

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

12-30-09

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Twiss, James C., House**

other names/site number **N/A**

2. Location

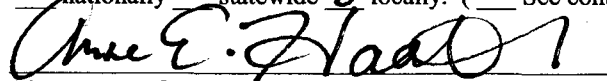
street & number **298 North Page Street** N/A Not for publication

city or town **Aviston** N/A vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Clinton** code **027** zip code **62216**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 5 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

12-29-09

Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Name of Property

Twiss, James C., House

County and State Clinton County, IL

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

____ entered in the National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the

National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the

National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)☐ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

2 buildings☐ sites☐ structures☐ objects12 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Name of Property **Twiss, James C., House**

County and State **Clinton County, IL**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) **DOMESTIC/single dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) **DOMESTIC/single dwelling**

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) **LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **CONCRETE block**

Roof **SLATE and ASPHALT shingle**

Walls **WOOD lap siding**

other **BRICK chimney, COPPER gutters and roof finial**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheet.

Name of Property **Twiss, James C., House**

County and State **Clinton County, IL**

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance **1907**

Significant Dates **1907**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder

Architects: Barber, George F., Barber & Kluttz Architects, Knoxville, Tennessee
Builder: Kellermann, B. H., Breese, IL

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheet

Name of Property **Twiss, James C., House**

County and State **Clinton County, IL**

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **0.5 acres**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northings	Zone Easting	Northings
1	16	273108	4276647	
2	_____	_____	3	_____
			4	_____

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet.

Name of Property **Twiss, James C., House** County and State **Clinton County, IL**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Richard A. and Penny R. Moon		
organization	N/A	date	28 April 2009
street & number	298 North Page Street	telephone	(618) 228-5300
city or town	Aviston	state	IL
		zip code	62216

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **See Attached**
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property. **(See attached hard copy and CD-R)**

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) **See Continuation Sheet**

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	Richard A. and Penny R. Moon		
street & number	298 North Page Street	telephone	(618) 228-5300
city or town	Aviston	state	IL
		zip code	62216

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Twiss, James C., House
Name of property

Clinton County, Illinois
County and State

Summary

The James Twiss House, 298 N. Page Street, Aviston, Clinton County, Illinois, is a two and a half-story Queen Anne style dwelling designed by architect George F. Barber and constructed in 1907. The dwelling has an irregular plan with a hipped and gabled roof clad with asphalt shingles. The Queen Anne house has clapboard and wood shingled exterior walls and a rock-faced limestone foundation. The porch is one-story with a hipped roof and wraps from the façade (east elevation) to the side (north and south) elevations. A hexagonal tower bay extends above the roofline level near the north end of the house. An off-center one-story hipped porch is located at the rear (west) elevation. The interior of the dwelling reflects detailed decorative embellishments typical of the Queen Anne style including spindlework, parquet wood floors, decorative tile surrounding the fireplace, and stained glass windows. Original floors, woodwork and built-in cabinets are intact, as are original radiators, door and window hardware, and some overhead light fixtures. The Twiss House is an excellent example of a Barber design Queen Anne style dwelling that remains relatively unaltered since its construction in 1907.

Included in the boundaries of this nomination are two non-contributing resources; one building – originally utilized as a garage, and one structure – a gazebo. These resources are located west of the Twiss house at the rear of the property.

Setting

The Twiss House is situated on a city parcel in Aviston, Illinois. The lot is bordered by N. Page Street (east), Maple Street (north), and adjacent property lines (west and south). A concrete walk leads from N. Page Street to the dwelling's east (primary) elevation porch. The rear yard features a concrete walk extending north/south from Maple Street (which is located at the north end of the property). The rear walk leads to an outbuilding (originally used as a garage) and a gazebo. Both the gazebo and outbuilding are located south of the dwelling. There are two mature trees on the lot – one situated southeast of the dwelling (front yard) and the other southwest of the dwelling (rear yard).

Primary (east) elevation

The primary (east) elevation features a front-facing gabled roof, clapboard siding, and a raised porch foundation supported by rock-faced limestone piers. Latticework covers openings between the porch piers at the level between the ground and porch floor. At the porch level, spindles infill the space between the piers, which support round Tuscan columns. The porch columns are grouped in sets of two and three, supporting post flares attached to the porch soffits by small spindles. The porch has a beaded ceiling and wraps to the south and north elevations. Porch roofline gables are

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situated at the south, east (central) and north ends of the porch. The east (primary elevation) porch gable field has decorative stick pattern half-timbering. The porch floor retains original wood decking. A low chamfered frame balustrade extends along the porch at all elevations. The primary entrance is recessed centrally at the façade and holds an eight-light single wood panel storm door. Offsetting the door at either side are windows. The window south of the entrance is one-over-one, double-hung design. Situated north of the entrance is a narrow one-over-one window with stained glass lights. The stained glass window is one of three similarly designed windows situated within a projecting bay that wraps to the north elevation. Remaining windows at the façade are one-over-one (clear glass) design.

The second level fenestration features a central recessed balcony with an arched opening flanked by paired Tuscan columns. Windows are one-over-one design, and a single-light original door leads to a second floor bedroom from the balcony. North of the balcony is the hexagonal tower bay, which is clad with slate shingles. Directly above the balcony, within the upper half-story elevation, is a pent roof enclosing the gable that holds three one-over-one windows. A triangular section at the top of the gable holds a bas-relief floral garland pattern. The pent roof and triangular extension have Italianate brackets. The remaining gable field has decorative half-timbering/stick work. A bas-relief frieze with a decorative vignette extends horizontally below the projecting gable. The tower bay has a domed asphalt-shingled cap supported by decorative Italianate brackets. The dome roof is clad with a copper finial. Windows in the upper half-story dome are one-over-one.

South elevation

The south elevation features the one-story wrap porch that extends from the east facade. The porch gable end field at the south elevation does not feature decorative woodwork. Concrete steps capped with limestone are situated at the west end of the south porch. The steps are encased by a supporting limestone wall that matches the rock-faced design of the foundation. A secondary single entry – similar to that at the primary elevation with a multi-light storm door – opens from the dining room onto the west end of the porch. The door is set within the east side of a projecting bay extending south at the west end of the porch. Windows within the projection, at the first- and second-stories, are one-over-one design. Single windows of similar design are also situated at the south elevation within the porch bay and west of the projecting two-story south elevation bay. The roof is hipped at the south elevation except for the projecting bay, which has a steeply pitched front-gabled roof. The gable field holds an arched one-over-one window with a sagitta. The cornice is raked and has wide astragal beading. Soffits are beaded in a tight astragal design – this is true for other elevations as well.

