



Heritage Building Plaque Application

Name: Carly Gorick
Building Address: 485 Arlington Avenue
Building Name (for public/commercial structures only):
Current Owners: Carly and Theo Gorick
Street: 485 Arlington Avenue Daytime Phone:
City: Elgin State: IL Zip: 60120
Email Address:

If different than above:

Applicant's Name Daytime Phone:
Address: City: State: Zip:
Email:
Address:

Original Owner: Iris and Alfred Preuss
Date of Construction: 1911
Architect (if known)
Builder (if known)

Please attach the following information:

1. Statement of Value: This statement should include a narrative description of the historical and architectural value of the building.
2. Photocopies of relevant research materials including but not limited to, Sanborn Maps, City Directories and original property deeds. See page 3 of the program guidelines for research locations.
3. Building Alterations: List any alterations to the exterior of the building. Attach copies of all building permit applications.
4. Photographs: Include a recent photograph in which the building is clearly visible. Additional photographs depicting close-up details of decorative features are helpful.

Stipulations

If the building is not awarded a plaque, the application fee will be refunded.

This application and submitted materials shall be retained by the City of Elgin as a part of the permanent record of the building.

The Elgin Heritage Commission has the authority to edit and publish the information submitted in the application. This does not prohibit others from using the information.

When awarded, the plaque will remain with the building and should not be altered or removed from the building. It is the City's responsibility to replace the plaque if or when the situation warrants it.

In addition to the above stipulations, the undersigned attests that the information provided is, to the best of his/her knowledge, accurate.

Owner's Signature _____ Date _____

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

This residence is located in Elgin's third historic district, the Elgin National Watch Factory Historic District, which was added in 1997. This area of town surrounds the location of the Elgin Watch factory and consists mostly of worker's cottages and vernacular houses. Elgin's Fire Barn #5 Museum is located in this district.

The house is located in Julia E. Bowen's subdivision, platted in 1905. The subdivision was surveyed by W. W. Abell, one of Elgin's noted architects. This subdivision is only one square block, bounded by Regent Street on the north, South Liberty Street on the east, Bent Street on the south, and Arlington Avenue on the west. On August 31, 1910, Julia Bowen sold lot eight to Iris Perry Gibbs Preuss for \$775.00. On February 23, 1911, Iris obtained a mortgage for \$1400. The house is first listed in the 1911-12 Elgin City Directory.

Iris Perry Gibbs Preuss was born March 31, 1880. Her father, John, was born in Kentucky and her mother, Sarah, in Illinois. In 1800, the family consisted of John 55, Sarah M. 40, Emery 19, Jennie 17, Elmer 12, John R. 12, Abby 7, Maud 5, Bertha 3 and Iris, age 2 months. Iris married her first husband, Fred Taylor Gibbs, in 1898. In 1900, Iris and Fred Gibbs lived at 917 S. Center in Bloomington, Illinois with Iris' mother Sarah M. Perry and her sister, Bertha.

Fred Gibbs was born October 25, 1880 in McLean, Illinois, and died October 17, 1944 in Chicago. His father was William Taylor Gibbs, and his mother was Susan T. Gibbs. The Gibbs had a son, Earl, born in 1901, who was living in 1910 with Iris and her second husband, Alfred Preuss at 327 Ann Street in Elgin. Fred's second wife was Pearl Agnes Gibbs.

Alfred Preuss was born April 3, 1886 in Russia to Anna and Emil Preuss. His native tongue was German. The family immigrated to the United States in 1891, by 1900 living at 412 N. Winchester Avenue in Chicago. The 1900 census lists Emil, 40, Anna 39, Alfred 14, Metha 9, Wera 6 and Herbert 4. On September 11, 1909, Alfred married Iris P. Gibbs at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Joliet, Illinois. Alfred Preuss' listed occupation in 1910 was electrician; he worked for the telephone company, in 1920 as a tester and in 1930 as a lineman. The 1930 census shows Iris and Alfred at 5253 Cartwright Avenue in Los Angeles, California. Alfred died June 1, 1974 in Glendale, California. Iris died June 24, 1968 in Los Angeles.

On April 9, 1920, Iris sold the house to Axel Swanson. Axel was born in 1889 to Emma and Robert Elton Swanson. The family immigrated in 1903 from Sweden. Axel, a naturalized citizen, worked for the Elgin National Watch Factory. In 1910, Axel, age 21, lived with his sister Lena and her husband Charles Nelson on Commonwealth Avenue in Elgin. The 1920 census shows Axel and his wife Emma living at 210 Jewett Street in Elgin with their son Robert Elton, age 1. In 1940, the family consisted of Axel 51, Emma 47, Robert Elton 21, Wesley K. 17 and Minnie Ladwig 78, Emma's mother.

