

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 444 South Edward

Legal description:

Assessor's Subdivision of a part of the W 1/2 of SE 1/4 of
Sec. 15 Township 16 N Range 2 East of 3rd PM.
20' W & adj & W 66 1/2' of S215.8' of Lot 2

Date of original construction: 1905- est., Assessor's office
c 1922 - as a house

Name of original owner: John Howard Powers (Jack Powers) and Helen Powers
(Original owner of house, which was converted from
the original barn on the 357 West Decatur property
which was owned by Jack Powers' father, Charles
Powers).

History:

1. Data from available city directories.
 - 1920-1921- 444 S. Edward not listed.
 - 1922-1926- J. H. Powers.
 - 1927-1928- Vacant.
 - 1929- D. S. Shellabarger.
 - 1930-1953- Madeline B. Smith, author.
 - 1954-1975- James W. and Emmy Lou Smith Moore, vice pres., Agro-Products,
A. E. Staley Mfg. Co.
 - 1976- Peter J. Heimbold.

2. Assessor's office data.
215.8 x 6.5 (size of lot)

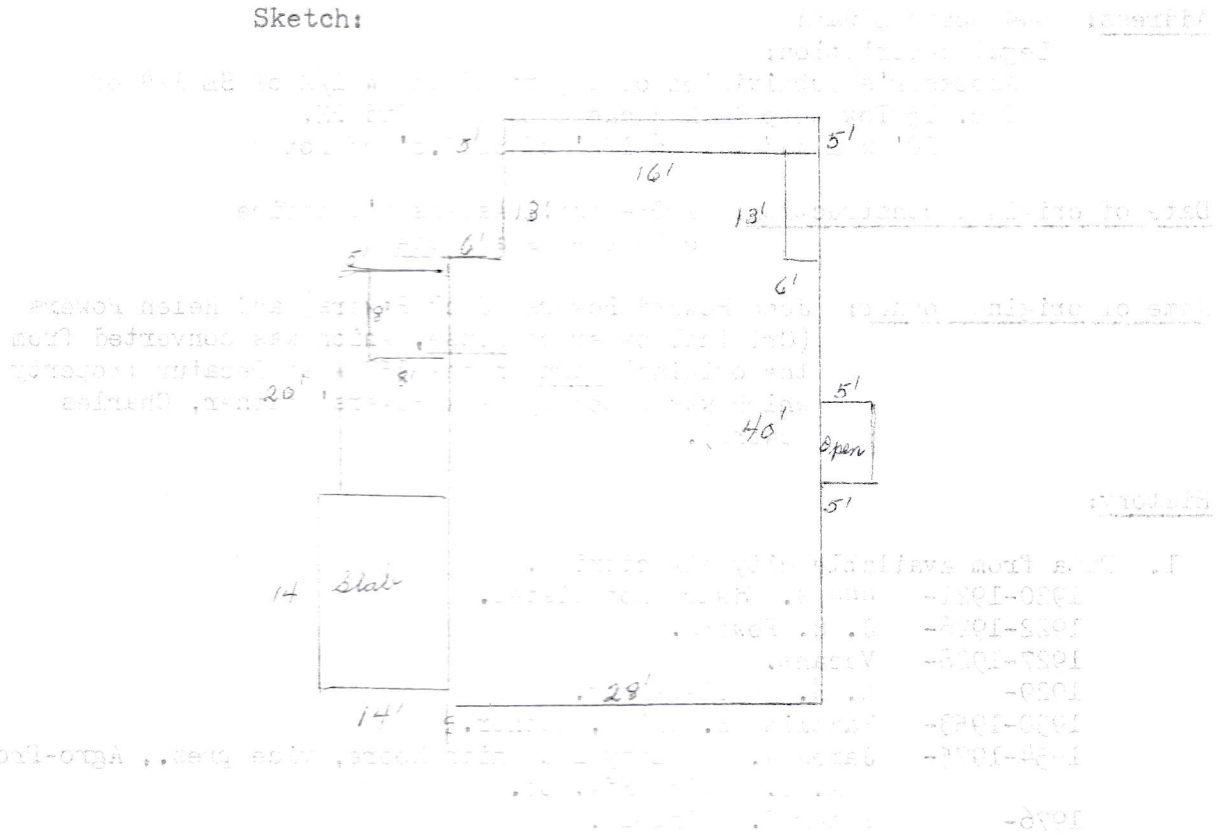
2 stories, wood frame, brick foundation, stucco on wood and brick veneer
hip roof, med. pitch, tile roof
2 porches, 1/2 basement 3 floors of pine, 4 of hardwood 1 of concrete
warm air (gas), 3 natural fireplaces

