

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 617 West Decatur
Legal description:
Martin Forstmeyer's Addition

Date of Original construction: 1910 - est., assessor's office.
1903 - city directories.

Original owner: Richard O. Rosen, architect (Rosalie A.)
(See below)

History:

1. Data from city directories:

1893- Benj. Nutt, occupation not given.
1895- James and Lizzie MacAvoy (actor).
1897- Luvin and Bertha Wheeler (painter).
1899- Geo. W. and Rosa Crane -
1901- Marion and Ina May (c) (miner).
1902- Unavailable.

Note: It seems likely that the occupations of the above occupants of a house at 617 W. Decatur, would not have supported as fine a house as the present one that is on the site, and that the next person listed first occupied the present house on the site.

1903-1917 Richard O. Rosen (Rosalie A.), architect.
1918-1923 Albert E. Sanner* occupation not listed.
1924-1929 S. L. Pogue* (Lois B.) Vail, Pogue, Allen, attorneys.
1930-1969 Harold A. Pogue*, officer, Hunter-Pogue Lumber Co.
1970-1971 Mrs. Ramona Pogue, wid. Harold A.
1972-1976 Glenn F. Spachman* (Susan).

Mgr. U.S. Emergency Emp. Office
(accepted employment in Chicago area, early 1976).

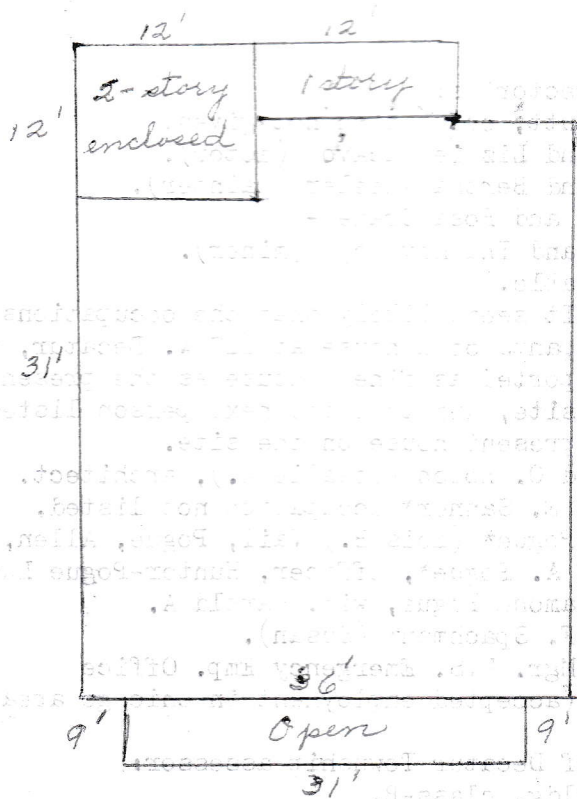
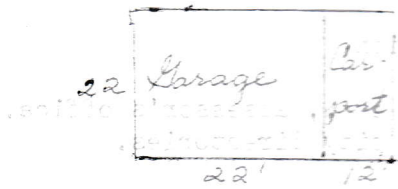
2. Data from office of Decatur Township assessor:

Zoning R-6. Bldg. class-B.
Family dwelling - wood frame construction, brick foundation.
Exterior walls - wood, hip roof, asphalt comp. shingle.
Full basement.
2 stories, 8 rooms.
Natural fireplace, garage.

(See sketch on opposite sheet)

Present owner: Glenn F. and Susan S. Spachman.

2. Sketch:



Not drawn to scale

3. History Cont'd.:

a. Mr. R. O. Rosen who occupied the house, 1903-1917, was the designer of the Schlaudeman-LeForgee House at 560 Powers Lane (1908) and the Powers-Jarvis House at 357 West Decatur (1910).

b. See attachments:

- Print-outs of city directories showing occupants of 612 W. Decatur - c.d.'s for 1893, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1903.
- Obit., Harold Pogue, Sun. H. & R., October 22, 1969.

Decatur Sunday A. & P.

explained today in Decatur

Oct. 22, 1969



Harold A. Pogue

Harold Pogue, Civic Leader, Dies at 76

Harold A. Pogue, former Decatur city councilman and University of Illinois Board of Trustees president, died at 6 a.m. Wednesday at his home at 617 W. Decatur St.

