

Caro's Most Loved and Admired House

123 NORTH STATE STREET IN CARO—THE W. J. MOORE HOUSE

By Mark Putnam

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Acknowledgements and Dedication

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Epilog

Real estate agents described the William J. Moore House as a Tudor Revival Style.

It is best classified as a storybook, fairytale, or a Hansel and Gretel house that are sub-groups of the Tudor Revival Style.

In Los Angeles, California, in the 1920's and 1930's, fairytale style houses grew into recognition with the production of the silent and talking movies.

At this time, Fairytale architecture became popular.

The William J. Moore family remodeled the Dr. Richard Olin House into what it is today, a fairy tale house, and while the Moore's bought the house and property in 1914 they likely converted it almost ten years later.

The W. J. Moore House likely received its storybook or fairytale look in the early 1920's.

A component of Fairytale houses are turrets or towers that are seen in the old McDurmon, later the Hartman, House that is kitty-corner and across the street from the Moore House

Both are beautiful works of stone art.

They are at the center of Caro's residential and business heart.

Their architecture makes you want to dance to music such as a waltz by Straus.

The Moore House is located at the intersection of Lincoln and Almer Street.

In Caro, it is a construct that is just so clever and neat!

Chuck Vaughan a later owner of the Moore House, told someone once, "When I was a kid, I rode into town with my father on an old horse drawn wagon, and as we passed the Moore House, I told my father that I was going to buy that house, someday."

Those are the words or thoughts of many people of Caro, and Chuck and his wife Dorcas Vaughan made that dream come true!

That was a goal that they wanted to do in every way.

That is a dream of many people, and if you are from Caro certainly for you, too.

In the late 1900's, the people of Caro called the Moore House, Vaughan's Disneyland House.

Its shows as a beautiful and delightful house.

Many of Caro's most noted people called this property home.

If you are from Caro, it is in your mind and heart wherever you may roam.



The William J. Moore House

123 North Almer Street

Legal Description

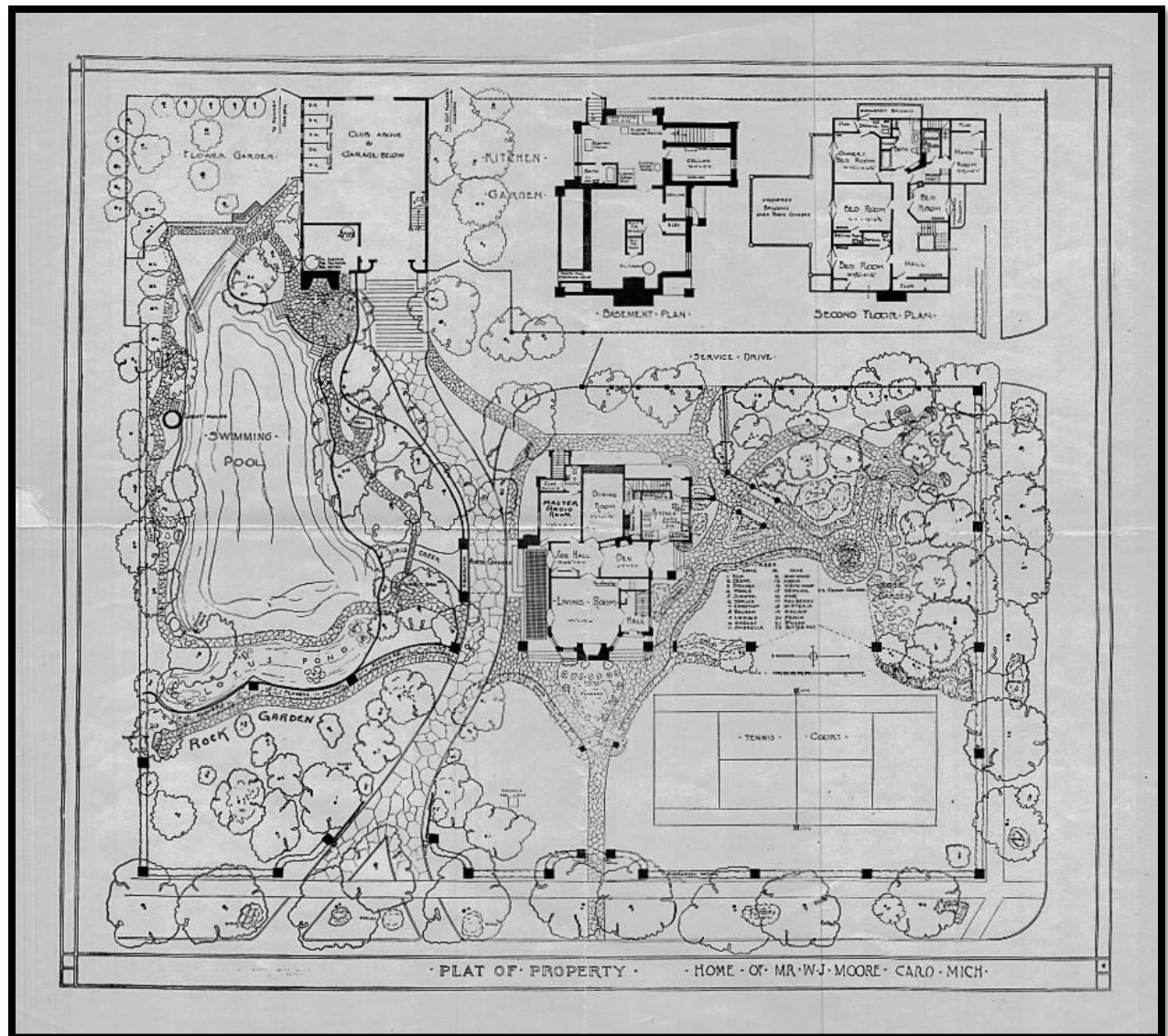
Arguably, Caro's most interesting and fascinating house, 123 North Almer Street, has served as the residence over many years of some of Caro's most exceptional people.

In researching the history of this beautiful property, we are amazed by the excellent judgment of those who owned this property and its "house."

Even, early on, it was a highlight and a landmark of the Caro community and styled later as a storybook or fairytale house.

The following is the description of the property that is legal:

575-0051-000 SEC 03 T12N R9E LOTS 3, 6, 7 & 8 & N 1/2 OF LOT 9 BLK 9
ALSO A STRIP OF LAND 37 FT WIDE OFF N END OF E 1/2 OF LOT 4 EX
COM 33 FT S OF NE COR OF LOT 4, TH S 25 FT, TH W 21 FT, TH N 25 FT,
TH E 21 FT TO POB ALSO W 1/2 OF ALLEY LYING E OF LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 9.
ORIGINAL PLAT VILL OF CARO.



Plat of W. J. Moore House

Michigan

Michigan

Once held by many different Indigenous people was the land called Michigan.

Saginaw Treaty of 1819

In 1819, the United States under the leadership of General Lewis Cass purchased from Indigenous People the northeast part of the lower peninsula of Michigan. The land that the Indigenous people sold included the Saginaw Valley and its tributary streams and rivers together with the Cass River and the land round what today is Tuscola County.

The Cass River was a wild, pine woodland, country. Sixteen years later a survey of this land was begun.

Sanilac County

Tuscola County was initially a part of Sanilac County.

Sanilac was formed on September 10, 1822, by the Michigan Territorial Legislature, partitioning parts of St. Clair County and unorganized territory administered by Oakland County.

The original boundary of the Sanilac was reduced in 1840, when parts were partitioned off to create Huron County and Tuscola County.

Land Survey

In 1835, the Survey took place of what would become Tuscola County.

After the survey, the United States commenced sales of land in Tuscola County, which began at its west boundary.

Michigan Statehood

Michigan became a state in 1837 and was It was the 26th state admitted to the Union. ¹

Michigan is the only state in the nation comprised of two large peninsulas nearly surrounded by water.

¹ State of Michigan. About Michigan. Website.



General Lewis Cass and Indigenous People Signing the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw ²

² Michigan State University.

Tuscola County

Organization of Tuscola

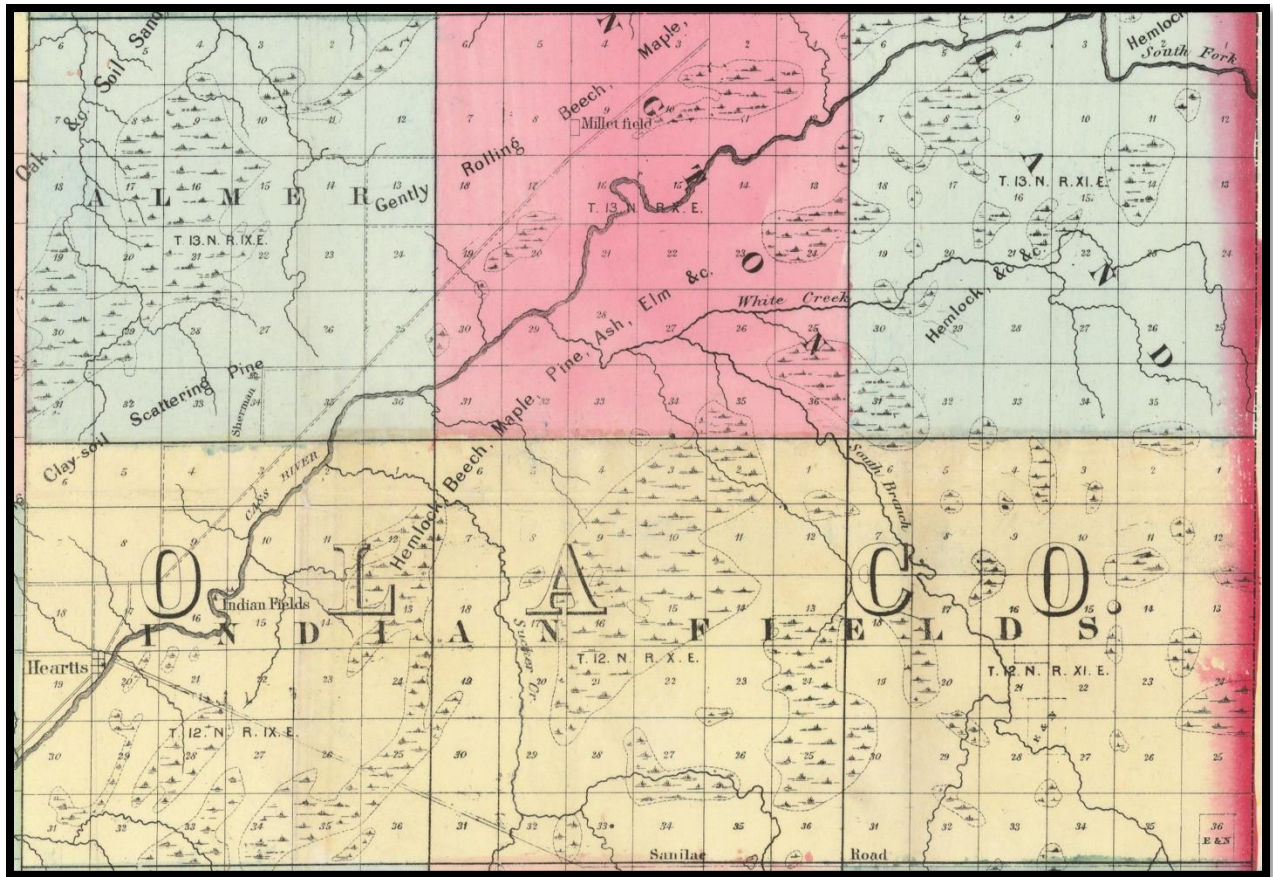
In 1840, the State of Michigan established Tuscola County. However, it was connected to Saginaw County judicially and for purposes of administration in government. Tuscola was originally part of Sanilac County. Three years after the Michigan's Statehood, this too, was a big event.

