

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

1.17.1974

Address: 309 West William

Legal description:

William Place Second Addition
450' Lot 1 & 5100' lot 2

Date of original construction: 1933 - Obituary of H. S. Gebhart
1925 - Est. Assessor's Office
1923 - Dec. 30, 1923 clipping - "Not yet complete"

Name of original owner: H. S. Gebhart

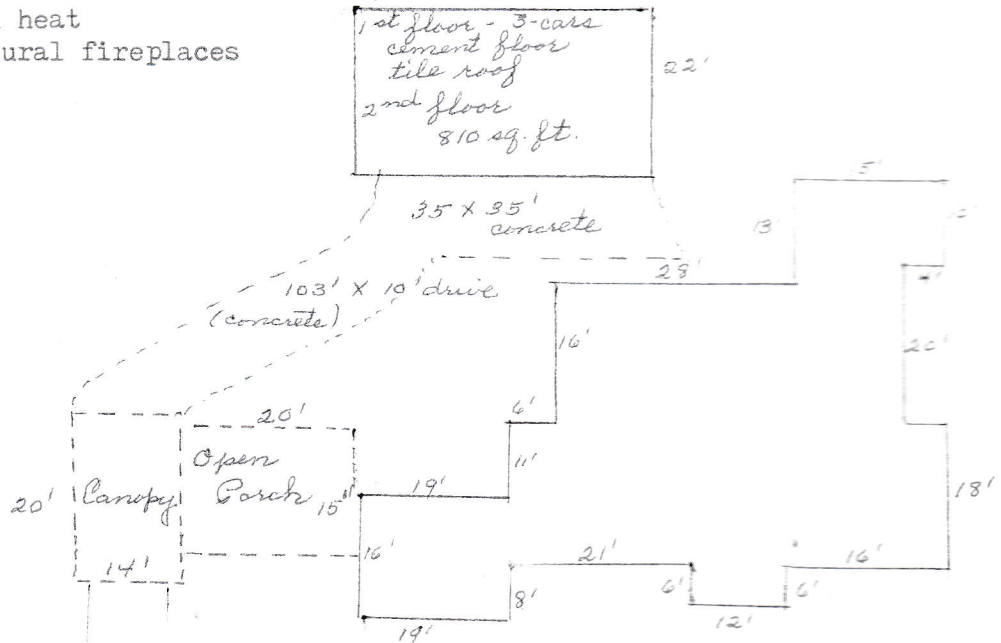
History:

1. Data from city directories:

1925-1933 H. S. Gebhart (Blanche) pres. and treas. H. S. Gebhart Co.
(dry goods)
1934-1951 Blanche Gebhart (wid. H. S.)
1952-1959 Arthur L. Ennis, M. D. (Bonnie)
1960-1967 Roy M. Phillips
1968-1974 Thos. S. Lynch, M.D. (Mary B.)
1975-1976 Courtney R. Hammer (Janice)

2. Data from office of Decatur Township Assessor.

Bldg. class B - family dwelling
2-1/2 stories, 9 rooms, 4 baths, 1 2-fixture toilet room
Masonry construction, foundation of concrete, brick veneer exterior
Gable roof, med pitch, tile roof
Side porch, 15x20; porch, 5x8
8 rooms with hardwood floors, 1 of softwood, bathroom floors tile
Steam heat
3 natural fireplaces



Present owner: Courtney R. and Janice Hammer (Courtney -Pres., Archer, Daniels, Midland)

History Cont'd.

History Cont'd.:

3. See attachments.

- a. Sun. Herald and Review - December 30, 1923 - Three Big New Homes On West William
- b. Obit., H. S. Gebhart - Review, July 22, 1933.

