

# Snohomish County Register of Historic Places Application

Submittal of the completed application will begin the process of evaluation for listing a property or District on the Snohomish County Register of Historic Places. Please fill out the application as thoroughly as possible and attach any supporting documentation. If an item does not apply, please enter "NA" rather than leave a blank line. Please type or print clearly.

Email this application and supporting documentation to [Gretchen.kaehler@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Gretchen.kaehler@co.snohomish.wa.us)

OR mail to: Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission  
Snohomish County Cultural Resources Division, Gretchen Kaehler  
14405 179th Ave, MS 602  
Monroe, WA 98272

## I. Property Identification

Property Name: Sawyer House "Mayor's House"

Property Address: 134 W McDougall St. Monroe, WA 98272

Property Owner: Jennifer Crawford

Property Owner Address (if different than above):

Legal Description of Property: Section 01 Township 27 Range 06 Quarter SE - LOT 3 CITY OF MON SP 200002 REC AFN 200204035001 BEING A PTN OF NE1/4 SE1/4

Tax Parcel Number: 27060100419500

## II. Descriptive Information Regarding Property

### Classification of Property:

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-State
- Public-Federal

### Historic Use of Property:

Residential Dwelling

### Current Use of Property:

Residential Dwelling

### Category of Property:

- Building
- Structure
- Object
- District

- Cemetery/burial site
- Historic site of an important historic event
- Property of cultural importance
- Cultural or historical landscape (habitation, agricultural, industrial, recreational)

**Age of Property:** 111 years (Property must be at least 50 years old; or, in the event that it has exceptional historical significance, 40 years old). If property is not 50 years old, list characteristics which contribute to exceptional historical significance:

**Property Integrity: Please check all that apply**

Location (building, structure, or object has remained on same site for 50 yrs. or more)

Materials (materials used in the building, object, or structure are either original or have been reproduced to replicate, as closely as possible, the original materials.)

Design (design of a building, object, or structure, or the buildings contributing to a district, have remained unchanged for 50 years or more.)

Workmanship (Building exhibits original workmanship; or if repairs or reconstruction of a building, structure, site or object have been or need to be carried out, the methods used as similar to the original construction methods as possible.)

**Ordinance Criteria Met: Please check all that apply. Explain in an attachment exactly how one or more of the criteria (A-K) below is met.**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Property is associated with events that made an important contribution to national, state, or local history.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Property embodies architectural characteristics of a distinctive and defined type, period, style or method of design or construction.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Property is an outstanding work of a recognized designer, builder, or architect.

D.  Property exemplifies or reflects elements of Snohomish County's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering or architectural history.

E.  Property has an association with the life of a person of documented importance in national, state, or local history.

F. \_\_\_\_\_ Property yields, or is likely to yield, important archaeological information related to history or prehistory.

G. \_\_\_\_\_ Property has been removed from its original location, but has significant and documented architectural value, or is the only surviving building or structure associated with a historic person or event.

H. \_\_\_\_\_ Property is the birthplace or grave of a historical figure of documented importance.

I. \_\_\_\_\_ Property is a cemetery which derives historical significance from age, design features, or association with historic events or possesses cultural relevance.

J. \_\_\_\_\_ Property is a building that has been reconstructed in a historically accurate manner on the original site.

K. \_\_\_\_\_ Property is an example of folk architecture and design which is creative and unique but which does not fit into formal historical or architectural categories.

**In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, application may be strengthened by the following factors. Explain how in an attachment.**

Property has outstanding potential for teaching, research, tours, and public education regarding Snohomish County history.

- Property is a good example of historic landscape and environmental conservation features and processes.
- Property has unique and historic features and processes having future relevance to Snohomish County.

**Present Condition of Property (select one):** poor fair **X good** excellent

**Architectural Style of property:** Vernacular

**Materials of Construction:**

**Foundation:** Concrete Block and Concrete Masonry

**Walls:** Wood Lap Siding

**Roof:** Cedar Shake

**Acreage:** 0.24 acres

### **III. Summary and Descriptive Statements**

**Site Location Description (Include access information if applicable):**

The site is located in the City of Monroe. The house is located on a 10,454 square foot lot, much smaller than its original acreage which included fields and orchards (Figure 2). Access to the property is a double driveway entrance/exit from McDougall Street. The original entrance was on the east side of the house is accessed by a concrete walkway between two neighboring residences off Lewis Street.

**Site characteristics (Place summary statement here, with more detailed information attached):**

The site currently consists of a large paved drive and parking area in front of the rear (east elevation) of the house which is now the main entrance. The rest of the lot consists of well-manicured grasses and landscaping. There are multiple mature trees and decorative shrubs. The back yard on south side of the house contains a fire pit and a decorative walkway and arched bridge (Figure 3). The original property has been subdivided and at least two single family residences have been built on the east side of the property in front of the facade and obscures the view of the house from Lewis Street.

