

**The Charles & Jennie Fairchild House  
1857 Riverside Avenue  
Marinette, Wisconsin**

**In the context of the coming-of-age of a lumber boom town:  
1881-1901**

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## PREFACE

The Charles and Jennie Fairchild House, 1857 Riverside Avenue, was built in 1881 on what was then still part of Main Street in Marinette, Wisconsin. Following the Civil War, Marinette became a lumber boom town not unlike Hollywood portrayals of towns in the Old West with a few major differences—where the West had cowboys, Marinette had loggers; instead of hot, dusty trails, Marinette had cold, icy forests. Beyond these differences, similarities in lawlessness, saloons, and brothels abound.

Marinette would make steady strides towards becoming a more civilized urban center throughout the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. The construction of the Fairchild House coincides with the beginning of a construction boom that would transform the company boom town into a permanent settlement. The Fairchild House was one of the first architecturally cosmopolitan residences to be built in Marinette—certainly the first house that marked the western portion of Main Street as the new neighborhood for affluent citizens of the community.

The lumber town would be chartered as a city in 1887 and numerous public improvements would be made in the 1880s and 1890s. As the century came to a close, the lumber industry would peak and begin its gradual decline through the first quarter of the twentieth century. Today there are few remnants of Marinette's lumber age—the industry has long since left and been replaced by others through the community's effort to diversify its economy. The Fairchild House still stands as a testament to those early days.

## HISTORY OF MARINETTE

The present-day city of Marinette, Wisconsin, is situated on the southern bank of the Menominee River whose nearby mouth empties into the bay of Green Bay. Marinette's sister city, Menominee, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, occupies the northern bank of the same river and overlooks the bay to the east.

(Fig 1. Menominee River Settlements, c. 1887 [Source: *M&M Illustrated* 1887])

Indigenous Copper Culture people first settled the area as early as 10,000 B.C. Their descendants, the Menominee (whose name derives from an Algonquin word and means "Wild Rice People"), subsisted primarily on the abundant wild rice and fish and had established their main village, named Menekaunee (meaning "original settlement"), at the mouth of the Menominee River. The first white visitors to this ancestral land of the Menominee Indians are believed to have come in 1634 as French explorer Jean Nicolet and his party made their way south along the western shore of Green Bay. Soon after this first contact with the French was made, the Menominee became heavily involved in the fur trade and, for a time, were frequented by Catholic missionaries.

The first white settler, Stanislaus Chappu (or Chappée), arrived in 1790 as an agent of the American Fur Company and operated a trading post until 1824. Chappu was forced to leave by William Farnsworth, also an agent of the American Fur Company. Farnsworth would continue to operate the trading post (located along what would eventually become Riverside Avenue) with his common-law wife, Marinette, the granddaughter of a Menominee chief and daughter of a

French fur trader (Thibodeau 1991, 15). “Queen” Marinette, as she would later be known, is the namesake for the city and county.

As fur trading declined in the 1830s, the lumber trade began to grow to meet the demand of fast-growing cities like Milwaukee and Chicago. Marinette’s first saw mill was built in 1832. Between 1857 and 1867, the four sawmills that would dominate the local lumber industry for the remainder for the century would begin production. Those mills were the New York Lumber Company, the Nelson Ludington Company, the Henry Witbeck Lumber Company, and the Hamilton and Merryman Company (Thibodeau 1991, 62). The town of Marinette would evolve primarily from the cluster of buildings that surrounded the Nelson Ludington sawmill. A road from Green Bay to Marinette was completed in 1854 and shortly thereafter a stage line began operation (Boatman 1998, V.1 60). The Northwestern Railroad arrived in Marinette in 1871. Both the road and the train improved contact with the rest of Wisconsin. Additionally, the Nelson Ludington Company built a bridge across the Menominee River in 1862 thereby improving access between the twin cities. Downtown Marinette grew around this convergence of the road (particularly Hall Avenue and Main Street), railroad, and interstate bridge, enabling the city to become the commercial hub of the Menominee River region. A second bridge would finally be constructed downriver in Menekaunee in 1888 (*The Eagle*, September 10, 1888).

Amidst this period of development, tragedy struck the area on the night of October 8, 1871. Although the date is best remembered for the Chicago Fire, it was also the night of the much more devastating Great Peshtigo Fire which consumed over 2,000 square miles of northeast Wisconsin forest and upwards of 2,000 people, mostly in the town of Peshtigo. Peshtigo, Wisconsin, approximately 7 miles south of Marinette, bore the brunt of the firestorm and was completely annihilated; the denizens of Marinette fought the blaze and escaped great

loss of life, but significant portions of the town were consumed nonetheless. The effects of the fires of 1871 were far-reaching. Insofar as local industry is concerned, the rebuilding and subsequent growth of Chicago fueled the local lumber industry and, by extension, the growth of Marinette. This is clearly attested to by newspaper headlines like “1/8 of Chicago’s Lumber Shipped from Menominee River” (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, December 22, 1878), and “One-Sixth of Chicago’s Lumber Comes from Menominee River” (*North Star*, March 9, 1883). By 1886 there were seven mills on the Marinette side of the river—eventually there would be nine large mills in Marinette and another eleven on the Michigan side of the river (Emich 1987, 6-7).

The 1860 census reports listed 489 people living in the combined villages of Marinette and Menekaunee (now part of Marinette). Between 1870 and 1875 the population grew from 1,300 to 2,500 and, by 1880, the population reached 4,024. Newspapers of the time mention a serious housing shortage. Marinette County was created from the northern portions of Oconto County in 1879. The 1880s proved to be a decade of prosperity and growth for Marinette—Marinette was incorporated as a City in 1887 and the population grew to some 11,000 by 1890 (Thibodeau 1991, 79).

The first combined Marinette and Menominee city directory was published in 1885 and provides a snapshot in time of the community. Town government in Marinette consisted of a three-member Board of Supervisors, one of whom was elected to be town chairman. The Board held its meetings in the Stephenson Building on Hall Avenue. Other offices included town treasurer, town clerk, town constables, and justices of the peace. The town and, after 1887, city had five wards, the Fairchild house being in the fifth ward. Principal employers in the area were the 18 lumber companies along both sides of the river, but other major employers included the paper company, two iron works, a boiler works, a shipyard, and a brewery. Marinette had 18

grocers compared to Menominee's 12. There were 9 meat markets, 9 dressmakers, 8 milliners, 9 dry goods stores, 13 barber shops, 9 restaurants, one Chinese laundry, and several flour and feed stores. There were 29 saloons in Marinette and 23 in Menominee. Brothels, being illegal but not uncommon, were not tallied (Boatman 1998, V.2 328-329). Banking services were provided by the Stephenson Banking Company which opened in 1874. Marinette's second bank, the First National Bank, was organized in 1889 (Emich 1987, 39). Of course, alternatives to banks were available as stores and employers offered similar services for smaller, day-to-day financial matters. The 1889 City Directory lists over 30 hotels and boarding houses in Marinette alone. By 1885 both Marinette and Menominee had an opera house where one could take in a show, concert, or some other public or private event. Each town also had a roller rink and a horse racing park (Boatman 1998, V.2 329).

The population peaked in 1900 at a little over 16,000, making Marinette the tenth largest city in Wisconsin at that time. The lumber boom had peaked, however, around 1895, and the industry began a slow decline until the last log drive on the Menominee River in 1917 and the closing of the last of the sawmills in 1931 (Thibodeau 1991, 16).

### **FAIRCHILD FAMILY**

In the spring of 1862, Reverend John Fairchild (Presbyterian, born 1804) made his first visit to the Menominee River Settlement at the invitation of Doctors J. C. Hall and J. J. Sherman. In the spring of 1863 Rev. Fairchild moved his family from Indiana to Marinette, Oconto County, Wisconsin, and commenced to labor as a Minister in this "then wild uncultured field". Per an autobiographical letter written in 1879:

When we first came to this field it presented an aspect altogether wild and romantic. Game abounded in the forests & fish in the waters, the Red man had not yet struck his tent. A fragment of the Menominee tribe still lingers in the neighborhood.



There were no roads deserving the name; nearly all travel in summer was upon steamers upon the Bay, & in winter most of it past on the ice in sleighs over the same track.

The nearest church north was at Marquette 150 miles distant on the shore of Lake Superior. South at Oconto the county seat of the same name, 30 miles distant, there was a small feble [sic] Presbn Church lately organized, and at Green Bay City there was a Presbn church, to the east was Lake Michigan, to the west a vast pathless forest.

The population here then consisted almost wholly of lumbermen and their dependents. (Wisconsin State Historical Society Collection)

Rev. John and his wife, Laura, had seven children born between 1836 and 1852. Of particular importance insofar as the house at 1857 Riverside Avenue is concerned are brothers Addison Miles Fairchild, born 1843, and Charles Marsh Fairchild, born 1850. Charles came to Marinette with his parents in 1863 (age 13); Addison, on the other hand, would not arrive until August of 1865 following the conclusion of his two years of service as a Private with the 75<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry regiment (Boatman 1998, V.1 148).

(Fig 2. Charley Fairchild in Green Bay, c. 1865 [Source: Knauss Family Collection])

Addison initially worked as a bookkeeper for a number of the lumber companies before engaging himself in the drug business in 1868 (*The Daily Eagle*, September 2, 1898). Charles, after a very brief tenure as a student at Wabash College, would join his brother as a clerk in the drug store in 1870. Charles went on to become a full partner in the “Fairchild Bros” drug store in 1872 (Boatman 1998, V.1 226).

(Fig 3. Addison Fairchild’s first store in Marinette, c. 1870 [Source: Knauss Family Collection])

Worth noting is that history records where both Addison and Charles were on the night of October 8, 1871. Addison is mentioned by name in the first newspaper story of the Peshtigo Fire to be printed (*Marinette and Peshtigo Eagle*, October 14, 1871). Charles is mentioned in the diary of Josephine Ingalls Sawyer of Menominee, Michigan.

About two a.m. I was standing on guard at our gate, the others having gone where they were needed more. It was so light from the glare in the sky that I saw Charlie Fairchild coming up the street with a load of furniture and called out, "Why take it to the house? The hills are all on fire back of Kirby Creek (runs through Finntown)." He answered, "Well, they'll get the insurance if it is in the house but not if it is on the boat." He told me that the boat was being held at the dock for women and children if needed, some of them fled to it early in the night... (Mid-Peninsula Library Cooperative 1982, 88)

Although none ever rivaled the Great Peshtigo Fire, destructive fires were a relatively common occurrence in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Marinette, and both Addison and Charles would go on to have further trials by fire. Among Addison's activities outside of the drug store, he was a member of the all-volunteer Marinette Fire Department by 1872 (Boatman 1998, V.1 262) and would eventually serve as Fire Chief for sixteen years (*The Daily Eagle*, September 2, 1898). In the closing days of March 1873, a lit, four-lamp, kerosene chandelier crashed to the floor in the Fairchild Bros drugstore. Charles won praise for his "coolness and presence of mind" when he quickly smothered this potentially disastrous fire which likely had the potential to destroy the entire block (Boatman 1998, V. 1272).

Compared to Charles Fairchild, relatively little is known of Sarah Jane "Jennie" Cook, born in Vermont in 1847, who would become Charles' wife in January of 1874 (Boatman V.1 1998, 302). What is known is that a masquerade party was held at Marinette's First National Hotel on April 16, 1873 (not long after Charles fought his chandelier fire), at which Jennie won first prize in the costume contest; she was dressed as "the Evening Star".

(Fig. 4. Charles Marsh Fairchild, c. 1880 [Source: Bellis Family Collection])

(Fig. 5. Sarah Jane Fairchild, c. 1890 [Source: Bellis Family Collection])

Charles and Jennie had a daughter, Edna, born in 1876. They would go on to have three additional children (Horace in 1881, Oakalla in 1882, and Willard in 1886), but the growing family first turned their attention to the building of a new house.

(Fig. 6. Edna Fairchild, c. 1882 [Source: Abbott Family Collection])

### **FAIRCHILD HOUSE**

In 1880, Addison and Charles purchased two adjacent lots on what was then Main Street, just to the west of downtown (Abstract of Title), with the intent of building a pair of nearly-identical houses. The housing shortage which was reported in the local papers in 1879 had, by 1880, become worse and some measure of advance planning was required in order to secure the services of reputable architects and builders (Boatman 1998, V. 2 8 & 46). The Fairchild Brothers would contract noted local architects W. M. Brown and John Crockett (*The Eagle*, May 28, 1881 & July 23, 1881). The initial mortgage for the C. M. Fairchild house was \$1,500 on top of the \$400 cost of the lot (Abstract of Title).

The design of the Fairchild house had to accommodate the growing family. Per the 1880 census, the household consisted of Charles, Jennie, daughter Edna, and Jennie's younger sister Ella, who lived with the family as a housekeeper. Beyond this, Charles and Jennie were also expecting the birth of their second child, Horace, who would arrive in May of 1881.

