

*McDonough County  
Historic Preservation Society*

100 South Campbell Street • Macomb, Illinois 61455

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## **Preserving the Shelter House in Beautiful Glenwood Park**

By Allen R. Nemece

The park shelter is undergoing historic landmark designation by the City of Macomb. In the city application it states the city's desire to maintain and protect the unique shelter house for future generations to come as families have made it a popular destination for reunions, public gatherings, picnics, dances and some holiday events.



*Shelter House in Beautiful Glenwood Park  
Macomb, Illinois*

The October 25, 1937 Macomb Daily Journal reported on projects that would be completed by the Works Progress Administration (renamed during 1939 as the Work Projects Administration: WPA). The WPA was a huge federal government agency employing millions of unskilled workers to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads. Almost every community in the United States had a park like Macomb which benefitted from this agency. The budget at the outset of the WPA in 1935 was \$1.4 billion a year and in total it spent \$13.4 billion. At its peak in 1938 it provided paid jobs for three million unemployed men (and some women), and the Glenwood Shelter house was one result of this national program.

The Macomb Daily Journal reported, "The project for Glenwood park would include the construction of a shelter house, complete with basement and toilets, re-surfacing of the driveway through the park with asphalt material, building of a concrete gutter along the drive, repair and building of benches and tables, construction of ovens, completion of the tennis courts and clearing and landscape work throughout the park. Continued on page 3

## From the President's Desk .....

By Randy Powell

The Board of Directors of the McDonough County Historic Preservation Society sends its greetings. It doesn't seem possible that it's been almost thirty years since we began the journey to save the Old Bailey House. Since then, due to the hard work and dedication of many, thousands of people have passed through the doors to attend meetings, birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, wedding receptions, reunions, etc. It's therefore the intention of the board to mark that thirty year milestone this summer with a reunion for those individuals. We are just beginning the process of trying to contact the many building trades high school students that worked on the house in the early years. Because of the time that's elapsed, finding them is proving to be a challenge. We request that you contact us if you know the current location of any of the students.

As you might imagine, like many old structures the Old Bailey House requires a great deal of maintenance. There is always an extensive list of projects going on there, and while volunteers perform the majority of the work, some tasks require the assistance of professionals. If you have time and would like to volunteer to help with projects, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Simply go to <http://mcdonoughhistory.jimdo.com/mcdonough-county-historic-preservation-society/> and click on McDonough County Historic Preservation Society for information about what's happening at the house and any other historic preservation initiatives ongoing in the county. Thanks again for you past and continuing support.

### History of the Old Bailey House

The Old Bailey House was built in 1887 by W.S. Bailey, founder and first president of Union National Bank, Macomb, Illinois. The house is an Eastlake style Victorian structure that features a grand foyer with large elaborate cherry staircase, a reception parlor, drawing and dining rooms, library and kitchen. Also displayed in the interior are hardwood and parquet floors, wood and iron fireplaces, and elegant lighting fixtures.

The Bailey family occupied the residence until 1919 when it was sold to Rolla Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan operated a grocery on the Macomb Square in the Randolph House building. His wife used the home as an antique shop.

In 1926 the Standard Oil Company purchased a 60 foot section of land from Mr. Sullivan to relocate one of their gas stations. The section bought from Mr. Sullivan was at the corner of East Jackson and South Campbell. At that time the house was raised, turned ninety degrees and moved to its present site, 100 South Campbell.

Milford Hunsley purchased the residence in 1955. In 1962, J.W. Collins acquired the house, and used it as a law office and storage until 1982. In 1982 Mr. Collins generously gave the property to the McDonough County Historic Preservation Society.

When the building was accepted by the Society an enormous task was faced by only a few. The entire second floor walls and interior had been removed. The attic was nothing more than ceiling joists and plank boards. The first floor was in fair condition, but due to the fact the house had not been occupied for such an extended period, plaster ceilings and walls had deteriorated to a poor state. The entire plumbing, electrical and heating systems had to be replaced.

The exterior problems were of equal concern. The roof was in need of repair, chimneys were missing, metal ridge rows were rusted, two porches were missing, storm windows gone, and the iron hitching fence had been removed.

With the aid of private funds and the Building Trades classes of West Central Illinois Vocational Center under the direction of Mr. Lloyd Miller, and many hours of volunteer help, the house has been brought to its present state.