**Descriptive information property owner wishes to provide (Place summary statement here with more detailed information attached):**

#### **IV. Historic Integrity and Significance - Use as much space or attach additional pages as needed.**

**A. To what extent has the original appearance of the property been altered? (Place summary statement here with more detailed information attached as needed):**

**B.**

Sawyer House retains the original plan, cladding and roofing materials. Most of the window have been replaced with vinyl or aluminum windows. Original windows that remain have aluminum storm windows and/or screens added on the exterior. The columns and railings on the front porch have been changed from wood to iron (Figure 4 and 5). The main dormer has been changed from multiple window and shutters to a larger vinyl double window. A staircase has been added on the west side to access the apartment on the second floor (Figure 6). A large single gable dormer has been added to the west roof-line likely to provide light to the second floor living spaces (Figure 7). The new entrance on the west end is an addition that was probably constructed in the 1990s when the property was used as a bed and breakfast and the area at the back of the house could be expanded to provide more parking.

**C. What architectural features contribute to the historical character of the property? (Place summary statement here with more detailed information attached as needed):**

The Sawyer house retains many of the original historic characteristics of the original house including the In order of importance to the historical character of the property would be:

the facade on the east (Lewis Street) side

the plan

Cedar shake side gable roof

**D. Period(s) of Significance:**

Periods of significance for the Sawyer house are associated with the

1910 to present.

**E. Narrative (historic context):**

Monroe was originally called Park Place so names by early settler Salem Woods for its natural parklike beauty. The few farmers and loggers who inhabited the vicinity were satisfied with the town of Snohomish being so close for trading and supplies (Whitfield 1926). J. A Vanasdlen established the first store with a stock of general goods to sell to early settlers and lumberman in 1889. By 1890 he had secured a post office under the name of Monroe although the town was not platted until the spring of 1890. The post office and store were followed by a hotel and blacksmith shop shortly thereafter. By 1891, the town consisted of a butcher shop, grocery store, hotel and public hall. A large sawmill, Stoker sawmill, had started operation to support and process lumber from Snohomish County's abundant timber harvest. It was evident that the focus of the business district had to shift because of the inception of the Great Northern Railroad which was located approximately a mile from the town. John Stretch platted Tye City on his homestead in what is now the northeastern part of Monroe much closer to the railway. The major plat of Monroe was done under auspices of the Monroe Land Company whose president was E.L Sawyer. This company had ready capital to clear land and entice new businesses and it quickly became clear that Tye City was not going to become the primary location (Whitfield 1926:596). Vanasdlen was the first to move his business to the new location followed by the saloon and blacksmith's shop. Although the train depot was originally known as "Wales" it was quickly renamed Monroe after the first post office. The public hall was purchase by a fraternal order the Order of the Odd Fellows and

moved to the new townsite as was the original hotel building which became a saloon by 1906. Monroe's success partially depended on the timber industry. Log prices in Snohomish County in the mid to late 1800s was between \$5 to \$10 dollars per thousand logs (Interstate Publishing Company 1906). A timberman would find a suitable area with timber enough to keep him busy for some years and set up camp. He would then hire a crew including a teamster, foreman, faller, skidders, hook tenders and swampers who would bring their families to the area. Although new buildings continued to be constructed the town's population was only 300 by the time it was incorporated in 1902. The town continued to grow from then on bolstered by successful lumber in, agriculture and dairying industries. Dairies produced milk to be processed by two local creameries and berry farms thrived in the rich soils around Monroe producing raspberries, blackberries and strawberries.

The following derived from the Monroe Historical Society Historic Home Tour (2017)

John Popejoy was the first owner of the land in 1880 under the Federal Land Act of 1820. In 1892, Ernest L. Sawyer or E.L. Sawyer obtained the land. Ernest was known as the "Founder of the Monroe Townsite" as he platted a large portion of Historic Monroe. In 1896, Jennie Sawyer, mother of Ernest, took over ownership through the purchase of mortgages.

Jennie was 57 when she came to Monroe. She had this home built in 1910. The home was noted as "being large and well suited [as a residence of two or more families] and has a fine large lot the size of an ordinary city block." The 1900 and 1910 census indicated Jennie ran a boarding house. Jennie had extensive real estate holdings in Monroe. At the time of her death in 1912, she had lived in her new home for less than two years. Her will stated "that the probable value of said estate, both real and personal, is approximately \$29,000.00." Her obituary stated she was "a cultured, kindly woman, of splendid physique – that very fact making her death come as a great surprise."

