

NOMINATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

PHILEMON LIBBY MITCHELL HOUSE

1131 Second Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

(Currently known as the Nicholson Funeral Home)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot 10, Block 6, Old Town, Rock Island, Illinois, Northwest one quarter (1/4) of Section Thirty-five (35), Township Eighteen (18) North, Range Two (2) West of the Fourth (4th) Principal Meridian.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

- (2) Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history.
- (3) Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural and / or landscape type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction and / or use of indigenous materials and which retains a high degree of integrity.
- (5) Identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community owing to its unique location or physical characteristics.

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HISTORY OF PROPERTY

After the treaty between the United States government and Chief Black Hawk was signed on 21 September 1832, transferring all remaining Sauk and Mesquakie land on both sides of the Mississippi River to the government, white colonization began to intensify. A small village called Farnsworth on the Illinois side was established in 1833. It became part of the new town of Stephenson in 1835 when Rock Island County purchased land for a county seat. The community had a newspaper and 600 inhabitants by 1839.

William H. Smith and his wife, Ellen, of St. Louis purchased Lots 1 and 10 in Block 6 of Stephenson on 11 January 1837. The county commissioners, John S. Miller, John W. Spencer and Lucius Wells, received \$255.00 for the land. Stephenson was renamed Rock Island in 1841

The lots changed hands on 18 June 1847 when the deed was given to Napoleon Bonaparte Buford and his wife, Sarah Ann, for \$300.00. Napoleon Buford was a son of Colonel John Buford, who settled in Rock Island in 1838. His store on the levee was the town's first. N. B. Buford expanded the business to include a pork packing plant and later opened an iron foundry located at what is now First Street and Sixteenth Avenue.

The Rock Island City Directory of 1856 gives a list of streets running south from the river and west of Eagle (Seventeenth Street) as Buffalo, Elk, Deer, Beaver and Otter (Twelfth Street). Running parallel with the river, from east to west, are Water, Illinois (Second Avenue), Orleans, and Rock River. This directory locates the house of Philemon Libby Mitchell at west Eagle corner of Illinois - now Seventeenth Street and Second Avenue.

On 8 January 1857, a deed for only Lot 10, Block 6 on the town plat of Stephenson, now Rock Island, described as the northwest one quarter of Section Thirty - five, Township Eighteen North, Range 2 West of the Principal Meridian, was granted to Philemon L. Mitchell for \$2500.00 by the Bufords.

There are listings for P. L. Mitchell and Mitchell & Cable Bankers in the 1858/1859 city directory for Rock Island. Mitchell's house at the corner of Otter and Illinois (Twelfth Street and Second Avenue) and the firm located at northeast corner of Illinois and Eagle Streets (Second Avenue and Seventeenth Street).

In the city directory of 1876, the address of P. L. Mitchell was given as 114 West Illinois (Twelfth Street) and the banking firm was at the Mitchell and Lynde Block on Illinois between east and west Eagle Streets. The address of 1131 Second Avenue is first shown in the city directory of 1878/1881. Mitchell & Lynde are listed as general bankers and established in 1856.

HISTORY OF PROPERTY (Continued)

In 1847, the two lots, Numbers 1 and 10, were sold for \$300.00. When P. L. Mitchell purchased only Lot 10 in 1857 for \$2500.00, it is reasonable to assume there was a structure on the parcel. The city directory indicates P. L. Mitchell was living at the corner of Twelfth Street and Second Avenue in 1858. A photograph identified as being from 1867 "when the house was ten years old" was published in the Rock Island Argus in 1941. It can reasonably be stated that the structure at 1131 Second Avenue was built between 1856 and 1858. The architect and builder are unknown.

Prior to the death of P. L. Mitchell in 1895, his daughter, Mary Hall Mitchell Wadsworth and her husband, Henry T. Wadsworth, lived at 1131 Second Avenue with Mr. Mitchell. In the 1882 city directory she is listed at the residence as a widow. Mr. Wadsworth died in 1872.

Henry T. Wadsworth and his brother, William C. Wadsworth owned Wadsworth & Company. They were "Dealers in Fancy and Simple Dry Goods, Carpets, Oil-Cloths, Mattings, Rugs, Etc., Etc." and located on the north side of Illinois Street (Second Avenue) near Buffalo Street (Sixteenth Street).

The property remained in the Mitchell family until a warranty deed was given to Arzo M. Record by Mary Hall Mitchell Wadsworth for consideration of \$1.00 on 8 October 1917. In turn, on the same date, Mrs. Wadsworth held a mortgage for \$5,500.00 from A. M. Record.

Arzo Record lived at the house until his death on 6 May 1922. His daughter, Blanche B., who became an osteopath, continued to live there with her sister, Nellie Wise, until 1961.

On 31 January 1961, Blanche B. Record sold the property to George S. and Alysine S. Nicholson.

Mr. Nicholson died Sunday, 5 December 1982. He was the owner and founder of Nicholson Funeral Home. It was opened first in Davenport in 1948. The Rock Island branch was opened in 1957. The Rock Island establishment was originally at 914 Second Avenue, moving to 1131 Second Avenue in 1961. Mr. Nicholson was a licensed embalmer as well as a funeral director. Alysine Stuart Nicholson, his wife, was also licensed as a funeral director.

At death Mr. Nicholson was survived by his wife, two daughters, Dr. Wylmarie Sykes and Victoria Anders. Also surviving were six grandchildren, three sisters and seven brothers.

Alysine S. Nicholson on 17 August 1992 gave a Quit Claim deed to Wylmarie N. Sykes, et al. This is the latest transaction on Lot 10, Block 6, Old Town, Rock Island. Alysine Stuart Nicholson died May 7, 1994 in Maywood, Illinois at the age of 78.

Alysine's grandson, Tony Slaughter, and his wife Dianne, currently reside at the house and are continuing the funeral home business.

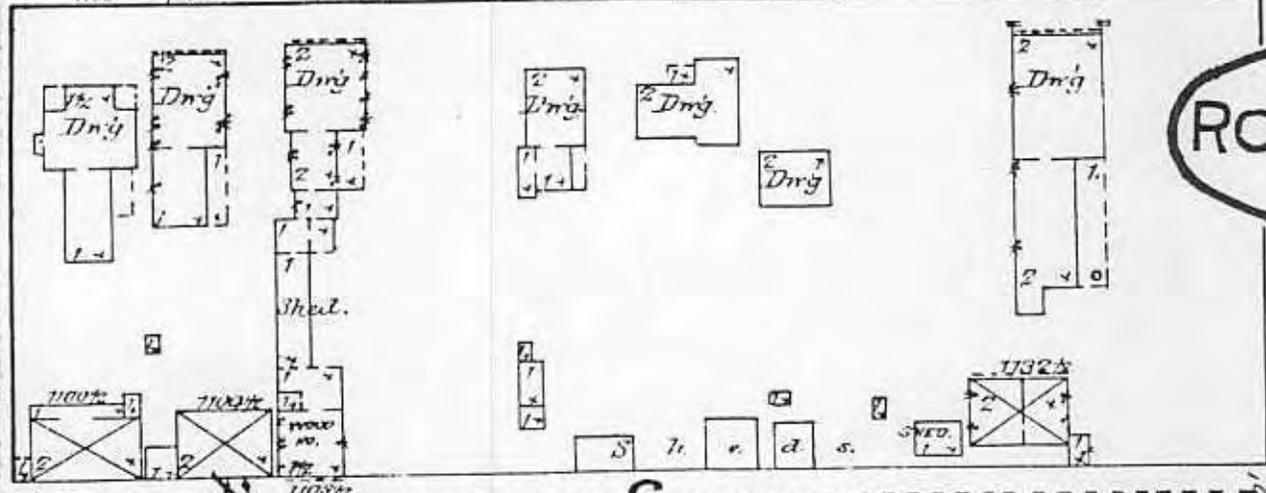
AV.

120' TO N.W.
200 TO S.W.

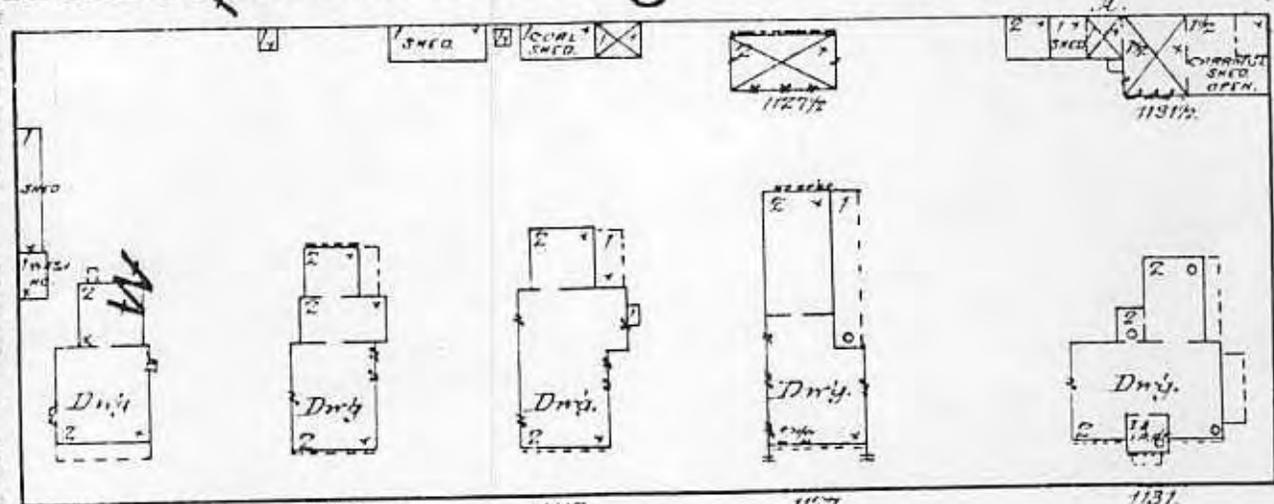
1101 1102 1108 1116 1120 1124 1132

50'

APR. 1886
ROCK ISLAND
ILL.



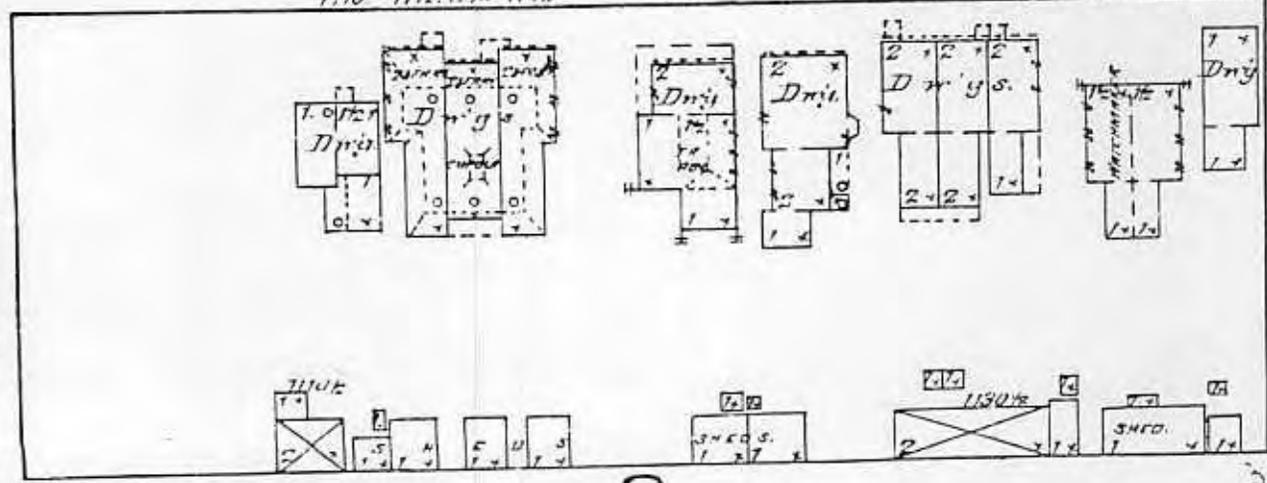
6



SECOND AVENUE

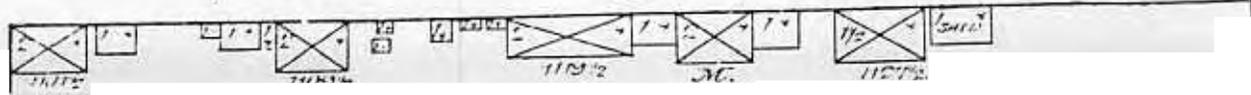
AV.

1110 1112 1114 1116 1120 1126 1128 1130 1132 1134 1136 1138



9

ST.



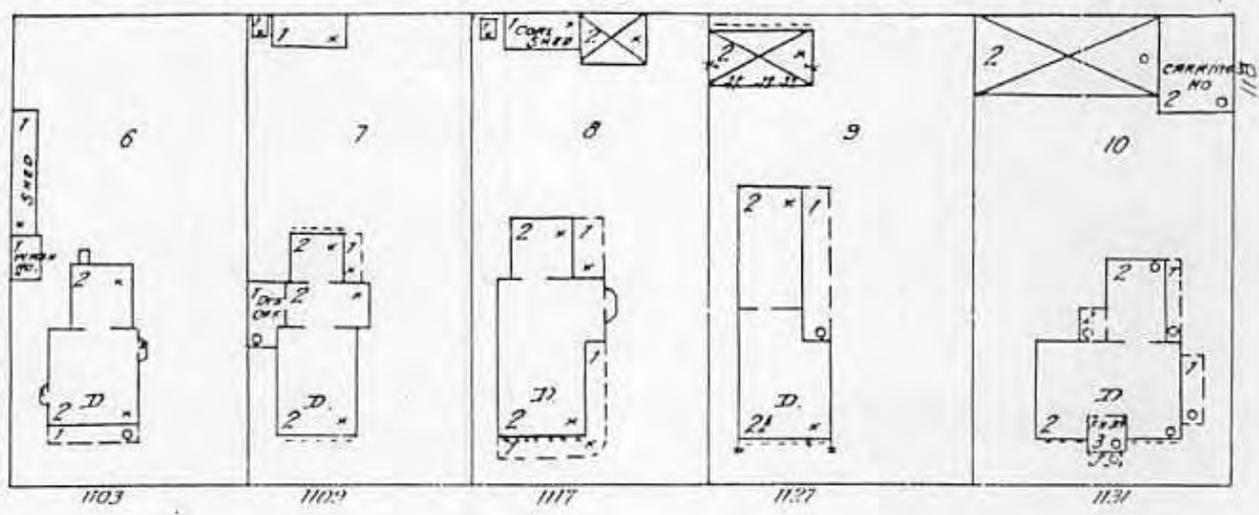
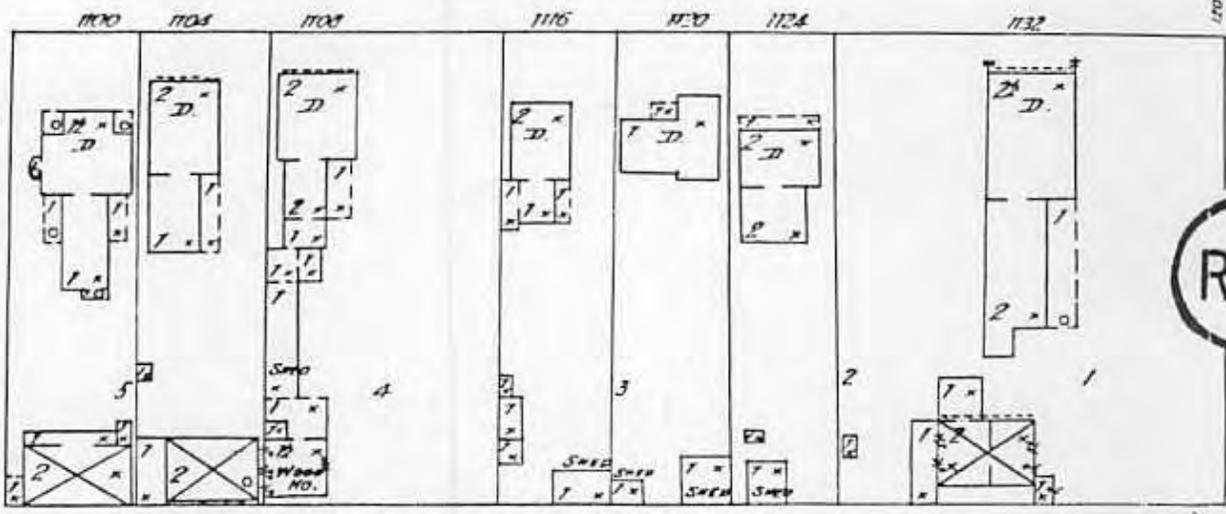
3

110' TRAIL TRAINS
END TO RIVER

80'

OCT. 1898.
ROCK ISLAND
ILL.

