

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 1004 W. Wood St.
Northwest corner of W. Wood and S. Haworth.
Legal description:
H. S. Evans' Second Subdivision of a part of N.W. 1/4
Section 15-16-2 (Exc S 10') Lot 20 and E 20' of Lot 19.

Date of original construction: 1885, est., Assessor's office.

Name of original owner: Probably John G. and Lusannah G. Shea.

History:

1. A partial chain of titles follows. (Source - Office of Macon County Recorder of Deeds).

May	6, 1886	H. S. Evans and wife to Lusannah G. Shea, Lot 20.
April	10, 1890	H. S. Evans and wife to Lusannah G. Shea, E. 20' of Lot 19.
Nov.	8, 1895	Lusannah G. Shea and husband to Lewis B. Casner.
January	8, 1897	Lewis B. Casner to Wm. H. Walters.
Sept.	8, 1906	Wm. H. Walters to Charles C. Miller.
August	8, 1960	C. C. Miller estate to Mary L. Miller, widow.
June	19, 1968	Mary L. Miller to James H. and Mary M. Beaumont.
April	3, 1972	The Beaumonts to John L. and Kay M. Hall.
2. City directories include the following. (Note: Where there is no notation, the directory is not available. In a few cases, directories are at the bindery, but in some cases, the library has no copy.)

1886-		
1887-1891	*Shea, John G., Sec.-Treas. and Sup't., Decatur Steam and Tile Co., res., 1004 W. Wood.	
1892-		
1893-1899	**Votaw, Henry G., bkkpr. Leader Mfg. Co., res. 1004 W. Wood.	
	Note: In 1893-1895 the address of the residence is given at 191 S. Haworth. It is assumed that this is the same house as the one listed as 1004 W. Wood.	
1900-1903		
1904	Walters, Rolla H., grocer, 557 W. Main, res. 1004 W. Wood.	
1905-1906		
1907-1910	Miller, C. C., com. trav., res. 1004 W. Wood.	
1911-1912	Chi Sigma Phi.	
1913-1916	Delta Delta Delta.	

Present owner's name: John L. and Kay M. Hall.

History Cont'd.:

2. City directories.

1917-1960 Miller, C. C. and Mary L.
1960-1968 Miller, Mary L., wid. C. C.
1969-1971 Beaumont, James H. and Margaret.
1972- Hall, John L. and Kay M.

* Comparing chain of title with city directory data, it would appear that the Sheas (John G. and Lusannah) who gained title to the property May 6, 1886, lived in the house in 1887. Unfortunately a key directory - 1886 - is not available. It would seem that the assessor's office estimate is fairly accurate (about 1885 for date of construction.) The house is not listed in the 1885 directory. Possibly it was under construction in 1886?

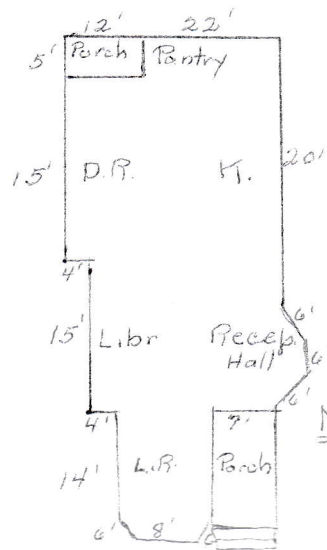
** It would also appear that the Sheas resided in Danville while retaining business interests (Leader Mfg. Co. and Decatur Steam and Tile Co.) in Decatur. Following their change of residence to Danville it would appear that the Sheas rented the property at 1004 W. Wood to one of Mr. Shea's employees, Henry G. Votaw, a bookkeeper at Leader. It would also appear that 1004 W. Wood was listed as 191 S. Haworth in the 1893 and 1895 directories. (See interview with Lois Burks that indicates the main entrance to the house was on S. Haworth prior to the remodeling done by her father, C. C. Miller, in 1906.) It is puzzling, however, that 1004 W. Wood was the address given for the house, 1887-1891.

The Millers held title to the property for almost 62 years. The Sheas held title for about 9 years. Lewis Casner held title for a little over a year but apparently never lived there. At least he is listed in directories as living elsewhere.