(See sketch on opposite page)

Present owner: Peter J. Heimbold.

2. Assessor's office data continued:

Sketch:



444 South Edward Street



1

Decatur's Madeline Smith Hailed as 'Author of Week'

By David Felts

Editor of The Herald Editorial Page
 "The Lemon Jelly Cake," a first novel by Madeline Babcock Smith, 444 S. Edward St., Decatur, has been published by Atlantic-Little, Brown & Co., Boston, and will go on sale Monday at bookstores throughout the country.

Mrs. Smith has been designated "Author of the Week" in the Literary Guidepost distributed by the Associated Press, a high compliment for the author of a first novel. A review of the novel by Charles Chuckrow of The Associated Press appears elsewhere on this page.

Mrs. Smith has done considerable writing for the magazines, mostly verse, sketches and short stories. "The Lemon Jelly Cake" is her first long work, and the first to be published between boards.

Mrs. Smith will be guest of honor Monday afternoon at an autographing party from 2:30 to 5 o'clock in the book department of Haines & Essick Co. Lemon jelly cake will be served and the author will autograph copies of her novel.

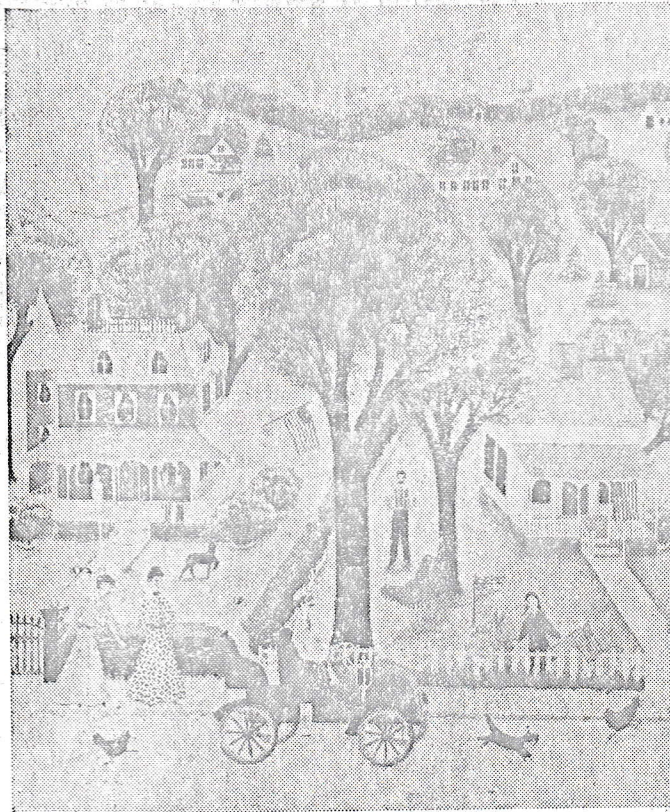
Mrs. Smith will go to New York Wednesday where she will be guest of honor at a party arranged by her publishers.

"The Lemon Jelly Cake" reports the exciting events of the summer of 1900, the first year of a wonderful new century in the village of Tory, Illinois, not far from Springfield. Most residents of Tory may have accounted the summer of 1900 as ordinary but it was a most exciting season to Helene Bradford, 11, and her closest friend, Gracie, the minister's daughter.

Helene tells the story and is easily the best character in the book. She is the heroine of her own narrative, although she may have fancied her beautiful mother in that role. Helene, only child of busy Dr. Bradford and his cultured, somewhat lonely wife Kate, was proud to be known in the village as "Doc's little girl."