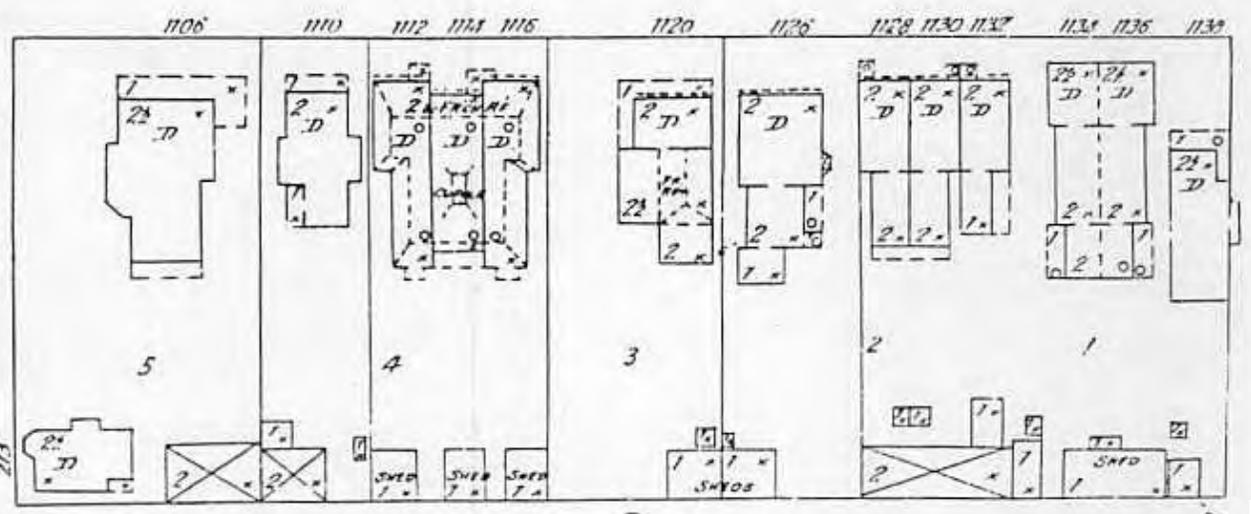
O.K.



AV. SECOND AVENUE

80'

(21)

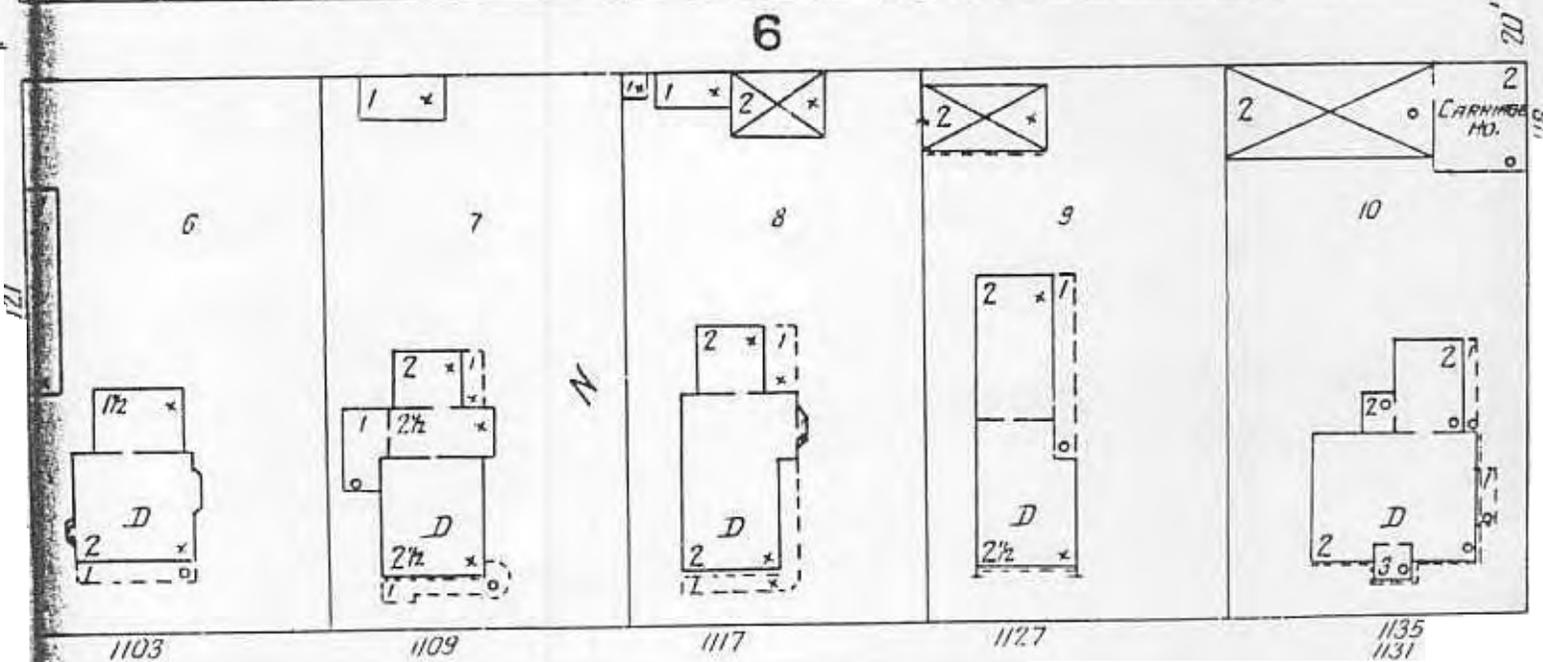
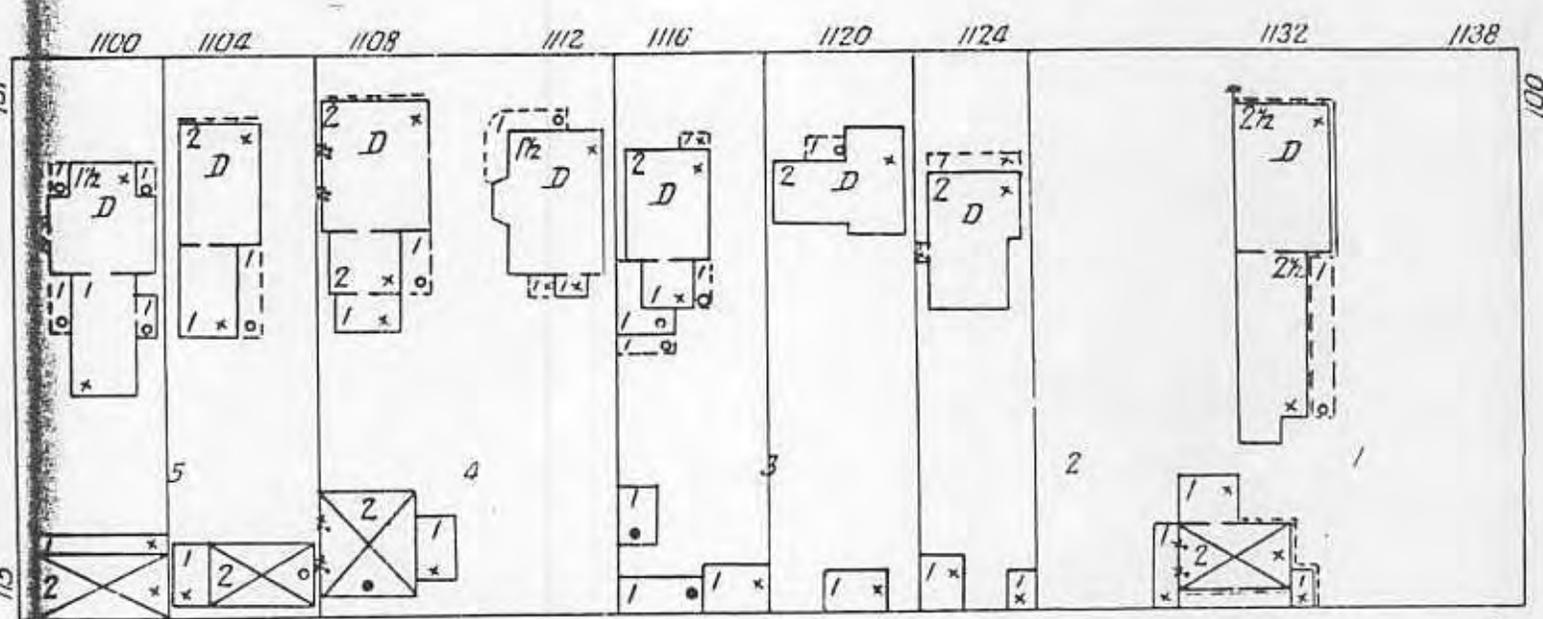


ST.

9

R. R. TRACKS BEYOND

1ST AV.



SECOND AVENUE

PHILEMON LIBBY MITCHELL

It was Wednesday, 23 January 1895 when P. L. Mitchell died at his home, 1131 Second Avenue. Heavy crepe was hung on the doors of the banking house he had founded to notify the community that his life had ended. The First National Bank of Rock Island bank paid final tribute by closing the day of the funeral. The funeral was held at his home.

Philemon Libby Mitchell had been born in Limington, Maine on 16 October 1812, the fifth of six children. His parents were Isaac and Martha Libby Mitchell. His mother, as a child, came from Ireland with her parents and his father was born in Maine. Isaac was a general merchant in Limington. Philemon left school and from the age of 13 to 16, he clerked in the post office and the country store. Then, for five years he worked as a clerk in a wholesale house in Exeter, New Hampshire. From New Hampshire he went to Georgetown, Kentucky, where he went into the mercantile business for himself. He continued this work until 1851 when he went into banking as a cashier at a branch of the Farmer's Bank of Kentucky. Every state in the Union recognized that a note from this bank was equal to gold. He resigned from the Farmer's Bank in 1856 and with Philander L. Cable came to Rock Island. They bought an existing banking firm and this was the beginning of Mitchell & Cable. Cornelius Lynde bought Cable's interest four years later. Thence, the establishment of Mitchell and Lynde.

It was reported that the Mitchell family freed their slaves when they left Kentucky, bringing along servants who elected to remain with them. One, a houseman named Jackson, was said to have painted and varnished the woodwork inside the Mitchell home.

The First National Bank of Rock Island, charter #108, "among the earliest of the national banks to be in operation in the United States", was organized in 1863 by Mr. Mitchell and P. L. Cable. The former served as president until the bank merged with the Mitchell & Lynde Bank in 1890. Mr. Mitchell was also "largely instrumental" in the organization of the Rock Island Savings Bank. The Rock Island Savings Bank was the first savings bank and also the first state bank to be organized in the county. Philemon Mitchell served as its president from its opening on 8 July 1890 to his death. His son, Phil Mitchell, joined his father at Mitchell & Lynde at the age of fifteen, becoming cashier of Mitchell & Lynde in 1873 and eventually handled the "active management of [the banks'] details" while Philemon closely supervised the affairs of the banks.

Philemon Mitchell was involved in a greater or lesser degree in many commercial and manufacturing companies in Rock Island. Among them were the Rock Island Plow Works (as president), Rock Island Buggy Company, and the Rock Island Children's Carriage Works. He organized the Rock Island Stove Company and the Rock Island Glass Works, both of which were later run by his son Phil. Philemon was also one of the chief stockholders in the Moline and Rock Island Horse Railway, later the Davenport and Rock Island Street Railway System. In addition he was one of the principal owners of Chippiannock Cemetery.

PHILEMON L. MITCHELL (Continued)

"Politically he was originally a Whig but he had been a Republican since the formation of that party." He never ran for public office.

Catherine Hall married Philemon Libby Mitchell on 11 October 1837 in Exeter, New Hampshire. She died on 4 October 1868 in a driving accident in Davenport.

They had five children, Mrs. W. C. Wadsworth (Annie M.), Mrs. Henry T. Wadsworth (Mary Hall), Mrs. Henry S. Fraser (Kate M.), Mrs. Charles Shaler (Laura M. who died in 1877) and Phil Mitchell.

Mary Hall Mitchell was born 4 August 1841 in Georgetown, Kentucky. She married Henry T. Wadsworth in 1865. Anne married Henry's brother W. C. Wadsworth. Kate married Henry S. Fraser and lived in Indianapolis, Indiana. Phil Mitchell was born 30 November 1846 in Kentucky. he married Ella Judd 24 October 1877. Mary Hall Wadsworth died on 28 December 1930. Anne died in 1919. Phil died 6 November 1928.



R. L. Mitchell



Philemon Mitchell
1860
1860 1895



Mitchell & Lynde
State Bank 190:

McCombs

Sale of Winter Goods Miss It!

daily, which cast a shadow further reduction on all of our to close out even at a loss. It's like a loss, and we will take our chance on Cloaks, Underwear, Children's and Men's Mitts and

Department. Here is where our pleasure to show you our

Mitts.

Men's heavy lined mitts, former price 25c, for the sale 20c.
Men's heavy lined mitts, former price 25c, for the sale 20c.
And so on all through our entire glove and mitt stock.

Hosiery.

Children's ribbed cotton hose warranted fast black, 3c a pair.
Ladies' wool hose, seamless, gray toes and heels, 15c a pair.

Domestic Special Bargains.

100 yards combed cotton for this sale 35c per yard.
100 yards Amoskeag ginghams for this sale 15c per yard.
100 yards Shaker flannel for this sale 35c per yard.
Sheeting, bleached two yards wide, for this sale 12 1/2c per yard.