## Form

The house design that the Fairchild Bros had drawn up was a wood-clad, two-story, early Queen Anne style building with a cross-gable plan and a three-story square stair tower embraced in the northeast ‘L’. The original plan of the house appears to have been strongly influenced by the pattern book designs of Palliser & Palliser of Bridgeport, CT. In particular, their “Model Gothic Cottage” design, as advertised in *Palliser’s Model Homes for the People* of 1876, bears a particularly strong resemblance, as does Plate 14 of *Palliser’s American Cottage Homes* of 1878 and Plate VI of *Palliser’s Model Homes* of 1878, the latter two having perhaps the most similar floor plans to the Fairchild houses, although the location of the sitting room and dining room has been reversed.

(Fig. 7. Fairchild Houses, c. 1900 [Source: Marinette County Historical Society Museum])

(Fig. 8. Composite of Fairchild Houses and Palliser’s “Model Gothic Cottage” of 1876 [Source: Author])

(Fig. 9. Plate VI of Palliser’s Model Homes of 1878 [Source: Palliser 1878])

Beyond the overall Palliser house form, a number of architectural details found on the as-built A. M. and C. M. Fairchild houses were either inspired by or borrowed directly from *Woodward’s National Architect* of 1869. These details include Plate 9 (tower windows), Plate 16 (roof cresting), Plate 27 (gothic trefoils-&-triangles in bargeboard gingerbread and tower gable finials), Plate 65 (flat-sawn porch balusters), and, most notably, Plate 85 (the third story of the tower itself).

(Fig. 10. C. M. Fairchild House, Second Owner, c. 1898 [Source: Martin 1898])

(Fig. 11. A. M. Fairchild House, c. 1896 [Source: Marinette County Historical Society Museum])

The house was to be built of the abundant and relatively inexpensive locally-milled wood. In keeping with the new Queen Anne style, the three main gables are clad in alternating bands of wood round and octagonal shingles, each band three rows high. A similar shingle sill course would run along the faces of the front section of the building. The rest of the front and back sections of the house is clad primarily in wood clapboard siding, typical of most other residences in town.

### **Construction**

Marinette's first imposing stone or brick-faced public building was the original Marinette county court house on Hall Avenue, begun in 1879 (foundation laid by Calix Merchant, building built by John Crockett), and completed in 1881 (Emich 1987, 5 & 28). Per John Crockett's obituary in the *Marinette Eagle-Star* (Sept. 9, 1937), "he was acting contractor and builder of the local court house, and jail and also many of the more pretentious homes in the city".

Immediately after completing the combined court house, jail, and sheriff's residence, John Crockett undertook the construction of the A.M. and C.M. Fairchild residences. Construction of the Fairchild houses would span from May to November of 1881.

Concurrent with the construction of the Fairchild houses, a Bird's Eye view of Marinette was begun in April of 1881 (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, April 20, 1881) and completed in August of that year (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, August 27, 1881). As such, it shows only diminutive place-holder representations of what the Fairchild houses would look like when completed, but it also appears to show the completed outbuilding (carriage house) for the C. M.

Fairchild residence. This outbuilding, a most convenient 1-1/2 story structure, was probably ideal for storing building materials and providing shelter for busy carpenters. Indeed, while lumber was the main industry of the area, some of the finer millwork, such as the curved staircases, probably came from Chicago (Boatman 1998, V.2 134) and needed to be kept somewhere until they could be installed. The Bird's Eye illustration artistically depicts the community more or less as it existed when the houses were constructed and before Riverside Avenue came to be dominated by the homes of Marinette's most affluent residents. The Bird's Eye View also provides a handy means of establishing the Fairchild Houses in the context of the larger community.

(Fig. 12. Bird's Eye View of Marinette, Wis. 1881 [Source: Marinette County Historical Society Museum])

(Fig. 13. Annotated Bird's Eye View of West Marinette [Source: Author])

(Fig. 14. Annotated Bird's Eye View of East Marinette [Source: Author])

Sanborn maps are available for the years 1884, 1895, 1901, 1910, 1921, and 1935. These maps show the development of the city, including Riverside Avenue, in the years following the construction of the Fairchild houses.

(Fig. 15. Sanborn Map, Marinette, Wis. 1884 [Source: Sanborn 1884])

## Interior

In its original, as-built configuration, the house was comprised of two major sections. The front two-story section, intended for the daily living and comfort of the family and their guests, is comprised of the three main gable wings (east, north, & south) and stair tower. The back two-story section, intended for work and functions that support the life within the front section of the house, consists of the west gable wing. This wing is shorter in overall height than the front section, but somewhat wider than the other three wings. Within the front section of the house, the east wing consists of a parlor (approx. 15'-2" wide by 14'-9" deep) on the first floor, well suited for welcoming guests and displaying the family's prosperity, and a master bedroom for Charles and Jennie overlooking the Menominee River on the second floor. The south wing consists of a sitting room (approx. 19' wide by 15' deep) with a fireplace on the first floor and, on the second floor, a nursery for Edna and soon-to-arrive Horace connected to the master bedroom via adjoining closets so as to allow the parents to tend to the children without having to walk out into the less private hall. The north wing consists of a dining room on the first floor and a boarding room, with closet on the second floor, which, given the housing shortage, was ideal as an extra source of income until such time as the family needed the extra space. The boarding room was immediately put to use by teachers at the nearby Ella Court School, many of whom appear to have been related to Charles in some fashion or another. The last mention of borders in the City Directories was Ella Court School teachers Edith Wright and Grace Wright in 1887. Notably, the bedroom closets were fitted with commodious built-in dressers, possibly to accommodate the hoop skirts that were declared to be in fashion again in 1881 (Boatman 1998, V.2 90).

The stair tower embraces a curving staircase that rises from the first floor entry hall, empties into a central hall on the second floor, and continues into the roughly 8-1/2' x 8-1/2' tower room on the third floor. The tower room was probably of limited utility (perhaps a tiny play space, storage space, or even bedroom for children), but it served the purpose of being an attractive architectural element, provided a destination for a more impressive staircase, and, in summer time, the windows helped to provide a means through which rising hot air could escape. In keeping with social order of the day, the second floor hall is divided by a door (deadbolt on the front side only) and a single step down to the slightly lower elevation of the back section's upper floor.

The back section of the house contains what may have been a study, back parlor, or general family room (adjacent to the sitting room) and also a kitchen (adjacent to the dining room) on the first floor. A bedroom (servant's quarters, presumably for Jennie's sister, Ella Cook) and bathroom were on the second floor. The rooms upstairs and downstairs were all divided by a second central staircase for use by those working to maintain the household. While all rooms in the front section of the house have at least one window in each of two walls so as to ensure some measure of daylight and cross ventilation during fair weather, the rooms upstairs in the back section of the house have but a single window.

(Fig. 16. Floorplan of C.M. Fairchild House [Source: Author])

Ceiling height in the front section of the house is 10'-6" on the first floor and 8'-4" on the second floor (tapering down to 6'-11" where the roofline intersects the walls). Floors in the front section of the house are all 2-1/4" maple except in the nursery where they are narrower. Heavy



baseboards (11-1/2" high) and casing moldings, as well as the maple flooring, are carried through from the front section of the house into the study. The rest of the back section of the house was fitted with 5-1/2" wide pine flooring. Ceiling height in the back section of the house is 9'-6" on the first floor. The 8'-7" ceiling height on the second floor tapers down much more drastically than in the front section of the house due to the lower roofline. There is a full basement, accessed from the kitchen pantry, below the original footprint of the house, including a brick-floor cold room, a coal room, a root cellar, and a cistern for rainwater collected from the roof.

### **Utilities**

On the subject of utilities, the cistern provided storage for rainwater collected from the roof and was initially the source of all water used by the household. A municipal waterworks and network of underground service pipes, a long time desire of Marinette's residents who feared contaminated wells and cisterns, would eventually be constructed in 1887 after Marinette gained city status (Boatman 1998, V.2 583). In what today would be considered a misuse of public services, Addison, then fire chief, had the fire department fill his new cistern using their fire engine (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, December 24, 1881).

Night-time lighting for the house was provided by a variety of kerosene lamps—some stood on table tops, some were free standing piano types, some were mounted to the walls via brackets, and some hung from the ceiling via a pull-down "motor" mechanism to allow convenient refueling (probably one of Ella Cook's many tasks). Much like the waterworks, a gas works would be constructed in 1887 with gas mains laid under Main Street at the same time as the water pipes (Boatman 1998, V.2 596). This is not to say that gas had not been put to use earlier on a smaller scale. For example, the Fairchild Bros block on Dunlap Square was

illuminated in September of 1883 using “gas generated by a small patent apparatus located in the cellar” (*North Star*, September 7, 1883). The house would eventually be retrofitted with both gas and water service, probably shortly after such service was made available. Sewage at this time was handled by a pipe leading from the house directly to the river.

As for heat, the house was built with a state-of-the-art furnace system, thereby eliminating the need for multiple fireplaces. Indeed, the house has only one fireplace, intended, perhaps, to serve as a “ritual center” for the home that could warm the spirit that appreciated the homey glow of a traditional fire more so than to actually heat the home (Schlereth 1991, 122). A coal-fired central steam boiler located in the basement provided the necessary warmth in winter time that the kitchen stove could not. Fuel for the furnace arrived via a coal chute in the basement foundation leading directly to a coal bin, which, in turn, is surrounded by a room-size coal bunker. The door frame to the bunker is fitted with slots allowing boards to be inserted or removed so as to dam in the coal supply. Interestingly, in a time before insulation, the cavities of exterior walls included a layer of “back plastering”, a partition of plaster and lath that subdivided the space so as to improve (albeit only slightly) the insulating properties of the wall.

The cold northeast Wisconsin winters, coupled with the river and bay, also provided a ready supply of ice that could be harvested and stored in ice houses for use year-round. The Fairchild house would have had an ice box in the kitchen. In addition to this, one room in the basement was fitted with a brick floor and an ice chute.

## **Lot**

The lot for Charles’ house measures 60 feet wide, 139.17 feet deep, and faces predominantly to the east towards what was then the western portion of Main Street. Addison’s neighboring lot to the north is on the corner, with Hattie Court immediately to the north of that

and Dunlap Square several lots away to the south. The back of the lot is bound by an alley, beyond which are smaller residential lots facing Stephenson Court to the west. Between the house and the alley is the aforementioned detached one-and-a-half story, full-width gable (roofline running parallel to the alley) outbuilding. The opposite side of Main Street consists of a narrow strip of land adjacent to the Menominee River, which marks the interstate border between Wisconsin and Michigan, and directly across from what was then Joe Bart Island, now called Stephenson Island, the site of the Tweedie Planing Mill. At the Fairchild houses, the noise from Tweedie's Planing Mill on the nearby island, not to mention the sight of the river overflowing with logs in the springtime log drives, would have been a constant reminder of lumber's supremacy in the local economy. The noise from the island likely became louder in 1887 when Isaac Stephenson built a larger lumber mill on the island (Boatman 1998, V.2 606).

(Fig. 17. Riverside, 1887 [Source: *Marinette & Menominee Illustrated*])

The back yard was a relatively private space, likely containing a small vegetable garden, a fruit tree of some sort, and a wood pile to be burned in the fireplace and kitchen stove, all easily accessible from the rear kitchen door. A cluster of lilacs likely took the place of an earlier outhouse. Trash, such as broken bottles and other items that were beyond any use, was buried in the back near the alley. A door from the sitting room to the back yard was probably used for bringing in wood for the fireplace and perhaps as an entrance for familiar business associates. Plans for a veranda in way of this door, such as that shown in Figure 9, may have been omitted so as to economize on construction costs. The outbuilding, in addition to providing extra storage space, was used to house a carriage and may have also provided shelter for a horse (and perhaps

even a stable boy), but the close proximity of livery stables makes this somewhat dubious and conclusive evidence has not surfaced.

In contrast to the back yard, the front yard was relatively neat in appearance with a few ornamental plantings and an iron fence along the sidewalk for decoration. The front porch welcomed visitors with a prominent double front door for callers and guests. A less ornate door to the side leading directly into the dining room was probably intended for use by those who, for various reasons, visited more frequently, including the milk man who delivered by wagon or sleigh, depending on the weather. A crank or spring-wound doorbell was likely installed at the doors. In 1881 there were no house numbers. By 1887 house numbers had been assigned, but most households had still not taken any action to display said numbers (Boatman 1998, V.2 544). Porch furniture may have included a chair and a boot scraper, but little else.

For the C.M. Fairchild house, it appears that the walk leading up to the front porch may have been directly in-line with the front door. In the case of A.M. Fairchild's house, by the turn of the century the walk leading up to the front porch approached the house directly towards the parlor's bay window before splitting towards either the porch steps or a front-facing door to the sitting room. This novel arrangement would allow those within to have a nice look at whomever was approaching.

