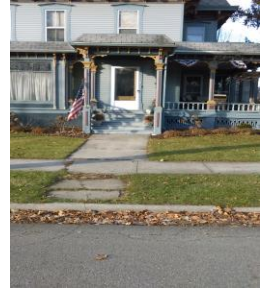


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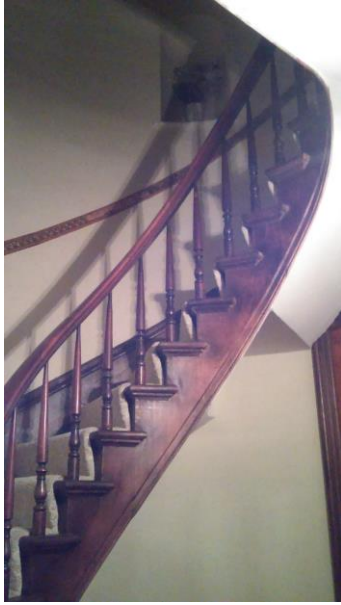


### A home that worked

Among the many houses in Adrian one in particular sticks out. 312 Dennis is a Second Empire style house with major significance to the city of Adrian. The Crocker-Clark house, which it was called, was built in memory of E.L. Clark, who was a contributor to the city of Adrian. The Crocker-Clark house is a typical Second Empire Style home. What makes it a typical Second Empire style, who built it, and why is it important are issues that will be addressed.



The Crocker-Clark house is a typical Second Empire style home, its physical features makes it no ordinary style home. The style is characterized principally by its distinctive, Mansard roof (McAlester, 241). Its straight roof shape makes it very common. The Crocker-Clark house has arched dormer windows, hence another typical feature as well as brackets under the roof. The Second Empire style is resembles the Italianate style. This house has an asymmetrical foundation, with an “L” shaped porch that is hooded (McAlester, 242).



The Crocker-Clark exterior also has bay windows as well as paired entry doors, as we make our way to the interior. The interior consists of a typical Second Empire style foundation, as said before to be asymmetrical. As we make our way to the interior we go through a door that with a large glass panel. This can result as a portico. To our right we have another door that leads to the “L” shape hooded porch. Ahead we go through the paired entry doors. Immediately there is a spiral staircase leading up to the second story. Whereas to the left is a sitting room. As

we make our way pass a sliding door we come in contact with the living room and to the left is the library. Next is the dining room straight ahead. With the kitchen to the left,



which has stairs leading into the basement and also another set heading to the second story. The Kitchen has another room to the left, which is the breakfast room. The breakfast room has a small bathroom. The second story has five bedrooms with two bathrooms. Both of them near the rear of the house. It also has an attic as we make our way to the third story. The basements foundation consists of old

brick with a hint newer brick toward to middle of the basement. It

Hint that at some point remodeling was done. Not sure when but from personal observations this house could have been remodeled into this style



The Second Empire style was part of the picturesque movement. It was prevalent during the reign of Louis XIV (Foley, 162). This house reflected the latest French fashion where it was then revived during the reign of Napoleon III. It resembled the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles greatly as it became popular in the 1860s and 70s (Foley, 162), which is around the time the remodeling supposedly took place in this home.

Isabella, daughter of E.L. Clark, and her husband William Cocker supposedly remolded the house located on 312 Dennis. The house was built in 1855 in the Italianate style. According to the survey done by Francis and Dickens and believed that the house was constructed in 1855 having Second Empire style characteristics. Her father's home was in the Second Empire style as well. Which is now the location of the Adrian post office. As we can see his home was in a grand Second Empire style as well. The Mansard Roof, decorative brackets, and pediments are shown on the house. The money from his will supposedly enabled them to remodel their existing home as well as the building of the Odd Fellows Hall. Similar to his home the Odd Fellows Hall has similar characteristics. One would assess rather the house was built in the Second Empire Style or not by examining the foundation of the structure. From personal observation the foundation of the house consisted of different type of brick styles. Which gives us a hint that it is a possibility that this house was remolded into this style.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark\\_Memorial\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_Memorial_Hall)

Isabella's father, Elihu L. Clark, was born in Walworth, Ontario now Wayne county, New



York in 1811 (Lindquist 2004). His father was a farmer. E.L. Clark and his wife moved

to Adrian after marriage with his brother John R. Elihu, a businessman, who, at the age of nineteen, was a clerk at a store. Clark was a businessman. With the money he got from selling of his business in New York he decided to purchase more goods with it and open up a store in Adrian. This small store was located on Main Street, where his goods were sold for cash. He remained trading goods until 1847. He was also known for giving loans and also did a lot of investing which paid out very well, which allowed him to become a philanthropist.

Elihu L. Clark contributed significantly to the city of Adrian. Adrian hit a growth spurt in 1840 from previous years. He was a founding father of a committee dedicated to the constructing of a railroad system (which one?). This elaborated system of railroad would help farmers tremendously. Being one of the richest men in south central Michigan he was depended upon to give donations. He gave for Michigan Orphan Asylum, State reform school for Girls, and new railroads. He was a man that is remained to be remembered.

The Crocker-Clark house was supposedly built in 1855 but then transferred into the Second Empire style. I believe that it was always built in the second empire style because it fits the qualities of the Second Empire Style. From the architectural forms its gives us an insight of the cultural context at the time.

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