Now & Then in Ripon ... Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

Jackson Street house with rich history is on market

The house at 320 E. Jackson St. recently was placed on the market. Built in 1854 with additions added in 1905, it is located in the Tygert Street Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sitting at the corner of East Jackson Street and Spaulding Avenue, the home's architectural style is listed on the National Register as Colonial Revival/Georgian Revival. National Register information on the house states that originally it was a two-story red brick building with a low-pitched gable roof. It most likely had Italianate-style features and had a one-and-a-half story wing off the back of the house.

A steeply-pitched gable roof was added to both the main block and the back wing after the turn of the century, creating an additional half story on the main block and a full two stories on the rear section. Colonial Revival details were added to the house at that time, including a large front porch that wrapped around to form a veranda.

The house was built in 1854 for Ezra Northrup (1818-1884), who came to Ripon in late 1849. Ripon historian Sam Pedrick (1868-1963) called Northrup "a man about town." In 1850, Northrup opened the first store in Ripon and was the first postmaster of the community.

In the spring of 1851, he began trading produce for logs from Wausau, ran a sawmill and was a land speculator.

Northrup also was one of the original founders of Ripon College (at that



THE HOUSE AT 320 E. Jackson St. is up for sale. Originally built in 1854, it was remodeled in 1905. The house is located in the Tygert Street Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. submitted photo was involved with it until 1858. He also (1819-1894). Dellinger owned a mill was a member of the county board for two years.

Northrup was married twice. His first wife was Emily Brockway Northrup (1822-1867). Emily's brother, William Brockway (1825-1853), is considered the founder of Ripon College. In 1868, Northrup married Catherine Brockway Austin Northrup (1868-1895). It is not clear how Emily and Catherine were related.

Ezra and Emily had three children who lived in the house at 320 Jackson St.

in Ripon and also was a member of the Ripon city council. He and his wife, Margaret Spiers Dellinger (1825-1899), came to Ripon in 1848 and had seven children. Their son Daniel (1850-1929) was the first white child to be born within the original plat of Ripon.

The Dellingers moved to St. Paul, Minn., and the house was sold in the mid 1880s to Charles Cowen (1845-1943). Cowen was a sergeant in Co. B, 41st Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War. He was in banking and was Records show that around 1865 the a director and president of Ripon's time called "Brockway College") and house was sold to George Dellinger German National Bank, which became

the American National Bank.

He married Alice Ayer Cowen (1844-1884) in 1869 and after her death he married Mary Gillette Cowen (1852-1942) in 1885. The Cowens were the owners of the house when it was expanded and changed around 1905. They owned the house until approximately 1934, when they moved to Waupaca.

After that, the house was sold to J. Harold Bumby (1900-1974) and Isabelle Ingram Bumby (1902-1971).

The Bumby family was well known in Ripon. J. Harold Bumby was a graduate of Ripon College and worked at Advertisers Manufacturing (later known as "Admanco") before moving to Milwaukee in 1943. A Ripon College publication noted that the Bumbys rented out the house for a while after moving.

Since that time, the house has had several owners. On Dec. 31, 2007, Amy and Eric Pollesch closed on the house.

They did extensive interior renovation. At first, they lived in a rental while work was being done on the interior. Later, they moved into the second floor until the first floor was completed.

Having raised four boys in the house, they look forward to turning the fivebedroom house over to a new owner.

The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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