The Lobdells purchased the home in 1918. About a year after moving here from Wisconsin, Mrs. Lobdell, age 65, passed away at home from heart disease. The Lobdell/Nickel Family stayed in the home, making renovations that were completed in 1920 including building the 'sunarium' or sunroom on the east side of the house. Broughton J. Lobdell was a city councilman.

Cleo Lee Kirby, better known as Mayor Lee Kirby, bought the home in 1945 and lived there until he died from a heart attack in 1978. Lee was a businessman and the owner/operator of the Monroe Theatre. The Monroe Theatre opened in 1929 to show "talkies". Mayor Kirby re-named it the Avalon Theatre in 1951. Mayor Kirby was sworn in as councilman in 1948 and then as Mayor on January 11, 1949. He served as Mayor until June 2, 1958. His first wife, Julia Tecla Carlson sadly passed away in 1937 when she was only 33, leaving Lee with a broken heart and two little sons. Lee married again in 1966 to second wife Luciel. Mayor Kirby passed away June 1978. Luciel Kirby sold the home in 1984.

Later years the home was owned by Elaine Bartholomy, Robert and Beverly Bruno, Joe and Janet Willis. In the 1990's, the Bruno's did a lot of work to the home and landscaping turning it into the Frog Crossing Bed, Breakfast and Antique Shop. They added bathrooms and an apartment on the second floor.

## **F. Description:**

The house at 134 W McDougall Street is was built in a vernacular rural style. The house is not built in a specific classical style but was constructed to make a statement with its size and position. The façade would have been readily visible from Lewis Street which is one of the earlier main Streets in Monroe. The plan is rectangular with a steeply pitched side-gable roof clad in cedar shake. There is a large central gabled dormer on the east side of the house above the porch. This was once the main entrance that would have faced out towards Lewis Street. Two newer residential houses were built east of the facade so that the view of Lewis Street is obstructed. The east porch is accessed by a narrow pathway between the two newer residences but and new main entrance has been installed on the west side of the house. The inset porch three quarter porch on the facade is sheltered by the eaves and the roof is supported by decorative metal columns and railings (Figure 4).

A stairway to the second story has been added to the north side of the house and at least one window has been removed of the four windows that were originally present (Figure 6). A second window has been turned into a doorway to access an additional separate living space.

A new main entrance wing complete with expanded parking has been added on the west side of the house. The wing is front gabled although the pitch of the roof gable on the north side has been deviated slightly to accommodate the small dormer in the center of the roof. The dormer has a scalloped wood inset at the peak. The wing has a gable covered porch supported on wooden columns. There is a scalloped inset in the center of the porch gable that matches both the east and west dormers with the underside of the porch roof clad in cedar boards. There is additional cedar shake cladding (Figure 8). There are more cedar shakes. Scallops are more reminiscent of Victorian homes and the scalloped details were probably added to reflect the time period but not necessarily the style of the house. The scalloping was not original to the 1910 construction and would have been added as a decorative element at a later date.

The south side of the house has a sunroom or "sunarium" which was added in the 1920s (Monroe Historical Society 2017). A sunarium was a popular addition for a house in the 1920 to 1940s (Figure 9). There is a small square deck with trellis cover at the west end of the south side of the house (Figure 10).

**G. Significance Statement (describe how the property meets integrity and ordinance criteria for significance above):**

**H. Integrity**

i) integrity of location, meaning the building, structure or object has remained on the same site for fifty years or more;

The Sawyer House has been on the same site for 111 years.

(ii) integrity of design, meaning the design of the building, structure, object, or the structures contributing to a district have remained unchanged for fifty years or more;

The Sawyer House retains integrity of design. The building plan has not extensively changed even with the shift of the main entrance to the opposite side of the building. The main entrance/facade is on the east side of the house and would have had a parlor or "sitting room" behind a door in the entry hall. Real estate photos show a bedroom with a fireplace on the north side of the main porch that was likely the original sitting or "front room." The main entrance would have been for formal callers and visitors while the back porch would have been for close family and friends, servants and deliveries. While the back entrance has been modified to be the current main entrance on the west side, the main east entrance and façade are intact on the north. With the exception of the wing on the south side, the plan of the house is intact.

(iv) integrity of workmanship, meaning the building must exhibit original workmanship, or if repairs or reconstruction of a building, structure, site or object have been or need to be carried out, the methods used are as similar to the original construction methods as possible. If modern construction methods were used, the resulting repair or reconstruction must replicate the original workmanship as closely as possible:

The residence appears to retain integrity of workmanship. The roof has likely been replaced several times since construction in 1910 however the roof is still currently sheathed in split cedar shakes so the historic workmanship is being preserved. The clapboard siding is intact and any added elements have been clad in clapboard as well. Most living space additions have attempted to preserve or include historic elements.

