

# Six.

## SARAH GIBBS HOUSE 10313 WEST ST

This house is significant regarding the architecture since it is the only Second Empire style house in Richmond. The house has been plaqued by the McHenry County Historical Society. This unique home is one of few examples of Second Empire architecture in the area with its mansard roof. It has 7 gables which is an innovative variation of this style. Widow Sarah Gibbs had the house built at the age of 71 in 1885. Her husband, Herman, was a decedent of a Revolutionary War general and was the town's innkeeper. The stained glass windows across the street in the church were dedicated to Sarah by her granddaughter.

Her husband Herman was a Civil War colonel. Herman and Sarah were farming settlers who came to Richmond in 1843. In 1845, Herman purchased the lots on the southeast corner of Broadway and Main streets (the current site of the Kruse building and Memorial Hall) and built The Richmond House. Later, his son-in-law, John Wray, took over management and ownership of the hotel.



# Seven.

## 5715 BROADWAY

W. E. Motley owned the East 1/2 of both lots 3 & 4, Block 1 of Covell's original addition. W. E. Motley was a local business owner and butcher with City Meat Market located at 10308 N Main Street around the turn of the century. This home has four charming front windows with decorative details and a front covered porch with elegant spindles.





≡ MENU

## Sarah Gibbs House



### Sarah Gibbs House

10313 West Street

—Written by Gail Drabant

presented here.

This house is significant to the historic architecture since it is the only Second Empire style house in Richmond. It is located at 10313 West Street. The house has been plaqued by the McHenry County Historical Society, so additional information is available other than what is

Sarah Gibbs built the house circa 1885 after her husband, Herman Gibbs, and her three children had preceded her in death. Herman was a Civil War colonel. Herman and Sarah were farming settlers who came to Richmond in 1843. In 1845, Herman purchased the lots on the southeast Comer of Broadway and Main streets (the current site of the Kruse Hardware store and Memorial Hall) and built a hotel?The Richmond House. Later, his son-in-law, John Wray, took over management and ownership of the hotel.

Two out of three of Herman and Sarah's children married and had children before their deaths, so there are surviving relatives. Ella Gibbs married John Wray who was the hotelkeeper as previously mentioned. John and Ella had two children, John and Guy. Mary Gibbs married Edwin Potter and had one child, Mary, who married James Thomas a. T.) Bower, son of Elijah A. Bower.

Through three generations of Bowers, this house remained in the family for several years until the current owners, the Dixons, bought it in the late 1980s. Not only was J, Thomas Bower the postmaster, but three generations of Bowers were postmasters for Richmond. The most recent, Thomas C. Bower, grew up in this house and with his wife, Gwen, still reside in Richmond.

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