Towels.

One case all linen glass towels, considered very cheap at 1c, for the sale 75c per yard.
25 dozen Huck towels, fringed ends, extra sizes and pure linen, for the sale 1c.
Five cotton glass towels at 25c per yard for the sale.

House Furnishing.

Read these prices, as they are much less than you ever saw them:

- TEA KETTLES.**
No. 7 granite top, competitors' price, \$1.50; our price, 95c.
No. 8 granite top, competitors' price, \$1.75; our price, 95c.
No. 9 nickel-plated, competitors' price, \$1.50; our price, 95c.

- PRESERVING KETTLES.**
2 quart granite top, competitors' price, 25c; our price, 15c.
3 quart granite top, competitors' price, 25c; our price, 22c.
4 quart granite top, competitors' price, 45c; our price, 35c.
5 quart granite top, competitors' price, 65c; our price, 45c.

- SAD IRONS.**
Mrs. Potts' sad irons, three irons, 1 and 2 and 3, worth \$1.25; our price, 50c.

- MISCELLANEOUS.**
Hair curlers 5c.
Towel rollers 5c.
Nickel-plated shoe polish, worth 10c; our price, 4c.
Shoe polish 4c.
The cups 1c.
Star wash, wringers \$1.40.
Turkey feather umbrellas 5c.
Ostrich picture du. fans 10c.
28 sat. at cost.
Japanese splashes 9c.
25 silver-plated skin slippers, worth 35c; 9c.
See one of our counters there is always something useful there.

Given Away.

LIFE'S WORK OVER.

P. L. Mitchell Passes into the Sleep Eternal.

DEATH CAME EARLY THIS MORNING.

Loss to the City of One of Its Foremost Citizens and Business Men—As a Financier He Ranked With the Oldest in the State—Biographical Sketch—The Last Illness—The Funeral Friday.

P. L. Mitchell passed away at 2:15 this morning at his home on Second avenue. While it had been realized for the past two days that the well-known citizen was very low, and that he was sinking all day yesterday, there was a lingering hope in the community that his vigorous constitution would, notwithstanding his advanced years, yet assert itself, and that he might be spared for many more years of usefulness. The appearance, however, this morning of the heavy crape on the door of the banking house, which he founded and which bore his name, conveyed the sad tidings that this night had brought the dreaded summons.

Mr. Mitchell's death was due to an acute attack of the grippe with which he was stricken about two weeks ago, and while he rallied somewhat, complications set in, which, while conquered by medical skill, the original malady left the patient so prostrated that he was unable to regain his strength. He became unconscious yesterday, as stated last evening, and he sank peacefully until death occurred. Softly as falls the dew from heaven at the close of the busy day the end came, the loving watchers beside the sick bed scarcely knowing the exact moment that the spirit had departed, and that

Life's blessings all enjoyed,
Life's labors done,
Serenely to his rest he passed;
While the soul memories of his virtues yet
Linger like twilight hues when the bright sun
is set.

Biographical.
Philemon Libby Mitchell was born Oct. 15, 1812, at Linington, Maine. His boyhood days were spent in his native town until he was 13, after which for three years he clerked in a country store and postoffice. Then he went to Exeter, N. H., where for five years he was employed as a clerk in a wholesale house. Thence he went to Georgetown, Ky., and engaged in mercantile pursuits until 1851, when he became cashier of the branch there of the Farmers' bank of Kentucky. He served in that capacity until 1856, when he resigned and moved to Rock Island, and with P. L. Cable founded the bank of Mitchell & Cable. Four years later Mr. Cable sold his interest to Cornelius Lynde and the firm of Mitchell & Lynde was established. During that period, in 1863, he was one of the organizers of the First National bank, of which he was president until it was merged with the Mitchell & Lynde bank in 1890.

NOT A CASE OF FOUL PLAY

The Hendrickson Woman's Child Dies of Congestion of the Brain.

Anything of a sensational nature in connection with the death of the Hendrickson woman's infant, was averted this morning when Drs. E. M. Sala and G. G. Craig, who were instructed to hold a post mortem examination on the body, reported to the jury, which was reticent yesterday afternoon about rendering a verdict until such an investigation was made, that the infant's death was caused by brain congestion.

The Woman's Suspicious Actions.
When the child, which was 4-weeks old, died yesterday morning, its mother hastened to Dr. Sala's office and asked for a death certificate, which was refused her, as the doctor had not attended the child, and consequently could not issue a certificate bearing the cause of death. She intimated that during her absence from the house the previous day, someone had given her babe something which she believed resulted in death. This aroused suspicion and the coroner was notified. Deputy Eckhart empaneled a jury—E. M. Cook, Fred Huber, Joel P. Bledsoe, Norman Pulley, Andrew Johnson and Thomas H. Flynn—and proceeded with an inquest, but, as stated, no definite cause of death could be given, and the jury adjourned to meet at Coroner Hawes' office at 9 o'clock this morning, pending the post mortem investigation.

The woman has made her home with Parley Hanson, at the corner of Fourteenth avenue and Forty-second street, since the death of her husband, according to her story, eight months ago.

BASE BALL TALK.

Rock Island Yet Helpful of Regaining Its Position—A New League.

Secretary McHugh has a letter from President Kent this morning, in which that gentleman states he is doing all in his power to arrange for a meeting in which to give Rock Island a hearing, with a probability of adjusting matters satisfactory to the local management. Mr. Kent favors a 10-club league. The unreserved sentiment prevailing here among all classes of people is, that while Mr. Kent is not able to control the league as regards this matter if he insists on a meeting of the clubs all will undoubtedly respond, when Rock Island's grievance will be submitted for a fair and impartial consideration, which is all that is asked.

A dispatch from Sioux City states that a proposition is on foot to reorganize the Western association with the readmission of Rock Island and Sioux City, and the dropping of two of the present clubs, but this probably not correct, as far as dropping any of the old clubs is concerned. A 10-club league would do.

CHANGED HANDS.

The Northern Trust Company Takes Paper Mill.

AN IMPORTANT TRANSACTION.

All of the Columbia Straw Paper Company's Plants go Over Under a Deed of Trust Involving \$1,000,000—The Property in Question.

J. R. Sheffield, representing the Northern Trust company of Chicago, arrived in the city this morning, and shortly after 9 o'clock took possession of the Columbia Straw Paper company's mill at Sears, serving the papers on Manager H. H. Graham, by which, under a deed of trust, the property passes into the hands of the Trust company. The same act was simultaneously performed in other places in the country today, where the Columbia Straw Paper company has mills, the entire property of which was transferred.

The Explanation.
When the Columbia company bought the Graham mill, at Sears, for \$98,000, two years ago, it bought 41 other mills, the Northern Trust company providing the \$1,000,000 capital required, for which first mortgage bonds were given. The two years' interest on those bonds became due today, and in default the action was taken.

The Northern Trust company will, Mr. Sheffield informed an Argus representative, retain all the employees of the straw company, and Manager Graham will continue in charge at Sears, and the mill remain there. The latter states that the transaction may prove a good thing for the mills, as the new company will have sufficient capital to operate, which the Columbia Straw Paper company had not.

A Damage Suit.

The arguments in the damage suit brought by August Sarsgood, in behalf of his son Frank, against Robert Blackwell, of Moline, were concluded in the circuit court yesterday afternoon. The case was tried before a jury composed of J. E. Larkin, Louis Cohn, Peter Schlemmer, Fred Hinton, James Ross, Charles Washburn, J. K. Dickson, Philip Dingledine, Swan Bjorklund, August Garhardt, John Johnson and J. H. Brown, which returned a verdict for the defendant this morning. Blackwell was represented by William Jackson while W. J. Entrikin was counsel for the plaintiff.

Mr. O'Hall Lectures.

at the Grand opera house, Davenport, Monday, 28 Jan. Offer Royal Highness Woman. He enjoys an international reputation, not only through his celebrated books, but also through the irresistible art and humor of his lectures. The lecture is under the auspices of the Library Association.

Mc

Coats, Ja

A few words of it know will interest you. We probably had to sell last week the known in this city, the year, except in the cloak season. You this is mid-January in disposing of nearly over goods an encourage us to go week. This time it newest, latest, the stylish coats. A 1 price. They were \$14. They were \$1 and some of them \$ they last remember only \$8.50 for your. They are trimme mink, astrachan, b. All fresh and new l all \$8.50. No bargain we h season approaches value. Cash, spot cash a coats. No charge aside.

We bicycles to arrive. It is a better other new show up.

1720.

Swell

given away when you have
to trade it all at one time.
purchases will count toward

Second Avenue.

RING SALE

Children's Shoes

this week.

- for \$1.00
- for 3.20
- for 2.80
- for 2.40
- for 2.00
- for 1.60

ne proportion. Our spring
ust have the room. Bring

ADAMS'

Now

**PAPER
T . . .**

aper Company,

314 Twentieth street.

three cities.

Interested in the Industries.
He has from time to time been in-
terested in many of Rock Island's
manufacturing and commercial in-
stitutions. He has had large hold-
ings in the Rock Island Plow works,
Rock Island Children's Carriage
works, Rock Island Buggy company,
Rock Island Stove company, Rock
Island Glass works, etc., and was
one of the chief stock holders in the
old original Moline & Rock Island
horse railway, now a part of the
Davenport & Rock Island street rail-
way system. He was one of the principal
owners of Chippanoek cemetery and
has given it much attention, taking
special pride in beautifying and
improving it.

Oldest Banker in the State.
Deceased was probably the oldest
banker in the state of Illinois, and the
bank which he assisted in forming was
one of the first in the state's history.
He was public spirited, and always
ready to help promote the city's in-
terests. He was rightly regarded as
one of the sound men of the com-
munity, and his capital and brains
have in many instances saved to the
city industries that would otherwise
have been lost.

He was a member of the Christian
church, and the church of that de-
nomination here has many times been
the recipient of his munificence,
the deed to the present church prop-
erty being one of his acts of liberality.
Politically, he was originally a whig,
but he had been a republican since the
formation of that party. He never
aspired to public office, being a busi-
ness man who applied himself
strictly and closely to business,
which was the secret of his great
success in life.

His Family.
Mr. Mitchell was united in mar-
riage at Exeter, N. H., Oct. 11, 1837,
with Miss Catherine Hall, who died
Oct. 4, 1868, meeting with a fatal ac-
cident while driving in Davenport.
There were five children, four of
whom survive, Mrs. W. C. Wads-
worth, of Davenport; Mrs. M. H.
Wadsworth and Phil Mitchell, of
Rock Island, and Mrs. H. S. Fraser,
of Indianapolis. Mrs. Capt. Shaler,
another daughter, died in 1877.

The Funeral.
The funeral will be held at 2
o'clock Friday afternoon from the
late home on Second avenue, but the
arrangements are yet incomplete.

The bank of Mitchell & Lynde will
suspend at 1 o'clock on the afternoon
of the final tribute.

Notice to Cash Purchasers!
Take advantage of Aug. E. Nilsson's
great cash offer and save 25 per cent
on the price of your groceries until
March 1, 1895. See large hand bills
or telephone No. 1231 for particulars.

A meeting of base ball enthusiasts,
with "Onion" Bill McCaull as um-
pire, was held at Poria yesterday,
and the Western Interstate league,
comprising the cities of Joliet,
Bloomington, Terre Haute and
Evansville, formed. It is reported
that an application from Rock Is-
land, among others, was rejected.
This is erroneous, as Rock Island has
applied for membership to no associ-
ation, hoping to recover its former
franchise in the Western association.

For the Nebraskans.
Rock Island donations to the west-
ern sufferers were packed in boxes
and barrels and shipped over the C.,
R. & Q., to Rev. L. P. Lundten, at Lin-
coln, Neb., yesterday. The groceries
and provisions pretty nearly filled a
car, which contained 16 sacks of flour,
three of homing, two of beans and
three of rice; two barrels of beans,
one of oat, one of coffee, one of
groceries, one of meal, two of salt
and 21 of clothing; one box of meat,
two of canned goods, two of provisions,
one of tea, one of meal and 11
of crackers. This is a good showing
of Rock Island's generosity, our busi-
ness men co-operating in the charita-
ble cause, and a carload of provisions
in a very short time was the re-
sult.

Rock Island camp, 29, M. W. A.,
will give an entertainment and dance
this evening in the armory building,
for the benefit of Nebraska neighbors
who, on account of the prevailing
condition of things in that section,
are unable to pay their dues and as-
essments, and the local camp hopes
to offer some relief by means of the
proceeds of this evening's affair. A
nice program has been arranged to
precede the dance.

The employees of the Rock Island
Stove company a week ago made a
purse among themselves of \$36, and
forwarded it to Nebraska.

In Older Times
people overlooked the importance of
permanently beneficial effects and
were satisfied with transient action,
but now that it is generally known
that Syrup of Figs will permanently
cure habitual constipation, well-in-
formed people will not buy other
laxatives, which act for a time, but
finally injure the system.

You Don't Have to Swear Off.
Says the St. Louis Journal of Agricul-
ture in an editorial about No-To-
Bac, the famous tobacco cure: "We
know of many cases cured by No-To-
Bac, one, a prominent St. Louis ar-
chitect, smoked and chewed for 20
years; two boxes cured him, so that
even the smell of tobacco makes him
sick." No-To-Bac sold and guaran-
teed by T. H. Thomas. No cure no
pay. Book free. Sterling Remedy
Co., New York or Chicago.

association. Fine articles are to and
50 cents. Reserved seat sale begins
at Harrison's pharmacy Friday even-
ing.



KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and
tends to personal enjoyment when
rightly used. The many who live bet-
ter than others and enjoy life more, with
less expenditure, by more promptly
adopting the world's best products to
the needs of physical being, will attest
the value to health of the pure liquid
laxative principles embraced in the
remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its presenting
in the form most acceptable and pleas-
ant to the taste, the refreshing and truly
beneficial properties of a perfect laxa-
tive; effectually cleansing the system,
dissolving colds, headaches and fevers
and permanently curing constipation.
It has given satisfaction to millions and
met with the approval of the medical
profession, because it acts on the Kid-
neys, Liver and Bowels without weak-
ening them and it is perfectly free from
every objectionable substance.

Syrup of Figs is for sale by all drug-
gists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is man-
ufactured by the California Fig Syrup
Co. only, whose name is printed on every
package, also the name, Syrup of Figs,
and being well informed, you will not
accept any substitute if offered.

Mrs. S. Smith,

FINE MILLINERY.

**Mourning Goods
A Specialty.**

1805 Second avenue.

ROCK ISLAND.

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Mrs. Mary Hall Wadsworth, Donor of Memorial Christian Church, Is Dead

Funeral Services Will Be Held Tuesday at 2 O'clock.

Mrs. Mary Hall Wadsworth, 89 years old, donor of the Memorial Christian church, Fifteenth street and Third avenue, Rock Island, died at 8:10 o'clock yesterday morning in her apartment in the Como hotel, where she had resided for the last 10 years. She had been in ill health for a number of years and her death was attributed to the infirmities of age.