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West (rear) elevation

The rear (west) elevation has a hipped and gabled roof, clapboard siding, and a raised limestone foundation. The elevation holds a one-story hipped off-center porch supported by square columns. The porch has a raised foundation with limestone piers similar to that at the façade; however much of the original open space between piers has been infilled with rock-faced limestone blocks. At the center of the rear elevation is a projecting bay. Offsetting the bay to the north at the first floor is a two-light storm door (not original). The storm door covers an original single-light, three-panel oak door that leads to the kitchen. At the north end of the porch, wooden steps lead from the porch to the yard. Above the rear entrance and porch roof, at the second story level, is a single window of one-over-one design. The projecting bay windows include two single-light windows at the first floor and a one-over-one window at the second floor. At the south end of the rear elevation, is a storm cellar near the foundation with paired frame doors and a limestone triangular base. Above the storm cellar doors (at the first level) is a single window of one-over-one design. Centrally at the upper half-story level of the rear elevation – capping the projecting central bay – is a front-gabled dormer similar in design to that at the south elevation. The dormer holds paired windows of one-over-one design. The cornice is raked and beaded with heavy returns.

North elevation

The north elevation has a hipped and gabled roof, weatherboard siding, and a limestone foundation. The first level of the elevation features the wrap-around porch at the east end. As noted previously, the porch gable field has decorative half-timbering/stick work, Tuscan columns resting on limestone piers, decorative roofline brackets, and latticework covering the open space below the porch floor. Situated immediately west of the porch is an exterior end brick chimney. The chimney is stepped with concrete caps near the second-story roofline. The chimney extends through the soffit and is west of the hexagonal tower described previously. West of the chimney stack – also at the north elevation – is a rounded cantilevered window bay with a domed cap. The window bay has wood shingle siding. The base of the bay is conical and appears “molded” with rope-joint beading. Two curved stained-glass windows are within the projecting bay, one-over-one design. Above the windows is dentilled molding. A convex cap is in place above the molding, centrally split by a corner post.

The north elevation retains three additional windows at first- and second levels. These openings are located west of the cantilevered window bay. At the first level are paired windows of one-over-one design. Above these windows is a projecting window bay supported by decorative brackets that holds three one-over-one windows. A stained glass light is situated between first- and second-stories. The window has double-hung stained glass lights and a scalloped surround with a broken pediment and dentilled molding. The upper half-story of the north elevation holds a front gabled

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bay with a beaded pediment, wood shingle siding, and four arched windows of one-over-one design. There is decorative half-timbering in the gable field.

Interior

The interior of the Twiss House retains its original first- and second- story floor layout and many of its historic interior finishes. The interior floor plan for the Twiss House is based on Barber's plan for Design No. 229 (See floor plans, attached). Within the house is an original Queen Anne fireplace and surround. Two sets of original pocket doors are intact. First- and second-story floors are original oak and white pine. Original built-in cabinets and window seats are also intact as are stained glass lights, spindle work, and wood panel doors.

First Floor

Barber's pattern for Design No. 229 features a first-floor entry from the porch (identified on building plans as a "verandah"). The front door opens into the "reception hall" which holds the fireplace, main staircase leading to the upper floors, and a small sitting area. The reception hall of the Twiss House has a parquet tile floor near the front door. The inlaid design features hexagonal panels with eight-point stars. The front entry leading into the hall retains an original single-light wood door with decorative beading. A sitting area is situated at the northeast corner of the hall within the façade's stained glass window bay. The sitting area holds a small oblong, rounded table resting on the original radiator (north wall) and built-in benches near the windows. The fireplace is situated on the north wall, just east of the staircase. This Queen Anne style fireplace has a pulvinated tile frieze with a wooden surround. The surround is flanked by engaged columns with decorative capitals. It also holds a central wood mantle supported by fluted brackets and an over-mantle mirror. The original cast iron decorative fireboard is intact. The hearth is glazed tile with a decorative tile surround featuring scenes of Greek women as scholars. The main staircase is located at the northwest corner of the reception hall. The staircase is square and bracketed with heavy carved newel posts typical of late Victorian period design. The newel posts flanking the bottom steps feature carved fleur-de-lis newel caps. The staircase balustrade has turned posts. Drop square pendants are noted below the point that the stairs turn from the first-floor landing. Within the landing, the wall is curved and holds two curved stained-glass lights. A five-panel wooden door is located below the landing, leading to storage space beneath the staircase. The reception hall features a wood floor pattern edged by slender darker strips of wood that create a striped pattern.

South of the reception hall is the parlor that leads to the dining room. Dividing the parlor from the reception hall are two slender wood columns with Corinthian-influenced carved wood capitals. The columns intersect with decorative Eastlake spindle work bordering the ceiling between the parlor and hall. Windows and doors in the parlor have simple wood molded trim. At the west end of the

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parlor are paired seven-panel pocket wood doors. These doors separate the parlor from the dining area. Original brass hardware remains intact on all doors, including the pocket doors. The dining area holds a single-light original door leading to the south elevation porch. An original cast iron radiator is situated along the south wall of the dining room. This radiator (as do the other radiators in the house – located in nearly every room) has decorative scroll patterning. At the west end of the dining room, a single wood-panel pocket door leads to a small room currently utilized as an office. The office windows (of which there are two) have Gothic inspired corner blocks with a flower wood cut pattern.

As noted previously, the dining room may also be accessed from the south porch. Southwest of the dining area are the pantries and kitchen, the latter of which is accessible via the rear porch/entrance. At the northwest corner of the dining room, another door leads to the butler's pantry. This wooden door has five panels – one of which (at eye level) holds a glass panel so that individuals entering/leaving the dining area could see the dining room/pantry. The butler's pantry retains original built-in cupboards – ceiling-to-floor – as well as an original overhead light fixture. The door from the butler's pantry into the kitchen retains original Gothic corner blocks similar in design to those previously described (in the office). The kitchen has been remodeled with modern appliances but retains original built-in cabinets and an original single-light door leading to the rear porch. Kitchen doors retain Gothic corner blocks and are wood panel design. The kitchen also retains an original radiator near the rear entrance. A servants' staircase leads from the butler's pantry/kitchen. This staircase, unlike the main staircase, is narrow and very plain. The servants' stairs lead to the second and upper half-story floors.