## **THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Marinette in 1881 was very much a rough-&-tumble boom town that owed its existence to the lumber industry. At that time, lumberjacks would spend their winters working in the surrounding forests cutting the vast stock of white pine trees. Logs would be stamped with a mallet that identified which company had cut them, transported through the woods on horse-drawn sleds pulled across rutted ice roads, and then dumped into the Menominee River. During

the spring, work would stop in the camps and the river would thaw, allowing the stamped logs to float downstream to a sorting gap and the lumber mills in Marinette and Menominee.

Much like the logs, the lumberjacks would also find their way downstream to Menominee and Marinette for work and entertainment during the warmer months. Much to the dislike of the middle and upper class citizens, a great number of saloons and brothels serviced the needs of the laborers. In September 1881, as the Fairchild houses were nearing completion and shortly after President Garfield's death, the McDonald brothers got into a fight with the Kittson brothers, all loggers, at a brothel in the Frenchtown section of Menominee. Indeed, Marinette and Menominee had a number of ethnic sections—as Raymond Mohl describes, the growth of the communities occurring at this time “promoted social fragmentation, as people sorted themselves out by class, ethnicity, and race” (Mohl 1985, 37). In any event, the Kittsons were stabbed, one killed, and the McDonalds jailed. A day or so later a mob formed, stormed the Menominee courthouse, and dragged the McDonald boys through the streets with horses back to the bordello where the initial fight had occurred. The boys may well have been dead before being lynched at their final destination. Regardless of how deserving of punishment the McDonalds may have been, this act of mob justice was widely and rightly denounced.

### **History of Riverside Avenue**

While the community at large was rough-and-tumble, the construction of the Fairchild residences occurred near the beginning of a major residential construction boom and also marks the beginning of the development of Riverside Avenue as a residential area for Marinette's affluent citizens. Beginning in the 1880s, the region between Hall Avenue and the Menominee River (west of the downtown) became the site of some of the more fashionable residences in Marinette. Streets in other areas of the city were prone to inundation with high water during

spring rains, but the area west of downtown was on higher ground. Until 1890, most residential streets were built paralleling Main Street east of the downtown, were located near the sawmills, and were populated primarily by sawmill laborers. The affluent members of the emerging business and professional community began to build their homes west of the downtown. As Raymond Mohl describes, “The less developed areas outside the urban core had an appeal to those who could afford to escape the increasingly crowded, congested, and unhealthy city” (Mohl 1985, 30). Riverside Avenue was originally part of Main Street and, judging by the 1887 and 1895 City Directories, was renamed River Street by 1887 and Riverside Avenue by 1895. This was the most affluent street in this new area and is composed of the residences of many of the most prominent individuals in the history of Marinette (Thibodeau 1991, 177), including Isaac Stephenson’s mansion, begun in 1882, the large homes of two of his daughters, both built in 1885, and two Merryman family mansions built in 1882 and 1886.

## **Roads**

Generally speaking, roads in Marinette were not good in the nineteenth century. Early roads in Marinette were dirt, typically with a layer of sawdust applied on their surfaces. In 1881 it was reported that the dust being kicked up on the roads was unbearable and a street sprinkler was badly needed (Boatman, V.2 1998, 83). Sprinklers would not arrive until 1889 (*The Eagle* July 20, 1889). Conversely, in 1879 and again in 1882, the *Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle* noted that Marinette’s two major streets (Main Street and Hall Avenue) were prone to turning into “a sea of mud” up to a foot or two deep whenever it rained. Apparently, both Main Street and Hall Avenue had actually been raised by a foot or two over the years, the result of “a layer of muck, falsely called gravel, and then sawdust, to make the road passable, after which another layer of muck was regularly deposited” (Boatman 1998, V.2 33 & 113). Also during the summer of

1882, the *Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle* would go on to report that Main Street and Hall Avenue were “a disgrace to the town” (Boatman 1998, V.2 128). There is also a rumored report of a man once drowning while attempting to cross Elizabeth Avenue in an inebriated state (Emich 1987, 12). Not only were the roads frequently impassable, but they were also a fire hazard.

The inflammable shingle sawdust with which River street [not the same as what would become Riverside Ave] has been graded caught fire near R. W. Merryman’s residence on Tuesday and although there was no urgent need for it the department was called out by some alarmed individual. The engine set fire all along the road below the Catholic church by dropping coals on the down trip and a respectable blaze was kindled thereby for several rods which required active operations with numerous shovels and much dirt but no water to extinguish. The boys were properly disgusted first with the road commissioner for covering the highways with tinder and second with the party whose judgement [sic] was weaker than his poor nerves. (*North Star*, June 16, 1882)

Over time, roads would occasionally be improved with an application of actual gravel. Riverside Avenue would be graveled in 1891 and again in 1899. In the fall of 1889, Hall Avenue and Main Street were paved with cedar blocks, each eight inches long and between four and ten inches in diameter (Thibodeau 1991, 79). The spaces between were filled with fine gravel. The surfaces could then also be macadamized. Hall Avenue and Main Street would not be paved with brick until after 1900 (*The Daily Eagle*, April 14, 1900). Sawdust side streets would be macadamized beginning in 1902 after the city purchased a steam roller (Thibodeau 1991, 79).

(Fig. 18. Cedar Block Street, Marinette [Source: Borski])

There were also frequent complaints about dogs, hogs, and cows roaming freely on both the roads and sidewalks—sidewalks being made of wood with the first cement sidewalk built in the summer of 1895 (*The Eagle* July 23, 1895). The overall condition of sidewalks was often not

much better than that of the roads. A serious effort to crack down on free roaming livestock would not occur until 1887, but problems would persist.

Street signs were first proposed in 1879 (Boatman 1998, V.2 22) and the matter brought up again in 1884 (Boatman 1998, V.2 551). Further research is required to establish when this call was finally answered, but based on photographic evidence it may have waited until after the turn of the century.

## **Transportation**

As mentioned earlier, Marinette was very much what Raymond Mohl describes as a “walking city” (Mohl 1985, 28). The city bus is mentioned as early as 1872 (Boatman 1998, V.1 243), one of which is pictured in front of the Fairchild’s drugstore in 1887 (see Fig. 20). Eventually Marinette would have a five-mile streetcar line, begun in 1889. The cars were first pulled by mule teams, but the system of six cars was electrified in 1891 (Borski). The Marinette and Menominee street car lines would finally be connected in 1902 (*The Daily Eagle* February 3, 1902). Buses would replace the streetcars in 1928.

Bicycles gained in popularity beginning in the late 1870s. By 1881, “the wheel” had been recognized as a valuable vehicle for business uses and the formation of a bicycle club was being discussed (Boatman 1998, V.2 96). Just such a club would be formed in 1882 (Boatman 1998, V.2 114). By 1886 the novelty had worn off and the publisher of *The Eagle* summarized his dislike under the heading “SHOOT THE BICYCLIST” (Boatman 1998, V.2 499).

Regardless, bicycling would continue to increase in popularity

Travel to distant destinations was provided by boat or by train. A number of steamboats called on the local port throughout the nineteenth century. In 1879, passenger steamers of the Chicago Goodrich Line ran southbound every Thursday and Sunday evening and northbound



every Tuesday and Saturday. Other regular steamers were the *Welcome* and the *Union*, both of which ran northbound twice weekly and southbound twice weekly. Boats of the Buffalo Line ran southbound and eastbound once a week (Boatman 1998, V. 2 12).

Charles Fairchild is frequently reported to have been traveling to Chicago and other distant cities via train. One of his excursions on the *Welcome* was probably particularly enjoyable.

The Iron Port, of Escanaba, has the following concerning several prominent anglers of Marinette: On board the *Welcome*, on Saturday evening last, homeward bound from a piscatorial picnic on the *Sturgeon*, was a party consisting of Messrs. C. J. Ellis, J. C. Lewis, J. Brown, J. Fisher, C. M. Fairchild, and Amos Holgate, or Marinette, and Wm. McCartney, of New Mexico, disciples of Walton and professors of the gentle art, and Lou Fowler, cullinary [sic] artist. Their trip had been a success; fish were many, large, and hungry in the waters of the *Sturgeon*, and splendid specimens, of two or four pounds weight, were packed in ice to serve as corroboration of the 'fish stories' they were to tell when they got home. (*North Star*, August 17, 1883)

(Fig. 19. Steamer *Welcome* in Menominee River, 1887 [Source: *Marinette & Menominee Illustrated*])

## Work

In discussing work, it should be noted that the standard work day for most in the area was twelve hours. In 1872 a number of letters were published in the *Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle* discussing proposals to switch to a ten hour work day (Boatman 1998, V.1 253). The issue would again come up in 1886 when local store clerks unsuccessfully tried to persuade store owners to close at 8 p.m. instead of the usual 9 or 10 p.m. Clerks were also still required to arrive at work between 6 and 7:30 each morning (Boatman 1998, V.2 466).

As noted earlier, Charles was a full partner and pharmacist in the Fairchild Bros Drug Store when his house was built in 1881. Although the exact location of the first Fairchild drug store is lost to history, by 1871 Fairchild's drug store was located opposite the interstate bridge at

the heart of Marinette's central business district, where it would remain until 1889 (*North Star*, October 18, 1889). In 1883, an "electric night door bell" was placed in the store "so that any one requiring medicine during the night, have only to press upon the knob which calls up the clerk" (*North Star*, June 1, 1883). The power source for this convenience was not described.

(Fig. 20. Fairchild Drug Store 1887 [Source: *Marinette & Menominee Illustrated*])

(Fig. 21. Hall Avenue from Dunlap Square 1887 [Source: *Marinette & Menominee Illustrated*])

In addition to selling medicines, "The Drug" was also a one-stop shop for paints, oils, varnishes, and lamps. An advertisement for holiday goods also lists toilet chamber sets, dinner and tea sets, majolica umbrella stands, china, photo albums, hand bags, cases, toys, frames, cards, etc (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, Dec. 10, 1881). The Fairchild Bros drug store also, at various times, boasted a soda fountain. Charles had a keen interest in music, including being one of the directors of the state musical society (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, October 14, 1882), so he was likely the driving force behind the store's stock of pianos and organs, including brands such as Steinway, Hempsted, Haines, Parlor Gem, and Mason & Hamlin (Boatman 1998, V.1 243). As the largest area supplier of wallpaper and ceiling paper, it is likely that the Fairchild houses would have been richly decorated showcasing the papers of the day.

(Fig. 22. Fairchild Bros Wallpaper Advertisement, 1884 [Source: *The Eagle*, March 29, 1884])

In addition to being a retail store, the drug store served as the post office until late in 1881 (Boatman 1998, V.1 415 & V.2 96). Postal customers brought mail to and picked mail up

from the drugstore or one of a series of postal stations that operated out of other local businesses (Thibodeau 1991, 51). Free mail delivery would not be introduced until after 1888 (*The Eagle*, Aug. 24, 1888). Marinette's first telephone exchange was also in the drug store, the first phones having been installed in the area in 1878 with Addison serving as the first operator (Boatman, Vol 1, 426).

The partnership between Addison and Charles would last until February of 1886 when Charles sold his interest and became the proprietor and editor of the *North Star*, a local newspaper that was likely second in circulation only to the *Eagle*. The drugstore would carry on. In March of that year *The Eagle* noted improvements that Addison was making to the store.

A.M. Fairchild is greatly improving the interior of his establishment. The ceiling is being papered with the finest specimens of wall-paper, which will make the store a place of great beauty. It is also illuminated with incandescent lights, and it is said that the store has better light than any other in town. Eight of the incandescents of 40-candle power each, give a far better light than the two arc lights, each of 1,200 candle power. (*The Eagle*, March 20, 1886)

For his part, Addison would begin to downsize the business and, in 1889, relocate to a smaller store at 1719 Main Street. The drugstore would again relocate to a storefront in the Hotel Marinette, built in 1896, before being liquidated at the turn of the century following Addison's death in 1898 and the death of his second wife in 1899.

The *North Star* first began in 1880 and, by 1885, ownership had already changed hands nine times (Boatman 1998, V.2 301). By contrast, *The Eagle* had been established in Marinette in 1871 by Luther Noyes and had not changed ownership once (Boatman 1998, V.1 192). In purchasing the *North Star*, Charles also inherited an ongoing war of words that had been waged between the two papers for several years. This war would continue under Charles' ownership and would, at times, be very personal. In April of 1886, *The Eagle* referred to Charles Fairchild as the only imbecile of a family that was otherwise known for intellectual superiority and energy

(Boatman 1998, V.2 504). “The family imbecile says in effect that we lie and that we know it! ‘Chawles’ not only lies, but foolishly proves that indisputable fact in his own column of slush” (*The Eagle* Nov 17, 1886). Unfortunately, copies of the majority of the *North Star* publications were not saved for posterity under Charles’ ownership and any retort is likely lost to history.