Funds for the construction of the church building were given by Mrs. Wadsworth in commemoration of her father, the late Philemon L. Mitchell, one of its founders. Mr. Mitchell, a member of the firm of Mitchell and Lynde, pioneer Rock Island bankers, was one of several persons who organized the Memorial Christian church in 1868. He died in 1895. The church edifice cost approximately \$40,000, and was built in 1896.

Taught Sunday School.

For many years, until about 10 years ago, Mrs. Wadsworth was a Sunday school teacher in the church. She conducted the primary class and was active in many other church movements in addition to numerous charities. Ill health brought a halt in her church work.

She was the widow of the late

Henry T. Wadsworth, Rock Island dry goods merchant who died in 1872. For many years the couple resided at 1131 Second avenue. She was a sister of the late Phil Mitchell of Rock Island.

Funeral services will be held in the Memorial Christian church at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Rev. Austin J. Hollingsworth, pastor, and Dr. T. W. Grafton of Indianapolis, who was pastor of the congregation at the time of Mrs. Wadsworth's donation of the building, will officiate. Dr. Grafton is now dean of men at Butler university, Indianapolis.

Mrs. Wadsworth's relatives requested today that no flowers be sent. The burial rites at Chippannock cemetery, Rock Island, will be private. Pallbearers will be Ben J. Leon W., Robert C., and Frederick L. Mitchell of Rock Island, and Philemon M. Watson of Indianapolis, all nephews of Mrs. Wadsworth, and B. D. Connelly of Rock Island.

Born in Kentucky.

Mrs. Wadsworth was born in Georgetown, Ky., Aug. 4, 1841, and came to Rock Island with her parents and other members of the family in 1856. She was educated in Georgetown and Louisville, Ky.

She was married to Henry T. Wadsworth in 1865.

A sister, Mrs. Henry S. Fraser of Indianapolis is the only immediate relative surviving. Her brother, Phil Mitchell, died about two years ago.

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Will Go Further in a

Riverside Range

Than it Will in Any Other.

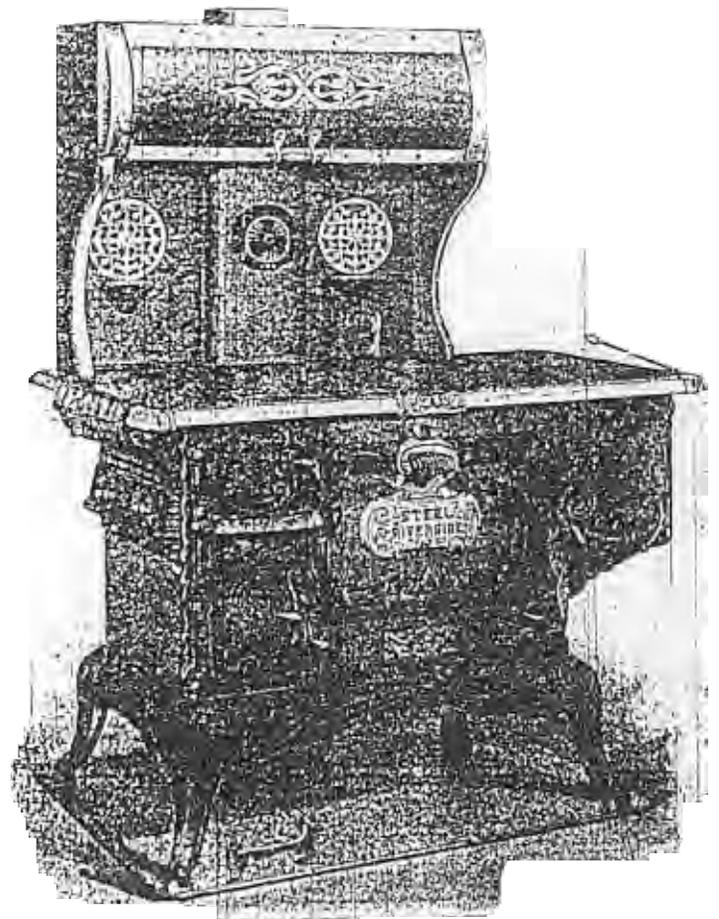
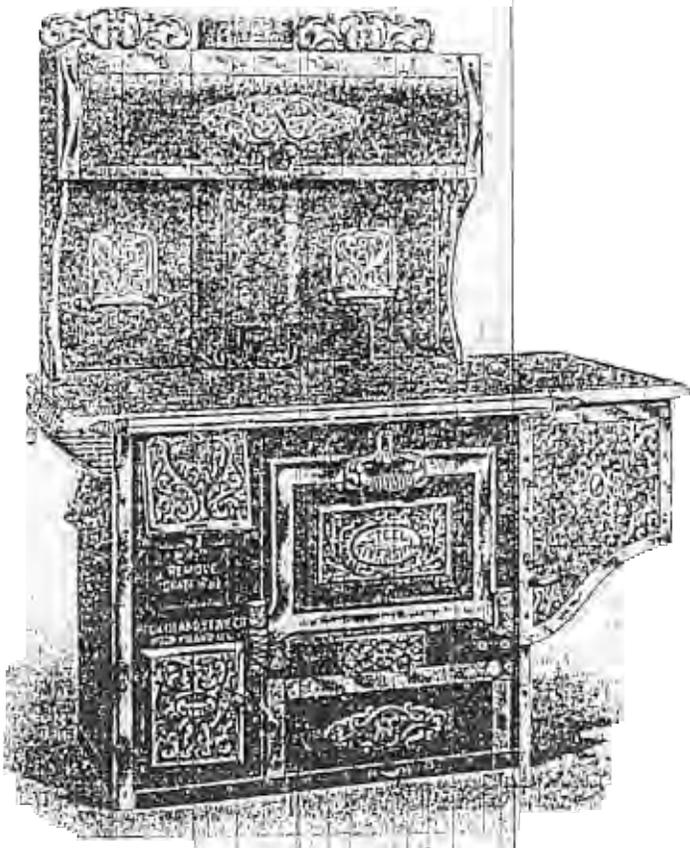
Riverside Ranges are Quick Bakers.

Riverside Heaters are Winter Gladders.

...Made Only By...

Rock Island Stove Co

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.



BANKING

In 1856 Cook, Sargent & Parker sold the banking house they had established in 1852 to Mitchell & Cable.

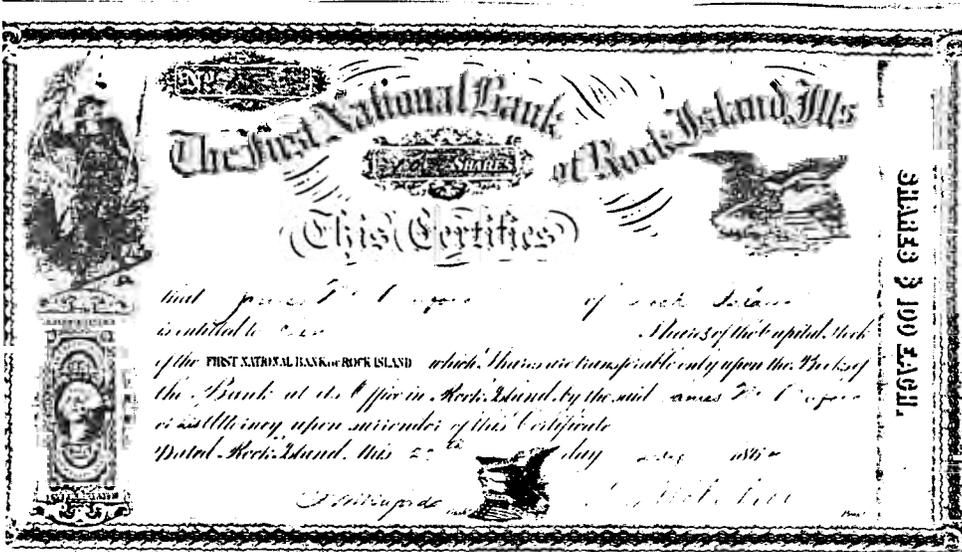
Mr. Mitchell and his partner, Mr. Cable, purchased the assets and the building of the Rock Island Bank in 1858. On 1 July of 1860 ownership of the bank was transferred to the partnership of Mitchell & Lynde.

When the Civil War began, P. L. Mitchell had a wide-ranging reputation for scrupulous integrity, acknowledged financial strength and business acumen. In 1861 Mitchell and Lynde bought the Rock Island Bank and its building, making their firm the only bank in the city until 1863. In 1885, Mitchell and Lynde were considered one of the strongest banking firms in the state. Judge Cornelius Lynde managed the firms and Mr. Mitchell gave his attention to the First National Bank, of which he was president..

The First National Bank of Rock Island was organized 3 November 1863 with capital of \$100,000.00 and individual deposits of \$186,176.00. Officers were: P. L. Mitchell, president; James M. Buford, cashier; Charles Mixter, collector; and directors P. L. Mitchell, George Mixter, Cornelius Lynde, John Warner and James M. Buford. The book keeper was Charles E. Hawley. The bank began business at the corner of Second Avenue and Sixteenth Street and continued there until 1876. It then moved to the northwest corner of Second Avenue and Eighteenth Street.

P. L. Mitchell's reputation led to his appointment by the New York banking institution of Jay, Cook & Company, the financial rock of America at the time, to act as their agent. In this capacity he placed over \$1,000,000.00 worth of United States Government Bonds. According to Historic Rock Island County, published in 1908, the million dollars in "today's financial world would be worth 25 to 50 times more."

In 1905 Mitchell & Lynde became the State Bank of Rock Island with Phil Mitchell as its first president, serving until his retirement in 1927.



Hence all men by these presents that
 I, J. M. Buford, Cashier of the
 First National Bank of Rock Island, do hereby
 certify that the above named person is
 entitled to the above shares of stock
 in the Capital Stock of the First National Bank of Rock Island, with power to negotiate the
 same in any manner he may see fit, and to do all necessary acts to accomplish that purpose.
 Witness my hand and seal of office this 27th day of July 1864.
 J. M. Buford, Cashier

First National Bank stock certificate issued July 27, 1864.



ESTABLISHED 1856.

BANKING HOUSE

OF

MITCHELL & LYNDE,

P. L. MITCHELL.

CORNELIUS LYNDE.

PHIL. MITCHELL.

Office, Mitchell & Lynde's Block, Illinois St.

General Banking and Exchange Business.

*Particular attention given to Collections. Deposits received
and Drafts issued on all the principal Cities
of Europe and America.* The Oldest Bank in the City. 

Established 1863.

First National Bank of Rock Island

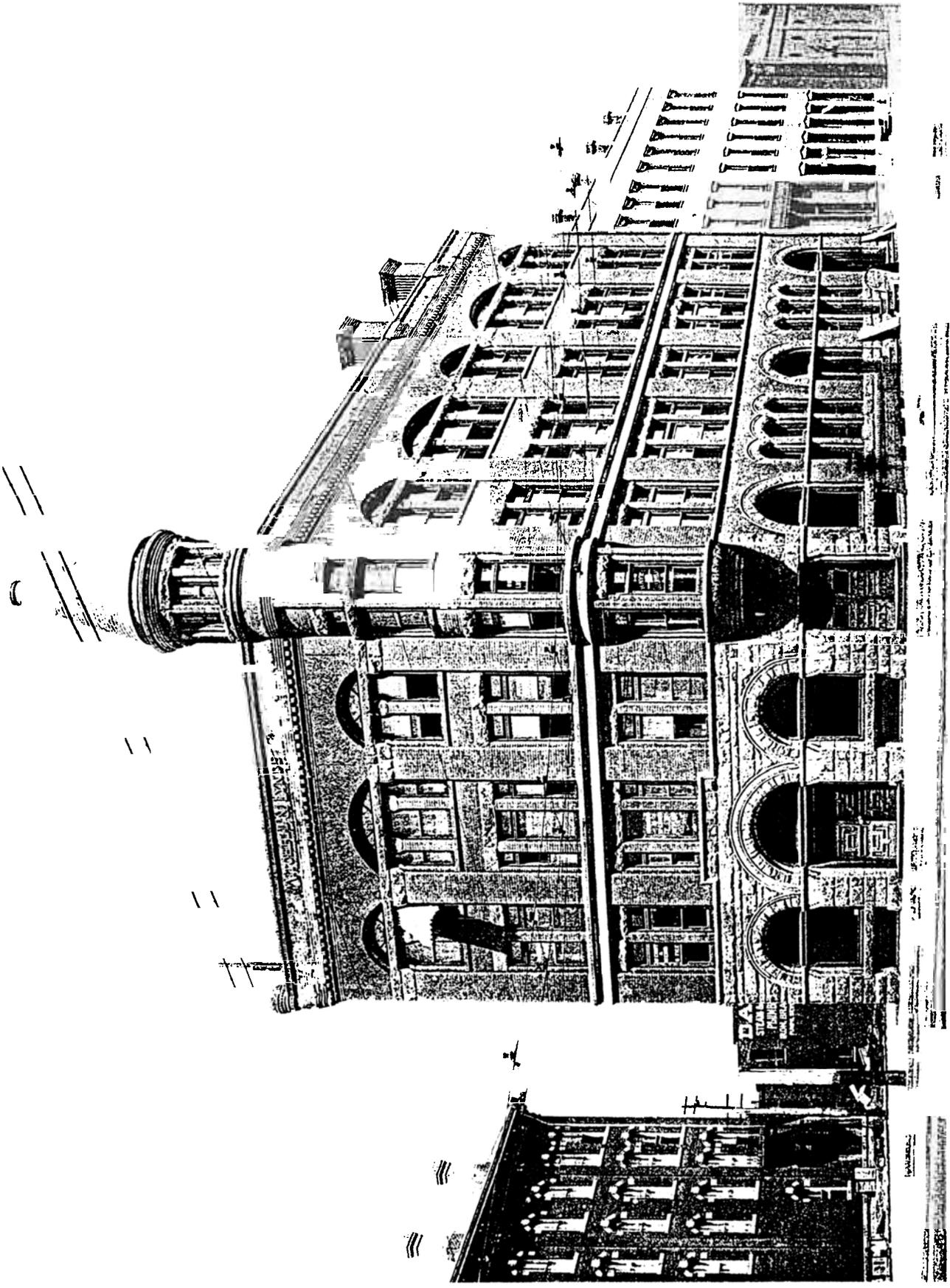
Designated Depository of the United States.

P. L. MITCHELL, Pres't. J. M. BUFORD, Cash'r.

Capital, \$100,000. Surplus Fund, \$35,000.

Deposits received payable on demand. Collections made and
promptly remitted for on day of payment. Foreign
and Domestic Exchange bought and sold.*Agency of the Cunard and National Lines of Ocean Steamers.*

1876



MITCHELL & LYNDE BUILDING—ROCK ISLAND.

