

## HISTORICAL HOMES OF TUSCOLA



Tuscola's first home, located on the northwest corner of South Main and West Daggy Streets. This house was placed here by William Chandler, who moved it to Tuscola from Bourbon.



The Fornoff Mansion was the first house in Tuscola to have a bathtub. It fell into disrepair and was razed in order to build the Douglas County Jail at South Washington Street and U.S. 36.

*The Tuscola Review* Calendar 1995.



The stately home below located at 307 South Niles Street is owned by Todd and Cindy Bickers. The photo on the left was taken around the turn of the last century. Notice the presence of a cupola on top of the house which was removed at some point. Some former owners of this home include: The Cedusky family (owners of a meat market in town), The Thornton family, The Ray Warren family and Jim and Millie Buck.





**Gene and Lucille Murray Home**

The Lucille and Gene Murray home is located in Block 50, Lot 6 and part of Lot 7, in Original Town Tuscola. The Lots 6 and 7 were owned by several different men and were eventually purchased by Jacob Cosler, a retired widower, formerly from the Arthur area. He acquired the lots in September 1889, for \$500 and built a large prairie, Victorian house.

He sold the house in January 1894, to James R. Hammett for \$5,000 and built another large Victorian east of there. Hammett's widow, Sarah C. Hammett sold the house to William E. and Alice Laura Murphy in July 1905. Theodore and Zilla Howard bought the property in December 1919. They had thirteen children.

The Murray's rented the house in 1963, from Mildred Howard Ruttan. She had purchased it from the estate and converted it to three apartments. They purchased the property in 1964, and have lived there for 43 years.

While plainer than many Victorian houses, it has six bedrooms, pocket doors, two fireplaces, one oak and one black marble. Indoor plumbing (original fixtures), steam heat radiators and electricity all were added at some time in the past.

People have been born, died and married in this house. Gene and Lucille Murray have raised seven children and cared for five others here, as well as having Lucile's mother live with them.

It is a comfortable, old home. An Emily Dickinson saying is stenciled on the dining room wall. "Eden is the old fashioned house we dwell in every day, without suspecting our abode until we ride away." A framed poem under a photo of the house exemplifies our feelings for 300 East Pinzon.

"There is a house whose rooms I know by heart,  
Where I tended the garden and read my books,  
Where dreams were dreamt and memories made,  
Where children grew up, and I grew old.  
There's a house where life was lived, a house where I belong."



The picture shows the Gregg house, on Egyptian Trail, before remodeling and after the remodeling, on the right. Isaac Harmon and Ida Murphy Gregg lived on this farm called “Greggdale Park” around the turn of the last century. This beautiful and attractive place was comprised of 67 acres. Mr. Gregg was a horseman who raised standard bred horses. Mr. Gregg held an annual sporting event where over 100 quality horses were entered in competition. The Gregg’s were able to accommodate the crowd with an amphitheater, race track, large 50 x 100 foot barn and a football field. The big barn had a capacity of 60 stalls and 150 additional box stalls were also erected on the grounds. Rick and Sharon Marsh own the Gregg house today.

*The Cabin Chatter*, Lynnita Aldridge Brown, Editor.

