

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

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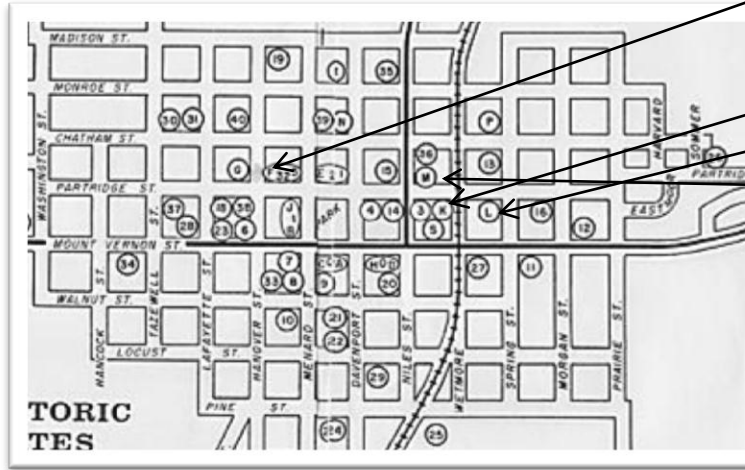
October 2011



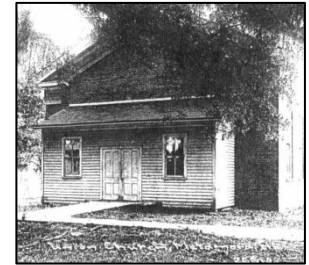
Old Churches

Several mid-19th Century Churches were located along Partridge Street

The first Metamora Christian Union Church (far right) began in 1855 in a church built by the Methodists. There were five Protestant churches in the area with low memberships and it was difficult for any of these to have a full time minister. It was thought that if they would merge together they could be better served. (see below)



- F. Baptist Church. 1854, 119 W Partridge. The bricks from this church were reused as a double wall in Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fandel's home, which now sits on the site.
- K. Christian Church. 1850, 318 E Partridge
- L. Episcopal Church. 1847, 418 E Partridge
- M. Congregational Church. 1848, 301 Partridge.



So in 1872 the Methodists and the Congregational Churches united. In the next few years the remaining churches, Episcopal, Christian (Disciples) and American Baptist also joined together. In 1878 those united congregations formally were called the Metamora Christian Union Church.

After sixty-six years of service the old building was one of Metamora's landmarks. In 1922 they decided to build a new edifice. The wrecking crew found that the old building was in almost perfect state of preservation, barring the dry rotting of floor supports. It was built of native burned bricks, the outside layer being of especially hard burned brick. The ceiling stringers were hand shaped oak logs, forty feet long and the truss-work and roof were hand sawed oak lumber, sawed at the Parks Mill just north of Metamora. The church was patterned after one built at Varna a few years earlier.

During the process of building the new Christian Union Church they engaged the use of the building of the congregation of the Reformed Church, which had but few families and held services at irregular intervals. This building was formerly the Baptist Church organized in 1850. That church was built and opened for worship in 1854. The new church was built on the site of the old church on South Hanover Street.

What's Old...

But new at the Stevenson House...

GARAGE SALE – Thurs – Sat, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sept 29-Oct 1
Shoppers and Contributions Needed!!

- 1928 Parrot (Metamora High School yearbook)
- World War memorabilia
- Abattoir Meat recipe book
- St. Mary's 50th Jubilee Anniversary badge (1864-1914)
- Olga Sommer rug (thanks for Kris Bernhardt)

Work Continues on the Window Restoration



Restorers are busy replacing the upper and lower level windows on the northwest corner. This was sorely needed due to water leakage.

Dr. George Lemon...

Original Owner of the Stevenson House... To see the actual documents, visit www.historicmetamora.com.



The 1840 Census shows George C. Lemon as the owner of what is now known as the Stevenson House. George was a local physician and shared the home with 5 others – his wife Anna and one son and three females. Dr. Lemon is still listed as the owner in the 1850, 60, and 70 Censuses. The 1860 Census lists the occupation of his 29 year old son, George, Jr., who lived in the home as "gentleman." Also listed is a 15-year old "domestic" and 11-year old Freedom Amesbury and 9-year old Louisa Amesbury.

LEE LOG CABIN (Black Partridge Park)

1836 JOHN AMSLER - Built well in Worth Township (Spring Bay - Germantown Hills area)

2-story timber house of hewn logs (flattened or squared). Typical of construction methods of early 1800's. Supported by log crossbeams, some covered with bark. Foundation of hand made bricks. Original roof of hand sawn shingles. Upstairs reached by ten narrow winding stairs.

1838 John H Ormsby

1864 Peter Klein

Frederick Klein

John & Anna M Klein

1887 Frank Giehl then Anna M Klein

1905 Jacob Wehrli (approx. date)

1942 O. Frank & Alma Lee

1984 donated to Woodford Co.

The cabin is open Sundays from 1-4 through October

Contact Us

Questions, ideas...

We would love to hear from you. Laure Adams, President, 369-2353 or jrfarmer@mtco.com; Kenneth Willman, Vice President, 367-4426; Shirley Adams, Secretary, 367-2289; Jack Weddle, Treasurer, 367-4017 or 645-0963 or jweddle@mtco.com; Board members: Barbie Perry, 678-8402, barbperry@mchsi.com, Dave Pohlman, 369-3290; pohlman46@hotmail.com; Lee Summer, 367-4059, 635-0259, lsummer@mtco.com