The plot of the novel is concerned with the reluctant, somewhat rebellious acceptance by the doctor's wife of life in the village of Tory. Kate Bradford is a woman of intelligence and refinement. She likes to read poetry and she subscribes to the better magazines but she is lonely even though she will not admit her unhappiness. She has come to the conclusion that life is in layers and that a person cannot get out of her layer. She feels that she has been trapped, as it were, in the Tory layer.

Attorney Winton Fenton, a handsome Chicago bachelor, comes frequently to visit his good friends Dr. and Mrs. Bradford. Usually he explained that he had come to Springfield on some law business



This is the picture on the colorful jacket on "The Lemon Jelly Cake," first novel of Madeline Babcock Smith, which goes on sale here Monday. Mrs. Smith will appear on WJZ at 9:15 a.m. today and on WSOY at 4:45 p.m. tomorrow.



Madeline Babcock Smith

more interesting, to this reader at least, is Helene's narrative of the goings-on in the village, the gossip, the minor crises, the whispered scandals, the meetings of the "horse-thief" society, the rivalry of the two women who exhibited their pickles each year at the state fair, the special celebrations, trips to Springfield and the drama of the telephone ringing late at night in the doctor's home.

Helene dreams of someday marrying a very rich man and living in Newport, but life is good in Tory and "Doc's little girl" is a friend of everybody—the hardware merchant who makes mysterious trips to

They will recognize the fashions, the customs, and manners of the era. The slang expressions, the songs and the political issues will come alive again. Younger readers can be assured that the people of Tory are typical of the time and place. If some of the incidents may seem improbable on occasion, perhaps that can be charged to Helene's enthusiasm and her flair for the dramatic, possibly the result of reading novels and smart magazines, as well as the Elsie Dinsmore books.

There seemed to have been no little boys in the village of Tory. Perhaps Helene had the disdain of all little girls of 11 summers for contemporaries of the opposite sex.

Most novelists will deny that a book is autobiographical and upon advice of legal counsel will insist that all characters are fictitious and are not modeled after any persons living or dead. It is only a coincidence, then, that Mrs. Smith grew up in the village of Rochester, not

far from Springfield, and that her father was a country doctor.

The novel is inscribed by the author "To Al, Emmy Lou and Jane" who are, in that order, State Senator Albert S. Smith of the 28th District, Mrs. J. W. Moore, 437 W. Decatur St., and Mrs. George Schroyer of Evanston, the son and daughters of Mrs. Smith.

The paper dust jacket on brand

'Delightful Book,' AP Reviewer Says

By Charles Chuckrow
 Of The Associated Press

The Lemon Jelly Cake, by Madeline Babcock Smith (Atlantic-Little, Brown; \$3).

Don't let the title fool you, "The Lemon Jelly Cake" is a delightful book.

The character who tells the story, Helene, is the young daughter of a country doctor in Tory, Ill., about the turn of the century. Her best friend is Gracie, whose father is a pastor. The two girls, and their mixed up adventures, make them seem like the female equivalent of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer—but more respectable.

The stream of anecdotes is held together by the presence of an outsider, one Wint Fenton, who comes to town and falls for Helene's mother. Her doubts and eventual realization that Tory, and not Springfield or Chicago, is the "layer of her jelly cake" provides a cheerful ending.

One of the funnier incidents results when the girls try to help Gracie's father, the pastor, after he marries a couple without first checking their license. He realizes too late that it was issued out of the state thereby making the marriage illegal.

The pastor leaves for Springfield to head off the couple on their honeymoon. Along go to the two girls to help—without his knowledge—and discover when they reach the city that they have no idea where to look for a young couple who are

HERALD AND REVIEW

supposed to be married but aren't.

With child-like preferences for the direct approach, they ask passers-by where they can locate people "living in sin," an expression chosen by the pastor. A kindly-looking gentleman directs them to an unfamiliar street and tells them to look up a place with a sign saying "Miss Lou's," a dubious establishment at best.

"You can tell her Jack sent you," he adds amiably.