The Self-governing of Tuscola

Ten years later, in 1850, Tuscola was allowed self-management. Tuscola County was named for Chief Otusson whose name meant "Level Elevated Land." People created the placename Tuscola from Anishinabek and Latin roots, so it is a word that is a hybrid. The Indigenous word "desa" means elevated and level and Latin "colo" means cultivated land. At the center of Tuscola County was the Indian Fields that kept everyone well fed. The Level Elevated and Cultivated Land is what Tuscola meant. The French called the Thumb of Michigan "La Pays Plat," and later the English used the same meaning and called it the "Flat Country." In Anishinabek, it was "Desakamiga" or the Level Elevated Country.

Indianfields Township

The W. J. Moore House, or Home, is in what was anciently called the Tuscola Indian Fields. Historically, this area produced an abundance of food. When Native People lived in numbers, it was the place where they grew crops in copious yields. This was the locale where living in the spring and fall was good. The Indian Fields was the locale of early Native settlement. On the Cass River and near the Saginaw Bay, fishing also was a productive event.



Snippet of 1858 Tuscola & Saginaw Map showing Almer and Indianfields

Ruth W. Dwelling & Samuel P. Sherman—S ½ of the NW ¼, Section 3

On October 25, 1854, Samuel P. Sherman purchased from the United States a tract of land that included what is today 123 North State Street in Caro.

The description of the tract was the S ½ of the NW ¼ of the fractional Section 3. It was in what later became the Township of Indianfields but then was called T12N R9E, simply.³

Indianfields was made up of land that was not flat but had points both high and low.

Indigenous People called the Caro region the High Bank and the Ridge, which in their language was "Ishpadina," which early settlers likely corrupted into Podunk.

In the Eastern States, the word Podunk meant the land that was wet and sunk.

Sherman's tract of land included, today's, 123 North Almer Street property on which stands the William J. Moore House.

The house is in Block 9 of the Centerville [now the City of Caro] Plat, and it is at the center of a small tract or division that Samuel Sherman sold to Melvin Gibbs. The tract, today, also, includes the street we call Gibbs.

May 17, 1858, Ruth & Samuel Sherman sold to Melvin Gibbs 20 acres described as follows: The South ½ of the East ½ [of the Northwest ¼ of Section 3, T12N R9E, and since this area was a vast wilderness, it was vacant without a house.

The amount of consideration was \$500.

Within seven years, Melvin Gibbs divided the property into lots with the creation of the Centerville Plat, lots that would be valued each at about \$30 to \$40.

³ Tuscola County Register of Deeds. Liber 1, Pg. 607.

Picture?

Melvin B. & Clarissa Gibbs—S ½ of the E ½ of the NW ¼, Section 3

The Gibbs Family—the Gibbs Hotel

On May 17, 1858, Samuel Sherman sold to Melvin Gibbs 20 acres that later became a part of the Centerville or Caro Plat, today a valuable residential area.

Today, this tract is the bounded by the middle of West Frank west to North Almer, north to West Burnside, west halfway to Hooper, and south to West Frank Street.

The best travel way in early Caro was the street on which the later W. J. Moore House stands on North Almer Street.

Both, Almer and Frank Street each are ½ section lines that early people of Caro used as their street building lines or criteria.

In 1858, the State of Michigan built the State Road, now M-81, that also intersected the Frank and Almer Street intersection, which is in the center of today's Indianfield Township, Section 3.

This intersection was then and is today busy.

In 1858, Melvin Gibbs built the Gibbs Hotel.

It was located at the southeast corner of the Gibbs 20 acres tract that they bought from Samuel Sherman.

A substantial structure, it was at the Frank, Almer, and the State Road intersection was the Gibbs Hotel, Caro's first hotel.

State Road when cut through created a "Triangle Intersection."

The Caro Triangle is the busiest part of the downtown of Caro, today.

It is composed with Caro's two major streets and the busy M-81 highway.

After the Centerville, now Caro, was platted, on May 10, 1866, Clarissa & Melvin Gibbs sold part of their tract— Lots 5 & 10, Block 9—to Ruth Gamble.

The consideration was \$75.

Born in 1844, she was a daughter of Ruth & Samuel & Sherman and owned the local flour & sawmill with her husband Joseph Gamble.

The price of each [vacant] lot was between \$35 and \$40.

FOR SALE!

THE subscriber offers at private sale the following property:

Forty Acres!

Of Farming Land within a mile of this village, mostly improved. A number of

VILLAGE LOTS!

and

Dwelling House and Barn,

In this village. Also

ONE MATCHED SPAN OF HORSES,

One Yearling Colt, 2 Sets Harness, 1 double Wagon, 1 Two-horse Buggy, 22 Sheep, 9 Lambs, Plows, Cultivators, Fanning Mill, &c. Terms reasonable.

34m2*

MELVIN GIBBS.

Gamble Mill Lumber

On February 7, 1871, Clarissa & Melvin Clarissa Gibbs also sold property to Elizabeth Gamble.⁴

The property was 2/3 of Lots 2 and 7 and Lots 3 & 8, Block 9 along with Lot 1, Block 13—the consideration was \$1,000.

The average price for a vacant lot was about \$40.

Elizabeth Gamble was born in 1815 in Canada as Elizabeth Huntley, was the wife of David Gamble, and was the mother of flour and sawmill owner Joseph Gamble.

The total would have been about \$175 for the 5 lots.

By 1871, a large house and possibly barn valued at about \$835 must have been on one of these lots.

In the 1870 Census, Elizabeth & David Gamble and Clarissa & Melvin Gibbs lived next to each other.

Did the Gibbs family originally build what later became the W. J. Moore House one may wonder!

In 1870, David Gamble had \$5,000 in real estate and \$1,000 in personal property while Melvin Gibbs had \$4,625 and \$2,275, respectively.

From the *1902 Plat Map of Tuscola County*, a house on Lot 7 that became the Dr. Olin and later W. J. Moore House was in existence.

The wood frame to the W. J. Moore House likely was built by the Gibbs family. The fact they worked in real estate development and construction is in evidence.

Did Elizabeth Gamble own a house on Lot 7, that became the W. J. Moore House and was it the house with barn that Melvin Gibb's had for sale in 1869 in the *Tuscola Advertiser*?

Joseph Gamble, Elizabeth's son, built Caro's first grist and sawmill in 1867, so possibly the wood for the frame of the W. J. Moore House was Gamble Flour & sawmill lumber!

Clarissa & Melvin Gibbs likely also sold to Jane & Alexander Cooper Lots 1 & 6 and part of 2 & 7, Block 9, which the Cooper's sell in 1866 to Harvey Palmer. Lot 6 is the north part of the property later known as that of W. J. Moore.

⁴ Tuscola County Register of Deeds. Liber 25, Pg. 360.



Melvin Gibbs

Plat of Centerville—Now the City of Caro—Section 3

On December 14, 1865, the founders of the City of Caro, then called Centerville, platted the village.

Those who incorporated this municipality were Samuel P. Sherman, Ruth Sherman, Alexander P. Cooper, Stephen Cross, Peter D. Bush, Sarah Bush, Melvin Gibbs, Clarissa Gibbs, Charles Austin, and Fanny Austin.

Caro developed in part because it had two gullies that formed the edges or borders of the village.

At the South Creek, Joseph Gamble constructed his Gamble Grist & Sawmill—in early town-building, constructing a water-powered mill was one of the first things that was done.

Round the mill the village would run.

The two gullies or creeks, early people used as sources of power.

Energy was obtained from the creeks that fell or ran from a hilltop to an area that was low.

Lumbermen likely used these creeks to run logs to the Cass River.

Joseph Gamble's Mill was an essential element in the development of the City of Caro.

From the power of the South Creek, the frame of the Moore House was likely constructed.

The first homeowner on what was later the Moore property was Elizabeth Gamble a daughter of Joseph Gamble who likely used the wood that her father's mill cut or sawed.

Alexander P. & Jane Cooper—Lots 1 & 6, Block 9

Alexander Cooper likely purchased Lots 1 & 6 and part of 2 & 7, Block 9, from Melvin Gibbs just after the platting of Centerville, which now is Caro.

Alexander Cooper married Jane Sherman the daughter of Samuel & Ruth Sherman who were founders of Caro.

Mr. Cooper was a partner in the firm of Washburn & Cooper.

The company sold a line of drugs.

They also sold sundries.