He was 76.

The native of Sullivan was active in politics on a local, state and national level and was prominent in business and civic affairs in Decatur for many years.

Mr. Pogue was born Nov. 25, 1893, in Sullivan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Pogue. His father was a Sullivan druggist and later a Decatur banker.

Mr. Pogue attended Sullivan High School and later the University of Illinois, where he graduated in 1916.

While at the University, he enjoyed a brilliant career as a halfback on the football team.

In the first play of his first game, he returned a punt for a touchdown.

Mr. Pogue's ties with the university remained strong throughout his life. He served on the Board of Trustees from 1935 to 1941. In 1941, he was president of the board.

In 1952, Mr. Pogue was elected president of the University Alumni Association. He was again elected to the Board of Trustees in 1958.

Mr. Pogue spent most of his life in the public eye. Immediately after graduating from college, he served as assistant secretary of the Decatur Association of Commerce.

He worked with a Chicago banking firm for a few years following W. W. I and returned to Decatur in 1921 to accept the post of secretary of the Assn. of Commerce. He served the association as president for three terms.

After holding that position for four years, he became one of the organizers of the Hunter-Pogue Lumber Co. He served as president of the company until 1959 when his nephew, Roger B. Pogue, became president and he became treasurer.

Mr. Pogue was also president of the Pogue Development Co.

In 1935, Mr. Pogue was appointed director of a 22-county district of the Works Progress Administration with headquarters in Decatur.

In 1957, Mr. Pogue was named chairman of a special committee to help plan a multi-million dollar street improvement program for Decatur.

He was named to the Board of Local Improvements in 1960, and in 1962, he was named chairman of the Advisory Committee on Aged Survey.

In 1963, he was appointed to an advisory committee to work with the City Council on the Oakley Dam project.

In 1959, he ran for Decatur's first city council and was the top vote getter among the councilman candidates.

Mr. Pogue was a candidate for mayor in 1963.

In 1956, he was appointed as one of eight vice chairmen of the Illinois Stevenson for President Committee and he attended the 1960 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

Surviving Pogue is his wife Ramona whom he married on Oct. 2, 1965.

Mr. Pogue's body has been donated to the University of Illinois Medical College at his request.

Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

*Decatur Sunday
Herald and Review, May 29, 1977*

A Pretty Day, A Guide, and You -- Walking

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was earlier this spring, in the time of the lilacs, that Elynn Gustafson-Ford, guide in hand, set out on foot, trailed by reporter Ruth Heckathorn and photographer Doug Gaumon, to explore Decatur's Historic District. Elynn's guide prepared by Zonta Club of Decatur, included three different self-directed walking or driving tours. Her adventure included more than beautiful old homes. Walking, she met people. And walking, she went slowly enough to soak up the mood of the grand old homes, melding it in her mind with fantasies and facts.

(The Zonta leaflet is available free by calling 422-4770 or 429-7557.)

By Ruth Heckathorn

Breezes whisper. And, perhaps, so should you. That's the mood of Decatur's grand old houses.

Elynn Gustafson-Ford isn't yet, though she's caught the feeling.

"Some of these older houses give you visions of being courted, having a young man standing under the balcony singing."

A serenade. That's the rural Bethany woman's mood.

The afternoon is perfect for such reveries, for meandering down lilac-sweetened streets and under boughs that dapple heads with white petals.

For being a full-skirted Scarlet O'Hara fanning on elegant porches.

For mixing fantasies with tales of tower trapdoors, turtle-back Tiffanies and tin roofs.

Elynn's doing that, following a walking tour route of Decatur's Historic District from a leaflet prepared and distributed in the district by Zonta Club of Decatur.

People she meets reminisce. Years fall away.

Did Harold Pogue really marry the maid before he died? And how could his aunt scissor those marvelous cutout silhouettes of lion, moose, polar bear, witch, camel and kids still glued on the attic ceiling?

Which past president of Decatur Woman's Club returned, asking friends if she should wed?

Here's a glance back just for the asking, an unhurried afternoon that brings forth historical treasures . . .

Residents unpack groceries as Elynn ventures onto their front porch at 617 W. Decatur St.

"Mr. Harold Pogue owned it and I love it," says Roger Clark. "He built it by himself and he was a bachelor."