Helene and Gracie do not find the missing couple there, but they do get friendly with a few of the lady "boarders."

Not too long afterwards, Gracie's mother runs off with the town barber.

Mrs. Smith, who writes an extremely modern "old-fashioned" book, is a 65-year-old grandmother.

and couldn't resist coming out to the village. Always he is welcomed by Dr. Bradford and by Helene, but he reads poetry with Kate and the two exchange letters after he has returned to Chicago.

Eventually Kate Bradford accepts one of his many invitations to visit him in Chicago. We must be content with Helene's report on that trip, a trip Helene was not allowed to make.

The plot is adequate; but much

Springfield, the kindly Negro woman who is the village laundress, the inventive genius who is not quite all there, the village barber who is a Lothario of sorts and, of course, Mrs. Antha and Uncle Will, well loved neighbors. Uncle Will always called Helene "Miss Susan Dusanberry."

Readers of middle age who can recall the early years of the present century will enjoy "The Lemon Jelly Cake" as a nostalgic memoir

new copies of "The Lemon Jelly Cake" offers a village scene, in gay colors, of a half century ago. But the book itself is bound in cloth, in a shade of yellow that is indubitably lemon.

DECATUR AUTHOR HAS A BUSY AFTERNOON

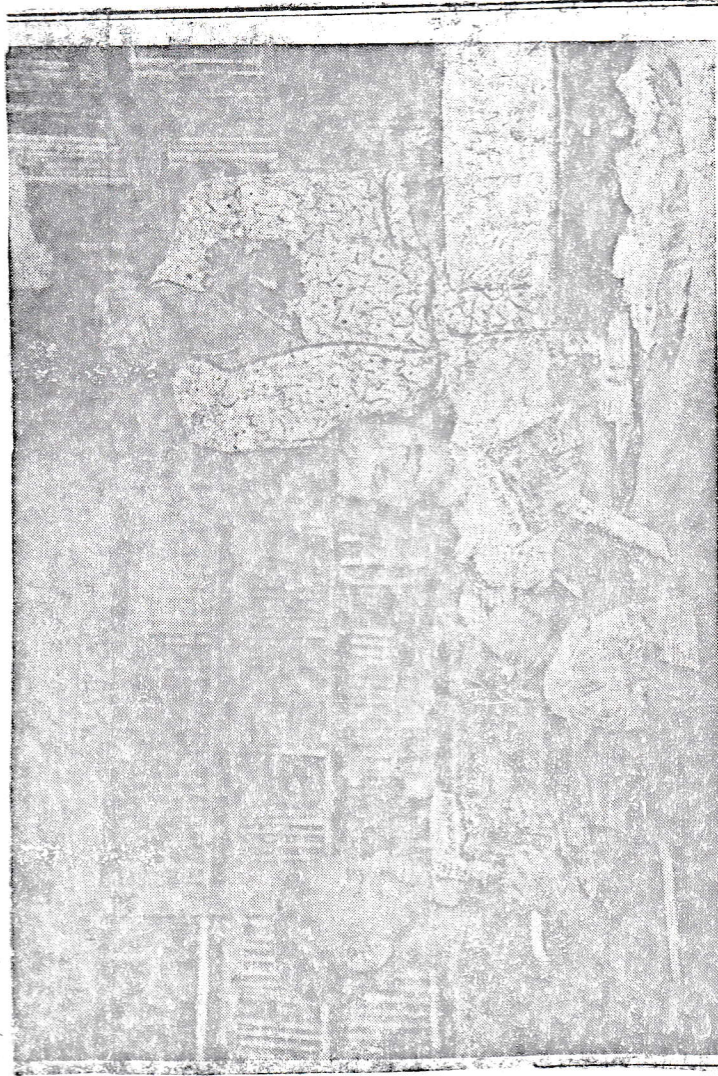


Otto Kyle, left, editor of The Review editorial page, and Ellis D. Roberts, Herald-Review Editorial writer, discuss "The Lemon Jelly Cake" with the author, Mrs. Madeline Babcock Smith, 444 S. Edward St., at an autographing party Monday afternoon in the Haines & Essick Company book department. Yesterday was publication day for the novel, Mrs. Smith's first. (Staff Photo)



