

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 465 W. Macon St., southeast corner W. Macon and S. College.
Legal description: South Western Addition
Lot 5, Block 5

Date of original construction: 1884 (?)
1880, estimate, assessor's office.
(They stress that this is only
an estimate)

Name of original owner: Winter P. Waggoner.

History:

1. An incomplete chain of title follows. Source - records, Macon County recorder's office.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|
| June 27, 1870 | Orlando Powers to Samuel S. Jack. |
| Feb. 14, 1884 | Samuel S. Jack to Winter P. Waggoner. |
| Oct. 6, 1885 | Winter P. Waggoner to Henry F. May. |
| Dec. 1, 1906 | Elizabeth May Taylor to Edward L. Pegram. |
| May 16, 1918 | Edward L. Pegram to Ruth R. McMillen. |
2. Decatur city directories are the source of the following:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| Waggoner, Winter P., res. 465 W. Macon St. | 1885 |
| May, Henry F. and Bessie | " 1895 |
| Taylor, Benjamin and Elizabeth | " 1901 |
| Pegram, Edward L. and Eda K. | " 1915 |
| McMillen, R. C. and Ruth | " 1918 |
| McMillen, Ruth | " 1962 |
3. The assessor's office describes the house as follows:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| wood exterior | Mansard roof, medium pitch |
| brick foundation | hot water heat |
| 2 stories | 2 fireplaces |
| 9 rooms | 2 baths plus 1 lavatory |
4. Mrs. McMillen (Mrs. Ruth) adds these facts about the house (Sept., 1974):
 - The Pegrams added the large dining room at the southwest corner of the first floor while they lived there. The woodwork is solid oak; however, when the McMillens moved into the house, they had the woodwork painted to lighten the room, and it remains so.

Present owner's name: Mrs. Ruth R. McMillen (Mrs. R. C.)

4. (Interview with Mrs. McMillen Cont'd.)

- In 1950 the McMillens removed a partition, making two center first floor rooms into one very large living room, its length running from east to west. A very large kitchen at this same time was divided, creating a smaller kitchen plus a study. A screened porch was also added at the rear of the house.
- A stone block (step ?) that was originally used to assist persons stepping up into a carriage or buggy still remains at the curb in front of the house, along with an iron hitching post; however, work on the street caused the block to be lowered to sidewalk level.

The original brick-paved drive remains at the east side of the house and to the garage at the back.

5. Two occupants of the residence deserve special mention:

1. R. C. McMillen, Macon County's representative to the U. S. Congress for six years, and leader in local and state affairs. See obituary attached.
See copies of data from Illinois Blue Books.
2. Thomas R. McMillen, currently a federal judge in Illinois' Northern District. The residence at 465 W. Macon was his boyhood home. See copy of data attached, copied from the Who's Who in the Midwest, 1974-75.

6. Mr. Samuel S. Jack owned from 1870 to 1884 the land on which the house at 465 W. Macon is built. It adjoined what is 451 W. Macon where Mr. Jack lived. Mr. Jack was an uncle of Mrs. McMillen's (her mother's brother), and a versatile person. City directories list his occupations as follows:

- 1871 Jack, S. S., teacher, s.e. corner Macon and College.
- 1874 Jack, S. S., " " " "
- 1876 Jack, S. S., commission merchant, 13 W. Macon.
- 1877-78 Jack, S. S., state representative, res. 13 W. Macon.
- 1884 Jack, S. S., publisher Decatur Review (weekly) and the Decatur Morning Review (daily) book and job printer, res. 451 W. Macon.
- 1887 Jack, Samuel S., postmaster, post office, res. 451 W. Macon.

