

*McDonough County
Historic Preservation Society*

100 South Campbell Street • Macomb, Illinois 61455

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The Old Jacobs Home Under Restoration

310 North McArthur Street
 Built 1896-1897

By Allen R. Nemec



Preservation of historic structures is truly at the heart of the McDonough County Preservation Society. This home at 310 North McArthur Street is a great example of preservation as it has been transforming itself during the past year in the northwest quadrant.

This home was built by Mark F. Jacobs a carpenter and builder, for himself and wife of 38 years Mary. Mark was born in June of 1837 in Indiana and moved westward to Macomb by 1860. At age 23, and Mary age 27, they were living on the Macomb Square. They were both industrious as Mark was building fine structures, working with John H. Fuhr and Mary was in the millinery, notions and dress making profession at 6 NS Square in 1876. The Jacobs had two sons, Charles M. born 1865 and Walter born 1867. Charles eventually married and moved with his family to 326

W. Adams with his family before moving to California. He died in Los Angles on July 23, 1945.

The current home owner, Thomas Cokel has been transforming the building to its former glory. The siding has been restored, the third floor balcony replaced, a new roof was just installed and it has been beautifully landscaped. The brick sidewalk has been unearthed and the north side of the home is still a work in progress with old siding to be removed. We truly appreciate all the efforts in preserving this home for Macomb.

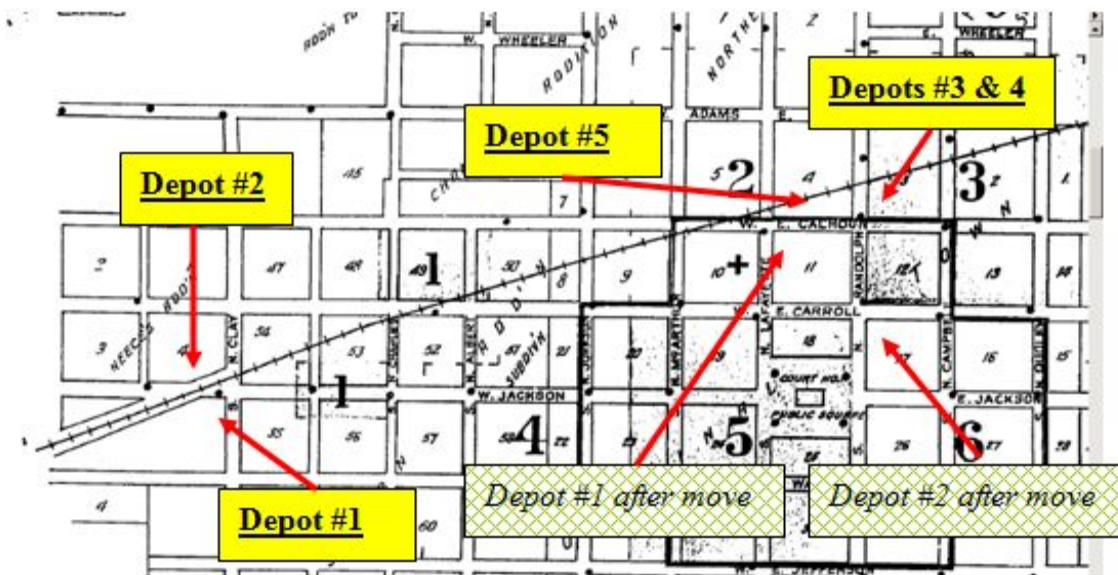


The History of Railroad Depots in Macomb

By Marty Fischer

Much confusion exists over the number, locations, and dispositions of Macomb's passenger depots. This is due in part to newspaper articles that were in error, and to the various county histories which covered only some of the depots. When our current depot was being built in 1913, the Macomb Journal wrote some articles that were in error. In response, the man that was Macomb's Depot Manager for the CB&Q for 20 years, Mr. E. F. Bradford, wrote a detailed editorial in the Macomb Daily Journal on August 20, 1913 page 4 in order to set the record straight. Most of the following information comes from that editorial.

Depot location map



Depot #1 The first depot was built by the Northern Cross Railroad in 1856 and was located south of the track's intersection with West Jackson Street a bit west of McDonalds. By the end of 1856 the Northern Cross Railroad was sold to the CB&Q. The depot was a long, wide building, accommodating under one roof the ticket and freight office, waiting room and freight room. It was 32'x48'. In 1869 the depot building was moved to the northwest corner of what is now Chandler Park by Fred Burt who needed a replacement for the original planing mill which burnt in 1868. He sold the business to W. O. Thomas in 1874. Thomas tore the building down in 1885 to make way for the newly created City Park, which was deeded to the city in 1883 by C. V. Chandler. This building may have been reassembled somewhere else, but no documentation has yet been found to confirm this possibility. The building had become the dedicated **freight** Depot in 1863 when a new dedicated **passenger** depot was built on the north side of the track.

Depot #2 As stated above, the need for a dedicated passenger depot separate from the freight depot resulted in a new passenger depot being built in 1863. It was located on the north side of the track's intersection with West Jackson Street just across the track from the first depot which remained as the freight depot. Depot #2 was sold in 1867 to John Gesler and moved to the southeast intersection of Randolph and Carroll Streets. It was used as a bakery and various businesses for many years before being torn down in 1891 to make way for a new brick building, which is the building that the Sound Garden was recently in. Like depot #1 we do not know if this building was then reassembled somewhere else or simply demolished.