Emma was born in 1892 to Herman A. and Wilhelmine (Minnie) Oehlke Ladwig. She died January 20, 1967. Axel died in 1962. Emma and Axel are buried at Bluff City Cemetery in Elgin.

In 1950, the Swansons sold 485 Arlington to Charles Joseph Pokorny. Charles, born in 1924 to Mary and Joseph Pokorny, grew up on East Main Street in Algonquin with his parents and siblings Frederick J, Francis Joseph, Charles Joseph, Joseph Wenceslaus and Margaret Ann. On January 6, 1947, he married Virginia Kaiser. Prior to the purchase of 485 Arlington, they lived at 300 Douglas Avenue in Elgin. Charles Pokorny worked for H. W. Huber Company, purveyors of coal, building materials and fireplace accessories. By 1958, Charles was vice president at H. W. Huber, and was living at 1181 Iroquois Drive in Elgin.

Herman Joseph and Loretta Krapf bought 485 Arlington in 1954. Herman was born October 21, 1914 in Dyersville, Iowa and died November 21, 1982 in Elgin. As a corporal in the U. S. Army, he fought in World War II and received a Purple Heart award. He is interred at St. Francis Cemetery in Dyersville. While in Elgin, he worked as district manager at Diamond Power Specialty Corporation. Loretta, born September 11, 1917, died in Elgin November 13, 2005.

After only three years, the Krapfs sold the house to Ronald L. and Martha J. Johnson who lived there until 1960. Ronald was a supervisor at Woodruff & Edwards Foundry on north State Street.

The next owner was Delores Swihart Hanson, a widow, who owned the house until 1966, living there until 1964, the using it as a rental property. William E. and Anna Mitchell lived there in 1965 and 1966. He was an adjuster for Farmers Insurance.

For the next ten years, Stewart and Sharon Sherman owned the house, selling in 1978 to Brett and Barbara Coleman. Both of these owners used it primarily as a rental property. Ernestine and Dean M. Huffstutler were tenants from 1968 to 1972. Dean was a strip foreman as Fastex Division.

From 1972-1977, John Thelen owned the house. It stood vacant in 1973 and 1974. From 1975-77 the occupant was John and Sandra Thelen. Brett Coleman bought it in 1977 and is listed in the directory as occupant in 1978-79, and rented it out thereafter. From 1980-81 the tenant was Len Koe Nhuk. The house was vacant from 1982-83. The tenant in 1984 was Mrs. Kay Alderete, a nurse at Sherman Hospital.

From 1985-89 Jeanette Lavender and Richard Burke, a roofer, owned and occupied 485 Arlington Avenue. In 1990, Burke sold the house to Melissa Lawrence. Occupancy was unverified from 1991-95. John Mini purchased 485 Arlington Avenue in 1995, selling it in 1997 to Diane Pace, who owned it until the current owners bought it in 2017.

Theo and Carly Gorick love the character inside and out of the home. Their guests always say how warm and inviting their home is. They love sitting on the front porch sipping coffee in the morning when it's warm outside. They take pride in their neighborhood and their home.

Carly grew up across the street; she, her parents and younger sister moved into the neighborhood on St. Patrick's Day of 1990. Her parents still live there.

Theo works in sales at Hilti, a construction products company, and Carly is an occupational therapist in School District 300.

Deed list:

