

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 421 N. College St.

Legal description:

Western Addition (Plat 22/411)
Resurvey of Lots 4-5-6, Block 2
(Exc., S20'W71' & Exc. S10'
W25' E85') E 156' of Lot 4

Date of original construction: 1875 Est assessor's Office
circa 1897 - C.D. information

Name of original owner: Martin L. and Mary Vaughan.

History:

1. Data from available city directories:

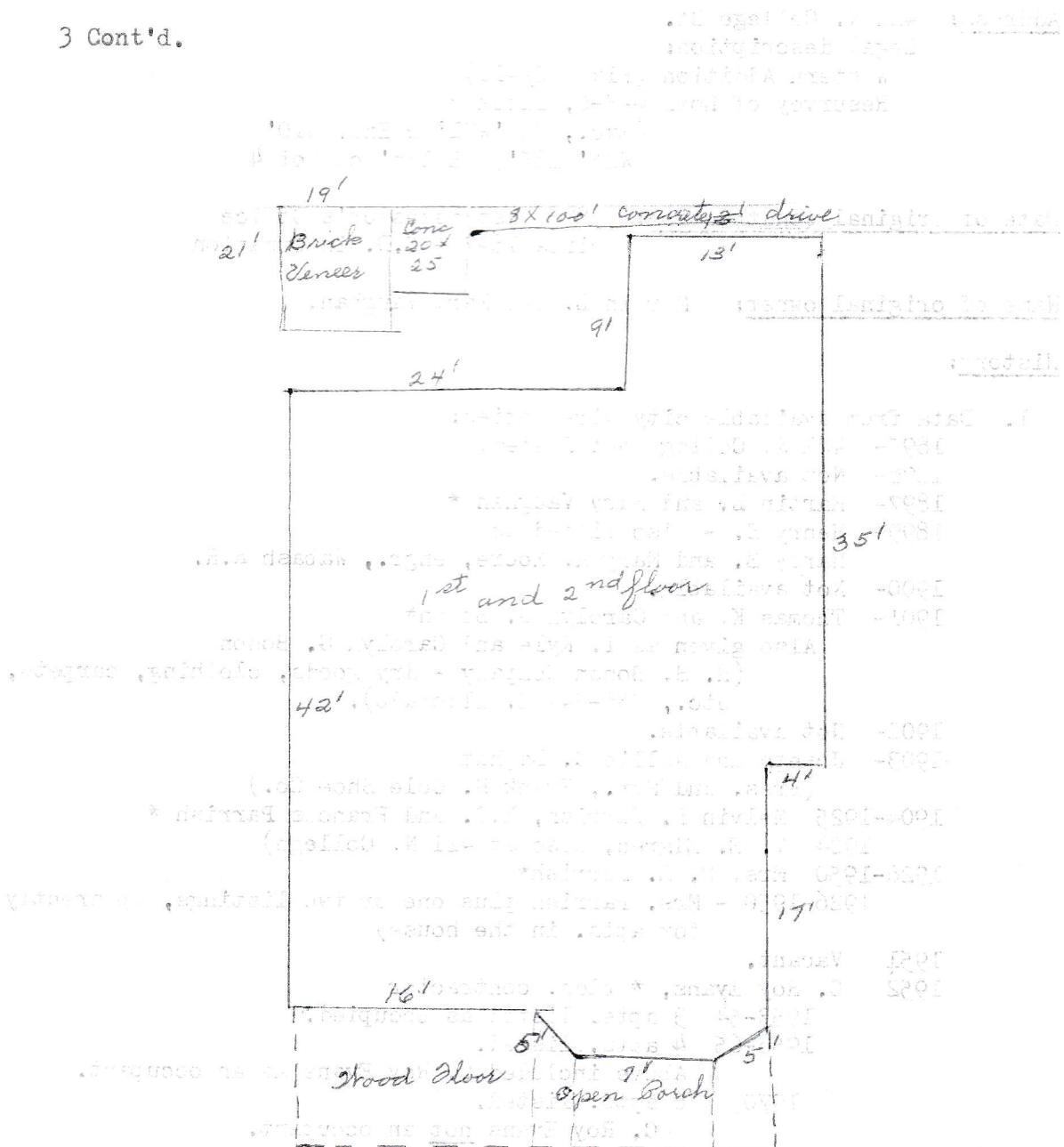
- 1895- 421 N. College not listed.
- 1896- Not available.
- 1897- Martin L. and Mary Vaughan *
- 1899- Henry S. - also listed as
Harry S. and Mary K. Moore, engr., Wabash R.R.
- 1900- Not available.
- 1901- Thomas K. and Carolyn G. Bohon*
Also given as T. Kyle and Carolyn G. Bohon
(R. S. Bohon Company - dry goods, clothing, carpets,
etc., 536-544 E. Eldorado).
- 1902- Not available.
- 1903- Joseph and Nellie C. Lapham
(Pres. and Mgr., Frank H. Cole Shoe Co.)
- 1904-1925 Melvin P. Parrish, M.D. and Frances Parrish *
1924 V. E. Edgren, also at 421 N. College)
- 1926-1950 Mrs. F. E. Parrish*
1926-1950 - Mrs. Parrish plus one or two listings, apparently
for apts. in the house)
- 1951 Vacant.
- 1952 C. Roy Evans, * bldg. contractor
1953-54 3 apts. listed as occupied.
1956-65 4 apts. listed.
Above included C. Roy Evans as an occupant.
1970 6 apts. listed.
C. Roy Evans not an occupant.
1974 7 apts. listed.

