Professor leads tours of old Kirksville

Maggie Wolcott  
Staff Reporter

The George Edward McGovern House at 415 E. Washington St., also known as the Alpha Big House, built in 1875, (bottom) and the A.T. Still House on  

Living in History

Future Architectural Tours:

Sept. 23: Medical Space
Oct. 7: Commercial Space
March 26: Segregated Space
April 23: Religious Space

Maggie Wolcott  
Staff Reporter

Five of the original houses constructed after Kirksville was founded in 1842 remain standing today, and those still standing are what make Kirksville unique. After Kirksville was founded in 1842, the geographic center of the town was considered at the geographic center of the town. Due to the tornado, what actually happened was that the tornado moved into Kirksville, leveled many of the houses and buildings. For many years members of social sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha have rented the house. The McGovern House is one of the three oldest documented houses in Kirksville. The house is in good condition and still has the original walnut staircase with a great deal of style that no more than an eye house could offer the citizens.

The house today still provides a good representation of the architectural detailing of the time period. Woodcox said, “The interior is in good condition and still has the original walnut staircase, interesting things going on in the ceiling.”

People tell us it is haunted... but so far, no hauntings. Armstrong said. “We sort of immediately equate architecture with immense amounts of money, as really a social class indicator, that if you have a million-dollar house, you have a social class that allows you to have a million-dollar house. What you have is works, and so obviously not everything works very well,” Armstrong said. “You can still walk in, and it doesn’t have problems with the plumbing, and the house doesn’t have air conditioning, but it’s these older houses, the older houses are constructed during a period of economic growth. The house today still provides a good representation of the architectural detailing of the time period. Woodcox said, ‘The interior is in good condition and still has the original walnut staircase, interesting things going on in the ceiling.’

There are a number of interesting things going on with the house, Woodcox said. ‘The McGovern house is one of the three oldest documented houses in Kirksville. The house is in good condition and still has the original walnut staircase with a great deal of style that no more than an eye house could offer the citizens. People tell us it is haunted... but so far, no hauntings. Armstrong said. ‘We sort of immediately equate architecture with immense amounts of money, as really a social class indicator, that if you have a million-dollar house, you have a social class that allows you to have a million-dollar house. What you have is works, and so obviously not everything works very well,” Armstrong said. ‘You can still walk in, and it doesn’t have problems with the plumbing, and the house doesn’t have air conditioning, but it’s these older houses, the older houses are constructed during a period of economic growth. The house today still provides a good representation of the architectural detailing of the time period. Woodcox said, ‘The interior is in good condition and still has the original walnut staircase, interesting things going on in the ceiling.’

Living in History

Future Architectural Tours:

Sept. 23: Medical Space
Oct. 7: Commercial Space
March 26: Segregated Space
April 23: Religious Space

Maggie Wolcott  
Staff Reporter

The George Edward McGovern House at 415 E. Washington St., also known as the Alpha Big House, built in 1875, (bottom) and the A.T. Still House on  

Living in History

Future Architectural Tours:

Sept. 23: Medical Space
Oct. 7: Commercial Space
March 26: Segregated Space
April 23: Religious Space

Maggie Wolcott  
Staff Reporter

The George Edward McGovern House at 415 E. Washington St., also known as the Alpha Big House, built in 1875, (bottom) and the A.T. Still House on