

GEORGE C. LORD – CARL BREED HOME
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Grass Lake—Owners of an 112-year-old home being designated as an historic structure relate to the ideas of the builder.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Breed believe that when constructing the house in 1863, George C. Lord must have had foremost in his mind a home that would allow happy and harmonious family living.

The Breeds bought the Gothic Revival house at 857 E. Michigan in 1952. Mrs. Breed said she finds new things about the house and new ways to use the many rooms. An example is their conversion of the front entrance vestibule into a small office. Small rooms have multiple uses, too, the owners have discovered.

Mr. Lord purchased the property a year before he had his home built of brick made at Grass Lake. His choice of architecture was Gothic Revival with high pitched rooflines and front center gable Arches decorated windows and a front façade.

Bargeboard, elaborately ornamented woodwork concealing the roof timbers, lined the eaves.

Between Lord and Breed, the house was owned by Morton Raymond and his son, Dr. Howard Raymond. During the Raymond ownership, a 12-foot strip along the east edge of the property from Michigan Avenue to Church Street was acquired to permit access to the barn at the rear of the yard. With this lane, residents could drive their horses to the barn, avoiding the trolley track which was the scene of Lord's fatal accident (in 1902).

The present owners have made only one structural change in the house. They converted the pantry and the dirt-floored room at the rear of the house they called a laundry into a living area opening into the kitchen.

During the alteration, they discovered a rain-water cistern under the kitchen floor.

The stone smokehouse and the well house in the yard have been used by the Breeds for storage.

Lord descendants, who supplied information for Mrs. Robert D. Woodard, researcher for the Heritage Committee of Jackson County Bicentennial Committee in preparation of the placement of an historical plaque on the house, were Lois Carleton Schlottman, a granddaughter of the builder, and Mrs. William Shaler of Bellevue, widow of a grandson.

Mrs. Schlottman recalls that her grandfather formed a partnership with Barney Teufel, owner of the Grass Lake hotel. Because Teufel translates into English as devil, the Lord family used to joke that it was a case of the Lord being in business with the devil.