

HESTER HOUSE
4130 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue

Mrs. Vera Hester describes her century old house as a crazy-quilt house. Successive owners added on to it through the years and changed and remodeled it.

The house began as a "wee" house of three rooms and was built between 1881 - 1882 by a Mrs. Bracewell who sold it to Hayes Jolly, general store owner and postmaster of Clarkston, who added two rooms. Mrs. Hester's father J. C. Estes bought it in October of 1900 and moved in April, 1901. He added two rooms. Mrs. Hester and her husband moved in in 1946 after her mother died and she has been there ever since.

Another interesting aspect of the house, aside from its age -- 1,597 couples have been married there. Mrs. Hester was until her retirement a justice of the peace as was her father and grandfather before her. Her grandfather, Zephaniah Clark Estes, was a justice of the peace in Brownings District in the early days of the county.

A massive oak hall tree in the hallway came from her father's furniture store on Decatur Street, and a Swiss mirror in the living room is over 100 years old. She has a book "Safe Methods of Business" published in 1803 which belonged to her father.

A stone bathhouse in the backyard of the house dates back to early times. Mrs. Hester believes it was the first bathroom in Clarkston with water furnished from a well pipe.

An early picture of the house shows a Victorian gingerbread porch. In later years awnings were added for comfort.

One of the chief pleasures of visiting this house is talking with Mrs. Hester who is a well-known authority on Clarkston and DeKalb County history.

Mrs. Hester will will have several old photographs on display

including early pictures of her pioneer family connections in DeKalb and pictures of the house as it looked when it was built and in 1900 when her parents bought it.

HESTER HOUSE

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Mrs. Vera Hester describes her 95-year-old house as a crazy-quilt house. Families added on to it through the years and changed and remodeled it.

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The Details News/Sum

1882-1982

Centennial Celebration

ESTES - HESTER HOME
- Bracewell - Jolly
PAGE 7 D

Tour Homes Range From 1880s To Modern

Visitors to the Clarkston Tour Of Homes will see residences ranging from California contemporary to one constructed with hand-made brick and square nails.

The tour will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, and tickets may be obtained at the City Hall, the Woman's Club or the Clarkston information booth, corner of Market and Ponce de Leon, on the day of the tour. City Hall and the DeKalb Historical Society both have tickets available in advance.

Tickets are \$5 or \$1.50 per house. No charge is made for the Clarkston Woman's Club where refreshments will be served.

OWNERSHIP of the Morris House, 1055 Rowland Street, has passed through only three families in ten decades. Mrs. Lou M. Warwick and her husband, Capt. Ed A. Warwick, purchased the property in 1880 from the Georgia Railroad. D. Pleasant Looney Collingsworth acquired it in 1925, and Thurman, Mary and Eleanor Morris in 1927. Thurman sold his one-third interest to his sisters at the time of his marriage.

The house has an interesting history and legends abound. One is that at one time it was a hotel where drummers (salesmen) stayed. They arrived by train and took orders from local merchants, renting rigs to solicit orders from outlying area merchants. The next day or so they boarded the train to repeat the routine in another town down the line. Goods ordered through the drummer would then be shipped to the depot.

The house, with its handsome two-story square pillars, is located on a tree-shaded corner lot. Beveled glass in the front door is surrounded with stained glass, creating a door of unusual interest. Tall windows on the front extend to the floor and are raised through the ceiling as in Jefferson's Monticello. The original plaster is in most rooms, and hand-blown glass in some windows. The ceilings in upstairs rooms are wood.

A fireplace is in each room including the kitchen where an old-time dough mixing bowl, which belonged to the mother of the present owners, has a special place. Of particular interest in the living room is a many-tiered mantel reminiscent of a wedding cake.

Hand-made brick was used in pillars and underpin-

A handsome nine-foot high armoire and century-old furniture can be seen in one bedroom. A hattrack in the hallway, is of the same era. Mrs. Williams' collection of baskets and old pitchers are displayed in her kitchen. (Visitors may park in the rear and enter through the back door.)

MRS. VERA HESTER describes her century-old house as a crazy-quilt house. Successive owners have added on to it through the years, changing and remodeling it.

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THE WOMAN'S CLUB, was built in 1913, at 3907 Church Street.

The club house is covered with brown siding and features diamond-paned windows so popular in bungalow construction in the early 1900s.

A fieldstone fireplace and antique piano and library table are features here, as is a stained glass window.

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