Mr. Cooper also owned the Centreville Livery, which adjoined the Centreville House, and the stagecoach line between Centerville & Vassar.

The Centreville Livery was next to the Centreville House, which was, at this time, Caro's first framed house and hotel.

It many years later would become the Caro Roadhouse Museum.

The museum now located in Caro is one of the most remarkable landmarks in Michigan's Thumb.

Just after 1868, the Centreville House was "rebuilt," a new Centreville House building was put up by Stephen R. Cross on the same site, and old building was moved and became the Bush House or Hotel.

May 7, 1866, Alexander & Jane Cooper sold Lots 1 & 6 and part of 2 & 7, Block 9, to Harvey Palmer.

The consideration was \$50. ⁵

Harvey and his wife would sell it again in three years.

Because of the low amount of payment, there would not have been any buildings on the properties.

However, by then the lots were devoid of their original, tall, cork pine, trees.

⁵ Tuscola County Register of Deeds. Liber 14, Page 56.



An Advertisement for the A. P. Cooper Livery Stable placed in the Tuscola Advertiser in 1868 ⁶

⁶ Tuscola Advertiser. October 16, 1868.

Harvey Palmer—Lots 1 & 6 and the North ½ of Lots 2 & 7, Block 9

On May 7, 1866, Harvey Palmer purchased from the Cooper family Lots 1 & 6 and the North ½ of Lots 2 & 7, Block 9.
The consideration was \$50.

On March 18, 1869, Jefferson J. & Jennette Wilder bought from Harvey Palmer Lots 1 & 6 and the North ½ of Lots 2 & 7, Block 9.
The consideration was \$5.

Jennette & Jefferson Wilder—Lot 6, Block 9

On March 18, 1869, Harvey C. Palmer of Saginaw County sold to Jefferson J. Wilder of Caro, Tuscola County, Lot 6 & the North 1/3 of 7, Block 9.
The consideration was \$150.

Jefferson Wilder was a lawyer.

In 1870, he was the Clerk of the Tuscola County Board of Supervisors, the clerk of the county.

According to the United States Census, in 1870 his personal property was worth \$1,500.

His real estate was \$2,000.

The Wilder's likely built a house at this time as the price of the property went up in their sale to the Bradford's by 10 times—a house was built about 1870.

The family moved to Pasadena, California, later.

The Wilder's sell their house and property to their daughter and son-in-law Nettie & Albert Bradford.

Nettie & Albert W. Bradford—Lot 6, Block 9

October 9, 1871, Jennette & Jefferson J. & Jenn Wilder sold to Albert W. Bradford Lot 6, Block 9, in Caro.

The consideration was \$1,500.⁷

Albert Bradford married Nettie Wilder who was the daughter of Jefferson & Jennette Wilder.

Today, this lot contains the tennis court area on the north side of the W. J. Moore House property.

The house likely was built about 1870.

The house, which was later torn down, was one of Caro's first buildings, and likely was built with Gamble Sawmill lumber.

In 1867, in Caro, Joseph Gamble built the Gamble Sawmill.

It is a bit of wonder if the framework for the W. J. Moore House was built from lumber sawed at the Gamble Mill.

July 8, 1874, Lot 6 and 1/3 of Lot 7, Block 9, Albert W. & Nettie Bradford sold to John M. & Jennie C. Boyd.

The consideration was \$420.⁸

The lot certainly contained a house worth about \$375.

This was property that people enjoyed.

It may be called today the Moore House "tennis court."

It later made the Moore House seem like a resort.

⁷ Tuscola County Register of Deeds. Liber 28. Pg. 165.

⁸ Ibid. Liber 36, Pg. 420.

Elizabeth Gamble—Lots 1, 2, 3, & 2/3 of 7, Block 9

On February 7, 1871, Clarissa & Melvin & Gibbs sold this property it appears to their next door neighbor Elizabeth Gamble ⁹

It was 2/3 of Lot 2 and Lot 7 and Lots 3 & 8, Block 9 along with Lot 1, Block 13—the consideration was \$1,000.

The average price for a [vacant] lot was about \$40, so there seems to have been a house on one of these properties about \$800.

Elizabeth was the wife of David Gamble.

In 1867, their son Joseph Gamble built the first grist & sawmill in Caro at the corner of State and Monroe Street.

Elizabeth Gamble may have owned a house on Lots 7 & 8, Block 9, that was built with lumber from the Gamble Mill and between 1867 and 1871.

This would be the property around which the heart of Caro would beat.

Here many Caro doctors and businesspeople [would be successful and thrive when all was said and done](#).

April 2, 1875, Elizabeth Gamble sold to John M. Boyd Lots 1, 2, 3, 8 and 2/3 of 7, Block 9, and the consideration was 1,000. ¹⁰

Since a vacant lot was worth about \$50, there likely was a house and possibly a barn on one of Lots 2, 7, & 8 that was worth about \$800.

⁹ Tuscola County Register of Deeds. Liber 25, Pg. 360.

¹⁰ Ibid. Liber 25, Pg. 360.

The Estate of John M. & Jennie W. Boyd

The land that contained the ten lots that included part of the property on which the W. J. Moore House stands, today, the Boyd family purchased from Elizabeth Gamble and the Bradford family.

At \$50 per lot, the prices for the lots would total \$500.

That leaves a value for two houses of about \$800 and \$500.

The Boyd family had bought the Allan Sheldon Mill, previously the Gamble Mill, which the Boyd concern sold in 1876 to Julian D. Wilsey.

In 1875, there may have been two houses here that were substantial.

One would be torn down and the other would go down in Caro's great tradition and folklore as for the next, nearly, 150 years, it would be the place of shelter for Caro's most innovative, creative, and imaginative people.

August 13, 1876, William Stewart of Macomb County, Michigan, for the estate of John & Jennie Boyd, sold William A. Rose of Tuscola County Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, & 8, Block 9 and Lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 34.

The consideration was \$1,800. ¹¹

The Boyd's had purchased these lots for \$1,220.

¹¹ Ibid. Liber 38, Pg. 623.

The Wilsey Mill

The Gamble, Boyd, and Wilsey families were instrumental in the early development of Caro.

People in Caro built structures of business and houses with the lumber milled by these families.

They all at one time owned the local grist & sawmill at the corner of State & Monroe Street in Caro.

History of Tuscola & Bay Counties, Michigan, describes the mill and the Gamble, Boyd, and Wilsey families:

The Caro saw and grist-mills were originally built by **Joseph Gamble** in 1867. They afterward came into the hands of Allan Sheldon & Co., of Detroit, who sold them to **J. M. Boyd & Co.** Upon the failure of the last-named firm in 1876, the concern was sold by the assignees to **J. D. Wilsey & Co.** There are three run of stones in the grist-mill, and it is run as a custom mill, grinding probably 50,000 bushels of grain per annual. The saw-mill, which is but a small one, cuts pine, hemlock, and all kinds of hardwood which grow in the county and that are used for making lumber. The two establishments employ about six persons. The capacity of the saw-mill will be increased in the season of 1883 by the addition of a circular saw. In addition to making lumber and flour, power is furnished to run the machinery in a furniture factory, chair factory, and box manufactory.

J. D. WILSEY & CO.

This firm is composed of **Julian D. Wilsey** and Solon P. Spafford. They were originally in business in Detroit, but closed out their establishment there in 1878 and came to Caro. They had previously had a branch store here, having in 1876 bought out the stock of **J. M. Boyd & Co.** from the assignees of that concern. The purchase consisted of a stock of dry goods, groceries, crockery, glassware, hardware, etc., also a saw and grist-mill, a brick block, thirty acres of land, and some village property. The firm carry on the store, also running the saw and grist-mill.

JULIAN D. WILSEY, of the above firm, was born at Fort Ann, Washington County, N. Y. His earliest practical business experience was in keeping books for a flour manufacturing concern at Waterford, N. Y. On coming West, he located first at Detroit, where he was for a number of years assistant superintendent and bookkeeper for the Detroit & Lake Superior Iron Manufacturing Co. Subsequently he engaged in mercantile business with Solon P. Spafford. Is also a partner in the private bank of Wilsey & McPhail at Cass City. ¹²

¹² History of Tuscola & Bay Counties, Michigan.

Mary R. & William A. Rose—Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, & 7, Block 9

In 1876, by a transaction with the Boyd Estate, Mary & William Rose become owners of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, & 8, Block 9.

Other lots in the purchase were in Block 34—the first group of lots in Block 9 was Caro's residential gem.

The Block 9 Lots had two significant houses on them.

On June 12, 1878, Mary & William Rose of Caro sold to Alida & Lyndon L. Whipple of Fairgrove Lots 6 & 7, Block 9.

William A. Rose married Mary Battelle and died in 1879.

Mary Battelle Rose worked as a teacher.

In 1885, she died in Fairgrove as a widower.

Alida & Lyndon Whipple—Lots 6 & 7, Block 9

On June 12, 1878, Mary & William Rose of Caro sold to Alida & Lyndon L. Whipple of Fairgrove Lots 6 & 7, Block 9.

Lyndon Whipple became the postmaster and justice of the peace for the town of Kinter, Tuscola County.

He died in 1885 in Tuscola County.

The consideration for the Whipple purchase was \$1,300. ¹³

On August 9, 1878, Alida & Lyndon Whipple sold their property, Lots 6 & 7, Block 9, to Ebenezer Battelle for \$1,350, and Ebenezer Battelle on March 25, 1880, sold Lot 6 and the North 1/3 of Lot 7, Block 9.

The Whipple's sold the lots back to Mary [Battelle] Rose for \$1,275. ^{14 15}

¹³ Tuscola County Register of Deeds Office. Liber 43, Pg. 441.

¹⁴ Ibid. Liber 32. Pg. 128.

¹⁵ Ibid. Liber 53. Pg. 215.

Olive & Ebenezer Battelle—Lots 6 & 7, Block 9

On August 9, 1878, Alida & Lyndon Whipple sold their property Lots 6 & 7, Block 9, to Ebenezer Battelle for \$1,350.