The renovation of The Old Bailey House is the on-going major project of the Society. In addition to the grounds, interior and exterior renovations at The Old Bailey House, furniture, fixtures, and other articles of historical value have been collected and are exhibited at the house.

*Preserving the Shelter House* continued

This project has already been drawn up by the City Engineer Dan Alford and Mr. Labin of the state planning commission has informed him that the project can be started within about 45 days after it is approved by the city council. The estimated cost of the project is \$34,145, of which the WPA would furnish \$26,274, leaving \$7,871 to be furnished by the city. It would provide work for 80 men for a year, it is estimated.

The shelter house would be built of concrete and stone taken from the curb and gutter of Adams and Carroll streets, which are to be repaved soon. The building would be 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. The building would be located northeast of the swimming pool where the horseshoe courts are now located.”

In June of 1938 funds were being raised for the WPA project with companies like Hemp Manufacturing and Illinois Electric Porcelain making pledges to help the project. It was stated in the local paper that the cost would total \$30,404 with the WPA contribution of \$24,004 leaving the city with a balance of \$6,926 to contribute in materials and cash. A committee of city leaders was formed to raise the cash needed.

By early August of 1938 the site was determined and it was reported that work would begin within the week. The Journal reported, “A small crew, possibly about eight men, will start preliminary work on the project and the number of men on the job will later be increased to about 40.” At this time it was estimated that the shelter itself would cost \$19,690 of the total WPA project cost. The main floor space would be an open sided pavilion and the basement would house the toilets.”

After three months of work the Macomb Daily Journal reported in the November 24, 1938 edition that the shelter house was nearing completion. “Work was started on the project on September 12 of this year and most of it has been done by WPA labor. The entire park project will require about \$60,000 in materials and labor, none of which will come out of the city treasury. The sum of \$1,406.50 is being raised by public subscription and the rest is a WPA grant.”

“The building will be wired for lights. There are circular stairs at either end of the building leading to the main floor. A basement under the west half of the building will house toilets and other rooms for storage. It is planned to build a sidewalk directly west of the building leading to the drive and to have a flight of steps on the slope west of the building. At the top of the slope it is planned to construct a wading pool for children.

The building is constructed of gray stone and when the landscaping is finished the whole effect is expected to be one of the most beautiful park scenes in this part of Illinois.” The article goes on to mention “There will be a sandstone arch built at the entrance to the park with the inscription “Glenwood Park” engraved upon it. One thousand new trees are to be placed throughout the park and along the drives. The entire park project including grading, graveling, landscaping etc., is expected to be completed early next spring.”

Had it not been for the insight of our city planners, today’s estimated cost to build this shelter would run in the neighborhood of \$301,473 dollars and the current landmark designation is well deserved for the City of Macomb.

**Donations Needed for the Old Bailey House**

Fundraiser for the Old Bailey House

Like many historic structures, the Old Bailey House has required maintenance and tender loving care through its long life. Over the years, much has been done:

- exterior painting
- roof replacement
- plumbing and electrical improvements

However, one area that has not been renovated is the heating and cooling plant. Considering the high cost of energy and the age of the system (30 years old) the Board feels it is necessary to replace the main floor’s equipment. The estimated cost of the new heat pump is over \$4,900, the chimney repairs are another \$2000, not to mention the back porch that is in need of repair.

We ask for your assistance in making it possible to purchase a new heat pump and make repairs.

Please send your donation to: MCHPS, PO Box 266, Macomb, IL 61455

# 1812 to 2012: Two Hundred Year Anniversary of the War of 1812

by Robert Fischer with research by Marty Fischer

On June 18 of this year, the people of the United States will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the War of 1812. The following provides some insight into the importance of this conflict and perhaps a few lessons.

## A Brief Foundation

While most Americans would know that the War of 1812 was fought following the American Revolution with our former British sovereign, the history that we learn in grade school and high school often fails to tell the whole story. In the case of the War of 1812, we are taught that the British were impressing (forcefully drafting) American citizens for duty on British ships. This practice of hijacking American citizens was the reason that we went to war with the British. We might also recall that President Madison was forced to flee the Capitol and that Dolly Madison saved now valuable paintings from destruction. Or we might remember General Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans.

We are usually not aware of the discussions in our American Congress about our Canadian neighbors who were still living under British control. The Congressional Record shows that there were numerous discussions about American interests in this vast northern region. Many American legislators believed that the Canadians would favor joining with the United States over British rule. Was the conflict really over impressment, was it about liberating Canada, or was it much more complicated?

