

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 627 S. Seigle

Legal description:

Lincoln Place Subdivision

S 37.4' Lot 5 & N 38' Lot 6 blk 3

Date of original construction: 1926 - Est, Assessor's office  
1925- City directory

Name of original owner: Attorney Ralph J. and Mabel Monroe.

History:

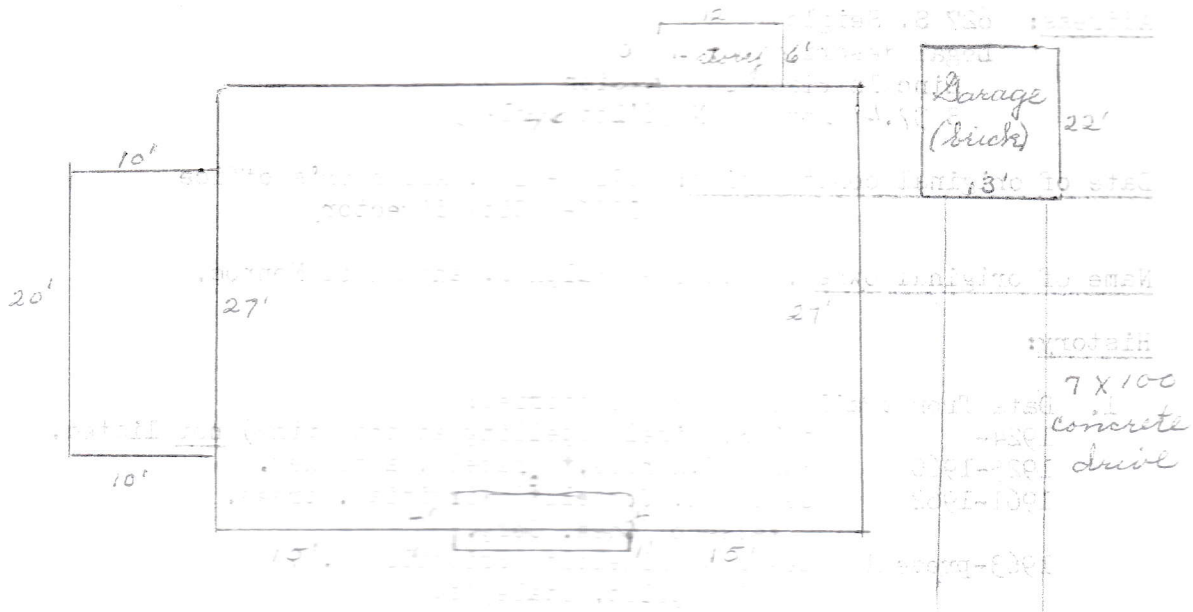
1. Data from available city directories:  
1924- 627 S. Sigel (spelling at that time) not listed.  
1925-1960 Ralph J. Monroe,\* (Mabel), attorney.  
1961-1962 George A. Cornell\* (Virginia), treas.  
Velsecol Chem. Corp.  
1963-present Lewis H. Rinebold (Priscilla W.),  
chief pilot, Staley's.
2. Data from Decatur Township Assessor's office:  
R-2 zoning - Bldg. class B+ 10  
Family dwelling - 2 stories - 6 rooms  
Wood frame construction, brick foundation & exterior walls  
Hip roof, wood shingles  
Open porch 5'x10', enclosed porch 10'x20'  
Full basement  
5 rooms with hardwood floors, softwood doors & trim  
Forced air furnace, gas  
1 bathroom, 1 half-bath  
1 natural fireplace  
13'x22' garage, cement floor

(See sketch on next page)

Present owner: Lewis H. Rinebold and Priscilla W. Rinebold.

History:

2. Sketch:



*Not drawn to scale.*

3. Attachment:

See Ralph J. Monroe, obit., D. Review, Oct. 13, 1972.

4. Comment: The shape of the front of this house is unusual, the outside corners slanting inward slightly.

Prepared by:



# Ralph Monroe, *Decatur Review* Attorney, Dies

Oct. 13, 1972

Ralph J. Monroe, 83, of 665 S. Monroe St., a Decatur attorney and civic leader, died at 5:40 a.m. today in St. Mary's Hospital.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday in Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home. Private burial will be in Fairlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Monroe was born near Sullivan, a son of Millard and Asenath Monroe, prominent Macon County landowners and farmers.

He was graduated from Decatur High School in 1908 and from the University of Illinois in 1912.

After his admission to practice, he opened a law office in Sullivan, but came to Decatur in 1913 and was associated with the law firm of Baldwin & Carey. In 1915, he became a partner in the firm of Buckingham, McDavid & Monroe.

He continued in partnership with the late Horace W. McDavid until Mr. McDavid's election to the Circuit court bench in 1932. From 1929 to 1934, Harry B. Hershey of Taylorville was a member of the firm.

Mr. Hershey later ran unsuccessfully for governor of Illinois, but was elected as an Illinois Supreme Court Justice.

From 1934 to 1940, Mr. Monroe was in partnership with Edgar H. Allen. After Mr. Allen retired from practice, Mr. Monroe organized the firm of Monroe and McLaughley, taking his son, Robert S. Monroe, into the firm as an associate.

The firm now is known as Monroe, McLaughley, Cleave & Taylor.

Soon after coming to Decatur, Mr. Monroe had some experience in legal work for the City of Decatur and in 1919 was appointed as corporation counsel for the city, continuing in that position until 1922.

