

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 3196 W. Center St., Decatur, Illinois.

Date of original construction: Approximately 1854.

Name of original owner: Not known. W. C. Martin owned property in 1873, and it fluctuated among David, M. C. and J. E. Martin. Possibly a Mr. Luedy sold it to George Elliott about 1891. His son, Frank Elliott, took it over about 1907.

History: The house is of red brick, two story, facing south. On the east was a porch enclosed on three sides and a small porch in front. The windows are curved at the top rather than being straight across. The house had a pantry, kitchen, dining room, living room and one bedroom downstairs and three bedrooms up, with a front and back stairs. Mr. Elliott added a bath upstairs.

Mr. Wilcox enclosed the east porch, dug out a basement with half bath, modernized the kitchen and bath, and made the dining room and living room into one, and has only two bedrooms upstairs.

The walls of the house are all of brick and plaster, interior as well as exterior walls.

For many years the place where the house is was known as the Elliott Stock Farm. The house is located just west of Stevens Creek on what is now West Center Street.

The story has come down to Mr. Elliott that so much energy, time and material were put into the building of the house that its builder lost his financial stability. It is thought that the builder and his wife are buried along the north property line. There is now nothing to indicate exactly where this burial would be.

(The above was written and submitted by Miss Dorothy Drennan, a niece of Frank Elliott).  
November, 1973

Present owner's names: Mr. and Mrs. Art Wilcox, who bought the place in 1944 from Frank L. Elliott.

(See other side)

Historical Information  
Harristown Township, Illinois

An 1874 Atlas of Macon County and the State of Illinois, Warner & Beers, Chicago, Publishers, lists "Patrons Directory for Harristown, Whitmore, Marco and Milam Townships" on Page VIII. Under Harristown Township is listed:

- Elliott, George, Post Office-Harristown and Business Breeder and Dealer in Fine Stock.

George Elliott was born in England, settled in Harristown, Illinois in 1849. He was a member of the Nativity Church in Harristown, Illinois. He was a member of the Nativity Church in Harristown, Illinois. He was a member of the Nativity Church in Harristown, Illinois.

The Harristown plat on P. 15 shows George Elliott as the owner of 320 acres, Tract 16 North Range 1E, west half of Section 5. His residence was at the south edge of the tract, east of School #3, located on his 320 acres. This is also in an 1891 plat book.

The above information was obtained from the records of the County Clerk's Office, Macon County, Illinois. It is a true and correct copy of the original records.

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(The above was written by Miss Dorothy Brennan, a niece of Frank Elliott, on November, 1977)

Record owner's name: Mr. and Mrs. George Elliott, who bought the place in 1849

(see other side)

In a 'phone conversation with Mrs. Marjorie Sullivan Wilcox (Mrs. Arthur) on December 18, 1974 the following was discussed:

- 1st - The house is within the Decatur city limits - just barely.
- 2nd - The house was built at least by 1854 - earlier she thinks.
- 3rd - One barn with dowel pins still exists.
- 4th - There is high integrity where the exterior of the house is concerned. On one corner (northeast) a porch was added, and at the second floor level enclosed for a bath.
- 5th - The stone wall (fence) in front of the house is the original. Mrs. Wilcox's understanding is that the stones came from the farm. The iron fence at the side is also the original.

3196 West Center

-----Circa 1854-----



Photos - Margaret M. Meyer, 1975

3196 W. Center St.



Frank Elliott's farm home  
about 1920.  
Picture, courtesy of Miss  
Dorothy Drennan.

## About Town

AN OLD IVY WINDS in and out of the porch, as though it were being directed by invisible fingers. The porch and the house are old and growing weaker; some say it was built 90 years ago. The vine, too, is old; as it grows old it grows stronger.

All his life, something more than three score years, Frank Elliott has lived there, in the first house west of Stevens Creek, on Grand avenue road. The house easily would stand another hundred of years, so sturdily is it built. The story has come down to Frank that so much energy, time and material were put into the building of the house, that its builder lost his financial stability.