Depot #3 In 1860, before the second depot was built, the citizens of Macomb had petitioned the CB&Q to relocate the passenger depot nearer to the heart of town, but to no avail until 1867. The CB&Q then built a new passenger depot (depot #3) on the east side of Randolph Street just south of the tracks. Depot #3 lasted until 1879 when fire burnt it to the ground. A new freight depot was also built in 1867 on the ground between Lafayette and Randolph Streets near to where our current passenger depot is now located. Keep in mind that Chandler Park did not exist at this time. The entire block was full of businesses and residences.

Depot #4 Built to immediately replace depot #3 which burnt in 1879, depot #4 was almost identical in size (22 x 60 feet) and shape but had minor differences in the exterior layout of doors and windows. This depot lasted until our current depot was built in 1913. Although the CB&Q tried to sell it via sealed bids, the bids were deemed too low, and the CB&Q had their track crew disassemble it and haul it away.

Depot #5 The CB&Q announced in 1913 that it would replace both the passenger and freight depots. The original plan for these depots was to keep the same general locations. After this announcement, the citizens of Macomb requested that the placement of both depots be reconsidered. Since Macomb now had beautiful Chandler Park sitting between Lafayette and Randolph Streets, the citizens wanted the new passenger depot to be located to the west of Randolph Street instead of to the east. In fact they wanted it pretty much centered in the block to match up with the center of their city park, and therefore give each side of the square an equal opportunity for patronage from the passengers. CB&Q agreed to this change. With the passenger depot going where the old freight depot was, thus requiring that the new freight depot be built somewhere else. The west side of Campbell Street became the freight depot's new location.



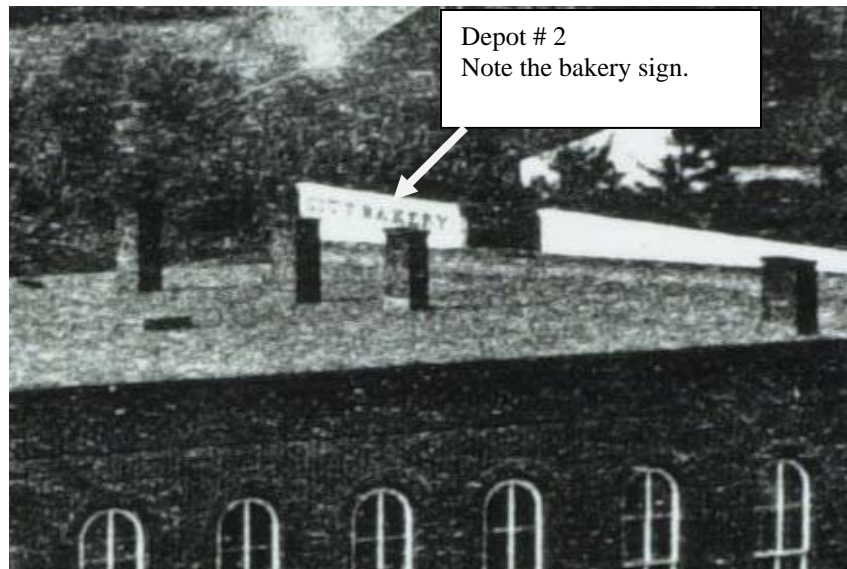
Photos of Macomb's Five Passenger Depots

Depot #1 as seen in 1873 after it's relocation to the SE corner of Lafayette and Calhoun Streets, then being used as a planing mill, (currently the NW corner of Chandler Park).



Cropped from WIU archives # 001208.JPG

Depot #2 as seen in 1873 photo (taken from the top of the courthouse) after it had been relocated to the SE corner of Randolph and Carroll Streets (where the Sound Garden used to be located). The building and roof in the foreground is the William Bailey Building currently occupied by Mid America Bank on the Northeast Side of the Square.



Depot # 2
Note the bakery sign.



Cropped from WIU archives #003078.JPG

Depot #3 as seen in 1873 (photo taken from top of the courthouse) sitting where it was built in 1867 east of Randolph Street which was east across Randolph Street from our current depot. This depot burnt in 1879.

Depot #4 as seen from the top of the water tower which was located in the NW corner of Chandler Park. This depot was built in 1879 on the same footprint as depot #3 (east of Randolph Street), but with a slightly different arrangement of windows and doors.



Shot of west end taken at the turn of the century.
WIU archives #000015.JPG



Cropped from WIU archives #005174.JPG

Depot #5 as seen in 1915. This is our current depot, which was built in 1913. It sets between Lafayette and Randolph Streets just north of Chandler Park.



WIU archives #000450.JPG

Data compiled by Marty Fischer in 2010

History of McDonough County 1885 pages 1105-1107
Macomb Journal: March 12, 1885 page 5
Macomb Journal: August 21, 1913 page 4
Macomb Journal: June 20, 1913 P4
Macomb Journal: August 20, 1913 P4
Macomb Journal: August 26, 1913 P4
Macomb Journal: February 21 1868 P3
Macomb Journal: January 31. 1914 P5

McDonough County Historic Preservation Memorials
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Remembering the Past by Preservation for the Future.

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