1893-1899 directories list the John G. Sheas, giving their business addresses in Decatur but listing "res, Danville, Illinois."

3. Data from the office of the Macon County assessor includes:

Family dwelling	Hardwood floors
10 rooms - 2 stories	2 porches
Wood frame	Slate roof
Brick walls	3 natural fireplaces
Exterior face brick	2 bathrooms



Not drawn to scale.

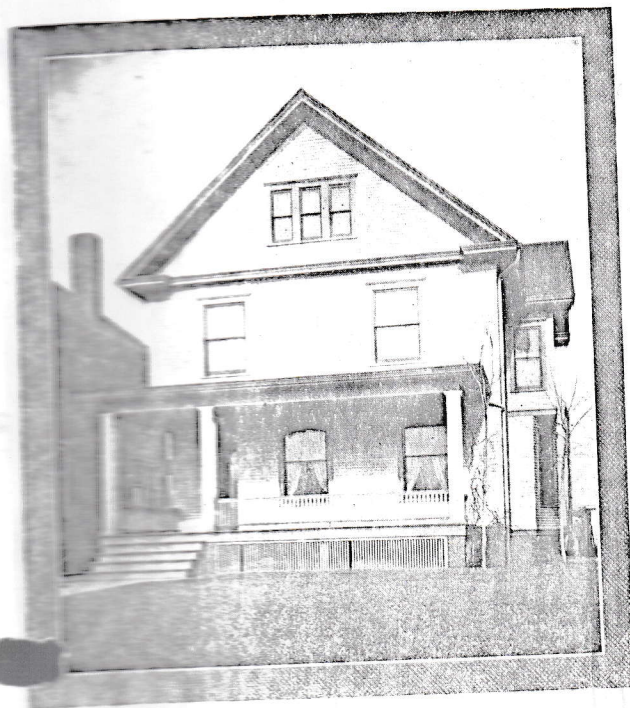
History Cont'd.:

4. In a 'phone conversation 8/28/74 with Mrs. Lois Miller Burks, daughter of the C. C. Millers who owned the house at 1004 W. Wood for over sixty years, the following information was received:
 - She did not know who built the house or when it was built.
 - Her parents were married in 1898 at the home of her mother's parents on N. College Street, going immediately after the wedding to the house at 1033 W. Wood which her father had just had built. (A carpenter working on the house was paid \$1.25 a day.) The house at 1033 is occupied by Troy Purdue in 1974.
 - She recalls that their family (her parents, their sons Carl and Harry and Lois) spent days in the big barn at the rear of the lot of 1004 W. Wood, and nights in the house while remodeling was going on. This was at the time of her parents' purchase of the property. (9/8/1906)
 - The major change in the house at this time was the elimination of a porch on the east with entrance on Haworth. This had been the main entrance to the house. The present porch opening on the West Wood side was built at this time.
 - The Millers lived in her grandfather Miller's house at 1027 W. Wood, now gone, 1911-1916 when 1004 W. Wood was rented to a Millikin sorority.
 - The Millers left the house for a year or so in the early 1920's while their sons were at the U. of I., all living in Champaign at that time.
5. The Halls who live at 1004 W. Wood presently, state that:
 - There are three natural fireplaces, one each in the living room and in the reception room on the first floor and one on the second floor immediately above one in the living room. Originally a front bedroom, this room on the second floor is now used as a family room.
 - The small room west of the reception hall, now a library, was Mr. Miller's office during his years as a commercial traveler.
 - The dining room on the west has a leaded glass upper window pane, that is also bevelled.

History Cont'd.:

5. - Gas pipes still run up to each room where gas light fixtures, wall bracket and ceiling, once existed.
- Floors are of hardwood, but other woodwork is of pine.
- Original cabinets in the pantry have a small opening to the outdoors in the side next a back porch on the west, apparently to cool this one section of the cabinet.
- The bedroom at the back of the second floor is quite large.
- The house is in excellent condition, and decorated beautifully by the Halls who have a deep interest in restoration of old houses, and in antiques, especially in art glass windows.

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 ■■■ MILLIDEK 1912 ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■



K Δ X House



X Δ Φ

One hundred fifty-six



Δ Δ Δ House

Millidek
1913