1923-1933

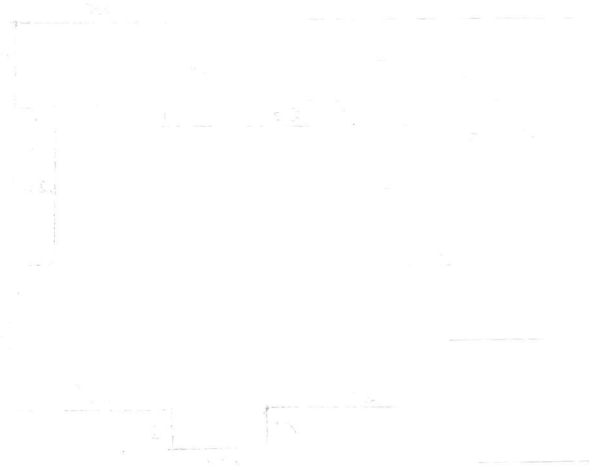
1891-1901

1901-1911

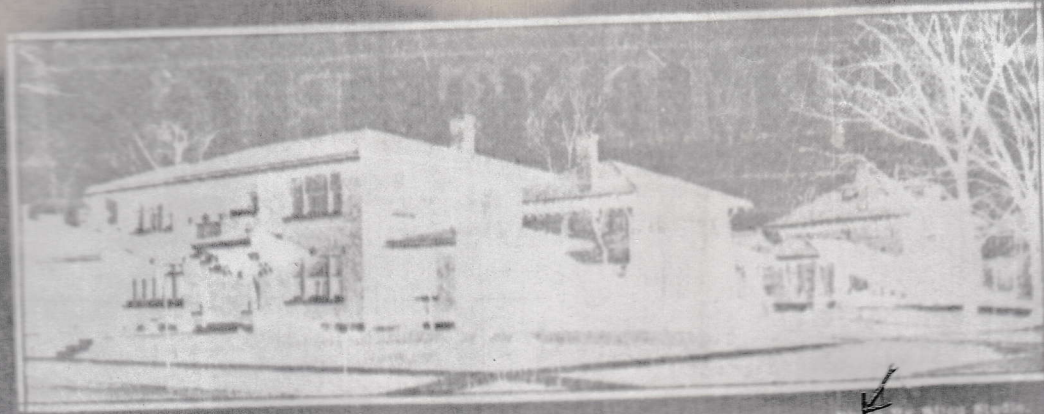
1911-1921

1921-1931

1931-1941



THREE BIG NEW HOMES ON WEST WILLIAM STREET



House on corner, H. D. Greider, owner; next, Mrs. Belle W. Meredith; third, H. S. Gohbart. These homes on the southwest corner of Pine and William streets were three of the big homes constructed during the year. They are all attractive looking places. The Gohbart home is not yet complete.

NEW APARTMENT BUILDING



Eleonor Apartments, John Benson, Owner.

These apartments at William and Church street were the biggest construction job of its kind during the last year. They are close in and each suite contains a kitchenette, bath and parlor.

Important Events

JANUARY.

- 1—Soldiers' bonus work sheet received in Decatur by David B. Oakes.
- 2—A County fair for Madison county is proposed by E. H. Walworth, county agent, to the annual meeting of the Farm Bureau.
- 3—Stacy company announces plans to care for any hard

JUNE

- 6—Helen Sourlock won The Review dress prize for high school girls.
- 8—High school graduation with 248 graduates.
- 9—W. C. Pluck died suddenly.
- 11—M. L. Swarthout left Milliken to become head of the department of piano in the University of California.
- 25—Temperature went to 103, a new

OCTOBER

- 2—Thatcher Shellabarger died of heart trouble.
- 3—Five men were injured when the cage at the Decatur coal mine fell one hundred feet.
- 10—The Harling bomber passed over Decatur a little in the afternoon.
- 19—Frank Peers was severely injured when struck by an automobile.
- 29—The National Council of Women opened convention in Hotel Orlando.

NOVEMBER

1923 Warm But No Rain

Mean Temperature 54.2
42.6

As a professional referee on weather, this column declares weather in 1923, taken on the whole was unseasonable and in weak language "rotten." One occasion found a day or two to praise. Now the man that pays the coal is talking about how much coal warm weather saves him. But a year was warm and warm weather is hard on the ice box.

Official figures of Professor Conrad show that 1923 was warm and much wetter, even though new records were established out of the last thirty years. It shows a heavier rainfall, but not there scattered their spill over many days and so generally throughout the year. The records show there has been a fall of .01 of an inch or more on about 116 days in the year and a trace of rain or just a sprinkle on about twenty-one days. This means that moisture fell more than one-third of the day the year.

THE RAINFALL

This record includes up to the first of the year. The rain was scattered through the year, the following figures will show for each month number of days with .01 inch or more and those on which there was a trace.

