

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 695 West Mound Road

Legal description: NE 1/4 NW 1/4 E 465° N 390  
Sec. Twn. N. Range  
34 - 17 - 2  
4.16 acres

Date of original construction: 1840 est

Name of original owner: Unknown.

History:

1. A partial chain of title follows. Source: Abstract .
  - April 1, 1837 - U.S.A. by the President, Martin Van Buren, 80 acres to Philo Hale, Danville Land office. (This 80 acres included the 4.16 acres with the legal description cited above.)
  - Dec. 29, 1847 - Inventory, Philo Hale, who died October 29, 1847.
  - Jan. 1, 1856 - Edwin S. Hale, Executor, Philo Hale estate, to William Fletcher Montgomery, "consideration \$1000 for 40 acres more or less."
  - Aug. 14, 1886 - Inventory, William Fletcher Montgomery, who died on or about August 4, 1886, Patrick H. Montgomery and John R. Hays, executors.
  - Aug. 25, 1888 - Amelia Montgomery, Widow of William Fletcher Montgomery, received title to the property for her lifetime, to go to their daughter, Emily S. Montgomery, spinster, at the time of Amelia's death.
  - October, 1902 - Emily S. Montgomery received title when her mother, Amelia, died, in accordance with W. F. Montgomery's will.
  - Nov. 5, 1928 - Emily S. Montgomery inventory, Charles Hays and David Good, executors. (Miss Montgomery died June 9, 1928)
  - Nov. 29, 1929 - Mrs. Minnie Carolyn Renshaw Montgomery (Mrs. J. F. Montgomery) purchased approximately 40 acres from the Emily S. Montgomery estate, the 40 acres including the homestead and the 4.16 acres with the legal description given at the beginning of this write-up.  
Cost: \$221 per acre, or \$8844 for the 40 acres.
  - Sept. 16, 1941 - Alberta Montgomery, spinster, daughter of Minnie C. Montgomery, widow, received title to the 40 acres "more or less" for a consideration of ten dollars.

Present owner's name: Miss Alberta Montgomery.



History Cont'd.:

3. The first Montgomery to hold title to this property at 695 West Mound Road was William Fletcher Montgomery who purchased "40 acres more or less" from the Philo Hale estate on January 1, 1856 "for a consideration of \$1000." Mr. Hale, in turn, had gained title to the property April 1, 1837 under a U.S.A. land grant (President: Martin Van Buren). Since 1856 only persons bearing the name of Montgomery have held title to the property:
- William Fletcher Montgomery, 1856-1886.
  - Amelia Montgomery, his widow, 1886-1902.
  - Emily S. Montgomery, their daughter, 1902-1928.
  - Mrs. Minnie Carolyn Renshaw Montgomery (Mrs. J. F. Montgomery), Emily's brother's widow, 1929-1941.
  - Miss Alberta Montgomery, daughter of Mrs. Minnie C. Montgomery, 1941 - present.

The builder of the house is unknown. Members of the Montgomery family have given 1840 as the probable date of construction. This would have been while Philo Hale, a resident of Champaign County, held title to the property.

The front part of the house with front porch, front hall and parlor, and with widow's walk on the roof, are known to have been added to the older, rear portion, in 1886 by William Fletcher Montgomery. A ladder leads from the attic to the widow's walk.

Many of the contents of the house have been in the Montgomery family for many years.

Miss Alberta Montgomery, present owner of the property, has called this house her home for many years. During the years 1929-1945, however, she served as an occupational therapist at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C.