(iii) integrity of materials, meaning the materials used in the building, object or structure are either original or

have been reproduced to replicate, as closely as possible, the original materials; or (iv) integrity of workmanship, meaning the building must exhibit original workmanship, or if repairs or reconstruction of a building, structure, site or object have been or need to be carried out, the methods used are as similar to the original construction methods as possible. If modern construction methods were used, the resulting repair or reconstruction must replicate the original workmanship as closely as possible;

The Sawyer House retains integrity of material in cladding and roofing. Material changes are mostly cosmetic. Almost all of the windows have been updated with vinyl, aluminum or have been covered with aluminum storm windows or screens. The wood railings and columns on the front porch have been replaced with metal work. Some exterior stairways have been added or replaced with concrete.

**I. Describe how the property meets the Ordinance Criteria for designation of the Snohomish County Register of Historic Places:**

(iv) the property exemplifies or reflects elements of Snohomish county's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering or architectural history:

In the early 1900s only people of means could afford to build as large and expansive as Sawyer House. The house was likely built by a contractor who handled the balloon framing and possibly the excavating. Early contractors were most often professional carpenters which left the installation of heating, plumbing and electricity to others with expertise in those fields. The availability of milled lumber in the Monroe area likely helped to keep costs down. Contractors of the day often used prefabricated home sections or published patters and plan books (Schlerath 1991:99) although is no evidence that Sawyer House was built from a pattern or prefabricated parts.

Sawyer House was likely built by a local contractor or tradesman as one of the first grand homes of Monroe. It was originally built on a large tract of land at the outskirts of Monroe. The house was built in 1910 when there was a dearth of grand homes and people who could afford to construct and keep them. This was a large home for early Monroe and was built for a single wealthy woman who would have been considered of higher class or society because of her wealth. As Sutherland 2000:28 states: "the size and appearance of a house announced the social position, aspirations, and "character" of its occupants."

Jennie Sawyer or Mrs. J.M. Sawyer was a lady of means. Her Death Notice in the Monroe Monitor dated January 12, 1912 stated:

"In the death of Mrs. Sawyer Sunday morning, shortly before church time, the entire community felt bereaved. She was well known and most highly regarded in the family of every resident who had been here in the earlier days of the community. A cultured, kindly woman, of splendid physique – that very fact making her death come as a great surprise."

The descriptions of Mrs. Sawyer "highly regarded, cultured, kindly, splendid physique" were those applied to people of wealth and privilege. Working class people were described most often by adjectives or virtues such as "honest, hard-working, pious, or humble (Schlerath 1991).

Jennie Sawyer was a member of the Rebekahs as local service-related women's order, a branch of the Odd Fellows, whose focus was to promote civic projects and charitable endeavors. The name Rebekah was taken from the biblical character. Originally only wives and daughters of Oddfellow members were eligible to join but after 1894, all woman 18 and over were eligible to join. Typically, these societies were composed of women from the upper echelons of society who had the time, money to spend on civic and charitable works.

Jennie Sawyer was the mother of E.L Sawyer. E.L. Sawyer owned most of the land modern Monroe was platted on. Jennie had resided in the community since 1896. This certainly made her one of the early settlers and her wealth and ability to purchase land would have facilitated her introductions to other settlers of similar stations and finances. She was able to contract to build a large, well-made house to live in. The house was certainly larger and more expensive than most people in the early decades of the 1900s in Monroe Washington could afford.

While the Sawyer House is not a good or representative example of a specific architectural style, it is a good representation of higher socio-economic status in in the early 1900s in Monroe. While it is not architecturally significant it does meet the criteria for listing in the Snohomish County Register of Historic Places for reflecting or representing the historical socio-economic aspect of Snohomish County in the early part of the twentieth century.

(v) the property is associated with the life of a person of documented importance in national, state, or local history:

E.L Sawyer, the owner of Monroe Land and Improvement Company and is credited with platting the town of Monroe. Most of the land owned by the company encompasses present day Monroe Washington. Whitfield 1926:808 states:

“The Monroe plat was filed December 1, 1892, by Monroe Land & Improvement Company. Dedication by same, E. L. Sawyer, president; J. C. Brockenstrouglk Jr., secretary. Witnesses, W. I. Meigs and E. W. Gaston. Morton Ramsdale, notary. Contains all the northeast of southeast section 1 and other land in section 1, township 27, range 6 east. Streets range in width from 30 to 80 feet. This plat has been partly vacated but comprises practically the present city of Monroe.”