Daughter, Mrs. James W. Babcock Smith, and son, Steve Scott, get copies of "The Lemon Jelly Cake" from their author-mother, Mrs. Madeline Babcock Smith, at the autographing party Monday. At right is William C. McCully, manager of the Haines & Essick book department. (Haines & Essick Photo)

8/4/1952



Three of Mrs. Madeline Babcock Smith's grandchildren line up for pieces of lemon jelly cake at yesterday's autographing party. The children, left to right, are, Mac Moore, 9, and Madeline Moore, 5, children of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Moore, and Mary Jane Smith, 5, daughter of Sen. and Mrs. Elbert Smith. About 250 persons attended the party. Mrs. Smith will be honored at another party in New York tomorrow given by her publishers. (Haines & Essick Photo)

Mrs. Smith, Writer Of Novel, Dies

'Lemon Jelly Cake' Author Ill Short Time

Mrs. Madeline Babcock Smith, 65, author of the recently published novel, "The Lemon Jelly Cake," died at 8 p.m. yesterday in Decatur and Macon County Hospital after a brief illness. She lived at 444 S. Edward St.

Mrs. Smith was a past president of the Decatur Garden Club, historian of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of the Sans Souci Club, the Book Club and the Methodist Church.

She was the mother of State Sen. Elbert S. Smith of the 28th District. He is a Decatur resident.

Mrs. Smith also leaves two daughters, Mrs. James W. Moore, Decatur, and Mrs. George B. Schroyer, Evanston. There are four grandchildren.

Mrs. Smith was the daughter of the late Dr. Oliver Brewster and Emma Merriam Babcock. She was born June 11, 1887, in Rochester. In 1892 the family moved to Springfield.

Mrs. Smith came to Decatur in 1918.

She studied two years at the University of Chicago and was a special student at Millikin University. Poems, short stories and articles of hers have been published in national magazines.

Mrs. Smith headed the Garden Club in 1930-31. She lectured at women's clubs on her hobbies, chief of which were writing and collecting antiques, and on a trip she took to Europe in 1937.

She was a hostess at the opening of the Oriental Room in the Illinois State Museum in 1939.

The body is in the Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home where friends may call after 4 p.m. today. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the funeral home chapel with burial in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield.

The family asks that no flowers be sent.

Mrs. Smith's book, "The Lemon Jelly Cake," was published by Little Brown & Company and on sale last Aug. 4. It was well received and was warmly recommended by many leading literary critics.

Though the author of the young doctor, the country doctor, the small town doctor.

8 Lap Days Left And Santa's Trousers Are Already Well Worn

Santa Claus has talked with 13,508 children in the first 14 days of his stay in the Christmas Village.

On one of those days he held a total of 1,175 children on his lap.

When the stores start opening at night for the Christmas shopping rush Santa expects to have even more callers. Last year he had a total of 31,518 visitors.

The red velvet trousers are already beginning to show signs of wear from all the little lapsitters, Santa reports.

One Shop Hikes Haircut Price

Most Decatur barber shops apparently will continue to offer \$1 haircuts, even though one downtown shop raised the price to \$1.25 yesterday.

The Citizens Barber Shop in the Citizens Buildings boosted its haircut price to \$1.25.

Curtis L. (Mickey) Borton, manager of the shop, said he raised the price on his own initiative. It apparently was the first departure from the \$1 haircut here in five years.

Spokesmen for several other downtown barber shops said they had no plans for changing their prices.

One shop manager, however, said the action by the Citizens Barber Shop "may break the ice" for other shops who have been seeking increases.