Second Floor

The second floor holds a central hall plan that leads from the main stairs to four bedrooms or "chambers," one of which was originally used as a servant's quarters, and a bathroom. At the west end of the second-story hall are the servants' stairs. Two bedrooms are accessible directly from the head of the main staircase. Another bedroom is situated directly south of the staircase. A fourth bedroom (servant's quarters) is located at the northwest corner of the second floor. The bathroom is located across the hall from the servants' quarters at the southwest corner of the house. Original wood floors and woodwork are intact. The main bedroom located at the east end of the hall holds a single-light wood panel door that leads to a small second-story balcony. All of the bedrooms retain three windows, original closets, and radiators. Bedroom windows and closet doors have Gothic corner blocks as noted in the pantry/kitchen areas of the first floor. Closet doors are wood panel design and original. The bathroom space is original in size and overall layout but has been remodeled with modern fixtures.

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At the west end of the second floor, the servants' stairs lead to the upper half-story (as well as to the kitchen, noted previously). The upper half-story remains unfinished and is open in plan. As is true for the rest of the house, this area retains original floors, walls, and window openings.

Outbuilding and Gazebo

In addition to the dwelling, the parcel holds a non-contributing frame outbuilding and gazebo, neither of which is contributing to the property's architectural significance. These structures are located west of the dwelling in the rear yard. The outbuilding appears to have been originally constructed as a garage. The building is one-story in height with a gabled asphalt-shingled roof, exterior synthetic siding, and a covered foundation. At the central roofline ridge is a cupola with louvered vents. Decorative bargeboard is noted at the gable verge. The door and windows on the building are replacement ca. 1980 design. The door has a small square single light and is situated at the east elevation. Windows are two-light sliding design. This building appears to have been constructed in the early-to-mid twentieth century but has been significantly altered in recent decades. South of the outbuilding is a late twentieth-century gazebo with a concrete floor, hipped asphalt-shingled roof, square post supports, and clapboard walls.

Elaboration: Integrity

The Twiss House is well preserved. Only a few minor changes have occurred to the dwelling and these alterations, such as modern bathroom and kitchen fixtures, do not represent a permanent change or significant loss of character or defining features. The only visible modifications to the exterior are the storm door on the west (rear) elevation and the finial. The rear modern storm door does not in any way alter or diminish the architectural integrity of the house. The finial has been replaced with an exact replica of the original –constructed of copper and designed by the same company that created the previous roofline ornament. The Twiss House retains most of its original details and is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. The interior has likewise experienced very minor changes – all historic finishes and Queen Anne style details remain intact. The non-contributing outbuilding and gazebo do not contribute to the property's overall architectural significance. Their presence/alterations fail to diminish the property's integrity or significance in any manner. The Twiss House retains evidence of original workmanship, design, materials, feeling, association, and location. The dwelling strongly represents its period of significance and date of construction, 1907.

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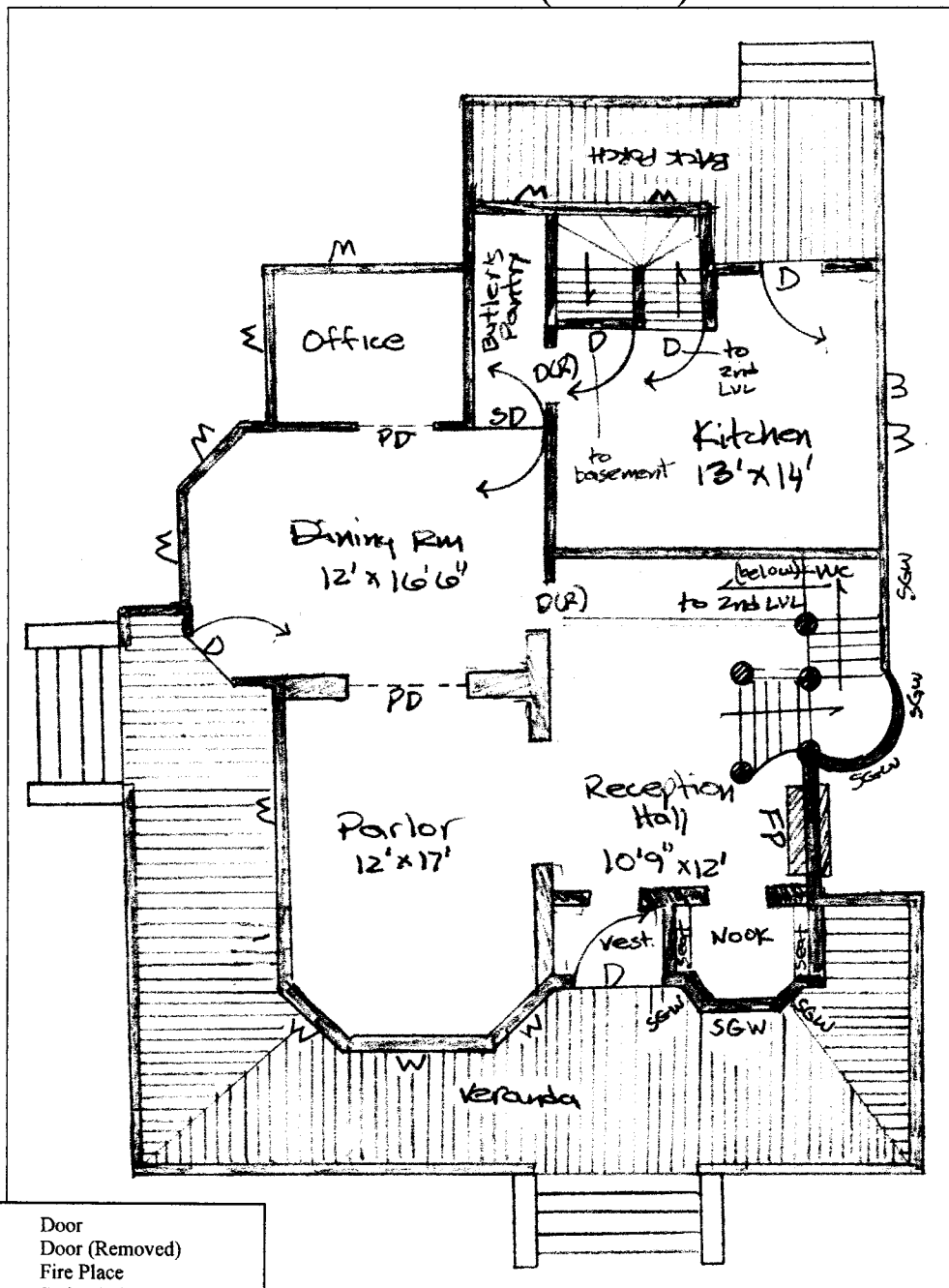
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First Floor Plan (Current)



D	Door
D(R)	Door (Removed)
FP	Fire Place
SGW	Stained glass Window
W	Window
PD	Pocket Door
SD	Swing Door