Most of us are also not familiar with the British interests in what we now call the Midwest. Following

the Revolutionary War, British interests were served by befriending Indian tribes who lived in what are now Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, etc. The British held a number of frontier forts along the Mississippi and through the Great Lakes, and were neighbors of the various Indian tribes inhabiting what was then called the Northwest Territory



Among these tribes was the Sauk. Black Hawk, a Sauk warrior and leader, was often provided supplies by his British friends in Canada. Is it any wonder that when problems developed, leading to the War of 1812, that the Sauk favored the British?

Our government was very aware of the British cooptation of Indians residing in the Midwest. In an effort to stay informed, the Congress authorized William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Northwest Territory, to scout out Indian activities and report those activities to our military offices in St. Louis. Names such as Jefferson Davis, Zebulon Pike, Zachery Taylor and others are prominent in this early history of relations with the indigenous Indians.



Map 1

### The Military Tract and McDonough County

With this brief, but incomplete background, it is possible to begin to tell the story of McDonough County and the Illinois Military Tract.

In 1811, the United States government, perhaps sensing “sword rattling” on the part of the British (or even desiring to expand land ownership to the north), began to prepare for possible conflict. War hawks would eventually win out in Congressional debates and declare war on the British.

In need of soldiers, the United States government decided to improve recruitment by offering every soldier and sailor who would enlist for five years (or later, for the duration of the War), a “bounty” of 160 acres of land. To guarantee their offer, Congress passed an act on May 6, 1812 establishing Military Tracts. One of these vast tracts was in Central Illinois and included what is now McDonough County. The area is depicted in Map 1. This region contained more than 5,000,000 acres. Only land that could support cultivation could be used as bounty land. In addition Section 16, salt springs and mines in each county were excluded from available acreage. Approximately 3,500,000 were considered capable of supporting agriculture and thus used for the military bounties

In December 1814, the bounty land offer was increased so that non-commissioned officers, and soldiers who re-enlisted and were later honorably discharged, were offered 320 acres. Following the conclusion of the War of 1812, early enlisted personnel were eligible for allotments of 160 acres. Non-commissioned Officers and those who had re-enlisted were eligible for 320 acres. These allotments, bounty lands or “patents” were issued in 1818. While the patents made specific reference to a location in a territory, owners generally did not have foreknowledge of the region and certainly no way to determine the quality of the land.

According to the General Land Office, over 17,000 patents were issued in the Illinois Military Tract. This program was not automatic for all qualified personnel. The individual soldier or heir had to petition to receive a patent. After a soldier or his heirs had selected one of the Military Tracts, the grantee drew a quarter section by lot. Given the uncertainty of these far away parcels, few soldiers actually trav-

eled to the Military Tracts to settle on their allotted lands. Many veterans sold their land to speculators, often selling for less than 70 cents per acre. One company alone gained titles to approximately 900,000 acres.