Established 1856

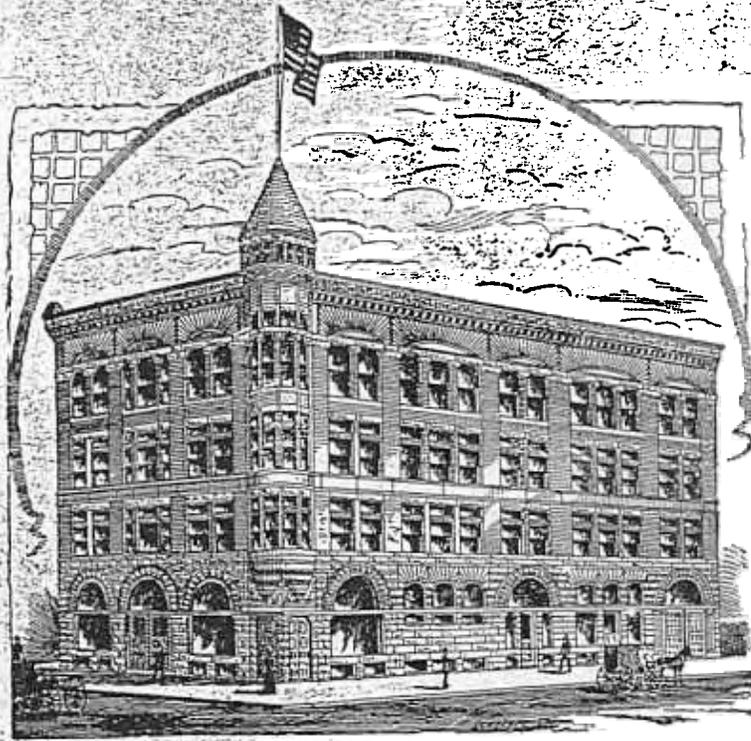
Successors to First National Bank, 1890

MITCHELL & LYNDE BANKERS

General Banking
Foreign Exchange

Rock Island, Illinois

Passage Tickets to and from Europe. Safety Deposits Boxes for Rent
OFFICE IN OUR BLOCK. SEE CUT BELOW



INCORPORATED UNDER THE STATE LAW

ROCK ISLAND SAVINGS BANK

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.

Open Daily from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m.
and Saturday Evenings from
7 to 8 o'clock.

Money Loaned on Personal C
ateral or Real Estate
Security.

INTEREST PAID ON DEPOSITS

I. M. BUFORD, Pres. H. P. HULL, Vice-Pres. P. GREENAWALT, Cash.

DIRECTORS

B. E. CABLE P. GREENAWALT W. H. DARI
PHIL MITCHELL H. P. HULL L. SIMON
JOHN VOLK E. W. HURST J. M. HURST

JACKSON & HURST, Solicitors

Office in Mitchell & Lynde's Block

905/1906

PHILANDER L. CABLE

When Philander L. Cable and Philemon L. Mitchell arrived in Rock Island in 1856 with their \$80,000.00, they purchased the banking house of Cook, Sargent & Parker which was located in the old Post Office Block at Seventeenth Street and Second Avenue.

The panic of 1857 hit banks in Rock Island County hard, reducing the four banks in the city to one bank, and those in the county to only two, Mitchell & Cable in Rock Island and Gould, Dimock & Co. in Moline. Mr. Cable and his partner, Mr. Mitchell, actually prospered during the panic of 1857 due to their astuteness and foresight. In the following years the Democratic party ruptured and the election of a Republican president followed by secession and a civil war was almost assured. Their assets were cautiously converted into gold.

After selling his interest in the Mitchell & Cable firm in 1860 to Cornelius Lynde, Mr. Cable's interests turned to coal mining, an industry which had begun to thrive in Rock Island County. The year 1863 saw Philander Cable as the sole owner of all the bonds for the Rock Island & Peoria Railroad as well as owner of the Coal Valley Mining Company. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, chartered in 1866, caught his interest as well. Shortly, he began buying stock in this railroad as well. He was a director of Canada Southern Railroad and became president of the company in 1876.

Philander Cable was known in Rock Island for his generosity. He gave Rock Island "one of the most complete waterworks to be found in the western country." And when construction stopped on Augustana College's Old Main because of lack of funds, he donated \$25,000.00 for completion of the structure.

In failing health after a crippling fall from his coach in Denver, Colorado, he retired to his residence in San Antonio, Texas. He died there on 22 May 1886 at the age of 68.

CORNELIUS LYNDE

Judge Lynde first came to Rock Island in 1844 from Vermont. He entered business at an early age as clerk and bookkeeper in his father's general store and afterwards employed by others in the same line of work. At the age of 16 he was elected clerk of the probate court in Lamoille County, Vermont. In Rock Island he clerked for some ten months for the firm of Ainsworth and Lynde, his uncle. He then returned to Vermont and after four years returned permanently to Rock Island.

In 1858, Mr. Lynde sold out to his partner and after keeping books for P. L. Cable for a short time bought Mr. Cable's interest in the Mitchell & Cable banking house. He was elected probate judge in 1857 and served the entire term. He was president of the Rock Island & Peoria Railroad, a director of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, and a stockholder in the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. He also had interests in the Rock Island Stove Company and the Rock Island Glass Works and served as treasurer for years on the board of education. He died at his residence on 6 September 1888.

CHIPPIANNOCK CEMETERY

The board of directors who served the voluntary association continued in office after the cemetery's charter was granted. P. L. Mitchell and Judge Cornelius Lynde were charter members of Chippiannock Cemetery Association since its inception in 1855. After the association was chartered, vacancies on the board were filled exclusively by the founders and their descendants. Philemon L. Mitchell was elected secretary in 1860, serving until his death, his son Phil Mitchell in 1895, Mrs. Mary Hall Wadsworth, his daughter, in 1906, Robert C. Mitchell, Leon W. Mitchell and Ardo W. Mitchell, grandsons, served respectively in 1928, 1929 and 1931. P. L. Mitchell served as secretary from 1860 to 1895. The executive management was given alternately to the president and to the secretary.

A small article in the 23 May 1855 edition of the Rock Islander noted the name of the new cemetery as Chippiannock, an Indian phrase meaning "city of the dead". The cemetery covered sixty-two acres located a mile and a half from the city. It was the intention of the cemetery company to spend at least \$6,000.00 to improve the grounds.

The Rock Island Argus of 12 September 1857 had a notice that plots were for sale in Chippiannock Cemetery of any size, 300 feet and upwards. Lots for single interments were also available. The cemetery was prepared to make removals from other grounds at reasonable rates to those purchasing lots.

P. L. Mitchell, secretary and treasurer of the association, reported that up to 1 December 1884, 752 lots had been sold and 3,479 interments had been registered. Over \$30,000.00 had been spent for the purchase and improvements.

Philemon Mitchell's obituary cites him as, "taking special pride in beautifying and improving" the cemetery. The cemetery association's tribute credited Mitchell with the cemetery's condition, "largely the result of his inspiration, enthusiasm and tireless devotion".

Chippiannock Cemetery.

This is the name of the new cemetery covering sixty-two acres, which is being laid out, a mile and a half from the city. The name is an Indian one, and means in the dialect of the Sacs and Foxes, "a village of the dead,"—a very appropriate name truly. It is the intention of the Cemetery Company to expend at least six thousand dollars in improving the Cemetery grounds.

To-Day's Advertisements.

EVERGREENS FOR SALE.

2000 THRIFTY PINE TREES, just the right age to remove, for sale cheap at the **CHIPPIANNOCK CEMETERY.**
M'ch 22, d2w.

864

The Public Health.

P. L. Mitchell, Esq., Secretary of Chippiannock (Rock Island) cemetery has prepared the following:

Official statement of the interments in our three cemeteries, Chippiannock, Catholic and Lutheran, for the years 1878, 1879, and 1880:

	1878	1879	1880
Chippiannock Cemetery.....	172	103	151
Deduct those brought here from abroad.....	20	9	18
	152	94	133
Catholic Cemetery.....	25	18	28
Lutheran Cemetery.....	20	19	21
	197	131	182

This embraces all the deaths except a few paupers whose numbers I have been unable to obtain. They would not materially affect the above figures. I find that the years given are a fair indication for twenty years preceding.

Assuming that the population tributary to the three cemeteries is 15,000, which is certainly a low estimate, as it embraces not only the city of Rock Island, but also a large portion of Black Hawk, Edgington, and Bowling Townships, and the Catholic Cemetery report embraces the territory for about twenty-five miles east, south and west, it is found that the mortality has never exceeded one and one-fourth per cent., and in 1879 it was less than one per cent.; while the statistics from other cities show a mortality ranging from one and six-tenths per cent. to three and seven-tenths per cent., to wit: Death rate in leading cities:—New York, 29.9; Brooklyn, 18.2; Philadelphia, 22.5; Chicago, 28; Boston, 20.3; St. Louis, 18; Cincinnati, 16.5; San Francisco, 19.4; New Orleans, 37.8; Cleveland, 18.3.

This interesting statement should serve as a hint to Mr. Entrikin, Secretary of Riverside Cemetery, to prepare a similar statement as to Moline.

A drive through Chippiannock shows that Mr. Shaughnessey, the very excellent superintendent, has not been idle during the summer. A new avenue has been constructed, the drains fixed up, the drives put in order, and a beautiful collection of flowers kept in bloom for the delight of visitors.

Quite a sensation was stirred up in Rock Island over the refusal of the keeper of the Chippiannock Cemetery to sell a lot to a colored man. Very much to the credit of Messrs. J. M. Buford, Mylo Lee, Ben Harper and others, who interested themselves in the matter, an order was immediately issued by the president of the cemetery association, directed to the sexton in charge of the grounds, instructing that official to sell, subject to the rules and regulations of the organization, all lots not contained within the reserved portion, whose sale requires the action of the board of directors, to anyone who can make the necessary payments therefor.

382

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church of Rock Island was organized on 23 March 1868. Among the small nucleus of fifteen founding members was Philemon L. Mitchell. The congregation first met in a small frame house on Twentieth Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Soon after the organization of the church the congregation began meeting at a hall in Mitchell & Lynde's Block on Seventeenth Street north of Second Avenue.

In October of 1870 Mr. Mitchell purchased and equipped the building located on the northeast corner of Third Avenue and Fifteenth Street - the now vacant former First Baptist Church - and also charged no rent. Mr. Mitchell erected a tower and made other modifications on the church before presenting it to the Christian congregation as a place of worship. By 1885 there were some 75 members. In 1891 the church was given clear title to the building. Before his death Philemon gave the congregation a deed for the forty foot lot adjoining the church on the north (the corner of Fifteenth Street and Second Avenue). In 1894 funds began to be raised for the building of a new, larger church.

At Philemon's death the church passed a resolution stating , "That in his departure this community loses one of the most respected and exemplary citizens and we, a Benefactor who was ever faithful to the Cause of Christ and to this Church...". According to the present pastor of the church, Reverend Kurt Johansen, " The church was Philemon's first love. Banking came a distant second."

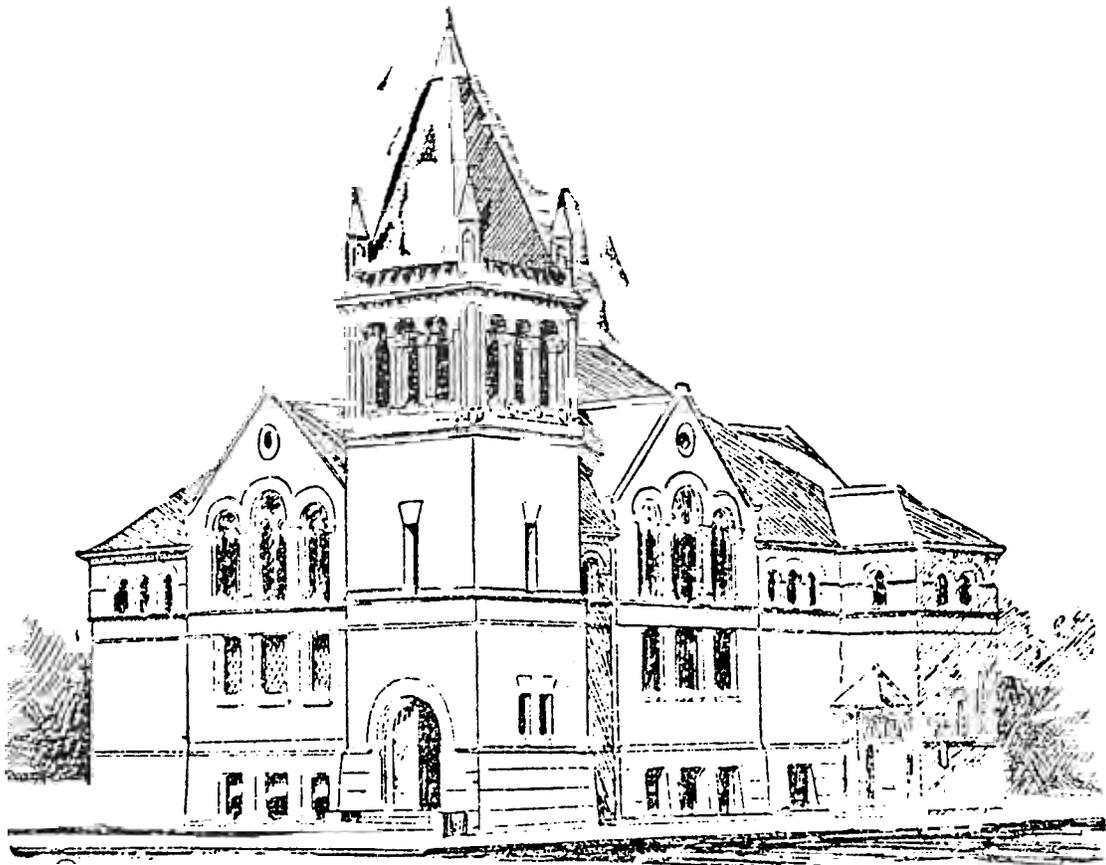
In April 1896 Mrs. Mary Hall Wadsworth donated the funds for a new church building in memory of her father, Philemon Mitchell. She would provide the cost of building the church if the church raised money for furnishing it and used the hall only for church functions. In recognition of her father's service and dedication to the congregation the church board renamed The Rock Island Christian Church the Memorial Christian Church of Rock Island. Architects Brainard and Holsman of Chicago designed the building. John Volk and Co. of Rock Island, built the church. The cornerstone was laid on 2 July 1896 and the building was completed in late December of the same year. Complete with furnishings, fixtures and landscaping the cost of the structure was estimated at about \$20,000. The sanctuary of the new church at 217 Fifteenth Street was officially dedicated on 3 January 1897.