Month	Days with .01 inch or more	Days with a trace
January	9	1
February	11	1
March	19	1
April	12	1
May	11	1
June	11	1
July	11	1
August	19	1
September	12	1
October	11	1
November	11	1
December	11	1

The precipitation for the year amounted to 42.87 inches, which is

Fewer Fires But

Total is \$238,810.70 Insurance

Fire prevention may have something to do with the fall in the number of fire alarms during the year 1923 but it did not down the number of big fires or the fire losses. The only harder by fire losses was just passing out that a number of years.

Total losses for the year and including Christmas damages reached \$238,810.70. Fire population inside of the city which is the territory covered by the fire department figures, a people—and that is, mostly liberal—the per capita

DAILY REVIEW

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1933.

8 PAGES—PRICE THREE CENTS.

Begin Move To Send Idle Back to Soil

Ickes Ordered to Undertake Expenditure of Fund for Unemployed.

MINERS AFFECTED

Washington — UP — President Roosevelt Saturday ordered Secretary of Interior Ickes to undertake the expenditure of \$25,000,000 in the transfer of miners and others from over-populated industrial areas to subsistence farmers where they may find new means of livelihood. The executive order inaugurating the administration's back-to-the-soil movement was accompanied by another setting aside \$20,000,000 for purchase of forest lands in furtherance of national recovery.

On Wholesale Scale.

The \$20,000,000 has been available in the treasury since Mar. 31, awaiting administration decision on the method and agency of expenditure. Today's order transferred the fund to the war department which is operating under Robert Fechner, director of the administration's reforestation program.

Mr. Roosevelt's back-to-the-soil program involves a redistribution of population unprecedented in the United States. It is designed primarily to relieve idle whose chances of re-employment in their chosen work are unlikely.

Miners Most Affected.

Coal miners are the most numerous of these groups. It is estimated that upwards of 200,000 idle miners never again will have an opportunity for full time work in the job. The problem is complicated by advances of miners to abandon their underground vocations even after years of unemployment.

Orders made \$2,500,000 available for the redistribution of labor from over-populated areas of unemployment to areas in which the government is developing a better life. The decision on how and where to spend the money probably will be made by the department, which has made preliminary studies.

But This Work.

Mr. Roosevelt recently announced that if all mines were operated there still would be a tremendous surplus of idle labor. Mr. Roosevelt has been hopeful that it would be possible to settle unemployed miners on subsistence farms in the back country of the state so that they could be employed in the

H. S. Gebhart Dies Suddenly In Summer Home In Minnesota

Health Had Been Frail

Prominent Decatur Merchant Stricken While on Vacation.

Harvey S. Gebhart, 61, one of the best known merchants in Central Illinois, died suddenly at 3 a. m. Saturday at his summer home on Lake Milwaukee, near Alexandria, Minn. Death was attributed to heart disease, with which he had long been afflicted.

When Mr. and Mrs. Gebhart left for Minnesota about July 1 he appeared in better health than at any time for the last three years. About four months ago he started in on a determined campaign to regain his health and he seemed to be winning the fight. His health improved during his stay in Minnesota until Friday night. He grew restless during the night and at 3 a. m. Saturday the fatal attack came. With him at the time of his death were his wife, her mother, Mrs. W. H. Hines, his brother, Cover Gebhart, and the latter's wife. They are leaving at 5 p. m. Saturday, bringing the body to Decatur. No arrangements for the funeral can be made until further word is received from them or until they arrive.

Born In Decatur.

Harvey Stuart Gebhart was born in Decatur Jan. 24, 1872. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Gebhart. Decatur has always been his home. He learned merchandising in his father's store and while still a young man he established a dry goods business of his own in the Gebhart block on North Water street. In 1907 he purchased the E. P. Homan store and established himself in the downtown business district. He organized the H. S. Gebhart company among the employees in his store and in 1910 purchased the Bradley Bros. store. In 1929 the Gebhart company purchased the business and real estate of the F. M. Meredith Furniture and Storage company and or-

(Please Turn to Page Eight)

Woman Sought In Luer Kidnap



HARVEY S. GEBHART
1872-1933

Post Off On Last Leg

Globe Circling Flyer Hops Off for Home Field.