2. Data from Decatur Township Assessor's Office.

- 2-6 family apt. 2 stories - 6 apts - 10 rooms.
Brick foundation and exterior.
Hip roof of slate, full basement.
6 rooms with pine floors, 4 with pine centers, hardwood borders.
4 natural fireplaces Interior finish - softwood
6 bathrooms Cement drive
Warm air heat Brick veneer garage 19'x21' and
20'x25'

Present owners: William E. and Nancy Cole. (Assessor's Office)

3 Cont'd.



4. See attachment.

Not drawn to scale

Decatur Diary, Feb. 9, 1975, Parrish, Chief Surgeon of Hospital.

Present contents: ...

History Continued:

5. Copies continued:
 2. Notes on August 2, 1975 - conversation between Ann Phillips and Charlotte Meyer.
 3. Notes on August 9, 1975, conversation between Mrs. Helen England Penhallegon and Charlotte Meyer.
 4. Sunday Herald & Review - Sept. 8, 1974 - Two Mansions Have Undergone Change.
 5. Biography - Wm. B. Chambers - Portrait and Biographical Record of Macon County, Illinois, Lake City Publishing Co., 1893.
 6. Sunday Herald & Review, February 4, 1968 - Company Tied "Famous Knot."
 7. Richmond, Mabel E. - Centennial History, etc., 1930, p. 288.
 8. Ibid, p. 148 (W. B. Chambers' terms as president.)
 9. Past and Present of Decatur and Macon County, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1903 pp 167, 168, 169.
 10. Decatur Review - Story of Decatur, Monday, January 7, 1924 (Silas Packard).
 11. W. B. Chambers - Jan. 6, 1914 - Decatur Review - Illness.
 12. Obit - W. B. Chambers Dec. 15, 1916 - Decatur Review.
 13. Decatur Review - C. E. England's New Home - December 31, 1916.
 14. Remodeling England Home - July 18, 1947.
 15. Print-outs of city directory microfilms. 1887-1891.
 16. The Herald - Thursday, September 27, 1883 - Chambers-Barnes Wedding



421 N. College St.

October, 1964

William E. Cole has bought this income property from C. Roy Evans. There are four separate apartments plus a

studio apartment and a three-car garage. The lot is nicely landscaped. P. H. Sproat & Co. handled the transaction.

Decatur Diary

Parrish Was Chief Surgeon Of Hospital

By Sally Burcham

One of Decatur's early physicians was for twenty-two years the chief surgeon of the Wabash Employe Hospital Association, and was widely known for his work in connection with the hospital.

Dr. Melvin Porter Parrish was born in Coshockton County, Ohio, in 1868, a descendent of old American families of Scotch, Irish and English ancestry. While still an infant, his parents immigrated in a covered wagon from the Ohio River area to a farm near Fairmount, Ill.

Parrish spent his childhood on the farm and received his early education in the country schools and the high school in Fairmount, from which he graduated. He then left the farm to take a course at a business college in Danville and continued there until his graduation.

Following the suggestion of a friend, Dr. W. H. Morehouse who was then Chief Surgeon of the Wabash Railway System, Parrish entered the Rush Medical College in Danville, from which he graduated in 1895.

While attending the medical college, Parrish spent his summer vacations as a drug clerk in the Springfield hospital of the Wabash Railway Company. Immediately after his graduation, he became House Surgeon at the Wabash Hospital in Peru, Ind.

However, one year later, in 1896, he was transferred to Decatur as District Surgeon of the Wabash, and he stayed in the city the rest of his life.

When the Wabash hospital was built in Decatur in 1902, Dr. Parrish was appointed surgeon in charge. He remained in that position until 1912, when Dr. Morehouse died, and Parrish was promoted to Chief Surgeon.

With Dr. Parrish as chief surgeon, Decatur was soon made general headquarters for the medical system of the Wabash, which was thought at the time to be one of the best organized and most efficient on any of the western railroads.

In 1921, Dr. Parrish was elected president of the Association of Railway Chief Surgeons at a meeting in Chicago. He also was appointed on the committee of the medical and surgical section of the American Railway association.

The annual reports of the Wabash Hospital during his years as chief indicated the scope of the work of the hospital and the increase as the years passed, which necessitated an addition to the building in 1924.

Patients and out-patients treated after the new addition was finished for the year 1924 totalled 13,608. A total of 23,102 prescriptions were filled during that same period.

Dr. Parrish was active and progressive in matters pertaining to the community as well as the Wabash Hospital. He was director of the board of the then Decatur-Macon County Hospital, and chairman of the board of directors of the Tuberculosis Hospital.

Dr. Parrish married Frances Emma Barkely in 1895, and the couple had three children. He died May 27, 1925, in the hospital he had helped to establish.

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Built in 1902, Wabash Hospital was the center of Dr. Parrish's activity.