Ebenezer Battelle on March 25, 1880, sold Lot 6 and the North 1/3 of Lot 7, Block 9, back, which certainly had a house on it, to Mary [Battelle] Rose for \$1,275.

Mary Rose on September 1, 1880, then living in Gilford, Tuscola County, sold Lot 6, Block 9, to Dr. James Graves of Caro.

Ebenezer Battelle must have sold Lot 7, Block 9, to Elizabeth & Julian Wilsey as on May 8, 1880, Elizabeth & Julian Wilsey sold to Alice & Alexander Reynick Lot 7 & the North ½ of Lot 8, Block 9.

These later two lots were the lots on which the Dr. Olin and later the Moore House stood in Caro.

The consideration was \$250 for Lot 7 & the North ½ of Lot 8, Block 9.

Ruth E. & Julian D. Wilsey—Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, & 8, Block 9

Emma & Charles Rose of Ewart, Osceola County, Michigan and Mary R. Rose of Gilford, Tuscola County, Michigan, sold to Julian Wilsey Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, & 8, Block 9, and Lot 2, Block 43, for the consideration of \$20 on August 25 and October 5, 1880. ^{16 17}

Julian D. Wilsey married Ruth E. Sherman the daughter of the Caro founders Ruth Delling & Samuel P. Sherman.

Ruth & Julian Wilsie sold Lot 6, Block 9 to James W. Graves, also, in 1880.

The amount of \$11.25 was the consideration.

This seems these were types of quit claim deed.

The dollar among was very low to which they agreed.

¹⁶ Tuscola Register of Deeds. Liber 52. Pg. 185.

¹⁷ Ibid. Liber 49. Pg. 143.

Alice & Alexander Reynick—Lot 7 & ½ of Lot 8, Block 9

On May 8, 1880, Elizabeth & Julian Wilsey sold to Alice & Alexander Reynick Lot 7 & the North ½ of Lot 8, Block 9.

This was the property home on which the Dr. Olin and later the Moore family would live—the consideration was \$250. ¹⁸

The W. J. Moore House property would comprise Lots 3, 6, 7, and the North ½ of Lot 8, Block 9.

Twenty-two years later, Alice & Alexander Reynick would sell , or the “barn” lot to William Carson on August 3, 1900, which was Lot 3, Block 9, for \$???

Alexander Reynick was born in Ireland on February 11, 1832, and with his parents came to America.

They moved to Wyoming, New York, after they first lived in Canada.

Alexander Reynick married Alice Whiteside, and in April 1870, they came to Caro.

When they arrived in town, it was no more than a hamlet, and Mr. Reynick first worked as a shoemaker.

Eventually, he became the local justice of the peace and was a Trustee for many years in Caro and was a local law and policy enforcer and maker.

Initially, like others, the family attend Methodist Church services at Nettleton's Hall.

The Reynick family was instrumental in building the first Methodist Church.

They likewise worked in the construction and maintenance of what to them was “new building.

Alexander Reynick always gave a testimony that was stirring.

About 1880, with his failing health, he gave up his shoe business and directed his efforts to another call.

Mr. Reynick turned to the pension and justice business that for 25 years he admirably conducted.

Also, as chaplain of the Whiteside Post of the Grand Army of the Republic he also served.

During the last part of their lives, they lived on West Lincoln Street.

The Reynick owned the building next to the Ellis block that housed the “Karo Novelty Kandy Kitchen.”

The Michigan Trading Stamp Company also opened its store in the Reynick building.

Later A. C. Wilson removed his barber shop from Hotel Montague to his old stand to the Reynick building.

While serving the public was his lifelong preoccupation, working in the Methodist Church was his real ambition.

¹⁸ Ibid. Liber 53. Pg. 410.

Emma & Dr. James Graves—Lot 6, Block 9

September 1, 1880, Mary Rose, a widower living in Gilford, Tuscola County, sold to Dr. James W. Graves of Caro Lot 6, Block 9, for the consideration of \$1,200. ¹⁹

For twenty-five years, the Dr. Graves family owned this property.
It was the north lot what is the 123 North Almer Street address, today.
Dr. Graves was a radiant and well-known figure in Caro's early history.
In the medical profession and in aiding people, he had great sway.
In 1845, he was born in Ontario.
For 38 years, he served as a physician in Caro.

Dr. Graves arrived here just before 1870.
Along with his practice, he also operated a small drug store.
Dr. Graves was kind-hearted, devoted, open-handed, and much more.
Generous to a fault his accounting books like those of other Caro physicians showed accounts for which a bill had not been forwarded because the client was deficit in money.
His congenial good nature won him many friends.
His face was a very familiar image to the early settlers.

The good doctor warmly and cordially received people at his home.
He also often visited clients in their rural family home.
At this time, the roads were typically made of corduroy wood or planks.
Going over them was often jerky and bumpy.
Dr. Graves made long uncomfortable rides into the countryside by horseback or by buggy to care for those who were ill or unhealthy.

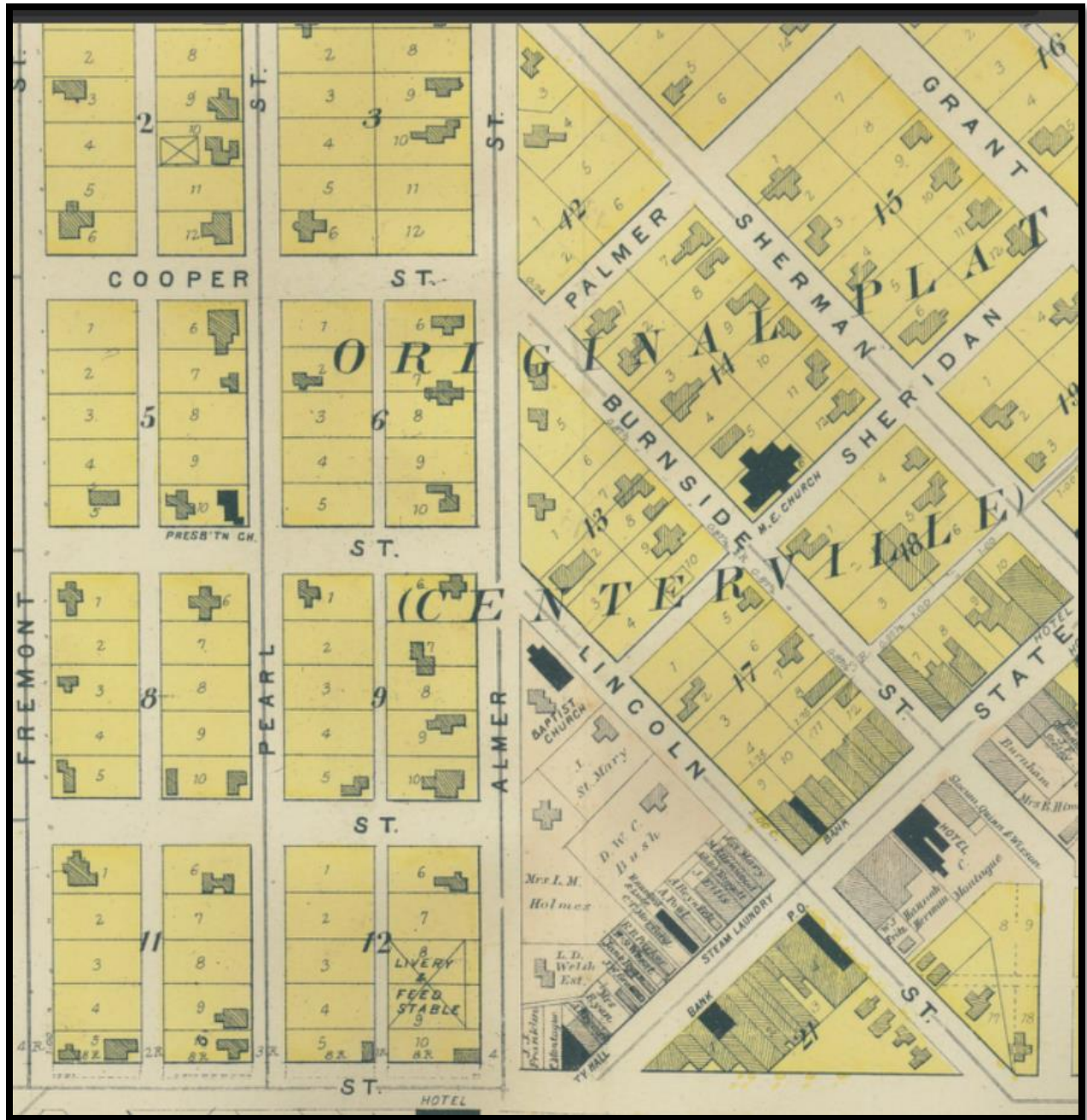
Dr. Graves' reward often was only the expression of gratefulness and the articulation of heartfelt indebtedness as thanks.

Dr. Graves was a very learned, experienced, and skilled physician.
The year 1901, saw the passing of the doctor.
At his funeral, the cultured mourned the passing of the "good gentleman."
The poor mourned the "good doctor".
He had shown them both philanthropy and empathy.
He was one of the best and most beloved physicians in the history of the Caro community. ²⁰

December 6, 1904, after the passing of Dr. Graves, Emma Graves sold Lot 6, Block 9, to Nellie & Dr. Frederick Bender for \$1,100.

¹⁹ Ibid. Liber 54, Pg. 84.

²⁰ Tuscola Advertiser. Obituary.



On this 1902 Plat Map of Caro, near the "C" of Centerville, lot 6 [Dr. Graves Property] and on Lots 3, 7 & 8 later will be the Dr. Olin and then W. J. Moore House.

Carson & Ealy— Lots 3 & 7 and N ½ of 8, Block 9

Much to be added here!



The Caron & Ealy Bank at the Northwest corner of North State and West Sherman Streets

Dr. Peter Livingston— Lots 3 & 7 and N ½ of 8, Block 9

July 7, 1906, John M. Ealy, the surviving partner of the firm of Carson & Ealy, and his wife Bethany sold to Dr. Peter J. Livingston, all of Caro, Lots 3 & 7 and the North ½ of lot 8, Block 9, for the consideration of \$1. ²¹

In July Dr. Livingston sold this property to Dr. Olin for \$5,500.