465 West Macon



Photo - Margaret M. Meyer, 1974

465 West Macon Street



Pictures by Margaret Meyer, April 29, 1974



McMillen, Thomas Roberts, judge

b. Decatur, Ill., June 8, 1916
s. Rolla C. and Ruth (Roberts) McMillen
student Hotchkiss School, 1932-34
A. B. Princeton, 1938
LLB Harvard, 1941
M., Anne Ford, Aug. 16, 1946
Children Margot F. (Mrs. James Roberson)
Patricia R.
Anne C.
Admitted to Ill. bar, 1941
Practiced in Chicago, 1946-66;
Mem. firm, Bell, Boyd, Lloyd, Haddad & Burns, 1946-66
judge, Cook County, Ill., 1966-71
judge, U.S. Dist. Ct. Northern District Ill. 1971-
served to maj. CIC, AUS 1941-45
decorated Bronze Star medal
Croix de Guerre
Phi Beta Kappa

Who 's Who in Midwest
1974-1975.

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 711 West Macon

Date of the original construction: 1885 est., assessor's office
(Note: They emphasize this is an estimate.)
1890 or 1891, according to city directory data.
(Not listed in 1889)
No directory published in 1890.
Listed in 1891.

Legal description: Mills Bros. Addition
Lot 10 and E.1/2 of Lot 9

Name of original owner: Probably Traughber L. Davis (see city directory data)

History:

1. Data from city directories follows:

(Note that some directories are not available)

- 1889 - No. 711 West Macon included (see microfilm printout)
- 1890 - No directory printed
- 1891 - Traughbery, L. and Mendosia H. Davis (owners)
- 1892 - No directory printed
- 1893 - Same as 1891
- 1894 - No directory printed
- 1895 - Same as 1893
- 1896 - No directory printed
- 1897 - James W. Sanders, M.D. and Ida M. Sanders
to Dr. Sanders an eye, ear, and nose specialist
- 1911 - Son, R. Zink Sanders, also in the household
- 1912 - Mrs. Annie M. Johnson (wid. Miles E. Johnson)
- 1913 - 1914 Same as 1912
- 1915 - 1916 Frank E. and Olive M. Harrold
(Frank Harrold, cashier, Farmers & Merchants State Bank,
115 E. Main St.)
- 1917 - Dr. F. J. Mattan, physician, and Emma L. Mattan
- 1919 - Mrs. Emma L. Mattan, wid. Dr. Frank J. Mattan
- 1920 - 1940 Lucien C. Shellabarger (Iva F.)
(See microfilm print-out of obit. of Mr. Shellabarger)
- 1941 - 1950 Joseph L. Slade and Marie Slade
- 1951 - 1953 Marie Slade, wid. Joseph L. Slade
- 1954 - 1963 Clarence and Minnie E. Grandfeld
Clarence Grandfeld, garage attendant Millikin National Bank
- 1964 - 1975 Sidney W. DeLong and Anita June DeLong
Sidney DeLong, Maintenance Supervisor, Illinois Power Co.
- 1976 - 1977 Richard Greer
- 1978 - Timothy F. and M. Rebecca McFadden

2. Obituary: Lucien C. Shellabarger, Saturday, June 12, 1943 Decatur Review

3. Copy of picture and accompanying caption - R. Zink Sanders September 15, 1933

History Cont'd.:

- Data from Decatur Township Assessor's office, pertaining to 711 W. Macon:
(Copied May 16, 1978)

Zoning - R-6
Lot 60 x 185.4
Bldg. Class D-10
Family dwelling
Roof - high pitched, slate, gabled
2- stories - 8-rooms
Wood frame
3 open porches
Porte - cochere 162 sq. ft.
Brick foundation, full basement
Floors - 3 rooms - softwood
 5 rooms - hardwood
Woodwork - hardwood
Plaster walls
Heat - warm air, coal stoker
2 bathrooms (3 fixtures)
1 natural fireplace

Sketch, not drawn to scale:

ROLLA C. McMILLEN

Nineteenth District
Republican

Educated in the public schools of Monticello, Ill., attended the University of Illinois, and was graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1906; has since practiced law at Decatur, Illinois; member of the Decatur, Illinois, and American Bar Associations; delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1940; married Ruth Roberts and has three children—Thomas R., Mrs. William C. Beall, and Martha H., elected to fill the vacancy in the term of the late William H. Wheat in the 78th Congress and re-elected to the 79th and 80th Congresses. Address: Decatur.