Beyond the drugstore and the newspaper, Charles had a number of secondary professional interests. Charles was the vice president of the Marinette Business Men’s Club (Boatman 1998, V.2 86), secretary of the Marinette Mineral Lands Company (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, March 26, 1881), was elected town treasurer in 1879 (Boatman 1998, V.2 4), was one of the incorporating officers of the Marinette Building and Loan Association (Boatman 1998, V.2 569), and was a member of a committee responsible for bringing the Wisconsin & Michigan Railroad to town (*North Star*, July 20 & 23, 1883). Charles was also an active proponent of the temperance movement—he opened a “reading room” for men as an alternative to the many saloons in town (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, June 4, 1881)—and was a member of the Marinette Library Board of Directors in 1886 (Boatman 1998, V.2 479-480). Charles also managed the “Marinette base ball club” (*North Star*, Aug. 31, 1883) and was active in playing the game for many years.

Charles Fairchild was the first secretary, treasurer, and manager of the Marinette Lighting Company, the first electric company in Marinette, begun in 1884 (Boatman 1998, V.2 237-238). By August of that year, Dunlap Square was “handsomely illuminated” with electric light (Boatman 1998, V.2 259) and soon afterward electric street lights were being called for as it would be an improvement on the earlier kerosene lamps, the first of which were erected in 1873 (Boatman 1998, V.1 295), and hopefully lessen crime. Electric light proved to be a success

despite some early issues with reliability. Charles Fairchild is mentioned as doing a great deal of travel related to the electric light business, including the following:

C. M. Fairchild returned on Monday from a visit to Chicago, Cleveland and other cities in the interest of the electric light business. While in Cleveland he purchased a 65-arc dynamo, which is the largest made. This will be run in connection with the one now in use. (*The Eagle* February 6, 1886).

While Charles worked at the drugstore and later at the paper, it was Jennie's job to manage the household and attend to matters of society. The local newspapers would regularly make mention of some social event or card game to be hosted at the Fairchild houses. Shortly after the family moved into their new home in late November of 1881, "Mrs. C. M. Fairchild, assisted by Mrs. O. A. Ellis, of Oconto, Miss Oakie Bigelow, of Toledo, Mrs. Chas. J. Ellis, and Miss Julia Baker, at the residence of C. M. Fairchild" would put the parlor through its paces while receiving New Year's callers (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, Dec 31, 1881). Miss Oakalla "Oakie" Bigelow was a cousin of Charles and presumably the namesake for their daughter, Oakalla, born November 13, 1882. Interestingly, New Year's callings came into fashion for 1880 after not having been observed in the area for a number of years, but would die out again after 1885. For 1881, one group of callers, consisting of C. M. Fairchild, H. O. Fairchild (another brother), T. A. Hay, J. W. P. Lombard, and Caleb Williams, had a card made that contained a photograph of the group and the words "Happy New Year—1881" (Boatman 1998, V.2 73).

(Fig. 23. Happy New Year—1881 [Source: Marinette County Historical Society  
Museum])

## Churches

A church directory for Marinette was published in August 1886. The Roman Catholic Church, on Terrace Street, offered sermons in English on the first and third Sundays of the month, French on the second Sunday, and German on the fourth Sunday. Some of the other churches included a Methodist-Episcopal, an Episcopal, a Baptist, a Swedish Lutheran, a Norwegian Lutheran, a Danish Lutheran, and a German Lutheran (Boatman 1998, V.2 488).

The Fairchild family attended services at the Presbyterian Church (the same congregation that Rev. John Fairchild had formed) at the corner of Church Street and Newberry Avenue. According to Pioneer Presbyterian's website, the church building erected in 1870 was relocated in 1895 and a new church building was then erected on the original site. The new building was dedicated in 1900, but the entire project was not completed until 1905.

## Municipal Buildings

The Marinette County Courthouse, completed in 1881, was located on Hall Avenue a short distance from the Fairchild house. Most municipal functions were located at the Town Hall (City Hall as of 1887) on Main Street, built in 1881 (Emich 1987, 10). This building also housed the volunteer fire department as well as the community's public library until 1889 at which time it moved to a furniture store on Main Street and later to another building on Main Street in 1894. Isaac Stephenson would fund the construction of a proper library building on Dunlap Square in 1901. Both the gasworks and waterworks would be built adjacent to the City Hall in 1887 and the first city dump was also located in this general area until around 1952 (*Marinette Eagle-Star*, June 13, 1952).

(Fig. 24. Marinette County Courthouse, no date [Source: Marinette County Historical Society Museum])

(Fig. 25. Marinette City Hall 1887 [Source: *Marinette & Menominee Illustrated*])

## Schools

One of the area's first purpose-built schools was The Union School on Main Street, built in 1863. The growing population soon necessitated the construction of two additional schools, but they would be destroyed in the Peshtigo Fire in 1871. The Ella Court School was built in 1875 and was located just to the west of the Fairchild houses. The Fairchilds' children, Edna, Oakalla, and Willard, would all have attended grade school at the building. The Garfield School was built in 1885 at Carney and Pierce Avenues. Lincoln School was then built in 1889 and Park School, the community's first "fireproof" school with granite basement, brick walls, and slate roof, was built in 1894. The old Union School on Main Street became the High School and was enlarged in 1891 (Emich 1987, 19).

(Fig. 26. Marinette High School 1887 [Source: *Marinette & Menominee Illustrated*])

At the Twelfth Annual Graduating Exercises for Marinette High School in 1893, held at Turner Opera House (built 1891), several orations were delivered by members of the graduating class, including one by Edna Fairchild entitled "The Red Man's Curse" (Abbott Family Collection).

## Healthcare

Illness was a common trial for people of the time. In addition to being Charles' cousin, Oakalla Bigelow, of Ohio, spent time in Marinette as a teacher at the Ella Court School while

presumably boarding at the C.M. Fairchild house. In 1882, “Miss Bigelow was so ill a portion of this week that she has been obliged to give up her teaching at Ella Court School for a few days”

(*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, March 18, 1882). Illness would briefly close the school in 1884.

The Star is pained to chronicle the severe illness of Mrs. C.M. Fairchild with diphtheria. The lady is resting very comfortably at present, but has not yet passed the most dangerous stage of the disease. As the teachers of the Ella Court school are guests of her house, it was deemed advisable by the school board to close the school for a week, as a precaution against the disease being conveyed to the school children. (*North Star*, January 18, 1884).

A diphtheria epidemic, not an uncommon problem during this time, would be in full swing in 1886 and would again close the schools (Boatman 1998, V.2 503).

For illnesses like those experienced at the Fairchild house, doctors would make house calls to care for the sick or receive patients in their offices, often at their residence. For particularly life-threatening problems, Dr. Sherman operated the “Marinette Hospital” in a frame building at the southeast corner of Main and Oddfellow, but this facility would fall out of favor when the Menominee River Hospital was established on Mann Street in 1883 (Emich 1987, 12). This hospital introduced the innovative “hospital ticket”, sold primarily to loggers, which could be purchased for \$10 and entitled the bearer to all hospital services in the event that he became injured or ill, as well as \$1 per week supplemental income during the patient’s stay at the hospital.

(Fig. 27. Menominee River Hospital c. 1890 [Source: Marinette County Historical Society Museum])

In the hospital’s early years, only male patients were admitted with women continuing to be treated in their homes (Emich 1987, 32). While some might regard this as based in a chivalrous



attitude towards women, not all doctors had a refined character. In 1884, two doctors in Menominee literally fought over a patient with a gun being drawn and a “funeral threatened” before interveners broke up the altercation (Boatman 1998, V.2 242).

Of course, a number of pharmacies were available to fill prescription orders, including the Fairchild Bros establishment. Rev. John Fairchild, for example, had a pair of prescriptions filled by his sons in November of 1884. Of course, the efficacy of these prescriptions may be in doubt as Father Fairchild died in April of 1885.

(Fig 28. Prescriptions for Rev. John Fairchild, November 1884 [Source: Author’s Collection])

## Cemeteries

The 40-acre Woodlawn Cemetery was established on Pierce Avenue around 1860. Those buried in Marinette’s first cemetery at the junction of Terrace Avenue and Water Street were disinterred and transferred to Woodlawn in 1882 (Boatman 1998, V.2 127). Death came rather quickly to the new C. M. Fairchild house, sadly to the nursery:

FAIRCHILD—In this village on Saturday morning, March 25<sup>th</sup> 1882, Horace C., infant son of Charles M. and Jennie Fairchild aged 11 months. The death was very sudden and unexpected to the bereaved parents and to the entire community. He was a bright and pretty child and had entwined himself in the affections of all who knew him. The afflicted family have the sincere sympathies of the community.

‘A little angel form’s asleep  
Beneath the starry skies;  
And our hearts are like the void that comes  
When a strain of music dies.’ (*Marinette & Peshtigo Eagle*, April 1, 1882)

The *North Star* newspaper would report the death as being the result of “lung fever” (*North Star*, March 21, 1882).

Woodlawn Cemetery is the final resting place for most of Rev. John Fairchild's family. A headstone marks Jennie's grave (died in 1914). Charles, who died in Chicago in 1925, was buried next to Jennie, but has no headstone. Horace was presumably buried in the family plot in 1882, but he similarly has no headstone.

### **EPILOGUE**

Charles Fairchild moved to Toledo in 1896 so as to assume the Presidency of the Standard Steel Tube & Forkside Company of that city. This company was heavily involved in making bicycle components, employed between 125 and 150 men, and was backed financially by a number of Charles' relatives. Information on the company is hard to come by, but it is clear that a strike by the company's International Union of Bicycle Workers in 1899 and subsequent legal battle proved to be a minor landmark case having to do with workers' right to picket. This may or may not have influenced Charles' decision to move to Chicago around 1905 where he would die in 1925.

Prior to moving to Toledo, Charles sold his house to local lumber baron Isaac Stephenson (also a U.S. Congressman and future U.S. Senator) who, in turn, promptly gave the house to one of his daughters. By 1895 the Fairchilds had added a summer kitchen on the back of the house and the new owners would go on to add a second bathroom, also at the back of the house, prior to 1901. Around 1905 the front porch was enlarged to be a full wrap-around type at the expense of the front bay window. By 1918, the house had fallen into disrepair after years of neglect. The third owners would go on to renovate the house, but the original tower would be destroyed in the 1920s (apparently the result of a lightning strike and subsequent fire). By 1990, the house was again in a grave state of disrepair and sold at auction. The fourth owners began the task of rehabilitating the house.

The author of this paper became the fifth owner of the house in 1999. Restoration work since that time has included the front porch, the tower, and countless smaller projects, including the years of research that have contributed to this paper. Today the house remains in a well-kept area of Marinette, retains exceptional integrity, and is a highly visible link to the transformation of the community from a lumber boom town to a stable city.

(Fig 29. 1857 Riverside Avenue 2009 [Source: Author's Collection])

## ILLUSTRATIONS

### Figure

1. Menominee River Settlements, c. 1887
2. Charley Fairchild in Green Bay, c. 1865
3. Addison Fairchild's first store in Marinette, c. 1870
4. Charles Fairchild, c. 1880
5. Sarah Jane Fairchild, c. 1890
6. Edna Fairchild, c. 1882
7. Fairchild Houses, c. 1900
8. Composite of Fairchild Houses and Palliser's "Model Gothic Cottage" of 1876
9. Plate VI of Palliser's Model Homes of 1878
10. C. M. Fairchild House, Second Owner, c. 1898
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18. Cedar Block Street, Marinette
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20. Fairchild Drug Store 1887
21. Hall Avenue from Dunlap Square 1887
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25. Marinette City Hall 1887
26. Marinette High School 1887
27. Menominee River Hospital, c. 1890
28. Prescriptions for Rev. John Fairchild, November 1884
29. 1857 Riverside Avenue in 2009

