

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: Northeast corner of West North and College.  
438 W. North Street, Decatur, Illinois.

Date of original construction: 1859 - Assessor's Office.  
"Long before 1860" - Newspaper File,  
3/13/32.

Name of original owner:

1. A Mr. Sloan - "long before 1860".
2. Thomas Smith.
3. Dr. Ira N. Barnes - 1864 - bought from T. Smith.
4. Mrs. Mary Barnes (Widow of Dr. Ira).
5. Dr. Lynn Barnes - 1931 - (on death of Mary Barnes).

History:

"One of Decatur's oldest residences, that of the late Dr. Ira Barnes at 438 W. North Street, may be torn down in the near future to make way for a new home to be occupied by Dr. Barnes' son, Dr. Lynn N. Barnes and family.

"Dr. Barnes stated last week he is undecided whether he will replace or remodel the homestead that became his property on the death of his step-mother, Mrs. Mary Barnes, in August of this year.

"The home was built originally along colonial lines, with a broad, high ceilinged portico in the front, and a second floor front balcony with ornamental iron railing.

"As it was first constructed, the house was two stories in height with one story wings flanking the sides at the front. Later these wings were built up to the height of the rest of the house, when the structure was completely remodelled by the late Dr. Ira Barnes.

"A summer house in the broad lawn adjoining the house seldom failed to attract the attention of visitors and passersby. The house resembled a miniature band-stand such as may be seen in almost any small town public square. It was a favorite spot for members of the Barnes family and visitors during the summer months.

"An old fashioned "Presbyterian" iron fence encircling the yard is still another distinguishing mark. Of heavy twisted iron bars, the fence is thought to have been built fully a half century ago, but it remains intact.

"Inside, the high-ceilings, spacious rooms bespeak the period in which the house was built. There are no less than five fireplaces in the living room and bedrooms. The mantels are of both light and dark marble, and one is of walnut, all in old fashioned but beautiful designs.

"Many old pieces of furniture, valuable as antiques, were found when the house was cleaned last week. There were pictures, old china and ornamental vases."

Clipping File, Decatur Herald  
November 8, 1931

Present owner's name: Lincoln Manor, owned by Irving Melnik, Robert A. Packer, Gershom Cohn, Morton Melnik, and two friends in Chicago. Lincoln Manor project completed July 1, 1970.

"Back to the simplicity of Civil War times, modern architecture will carry the residence of the late Dr. Ira Barnes, 438 W. North Street.

"Long before 1860 the dignified home appeared on the "knoll", a two storied, balconied structure flanked on east and west by one story wings.

"In later years its beauty was violated by the intrusion of an era of gingerbread, and its symmetry was broken in remodeling, which a then modern generation deemed proper.

"Now shorn of its gimcrackery, it will be restored as it stood three generations ago and will become the home of the family of Dr. Lynn N. Barnes, who will thus return to his birthplace and childhood residence.

"No one seems to remember the man who caused the house to be built save that he bore the name of Sloan. Its timbers were of heavy hand hewn oak and its rooms were spacious. No less than five fireplaces in the downstairs rooms and sleeping chambers combatted cold weather.

"The front door and its sidelights were typical of the age. Above the long porch was a balcony with a wrought iron railing. From the portico heavy clusters of wrought iron grapes were suspended.

"One entered directly into a hospitable hall which led on one side into the parlor, and on the other side into the dining room and kitchen. A staircase rose from the entrance hall to the sleeping rooms above.

"When the late Tom Smith purchased the residence from Mr. Sloan he made a few changes to conform to the needs of his family. The space occupied by the dining room and kitchen became another parlor.

"July 12, 1864 the late Dr. Ira N. Barnes purchased the house. He built another story on the west wing, took off the east wing and replaced it with a two-story wing that bulged forward with a bay window. It was in keeping with the era, but it lost entirely the simplicity of the line which characterized the original dwelling.

"The center portion has remained through the years as it was originally built."

Famous Landmark on "The Knoll",  
West North St., birthplace of Dr.  
Lynn Barnes, to be remodeled and  
brick veneered, by Carmen Weir,  
Newspaper File, March 13, 1932.

The following data is from the 1973-74 card on 438 W. North St., Macon County Assessor's Office:

10 rooms	Slate roof
3 apartments	Steam heat
Masonry - brick	3-1/2 blocks
Built in 1859	
Remodeled in 1886 and again in 1930	

Recorded by Charlotte Meyer,  
January 22, 1974.