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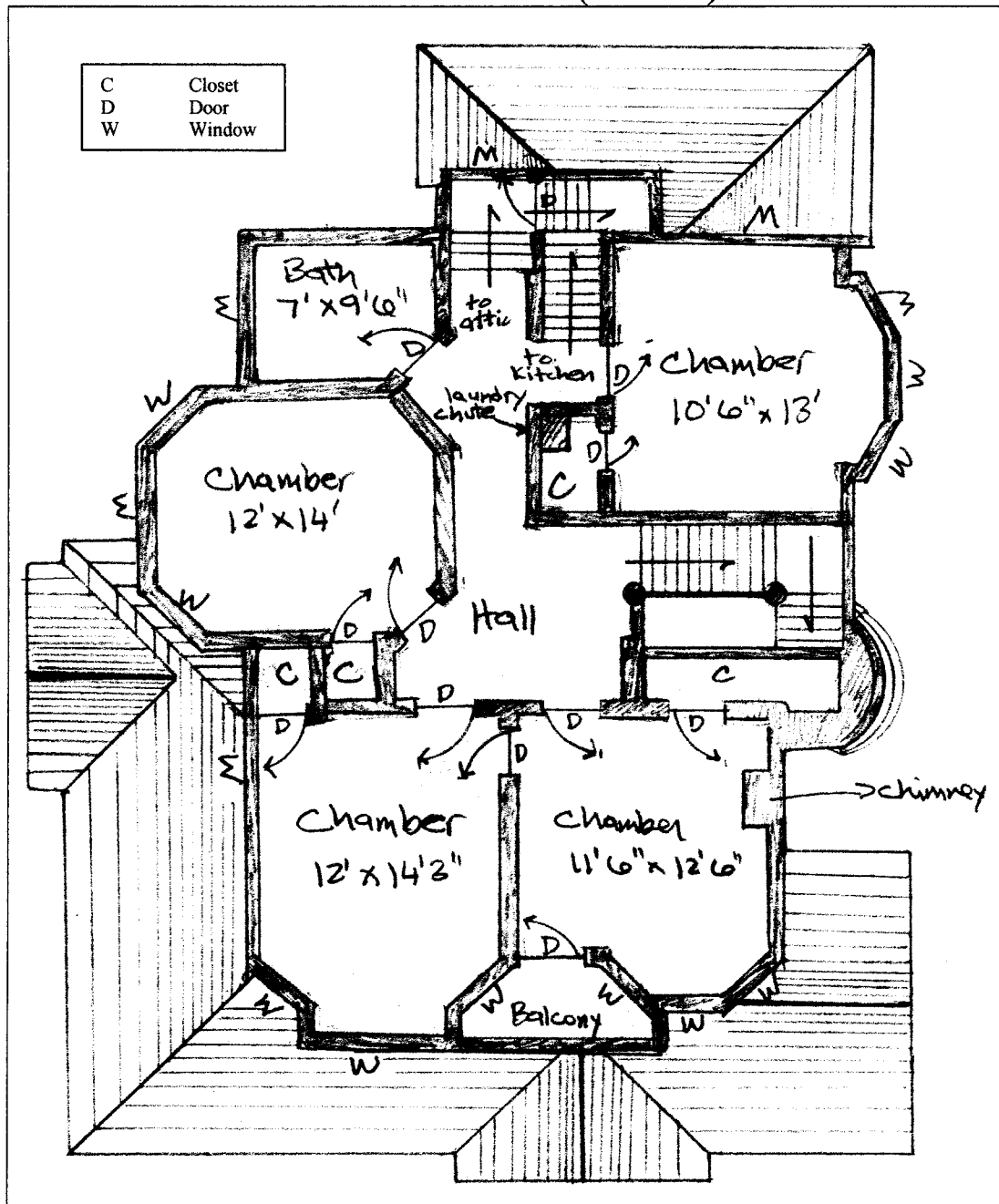
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Second Floor Plan (Current)



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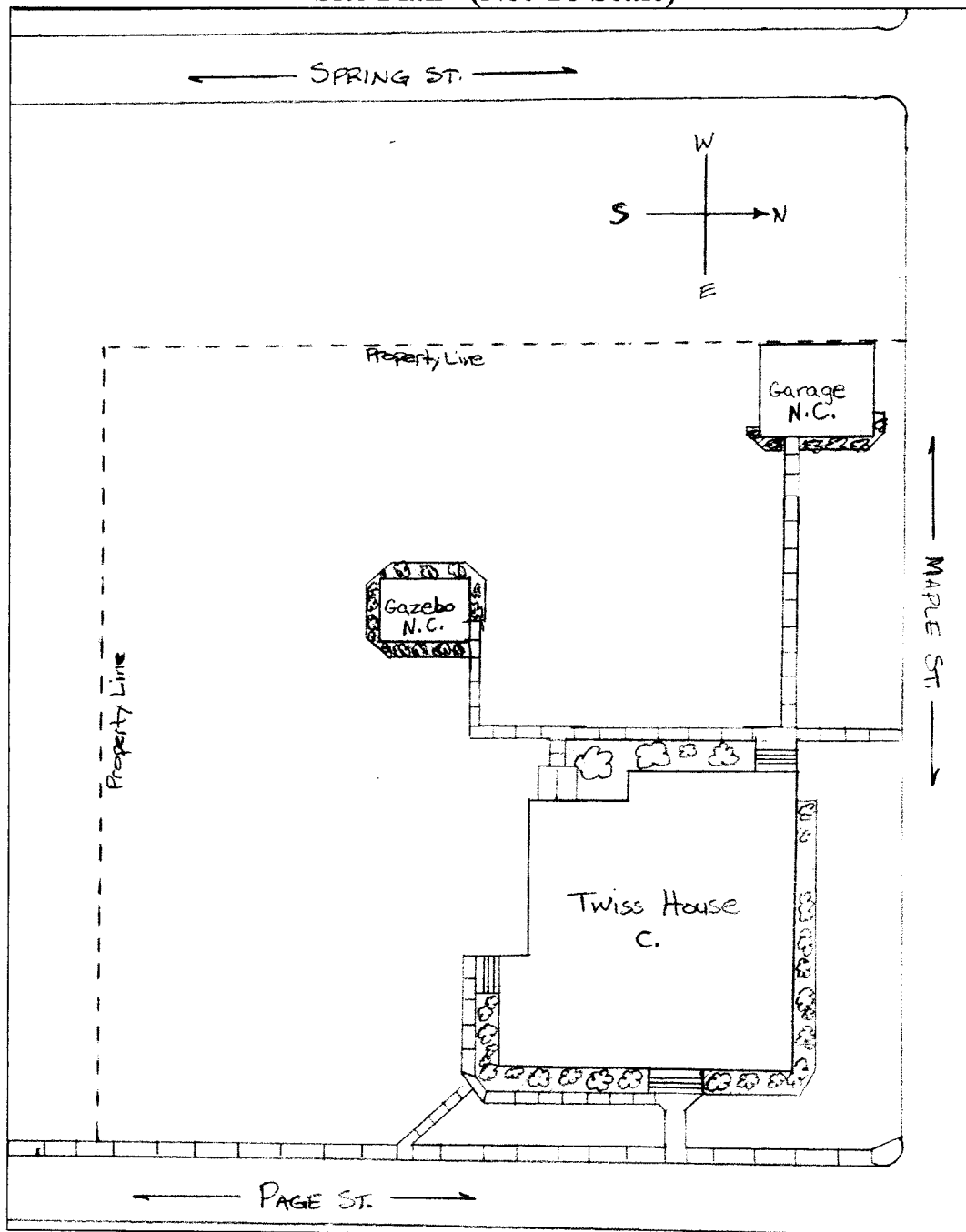
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Site Plan (Not To Scale)