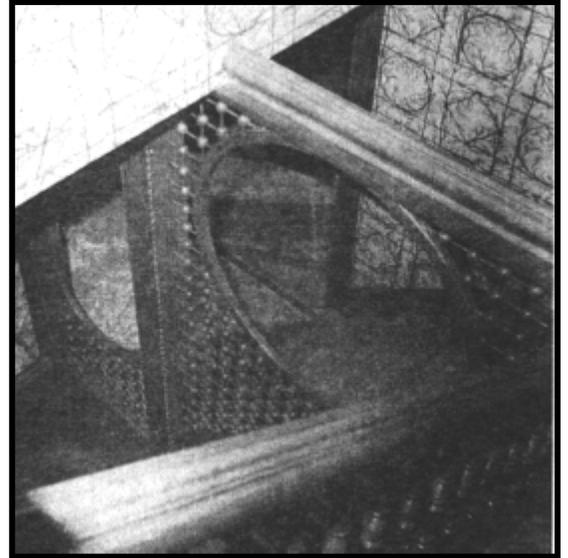


#### Orland B. Ficklin Home

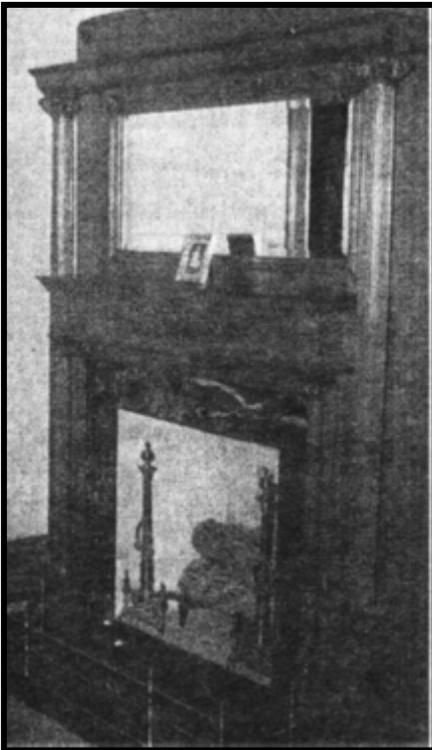
Orland Ficklin was one of the first landowners in Douglas County. Ficklin Street is named in his honor. In the 1940’s, this home was a club called “Micky D’s”. It was torn down in 1994 to make way for Carle Clinic.



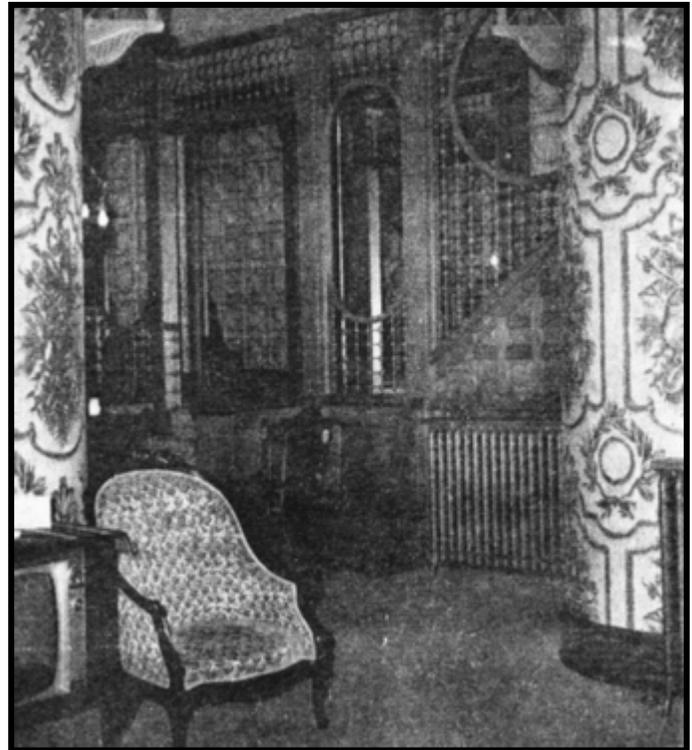
The beautiful Crossman home is located on the northwest corner of North Main and West Overton Streets. The late Mary Crossman Carroll and her husband Myron lived in the home for many years. Their daughter is Cathy.



The striking view from the second floor, dramatically shows elaborate beveled mirrors and intricately designed woodwork.



The living room fireplace is constructed of marble. An electric log provides both heat and atmosphere.



The large expanse of French imported mirrors is visible from the living room.



**Samuel B. Wardall House - Past**

This lovely Queen Anne Victorian home at 508 North Parke Street, belonged to the Samuel Ervin family from 1883 to 1991. It is not known whether Ervin built the house. Samuel Ervin was one of nine children born to William B. and Elizabeth Rice Ervin. Each of these children grew to adulthood in Tuscola. Samuel's brother, Gratton, donated land for Ervin Park, while other Ervin's contributed to Tuscola's prosperity in other ways. Jenny Pearle Ervin Wardall, born December 28, 1876, lived here with her parents up to and after their deaths. Pearl died September 25, 1971. Richard and Donna Kidwell now own the Ervin house and are restoring the home to its previously stateliness.

Pictures of house –Richard and Donna Kidwell & *The News Gazette*, April 8, 2006



**Wardall House - 2007**



**Elizabeth Ann Beach Ervin – Samuel's wife.**  
Photo courtesy of Richard and Donna Kidwell



**Samuel B. Ervin**  
1844 – 1927

Picture from the Douglas County Museum.