In 1864, Dr. Livingstone was born in Ontario.

In 1881, his family settled in Cass City.

After graduating from what today is the University of Michigan Medical School, he came to Caro.

Here he developed a practice in medicine and was greatly influential in the local community.

Dr. Livingstone was chairman of the Tuscola County Medical Association that served and represented the physicians in our area.

He was well known in the County of Tuscola.

In 1906, Dr. Livingstone studied abroad.

After his return, he worked as an ear, nose, and throat specialist in Detroit.

In 1916, Dr. Livingston passed away in Detroit.

His life was something that everyone would applaud.

²¹ Tuscola Register of Deeds. Liber 145. Pg. 189.

Nellie & Dr. Frederick Bender—Lot 6, Block 9

In December 1904, Emma Graves sold Lot 6, Block 9, to Nellie & Dr. Frederick Bender.

For two years, they owed the property.

Dr. Bender graduated from the medical school at the University of Michigan earlier.

Dr. Bender married Nellie Adams the daughter of Nancy Cessna & Albert Adams a prominent physician in Belleville, Michigan, and in 1902 they moved here to the Caro community.

Dr. Bender then opened an office at 212 N. State St. in the Herman Block.

In 1913, Dr. Bender had his office later in the new McNair Building that was just across East Lincoln Street from the Herman Block.

Nellie Adams married Dr. Frederick P. Bender on Sep. 14, 1899, in Bellevue, and on September 9, 1919, they divorced.

Dr. Bender married 2 more times before remarrying Nellie for a second time on July 9, 1925 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

For a second time on September 23, 1930, they again divorced.

Fred married for the 5th, and last time, in 1931.

On April 23, 1906, Nellie [Adams] & Dr. Frederick Bender sold Lot 6, Block 9, to Nellie & Dr. Richard Olin.

The amount of \$1,400 was the consideration.²²

²² Ibid. Liber 141. Pg. 70.

Nellie Jenks & Dr. Richard Olin

On April 23, 1906, Nellie & Dr. Fredrick Bender sold to Nellie & Dr. Richard Olin Lot 6, Block 9.

The consideration was \$1,400.

On August 12, 1906, Dr. Peter J. Livingstone, a single man, sold to Dr. Nellie & Richard M. Olin Lot 3 & 7 and the North ½ of Lot 8, Block 9.

The consideration was \$5,500.

Olin Family in Caro

In 1905, the Olin family had made their arrival in Caro!

Dr. Olin was born in Perry, New York, in 1874.

He had just come from St. Louis Missouri, where he was the superintendent of the Sanitary Commission of the World's Fair, the year before.

There, he laid the foundation for the entire sanitation system before coming to Caro.

For six years, previously, he was a practicing physician.

Then that, the Olin family lived in Battle Creek, Michigan.

After arriving in Caro, for his offices, Dr. Olin rented the entire floor above the Olin Drug Store.

He rented as his residence Mrs. Hunt's House across from the Presbyterian Church in Caro.

Dr. Olin had the same last name as Caro's druggist W R. Olin.

However, they were not closely related and had never heard of each other until they met in Caro.²³

To Dr. Olin, Caro opened its door.

At was not long until what today is 123 North Almer Street was the address of Dr. Olin.²⁴

He was available to be called upon at his office or home.²⁵

To Dr. Olin, Dr. Meredith also soon sold his medical practice.²⁶

Next, Dr., Olin joined Dr. Livingstone's practice.

Dr. Livingstone had been a Caro doctor for many years and called the Caro community his home.

During the first eight months that Dr. Olin was in Caro, he made many friends.

²³ Tuscola Advertiser. January 20, 1905.

²⁴ Ibid. January 27, 1905.

²⁵ Ibid. March 24, 1905.

²⁶ Ibid. May 5, 1905.

He impressed the community, and the fact that he understood “materia medica” without having to make a loud boast helped him make many friends.

The practice of Livingstone & Olin became one of the county’s strongest medical businesses.

Into Dr. Livingstone’s location over Luce’s Drug Store, they consolidated into one office.²⁷

In August 1905, the local newspaper published an important change in the community.

The announcement caused considerable surprise and was read and told throughout Caro and the surrounding county.

The drug store of W. O. Luce was purchased by druggists W. H. Olin & Son.

W. H. Olin & Son were engaged in the drug business for the past two years in the Mertz building in the block than called Union.

W. O. Olin & Son took possession of the W. H. Luce stock and removed their own stock to their new State & Lincoln Street corner site.

This cut down the number of drug stores in Caro from four to three.

It was generally conceded that three drug stores for a town of 2,500 people was enough or just right.

George H. Moore, Mr. Luce’s clerk, was hired by W. H. Olin & Son and became for the store a very dependable employee.²⁸

²⁷ Tuscola Advertiser. August 18, 1905.

²⁸ Ibid . . . 1905 or 1906.

Olin Home

April 23, 1906, Nellie & Frederick P. Bender sell Lot 6, Block 9, to Nellie & Richard M. Olin for \$1,400.

Over two years, Dr. Bender on the property made \$200.

In April 1906, Mr. Streeter occupied the Reynick House that was just vacated by Dr. Olin. ²⁹

In May of 1906, people noted the improvements that Dr. Olin was making on the lot once owned by the late Dr. Graves and recently by Dr. Bender.

People scarcely recognize the spot.

After it was covered with grass, it was a most attractive corner. ³⁰

It was block 9, the 6th lot.

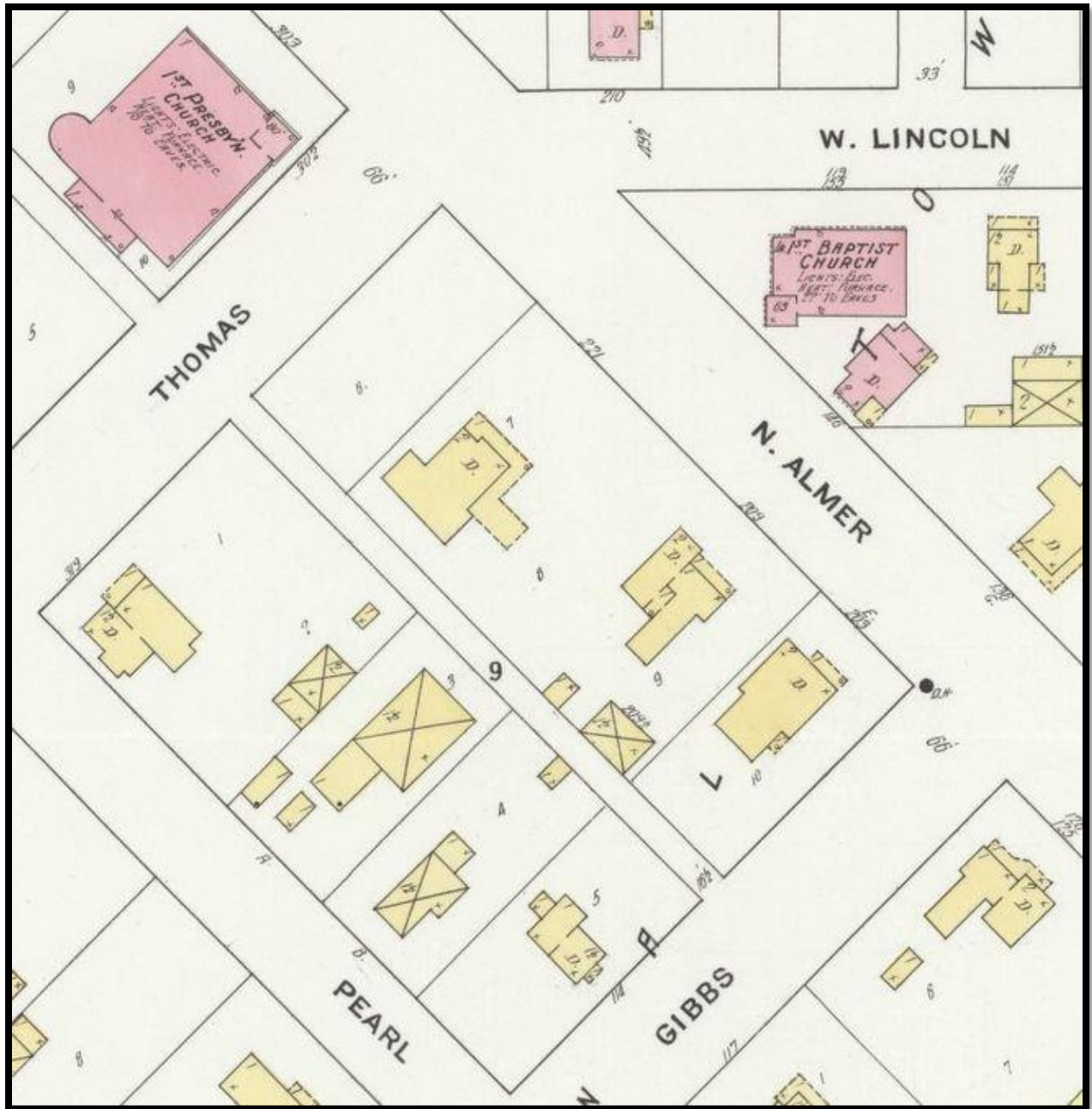
During Christmas in December 1906, at the Presbyterian Church in Caro, Nellie Olin, Mrs. Holloway, and the Misses Pulver, Lange, Cool, and Wood sang songs that were very delightful.

Also, singing were Doris Holloway and Ruth Ransford in a very pretty duet; and Ms Lane, Herman, Converse, and Dickensheets and Smith, Van Sickle, Ostroh, and Case singing inspiring quartettes that causes the large audience to request several encores at the church, which made the Christmas season very enjoyable. ³¹

²⁹ Ibid. April 27, 1906.

³⁰ Ibid. June 25, 1906.

³¹ Ibid. December 6, 1906.