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James C. Twiss House (aka Twiss House) meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an outstanding residential example of the Queen Anne style, and as a testament to the architectural craftsmanship of George F. Barber, Architect, Knoxville, TN.

The property is significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Queen Anne architecture. There is no other house in Aviston, or Clinton County, of this size and with such ornament and workmanship both inside and outside. The period of significance is 1907, the year in which the house was completed.

George Barber's designs were remarkable in that they featured high-end architectural features such as gingerbread trim, bay windows, turrets, and verandas that typically exceeded the budgetary limits of the average new home buyer, yet they sold by the thousands throughout the United States and, indeed, around the world. Barber's home designs appealed to a vast array of turn-of-the-century consumers, from middle-class merchants and city bankers to millionaire tobacco barons and, in the case of the Twiss House, well-to-do rural farmers and ranchers.

Barber's business acumen provided an equally critical ingredient to the widespread demand (and resulting sales) of his architectural plans. By marketing his designs through mail-order catalogues and popular magazines, Barber's grand and often extravagant architecture reached wishful homeowners and prosperous businessmen who otherwise had no local access to an architect. The associated services that Barber's architectural firm offered along with design requests allowed prospective new middle-class homeowners to buy full-size, detailed plans and take them directly to their local builders. Mr. James C. Twiss of Aviston, IL, was one such client who called upon Barber & Klutz, Architects for the design of his model home, which was a clear reflection of his family's growing wealth and status within the community.

QUEEN ANNE ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

(The following was taken from the Sterling Masonic Temple Lodge National Register nomination form)

"Queen Anne architecture has its roots in England in the third quarter of the 19th century. It had nothing to do with Queen Anne, who ruled in the early years of the 1700's, nor with the architecture of her time. One of its principal proponents was British architect Richard Norman Shaw. Its elements come mainly from 17th and 18th century architecture with eclectic sources from other eras including Medieval times."

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"Queen Anne architecture proved to be very popular in the United States. Noted architect Henry Hobson Richardson built the first house to be called "Queen Anne" in Rhode Island in 1875. At the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia several houses in this style were showcased by Great Britain. Queen Anne soon became the most popular architecture in this country. Its heyday was from 1880 to the turn of the century, though examples can be found in the first two decades of the 20th century. Elements that differ from British Queen Anne architecture in this country are the varied kinds of wood detailing and a freer floor plan."

"Queen Anne architecture is an eclectic style that varies in many ways. New York brownstones, San Francisco's painted ladies, and homes all over the country share this broad classification. Some elements that distinguish Queen Anne architecture are an asymmetrical shape, gables at various heights, steeply pitched roofs, and wood detailing. Queen Anne houses vary enormously from large mansions to small cottages. The details are richly varied. Among the many details found on these homes are bay windows, spindles in the earlier homes and more classic columns in the later ones, towers or turrets, "gingerbread" brackets, dentils, Palladian windows, porches (especially wrap-around), clapboards mixed with fish scale or other shingles, horizontal bands of leaded glass windows, big chimneys, balconies, pediments, and overhanging eaves."

STYLISTIC FEATURES OF THE TWISS HOUSE

Perhaps the most recognizable Queen Anne features of the James C. Twiss House are its asymmetrical shape, gables at various heights and steeply pitched roofs. Another feature of the Queen Anne style found on the Twiss House is the turret, which is topped by a copper finial. Wrap-around porches, bay and stained glass windows, gingerbread brackets, dentils, pediments, arched windows, Tuscan columns and latticework are further examples of architecture found in the Queen Anne style and all are found in the James C. Twiss House.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPARISONS

In 1907, the year the Twiss House was built, the village of Aviston displayed quite a variety of architectural styles. At that time, most Aviston homes were built by local carpenters to meet simple demands and basic living conditions; few were as large as the Twiss House, and none could rival its architectural grandeur, having been designed by a successful architect and customized by its owner. While many of the "old" or original Aviston homes have been remodeled, covered with metal or vinyl siding, or otherwise succumbed to muddled additions, the Twiss House remains largely intact today as it was built in 1907. Step through the front door -- and step back in time 100 years.

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Not much is known about the large stone and wood Victorian that sits at 31 E. Logan Street in Aviston. It is adorned with fish scale shingles and wrought iron columns and rails. The roofline has many hips and gables. While it is the same in size and stature as the Twiss House, including a turret, it is very plain and lacks the embellishments of a wrap-around porch, spindles, dentils, and Palladian windows -- all distinctive architectural traits of George F. Barber designs. Sadly, the E. Logan street home has been vacant and deteriorating for over 30 years, resulting in broken windows, missing exterior trim and rotting fascia.

The house at 398 N. Page was also built in the Victorian Queen Anne style. It is a two and one-half story frame house with an open porch. It has several pediments on the front of the house, but again lacks the ornate beauty of the Twiss House. It retains its original staircase, stained glass and some of its original woodwork. The rooms are smaller, less elaborate and the home lacks a grand entryway. The outside of the house has been covered in aluminum siding and the front porch columns have been replaced with newer aluminum covered columns.