Clark stepped through the front entrance and requested the contract, even before he'd discovered the red stained glass window, double living rooms and, well, he, wife Chris and daughter Jennifer will show you around.

"Oh, I'm so envious of this bathtub," sighs Elynn.

Imagine 150 gallons of water bubbling up from the bottom of that stylish, clawfoot porcelain piece.

The 11-room dwelling also boasts original marble sinks, a second floor porch and the black paper attic art silhouettes.

"We like to show it. We wouldn't trade it, gas bill or nothing," says Clark, bidding goodby.

The walk takes another turn. Elynn sees lavender bushes of lilacs on Macon Street.

Walking Tour Correction

The Decatur Sunday Herald and Review wishes to correct erroneous information printed in a May 22 women's section story, "A Pretty Day, A Guide and You -- Walking."

The piece about a walking tour through Decatur's historic district contained three factual errors.

The correct information is that Harold Pogue married in 1965. The person he wed was at that time a supervisor of operations and administrator with Computing Services Office of the University of Illinois.

Also, Mr. Pogue owned but did not build the house at 617 W. Decatur St. and his sister-in-law made the attic cutouts.

The Herald and Review regrets and apologizes for these errors.

*Decatur Sunday
Herald and Review
May 29, 1977*

DECATUR SUNDAY HERALD AND REVIEW *May 29, 1977*

Newspapers Should Check Facts Before Printing Story

To the Editor:

The walking tour taken by your Ruth Heckathorn through Decatur's Historic District was most interesting to me. If the percentage of truth in the facts and suggestions she made concerning items that I know about holds true for those things for which I depend on the newspaper for information, you are, indeed, a poor source for facts. This is especially disturbing because of the ease with which the facts could be checked.

The only correct information about Harold Pogue's house presented by Ms. Heckathorn was that Harold once owned it. The errors are:

— 1. Harold's bride, whom he

Readers Comment

did marry in a Champaign church, was a University of Illinois computer programmer and administrator, not his "maid". You might call her — she's in the Decatur phone directory.

— 2. Those "marvelous cutouts" on the attic ceiling were not scissored by his aunt but by Mother (Harold's sister-in-law) when we lived there and the attic was our play room.

— 3. Harold did not build the house "by himself" but bought it from my father who was, at least, the second owner.

It does seem to me that Decatur's only daily newspapers should check their facts before printing any information, especially that which might be incorrect and damaging to a person or a reputation.

Roger B. Pogue
Decatur



CHRIS CLARK of 617 W. Decatur St. (far left) stops unpacking groceries to greet Elyn before the Clarks let her visit their house.

June 5, 1977,

Readers Comment

Apology for Pogue Story

My apologies especially to a very reputable family. But I also want to thank you for a very wonderful house that I'm sure will bring me as much happiness as it obviously brought the Pogue family.