Jennie Sawyer was the mother of E. L. Sawyer obtained owner ship of the land on which 134 W McDougall Street is built on, from mortgages transferred to her by her son. Prior to her death in 1912, she became a well-known presence in Monroe and was a member of the Rebekahs, a social order for women much like the fraternal orders for men like the such as the Oddfellow or Red Men. Fraternal orders and social organizations were popular in the 1800s and 1900s (Sutherland 2000). The women’s societies usually focused on social events and charitable works. Jennie was an important person in early Monroe history and was one of the early settlers and members of the Rebekahs society. She was person that was important in local Snohomish County history in Monroe. Many of the first families of Monroe attended her funeral

Sawyer House is also associated with popular Monroe Mayor Cleo Lee Kirby otherwise known as Mayor Lee Kirby (see Figure 5). Mayor Lee Kirby purchased the house in 1945 and lived in it until his death in 1978. Mayor Kirby was sworn in as councilman in 1948 and then as Mayor on January 11, 1949. He served as Mayor until June 2, 1958 (Monroe Historical Society, 2017).

The Sawyer House is still nicknamed the Mayor’s House for the well-known and regarded Mayor Kirby. Kirby was both a popular elected official as well as a local businessman. Kirby was the owner of the Monroe Theatre, the first theatre in Monroe built to show “talkies in 1929 (Taylor 2013:113). Kirby renamed the theatre the Avalon Theatre in 1951 and continued to operate it until its close in 1966. The Avalon Theatre was a landmark in Monroe and most citizens enjoyed many matinees and feature films over the years it was open.

While the Sawyer House is not a good or representative example of a specific architectural style, it is significant for its association with people important in local history. Both Jennie Sawyer and Mayor Leo Kirby were part of the history of Monroe. The Sawyer House is still known as the Mayor’s House and is featured on the annual Monroe Historic Home Tour.

## **J. Additional Factors:**



## V. Bibliography

McAlester, Virginia Savage

2015 A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Monroe Historical Society

2017 Monroe WA Historic Home Tour 2017 Presents 134 West McDougal Street Home Built in 1910. Monroe Historical Society, Monroe, Washington.

Schelereth, Thomas J.

1991 Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915. HarperCollins Publishers, New York, New York.

Sutherland, Daniel E.

2000 The Expansion of Everyday Life, 1860-1876. The University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville.

Whitfield, William (editor)

1926 History of Snohomish County, Washington. Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Chicago  
1926

## VI. Supporting Documentation

**Attach photographs of property for nomination (required).**

**Please attach copies of any supporting documentation such as historical information, written sources (books, articles, newspapers), interviews (oral histories), etc.**

**Maps (Please attach a USGS map showing the location of the building, structure, site or district).**

## VII. Contact Information

Applicant Organization:

Applicant Address: 134 W McDougall St, Monroe, WA

Applicant Name (type or print): Jennifer Crawford

see attached page

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

August 2, 2021

Date of Application

\* \* \* \* \*

**For Commission use only:**

I certify that the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed the application for the following nomination and that the property meets criteria to be listed in the Snohomish County Register of Historic Places.

Sawyer House-SCRHP-004  
Nomination



Snohomish County CLG Coordinator

October 15, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## V. Supporting Documentation

Maps (Please attach a USGS map showing the location of the building, structure, site or district).

Attach photographs of property for nomination (required).

Please attach copies of any supporting documentation such as historical information, written sources (books, articles, newspapers), interviews (oral histories), etc.

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Schelereth, Thomas J.

1991 Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915. HarperCollins Publishers, New York, New York.

+

## VII. Contact Information

Applicant Organization:

Applicant Address: 304 W MacDougall Street Monroe, WA

+

Applicant Name (type or print): Jenny Crawford

  
Applicant Signature

8-2-21  
Date of Application

\* \* \* \* \*



Figure 1. Location of Sawyer House, 134 W. McDougall Street W, Monroe Washington.