Humboldt, Saskatchewan — A plane believed to be the

Woman Who Plotted Husband's Death, Drains Senience

Chicago—AP—A jury decided Saturday that Mrs. Bessie Opas was guilty of a plot to murder her husband for his \$15,000 life insurance. The plot miscarried.

The woman was convicted a few moments after her husband had walked up to her in the courtroom and implanted a very surprising kiss upon her lips. He was banished from court

H. S. Gebhart Dies Suddenly Saturday At Minnesota Home

August July 22, 1933

Long Prominent Central Illinois Merchant Succumbs.

(Continued from Page One)
...the Gebhart-Merrillish corporation in December, 1929, to include all the Gebhart company interests outside the department store. In November, 1932, the H. S. Gebhart company and the William Gebhart Dry Goods company entered a consolidation under the present name of the Gebhart-Gustard company.

President of Companies.

Mr. Gebhart was president of both the Gebhart-Gustard company and the Gebhart-Merrillish corporation.

Mr. Gebhart was twice married. His first wife being many years ago and Mrs. Blanche Wright of Champaign was married to her last Feb. 7, 1927.

Mr. Gebhart was a member of Cook's Methodist church, he was also a member of Stephen Decatur lodge A. F. and A. M. Mason's lodge No. 2, A. O. U. W. and Pleasant street lodge No. 3, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He was greatly interested in the work of the church. He was a large contributor to all worthy organizations. In the winter of 1932 he was elected to the board of the National Y. M. C. A. in St. Louis. He was elected to the board of the National Y. M. C. A. in St. Louis in the winter of 1932.

Mr. Gebhart presented a memorial to the National Y. M. C. A. in St. Louis, Mo. in the winter of 1932.

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Malleable Plant Blaze Extinguished

Firemen fought a hot blaze in the broiling sun for a short time Saturday morning at the plant of the Decatur Malleable Iron Works in the northeast part of the city. Just east of the plant the company had large stacks of molding cases so that it almost resembled a small lumber yard. Sparks from the smoke stack of the plant are believed to have dropped on the dry cases and started the blaze that was spreading rapidly when the firemen arrived at 10:40 a. m.

Chicago School Board Stands Firm

Huge Mass Meeting in Stadium Fails to Shake Decision.

Chicago—AP—Criticized by both parents and educators who crowded their way into the huge Chicago stadium in a meeting of protest, the board of education continued to stand pat Saturday on its \$3,000,000 economy program described as a means of getting the Chicago schools out of the red.

At Friday night's meeting Charles H. Judd, dean of the University of Chicago school of education, said, at the lecture when he said in an address that the public would not come back to be deceived and deceived, but would never "take pot" anymore.

Superintendent Speaks.

As for the problem, said William H. Hoge, superintendent of schools, "I am not a politician, and I am not a politician's tool. I am a public servant and I will do my duty to the best of my ability."

Mr. Hoge said that the board of education was not a political body and that it was not to be influenced by political considerations.

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Merchants Unite For Code Plan

Arthur Metzler Named Director of Drive to Speed Recovery.

FIX WORK HOURS

Decatur was organized Saturday morning in a manner not seen since the hectic days of the World War, to carry out the intents of President Roosevelt's program to war on the depression and bring back employment and buying power among the masses.

Arthur M. Metzler was named generalissimo of a campaign to educate the public on the program. He was named by President J. J. Maloney, of the Association of Commerce, Friday, at the request of General Hugh Johnson, administrator of the National Recovery act.

A committee under Mr. Metzler is to publicize the plan of recovery, while other committees organize retail trades and industries behind the program.

Stores Set Hours.

A tentative agreement was reached to inaugurate a 54 1/2 hour store week in department stores, shoe stores, men's clothing establishments, apparel and ready wear stores, in a meeting of the merchants charged with this problem Friday afternoon.

To the individual merchant to get the job of working out a schedule which will conform with the government's order that no store work more than 48 hours a week. Tentative store hours were set for 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. during the morning and 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. during the afternoon and 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. for the year ending in December.

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Executive Board

In case of Public confidence in the government, the committee will be organized to carry out the program. It will be the duty of the committee to see that the program is carried out to the letter.

Mr. Metzler expressed confidence in having been able to secure Metzler to direct the activities of the committee.