438 West North



Photos, Margaret M. Meyer, October, 1974



*Brink, McDonough and Co., Philadelphia, 1880  
Corresponding Office, Edwardsville, Ill.*



*Ira N. Barnes.*

Illinois, was born at Claremont, New Hampshire, on December, 1829. His father, Ira Norton Barnes, was a New England farmer, and being industrious and active to his business, he managed to draw from among his native state a comfortable support for his large mother of Dr. Barnes, Harriet Eastman Barnes, was the old Eastman family, from which sprung Daniel and other distinguished characters. When Dr. Barnes was three months of age his father received a severe scald from maple-syrup, which resulted in his death after a few days. The early years in the life of Dr. Barnes were spent at Claremont. After obtaining a good education at the academies of Danbury and of Springfield, Vermont, he began the study of pharmacy with W. M. Ladd, M.D., of Claremont. In 1847 he was commissioned by Governor Dinsmoor as assistant surgeon of the 15th regiment of New Hampshire militia. He received a drug store of Dr. Ladd several years, and then he entered upon a collegiate course of study. After two years of preparation at Kimball Union Academy, he entered Dartmouth College in 1851, and graduated therefrom in 1855, with the degree of A.B. The following year was spent in the drug store of his brother, Dr. W. A. Barnes, at Decatur, Illinois. He then moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he taught a select course of medicine with Dr. S. C. Farrar.

He received the degree of A.M. from Dartmouth College, and attended the first course of medical lectures at Hanover, New Hampshire, and continued his medical studies under the tuition of Dr. J. C. Crosby and E. R. Peaslee. He spent the summer of 1856 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, attending the clinics at the University, and in the autumn of the same year he matricu-

lated at the Jefferson Medical College. In 1861 he returned to Philadelphia and attended his last course of lectures, and graduated at the Jefferson School in March, 1862.

Immediately after graduation he located at Decatur, Illinois, and formed a partnership with Dr. E. W. Moore, which has continued to the present time. In March, 1863, he was appointed and commissioned as surgeon of the 116th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. In 1864 he was appointed surgeon-in-chief of the 2d Div. Army Corps, and in 1865 was placed in charge of the Division Hospital. He was with his regiment when, as part of the Army of the Tennessee, it participated in the battles around Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi; Chattanooga, Mission Ridge and Knoxville, Tennessee; Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta, Atlanta, Fort McAllister and Savannah, Georgia; and Columbia, South Carolina. After marching with Sherman to the sea, and thence through the Carolinas and Virginia to Washington, District of Columbia, he was mustered out with his regiment near the latter city in June, 1865. He at once returned to Decatur and resumed the practice of his profession, in which he has been very successful. The partnership between him and Dr. Moore has existed longer than any other medical partnership in Macon county. He has been a conscientious and industrious physician, and his energies have been wholly devoted to his large practice. Dr. Barnes is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association, and one of the physicians to the Hospital of the Sisters of St. Francis. On the 25th of September, 1861, he was married to Diantha G. Sargent, of Claremont, New Hampshire, who died May 10th, 1879. He has one child, a son, Lynn Moore Barnes, born October 3d, 1873. *who became Dr. Lynn Moore Barnes who had two sons; Ira Barnes (m. Vivian Bell) son - Dr. David Barnes*

*Sargent Barnes  
3 daughters, two of them, twins.*



# Home Opens Saturday

July 10, 1970

## Lincoln Manor Project Completed

Mayor James H. Rupp will cut a red, white and blue ribbon Saturday to mark the formal opening of Lincoln Manor, 438 W. North St., Decatur's newest shelter care home.

An open house will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday to display the home and its features to the public.

"We're proud of what we have here," Irving B. Melnik, one of the owners, said about the home.

He described Lincoln Manor as a retirement home that was designed to keep people young in spirit and a part of the community.

A full range of activities including gardening, classes, church services and games such as shuffle board and pool will be offered at the home.

The home's central location in the community will allow residents to take part in recreational, cultural, educational and social activities in the community, he said.

Emphasis at Lincoln Manor will be on involving the residents in activities.

Among the features that the home offers, Melnik said, are:

- Completely sprinklered to insure safety of residents.

- Central air conditioning and heating that automatically changes as weather conditions change.

- A make up air system that provides proper exhaust ventilation while introducing large quantities of fresh air preconditioned into the building.

- Automatic signaling of fire department in event a fire alarm is sounded.

- Piped in music and call system.

- Medical room for resident's doctor, resident's records and medication.

- Semiprivate and private rooms.

- Automatic emergency lighting for all exits in case of power failure.

- Automatic closing of all smoke doors and turning off of all air moving blowers in the building in the event of a fire alarm.

"We've tried to create a warm, homey atmosphere by using early American decor," Melnik said.

When it opens Saturday, the home will be able to accommodate 106 persons, however,

Melnik said that there are plans to expand to increase that total to 150.

"We're proud of the building we have here," Melnik said. Considerable care was taken to see that the new structure preserved the dignity of the Barnes mansion which is incorporated into the building.

The home of the late Dr. Ira M. Barnes at 438 W. North St. and property adjoining it was purchased by Melnik and his partners.