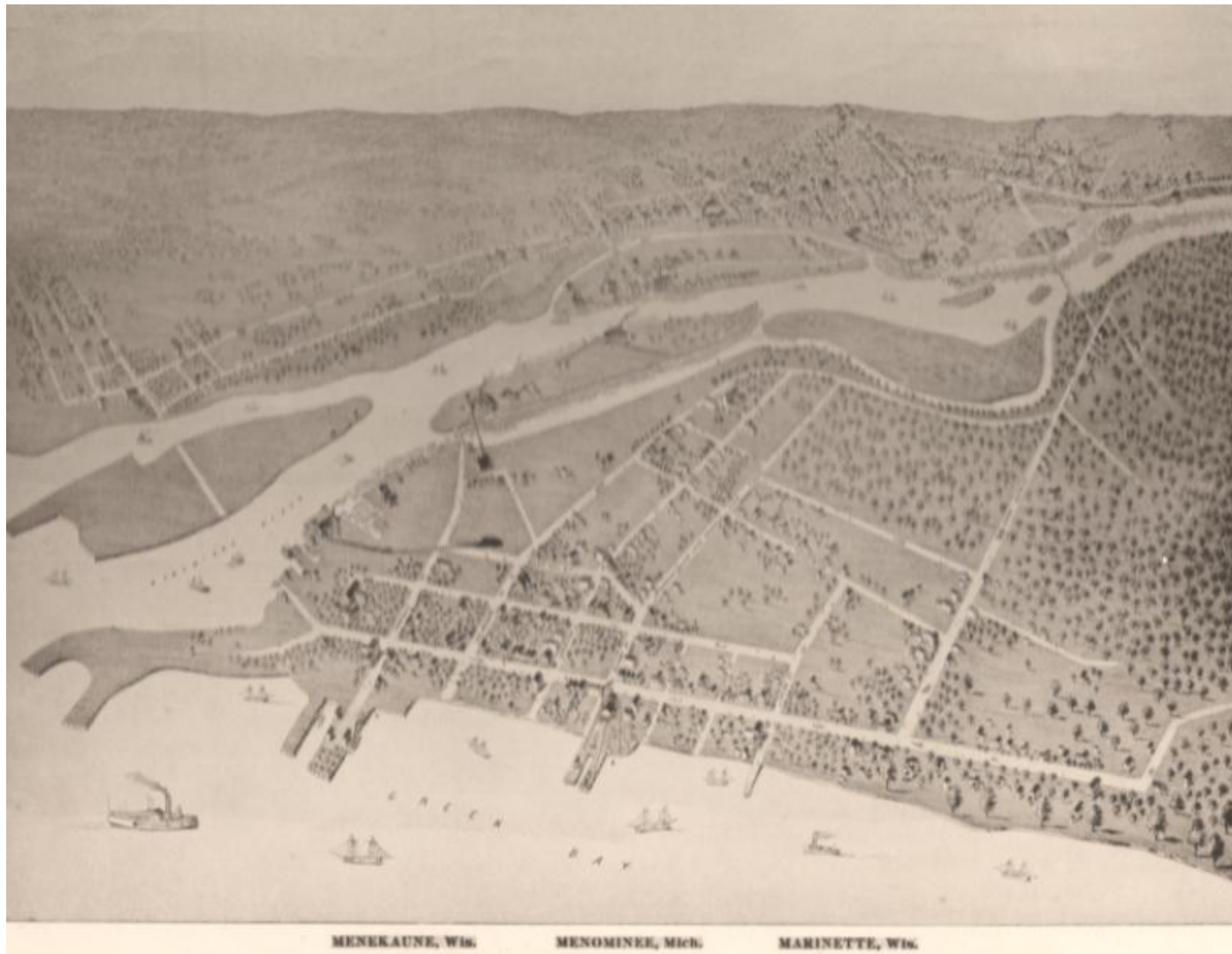


Figure 1. Menominee River Settlements, c. 1887

Note Menominee, Michigan, is in foreground. Marinette is in background at right. Menekaunee was absorbed by Marinette in 1895.

A bridge would connect Menekaunee to Menominee in 1888 in way of the road on the island at the mouth of the river.

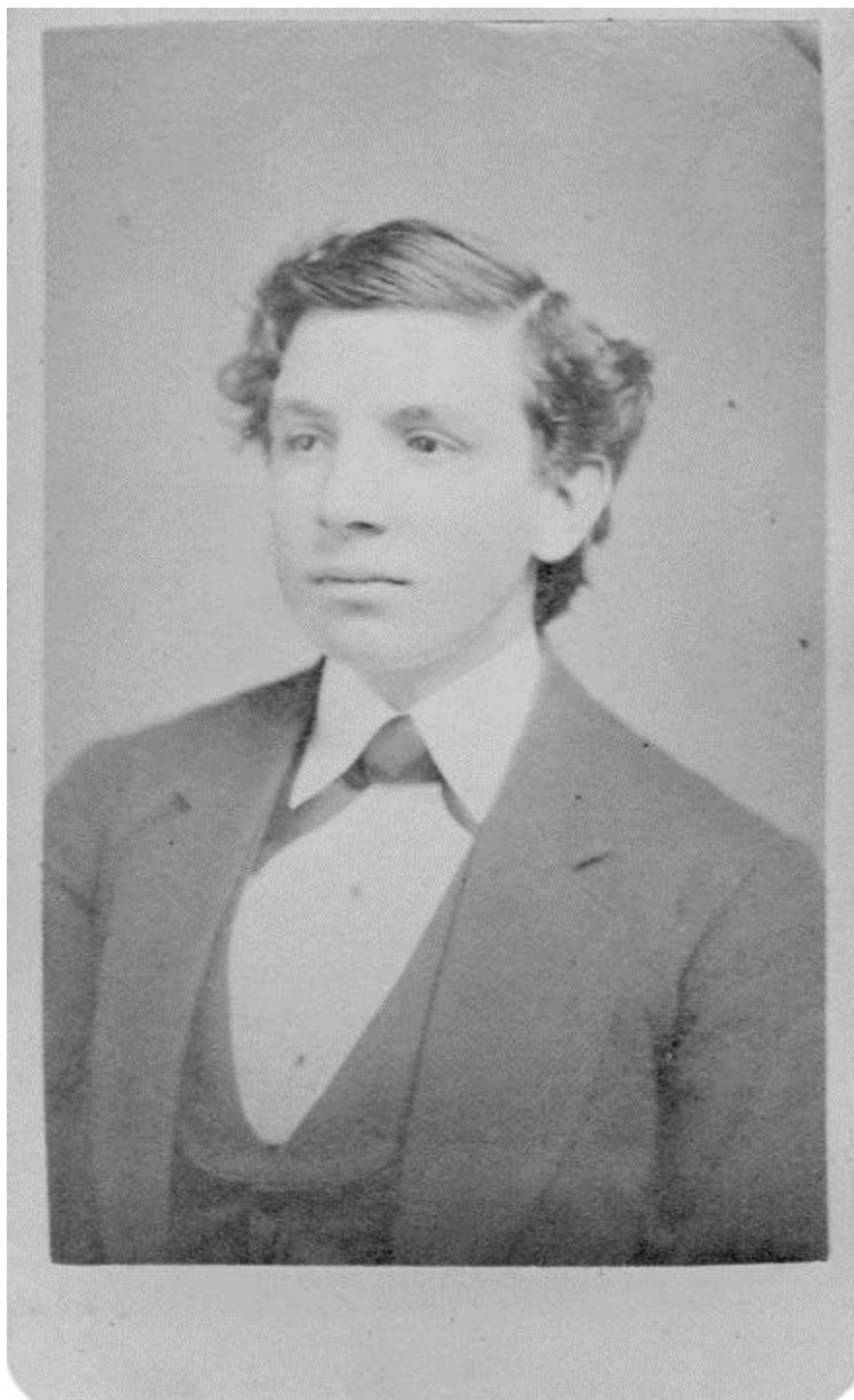


Figure 2. Charley Fairchild in Green Bay, c. 1865

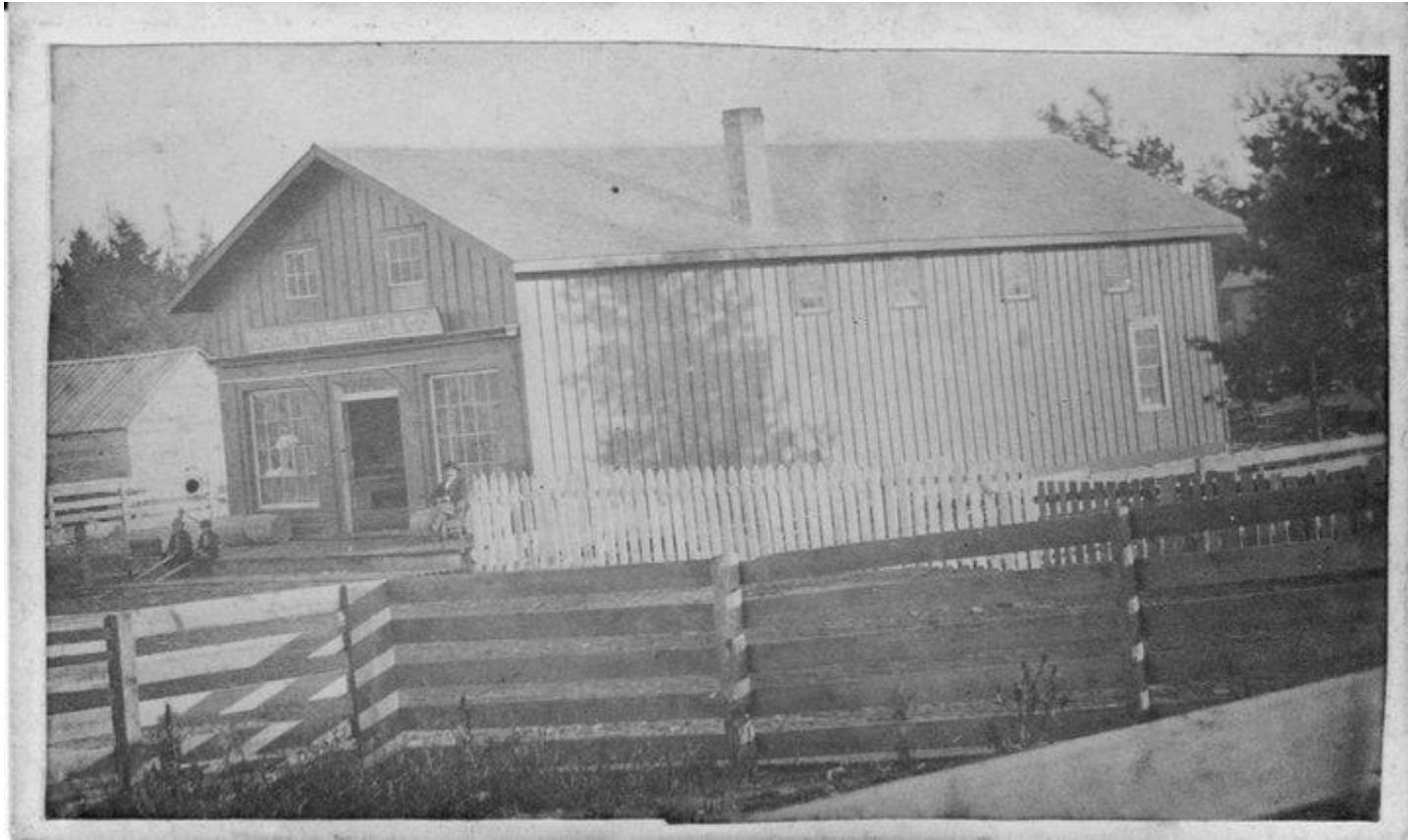


Figure 3. Addison Fairchild's first store in Marinette, c. 1870

Note Addison sitting on stoop. Records from this time are incomplete and the precise business relationship of "COOK, FAIRCHILD & CO" is not documented.



Figure 4. Charles Fairchild, c. 1880





Figure 5. Sarah Jane Fairchild, c. 1890



Figure 6. Edna Fairchild, c. 1882



Figure 7. Fairchild Houses, c. 1900

Note logs in river during an early spring (no leaves on trees) log drive.

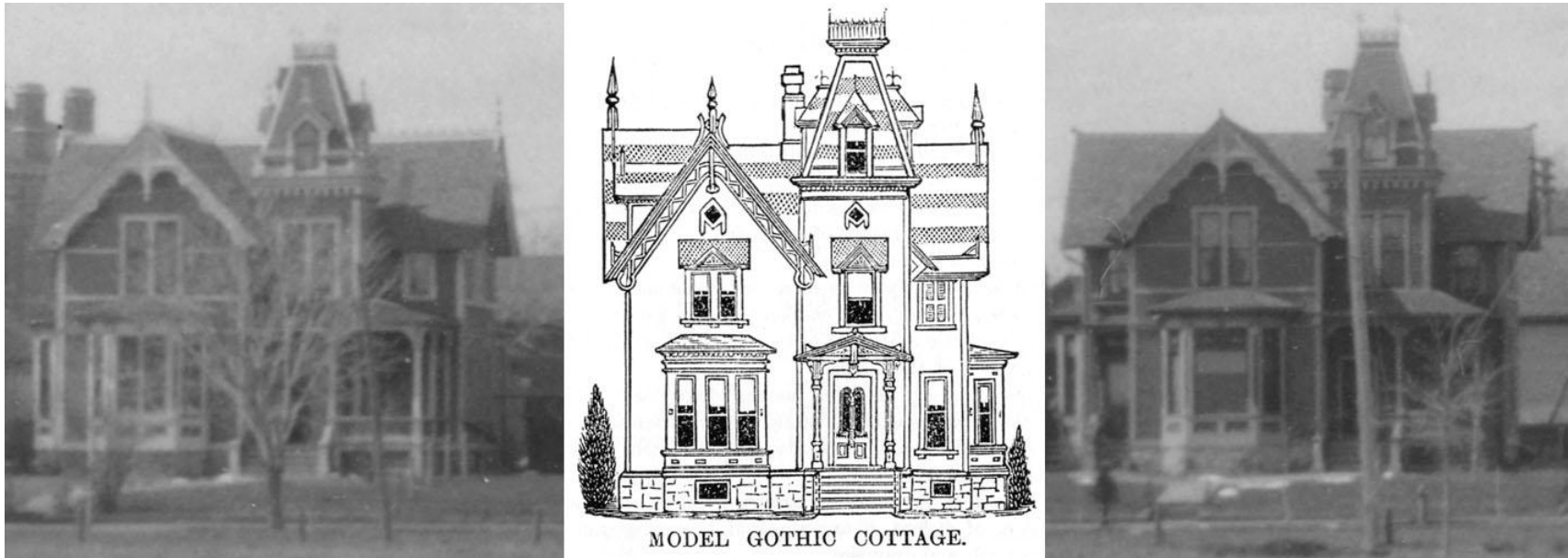


Figure 8. Composite of Fairchild Houses and Palliser's "Model Gothic Cottage" of 1876

Plate VI.