"I do not know of anyone else who could better than Metzler be entrusted with a task of this size and gravity," he repeatedly demonstrated skill as an organizer and his public speaking ability.



Part that attends games and contests

Find O Not

Total A Increase Proper

Effort is being made to increase the total amount of proper...

The effort is being made to increase the total amount of proper...

The effort is being made to increase the total amount of proper...

The effort is being made to increase the total amount of proper...

The effort is being made to increase the total amount of proper...

The effort is being made to increase the total amount of proper...

Fail to Identify Vaughn in Holiday

Police officers failed to identify Vaughn in a holiday... The description of another of the robbers, Vaughn has been transferred to a cell in the county jail.

Farmers' Picnic at Mt. Auburn Friday

Man D

President of Comptroller
Mr. Gebhart was president of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Industry.
Mr. Gebhart was president of his first business organization at age 18. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce in his home Feb. 2, 1917.

Mr. Gebhart was a member of Grace Methodist church. He was also a member of Stephen Decatur lodge, A. F. and A. M., Mason chapter No. 21, R. A. M., and Beauvoir commandery No. 9, Knights Templar. He was greatly interested in the work of the church. He was a liberal contributor to all worthy enterprises. In the winter of 1914 he gave 42 coats for women to the Salvation Army to be given to the needy, and the following winter he gave 30 more coats to the same organization.

In 1923 Mr. Gebhart presented a memorial drinking fountain to Grace Methodist church in memory of Miss Alberta Fay Gebhart, who died in 1913.

In 1925-6 Mr. Gebhart was president of the Y. M. C. A.

Saw Decatur Growth.

Mr. Gebhart was a firm believer in the future prosperity of Decatur. He expressed a belief that the city would grow east beyond Lake Decatur, west beyond Stevens creek and south beyond the river, and as evidence of this belief he invested a large amount of money in suburban property. In 1913 he purchased 40 acres from the Race estate, just east of the Wabash shops for \$15,150. He had previously purchased another 40 acres from the estate quarter of a mile further north. In 1922 he built his present residence in the 800 block West William street at a cost of \$40,000. Every summer since 1927 he has spent his vacations in his summer home on Lake Miltonah, Minn.

Mr. Gebhart was highly esteemed by every one who knew him. He was a good neighbor and was kind and considerate to his employees.

"He was to my mind, the last word in what constitutes a high grade citizen," said K. T. Liverson of the Gebhart-Guthard company Saturday morning. "He had a personality that won the respect and esteem of all who had dealings with him. All were impressed with his honesty, integrity and his sense of fair dealing. This was demonstrated in his everyday life among the employees of the store and among people generally. I never knew a man more honest or of the weaknesses of others. He was a very religious man, but he recognized the right of every man to his own religious beliefs. One of the outstanding traits of Mr. Gebhart was his effort to carry his associates along with him toward success, even down to the smallest stockholder. He tried to help every body and did."

Deatur Club Officer.

Mr. Gebhart was a past president of the Decatur club. He was also a member of the Country Club of Decatur, Sunnyside club and the South Side Country club, and the Association of Commerce. He was interested in every movement for the development of Decatur's industries and the improvement of social conditions.

Mr. Gebhart leaves his wife and three children, Lynn H. Gebhart and H. Stuart Gebhart, Decatur, and Mrs. E. D. Hartman, Evansville, Ind. He also leaves two brothers and two sisters, J. O. and George Gebhart, and Mrs. Bessie Feick, Decatur, and Mrs. Pearl Owen, Sussex, Wis.

Chicago School Board Stands Firm

Huge Mass Meeting in Stadium Fails to Shake Decision.

Chicago—AP—Criticized by both parents and educators who crowded their way into the huge Chicago stadium in a meeting of protest, the board of education continued to stand pat Saturday on its \$5,000,000 economy program designed as a means of getting the Chicago schools out of the red.

At Friday night's meeting Charles H. Judd, dean of the University of Chicago school of education, sounded the keynote when he said in an address that the public would not permit itself to be deceived and deprived, but would accept "intelligent" economies.

Superintendent Speaks.

Also on the platform was William J. Boggs, superintendent of schools, who in a surprise address offered an economy program of his own that he said would save \$4,000,000 in the next three and a half months.

