1913 McGrath House Built As A Bungalow Style

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passing. The Paul McGrath family owned it from 1950 to 1985.

Details of Halvorson's life are sketchy. He was born in 1885 of Norwegian parents. The date of his death is unknown.

Eldridge managed the Depot Hotel in Barnesville from 1887 to 1889 and then purchased the business. He was a two-term alderman in the third ward, a director of the First National Bank, and member of the Barnesville Building and Loan Association.

McGrath was born in 1897 in Moorhead, the son of Dennis and Anna McGrath, one of the three pioneer McGrath families in the area. He married Lulu Catherine Nutt in 1929 and died in 1972.

Much of the restoration work in the home has been done to match or complement its vintage.

Kimberly pointed out the back porch stairs, which, she said, was removed at some point.

Most of the kitchen has been refurbished, although the ceiling was done in a style that makes it look original.

The Huesmans refurbished the basement into a family room. The Shervas have since replaced the basement carpeting and added the board and batton on the basement walls.

Among the main level features, some are difficult to pinpoint what has been updated and when. There are two sets of "pocket doors," one to the dining room and one to the living room.

"It's possible that one of the previous owners switched the two sets of doors," Kimberly said. "There's a noticeable gap on one set when its closed--although we generally keep those doors open."

In the dining room, the Shervas were fortunate enough to find a table that dates back to 1912, a year before the home's completion.

"The staircase to the upper level is original," Kimberly said. "The upstairs used to have a porch where a bedroom is now."

She said the door to the back porch is original. The front porch retains much of the look it had more than a century ago.

"The house's siding is original," Kimberly said. "But obviously it's been painted multiple times."

"Rusticated" concrete block is used for the exposed portion of the foundation. Generally, fieldstone or cut stone is used for such foundations and porch posts.

Through what is apparently an original door to the back porch can be seen a bench that came from a hotel in South Dakota.

The Shervas on the steps of their historic home. From left, Hayden, Kimberly, Hailey, and Ryan, who's holding Chewie.

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Families Bring A House To Life With Rich Histories

By: LaVonne Redding

As with many of the early 1900s homes in the Barnesville area, J. H. Fisch was the general contractor of the Patterson-Olson house, or in more recent times, the Ames house. It is estimated that it was built around 1922.

All of these occupants have created their own histories in the house located on Third Street Southeast. Before the house was built, the property was the site of the residence of Dr. Joseph P. Vickers, a civil war veteran who purchased it in 1886. The original house was possibly moved off-site, but his medical office structure remained there for some time in a dilapidated state.

Colonial revival would be the architectural classification of this residence. A front door canopy is truly a 20th century addition to the architectural style as are the three-over-one windows and the flower boxes on the front of the home.

With a little bit of sleuthing, one specific resource that was especially helpful on the history of the property was a booklet researched by Dorothy Garven entitled "Historic Barnesville: Old Houses And The People Who Lived In Them." It was published in the early 1990s. Also, the Barnesville Record-Review archives served as a valuable tool to fill in the blanks. The first resident in the house that still exists today was Dr. Charles H. Patterson, son of Dr. Robert Patterson who was one of Barnesville's first doctors. Charles followed in his father's footsteps of taking the Hippocratic oath to help others.

Charles was born in Fargo, North Dakota in 1884. The family moved to Barnesville when he was three. He earned his medical degree from Hamline Medical School in Minneapolis.

Dr. Charles Patterson began his medical practice in Enderlin, North Dakota, in 1909, returning to Barnesville in 1911 to take over his father's practice. He served the medical corps during WWI from 1917 to 1919, being stationed state side.

He founded a hospital in Barnesville, along with Drs. Alphonso Cyr and J.J. Thornby. The city was able to take it over the following year when a bond issue was voted in. His next form of service was being voted as mayor of Barnesville in 1915 and serving until 1917, stepping down to serve his country.

Charles and his wife, Justine, remained in Barnesville with their two daughters until 1929 when he joined the veterans administration, being stationed in Boise, Idaho. From Idaho, he transferred to Minneapolis and lastly Fargo in 1934, where he finished out his career.

The next caretakers of the home was the Lewis L. Olson, Sr. family. They resided at this location for 50 years. Lewis Olson, Sr. was a banker who started his career working in Kent, Minnesota, at the Kent State Bank. Eventually he and his brother, Oscar, bought the Kent Bank.

He was born in Rothsay and was married to Violet Ranger in 1912. They shared four children, Lewis, Jr., Lois, Beth and Peggy.

Lewis moved his family to Barnesville in 1918 where he took a job as cashier with First National Bank of Barnesville. He became president of the First National Bank in 1923, holding the office until he retired in 1970. Listed as one of the longest members of the stockholders selling his shares, it is recorded that he purchase his first shares in 1918. Other members selling out included Dr. Carl Simison and Garnet Solum.

Banking was tough business early on in his 60 year career. Of the three banks in Barnesville during the 1920s, two survived the collapse of the U.S. banking system.

Throughout his residence of over 50 years in Barnesville, L.L. Senior served on the Barnesville City Council, was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and on the Clay County Fair Board. He was one of the organizer of the Clay County FFA and 4-H Club programs.

Following Lewis' death in 1973, Violet, stayed in the home until her health made it necessary to finish out her life at the Barnesville Care Center. Purchasing the home from the Olson family were Gerald "Jerry" and Bev Ames in 1980.

Being born and raised in Maine, Jerry chose a military career in the Air Force. He met his wife Bev while stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base and the two were married in 1962. During his military stint, he was also stationed in Paris Island, South Carolina.

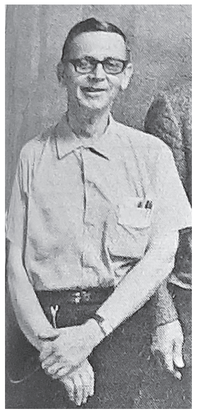
Gerald "Jerry" worked for KMart Automotive, moving around the country before coming to Barnesville. This experience gave him the knowledge for what laid ahead. Bev and Jerry managed the Amoco and Barnesville Inn. Then in 1986, they started their own Service Station in downtown Barnesville known as Jerry's Service. They ran this station for many years. He also added on a storage unit to the back of the building.

Jerry was a member of the Lion's Club and served on the Barnesville City Council. He enjoyed weekends at the lake with his family, including the couple's three daughters Terisa, April and Danielle.

After remarrying in 2002 to LaVerne Verville, he made his new home in Fargo, North Dakota.

Multiple families have taken this piece of property original to the City of Barnesville and shared their story, and lives, with the residents of a community who are proud of their heritage. Current home owner Chad Peterson is now making more history with his family in this memorable home. Living over 15 years in the historic site, he is in the process of updating the exterior to make sure it will stand the test of time for future generations.

Colonial Revival would be the architectural classification of this home. It has a Dutch gambrel roof with symmetrical arrangements of details on the principal facade. Prominent symmetrical dormers front and back add space to the second story.



As a new member of the First National Bank Board of Directors in 1970, Lewis Olson, Jr., is pictured above. His parents bought the home dubbed the "Patterson-Olson" house, raising him and his siblings there.

A wooden canopy over the front doorway and transom window is a distinctive architectural detail typical of this period home built around 1922.

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