The Macon county plat, published in 1873, lists the name of W. C. Martin as the owner of the property. According to the story that has come down to Frank, the builder of the house, and his wife, lie buried along the north property line. At the time of their burial, the plot was marked by a rail fence. Their son came to the neighborhood a few years ago and camped in the front yard near the old house. At that time he told Frank where his father and mother were buried. There is no record that we can find in any Macon county history of this Martin family.

WE DO HAVE IN MACON COUNTY a very detailed and readable record of property changes in the county. With the assistance of Clifford Bell, the county recorder, we were able to find a record of as many property changes to title for this property as there are rolling hills upon it.

Several times the property fluctuated back and forth, in and out of the hands of the Martins, David, M. C. and J. E. Martin before it came into the hands of the Elliott family. If it were not for county records, many biographies would be lost.

The main item of interest about this farm from the standpoint of production, is the fact that for 72 years it has been the breeding site of thoroughbred, milking shorthorn cattle. The original stock was imported from England, due to the influence of Henry Pickerele.

We sat beside Frank Elliott, on a bench, under a shade tree, just inside the old iron fence that surrounds the lawn. We turned the pages of an old ledger that had been kept up by his father. Many times we saw entries of cash received for cattle he had sold, that came to \$300 and \$400 a head.

At no place in the old ledger was it necessary to make an entry in red. Sheep, hogs and other live stock have had a chance to prove their merit from time to time upon the farm, but nothing has ever shown the favorable results produced by the shorthorn milking herds.

FRANK'S FATHER, George Elliott, was a student of blooded stock, as well as a raiser. In a room on the second floor, is a large assortment of books, all pertaining to the cattle raising business.

The ivy vine at the front door has grown to the size of a woman's wrists in diameter. Its branches stretch out in all directions. This summer it has worked its way through into the inside rooms upstairs, and spread along the plastered walls. Under conditions of climate such as have prevailed for 90 years, the vine promises to outlive the house, as it has outlived many owners. L. C. T.

L. C. T. was  
Linden Co. Tree,  
Review columnist

Copy:

From a Decatur  
Review clipping  
belonging to  
Miss Dorothy  
Dreman, niece  
of Frank Elliott.  
Date of clipping  
not given on it.

Sunday, June 4, 1944.

## Better Type of Houses Lead In Week's Sales

Sales of residence properties closed in the last week were perhaps not quite so numerous as in the previous week or two, yet there were more than the usual number of very substantial residences changing hands. For several weeks previous the sales had been confined almost to middle and cheaper class houses.

One of the most interesting of these sales was that in which Art Wilcox, proprietor of the Wayside Inn, purchased the old Elliott farm just northwest of the city from Frank Elliott. This is the attractive farm of rolling pasture land on both sides of the West Grand avenue black top road beginning about the Stevens creek bridge and rising slowly to the west to the road running north toward Bearsdale.

Near the top of the rise along the road is one of the old time, well-built and well-preserved brick farm homes. It is two-story and has about eight rooms and even the inner walls separating the rooms are of brick and plaster. Excellent heavy timber is used in the construction and portions are fastened together with dowel pins.

### House 90 Years Old

The house is about 90 years old. It is almost covered with ivy vines and the lawn surrounding is kept in attractive condition. There are three barns including one evidently as old as the house, as dowel pins were also used in it. There is also a garage, a chicken house and other small buildings.

There is 160 acres in the farm, a larger portion south of the road. There is much timber on that part south of the highway. Stevens' creek borders a large part of it and about 60 acres are in cultivation, the rest in pasture. Mr. a

Copy!

From a Decatur  
Sunday Herald and  
Review, June 4, 1944,

the clipping provided  
by Miss Beatrice  
Elliott Hamilton,  
sister of Frank  
Elliott, and Miss  
Dorothy Drennan,  
her niece, as well  
as the niece of  
Frank Elliott.

THIS APPLICATION IS  
MADE BY