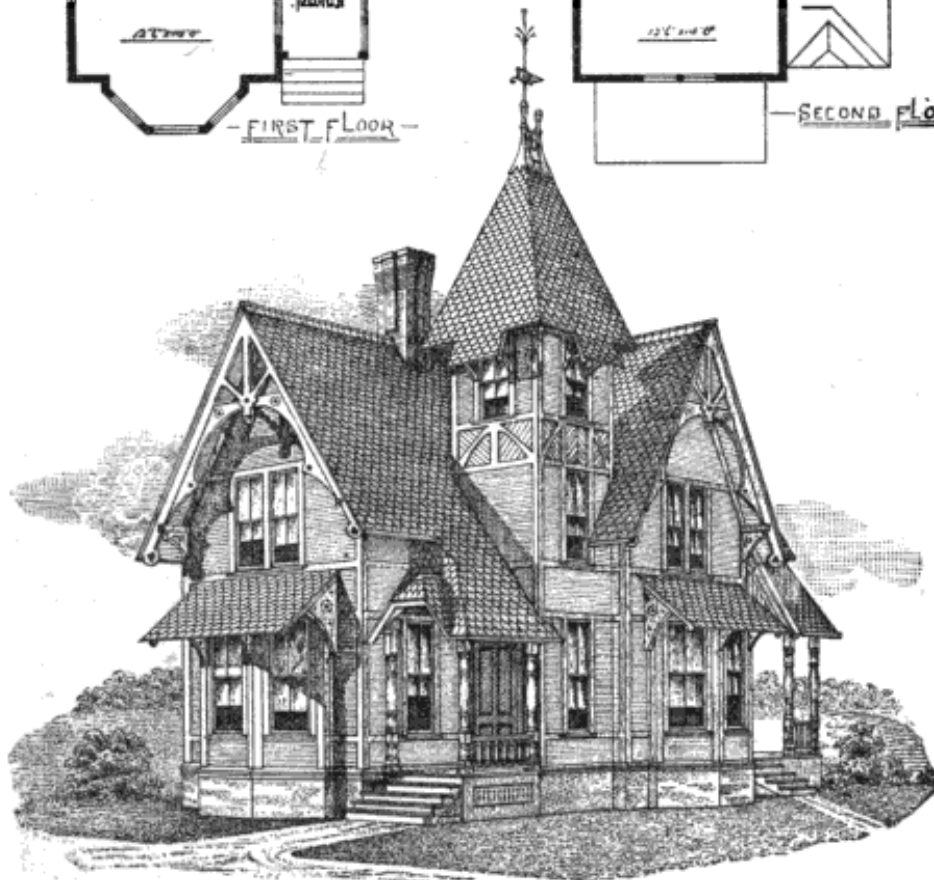
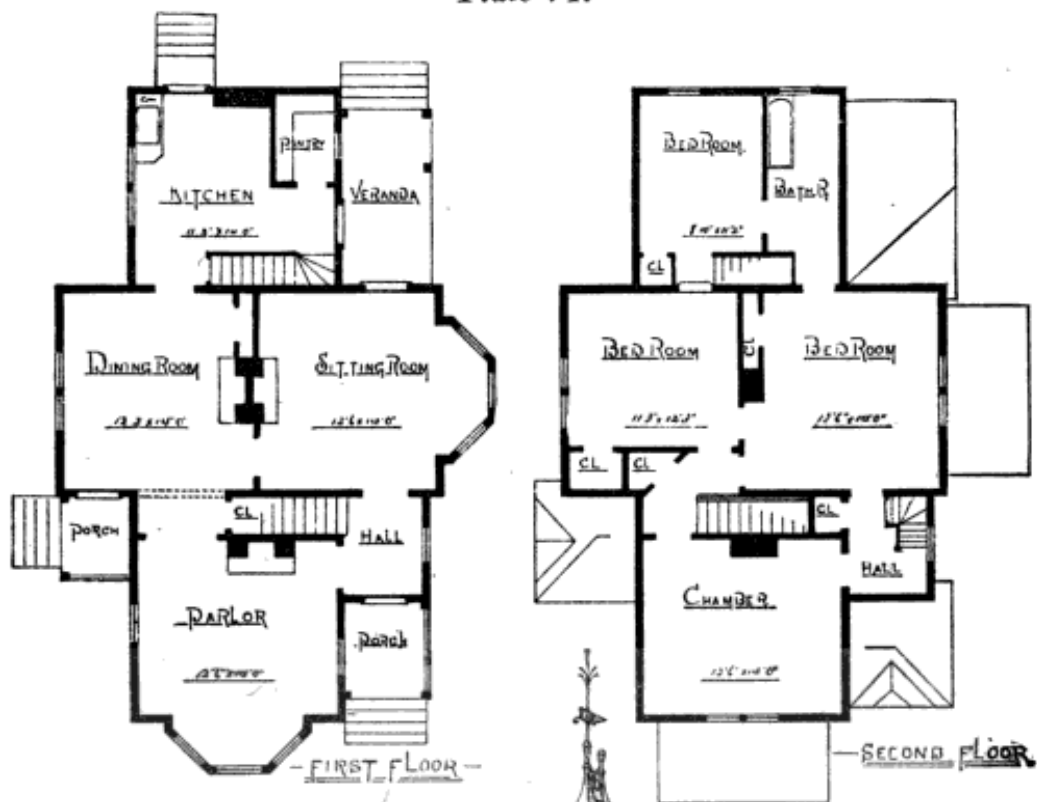


Figure 9. Plate VI of Palliser's Model Homes of 1878

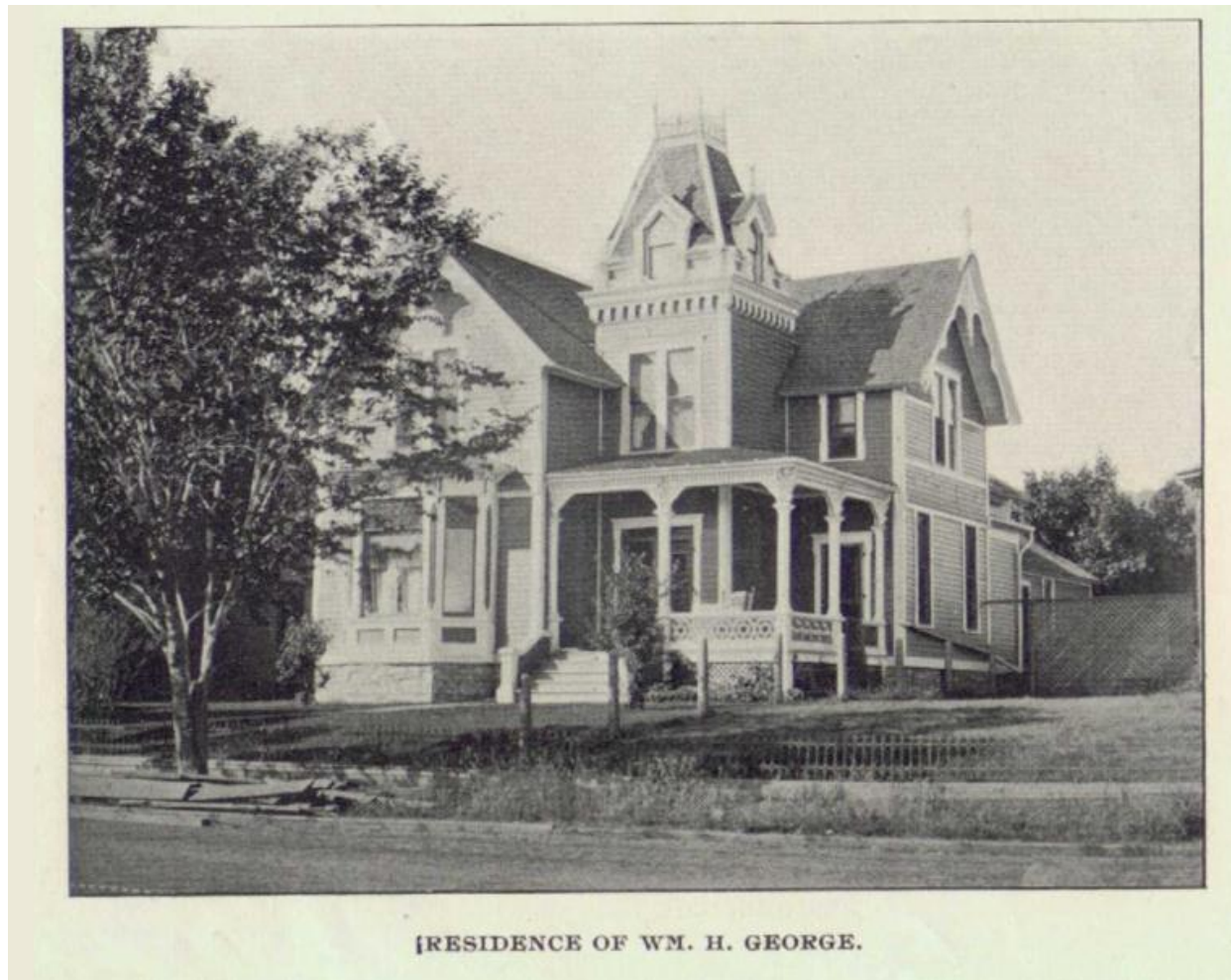


Figure 10. C. M. Fairchild House, Second Owner, c. 1898

Note the chair on the porch, gutter downspout leading from the porch roof towards the cistern (along dining room wall), iron fence, wood sidewalk, and dirt-&-sawdust road.



Figure 11. A. M. Fairchild House, c. 1896

Note the handlebars of a bicycle sitting on the front porch and Hattie Court dirt road.



