decatur. For these 12 years Mr. Freeman has been engaged in the shoe business with his brother, except one year, which as he expressed it, he was "farming by telegraph." They have six sons and one daughter, none of whom are married. Mr. Freeman is known as one of the solid business men of Decatur, prominent in republican political circles, and a member of the board of supervisors.

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Decatur Daily Republican

November 19, 1890

Lands, see Lapham & Kaufman, over P. O.

1876 - Beasley's Decatur Directory - 1876

77

## L

**LAKE JAMES C.** lawyer and register in bankruptcy  
12 S Side New Square 2d floor, r se cor N Water and  
Eldorado

**Lake William**, driver, r nw cor E Prairie and Mill

**Lamay Noah**, polisher, Peniwell & Grindol

**Landigan James**, blksmith, T W & W R R

**Landgraf George**, German Lutheran preacher, r S Edward  
bet Wood & Main

**Lane Mary Mrs. E.** William nr Franklin

**Lane Susan**, wash woman, St. Nicholas Hotel

**Langheldt Theresa Mrs.** r Morgan bet Orchard & Jefferson

**Lanham Benjamin F.** carp, r N Union bet Cerro Gordo and  
Green

**Lanham William N.** carp, r S Jackson nr R R

**LAPHAM A. MILTON**, [Lapham & Kaufman] r S  
Franklin cor Washington

**Lapham Wm. W.** genl agt Story & Camp Chicago, music,  
r N College bet Main and North

**LAPHAM & KAUFMAN**, (A. Milton Lapham  
and Isaac S. Kaufman,) Real Estate and  
Insur Agts, E Prairie, over Post Office

**Laphardt Christ**, shoe mkr, r 57 Morgan

**Lary George E.** agt I & I C Railway, office Central Depot,  
bds 64 E Eldorado

**Latch George B.** blacksmith, r N Broadway bet Sangamon  
and Jefferson

**Latch Jacob**, lab, N Broadway bet Sangamon



# A.S. Freeman Ill Several Months, Dies

June 29, 1933

Succumbs Wednesday at  
Home; Long Prom-  
inent in Decatur.

## PLAN FUNERAL

(Funerals on Classified Page)  
Allerton S. Freeman, 54, of the insurance firm of Freeman & Dillehunt, died at 1:35 p. m. Wednesday at his home, 320 North College street. He had been suffering for several months with a malignant tumor and complications.

Although he knew the serious nature of his ailment, he retained his cheerful outlook on life and gave no indication that he was worried over his condition. He was never confined to his bed until during the last few days and he attended to his business regularly.

### Born In Decatur

Allerton Shaw Freeman was born in Decatur Jan. 22, 1879. He was a son of the late James and Mary Wilson Freeman. They were among the early residents of Decatur and were counted among the leading citizens. The family has always been prominent in the social and business life of the community. Their home on College Hill was the scene of many brilliant social gatherings.

Allerton was educated in the Decatur schools and this has always been his home. His friendliness, quick wit and cheerful disposition made him popular with young and old. He was an excellent party goer and for years participated in practically all the social and business affairs of the city. He was a member of the Elks, the old Iroquois club and other organizations. On a number of occasions he planned the entire entertainment, especially the minstrel shows.

### Entered Insurance Business

Shortly after leaving school he entered a vaudeville circuit but left the stage to enter the insurance business. Twenty-seven years ago he began writing insurance for the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance company.

Allerton Freeman and Miss Edna Leslie Sine were married in Decatur April 21, 1904. Three children were born to them. Samuel, the elder son, was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Trenton, N. J. July 28, 1930. Mr. Freeman and the younger boy, James, were also severely injured in the same accident. Mr. Freeman was a member of the First Baptist church, the South Side Country club and Decatur lodge No. 401, U. P. O. Elks.

He leaves his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Kathryn Freeman Dawson, and one son, James Allerton Freeman, 17, both of Decatur. There are two grandchildren. He also leaves three brothers, Andrew W. Freeman, Decatur; James A. Freeman, Moxasqua; and Benjamin Freeman, Port Arthur, Tex. Two brothers and a sister preceded him in death. They were C. W. and J. E. Ned Freeman, and Mrs. Mary P. Wigham, wife of Guy A. Wigham.

SUCCUMBS



Allerton S. Freeman,  
prominent Decatur business-  
man who died Wednesday  
following a long illness.