- Book 520 page 158 8/31/1910 warranty deed Bowen to Preuss \$775
- Book 523 page 120 2/23/1911 Trust deed Preuss \$1400
- Book 556 page 102 3/8/1914 Trust deed Preuss \$1800
- Book 659 page 505 4/9/1920 warranty deed Preuss to Swanson
- Book 785 page 46 4/27/1926 trust deed Swanson
- Book 805 page 291 9/7/1926 trust deed Swanson east ½ (524 Bent)
- Book 1000 page 490 7/21/1936 trust deed Swanson west ½
- Book 1323 page 402 12/3/1946 warranty deed Swanson to G. Thornton
- Book 1509 page 181 JT warranty deed Swanson to Pokorny
- Book 1509 page 183 mortgage Pokorny
- Book 1716 page 336 11/24/1954 WD Pokorny to Krapf
- Book 1716 page 337 7/25/1950 mortgage Krapf
- Book 1845 page 60 Warranty deed Krapf to Johnson
- Book 2027 page 441 6/8/1960 warranty deed Johnson to Swihart
- Book 2219 page 355 2/18/1964 mortgage Swihart
- Book 2362 page 122 7/25/1966 WD Delores Swihart Hanson to Stuart & Sharon Sherman
- Book 2362 page 123 7/28/1966 mortgage Sherman
- Book 2763 page 135 6/12/1972 mortgage Jack & Sandra Thelen
- Doc 1425350 10/3/1977 WD Thelen to Coleman
- Doc 1447949 3/7/1978 mortgage Coleman
- Doc 1668946 1/20/1984 mortgage Coleman
- Doc 1720542 4/30/1985 JT warranty deed Coleman to Jeanette Lavender & Richard S. Burke
- Doc 1991666 4/30/1985 mortgage Burke
- Doc 1912152 5/27/1988 mortgage Christopher Holm
- Doc 2002K083278 7/8/2002 mortgage Diane Pace
- Doc 2004K109119 8/27/2004 mortgage Pace \$26,250
- Doc 2007K068024 6/28/2007 mortgage Pace

Doc 2015K006437 2/09/2015 mortgage Pace
Doc C. Steurer 2017

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Legal description: Julia E. Bowens Subdivision Lot 8
Parcel number 06-24-208-009

This house is an example of the American Foursquare configuration, which enjoyed popularity from the early 1900s well into the 1920s. Actually, the design was called “box house” at the time it was built; the term “American Foursquare” was substituted later. The box house was basically a square or rectangular 2-story structure under a hipped roof, most commonly seen with a full-width hipped porch. The term “foursquare” describes the basic shape and the fact that such homes were usually nearly square and most commonly had four rooms on each story. Stylistic architectural detailing was applied to the basic shape. In 485 Arlington Avenue we see the wide eaves and horizontal banding of Prairie Style, the four-over-one windows of Arts and Crafts Style, and the round tapered porch columns of Colonial Revival Style.

Accessory structures:

The 1913 Sanborn Fire insurance Map shows a small one-story outbuilding on the northeast corner of the lot. The 1950 map shows the house at 524 Bent on the east half of the lot.

ALTERATIONS

In 1926, owners Axel and Emma Swanson divided the lot, razed the outbuilding on the north east corner of the lot, and built a second house on the east half. They continued to live at 485 Arlington, and used the new house at 524 Bent as income property until they sold it in 1949 to Gertrude Thornton.

At some point, shutters were added on the west elevation; these have since been removed.

Addenda

Photos of house

Warranty deed 1910

City directory page 1911-12

Subdivision plat map

1895 hand-drawn map excerpt

Sanborn fire insurance maps 1913 and c.1950

Map of Elgin National Watch Historic District

Survey pages 1997



Southwest elevation



Northwest elevation



Southeast elevation

Book 520 p 158

Know all men to the intent that the Grantor JULIA E. BOWEN, a widow,

of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois
for and in consideration of ~~the sum of~~ Seven Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$775.00) ~~in cash~~
in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to

Iris Perry Gibbs Preuss

of the City of Elgin County of Kane and State of Illinois
the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

Situate in the City of Elgin the County of Kane and State of Illinois, to-wit: Lot number eight
(8) in the Plat entitled Julia E. Bowen's Subdivision of part of Block 1000 of Bowen Heights
Addition to the City of Elgin, Illinois, as recorded in the office of the Recorder of said Kane
County.
Said Lot is conveyed subject to the special assessment for sewers which are to be paid by the
grantee.

executed in the County of Kane in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights
under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor.

Dated this 31st day of August A. D. 1910.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of Julia E. Bowen



STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss. I, C.R. Hopson a Notary Public
Kane County }
in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, That

{ C.R. Hopson Atty at Law }
{ Notarial Seal }
{ Kane Co. Ill. }

Julia E. Bowen, a widow, who is,

personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the
foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that she signed, sealed and
delivered the said instrument as her free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes
therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.

Given under my hand and Notarial Seal, this 31st day of August A. D. 1910.

C.R. Hopson,
Notary Public.