Snippet from the 1909 Sanborn Insurance Map shows the Dr. Olin House and Property—Lots 3, 6, 7, & 8, Block 9

Olin Cars and politics

In June 1907, Dr. Olin purchased the automobile of Dr. Handy.³²

In July 1907, he rolled into town driving one of the finest cars seen in Caro, which was a Thomas four cylinder, complete with all the accessories and top.³³

July 10, 1907, Dr. Olin was elected vice-president of the Tuscola County Medical Society—he was acted well politically.

Dr. Olin would not stop!

In March 1908, Dr. Olin was a second term Trustee for Caro.³⁴

Until 1909, he would serve as a trustee on the town council of Caro.

In 1908, Dr. Olin had retired from general practice and devoted his practice to an eye, ear, nose, and throat doctor.³⁵

Soon, the Tuscola County Medical Society elected as its president Dr. Olin and to be the county's representative as a delegate to the Michigan State Medical Society.³⁶

In the reorganization of the Strohauer Company, Dr. Olin became an owner whose stake was in the majority.

Immediately following the transfer of the stock an election of officers was held which resulted in Dr. Olin being president; W. O. Luce, vice-president; and E. W. Bowles, secretary and treasurer.

These gentlemen with Mr. T. C. and J. W. Quinn constituted the board of directors.

With two employees, that made up the entire stockholders.³⁷

In August 1909, the genial Doctor Olin resigned as Caro Trustee.

William Owen filled his position.

The preoccupation that the doctor had with his various enterprises made it difficult for Dr. Olin to give the duties of that office proper attention.³⁸

Currently, the Olin family was living in the house that was on the Lots 7 & 8, Block 9, property.

By 1909, according to the Sanborn Insurance Map, the house that was on the Lot 6, Block 9, property, the Olin's tore down!

It had been an old and famous house in town.

³² Ibid. June 21, 1907.

³³ Tuscola Advertiser. August 16, 1907.

³⁴ Ibid. March 6, 1908.

³⁵ Ibid. March 20, 1908.

³⁶ Ibid. April 17, 1908.

³⁷ Ibid. July 2, 1909.

³⁸ Ibid. August 13, 1909.



Richard Milo Olin

Nellie Jenks Olin

Nellie Olin became the supervisor of Off-campus Housing at Michigan State College.

The Olin's were residents of Traverse City in the summer.

At the same time, her husband Richard M. Olin was health director until he died in 1938 of Michigan State College.

Before that he was the first state health commissioner.

Nellie Blanch Jenks was born in Silver Springs, New York April 21, 1875.

She died in Lansing, Michigan, in March 18, 1955.

She was very gregarious and sociable.

...

In Caro back in January 1910, Nellie Olin entertained eight ladies at a sleigh party.

Afterward, they went to her beautiful home on Almer Street, played cards, and were regaled by dainty refreshment.³⁹

In the 1910 Census, The Richard M. Olin family lived at 219 [now 123] North Almer Street and owed the house freely.⁴⁰

Sale of Olin House

On November 11, 1911, Nellie & Dr. Richard Olin when they lived in Caro sold to Edward N. Bliss of Columbia, Tuscola County, the West ½ of Lot 4 and the whole of Lot 5, the North ½ of Lot 8, and the whole of Lots 3, 6, & 7, Block 9, with the consideration of \$8,000.⁴¹

Two years later, on October 27, 1913, Myrtie & Edward Bliss sold the property to Hattie M. Talbott who was acting as the trustee of the last will and testament of Rachel B. McNair.

In 1914, the property was sold to William J. Moore by the estate of Rachel McNair.

³⁹ Ibid. January 23, 1910.

⁴⁰ Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Census.

⁴¹ Tuscola County Register of Deeds Office. Liber 158. Pg. 95.



The Old Olin House before it was Remodeled or about 1914 or a Bit Later

Olin's Go to Lansing

After growing a practice in Caro and getting involved in politics, Dr. Richard Olin left Caro and Tuscola County and moved to Lansing, Michigan.

In 1917, Dr. Olin was appointed the Secretary of the old Michigan Board of Health.

In 1919, the state legislature passed a law that abolished the State Board of Health.

In its place, the office of State Health Commissioner was established by the legislature of Michigan.

The officer had the general charge, supervision, and enforcement of the health laws of the state.

In accordance with the provisions, the governor appointed Richard M. Olin as Health Commissioner and members of an advisory council.⁴²

This was the time of the "Spanish Flu" that caused many people to become ill.

In his roles with the State of Michigan, Dr. Olin initiated aggressive public health programs to control infectious diseases.

He was a well accomplished doctor who when in Caro treated sore throats, coughs, and sneezes.

In Caro, he learned much politically.

Aiding and helping others was a skill that came to him very naturally.

⁴² Michigan Department of Health. New Public Health Law. Pg. 9



Michigan State Capitol 1914

Michigan State University

The name Olin Health Center should ring a bell to those who attended Michigan State University.

After his work as the head of the State Board of Health, Dr. Olin became Michigan State University's first full time physician.

In 1925, Dr. Olin was hired as Michigan State University Health Services Director. He held that title until his death in 1938.

During his years at Michigan State, Dr. Olin was the physician for the football team for Michigan State.

His name was given to the Michigan State University Olin Health Center. and accompanied the team on many out of town trips.

Dr. Olin was well known to fans, players, and coaches and was intensely loyal in his responsibilities.

At the school, he performed many duties.

Dr. Olin examined and vaccinated hundreds of freshmen students at Michigan State University.

His careful and well-directed administration alone made it possible to serve the student body so well and carefully. ⁴³

In 1939, the Olin Health Center was built in Dr. Olin's remembrance.

Much became of his country doctor who once lived at 219 [now 123] North Almer Street in Caro, and we look upon his work with heart felt reminiscence.

⁴³ Michigan State College Record. 1938. Pg. 18.



Olin Memorial Hospital—Now Olin Health Center

Lovila Ellen Wooley & William James Moore

On April 10, 1914, Lovila & William J. Moore bought from the Rachel B. McNair Estate Lot 3, 6, 7, and the North ½ of Lot 8, Block 9, in the Caro community. The consideration was 4,550 for the property. ⁴⁴

W. J. Moore's Early Life

His parents were Elizabeth Selina Fox & Samuel Kinsey Moore who was a lumberman.

In 1875, when he was five years old, W. J. Moore moved with to the Thumb oc Michigan with his family.

They made a residence in Sandusky.

During his youth, he had an initial interest in work with his father as a lumberman. He received a preliminary education in Saginaw.

He later received an Accountancy Diploma at the International Business College in Saginaw.

Mr. Moore attend Oberlin College between 1889 to 1890.

However, he gained an interest in the phone business that was a brand-new industry.

He acquired the interest through his contact with his cousin Elisha Gray, the inventor.

While at Oberlin, he spent his spare time devices for a phone, particularly, a transmitter.

On the transmitter, he obtained a patent in 1896 when her was 26 years old on which he established two business in 1892. ⁴⁵

These businesses brought to his family a large amount of revenue.

- Moore Telephone Manufacturing Company
- Moore Telephone System

⁴⁴ Ibid. Liber 164, Pg. 6.

⁴⁵ Manuscript written by W. J. Moore. November 4, 1951.



William James Moore circa 1905

Moore Businesses

William James Moore, best known as “W. J.,” and to his family as “Billy,” was a great asset to the Thumb of Michigan and especially the Caro community.

He was born in the same town as telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell.

W. J. Moore also was a cousin to telephone co-inventor Elisha Gray who founded Western Electric Company.

W. J. Moore was a master of gadgets, and his ingenuity completed with that of Alexander Bell.

In 1896, W. J. Moore began Moore Telephone System and More Telephone Manufacturing Company that provided not only telephones but also phone services to many Thumb customers.

Hotels and rural stores were the primary, early, users.

The demand for home services grew quickly, and the W. J. Moore's companies grew exponentially.

In 1894, many of the patents had expired on Bell Telephone System technology. Bell Telephone System, though, still held patents on many facets of early phones.

Moore Telephone System was successful in providing services to the Upper Thumb of Michigan.

Mr. W. J. Moore avoided patent infringement because he held his own patents on telephones.

He provided services first in Sandusky and Marlette with little or no competition.

Moore Telephone manufacturing Company built phones and associated equipment and moved in 1896 to Caro.

Moore Telephone System provided exchange or network services and like the other company it moved to Caro.

Moore Telephone System

In his early telephone experience, Mr. Moore owned exchanges in Marlette and Sandusky.

After moving to Caro, these he gradually sold to the Bell company.

W. J. Moore to the Caro Council presented an offer to the residence of the village that for \$1,200 he would build an exchange with forty subscribers.

He proposed that the total capital be \$2,000.

A telephone was \$15.

The estimated cost of phone service was \$200 yearly for the subscribers.

One share of stock entitled a person to a line that connected to the Moore Telephone System that would be built in Caro.

It was agreed that this was a great opportunity for those living in Caro.

Soon, the Moore Telephone Manufacturing Company also was discussed.

W. J. Moore struck a deal for \$5000 with local citizens, and that company too to Caro was moved.

The company sold Moore phones to nearly every state in the United States and was a success.

In 1915, however, when the patents ran out, W. J. Moore sold this business.

In 1946, Moore Telephone System was converted to a corporation and W. J. Moore's youngest son, Andrew, was named president and manager.

W. J. Moore retained and interest in the business along with the title of consulting engineer.⁴⁶

Moore Telephone System built more than twenty exchanges or networks in Michigan.

The systems subscribers grew from 10 in 1892 to 2,500 in 1947.

At that time, its capital was \$50,000.

It employed 30 people and grossed each month about \$5,000.

It was a family owned business since its incorporation in 1947.

⁴⁶ Tuscola County Advertiser. June 24, 1955.

Other Moore Interests

In addition to his phone activities, W. J. Moore was involved in other businesses. He was the director and largest stockholder of the Caro State Savings Bank. He was the head of the Moore Subdivision and the W. J. Moore, real estate, businesses.

For much of what the City of Caro is today, we have the Moore family to thank.

⁴⁷

W. J. Moore also was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, Independent Telephone Association of America, Caro Board of Commerce, and the Caro Exchange Club.

His hobby was landscape gardening.

He also enjoyed motoring and swimming.