**The Parlor – Interior of the Ervin - Wardall House**

Photo courtesy of Richard and Donna Kidwell

**More Interior Rooms of the Ervin – Wardall Home  
From Richard and Donna Kidwell's Photo Collection**



**Kitchen**



**Dining Room**

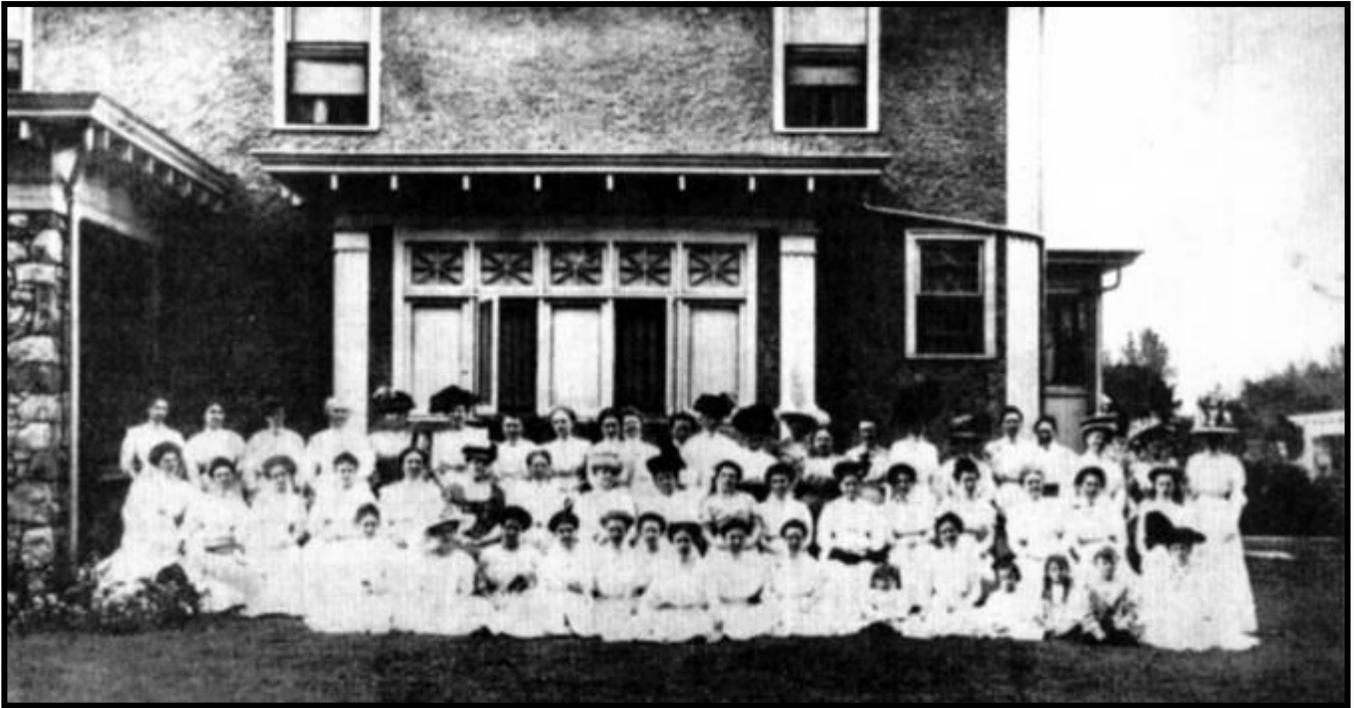


**Sitting Room**



**Front Bedroom**





**Nathaniel "Grat" Ervin House**

**Members of the Tuscola Woman's Club and guests are pictured in a 1909 photo taken at the Ervin house at 701 North Main Street. Nathaniel Ervin gave land to the city to establish Ervin Park.**

**Pictured in the photo are:**

**Front row – Josie Rice-Goff, unknown, unknown, Lida Jane Hunt, Frae McCarty, Tot Callaway, Mrs. Roy Cashford, Ella Hunt, Martha Kagey, Delia Hine with her children, Maynard and Cleo. The next three are unknown.**

**Middle row: Mary Macy, Belle Warren, Blanche Wright, Mrs. James Hamilton, unknown, Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Madison Steers, unknown, unknown, Mrs. Wills, Mrs. Rice Ervin, Clara Reeves, Mrs. H. Dobbines, unknown, Mrs. Merica and Cecil Tenbrook.**