Other members of Mitchell's family also donated furnishings for the new church. His son-in-law, W.H. Wadsworth, donated the pulpit, while his grandson, Will, donated a large hall lamp of artistic design for the main vestibule. The gallery which extends around three sides of the sanctuary was presented by his daughter Anna Wadsworth. His other daughter (Mrs H. S. Fraser) presented the church with an organ manufactured by the Kimball Company of Chicago.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Continued)

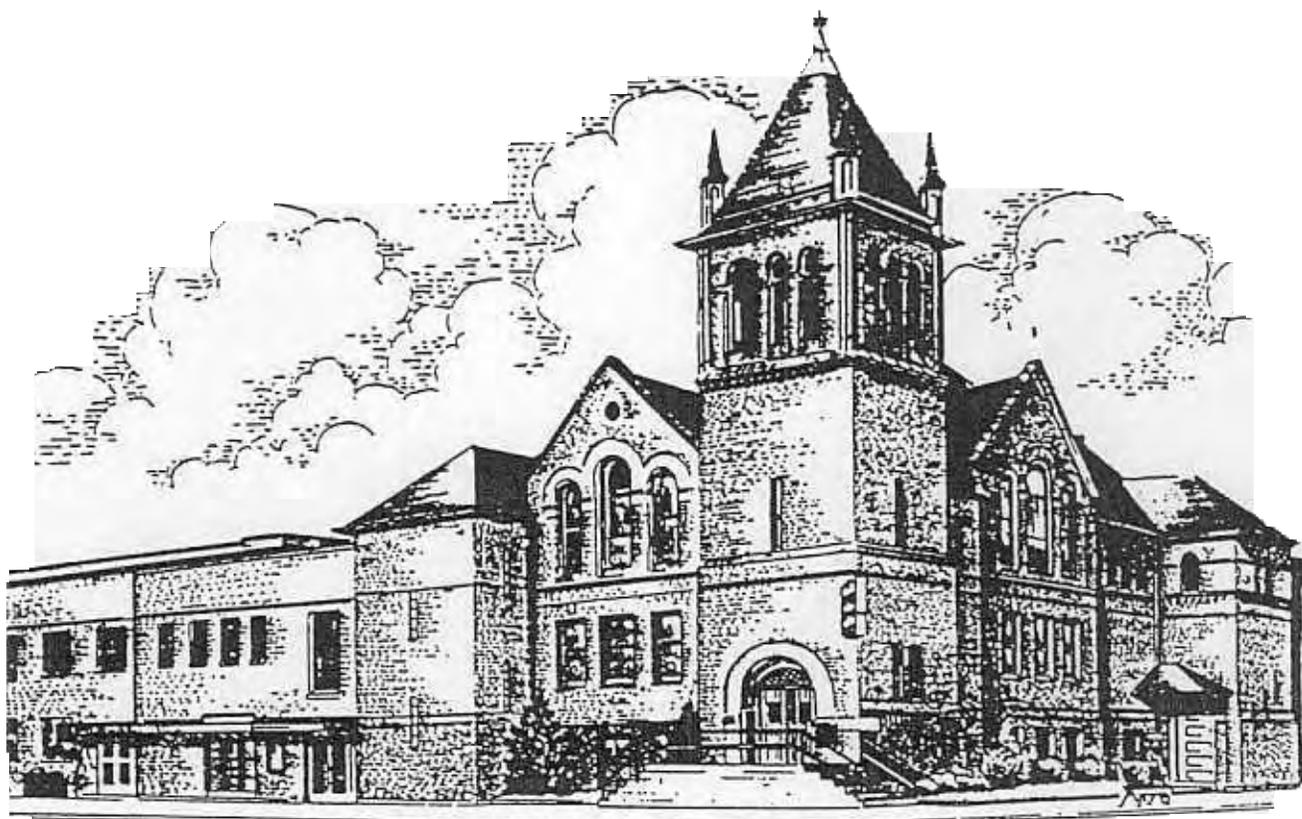
The Mitchell children together presented the church with a memorial window to their parents, Philemon and Catherine Hall Mitchell, which takes up a large part of the north wall of the sanctuary.

Mary Hall Wadsworth was herself very involved in the church. She was for many years Primary Superintendent of the Bible School, retiring in 1920 due to poor health. She died on 28 December 1930. On the east wall are memorial windows for Mary Hall Wadsworth (1841-1930) & Anne Wadsworth (1838-1919).



MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

902



MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

21 5th Street
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

P. L. Mitchell.

C. Lynde.

Phil. Mitchell.

Banking House of Mitchell & Lynde,

Rock Island, Ill. Dec 31 1892

To the Official Board
of the Christian Church

Dear Brethren

I paid for the Church

Sept 22/91 to Mitchell & Lynde	100-
Paving on 3 rd Ave. 1 st instalment	113.62
do " 15 th in full	268.75
There is now due Mitchell & L.	212.18
Total indebtedness	\$ 694.55

I will pay half of this amount
provided the balance can be
raised from unpaid subscriptions
and otherwise

Respy P. L. Mitchell

\$ 3.50

P. L. Mitchell, President
G. M. Buford, Cashier

Rock Island Ill. January 4 1895

To the Executive Board
of the Christian Church
Dear Brothers

I have examined the Books
of the Church for the year 1894, and find the
Additions all right. And the Books Committed
Kept. And I think the Thanks of the Church
are due to Bro Stocker for the labor he has
bestowed upon them.

Truly
Yours
P. L. Mitchell



Mrs. Mary Wadsworth, who gave the Memorial Church building to the Congregation and served faithfully through the years as a Primary Superintendent of the Bible School.

WCH

Official Board of Christian Church

Dear Brothers

May we extend our sincere thanks for your beautiful floral offering, also for many tender expressions of love and esteem and love for our dear Father - and heart felt sympathy for his entire family -

By their request

Your sorrowing Sister -

Mary W. Wadsworth

March 5th

1895-

POST OFFICE

It was announced on 1 August 1872 that the Post Office Department had accepted the proposition of Mitchell & Lynde for a new post office. The new building, on Eagle Street (Seventeenth) would adjoin the present post office. Plans called for some 500 new post boxes fitted with Yale patent locks and 1000 with glass fronts with "superior locks". The new rooms would be 40 by 80 feet. A fire proof vault with double iron doors, a special money order and registry department and a postmaster's room were also scheduled. The new structure was touted to have "everything in good style" and would be one of the "most spacious and convenient post offices in the country". The lease would be for ten years at \$1,000.00 per year. Mitchell & Lynde would be supplying all the fixtures at a cost of about \$4,000.00.



Mitchell & Lynde's Bank — Post Office Block

ARCHITECTURE

The Philemon L. Mitchell house is in the Italianate style of architecture popular between 1840 and 1885. The main characteristics of Italianate architecture are two or three story (single story is unusual); low pitched hipped (or sometimes gable) roof with widely overhanging eaves supported by large brackets; narrow windows, usually with decorative crowns or lintels; often a cupola or tower; and visually balanced facades.

This particular style almost controlled American houses built between 1850 and 1880, especially in the expanding towns and cities of the Midwest. It was also very popular on both coasts. The Italianate style and the related Second Empire style began to decline with the financial panic of 1873 and the following depression. Later in the decade when prosperity resumed, the Queen Anne style became prominent.

The brick for this structure came from the Atkinson Brickyard which was started by Christopher Atkinson in 1850. A native of England, he opened the six acre yard on the east side of Cemetery Road (Now Twelfth Street). Over six million bricks were made at this location where the clay surface was some thirteen feet deep. Some of the other Rock Island buildings built of bricks from the Atkinson yard are the Buford Block, Rock Island Plow Works and the residences of Ben Harper and Charles Cable.

The Mitchell house began as a simple rectangular plan Italianate house with a low pitched hipped roof with over hanging eaves supported by large brackets. There are five openings on the Mitchell house's front facade, rather than the more common three opening facades often found on Italianate structures. The windows are narrow with triangular pediments over them. Approximately one-third of Italianate houses fit this particular subtype. Originally there were four brick interior corbeled chimneys. The structure rests on a cut stone block foundation.

The square tower centered on the front facade of the Mitchell house is an architectural feature only occasionally found on Italianate structures.. About fifteen percent of Italianate structures have some sort of tower. It is more common for Italianate houses to have the tower placed where the wing joins the main section of an L-shaped house. The tower is not original to the house, but was added sometime between 1867 and 1886. The square tower is a feature of the Italian Villa style. The Mitchell house's tower has narrow paired windows with arched tops and vertical louvres below, but the tall cloister vault roof line is atypical, more characteristic of French Second Empire design, which was popular from 1860 to 1880, around the time the tower was added. The tower roof is supported by brackets which are similar to those on the main house.

ARCHITECTURE (continued)

The cornice line of the tower has been decorated with a quatrefoil design made by staggering three courses of the brick used. Areas between the modillions on the main building have been edged with moulding.

A photograph of the house identified as having been taken in when the house was ten years old (ca. 1867) shows a typical Italianate small entry porch of single story height in the center of the facade and two larger but similar porches on the east side at the north and south ends. The windows in this photograph appear to be two lights over two and not the one over one windows which are present now. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Rock Island, dated 1886, shows the three story tower. The double front entrance doors currently have single lights in the upper panels. This was probably done after the Nicholsons purchased the house in 1961. No lights are mentioned in the 1951 description of the entryway.

The west side of the structure has stucco over the brick. All the windows on that wall with the exception of one off center on the second story have been covered over or removed. The remaining window is missing most of its pedimented crown. There had been two chimneys on this elevation. The north one still exists but the south one has been removed at the roof line. This is the only side of the structure covered with stucco, the others are merely painted white. A photograph from a 1980 article shows the tower with paint only on the trim, not the main walls which were left unpainted.

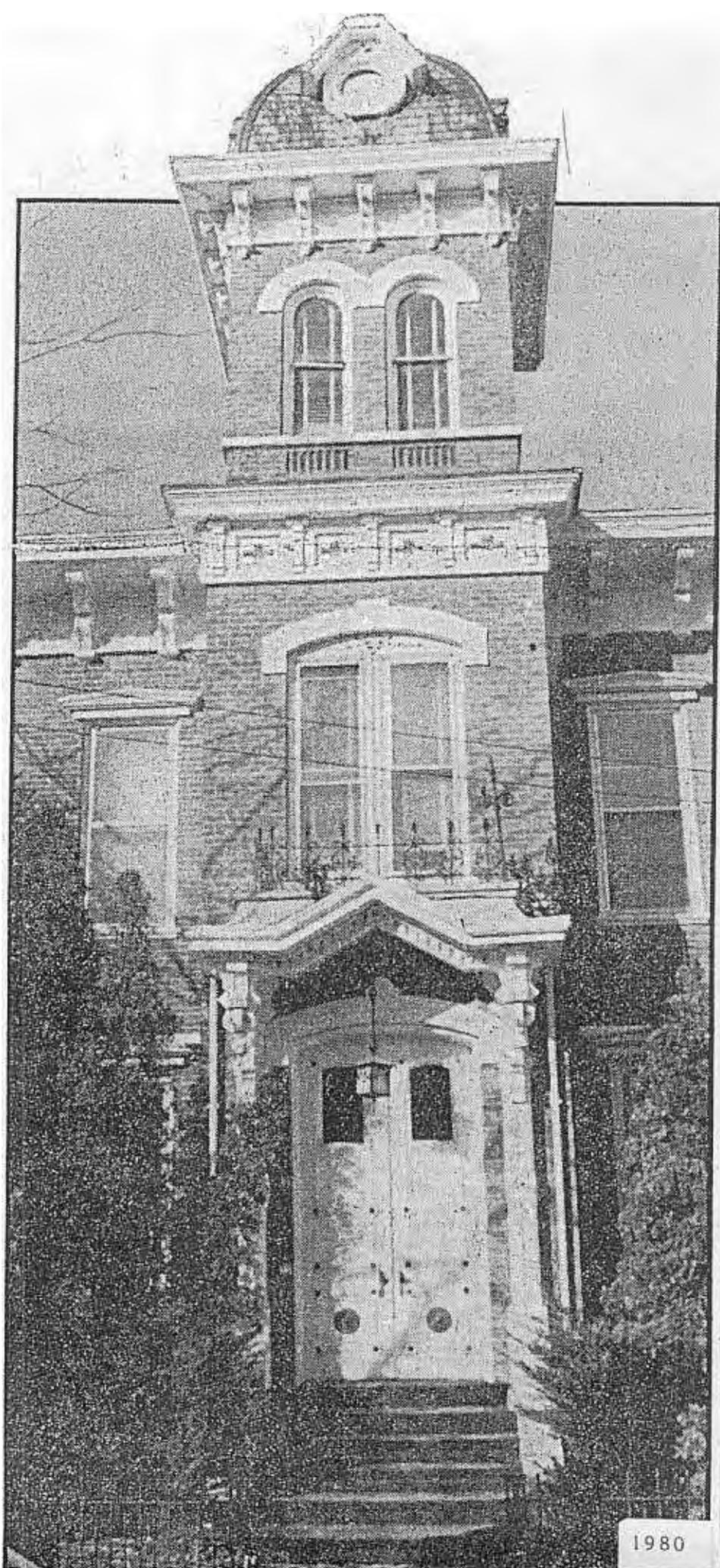
Because of a two story wood and brick addition to the building on the north side it is impossible to see what if any remains of the exterior wall. The addition adjoins the southeast porch, extending about two feet beyond, adjoining the carriage house. The small amount visible on the east side is brick, which has been painted white. The west side of the addition is red brick below and wood covered with vinyl or aluminum siding above. In the brick portion there are stained glass windows in wood frames. Adjacent to the addition on the southeast, resting on a concrete block foundation, is what we believe to be the original granary and / or carriage house which is shown as a story and a half on the Sanborn Map of 1886 and as two story on the maps for 1892, 1898 and 1906. The original outbuilding as shown on the Sanborn maps is located at the south edge of the alley which was taken, with most of the back yard, by the expressway in the 1960's. It appears that the carriage house was moved from the rear of the lot to its current position at that time. The walls of the structure are board and batten which extend above the roof line by over a foot on the south elevation. This side also has a decorative cornice line interrupted by vertical pieces of wood which have been shaped to extend above the roof. The north side has been covered over in aluminum siding, but the board and batten remains intact underneath.

The northeast side porch appears to be original. It is one story with square columns and part of the porch railing remaining. The southeast porch has been enclosed which makes it almost impossible to see what remains of the original. The roof balustrade, however, remains intact.

