

# NEW INFO ON AN OLD BUILDING: 811 WILLIAMSON STREET



811 Williamson in 1885 or 1886

**A**n early view of 811 Williamson Street has recently come to light. It inspired me to do some research and share the results. The photo [shown here] comes from Alan Burling, great-

grandson of Adam Geiger. Adam was a blacksmith, who with partner Ole Williamson, a Norwegian-born wagon maker, formed Geiger & Williamson - the company name written across the lintel of the cen-

tral entry. Alan donated the photo to the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society, who in turn printed it in their newsletter, where I first saw it.

Although the date 1890 is written on the photo, research indicates the photo was taken about



811 Williamson in 1977

The four men in the photo are probably Greiger and Williamson with two employees -

Nicholas Imig, wagon maker and John E. Dengel, blacksmith - both of whom are listed in the 1888 directory. The 1890 directory shows that Ole, Nicholas and John were no longer employed at G & W, but elsewhere. The same directory no

longer lists Adam at all. Other evidence, such as the federal census and family lore, show Adam had moved away to Iowa for reasons unknown. It's reasonable to conclude that the business ceased operation by then, making it unlikely the photo



811 Williamson in 2009