Figure 12. Bird's Eye View of Marinette, Wis. 1881



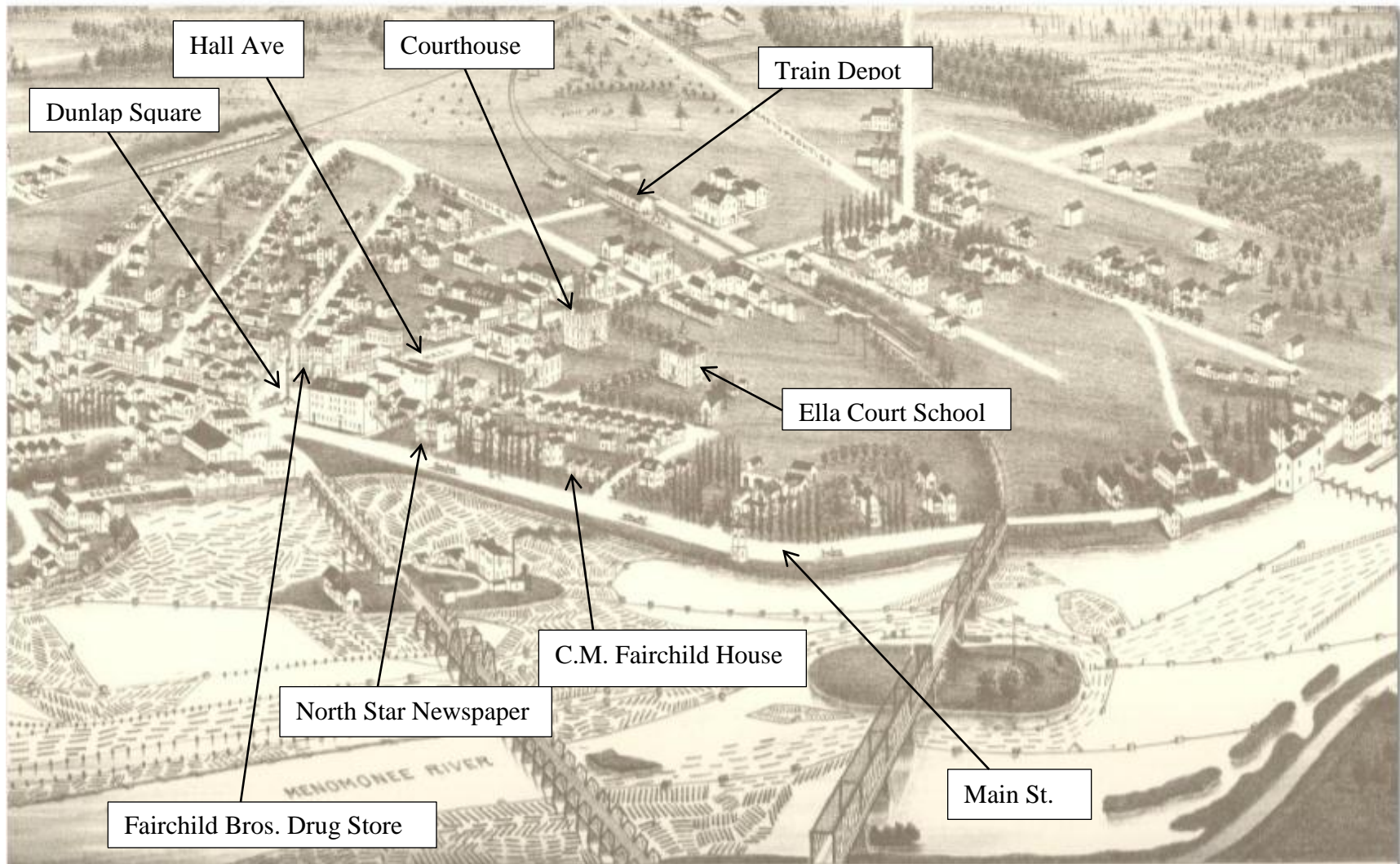


Figure 13. Annotated Bird's Eye View of West Marinette

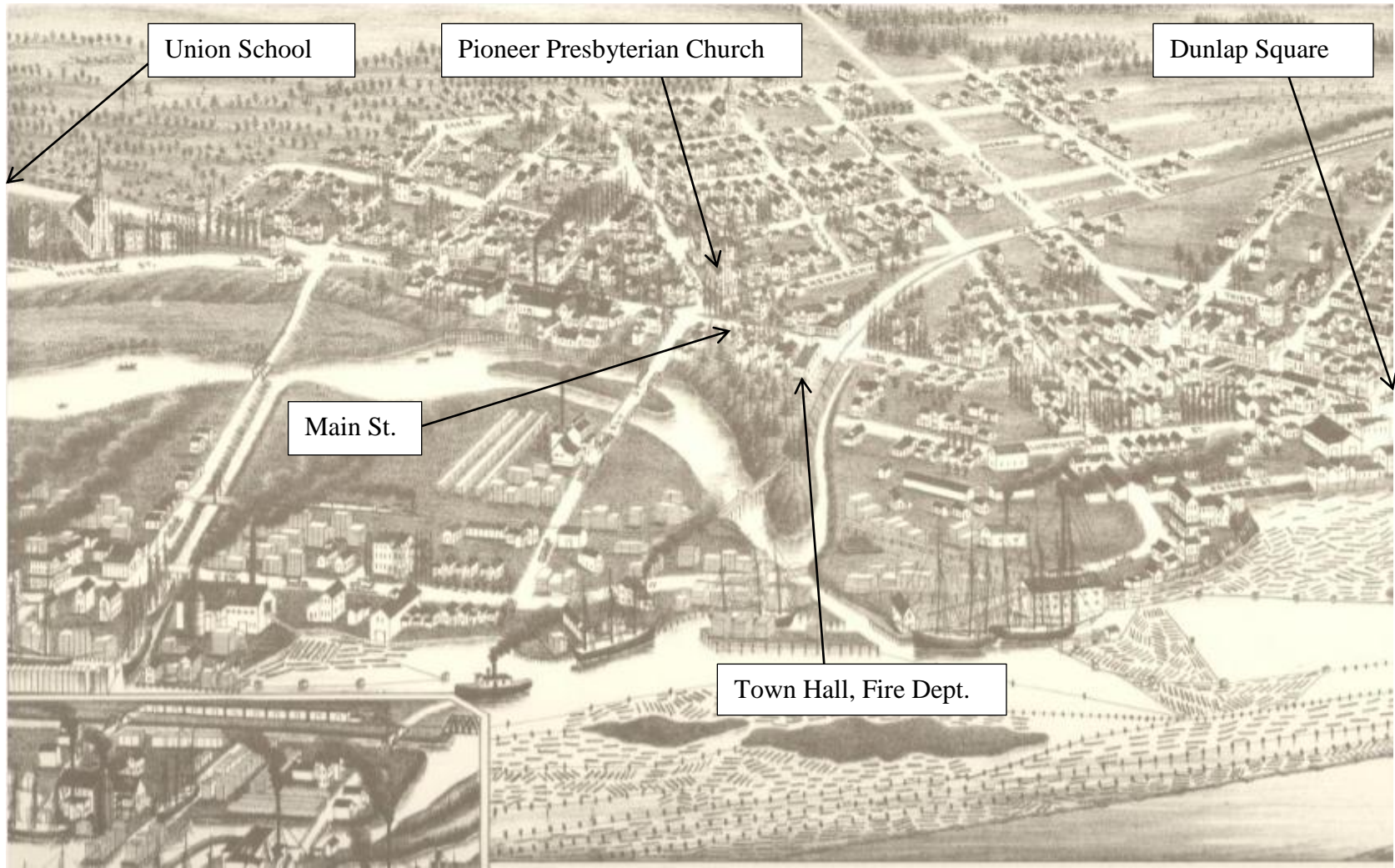


Figure 14. Annotated Bird's Eye View of East Marinette

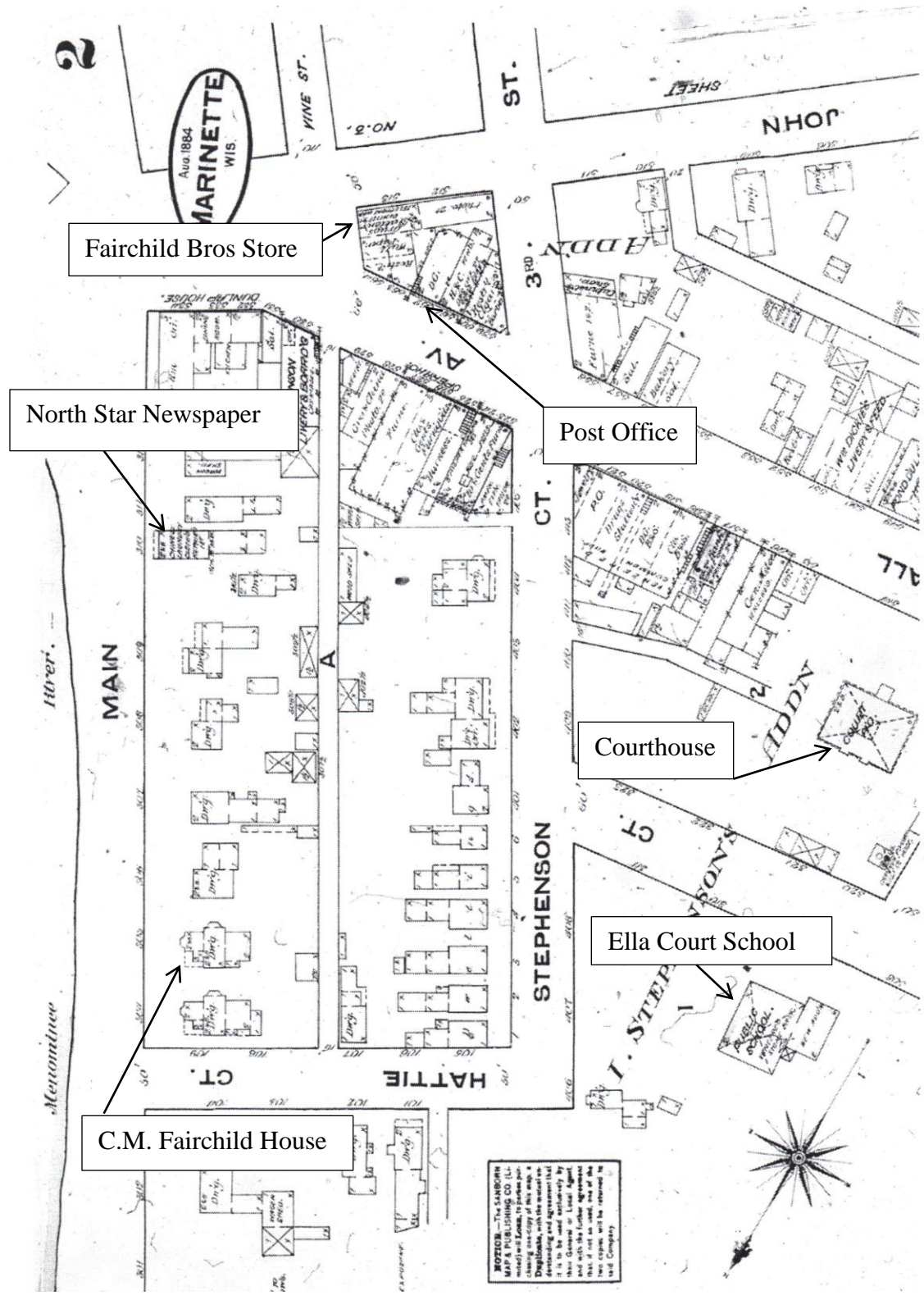


Figure 15. Sanborn Map, Marinette, Wis. 1884

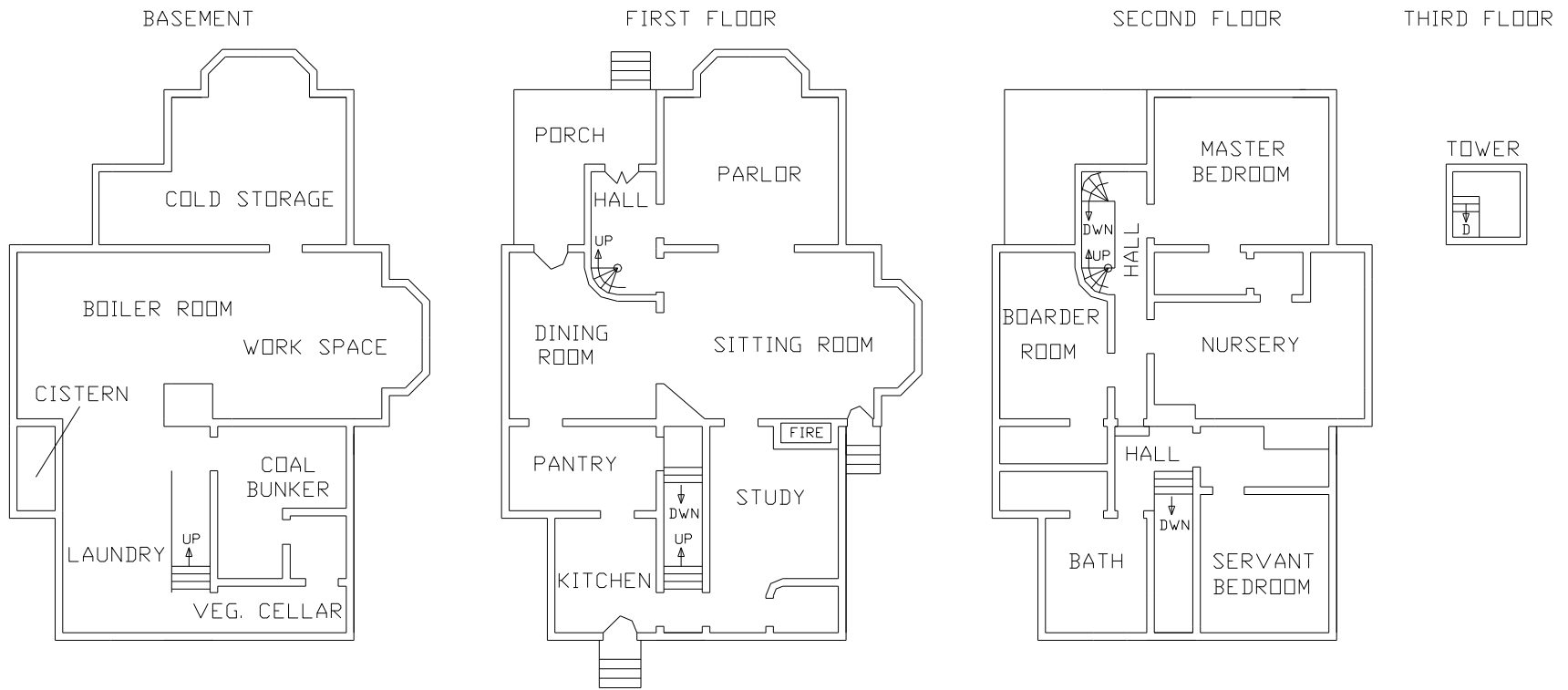


Figure 16. Floor Plan of C.M. Fairchild House (not to scale)



Figure 17. Riverside, 1887

Note the two-tone roof of the A.M. Fairchild house at left, typical of Palliser pattern book designs.