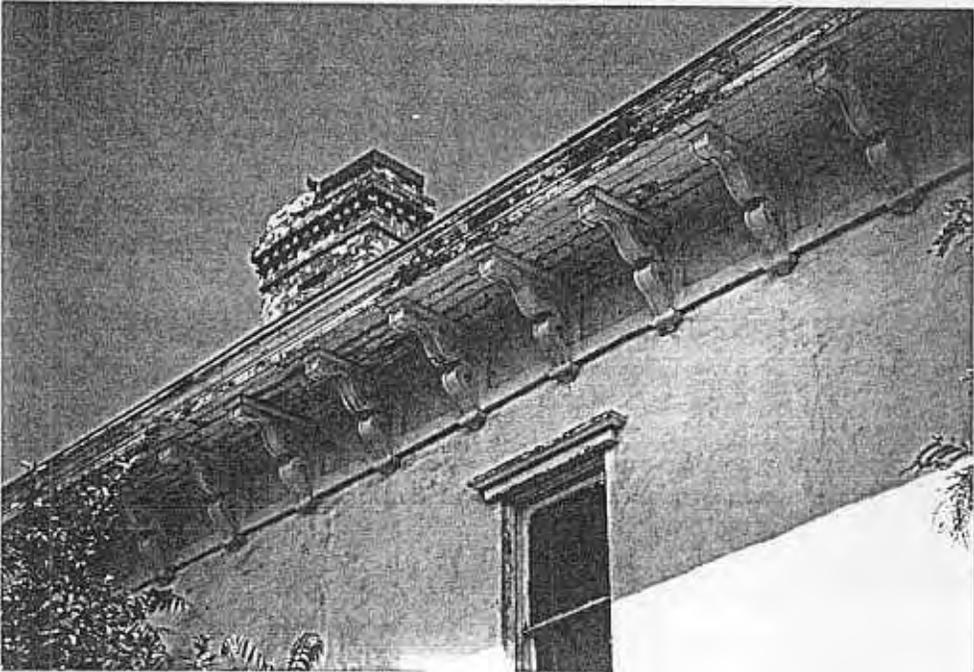
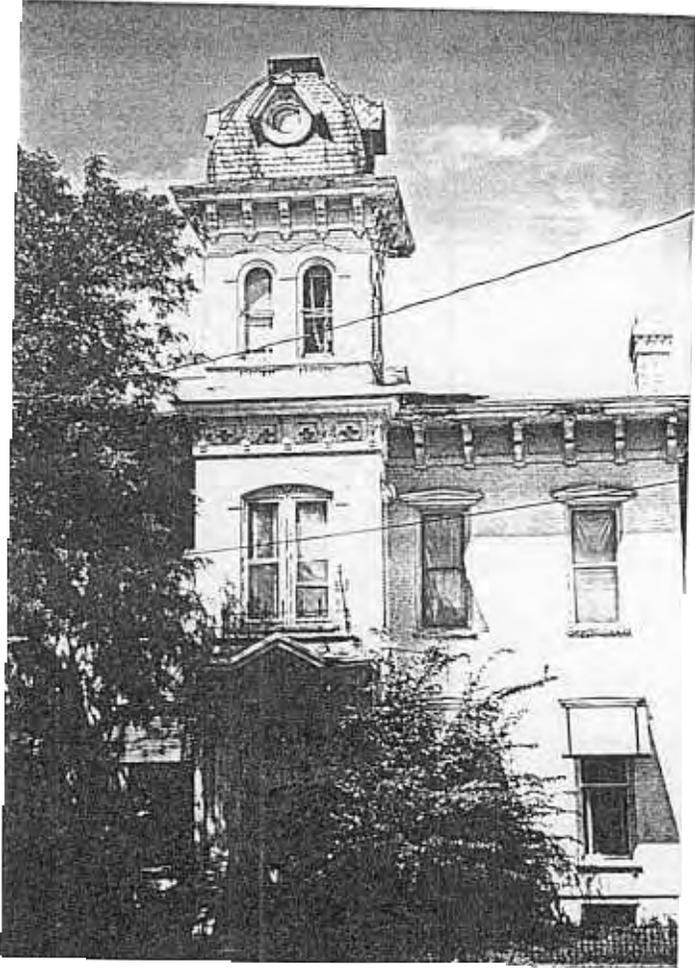
ARCHITECTURE (Continued)

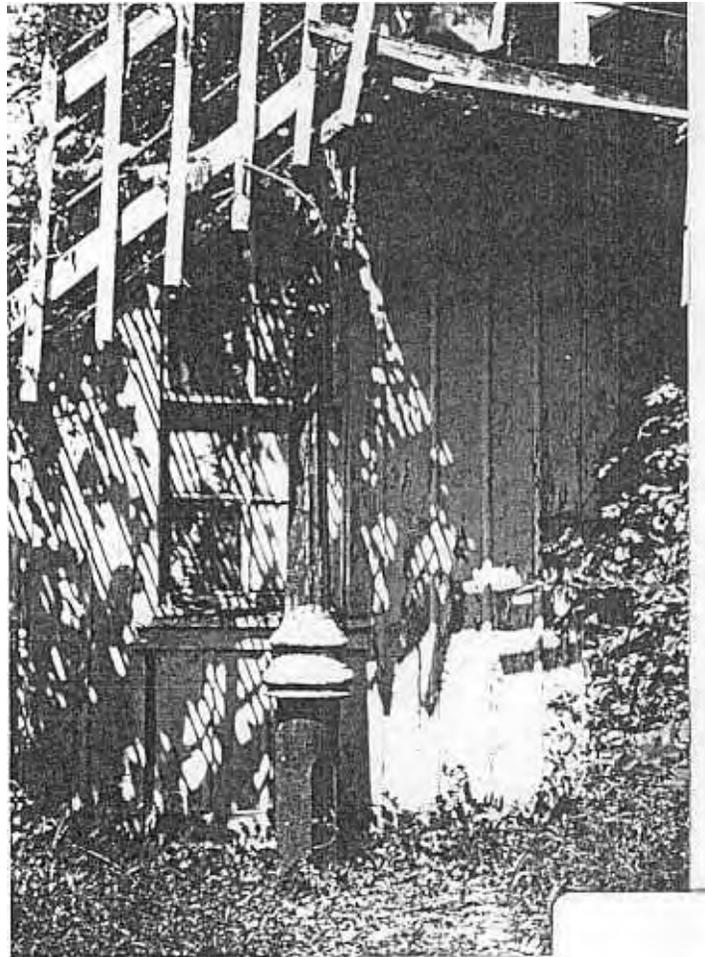
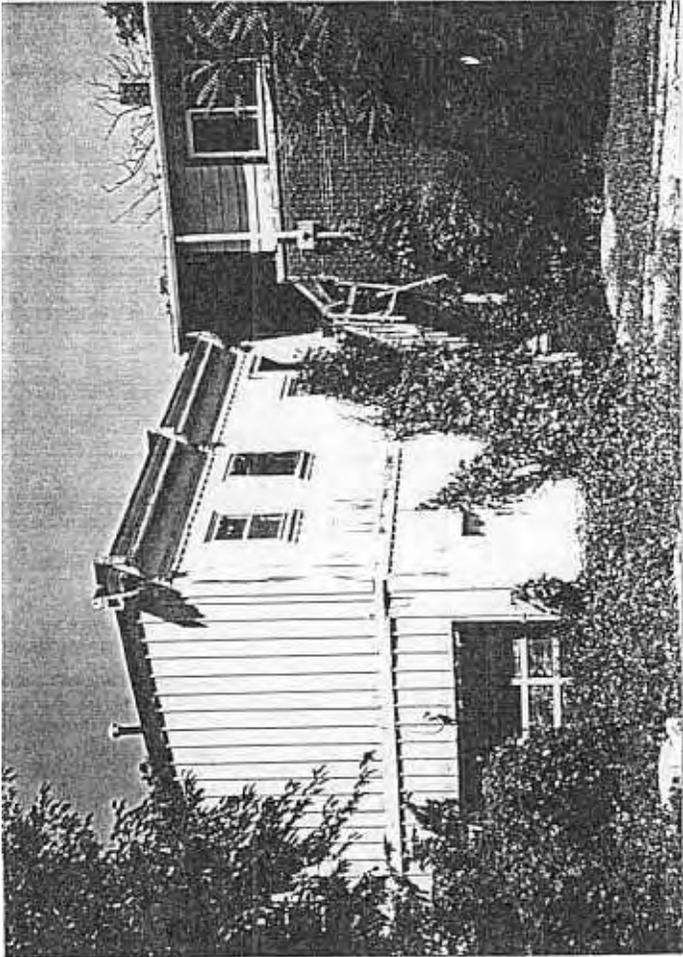
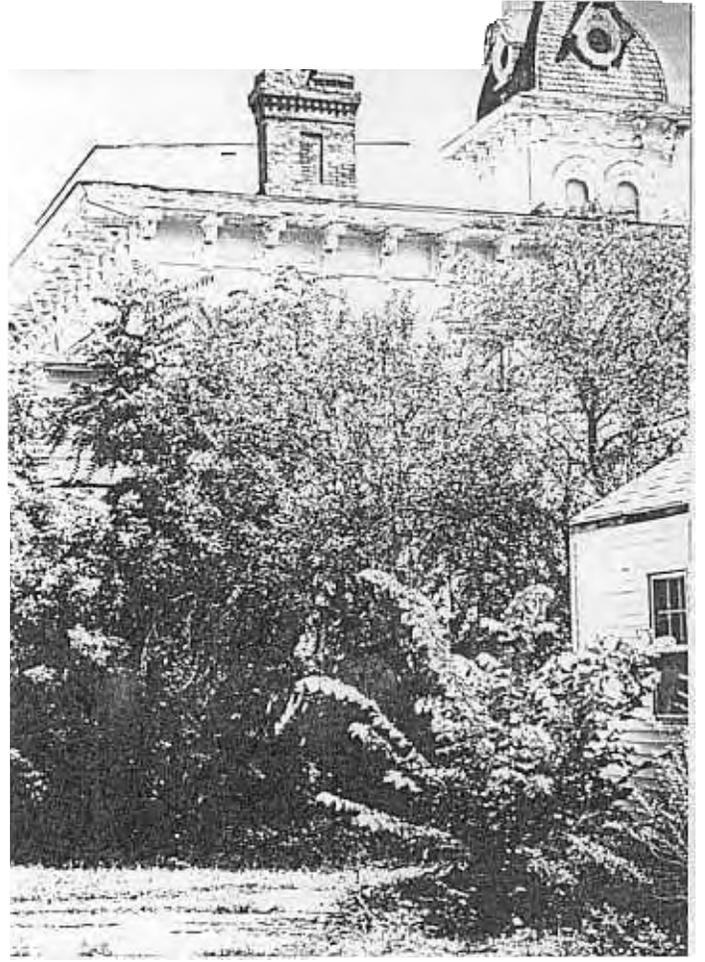
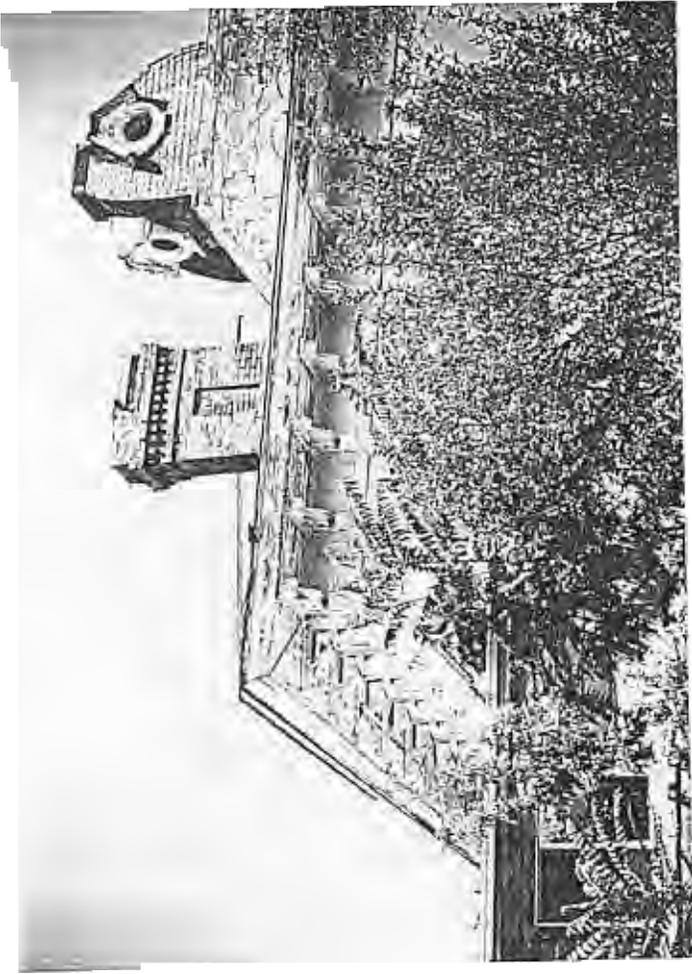
The original fence around the yard has been replaced with an iron fence and the two horse head hitching posts which were reported to have been on the property in 1951 have been removed..

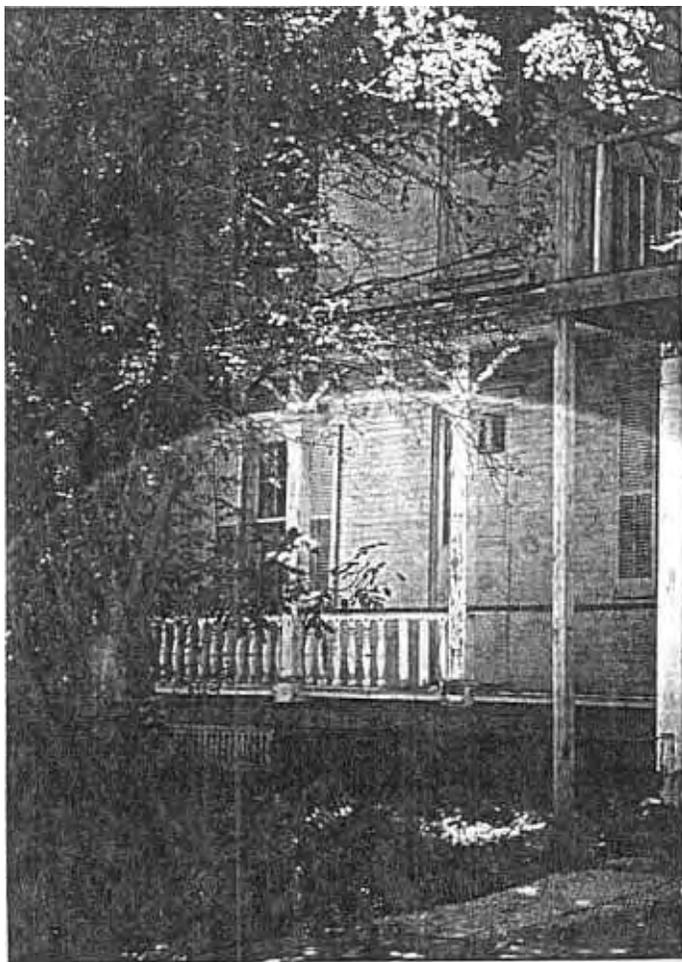
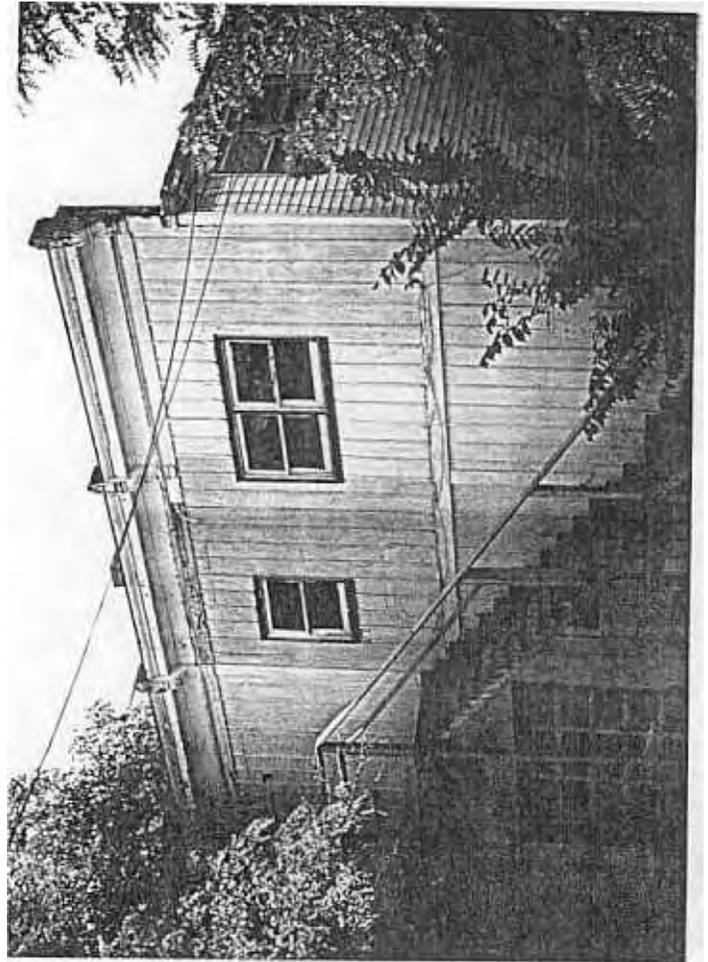
Added to the hip roof at the north side is a shed roof. From a brief visit to the funeral home several years ago, the writer vaguely recalls that the west rooms had been converted to one large room with the north end ceiling taller than the remainder of the room. Recollection is that the taller ceiling had some decorative feature and this part was the casket area while the rest of the room was for the pews.