**Back row: Mrs. Everett Stacy, unknown, Nell Sharp, Jeannie Houk, unknown, Mrs. J. S. Campbell, Mrs. John Ervin, Mrs. Brown Ervin, Florence Duhamel, Hostess Mrs. Grat Ervin, Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. E. Y. McCarty, unknown, Edna Reat, Kate Calloway, unknown, Mrs. Orestes Foster, Martha Fonner, Sarah Stacy, Mae Riner, Pearl Vest and unknown. Photo above from the *Tuscola Review***



**These photos were taken in 2007. The beautiful Ervin home is now owned by Jerry and Joyce Alexander. Photo above was taken on the same side of the house as the 1909 photo.**



#### Two of Tuscola's Sears Catalog Homes

The home on the left is located at 309 North Main Street, on the right, 307 East Scott Street. Sears included houses in their catalog between 1908 and 1940. An order for a house included all the necessary materials. The floors, woodwork, ceiling, siding, finishing lumber, building paper, pipe, gutter, sash weights, hardware, lumber, lath, enough paint for two interior coats,, wood filler and a choice of exterior color. "An unhappy buyer could return any and all materials delivered with payment refunded in full.

*The Tuscola Review*, September 17, 1985



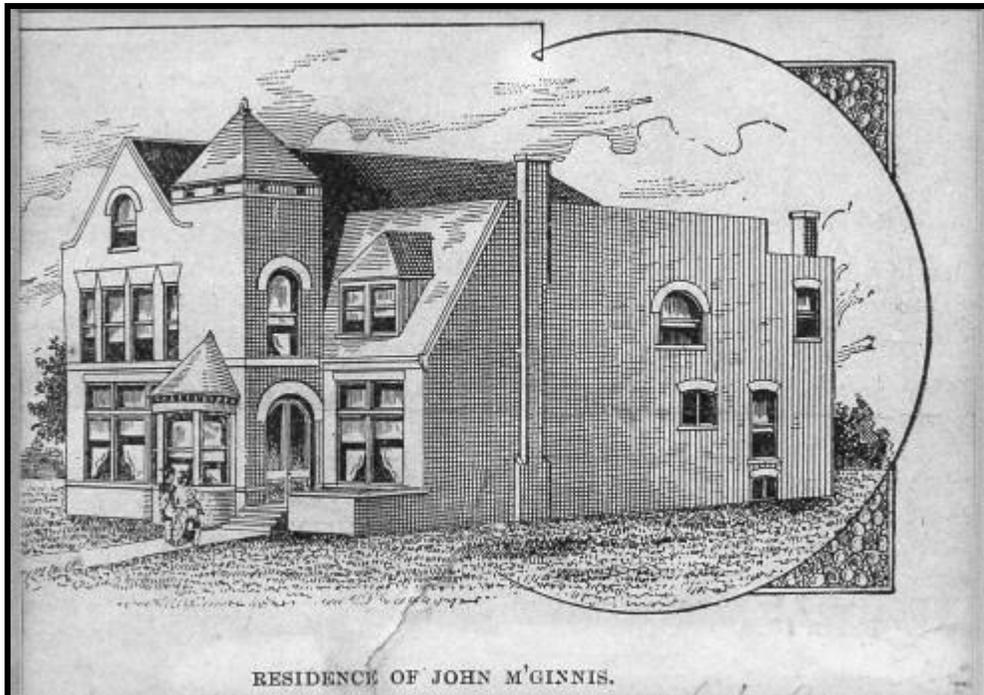
#### The Honorable Joseph G. Cannon Home

Located at 500 East Scott Street, It is said that "Uncle Joe" built this home for his new bride, Mary Reed Cannon. They married in 1862 and this was their first home. Mary Cannon was described as a graceful dancer, a "society belle" and a woman of rare charm. Too poor to hire a horse and buggy, Cannon is said to have borrowed a rig from friends to go courting. Originally the main floor included a large ballroom. From here, Attorney and Mrs. Cannon moved to a house which stood where the old High School/North Ward is located. Later they moved to their last residence which stood on the northeast corner of Parke and Pembroke Street near the old Beach House. These last two houses are no longer here.



**This residence at 400 South Niles Street, built in 1900 by Roy Hammett. It was the childhood home of Mary Iles Carmack, William Iles and Betty Iles Carmack (children in picture). This photo was taken in the 1920's. Today the home is owned by Mike and Gerry Keenan.**





The home at 213 East Pembroke Street was built in 1880. The picture above is a lithograph of how the house looked when the John McGinnis family lived there. Mary Carmack and her son, Stuart, live in the home today. Mary and her late husband, Rex, bought the home over 60 years ago.