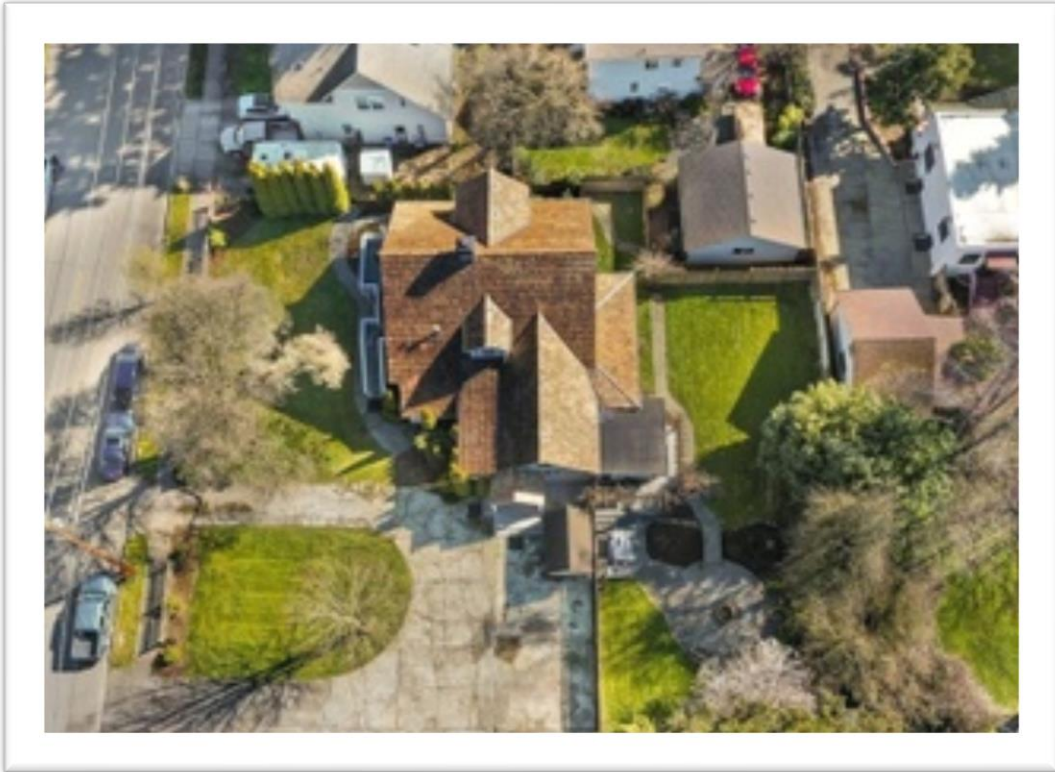


Figure 2. Birdseye view of 134 W. McDougall Street Monroe, Washington (view east).

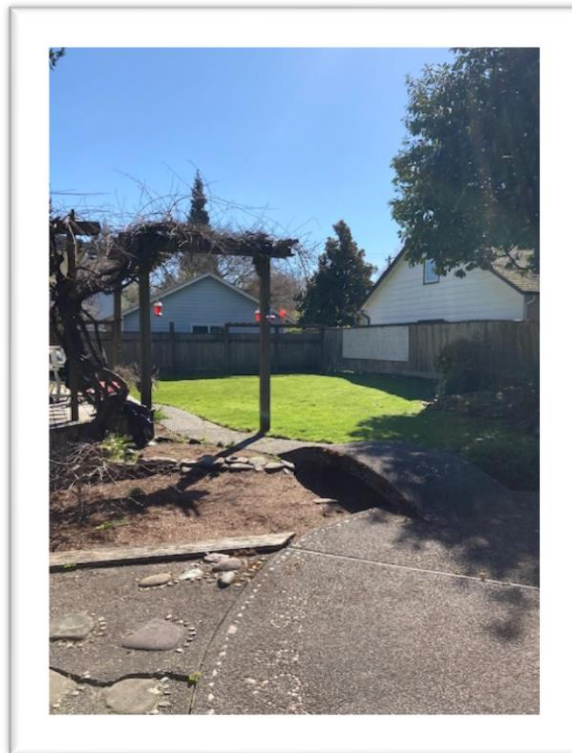


Figure 3. Backyard landscaping with footbridge (view southeast).





Figure 4. Sawyer House Façade (view west).



Figure 5. Sawyer House ca. 1940 with Mayor Cleo Lee Kirby in the foreground (view southwest).



Figure 6. Sawyer House ca. 1940 with Mayor Cleo Lee Kirby in the foreground (view southwest).



Figure 7. Sawyer House ca. 1940 with Mayor Cleo Lee Kirby in the foreground (view southwest).



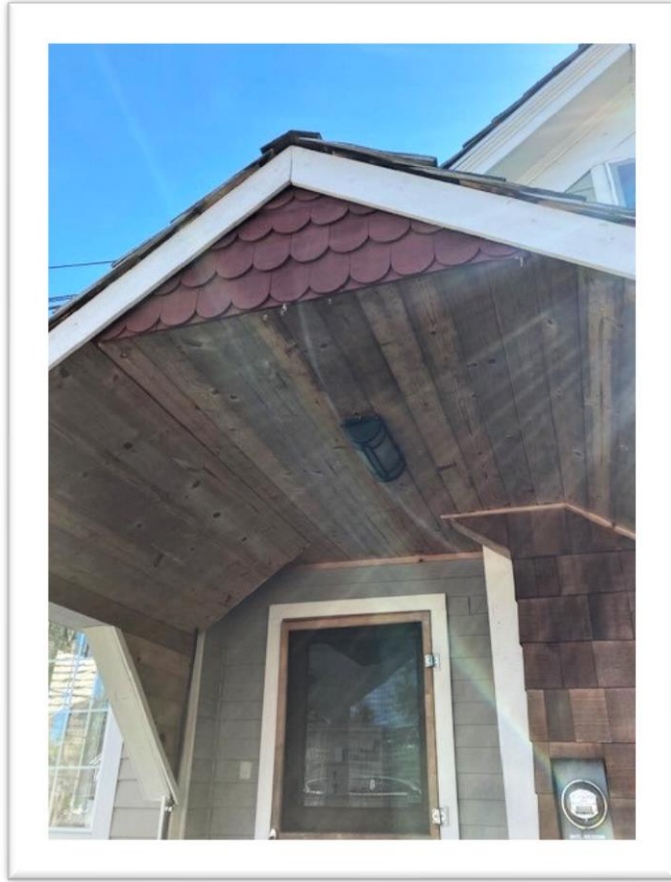


Figure 8. New Gable porch on west entry wing (view east).