The "Gadget Man" was a later nickname or dub.

W. J. Moore As he became older, W. J. Moore ran his company with less attentiveness and increased his devotion to his gadgets.

With the restructuring of his organization, an incurable inventor, W. J. Moore spent much of his time working on his gadgets.

W. J. retired from the business in 1948 nearly 60 years after the date that his phone business was started.

Moore Telephone Company has now been reorganized.

William J. Moore was born on August 21, 1870, in Burford, Ontario.

In 1896, he married Lovila Ellen Wooley in Marlette, Michigan.

By 1900, they worked and lived in Caro. ⁴⁸

Their address was 201 Montague Street in 1910.

By 1920, the Moore family lived at 219 North Almer that is 123 North Almer Street, today, and that was a home in which they would thrive.

W. J. Moore died in Caro June 19, 1955.

⁴⁷ Manuscript of W. J. Moore. November 4, 1951.

⁴⁸ Ancestry.com. 1900 United State Census.



The Moore Telephone System Office at 201 Montague Street

The Moore De Dion Motorette

One of W. J. Moore's many allures was his automobile fascination.

He took considerable pride in his 1914 Cadillac.

In 1899, he was an early owner of a De Dion Motorette that he had shipped from France to Caro—it was the first car in Michigan.

In 1914, W. J. Moore order a custom-made automobile that he outfitted with what he claimed was the world's first auto-telephone—it was his Cadillac.

The picture on the opposite page shows the De Dion motor car.

I was the first car that W. J. Moore owned.

The picture taken in the early summer of 1899 in front of the Moore Telephone System office in Caro, which a few years before had been established.

The De Dion car traveled from France to the office enclosed in a large steamer box lined with oiled paper.

For the unpacking or unveiling it seem that half the people of Caro gather around to celebrate the occasion.

...

...

In the picture, the Warren R. Olin, an old friend and then superintendent of Moore Telephone System, sits next to W. J. Moore.

Warren Olin later became a druggist and with his son Raymond who at seventeen as druggist, they formed in Caro the Olin & Son Drug Store.

The Moore family later turned over the De Dion to a museum.

However, they created a replica of the De dion on the elevation of their garage.

The Moore's next car was a 1906 Olds Palace Touring car.

Following that, Buicks and Fords were used for business and pleasure.

In 1914, the Moore's bought their first Cadillac.

They owned several afterward. ⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Manuscript of the Moore Family.



Caption

The Moore Cadillac Model 51 V8 - 1915

The Moore Cadillac had the whole shebang: heater, air-conditioning, reversing lights, pneumatic shock absorbers, refrigerator, swivel seats, double bed, and telephone.

The touring sedan had every kind of amenity.

W. J. Moore would park the sedan next to a telephone pole and then connected to the line with a long tube to use the car's telephone.

W. J. Moore designed, and C. P. Kimball & Company of Chicago built, the sedan's body.

The Cadillac Motor Company built the motor, which was the first to have 8-cylinders.

The Car accommodated a driver and seven passengers.

In the stationary, rear, seating area of the sedan, there were three comfortable seats.

Four seats were arranged in two rows forward of the back seats, and these were Pullman like seats.

In them, you could move forward and backward on slides that attached each seat to the floor.

These center seats also revolved around, or spun, in any direction.

The back three and the center two seats would arrange to form a two person bed, and it also was possible to create a bed for one person.

The Moore Cadillac 1915 Touring Sedan was a four door.

With circulation tube and thirteen vents, during cold weather, warm air from the radiator quickly funneled into the interior of the car.

There also was a stove near the radiator at the front of the car.

The stove heated the sedan when the engine was not on.

Electric fans provide the air circulation.

Food was stored behind the rear seat where there was a refrigerator.

During the summer, the regulated fans took air to cool the interior of the car from the refrigerator.

All ten windows had tight setting roller shades.

The Moore sedan was a "cozy living room that was on wheels" that everyone enjoyed seeing.

It was even more fun riding.

It had all and more of the current up-grades!

The Moore Cadillac sedan also had a telescopic tube, binoculars, and camera.

The car was the pride of the Moore Family and Caro along with the County of Tuscola!



The 1915 Cadillac Touring Sedan that W. J. Moore Designed

Lovila Ellen Wooley Moore

Lovila Moore was born in Springfield, Ontario.

When ten, with her parents, she lived in Marlette, Michigan.

On September 19, 1898, she married William James Moore and moved to Caro. She was always gracious in manner and dispensed hospitality with generous hands.

In 1934, she entertained 160 ladies from Sanilac, Huron, and Tuscola on the organization of a political club supporting her candidate for governor.

Politically, Lovila Moore accomplished much and was a great consoler or comforter.

Lovila Moore died on May 28, 1937, and a company of friends attend her funeral at the beautify Moore House where she had shown so many organizational and congenial powers.

Her funeral also was attended with a wealth of flowers, ⁵⁰

On June 1, 1939, W. J. Moore married second Mattel Clark at Evart, Michigan.

Lovila & William J. Moore's children:

1. Claude. He was the oldest and died at Ann Arbor in 1918 as a member of the Student Army Training Corps in World War I.
2. Maurice. In 1946, he passed.
3. Earl. He lived in Detroit, Michigan.
4. Vera. She married Fred Graham, and they operated a theater in Chesaning, Michigan.
5. Andrew. As a graduate of Civil Engineering at Michigan State College, he became the president of Moore Company. Later, he and wife Delores Nugent owned the W. J. Moore House that they cherished.

At the time, they, perhaps, were Caro's most noted family.

⁵⁰ Tuscola Advertiser. June 4, 1937.



William J. Moore & Lovila E. Wooley

Remodeling of the W. J. Moore House

On April 10, 1914, Lovila & William J. Moore purchased the 123 North Almer Street address from the McNair Estate.

It was, even, before 1914, likely one of the finest homes in Caro.

The house and property did not look as it does today, but it looked great.

... ..

Before the Moore family changed the style of the house, in 1923, the property had a yard that had abundant shade and a beautiful stable.

It had a garage for the storage of carriages and more than one automobile.

It was previously the Dr. Olin family House.

It offered great comfort and at that time was an amazingly sophisticated house.

By 1914, the home had hard wood walls and floors.

It also had hot water heating and ample plumbing and a wonderful yard outdoors.

In 1916, the Moore family trimmed the trees, painted the buildings and garage, and installed a heating system in the garage.

They put in a tennis court at the northeast end of the property for exercising.

Soon, the family moved in fully-grown trees, planted many more shrubs, and in 1916 built a private swimming pool that was the talk of the village.

In 1923, the Moore Family applied a stone exterior that was breathtaking.

Claude A. Putnam a local stonemason laid much of the stonework on the exterior.

He was paid in part with a new communication device, a telephone, of which the Moore family was the supplier.

During the remodeling, the Moore's paid workers 67 cents an hour.

Masons and painters, they paid more.

Harry Parsell did most of the decorating and painting.

Seymour Kelly was the head carpenter and received help from Otis Hamilton,

Frank Berry, among others who found the job very rewarding.

The project took four years for completion.

The Moore family lived in the club over the garage during the renovation.



Early Work on the Moore House

Moore House Activities

When done, the Moore House had a large ten car garage with dressing rooms for bathers who swam in the pool.

There were three driveways and a mock model on the garage of the first car ever driven in Tuscola County.

There also was a club room over the garage that was big enough in which to play basketball and eventually a bowling alley.

Basketball was played here until Caro built its new High School.

"Back in 1927, passersby viewed the W. J. Moore residence with curiosity and awe."⁵¹

A house fantastically different than others was what Caro locals and visitors saw. All agreed the landmark was a beautiful fairytale creation.

We still do today.

It is what our parents and grandparents once looked at with great admiration. Behind the lush green hedges, large and lavish parties took place in a former day.

On many occasions, family, relatives, and friends gathered on a Sunday afternoon, and with questions and answers filled the rooms in the house and the benches around the pool.

W. J. Moore invented numerous door-openers and burglar alarms for his house and installed a mechanical trapeze that conveyed swimmers and that drop them from the second-floor bedrooms into the swimming pool.

W. J. Moore was a telephone entrepreneur and once had twenty-two telephones and other gadgetry in the house.

The Moore's loved phones so much that they were in every room.

An attic was ample and spacious and was a significant part of the house.

Around the house the flowers were beautiful when in bloom.

It was a beautiful and wonderful place.

It was Caro's locale of elegance and grace.

Like a Disney movie, the yard and gardens allowed people to relax in shady nooks.

Wildflowers adorned the north side of the house where a grass tennis court, and nearby a water fountain recalled stories from Hollywood and fairytale books.

⁵¹ Tuscola Advertiser. March 18, 1965.



The Early W. J. Moore House and Pool

Moore House Remembered

The home entertained lavish lawn and pool parties symbolic of that early era.⁵² During the evening and into the night, in the house, people gathered round one or more of the five fireplaces to chat or talk in an atmosphere that was cozy. There were no gas appliances—everything was operated electrically.

The House

In the kitchen was electric dishwasher, ventilator, and even a ice freezer. The house contained five bedrooms, three bathrooms, living room, radio room, den, kitchen laundry, and maid's quarter.

Air conditioning served the living, dinning, and radio rooms and the front hallway.

At night, outdoor electric lights brought brilliance to the tennis court, fountain, rock garden, swimming pool, and garage.

The burglar system when alarmed sent flashing signal lights to the telephone office where law enforcement was notified right away.

The house of up to ten automobiles, inlaid stone, and wood, was the Garage.

On the second floor, the clubhouse was where dancing, amateur plays, and where high school basketball games took place.

The property, brilliantly contrived, was an inviting spot of beauty and grace.

Surrounded with rustic benches, gorgeous flowers, and stone pillars, was the pool.

Also, the fifteen foot glass aquarium held Japanese fish that were multi-colored. Along Almer Street was the large waterfall in the massive rock garden and a path that led to the Japanese bridge that disembarked near the dressing rooms at the west end of the pool.

The stone lighthouse engaged a small metal man who carried a lantern and lance.

The lighthouse guard, he circled the top of the lighthouse when it was illuminated.