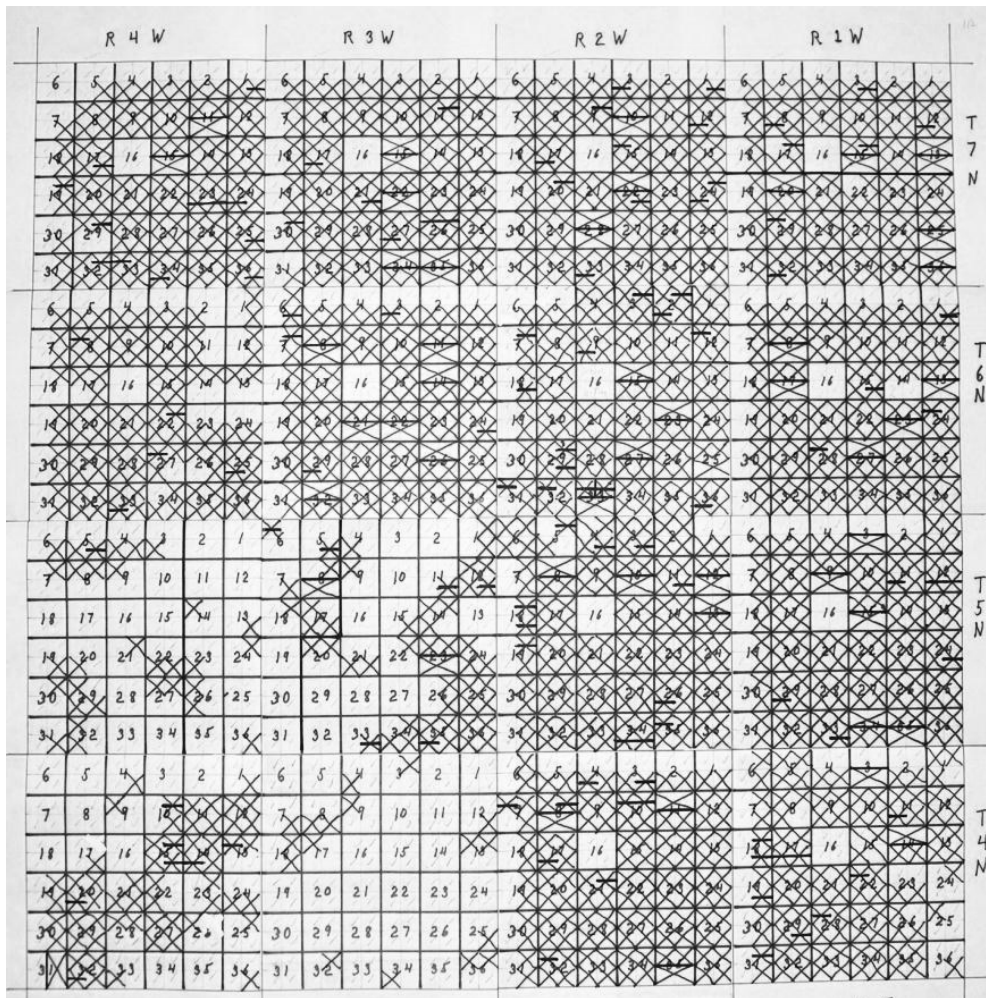
Within a few years, pioneers began to arrive in the area. They soon realized the value of this new prairie land. With much of this land owned by absentee speculators, who failed to pay land taxes, the State of Illinois began to sell this land to these newcomers collecting on delinquent taxes. However, since this Military Tract land had been deeded to veterans of the War of 1812, it was difficult to acquire clear titles. There were, however, those individuals who had gained possession of the lands through tax-titles purchased through the State of Illinois

In 1848-49, legal challenges among interested parties reached the superior courts in Illinois. The courts decided that the best claims were those of the soldiers. Land agents eventually searched the General Land Office in Washington for the names of soldiers allotted acreage in the Illinois Military Tract. Final resolution of this issue was not achieved until 1859. Proper transition of ownership was eventually established and this fertile land was quickly purchased.



### **Land Grants and Early Settlers in McDonough County**

Based on recent research of land grants in McDonough County, very few quarters were deeded in the four southwest townships. This may be based on the requirement that “only land fit for cultivation was to be designated for bounty lands.” There were 1503 grants to veterans of the War of 1812 made in McDonough County. Most were quarter sections of 160 acres each. However, 48 grants (3%) were for half sections of 360 acres. Each township had about 23 partial quarter sections that were less than 160 acres along the north and west side of each township. That means that there were 368 partial quarter sections which were not deeded. In addition, as noted earlier, each township set aside Section 16 for the financing of county schools. About 65.2% of McDonough County land was granted to veterans from the War of 1812. (See Map 2)



Map 2 Land grant sections in McDonough County

Recent research has supported the general contention that few if any veterans from the War of 1812 actually claimed their land. Although, according to the McDonough County Genealogical Society, at least 43 veterans from this conflict are buried in McDonough County cemeteries. They likely arrived late and if they owned land, it was purchased rather than acquired through lands granted in the Military Tract.

Research did find that at least two soldiers were granted land in McDonough County. But they had sold it by 1819. They then bought land when they came to the county in 1848-49

*This short review of the War of 1812 and the impact it would have on McDonough County is just a beginning. We hope to write additional articles featuring specific events and people. Welcome to 2012 and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812!*