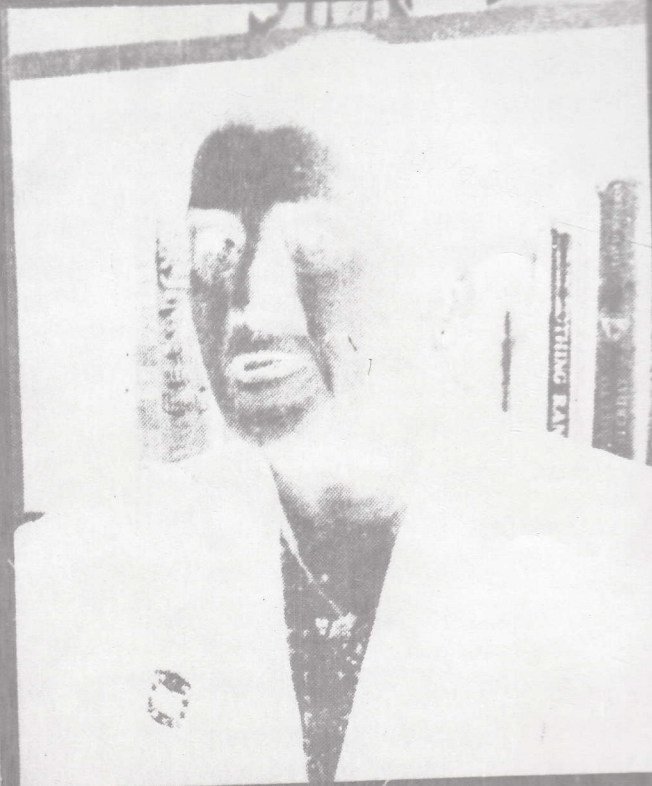
George T. (Tommy) Gardner, president of Local 90 of the International Journeyman Barbers, said he doesn't think other barbers will fall in line with the price hike.

Union barbers have voted down the 25-cent increase several times.

Gardner said the Citizens Shop's raise conformed with union by-laws, which set only minimum prices.

Reising Cancer Fund Director

'LEMON JELLY CAKE' AUTHOR DIES



Mrs. Madeline Babcock Smith, prominent writer and clubwoman, died at 8 p. m. yesterday in Decatur and Macon County Hospital. She lived at 444 S. Edward St. Her first novel which was re-

cently published, "The Lemon Jelly Cake," attracted wide attention. She was the mother of State Sen. Elbert S. Smith of Decatur.

TV Station May Be In Operation by Mid-July

Decatur's first television station may be in operation by mid-July.

This was announced last night by W. L. Shellabarger, president of the Prairie Television Company.

The station will use the call letters, WTVP.

Prairie Television received authorization on Nov. 20 for an ultra high frequency station in Decatur. Approval was granted by the Federal Communications Commission.

Plans for the Decatur station now are being drawn by architects, Shellabarger said, and equipment has been ordered from the Radio Corporation of America for July 1 delivery.

"We have reason to believe that the equipment will be delivered earlier than July 1," he said.

Present plans call for building the station and its tower on the same site.

The exact site has not been selected, Shellabarger said, but it probably will be a short distance south of Decatur.

"Engineers have approved several sites," he said.

tower site as three-tenths of a mile west of Route 51 and 1.35 miles southwest of the Lake Decatur dam. The height of the tower was listed at 350 feet.

Shellabarger said his company will file an amended application with the FCC, seeking a change in the site and an increase in the height of the tower to 600 feet.

Construction plans will not be announced until the architects and engineers have completed their work.

"We hope to limit the cost to a quarter of a million dollars," Shellabarger said.

Very high frequency telecasting is the type most commonly in use in the United States now, but there are several UHF stations in operation.

The Decatur UHF station will be outside the fringe areas of present VHF stations.

Receiving sets now in use will not tune in UHF stations. However, manufacturers have provided for adaptation of VHF sets for reception of two or more UHF sta-

Ray's The Chastain

Water Com Chastain said Mack Ray is in some parts dredge Lake D

Ray has con the lake wou than raising the storage capacity have disagreed.

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Chastain, b dam must be for emergency the main dam.

These wou the intake pip could not be pipes would small dam to

The city n the Lake Dec gates to the d 500 or more "excessive" an

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He also qu is enough around the l space for the as lake, as it

While be study to obtain b and the spect mitted, that d lake maintain swer to incre

capacity. PUBLIC SC NEW