Figure 9. Sunroom addition on (view east).



Figure 10. South side of house with deck and trellis (view northwest).



Figure 11. Sawyer house circa 1890



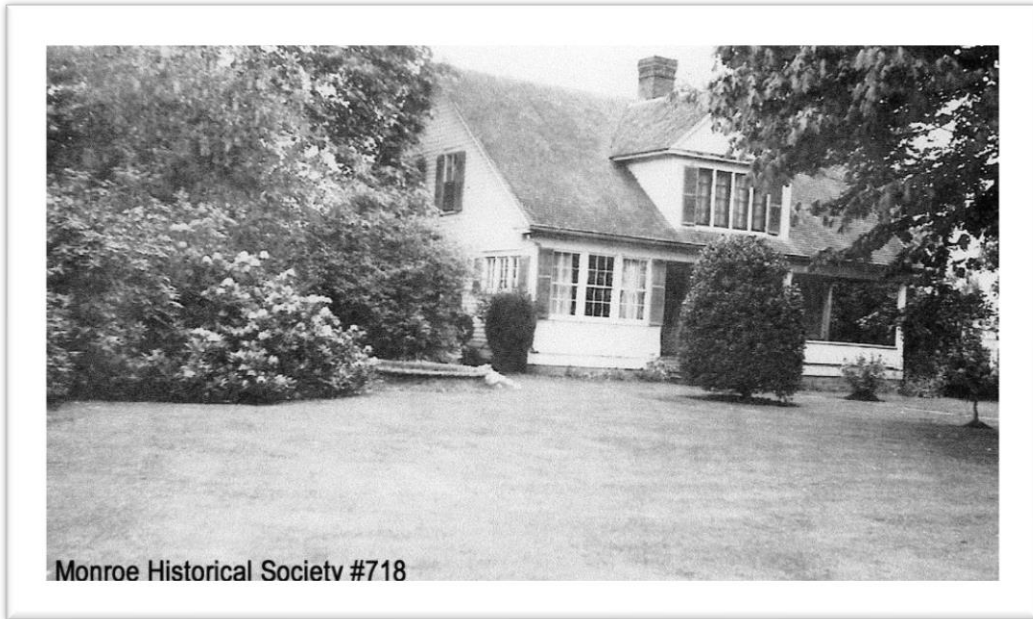


Figure 12. Sawyer House ca. 1940s (view northwest)