He caused people to look at him with more than just a glance.

The forty foot chimney at the Garage was built from "Thumb area" stones.

The evergreen hedge that surrounded the estate also had posts of large stones.

The moving machine that Mr. Moore designed transplanted Elms to the yard.

Martin birdhouses were in place round the yard.

⁵² Tuscola Advertiser. March 18, 1965.



View of the W. J. Moore House and Pool During the Best of Times

Late Owners

Delores & Andrew J. Moore

On March 7, 1911, to Lovila & William Moore, Andrew Moore was born. Delores & Andrew Moore attended Caro's St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In 1958, they resided at 123 [old 219] North Almer Street—away from the beauty, glory, and memory of the W. J. Moore House they were not be torn.⁵³ At the W. J. Moore House, they often overlooked the property and enjoyed the energy and the stories and memories of this highly valued house, from their raised second floor balcony that was a lofty and commanding perch. When Andrew Moore retired, he was the manager and owner of Moore Telephone System. The family made significant contributions to Caro and to Michigan's Thumb.

Delores Nugent and Andrew Moore married on June 5, 1935, in Bad Axe, Michigan.

She passed in June 1957.

On July 27, 1958, Andrew Moore married second Hildegard Boesenecker. She was a Caro teacher.

The Moore family was a benefit to the Caro community.

Each year, she gave students a tour of the W. J. Moore House that for them as a thrilling event.

For her, it was a labor of love that was well spent.

Andrew Moore was a Michigan State University Association member. Previously, Hildegard & Andrew Moore had sold the W. J. Moore House to Dorcas & Charles Vaughan on August 15, 1966, in a land contract. Likely, there was a down payment, however, \$40,000 was the remainder. Under the Vaughan ownership with children the pool was often well packed.

...

Andrew Moore died in Caro on June 29, 1971.

Children:

1. Gerald James. He was born in 1936 in Caro, Michigan, and died in 2001 in Mesa Arizona.
2. Robert Claude. Robert was born I 1941in Caro, Michigan and ided in 2009 in Mesa, Arizona.

⁵³ Caro 1958 Phone Book.



Gerald, Andrew, & Delores Moore

Dorcas & Charles Vaughan

The Vaughan family purchased the W. J. Moore house in 1966.⁵⁴

In the 1966 & 1969 Caro Phone Books, the property now known as 123 North Just, previously, it was 219 N. Almer Street.

The Vaughan's preserved the Old W. J. Moore House and spent of their time and money when it needed a repair or fix.

Their interest and desire to sustain the house more than neat.

Like the Moore family, they invited children from the neighborhood to swim in the pool.

That made them and the house seem very cool.

The W. J. Moore House was a celebrated home to Dorcas & Charles Vaughan.

⁵⁵

Children from Sunday school would enjoy their time at the Vaughan "Disney House."

The children felt they were in the movie, a playland, with Micky Mouse.

A local, disable, person, Floyd Evans, they paid to work the landscape and lawn.

The Vaughan's were very good for the community.

They loved to entertain guests, friends, and family.

Dorcas Dorman graduated from Central Michigan University and taught in local, rural, schools for five years.

Chuck attended country school and worked for the W. N. Clark Company at the age of 17 years.

During World War II, he enlisted in the Navy.

On July 6, 1947, they would marry.

When Chuck was 21, he partnered with his uncle, Ted Vaughan, in the sand and gravel business.

Dorcas & Chuck Vaughan engaged in in both Michigan and Florida in sand and gravel but also in campgrounds, motels, subdivisions, game ranches, and a restaurant business.

⁵⁴ Tuscola Advertiser. July 17, 2017.

⁵⁵ Tuscola County Register of Deeds. Liber 1224, Pg. 1105.



Dorcas & Charles Vaughan

Linda & Kim Vaughan

April 1, 2008, Dorcas & Charles Vaughan sold the once W. J. Moore House to their son Kim with a Quit Claim Deed.

At an early date, it was common for people particularly family to sell property for \$1 and other valuable consideration.

Kim had a raspy deep and powerful voice and loved to talk about his beliefs, faith, and creed.

The Vaughan's developed recreational and residential parks in Florida and Michigan.

Kim was a born leader.

Involved in politics, he became a Tuscola County Commissioner.

Kim Vaughan married Linda Ziemba.

. . . .



Kim Vaughan Tuscola County Commissioner

Melissa & Alvin Zavitz

In October of 2020, Melissa & Alvin Zavitz bought 123 North Almer Street, the W. J. Moore House, from Linda & Kim Vaughan.⁵⁶

The amount of \$215,000 was the consideration.

The American Auto Sales & Service south of Millington was owned by the Zavitz family.

Alvin Zavitz became a Caro City Council member.

Melisa Zavitz was a Caro Community School system teacher.

‘ ‘ ‘

⁵⁶ Ibid. Liber 1378, Pg. 133.



Melisa & Alvin Zavitz

Becky Allen & Steven Shields

August 23, 2021, Steven Shields, and Beck Allen bought the W J. Moore House. Consideration was \$220,000. ⁵⁷

⁵⁷ Ibid. Liber, Pg.



Becky Allen & Steve Shields and their Pups

Postlog

We all read and recite when W. J. Moore and others of note, lived at what became 123 North Almer Street—many visitors loved to come here.

Mr. Moore was tall and thin and very dignified.

At the W. J. Moore family pool, everyone wanted to ride the airplane from the upper porch roof, side over the pool, and drop into the pool . . . laughed but were a bit terrified!

Everyone wanted to listen to W. J. Moore talk and to what he had to say, just listen, or hear.

At his pool on Saturday afternoons, for 5 cents, would swim the neighborhood kids.

He loved to collect the nickels himself and loved to watch the kids.

The Moore House even today has a fantastic image . . . it is of the Caro community a wonder insight or view.

The land on which the property on sets was first purchased by the founders of Caro Ruth & Samuel Sherman back the 1852.

Next, they sold the site to Melvin Gibbs who may have built a house on the property.

Original lots sold in Caro in 1866 after it was platted at about \$30.

In 1871, the Gibbs family sold the main part of this property on which the Moore House would later stand to Elizabeth Gamble for \$1,000.

The sale included 4 ½ lots, so even at that early date there was a house on the at least one lot of the property.

Elizabeth Gamble was the mother of Joseph Gamble who was the local flour and sawmill owner.

Certainly, the lumber for most houses and business in Caro was cut or sawed at the Joseph Gamble Mill.

What became the W. J. Moore property previously was owned by many influential people including doctors and other businesspeople.

For a representation of what it is like to live in Caro, the W. J. Moore House as a symbol or icon could not be better.

The W. J. Moore House possibly was remodeled from an original. wood framed, building that goes back almost to the platting of Centerville, now known as Caro, Michigan.

Today, it is a Disney style home that represents a fairy tale life that occurred in this part of Michigan, or the Thumb of Michigan.

The W. J. Moore family represented the need and significance of good communication.

They built in the Thumb and the Caro community the best system of communication or information exchange that we had at this time our past. Today, a member, a descendant, of the W. J. Moore family lives in the W. J. House and is dedicated to restoring and repairing the home and again communicate and describe to us our gilded past.

The W. J. Moore House yet is a resource for the exchange of information. That information from our past that history helps us solve the problems that for us lay in our future.

The images, the information , the words, that the house wells up in our thoughts and minds benefit us all and improves the state of our body and soul both now and for the future.

Appendix

(Excerpts taken from The National Cyclopedia of American Biography draft manuscript written by W.J. Moore on November 4, 1951. --Transcribed by Kathleen Moore-Sebesta September 20, 2021)

William James Moore, telephone inventor and executive, was born in Burford, Ontario, Canada on August 21, 1870. He was the son of Samuel Kinsey and Elizabeth Selina Fox. He moved with his family to Sandusky, Michigan in 1875. His father was a lumberman.

After receiving his preliminary education at the public schools in Saginaw Michigan, Mr. Moore received his Accountancy Diploma at the International Business College in Saginaw, Michigan on June 28, 1889. Mr. Moore attended Oberlin College during 1889-1890. At an early age he became interested in telephone work through contact with his cousin, Elisha Gray (q.v.), the inventor.

Mr. Moore's interest in the telephone continued and while he was attending Oberlin, he devoted his spare time to designing telephone apparatus and perfected a telephone transmitter on which he later was issued a patent (U.S. Pat. No. 579,003 on March 16, 1896). With that as a nucleus, he established two distinct telephone interests in 1892:

1. Moore Telephone Manufacturing Co. – for the manufacture of telephone and associated equipment. Started in Sandusky, Michigan and subsequently moved to Caro, Michigan in 1896.
2. Moore Telephone System – a telephone operating company whose first two exchanges were located in Sandusky and Marlette, Michigan.

Business interests at Caro had offered Mr. Moore a bonus of several thousand dollars to move his manufacturing company to its environs and it continued in successful operation there, selling its products in almost every state in the Union, until 1915, when, with the patents soon to expire, he sold the business to others.

The Moore Telephone System, however, still, continues to operate with Caro as its headquarters. Mr. Moore was president and general manager of the company until 1947 when his son Andrew J. Moore succeeded him. Mr. Moore still acts in a consulting capacity.

The system, since its inception, built more than 20 additional exchanges in Michigan (?). Toll, or long distance lines, were also been built to nearly all of the

exchanges as well as many others. Some toll lines and exchanges were sold from time to time to other interests. The system's subscribers increased from ten in 1892 to 2,500 (?) in 1947 and at that time had a capital of \$50,000 and a substantial surplus, employed about 30 people and grossed about \$5,000 a month. It is a family owned corporation since it was incorporated in 1947.

In addition to his major interest, Mr. Moore was a director and the largest stockholder in the State Savings Bank of Caro and is the head of the Moore Subdivision and W.J. Moore, a real estate business.

Mr. Moore is a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, Independent Telephone Association of America, Caro Board of Commerce, and the Caro Exchange Club. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist church. Politically he is a Republican.

His hobby is landscape gardening, and he finds recreation in swimming, and motoring. He also spends time in scientific research and in designing and building electrical contrivances

