

roof collapsed (fire) 1/2 burned

Page 156

c. 1858 Ward 124

BEFORE

(1974 photo)

DF 162

FIRE (1973)



CIRCA 1858 WARD HOUSE, 424 MCCLUNG AVENUE (GOTHIC/ITALIAN VILLA STYLE)

The Ward House originally had a tower, as evidenced by the 1871 "Bird's Eye View" of Huntsville and clear clues on the bobbed-off tower. By 1970 a steel outside stair led to second-floor apartments and the house had been generally cut up in an ad-hoc manner. In ~~about~~ 1973 a major fire unroofed the house, and thus it sat until 1974 with no roof, resulting in significant damage to its elaborate decorative plaster. However, since 19th century wood is highly rot-resistant there was little permanent damage to the framing and flooring.

In 1974 after about two years with no roof, the house was roofed and dried-out. Later in the decade some renovation occurred. Beginning in about 1990 the house was thoroughly restored, including the reconstruction of its missing tower, with conjectured details similar to other towers of the mid-19th century. The house is once again a beautiful and historic element in Huntsville's historic districts.

± 1960's carpentry ± 1960's kitchen added
Vincent Herrin Arch. for restoration - H. Jones c. 1990-94



DF 162

(1996 photo)

Page 157

± 1991-95 addition