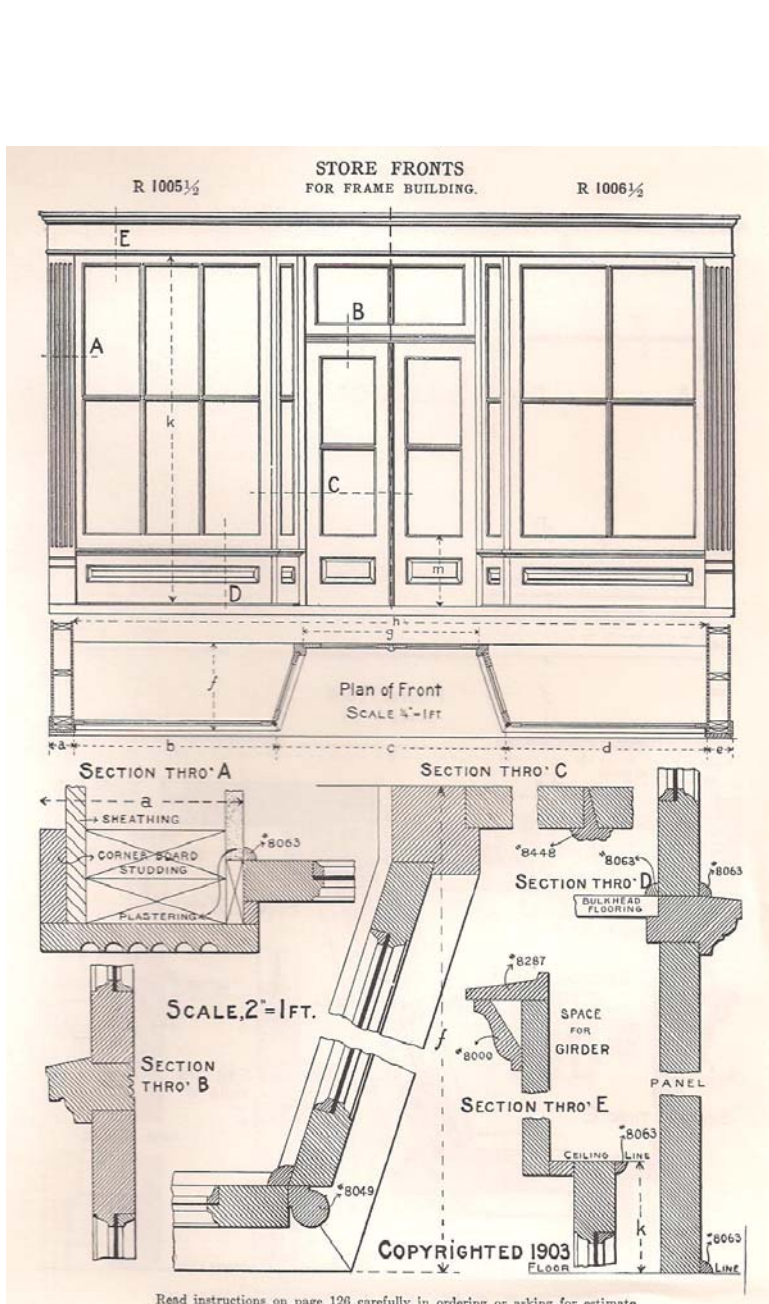
### Sources

- McDonough County Genealogical Society, list of War of 1812 Veterans Buried in McDonough County.
- War of 1812 Bounty Lands in Illinois*, House Document 262, 26<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, 1840.
- Garraty, John, *The American Nation: A History of the United States*, New York: Harper and Row, 1966.
- McDonough County Deed Records,
- McDonough County Census Records 1830 and 1840.

# Anatomy of a Store Front by E.L. Roberts & Company

When E.L. Roberts & Co. — a Chicago-based wholesale manufacturer of architectural woodwork — issued a catalog of its millwork products in 1903, the firm boasted that the publication included “more novel and useful features ... than any sash and door catalogue yet published,” and that it was a book designed to satisfy “critical buyers who demand stylish and tasteful goods.”

The 1903 catalog included several store fronts that could simply be ordered by selecting the catalog order number. Below is an example of their catalog page.



**STORE FRONTS.**

For the convenience of our customers we have prepared the entirely new and practical designs shown on pages 127 to 130, drawn to a scale with large scale details. These drawings show ordinary proportions and the construction of the fronts in all their parts. They will be found of great convenience in ordering, and erecting the work at the building. In ordering or asking for estimate always furnish the following information:

- FIRST—With or without glass.
- SECOND—If glass is wanted state whether plate or double strength.
- THIRD—With or without recess for doors and side lights.
- FOURTH—For frame or brick building.
- FIFTH—State if sash, doors, transoms and panels only are wanted or the front complete except bulkheading. The bulkheading is made of flooring, which every dealer carries in stock, and we never include same unless so instructed.