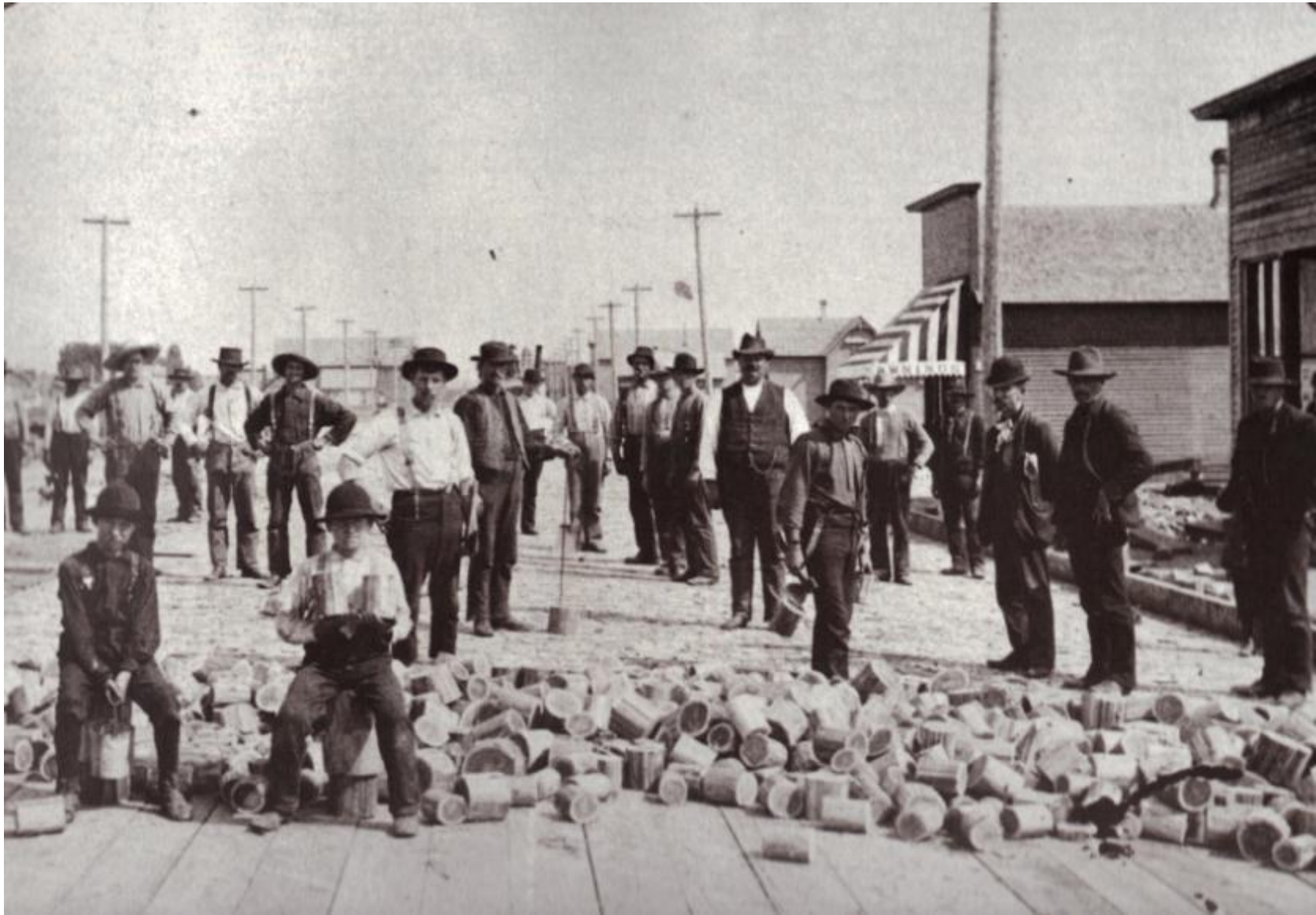


Figure 18. Cedar Block Street, Marinette



MENOMINEE—VIEW AT DOCK, ON THE BAY SHORE.

Figure 19. Steamer *Welcome* in Menominee River, 1887



Figure 20. Fairchild Drug Store 1887

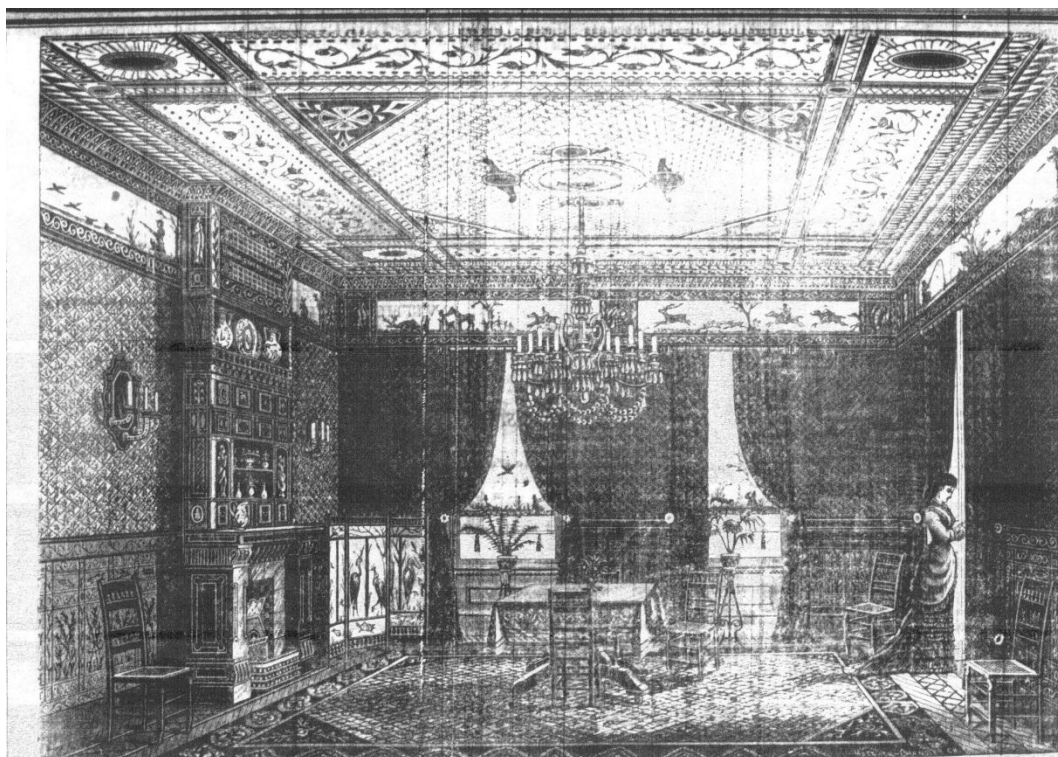
Note city bus blocks the view of a street lamp in Figure 20.





Figure 21. Hall Avenue from Dunlap Square 1887

Note Fairchild Drug Store is just to the left of the short street lamp, left of frame. Note also livery stable.



The above cut represents a room decorated with WALL PAPER, in the latest style of the art. Our trade in this line has kept pace with the rapid advancement made in the art of wall-decorating, till now, we carry the **LARGEST STOCK OF WALL PAPER** in the state, outside of Milwaukee, and our facilities for doing all classes of work are unexcelled any-where. We have practical paper-hangers who execute all work under our personal supervision, hence satisfaction is guaranteed in every case. Notwithstanding we have done a large amount of this class of work, yet only two instances where paper has failed to stick to the walls have come to our notice. This is a record surpassed by no other firm.

As to prices, we will pledge to furnish both materials and labor as low as any other firm in this section, and at least 25 per cent below Chicago or Milwaukee figures. We are better prepared this year than ever before to furnish all grades of paper, our stock being comprised of nearly **ONE THOUSAND PATTERNS**, carefully selected from different manufactories, both foreign and domestic. You will observe by glancing thro' our line of samples that colorings are somewhat lighter and considerably gayer than last year, being a change in the right direction. We sometimes--rarely, however,--have to combat the argument that ceiling decorations will soon grow into disfavor, but let us here state to the skeptical, as regards this point, that they are more popular to-day than ever before. Anyone who has seen a tastefully decorated ceiling will at once admit its superiority over a plain white one. In fact, it is just as essential to treat the ceiling of a room with paper, as its walls, and too, we affirm that the same amount of money your wall decorations would cost, expended in any other direction, would not go nearly so far towards the furnishing of your home, and that less furniture and fewer pictures are necessary to make it beautiful and home-like.

Very Respectfully,  
**FAIRCHILD BROS.**

Figure 22. Fairchild Bros Wallpaper Advertisement, 1884

*The above cut represents a room decorated with WALL PAPER, in the latest style of the art. Our trade in this line has kept pace with the rapid advancement made in the art of wall-decorating, till now, we carry the **LARGEST STOCK OF WALL PAPER** in the state, outside of Milwaukee, and our facilities for doing all classes of work are unexcelled any-where. We have practical paper-hangers who execute all work under our personal supervision, hence satisfaction is guaranteed in every case. Notwithstanding we have done a large amount of this class of work, yet only two instances where paper has failed to stick to the walls have come to our notice. This is a record surpassed by no other firm.*

*As to prices, we will pledge to furnish both materials and labor as low as any other firm in this section, and at least 25 per cent below Chicago or Milwaukee figures. We are better prepared this year than ever before to furnish all grades of paper, our stock being comprised of nearly **ONE THOUSAND PATTERNS**, carefully selected from different manufactories, both foreign and domestic. You will observe by glancing thro' our line of samples that colorings are somewhat lighter and considerably gayer than last year, being a change in the right direction. We sometimes--rarely, however,--have to combat the argument that ceiling decorations will soon grow into disfavor, but let us here state to the skeptical, as regards this point, that they are more popular to-day than ever before. Anyone who has seen a tastefully decorated ceiling will at once admit its superiority over a plain white one. In fact, it is just as essential to treat the ceiling of a room with paper, as its walls, and too, we affirm that the same amount of money your wall decorations would cost, expended in any other direction, would not go nearly so far towards the furnishing of your home, and that less furniture and fewer pictures are necessary to make it beautiful and home-like.*

Very Respectfully,  
**FAIRCHILD BROS.**



Figure 23. Happy New Year—1881



Figure 24. Marinette County Courthouse



Figure 25. Marinette City Hall 1887



MARINETTE—HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

Figure 26. Marinette High School 1887



Figure 27. Menominee River Hospital, c. 1890

Note dirt & sawdust road, wooden sidewalks, and bicycle.

FAIRCHILD BROS.  
 Druggists,  
 MARINETTE, - WIS.

J. J. SHERMAN, M. D., Office in Residence, opp. Odd Fellows' Hall.

Prepare for *Father Fairchild*

R *Syr Ethus Nitros* ℥jss  
*Gr Digitalis* ℥ij  
*" Opii Camph* " ij  
*M. S.*

*Dose a teaspoon*  
*every 4 hours*

*11/8*  
 Sherman M.D.  
 No. *32934* Date.

Prescriptions Carefully Prepared

FAIRCHILD BROS.  
 Druggists,  
 MARINETTE, - WIS.

J. J. SHERMAN, M. D., Office in Residence, opp. Odd Fellows' Hall.

Prepare for *Father Fairchild*

R *Syr Spicae* ℥jss  
*" Squill* ℥jss  
*Sil Exp. Mandilla R.* " ij  
*Devanura exp Opii* ℥ij  
*Digitalis* " ij  
*Syr Glycyrrhiza* ℥ss  
*M. S.* *Dose a* ℥  
*teaspoon every hour*  
*until relieved*

*11/8*  
 Sherman M.D.  
 No. *32935* Date.

Prescriptions Carefully Prepared

Figure 28. Prescriptions for Rev. John Fairchild, November 1884





Figure 29. 1857 Riverside Avenue in 2009

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### **Unpublished References**

Abstract of Title for Lot Two (2) in I. Stephenson & Company's Addition to the City of Marinette

Abbott Family Archives (descendants of Edna Fairchild, eldest daughter of Charles & Jennie Fairchild)

Author's Collection

Bellis Family Archives (descendants of Oakalla Fairchild, second daughter of Charles & Jennie Fairchild)

Borski, Jim, and research that he has done at Menominee's Anuta Research Center.

Davison Family Archives (descendants of Willard Fairchild, son of Charles & Jennie Fairchild)

Marinette County Historical Society Museum Archives

Wisconsin State Historical Society Collection