There is one other Queen Anne house in Aviston that was built from architectural plans designed by George F. Barber, and it was the home of William and Sarah Twiss, parents of James C. Twiss. Located at 12 N. Spring Street, the senior Twiss's home was a story and a half with some spindle work, a small front porch and no tower or turret. It retains the original oak staircase, but much of the house has been remodeled, including the addition of an adjoining structure. One can surmise that the younger Twiss must have been thoroughly impressed with the design of his father's house, leading James Twiss to select a larger and more ornate Barber design for his new family home.

HISTORY OF AVISTON & CLINTON COUNTY ILLINOIS

(The following was taken from the The Clinton Co ILGenWeb Project website)

"Clinton County, Illinois was erected from Washington, Bond and Fayette counties, and was named in honor of the distinguished statesman, DeWitt Clinton, of New York. Clinton County had become the home of permanent and bona fide settlers as early as 1814, when the first land entries were made. At the time of the organization of the county, December 27, 1824, some 33,000 acres had been entered, three-fifths by actual settlers, the balance by speculators."

"Land entries were made in all congressional townships of the county during said period of time, 1814 to 1824. All lands entered at that early date were timber land. The value of prairie land was evidently not understood nor appreciated. The population of the county in 1824 was about 1,100 all told, consisting chiefly of Americans from southern states and Pennsylvania, with a mixture of some English and Irish, who had settled in the vicinity of

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The abstract of the land on which the house is located dates back to 1839 when William Hull was given 80 acres by the U.S. government. The land was later sold to Samuel Hull who then further divided it and sold the land which became the town of Hull, still later becoming the new Village of Aviston.

"The original town of Aviston was situated on the old State Road, about one-half mile north of the present Village of Aviston, in the vicinity of the present farm of Mr. John Heimann. It was the first town in Sugar Creek Township to be established. "Old" Aviston was laid out in lots on April 29, 1836 by Alexander Shields. The town consisted of thirty-two lots and a public square. Mr. Shields opened a dry goods store and helped to establish a post office. Mail was received three times a week by stage coaches traveling on the old State Road."

"Old" Aviston was named after John T. Avis, a gunsmith. Mr. Avis stopped at Hull Stage Station on the old State Road, one-half mile north of the present Village of Aviston. He liked the area and stayed. A gunsmith shop was opened and Mr. Avis lived in the town named for him for many years until he moved to St. Louis, Missouri. He never returned to Aviston. Mr. Avis was the first man to open a business in the area and this is the reason given for the naming of the Village of Aviston."

"Before the original settlement was abandoned, the village consisted of three stores, a post office, a hotel with a stage stand, a blacksmith shop, and about six private homes. Growth of the tiny village was halted completely when the O and M Railroad came through the area in the middle 1850's and the town was missed. It subsequently died completely and eventually reverted back to farm land. Nothing remains at the present time except the old graveyard on the farm residence of Mr. Oscar Stroot."

"After the O and M Railroad came through Clinton County, the people in the area of "Old" Aviston decided to relocate the settlement to be near the railroad. Consequently in 1860, Samuel Hull, who owned farmland on both sides of the railroad, sold a tract of land north of the railroad and west of Clinton Avenue (Aviston-Albers Road) to John W. Dugger and Company. This tract of land was originally called Hecker. The Dugger Company laid out eight blocks with ten lots in each block. Each lot was fifty feet by one hundred and twenty feet. Only one house was ever built in the tract however. It was put up on lot ten block eight."

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*"The Dugger Company, **James J. McAlilly (brother of Sarah Twiss)** and Alfred Guyot further bought eighty acres from Samuel Hull. This tract of land was divided and marked off in lots and called Hull. Sometime during 1860 the post office from "Old" Aviston was*

brought down to Hull. Rather than change the name on the post office, which was Aviston, the people changed the name of the town from Hull to Aviston."

A Plat and Survey was acknowledged in January of 1872 by Judge Thomas Rainforth for the purposes of a Town Plat on behalf of John W. Dugger and Martha Dugger, his wife, Alfred Guyot and Isabella Guyot, his wife, and **James J. McAlilly (brother of Sarah Twiss)**.

*"Attempts to incorporate the Village of Aviston go back to January 20, 1874. A petition, drawn up by Herman Friedrich, was presented to the county court of Judge A. H. White. A general election of the people, concerning this incorporation, was then held on February 10, 1874, at the home of H. H. Heimann in Hull, Illinois. The judges of the election were Henry Dillmann, **James J. McAlilly**, and Herman H. Heimann. The vote to incorporate the Village of Aviston was 58 for and 7 against incorporation."*

"For some reason the results of the election for incorporation were not reported to the County Judge. There is no further record in this matter until 1879. At a village election in 1879 a police magistrate was elected. In a letter dated May 3, 1879, the Illinois Secretary of State informed the village leaders that the Governor had refused to issue a commission for the office of police magistrate until the evidence of incorporation of the Village of Aviston had been filed in the office of the Secretary of State."

"Again, in 1884 a police magistrate was elected. His commission was again denied by state authorities until the incorporation of the village was complete. Finally on April 21, 1884, Mr. H. W. A. Friedrich was appointed by the Village Board to make a complete examination of the records."

"The case for incorporation of the Village of Aviston was heard in the courthouse at Carlyle by Judge A. H. White. All the documents and records necessary for the incorporation of the village were turned over to the court and accepted. Court records pertaining to this matter were ordered amended, and the incorporation of the Village of Aviston was approved. This was May 23, 1884. The boundary lines at that time included

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*the original Hull plot, the **Twiss Addition**, and the town of Hecker. The certificate of recognition of the incorporation of the Village of Aviston was filed and recorded on October 24, 1884."*

*"The village board in a meeting on January 3, 1887 adopted the first ordinances passed in the village. At this meeting the streets were named. In some cases the new streets were named, in others the old names in the original village of Hull were reaffirmed, and in others the names of streets were extended into areas of Hecker and the **Twiss Addition**."*

GEORGE F. BARBER (ARCHITECT)

George F. Barber was one of the most successful, self-taught, late nineteenth century American architects. Known today as the "Mail Order Master," Barber reached a wide (even international) audience by publishing his unique home designs in inexpensive illustrated catalogues. For a small fee, detailed drawings and price lists for a specific design could be obtained from

Barber's architecture firm using fill-in-the-blank order forms. The design of the James C. Twiss House was one of seven designs which Barber designated 'Colonial Renaissance,' a term that generally meant typically Queen Anne architectural massing embroidered with 'colonial,' or what Barber believed to be 'colonial' details. All but two of the Colonial Renaissance designs were introduced in 1897 (although not labeled 'Colonial Renaissance' until 1901, when the last two designs were introduced.)