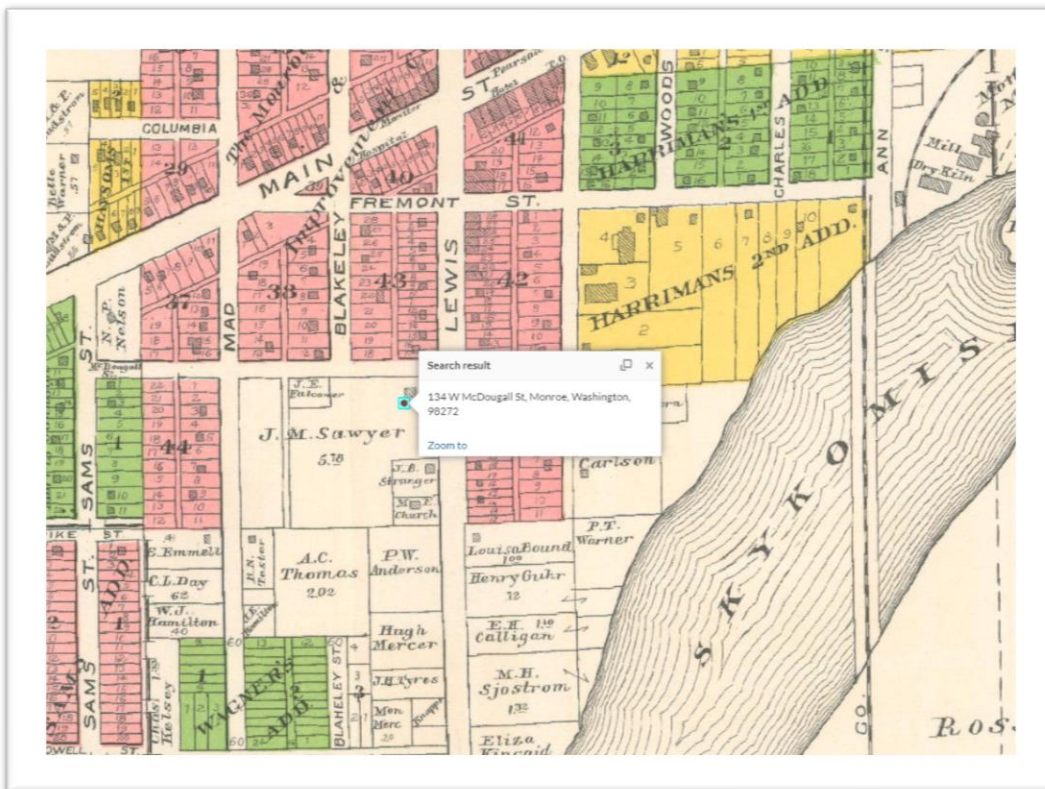


Figure 13. Sawyer House Location on 1910 Anderson Map (Anderson Map Company)



The **Monroe Historical Society** seeks to preserve and share the history of Monroe and to inspire an appreciation of its heritage.

Welcome to the Second Historic Homes Tour 2017. The **Monroe Historical Society** is an all-volunteer organization that was founded in 1976. The Society opened its museum in 1982 in Monroe's original two-story City Hall building at 207 East Main Street and is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

## Monroe WA Historic Homes Tour 2017

### Presents: 134 West McDougall Street

### Home built in 1910

John Popejoy was the first owner of the land in 1880 under the Federal Land Act of 1820. In 1892, Ernest L. Sawyer obtained the land. Ernest was known as the "Founder of the Monroe Townsite" as he platted a large portion of Historic Monroe. In 1896, Jennie Sawyer, mother of Ernest, took over ownership through the purchase of mortgages. The 1940 census showed Ernest, at age 76, only having completed an 8th grade education.

Jennie was 57 when she came to Monroe. She had this home built in 1910. The home was noted as "being large and well suited [as a residence of two or more families] and has a fine large lot the size of an ordinary city block." The 1900 and 1910 census indicated Jennie ran a boarding house. Jennie had extensive real estate holdings in Monroe. At the time of her death in 1912, she had only lived in her new home for less than two years. Her will stated "that the probable value of said estate, both real and personal, is

approximately \$29,000.00." Her obituary stated she was "a cultured, kindly woman, of splendid physique – that very fact making her death come as a great surprise."

The Lobdells purchased the home in 1918. About a year after moving here from Wisconsin, Mrs. Lobdell, age 65, passed away at home from heart disease. The Lobdell/Nickel Family stayed in the home, making renovations that were completed in 1920 including building the 'sunarium'. Broughton J. Lobdell was a city councilman. His parents, Julius and Phoebe (Sabin) resided in the 306 S. Lewis Street home with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Nickel. Broughton bought the home so his parents, sister and brother-in-law could live there.

Cleo Lee Kirby, better known as Mayor Lee Kirby, bought the home in 1945 and lived there until he died from a heart attack in 1978. Lee was a businessman and the owner/operator of the Monroe Theatre, renaming it the Avalon Theatre in 1951.



#### **OWNERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEARS**

1880—1892: John Popejoy, Land Patent

1892—1896: Ernest L. Sawyer

1896—1912: Jennie Sawyer (house built in 1910)

1912—1918: Unknown

1918—1945: Lobdell/Nickel Extended Family

1945—1984: C. Lee & Luciel Kirby

1984—1992: Elaine Bartholomy

1992—2002: Robert & Beverly Bruno

2002—2015: Joe & Janet Willis

2015—Present: Evan & Lindsay MacDonald

Mayor Kirby was sworn in as councilman in 1948 and then as Mayor on January 11, 1949. He served as Mayor until June 2, 1958. His first wife, Julia Tecla Carlson sadly passed away at their Hill Street house in 1937 when she was only 33, leaving Lee with a broken heart and two little sons. Lee married again in 1966 to second wife Luciel. Mayor Kirby passed away June 1978. Luciel sold the home in 1984.

Later years the home was owned by Elaine Bartholomy, Robert and Beverly Bruno, Joe and Janet Willis. In the 1990's, the Bruno's did a lot of work to the home and landscaping turning it into the Frog Crossing Bed, Breakfast and Antique Shop. They added bathrooms and an apartment on the second floor.

Around 2002, 134 West McDougall was known as 306 South Main Street.

The current owners Evan and Lindsay MacDonald continue to lovingly care and rehabilitate this historical home and the beautiful yard.

**Special thanks to the MacDonald Family for opening their home to the  
Monroe Historical Society 2017 Historic Homes Tour**