Roger Clark
Decatur

(Mrs. Roger D. Clark)
617 W. Decatur

Portion of a page story
Sunday Herald and Review
May 22, 1977

Morehouse & Wells Co. 34-14 EAST
HARDWARE, STOVES, HOUSE FURNISHERS MAIN STREET

1903 DECATUR CITY DIRECTORY. 1903 467

- Rose David N, agt electric combs, rm 22 Syndicate blk, res same.
 Rose John C, res 420 E Marietta.
 Rose Oliver M, chief bill clk Wabash ight depot, res 420 E Marietta.
 Rose W S, painter, bds 419 E William.
 Rosebrough Elizabeth E (wid John), res 1725 E William
 Rosebrough Jesse P, driver, res 617 W Marietta.
 Rosebrough Joseph J, lab, res 617 W Marietta.
 Rosebrough M Etta S (wid Elmore S), res 617 W Marietta.
 Rosebrough Richard L, lab, res 617 W Marietta.
 Rosemier Edgar, hostler C M Caldwell, rms 140 W Main.
 Rosemier John T, driver C W Lindsey, res 115 W Wood.
 Rosemier Robert A, porter Z Melhorn, rms 135 W Main.
 ROSEN RICHARD O, Architect and Superintendent, 365 N Main. Review bldg, res 617 W Decatur. (See advt business index page). *1902 bds not available*
 Rosenberg Wm, pawnbroker, clothing and shoes, 125 S Water, res 416 E Decatur.
 Roseno Sarah Miss, help 1005 N Dunham.
 Rosenstein Bernhard, clk B Stine Clothing Co, res 704 W Eldorado.
 Rosenthal John C, carp, res n s Cantrell 7 e of Traver.
 Rosga Bertha Miss, help 1030 E North.
 Rosga Ferdinand, lab, res 912 N Calhoun.
 Ross Albert F, clk Race Clothing Mfg Co, res 238 S Main
 Ross Anna D Miss, sack repr Am Hominy Co, res 889 W Pugh.
 Ross Carl W, res 345 N Jackson.
 Ross Edward, appr G P Hart, res 345 N Jackson.
 Ross Henderson (c), lab, res 432 S Broadway.
 Ross Henry Rev, pastor German M E Church, res 345 N Jackson.
 Ross John W, wks Mueller Mfg Co, res 889 W Pugh.
 Ross Mamie E Miss, bkpr Stoner & Haines, res 345 N Jackson.
 Ross Mary Miss, res St Mary's Hospital.
 Ross Reuben J, res 1595 N Church.
 Ross Silva Miss, teacher city schools, res 1595 N Church
 Ross Virgil D, distiller, 139 W Main, res 217 W Jefferson
 Rostek Anna Miss, res 1170 E Leafland av.

Wm. Cushman & Co.
 205-207-209-211 NORTH WATER STREET
 Decatur's Best Bargain Store in
DRY GOODS and MILLINERY

Just listing of Rosen at 617 1/2 Decatur
Note: Ownership not indicated in this directory for anyone in alphabetical listing
See next sheet

THE FIELD & SHORB CO.
 PLUMBING AND HEATING

MODEL LAUNDRY PROMPT SERVICE

147 SOUTH WATER STREET BOTH PHONES DECATUR'S BEST

616 1903 DECATUR CITY DIRECTORY. 1903

High Grade Ice Creams, Ices, Sherbets, Etc.
DECATUR ICE CREAM CO.
 OFFICE AND FACTORY
 30-32 THAYER PLACE
 OLD PHONE 262
 NEW PHONE 10

Decatur, West—Continued.

- 1042 John C. and Jennie Alsbury
- 1043 Richard O. and Rosalie A. Rosen*
- 1044 Mrs. Sarah E. Bryant*
- 1045 Robert and Julia A. Wallace
- 1046 Alfred and Nellie Thayer
- 1047 Mark H. and Eva Spies
- 1048 Jacob G. and Susan Schaeffer*
- 1049 Paul B. and Margaret Ray
- 1050 Marvin D. and Nettie Kizer.
- 1051 John F. and Anna M. Mattes*
- 1052 Harry L. and Flora Burch
- 1053 Thomas G. and Hattie N. Scroggin*
- 1054 Joseph E. and Iva A. Bradbury*
- 1055 John C. and Clara B. Lee*
- 1056 Wm. and Carrie Debold
- 1057 John O. and Laura Anderson
- 1058 Harry F. and Carrie G. Ehrman*
- 1059 Moses and Hannah Levy*
- 1060 John H. and Hannah Elliott*
- 1061 Mrs. Hattie A. Bradt*
- 1062 Willis W. and Leontine Bramble
- 1063 John and Margaret A. Payne*
- 1064 Harry B. and Belle L. Payne
- 1065 John and Minnie Virgils*
- 1066 Dr. William L. Rukenbrod
- 1067 P. Charles and Lillian Niles
- 1068 John H. and Ida McCoy*
- 1069 David and Ella Hutchison*
- 1070 Edward and Nora B. Welch
- 1071 Edward D. and Emma Mattes*
- 1072 Charles H. and Carrie Leon*
- 1073 Mrs. Sarah A. Baldrige*
- 1074 Chalmer E. and Effie B. Baldrige*
- 1075 Fred J. and Barbara Goldenstein*
- 1076 Jonas L. and Elizabeth Crum*
- 1077 Nathan A. and Mellisa J. Carr*
- 1078 Amos and Maria Bourne*
- 1079 Miss Tena Winchester
- 1080 George A. and Rena B. Kinch
- 1081 Mrs. Victoria Bell*
- 1082 John W. and Sadie Williamson*
- 1083 James J. Jacobs*
- 1084 John and Anna Mattes*
- 1085 Fleming and Mary Mullen
- 1086 Wm. H. and Josephine H. Bailey*
- 1087 Festus and Mary McClure
- 1088 Edward F. and Jennie Deakins
- 1089 Levi and Mollie Moore
- 1090 Frederick and Louisa Wedel*
- 1091 Thomas and Addie Miller*
- 1092 David and Nora Bray
- 1093 John C. and Rebecca A. Baldrige*
- 1094 Wm. C. and Lilla Deakins
- 1095 Wm. H. and Sarah Grindal*
- 1096 Archie and Jennie H. Dickson*
- 1097 Huxton and Ethel Spiker
- 1098 Harry and Mabel Fisk*
- 1099 Frank and Mary A. Rieple*
- 1100 John L. and Mary Beck*
- 1101 Wm. A. and Florence Neil
- 1102 Herman and Marla Greb*
- 1103 Owen and Gertrude Willard
- 1104 Abram and Josephine Westhafer*
- 1105 John S. and Nellie V. House*

