

Way We Were
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The Home of “Dad” Raddon

S. L. Raddon, longtime owner and editor of the Park Record, spent most of his life in Park City. In fact, he lived in his house on 325 Park Avenue for 47 years. Because of this, the story of the Raddon house is also the story of S. L. Raddon. While S. L. Raddon owned the property at 325 Park Avenue in 1889, he started construction on his home in 1901, three years after the great fire in 1898.

He hired Peter Anderson a well known local carpenter and contractor to build the house. The Park Record reported that “Peter Anderson, the contractor is at present engaged in the erection of a seven room residence on Park Avenue for S. L. Raddon,”¹ and it also calls him a “thorough and competent workman.”² Peter Anderson emigrated from Sweden around 1872. He lived and worked in Park City off and on after 1880. He often moved to places like Twin Falls, Idaho, Eureka, and eventually passed away in Wyoming in 1918.

Instead of the typical box-style Park City home of the day, the Raddon house is a prime example of Victorian architecture in Park City. 325 Park is the only Victorian Mansion style house in Park City proper. The other home of this style in the area is the Ferry-Kearns Mansion which is located outside of town. While other homes in Park City exhibit Victorian influences in the exterior decoration, the Raddon house exhibits these influences in the floor plan, which is irregular. The best example of the house’s Victorian influences is the fact that it is two and one-half stories, among other identifying quirks.

S. L. Raddon moved into the house with his second wife, the former Louisa Harper. After her death in 1906 he remained in the house for an additional 41 years. During this time he worked extensively with the Park Record as its owner and editor. While S. L. Raddon himself does not often appear in the text of the paper, the Park Record does show how his lives and the lives of his children were known in the community. In the printed obituaries he is always called Samuel L. “Dad” Raddon—that alone is indication of his influence and accessibility in the community. After “Dad” Raddon’s death in 1948 the house fell vacant and was not occupied until 1970 when it was restored by John Price, who went on to become mayor of Park City.

Interested in learning more stories about our historic homes and their infamous owners? Join the Park City Museum for its annual Historic Home Tour on Saturday, June 15, 2013. For more information contact the Park City Museum at 435-649-7457.

¹ Park Record 1901-08-10

² Ibid



1998.6.317

Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum

Caption: Samuel Raddon's house at 325 Park Avenue