Rolla C. McMillen

*From Blue Book of the State of Illinois
Edited by Edward J. Barrett, Secretary of State
1947-1948*

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**ILLINOIS MEMBERS
81st CONGRESS**



ROLLA C. McMILLEN

Twenty-second District
Republican

Born on a farm in Piatt County, the son of George Eastman and Christiana Leatherman McMillen. Mr. McMillen was educated in the public schools of Monticello and attended the University of Illinois and was graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. He practiced law at Decatur, Illinois. Delegate to the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia in 1940. He married Ruth Roberts of Decatur and has three children, Thomas Roberts, Ann Herron (Mrs. William C. Beall) and Martha Hathaway. He was elected to fill vacancy in the 78th Congress and re-elected to serve in the 79th, 80th and 81st Congresses. During the 78th and 79th Congresses, he served on Public Buildings and Grounds Committee and in the 80th and 81st, he was a member of the House Banking and Currency Committee. Address: 465 West Mason Street, Decatur; and offices in Suite 1032 New House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

*From Blue Book of Illinois
Edited by Edward J. Barrett, Sec. of State
1949-1950*

ROLLA C. McMILLEN
TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

*1949-1950 Blue Book
of the State
of Illinois*

Rolla C. McMillen, ^{sun} 5/7/61 Congressman for 6 Years, Dies at 80

Rolla C. McMillen, 80, Decatur's representative in Congress from 1944 to 1950, died at 1:30 a.m. yesterday in Evanston Hospital, Evanston.

Mr. McMillen did not seek re-election in 1950 because of health reasons and after his retirement lived six years in Clearwater, Fla. He and his wife returned to their home at 465 W. Macon St. in 1958.

Mr. McMillen practiced law in Decatur 35 years and left the firm of McMillen, McMillen & Garman on his election to Congress.

In Decatur he was active in civic affairs. In 1916 he became a member of the board of directors of Decatur and Macon County Hospital, serving during its early and difficult years. He was board president in 1939 and 1940. He also was attorney and secretary of the Decatur Sanitary District and active in the development of Lake Decatur.

Mr. McMillen also served as president of the Macon County Tuberculosis Association.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church and a member of the church board of trustees many years, the Decatur Club and the Country Club of Decatur. He was a student of the life of Abraham Lincoln and had a collection of Lincoln biographies and books.

In 1940 Mr. McMillen was a delegate to the Republican National convention in Philadelphia where he supported the nomination of Sen. Robert A. Taft for president.

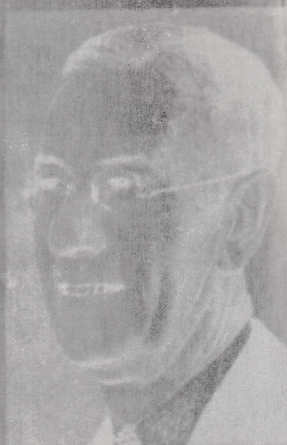
Served on Housing Board

He also served as a member of the state housing board from 1940 to 1944 under appointment of Gov. Dwight Green.

Until 1944 Mr. McMillen showed no interest in running for political office. He announced his candidacy upon the death of Rep. William H. Wheat, Rantoul, serving the old 19th district. He later was elected from the re-organized 22nd district and his terms of office ran through the unexpired term of Mr. Wheat and three additional terms.

Although he had an interest in government and politics in his early youth he didn't take a leading role in politics until the late 1930s.

After serving in an advisory capacity in a campaign of Republican candidates for circuit judge, he became the permanent chairman of the Republican convention which brought the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Walter T. Conn of Danville, followed by a campaign which brought the first



Rolla C. McMillen

McMillen held the sincere belief that rank and file working men and women could best be served by placing restrictions on the powers of labor leaders.