Anyone 18 years of age and older is eligible to stay at the shelter care home, which is for

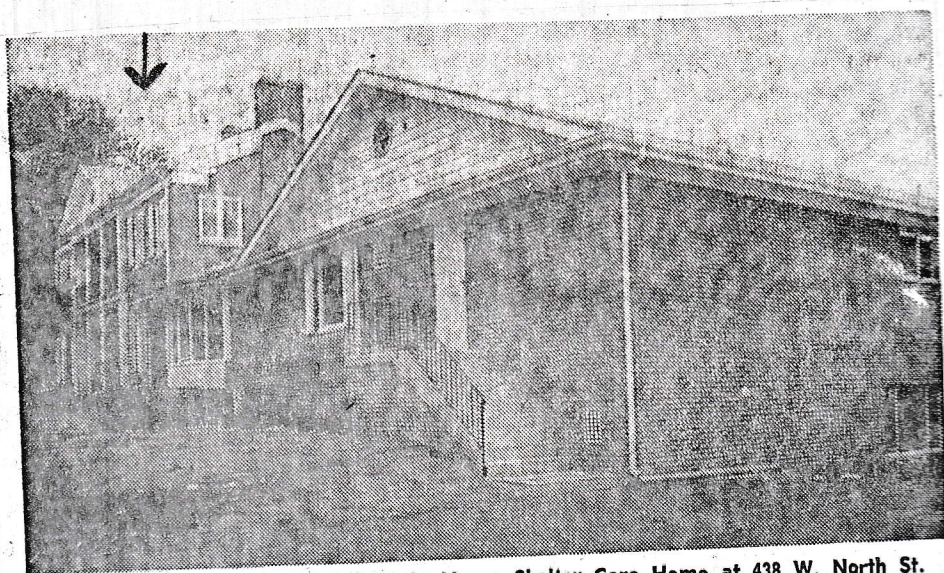
persons who can care for themselves.

"Everyone — the private paying guests and the public aid recipients — will be treated alike with no discrimination in treatment or accommodations," he said.

The cost for one person staying at the home for a month would be \$275, while for a husband and wife it would be \$475.

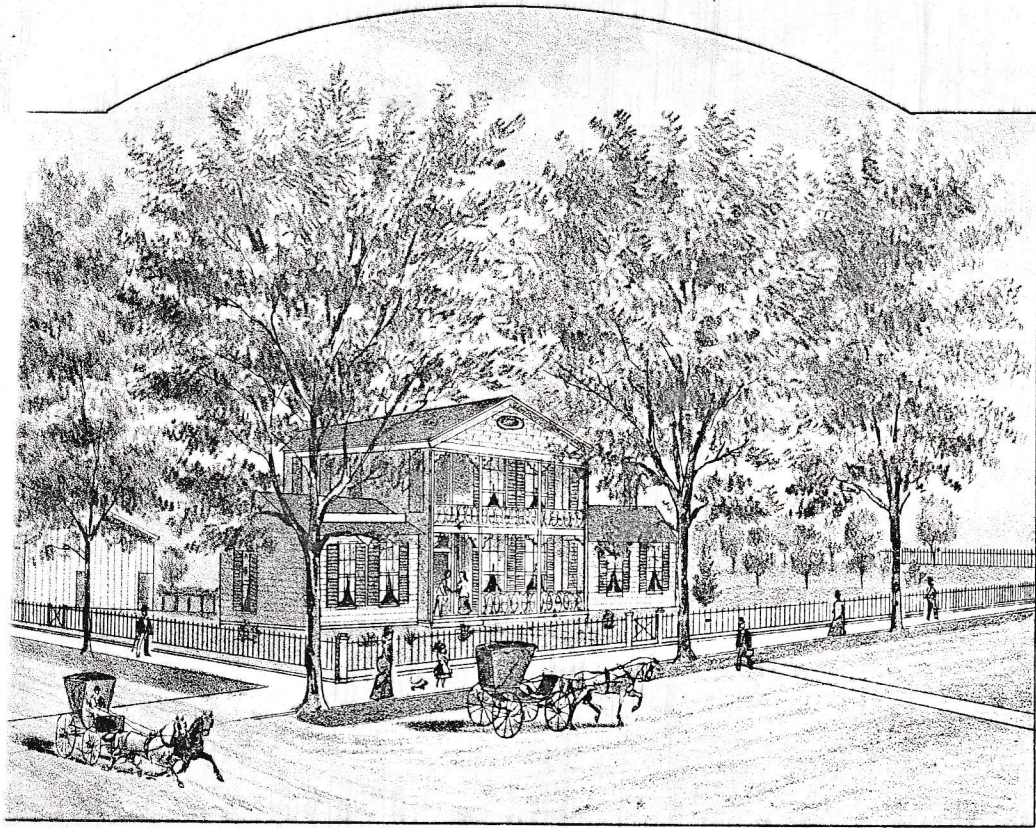
"We're trying to provide a new way of life with dignity so persons can enjoy retirement," Melnik said.

Partners in the home, which is expected to be profit making, are Melnik, Robert A. Packer, Gershom R. Cohn and Morton Melnik and two friends in Chicago.



Saturday the public can view Lincoln Manor Shelter Care Home at 438 W. North St.





RESIDENCE OF DR. IRA N. BARNES, COR. NORTH & COLLEGE STS. DECATUR, ILL.