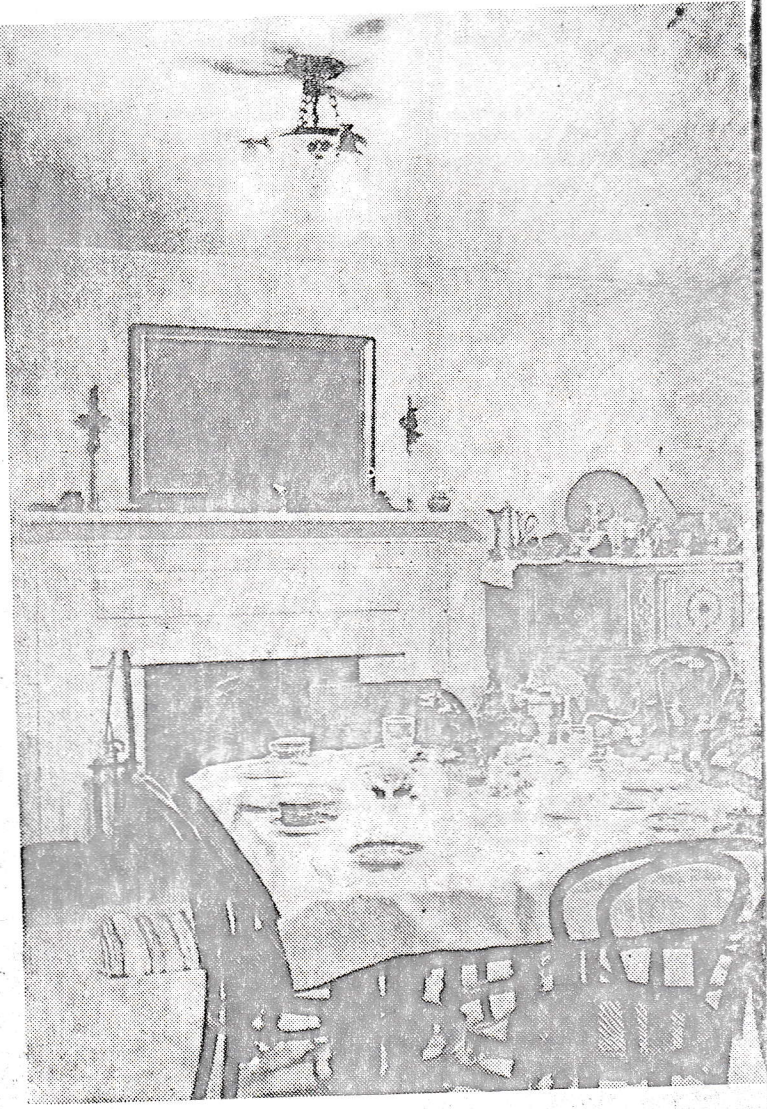
695 West Mound Road



Photo - Decatur Herald and Review - January, 1970



1/4/70



# Family House for Generations

A spacious white house at Mound Road has the flavor of well-kept old sort of old age that when the last portion of the home is built in 1885. It is now the home of Miss Alberta Montgomery. The house was the home of her parents and of her grandparents. It has been the Montgomery

family home since 1840. Much of the furniture in the seven-room house is family furniture. The coal oil lamp, converted to an electric lamp, was still a coal oil lamp when it was brought to the house. The walnut secretary, a family heirloom. A black leather and mahogany rocking chair sits next to the fireplace in the television room. There are three fireplaces in the home. The dining set is more

modern, but the French love seat is another family piece. It is upholstered in pastels. The home is done in a pastel green decor, with walls of mist gray and rugs which do not conceal all of the hardwood floors. Miss Montgomery's mother's wedding furniture is in the house, as well as furniture which dates back to her grandfather's time. The house stands on about four acres of land.

Jan 4, 1970



## About Town

June 9,  
1942

AT THE MARY W. FRENCH school we saw the collection of work by boys and girls from the schools in Macon county. This was not the work as prescribed by a catalog for the year's work to be completed in learning. It was extra work that they have accomplished in the Junior Red Cross that never will appear upon a report card.

The value of this particular work can never be measured in dollars and cents. It must be valued for the results it accomplishes. In charge of the Junior Red Cross and enthusiastic in its purposes is Miss May F. Boland.

She is without a doubt the best qualified leader we could have chosen. Her duties during the World War I have fully qualified her to see the results that may be hoped for at the receiving end. Just a review of those experiences may meet a need we all feel in these times.

DURING THE FIRST World War Miss Boland was stationed at the Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D. C. To this hospital boys from the battle fields of Europe were brought; not all of them to be sure, but thousands who were able to be moved.

Most of all, those old enough to remember the operations of that war, will remember the hospital ship, Princess, that brought hundreds of our boys back. Skilled doctors could care for physical defects but there were thousands of boys, shell shocked, depressed in mind and sick at heart whom the skill of the physician and surgeon could never help.

These boys could be helped only by the little comforts of body and things of beauty that come from the hands of women, and little children working under their direction. It was in their field of need that Miss Boland found active duty.

ANOTHER DECATUR GIRL also had a large place in the restoration and comforts of those boys. It was Miss Alberta Montgomery, formerly a teacher of art in the Decatur high school, who was chosen to set up and place in operation the largest occupational therapy unit in the United States, at Walter Reed hospital. Today Miss Montgomery is still actively engaged in this work at the Iowa University hospital in Iowa City.

These girls, who have worked with boys whose hopes have been shattered, know better than we can ever know what most appeals to them and releases them from a morbid condition of life.

We looked at dozens of bright colored Afghans that had been made on little "Weavits," a block at a time by boys and girls in the schools. As she showed them to us Miss Boland painted a word picture of the wounded boy with his feet wrapped in one of these spreads of brightest colors. "You have no idea how these colors will take their minds off from their troubles," was her comment.

The same thing applied to scrap books and books of accumulated jokes. Again she commented, "You have no idea how much more such a book is appreciated that has been made by hand, than even a more elaborate one just bought and paid for."

So, even before the wounded boys have been returned home, the work of the Junior Red Cross will be waiting to help them.

L. C. T.