Before the Case bill vote was taken, Mr. McMillen had won election to his first full two-year term. In 1946, he won re-election again sweeping all eight counties of the district, and rolling up a vote of 63,910 to 38,129 for his Democratic opponent.

Then came the Taft-Hartley bill, supported by Mr. McMillen, which brought him more bitter opposition.

Labor leaders, both Republican and Democrats, first tried to "purge" Mr. McMillen in the April primary, but he won nomination easily. The November 1948 election brought a demonstration of the confidence voters of the district had in their representative.

Boldly declaring his continued belief in the provisions of the Taft-Hartley act, Mr. McMillen won by a 7,000 margin, despite the strong opposition of labor leaders and the Democratic landslide which swept out the Republican state administration.

Before time for filing for the 1950 primary came, Mr. McMillen announced he would not seek another term because of health reasons.

Voted With GOP

During his service in Congress, Mr. McMillen usually voted with the Republican side, but in many instances displayed his readiness to vote in line with his personal judgment as to what was best for the nation, regardless of the effect it might have on his personal political career.

He supported civilian control of atomic energy. At a time when

McMillen Assails 5-Year Wait for Trials

Charges Backlog of 105,000 Cases

Thomas R. McMillen, a Phi Beta Kappa scholar on the Republican judicial ticket in the Nov. 8 election, said yesterday that delays in civil justice have increased despite the "judicial reform" court reorganization of 1962.

He said statistics released recently are misleading. These cover only jury trials involving more than \$10,000, he said, with a claimed backlog of only 47,627 cases.

The total number of civil cases awaiting trial in Circuit court is actually 105,066, McMillen said.

Five-Year Wait

"As of June of this year it still took an average of five years to obtain a jury trial in the Cook county department and 5½ years in the municipal department of Circuit court," McMillen said.

"In fact, the delay in the municipal department, where about half of the cases are pending, has been rapidly increasing."

No matter how the statistics are viewed, he said, the delay in justice is important to all American citizens.

McMillen said judges should be required to hold court all day long, not just part time.

Jury trials should be held on Saturdays and during summer months now that we have the 87-million-dollar air conditioned Civic center, he said.

Electing judges who are active and experienced trial lawyers also will help wipe out the backlog, the worst in the United States, McMillen said.

The Circuit court of Cook county is the largest court in this country.

Edmund J. Kucharski, Re-

publican candidate for county treasurer, assailed his Democratic opponent yesterday for supporting Frank Chesrow, sanitary district president, who also faces the voters Nov. 8.

Calls for Explanation

Kucharski said that Marshall Korshak, Democratic nominee

for county treasurer, should explain to voters how he can support the four sanitary district trustees seeking reelection.

Korshak also should tell his reasons for taking part in dumping Seymour Simon for county board president, Kucharski said. Simon was replaced on the Democratic ticket by Harry

H. Semrow, former Chicago postmaster.

Kucharski said Korshak "ran out" on a scheduled joint appearance on a television panel show last Friday. Kucharski said he will be happy to appear on any program where both candidates can answer questions.

McMillen Favored As Judge

Thomas R. McMillen of Chicago, formerly of Decatur, is one of four federal judges a survey mentioned as favored for advancement.

The survey was a poll of lawyers who practice before the U.S. District Court.

It revealed that the lawyers believed five of the 13 judges should not continue on the bench — including James B. Parsons, also a Decatur native.

Besides McMillen, judges Frank J. McBarr, Richard B. Austin and Hubert Will were singled out as favored for advancement.

McMillen is the son of the late U.S. Rep. Rolla McMillen. His mother still resides in Decatur.

He was a Rhodes Scholar and was a circuit court judge in Cook County before becoming a federal judge.

Date not given.

Clippings, courtesy Mrs. R. C. McMillen