In 1924, he was appointed special attorney for the Northeast Sewer Project and in the same year, when the Decatur Park District was organized, he became attorney for the district, an assignment he held until 1928.

He represented the district in acquiring land for park purposes. He did similar legal work for the Decatur School District.

Mr. Monroe was counsel for several corporations.

Although he was a lifelong



Ralph J. Monroe

Republican, he did not engage in organization politics and never sought elective office.

In 1944, he was chosen as one of the two delegates from the 22nd Congressional District to attend the Republican national convention.

For several years he was a member of the important grievances committee of the Illinois Bar Association.

He worked with the Association of Commerce in committee assignment and was active in other civic affairs. He was a director of the Community Chest several years, serving one year as president. In 1951, he was honored for 15 years of consecutive service to the YM-C.A.

Mr. Monroe had business interests outside the law profession and served as a director of several corporations including Morehouse & Wells Co., Purity Baking Co. and the Chambers Bering Quinlan Co.

Mr. Monroe was legal counsel for the Illinois Funeral Directors Association from 1938 to 1956.

He was elected chairman of the Third District Republican judicial convention in 1960.

In 1962, Mr. Monroe was honored by the Decatur Bar Association for his 50 years in the practice of law. He was honored by the state bar association the same year.

Mr. Monroe was appointed a member of the advisory cabinet in 1966 for a \$3 million public fund drive to help finance the Millikin University expansion.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Stephen Decatur Lodge AF & AM, Decatur Club and Country Club of Decatur.

Mr. Monroe was married to Mabel Stone in Mattoon on Feb. 27, 1916.

Survivors include his wife; son, Robert of Decatur; sisters, Mrs. Lena Hamblin of Sullivan and Mrs. Ralph (Blanche)

## Response In Study

About 20 per cent response has been made to the 3,500 questionnaires mailed by the city's community development department in a traffic condition study.

The questionnaires were mailed to area business establishments in a study aimed at evaluation of current and future city transportation conditions.

Frank E. Beaman, director of the city department, said he hopes to get at least 50 per cent response.

He said he plans to start compiling the information after next Friday so a complete report can be made.

The survey is being conducted by the city in conjunction with the Macon County Regional Planning Commission and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The questions pertain to the number of persons employed in the various businesses, the percentage of noncounty residents employed, business productivity and marketing data.

Replies will be held in confidence by the city staff, according to Beaman.

An area transportation study, required by the federal government prior to release of federal highway funds, will utilize information gathered through the survey.

The survey is part of the state-city-county continuing study of area transportation.

Involved in this study is evaluation of the current economic conditions relating to patterns, including travel patterns as well as a study of future social and economic conditions relating to transportation in the Macon County-Decatur area.

## Alumni Office Has Reserve 'Oliver' Tickets

Millikin University alumni office announced today it still has a quantity of reserve tickets for the Oct. 20 and 21 performances of the Millikin production of "Oliver."

Special prices are available to alumni and their guests for those two performances which are featured highlights of the university's homecoming weekend.

Interested alumni are urged to order at the earliest opportunity by calling the alumni office.

The public may obtain tickets through the Kirkland box office.

Tickets for the two performances are more than half sold, the university reported.

## Not Superstitious

Even if it's Friday the 13th, this man isn't afraid to walk under a ladder. He does it every day for a living. He's

Jim Burns, 1530 N. Broad, an employe of Grace Nursery.

## Ray Dickerson Outlines Oakley Economic Impact

By Curt Greene

A state official has reaffirmed the commitment of the State of Illinois to the desirability and need for the Oakley lake and greenbelt project.

Ray C. Dickerson, director of the state Department of Business and Economic Development, made the statement with reference to Oakley Thursday night at the second annual dinner meeting of the Sangamon Valley Association.

"The state knows from past experience the great impact on the community that a place like the Oakley reservoir can have. The state is continually committed to the project," he said.

Approximately 75 persons attended the meeting. They heard Dickerson outline the economic impact Oakley could have on the area. "Problems you run into can be anticipated, dealt with and minimized" through adequate land use planning, he said.

Dickerson referred to land use planning as a good method for making the best use of the land available and "not creating some kind of monster."

"You can do the planning yourselves to insure the success of the project. And you should get busy to see that any losses to valuable agricultural land are minimized," he said.

"There is a great demand and a great need for recreational areas in this state and in the country as a whole. Illinois has many fine recreational spots, but we need more. There are almost none in the whole Central Illinois belt from Danville to Springfield."

Dickerson pointed to the success of Lake Shelbyville and told the group the reservoir already had fulfilled estimates for use that weren't predicted until 1975.

we can do through adequate land use planning and use of land is to minimize that. This is where you folks in.

"It does not necessarily to be expensive either," he said. "A land use plan for Oakley could probably be financed through this group. It was the cheapest buck you spent."

Dickerson also pointed to the success of the Rend Lake project, located at Benton, Franklin County extending toward Mount Vernon.

"When the developers go through with the land plan they have done around Lake, they will have one of the most efficient and most designed layouts around any lake in the world. Industry housing developments already been attracted to the area. It just shows what land use planning can do."

"The Oakley project, with the tremendous potential of this area as a central location, has a chance to become a truly outstanding recreational site and tourist attraction. And with the interstate highway finally going through there will be easy access for travelers."

"The success of the project depends on people you," Dickerson told the association members. "Adequate planning, the success does not have to be built partly up to you."

## Two Men Held In Kidnapping Of Decatur Girl

Two men are being held by St. Louis County authorities after a Decatur girl was found. She was forced to accompany them from Decatur to St. Louis.