An Illinois native himself, Barber partnered with Thomas Kluttz of Georgia in 1895 and embarked upon the most productive decade in his career. Between 1887 and 1913, he had operated one of the leading mail-order architectural firms in the United States with a staff of about 50 draftsmen.

Although George F. Barber did not create the Queen Anne style of architecture, his tasteful mix of art, geometry, proportion, and functionality was woven into thousands of unique and affordable home design variations which lashed up nicely with the growing prosperity enjoyed by turn-of-the-century working class Americans. Propelled across every state in the Union as featured advertisements in popular magazines and in Barber's own variety of catalogues, the Queen Anne home made the transformation from page to parcel a reality for prominent small-town bankers, merchants and farmers who often had more capital than confidence in their architectural taste. This rings especially true for James C. Twiss, who commissioned the construction of his own Barber "Suburban Prize" on the main street of a small village in southern Illinois.

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THE TWISS FAMILY

Early settlers, William W. Twiss and his wife, Sarah, were relatively wealthy landowners and stock raisers in the history of Sugar Creek Township in Clinton County, Illinois. Sarah had inherited much of the land from her brother, James J. McAlilly, in 1897 when he passed away.

James C. Twiss built the Twiss House on his parents' land in 1907. At the time the house was built, the Twiss family was the third largest landowner in Clinton County. The success and growth of his farming business likely prompted James C. Twiss to build a home that would reflect his success and dually serve as an office in which business could be further conducted. When his mother passed away in 1916 and his father in 1918, James C. Twiss inherited over 475 acres of farm and cattle land, including the town property on which the Twiss House stands.

Locals tell the story that James Twiss wanted to build a "show-house." A successful businessman also needed a proper office, and the ability to choose an architectural plan for his home that could be customized would have been ideal. Since the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railroad ran through the town, getting the building supplies was also convenient. James Twiss and his wife, Ina, began the process of building their American Dream in May of 1907.

James C. Twiss passed away on January 22nd, 1939 leaving the home to his wife, Ina. Ina Twiss continued to live in the house until her death on January 16th, 1944 at which time the house and property passed to their only living heir, Thelma Tschudy (nee Twiss). Thelma Tschudy owned the house until 1957 when she sold the property to Cyril J. Athmer. Since then the home changed owners four more times and is now owned and occupied by Richard A. and Penny R. Moon, residents of Aviston.

THE JAMES C. TWISS HOUSE

The Twiss House, as it is locally known, is situated on block 6, lots 1, 2, 3, and all of lot 4, except the west 20 feet, of the original town of Hull.

It is likely that James C. Twiss selected George F. Barber's Design #229 from a late edition of *Modern Homes*; Design #229, "A Suburban Prize Design—(Colonial Renaissance)" which was depicted as Design #38 in the magazine's Third (1901) edition, but was first introduced in an 1897 edition as "A Pleasant Home." The design could be altered to meet the desires of the potential client and the architecture specifications plan shows that he did just that.

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Every detail down to the type of window pulleys was laid out and written in his own handwriting. Most materials were brought in by train (access was easy now that the railroad ran through the center of Aviston) and local labor was used to build the house. Hafner Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, MO, quoted local builder B.H. Kellerman of Breese, IL a sum of \$1,600 for all the exterior and interior mill work and trim, including windows, doors, floors, porches, and the grand staircase.

The house was built using western white pine lath for the walls and all outside finish of clear cypress, including the spindles on the wraparound porch. Parquet floors, bevel plate glass windows in the doors, quarter sawn white oak trim throughout the vestibule, nook, stairwell, dining and living rooms was requested. Bay windows and chair rail were in demand by the owner as well.

One of the finer finishing touches included a nickel plated 'speaking tube' that ran from the 2nd floor to the kitchen and into the basement (a pre-cursor to the modern day intercom system) and a laundry chute that ran the same length as the speaking tube. Not to be forgotten is the single bathroom in the house and its original cast iron soaking tub with silver clawfeet. The parlor room is a work of art with Eastlake spindle work bordering the ceiling and ceramic tiles bordering the fireplace mantel and comprising the hearth. The stained glass windows and parquet floors round out the beauty of the room.

The James C. Twiss House is important as a fine example of Queen Anne architecture, which was a popular style in the United States, and abroad, from the late 1800's through the turn of the 20th century. While the grandeur of the style appealed to the upper classes, the mass distribution of mail-order architecture by businessmen like George F. Barber, made it readily available to the middle class who were finally able to afford these elaborate homes. The Twiss House has excellent integrity and deserves to be listed in the National Register of Historical Places.

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Archives: Hafner Manufacturing Company Estimate of Materials, St Louis, MO, May 14, 1907, Moon Family Papers

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The James C. Twiss House is located on All of Lots One, Two and Three, and all of Lot Four except the west twenty feet thereof, in Block six, in the Original Town of Hull, now the Village of Aviston.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the James C. Twiss House.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

298 N. Page St., Aviston

IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss1	Looking South, North Elevation
IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss2	Looking Southwest, Northeast Elevation
IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss3	Looking West, East Elevation, Front Entrance
IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss4	Looking Northwest, Southeast Elevation
IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss5	Looking North, South Elevation, South Entrance
IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss6	Looking East, West Elevation, Rear Entrance
IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss7	Looking Northwest, Interior Detail of Grand Entryway
IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss8	Looking North, Interior Detail of Fireplace