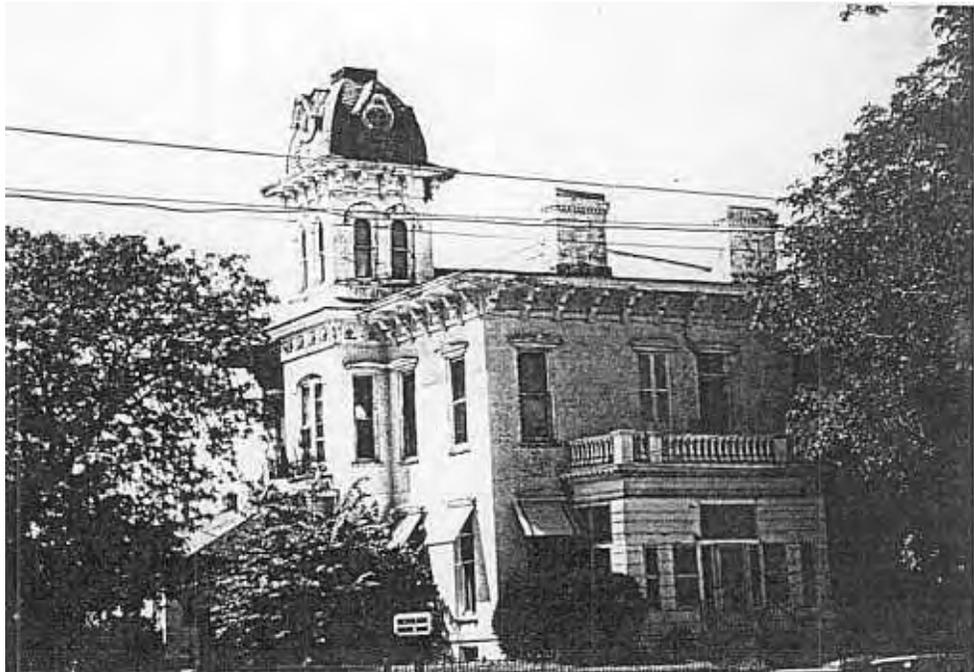


1980









INTERIOR

The following information about the interior of the Philemon L. Mitchell house was obtained from an article published in The Rock Island Argus, 8 October 1951, written by Fern Davis.

Dr. Blanche B. Record and her sister, Mrs. Nellie Wise had lived in the house since their father, Arzo M. Record, purchased it from Mary Hall Mitchell Wadsworth in October of 1917.

The house is described as consisting of nine rooms plus servants' quarters over the kitchen. It is two story with an attic and a cupola which is not original to the house. The fence which was installed when the house was built surrounded the property. A 32 foot by 80 foot coach house is at the rear of the lot. It was constructed with vermin proof granaries, supply rooms and in the upper story two large hay rooms with side delivery doors.

There is a central hall with large rooms on either side which have twelve and a half foot ceilings. The front hall is entered through two sets of walnut doors. The exterior pair is plain wood and the interior pair have art glass in many colors with blue being predominant. On one side of the hall there is a parlor which runs the length of the house. It contains "twin 'horn of plenty' Italian marble fireplaces". Yardage to drape the four north and south windows is given as 32 yards. The interior shutters were still in place. The chandeliers were originally gas but have been converted for electricity. There are some decorated copper fixtures with crystal shades. A frieze of grey, cream and rose in alternating fruit and flower designs is attached to the wall with screws. The frieze was installed by Mrs. Wadsworth after she saw something similar in a castle in Europe. A large oil painting, a purchase of Mrs. Wadsworth, is also in the room.

On the other side of the hall is a sitting room which is less pretentious than the large parlor on the opposite side. The doorways have overhanging ledges and other unusual features. The woodwork throughout the house is walnut. Dr. Record mentioned a traveling painter who in 1922 told her the room was too drab and needed a bit of color. He painted delicate sprays of yellow roses from the design "in his head" to the room, greatly pleasing Dr. Record. Mrs. Wadsworth presented to the sisters a pair of cupids which had been a wedding present to her. The cupids sat over the doorway between this room and the dining room. The sitting room fireplace surround is walnut with polished tile. The tile resembles "Mexican tile." There are alternating squares with profiles of men. The sisters pointed out one and said "we call that one Whittier."

Behind the sitting room is the dining room. It may also be entered from the center hallway. Robert C. Mitchell, a grandson, called the door at this entrance "the round door". Evidently, because it is shaped to match the wall line. The floor in the dining room is parqueted with light and dark boards. On the parlor floor is a border in the form of a Greek cross with the ends of the arms extended at right angles - all in the same direction.

INTERIOR (continued)

The kitchen had "built - ins", covered laundry tubs and a slate sink. This room had a metal ceiling.

The stairway of 22 steps went to the large upstairs bedrooms. When electricity was installed in the house, the fuse box was placed in the attic over the upstairs hall, but could only be reached by a ladder. Later on, it was moved to a more convenient location. If one wished to go up into the cupola, a ladder was needed.

The article concludes with a list of some of the notable persons who had been guests at the Mitchell residence.



SIGNIFICANCE

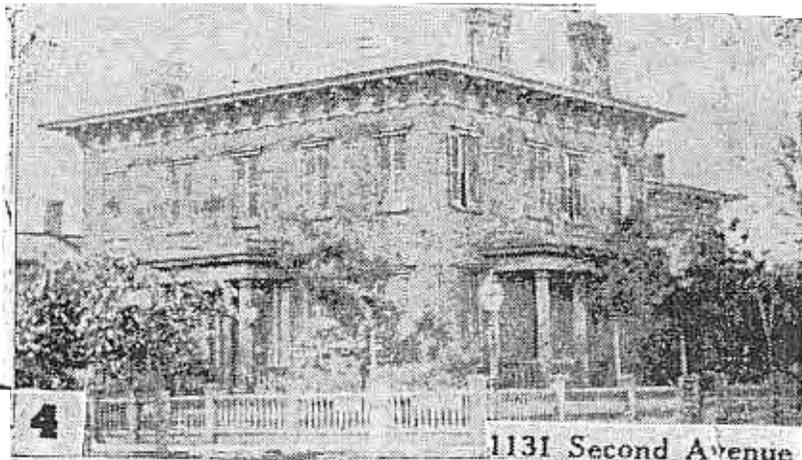
Philemon Libby Mitchell was prominent in the Rock Island community and in businesses from banking to railroads. He was described in his obituary as, "One of Its [Rock Island's] Foremost Citizens and Business Men". And as "public spirited, and always ready to help promote the city's interests."

1131 Second Avenue is one of three structures associated with the Mitchell family which still stand. Philemon's son Phil owned the house at 710 Twentieth Street -- commonly known as "The Mitchell House". Philemon's grandson Ardo's family home is at 1718 Twenty-first Street.

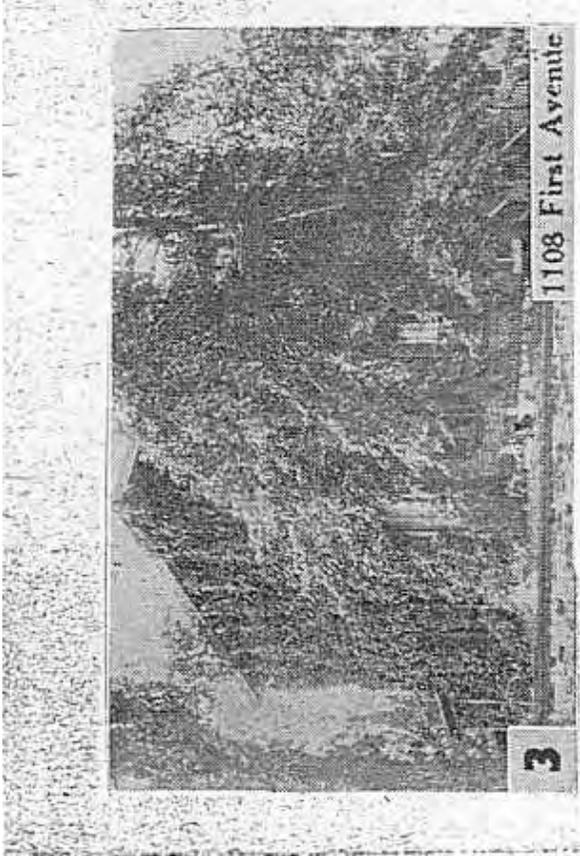
The Philemon Libby Mitchell house at 1131 Second Avenue has been an established and familiar visual feature in Old Town of Rock Island since 1857 -- one hundred and thirty-eight years. Its location is probably more unique now than when it was built because of the absence of Old Town residences and businesses. Second Avenue, originally Illinois Street, was brick, tree lined and the address of many Rock Island merchants, bankers, lumber men and professional people. The Judge Gest home, just across the street was built in 1851.

As the city spread south and east "up the hill" Second Avenue began decaying as did the rest of the neighborhood. The Centennial Expressway in the 1960's added to the demise of the neighborhood by demolishing First Avenue and many Victorian era homes, apartment buildings and businesses.

The former residences of Mitchell, Gest, Schriver and Streckfus are reminiscent of what was once a grand and elegant neighborhood during the early history of Rock Island.

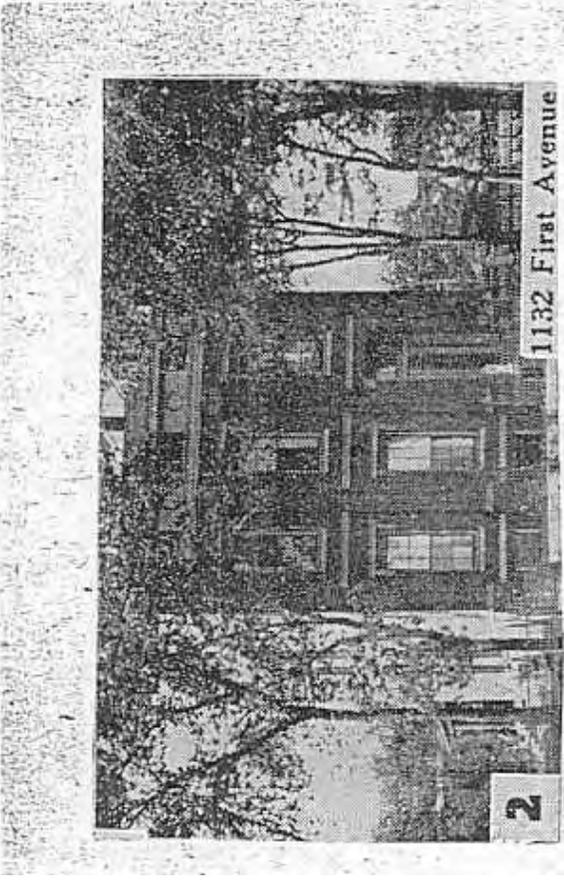


1131 Second Avenue
The Argus, April 94



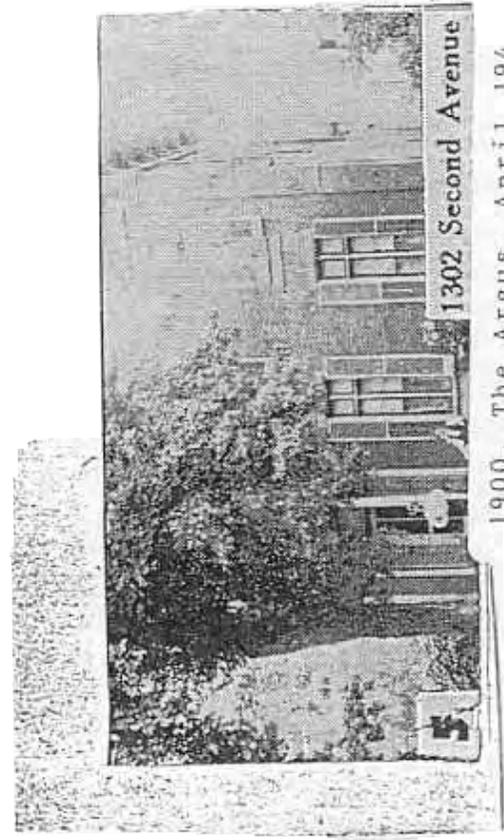
1108 First Avenue

1880 The Argus Apr 194



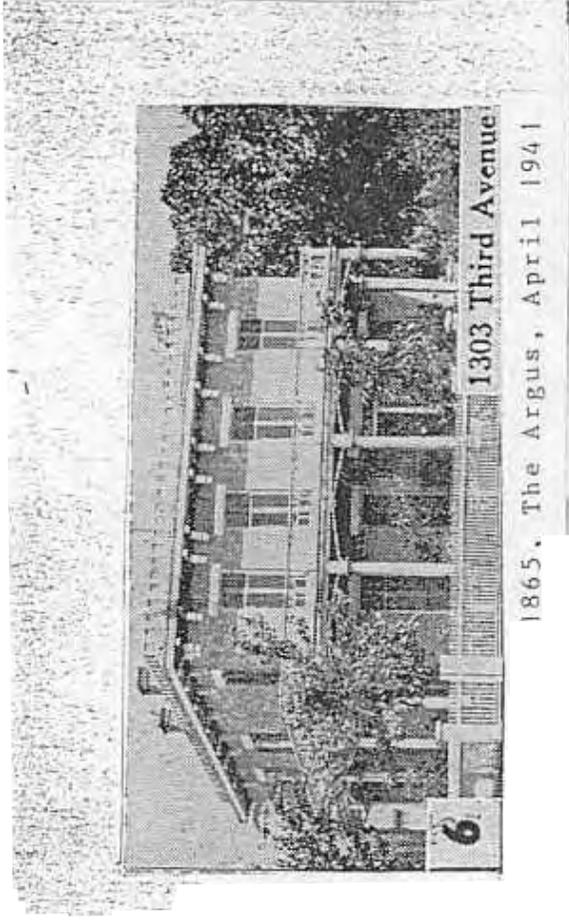
1132 First Avenue

190 The Argus Apr 194



1302 Second Avenue

1900, The Argus, April 194



1303 Third Avenue

1865. The Argus, April 1941

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