

Fulton's Post Office

By Barbara Mask

The November program on the 18th at the Fulton (Martin House) Museum will feature the history of the postal services in Fulton. Dr. Rich Londo, who grew up in Morrison, will be the presenter.

Did you know that the first post offices in America were located at the discretion of the post masters? As a result, many of them were in homes. John Baker, Fulton's founder, was the first post master and he built a place near the river shortly after he arrived, but he then moved away from Fulton. There were several other post masters who served briefly.

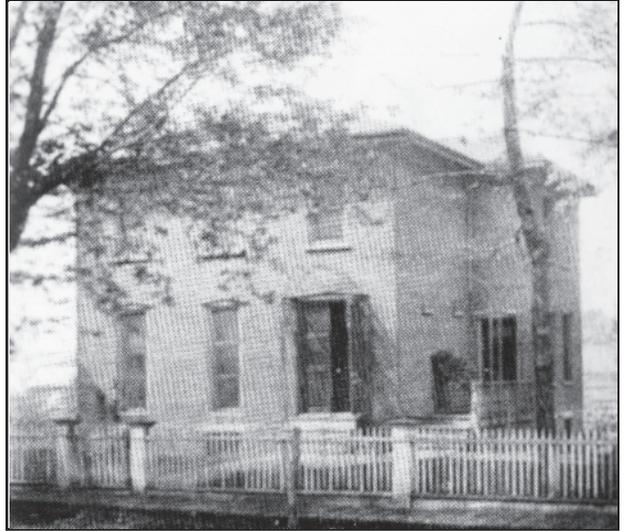
In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Dr. W. C. Snyder, a Fulton physician, to the post master position. The post office was in his home until he built a new building at 1009 4th Street (current site of the Fulton Journal office).

Coincidentally, the Journal office was located in the upper level above the post office and, in 1875, robbers ignited a fire when they blasted open the safe destroying everything in both the newspaper and post office. Dr. Snyder was the secretary of several organizations and all of those records were burned, also. He rebuilt on the same site a similar building which remains there today. He served as post master until he was elected to the Illinois State Senate.

A new post office was constructed on the northeast corner of 4th Street and 10th Avenue in 1935 following the razing of the Dement House Hotel.

A city ordinance, adopted in 1910, stipulated streets would be named numerically and run parallel to 4th Street (formerly Base Street) and the avenues, also using numbers rather names, would run parallel to 6th Avenue (Ferry Street). This paved the way for home delivery of mail, although it was several years before implementation was completed.

An opportunity to learn more about the history of the postal service will be offered on Sunday, November 18.



One of Fulton's first post offices was in Dr. W. C. Snyder's home at 717 9th Avenue. (Current home of Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Sanderson.)



1009 4th Streete was the site of the Futon Post Office from 1875-1935.