

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 442 W. Prairie
Legal description:
Western Addition
Exc. E 20' of the N40'
Lot 9 Blk 5

Date of original construction: 1875 (est. - Assessor's office)
c 1895 (see city directory data below)

Name of original owner: Dr. Albert M. Drew, physician -
George F. Barber, architect, this design having
appeared in several publications.

History:

1. Data from available city directories:
 - 1895-1903 Dr. Albert M. Drew,* physician (Nannie J.)
 - 1904-1933 Clarence M. Goltra, sec.-treas. Decatur Extract Co.(Eva)
 - 1934- Not available.
 - 1935-1938 2 or 3 apts. listed. No owner designated.
 - 1939-1965 Bernard P. Witt,* cabinet maker-Swain & Myers Inc. (Vera).
 - 1966- Vera Witt, (wid, Bernard P.).
 - 1967-1971 6 apts. listed as occupied, but no owner designated.
 - 1972- Mrs. Blanche Barnard (wid. Paul M.) Apt. #1.

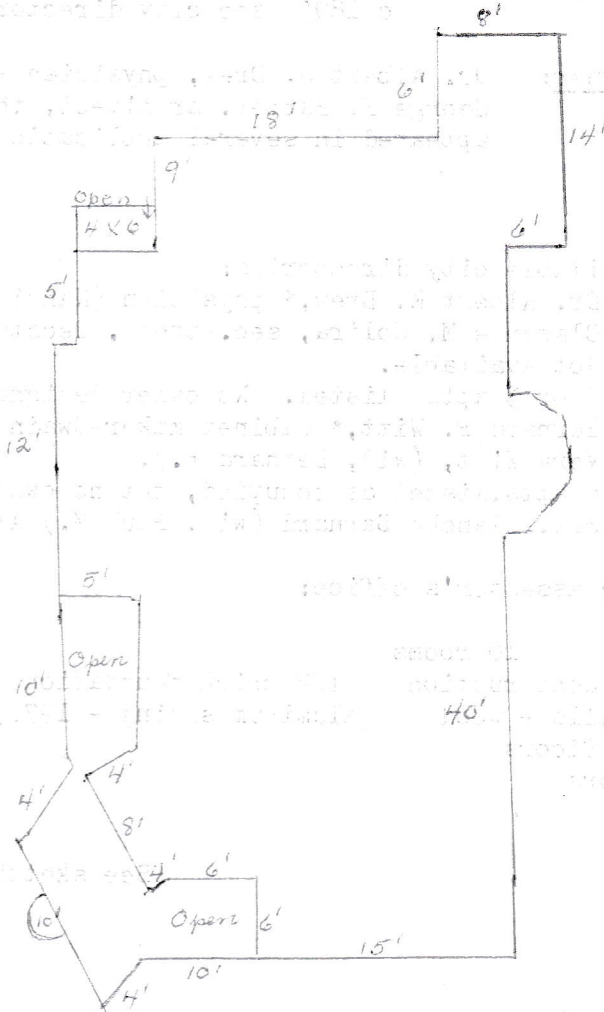
2. Data from the assessor's office:
 - 2 stories
 - 5 apts 10 rooms
 - Wood frame construction 1/2 brick foundation cement block walls
 - Exterior walls - wood (aluminum siding - 1976)
 - 5 hardwood floors
 - 5 pine floors
 - Gable roof

(See sketch on next sheet)

Present owner: Blanche Barnard, also occupant of Apt. #1).

History Cont'd:

2. Sketch:



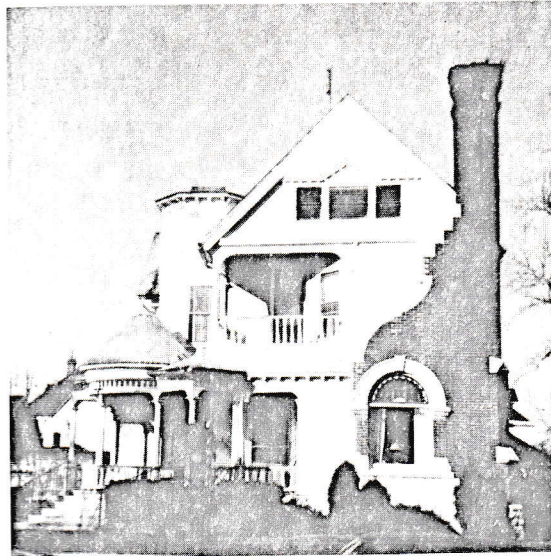
Not drawn to scale

Present owner: [illegible]

QUEEN ANNE 1880-1900

Characteristics:

- a. irregular plan and massing
- b. use of different and contrasting colors
- c. variety of texture achieved through numerous materials in the facade and levels
- d. a gable or two
- e. many formed windows
- f. projecting upper stories
- g. bay windows
- h. not of grand scale
- i. high roofs, multiple roofs meeting at right angles
- j. classic in detail
- k. often a large porch gable
- l. chimneys important features: being paneled or molded in brick



George F. Barber Home (18 ?)
442 West Prairie

The Barber Home has many of the Characteristics of the Queen Anne Style; the most prominent style in Decatur. Alteration of the original structure detracts from the purity of the style in this fine example, but some of the most poignant features remain. The unusual chimney structure is the most distinctive feature of the house, and it demonstrates the effect of molded brick, change in texture, and contrasting color. The window embedded in this masonry structure adds to the complexity and fascinating quality of the building. The house is small in comparison to the styles previously discussed. The asymmetrical plan and irregular massing (which has been reduced by the removal of a tower) are distinctively Queen Anne.

From Preservation in Decatur, prepared by a team of students in the Environmental Planning Workshop, Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, U. of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, under the supervision of Professor S. J. Blair.

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*Pinote - A.B. Meyer - April, 1976
442 West Prairie
Lew Residential*