* Owner. ** Business House.

Decatur, West—Continued.

- 1042 Calvin S. and Cora G. Christian*
- 1047 Wm. F. and Lucinda C. Vaughan*
- 1050 Mrs. Sarah C. Phillips*
- 1053 Dr. Martin V. and Mary Lonergan*
- 1072 Louis and Katherine Wolfer*
- 1073 Wm. F. and Mary E. Montgomery
- 1076 David M. and Anna Ribber
- 1082 Henry C. and Nancy J. Fruit.
- 1083 Jacob R. and Amy D. Price*
- 1087 Joseph S. and Nannie B. Hewes*
- 1091 Edward B. and Etta Johnson*
- 1096 Oakland School
- 1097 Wm. D. and Merthina Hutchison
- 1101 Sleetor & Zimmerman**
- 1110 Wm. J. and Cordella Camron*
- 1144 Thaddeus W. Nicholson*
- 1145 Unoccupied June 15, 1903
- 1154 Frank D. and Mary Bunker*
- 1156 Henry T. and Minnie E. Ray
- 1162 John M. and Sarah E. Layton*
- 1193 Dr. George W. and Daisy M. Drury*
- 1197 Mrs. Lovenia Bixler*
- 1216 Wm. H. and Margaret Wilking*
- 1223 Charles and Lottie Wykoff*
- 1235 Mrs. Margaret Marson
- 1243 Charles W. and Pauline M. Sleetor*
- 1246 John O. and Lucy Long
- 1247 James A. Ellis*
- 1248 Dearborn and Christy C. Bunker*
- 1297 Alexander and Lena Bachman*

DIVISION—EAST.

From 1600 North Main to City Limits
(Take Water Cars)

- 234 Henry and Augusta L. Heinzelmann
- 235 Albert and Anna E. McDaniel*
- 245 George A. and Eunice Kretzingor
- 250 John L. and Kate Brown
- 255 Harry R. and Maude I. Arnett*
- 256 Mrs. Mary E. Augustine
- 258 Luther E. and America Halles*
- 259 Thomas W. and Sarah J. Halles
- 259 Edgar H. and Sadie L. Baugh
- 265 Joe and Sudie A. Hilt
- 270 Wm. A. and Addie S. Hale*
- 284 Thomas Crankshaw
- 302 Mrs. Mary L. Paxton*
- 305 Edward E. and Dolly D. Deetz
- 313 Henry and Anna M. Becker*
- 325 Mrs. Emma M. Darling*
- 339 Thomas and Maggie E. Henebry
- 403 James T. and E. Myrtle Edwards
- 404 Mrs. Meekey M. Lowry*
- 415 Wm. W. and Flora R. Butler*
- 423 C. Edward and Cora M. Peck*
- 431 Elmer and Etta Anderson
- 432 Mrs. Mary McMahan
- 438 Joseph and Lucinda Cash*
- 441 Mrs. Mary A. Jameson
- 444 Thomas and Mary F. Maddox
- 501 Thomas J. and Emma Musgrove
- 503 Mrs. Ellen Yohe*
- 504 Wm. D. and Effie M. Whitsett
- James R. White*

Decatur Plumbing & Heating Co.

Plumbers and Steam Fitters

300 North Water St. Both Phones 66 Prompt Service Reasonable Prices

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