It was the first word since the drastic retrenchment plans of the board were announced. At that time he had sat with bowed head, and said he would endeavor to enforce the orders of the trustees.

As the meeting got underway a stench bomb was tossed into its midst and police seized a number of men they classed as Communists for questioning.

Fail to Identify Vaughn in Holdup

Robert Vaughn, held by police as a robbery suspect, was not implicated in the recent holdup of the Decatur Drug company, it was established Friday. Ray Dunn, manager of the drug store, and Guy Willets, a clerk, viewed Vaughn and told police he did not answer the description of either of the robbers. Vaughn has been transferred to a cell in the county jail.

Farmers' Picnic at Mt. Auburn Friday

Announcement has been made of the 46th annual Farmers' picnic which is scheduled to be held at Mt. Auburn on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 4 and 5. J. L. Drake is president of the association. Jesse Dunn, Harley Smith and Raymond Dunn are in charge of concessions.

Select Jury in Mine Killing Case

Jonesboro—AP—After six days of questioning talesmen, a jury in the trial of five Duquoin youths charged with the slaying of Lavern Miller, Duquoin school girl was completed shortly before 11 a. m. Saturday.

Immediately following the swearing in of the jury, court was adjourned until Monday morning when opening arguments will be heard.

Two Dewitt Women Granted Divorces

Clinton Circuit court was in session here Friday all day with Judge Joseph McLaughlin of Sullivan on the bench.

Two divorce cases were heard, degrees being granted in each case. They were the cases of Olive Craig

and the public on its program. He was named by President J. Madison of the Association of Commerce, Friday, at the request of General Hugh Johnson, administrator of the National Recovery act.

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A tentative agreement was reached to inaugurate a 54 1/2 hour store week in department stores, shoe stores, men's clothing establishments, apparel and ready to wear stores, in a meeting of the committee charged with this problem, Friday afternoon.

To the individual merchant his left the job of working out a schedule which will conform with the government's order that no employe work more than 40 hours a week. Tentative store hours were set for 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m., during the summer and 9 a. m. to 5:30 p. m., during the winter and spring, and 9 a. m. to 9 p. m., for the year round on Saturdays.

More meetings are in progress Saturday and others will be conducted next week. With whole-hearted approval the business community is swinging behind the President with a hope that full co-operation will make his plan a success and improve the economic conditions of the country.

Executives Pleased

In each of Friday's conferences it was apparent that businessmen in general already are sympathetic with the spirit of the recovery program which has been undertaken by America. It will be the mission of Mr. Metzler's committee to carry that spirit to all employes, all employees, and the public generally.

Mr. Maloney expressed pleasure at having been able to secure Mr. Metzler to direct the activities of the committee.

"I do not know of anyone," he said, "who could better than Mr. Metzler be entrusted with a task of this size and gravity. He has repeatedly demonstrated skill as an organizer and his public spirit in civic undertakings."

"I bespeak for him the hearty co-operation of all employers and the public generally. This he must have if we are to succeed. Whatever help I may be able to be to him will be furnished 100 per cent."

To Name Committee

Mr. Metzler's duties probably will be defined in a communication from General Johnson, which is expected shortly.

Selection of the committee with which Mr. Metzler is to work probably will be completed today, and a preliminary discussion meeting held.

The committee probably will have the duty of seeing that all lines of industry and trade understand the terms of the industrial recovery act and that they certify themselves as co-operating. It will be called upon to conduct a campaign, through the churches, women's organizations, service clubs, patriotic organizations and labor groups, to acquaint the people with the plan for recovery, to enlist their aid in speeding the return of prosperity.

In accepting chairmanship of the committee Friday, Mr. Metzler said:

"Must Be Done"

"I appreciate the honor, and realize that there will be a lot of hard work connected with it. I feel

that the contests

Find O Not

Total As Increase Proper

Effort to place a long the Macor books, show totals of the Treasurer V day afterno

Mr. Matt Macon considered in the five last checked to cover those for their amount of property, paying an notices next the board.

Man Di

(Funeral) Godfrey, resident of Saturday passed on of Water.

was taken where it suffered a was taken general home

Mr. Ed three, Mrs. Mary Edward Litchfield in Decatur to Pana,

to Miss E ville, Ill. Mr. B children, Groves, Blounts