**MEASUREMENTS REQUIRED.**

Give all measurements indicated by the following letters, shown on small scale plan and elevation. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. K. M.

Some of these letters are also used in the larger details, to indicate the same parts more clearly. By closely following above suggestions much time and trouble will be saved all parties concerned.



**MCHPS architectural watch list:**

Klienkopf Barn Colchester, IL (at risk)



Ford Hopkins Neon Drugs Sign Macomb (at risk)



Purdum Electric Macomb Billboard (restoration needed)

Macomb Maidrite Sandwich Shop (at risk)



# 30th Anniversary of the Bailey House Restoration

## A Tribute To Charlie Miller

### Heritage Day Celebration at the Old Bailey House

A 30th anniversary celebration is planned on Saturday afternoon, June 23, 2012 to celebrate the beginning of the Old Bailey House as we know it today.

When the building was accepted by the Society an enormous task was faced by only a few. The entire second floor walls and interior had been removed. The attic was nothing more than ceiling joists and plank boards. The first floor was in fair condition, but due to the fact the house had not been occupied for such an extended period, plaster ceilings and walls had deteriorated to a poor state. The entire plumbing, electrical and heating systems had to be replaced.

The exterior problems were of equal concern. The roof was in need of repair, chimneys were missing, metal ridge rows were rusted, two porches were missing, storm windows gone, and the iron hitching fence had been removed. With the aid of private funds and the Building Trades classes of West Central Illinois Vocational Center under the direction of **Mr. Lloyd "Charlie" Miller**, and many hours of volunteer help, the house has been brought to its present state.

Recognition to "Charlie" and all the trade students under his direction will be honored this summer for their dedicated service of preserving the Old Bailey House will be held during Heritage Days and the public is invited to help honor them for their contribution to the community .



### In search of the Bailey House Building Trades Students:

The McDonough County Historic Preservation Society is seeking contact information on the vocational school trade students that helped restore the Old Bailey House. Please contact Kent Slater by email at [kent.slater@comcast.net](mailto:kent.slater@comcast.net) with information on the whereabouts of the following students.

#### Macomb High School:

Ferlin Asher ('83-'84), Joe Aurelio ('83-'84), Rodney Chenowith ('83-'84), Kevin Dauvis, ('84-'85), Andy Garretson ('84-'85), James Goddard ('84-'86), Lonnie Haines ('85-'86), Peggy Hall ('84-'85), Rodney Jackson ('85-'86), Doug Kindhart ('84-'86), Mike Quesenbury ('84-'85), Richard Sealock ('84-'86), Brent Smith ('84-'86), Joel Syster ('84-'86).

#### Bushnell-Prairie City:

Anthony Chambers ('84-'86), James and/or Eugene Dildine ('83-'85), Harold Feikert ('84-'85), Bernard Helms ('84-'85), David Long ('83-'84), Richard Osborne ('85-'86), Terry Slater ('83-'85), Samuel Smith ('84-'85), Richard Spangler ('84-'85).

#### Colchester:

Kelly Flynn ('83-'85), Dennis Herman ('84-'86), Brad Jones ('84-'85).

#### Hamilton:

Sherman Brewer ('85-'86), Brian Jeffery ('85-'86).

#### Hancock Central:

Jeff Coker ('85-'86), Todd Hickenbottom ('85-'86), Garrett Schamberger ('85-'86).

#### Northwestern:

Matt Flynn ('85-'86), Gene Icenogle ('85-'86), Mark Markham ('84-'85), Tom Moore ('84-'85), Carl Ruebush ('85-'86).

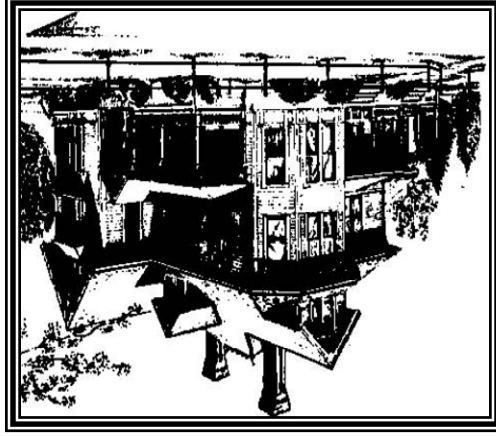
#### Plymouth:

Sam Inmon ('83-'84), Jeff Ussery ('84-'86).

#### Roseville:

Curtis Good ('83-'84)





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