Photos dated April 2009
Penny Moon – Photographer

CD-R, IL_ClintonCounty_Twiss1-8.tif

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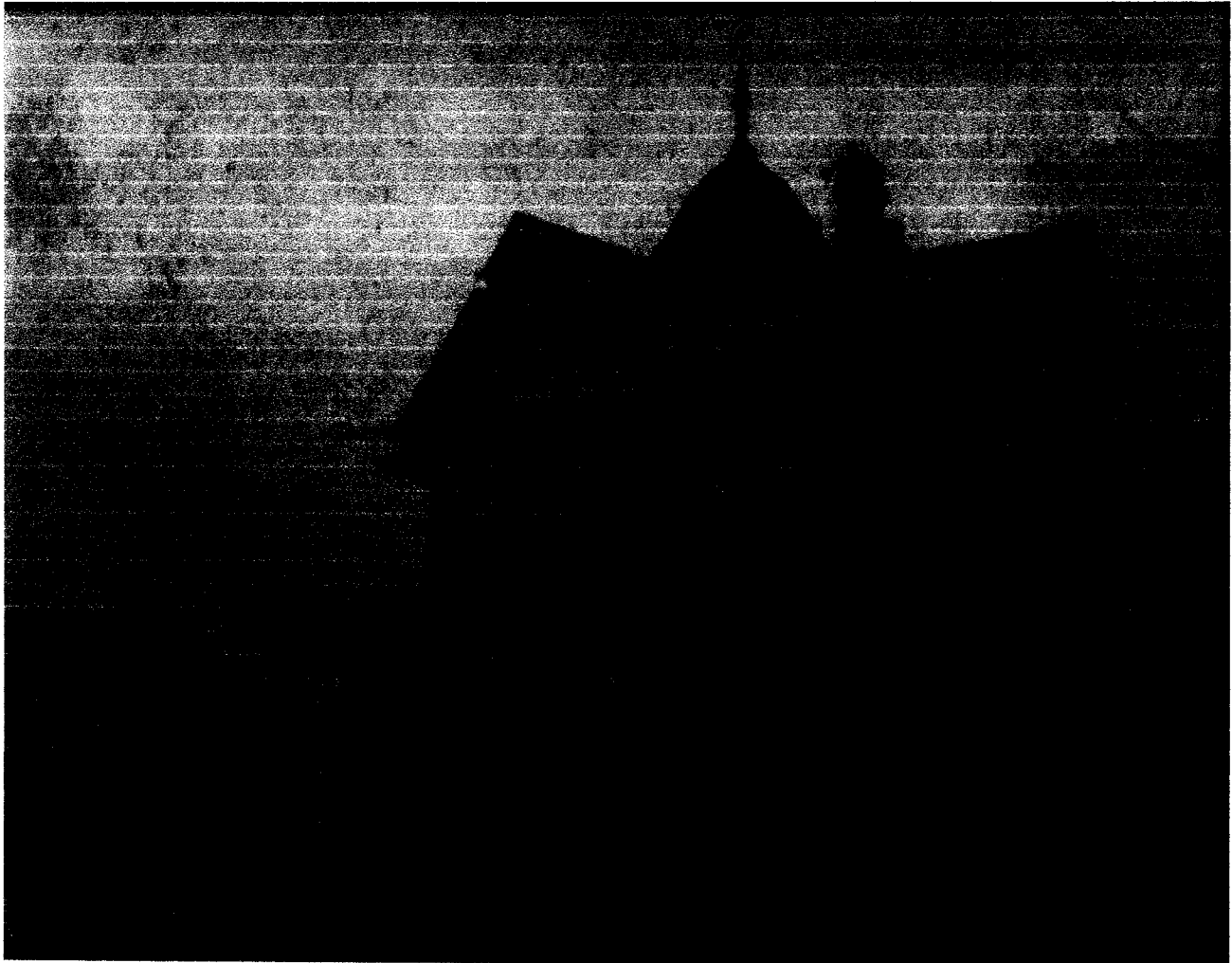
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ADDENDUM

1912 Photograph of Twiss House



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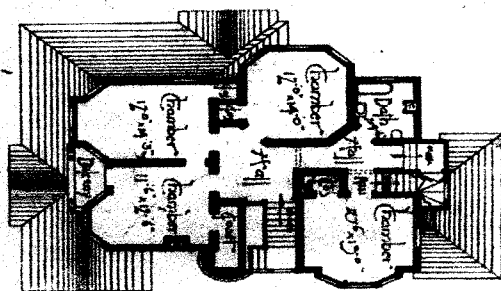
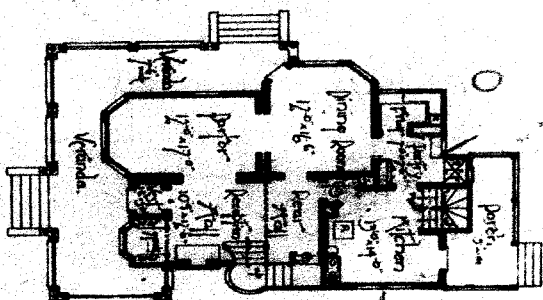
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FLOOR PLANS FROM "MODERN DWELLINGS"

276

MODERN DWELLINGS



FLOOR PLANS FOR DESIGN NO. 279

The design is modern American and presents beautiful proportions from every direction. The cellar is under the entire house, with stone foundation. The hall is spacious and beautiful, and all other rooms arranged for convenience on both floors. A beautiful porch spans the entire front. The first floor rooms, exclusive of the kitchen and pantry, are finished in quartered oak, all the rest throughout is in white pine. Steam or hot water may be used for heating. Width 37 feet total. Stories 1 1/2 and 3 feet.

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful hall than the one arranged for this house, as one will see by a careful look at the plans. The pantry is double, one part to be used for fruit and a recess gives place for a refrigerator, out of the way yet convenient to both kitchen and dining room, and where it can be cool from the outside.

1/2 mi. north of SR 88 along the shoreline of Lake Kirkwood on the Eldorado National Forest, Pioneer vicinity, 09001054, LISTED, 12/11/09 (Recreation Residence Tracts in the National Forests of California from 1906-1959 MPS)

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
Gill, Merwyn C., House,
1385 El Mirador Dr.,
Pasadena, 09000176,
LISTED, 12/23/09
(Cultural Resources of the Recent Past, City of Pasadena)

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
Pegfair Estates Historic District,
1525-1645 Pegfair Estates Dr.; 1335-1345 Carnarvon Dr., Pasadena, 09001223, LISTED,
1/18/10 (Cultural Resources of the Recent Past, City of Pasadena)

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
Poppy Peak Historic District,
Bounded by Ave. 64 on the E., La Loma Rd. on the N. including Poppy Peak Dr., Kaweah Dr.,
Cresthaven Dr., Pasadena, 09000182, LISTED, 12/23/09 (Cultural Resources of the Recent Past,
City of Pasadena)

CALIFORNIA, MENDOCINO COUNTY,
Navarro,
Navarro Beach Rd.,
Albion, 09001089,
LISTED, 12/21/09

CALIFORNIA, SACRAMENTO COUNTY,
SMUD Headquarters Building,
6301 S. St.,
Sacramento, 09001161,
LISTED, 1/04/10

ILLINOIS, CLINTON COUNTY,
Twiss, James C., House,
298 N. Page St.,
Aviston, 10000020,
LISTED, 2/17/10

IOWA, DICKINSON COUNTY,
Mini-Wakan State Park Historic District, 24490 100th St., Spirit Lake vicinity, 10000021, LISTED,
2/17/10 (CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks MPS)

MINNESOTA, WASHINGTON COUNTY,
Stillwater South Main Street Archeological District, Off MN 95, Stillwater, 10000006,
DETERMINED ELIGIBLE, 2/12/10

MISSOURI, ATCHISON COUNTY,
Rankin Hall,
402 N. 13th St.,