

The Rogers Home

58 N Main Street

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Home Sponsor: Mueva Fitness

Jim and Laura Rogers liked to watch the Fourth of July parades pass the front of 58 North Main Street long before they knew they'd call the house "home".

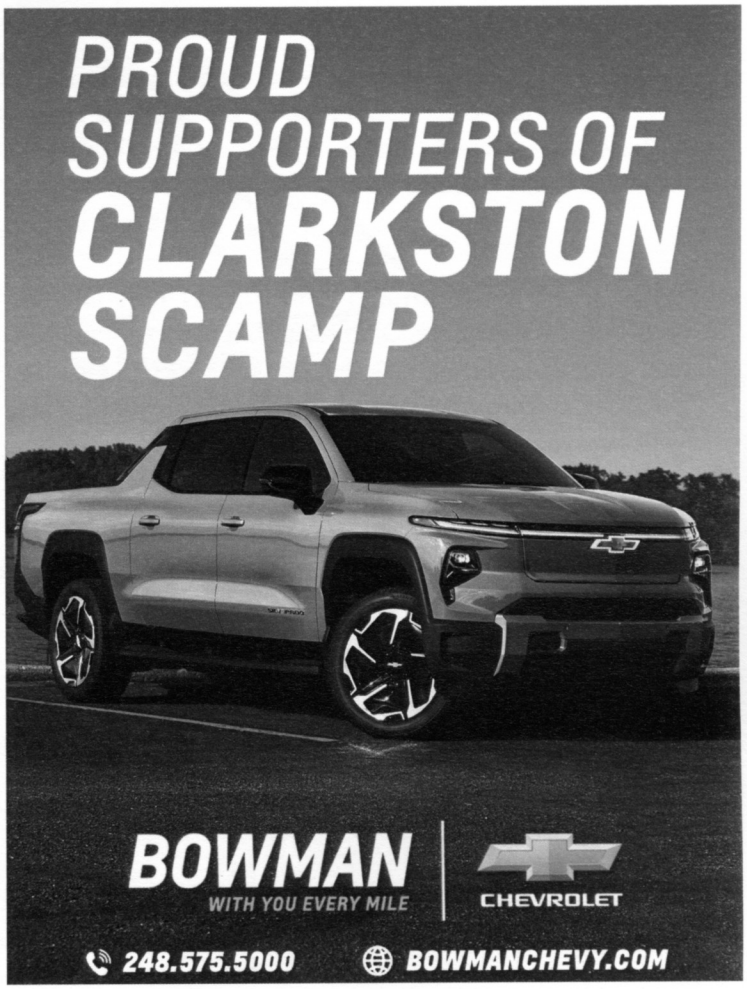
Although a building stood on the site by 1855, the most commanding aspects of the Greek Revival most likely took shape after 1865, when Nicolas Bonaparte Smith bought the property. The prominent merchant, who owned a drugstore just down Main Street from the house, and his second wife, Emeline Walter Smith, added onto and remodeled the house that came to be considered such a fine example of a midwestern Greek Revival that it was included in a 1944 book about the architectural style.

The house showed adaptations over its long history, likely due to the growing community and changing residents over time. A 1902 Pontiac Post article stated that Emeline was having the house remodelled to accommodate two families, like many houses in the area did. Later owners added a library in 1930, and in 1967 expanded the south side of the house to include a family room. The living room has a unique dome-shaped ceiling, adding further to the distinguished style of architecture this house holds. A 1974 fire damaged the original wooden dome, which was replaced with plaster.

Once their kids were out of college, Jim and Laura Rogers decided it was time to move downtown. The house they had always sat in front of for parades happened to be on the market. In 2018, they bought it and made small renovations while trying to preserve its quirky historical aspects. They worked hard to keep the house as original as they could, employing timeless designs, including a cozy lake room, great for bundling up in the winter while enjoying a magnificent view of Parke Lake. The couple describes their renovated kitchen as their dream kitchen—Laura still can't believe it is hers, even after living there six years.

Today, Jim and Laura focus on making memories there when their grandchildren visit, especially taking them to the lake. They hope visitors touring their home will take a moment to appreciate the house's unique architecture inside and out, and its history.

Jim and Laura were interested in being part of the SCAMP home tour because of what SCAMP stands for and how it benefits children and adults with special needs.



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