Warranty deed 1910

Ann St—Continued

269 Amos Hall
 279 Mrs Matilda Krceger
 303 Rev Robert Cato
 311 St James A M E Church
 323 Henry Holthusen
 327 Vacant house
 Dundee ave crosses
 367 Lot M Bayless
 367 Warren Ziegler
 373 William Roepke
 373 Ben Rohr
 387 Edson A Perkins
 N Gifford crosses
 417 Mrs Julia W Mann
 427 Fleury DuMont
 435 James Murphy
 437 C S Holland
 445 John R Powers
 445 Mrs Minnie Miller
 451 Philip Schlager
 Hill ave crosses
 Sheridan School
 Porter ave intersects
 555 Henry F Runge
 569 Gust Huckstedt
 573 Charles Scherf
 577 George J Hachtel

ARLINGTON AVE

From Sherman ave s to intersection of
 St Charles, 1 e of St Charles

East Side

401 Caleb Marlow
 409 Burton H Barber
 411 Watson L Goodspeed
 411 Frank O'Connell
 415 C H Bente
 417 Mrs Anna Byington
 433 August Storm
 Regent crosses
 451 Harry Jones
 457 Mrs C Spittle
 461 Carl O Carlson
 → 485 Alfred Preuss
 Bent crosses
 519 Mrs Elizabeth VanNostrand
 519 Mrs Flora Gage

West Side

406 Lawrence M McNerney
 410 William Hesse
 414 William Ostler
 Regent crosses

464 George T Larsen
 470 Raymond W Mead
 476 John C Marvyne
 Bent crosses
 Hose House No 5

ARMOUR AVE

From Wright ave west, 1 n of Bluff
 City blvd

North Side

Vacant lots

South Side

881 Mrs Elizabeth Biggin
 881 Edward J Westveer

ASHLAND AVE

From Harding s to hospital grounds, 2
 w of the river

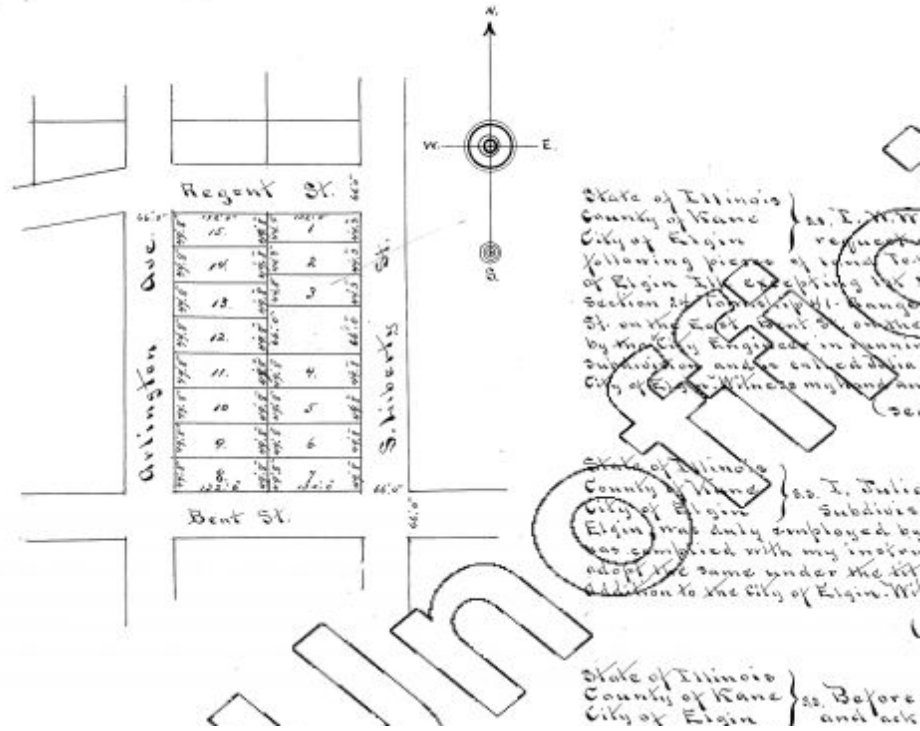
East Side

433 John L Leach
 437 Dennis J Hennessey
 443 Mrs Nancy H Webb
 447 Charles F Shiley
 451 George L Pruden
 451 Bert Wainwright
 457 Olaf Dahlquist
 459 Leon Gunnison
 459 Hugh Boyle
 461 Mrs Celia Lawrence
 467 Oscar J Peterson
 471 Carl P Carlson
 471 Charles Linder
 483 Edward Wall
 Lord crosses
 503 William Dodds
 507 Aaron Rees
 523 George F Barnes

West Side

436 A W Hawkins
 442 James M Kennealy
 448 Herbert C Shake
 454 Mrs Abbie Whitman
 454 Adolph Schoal
 460 Vacant house
 464 Mrs Libbie A Samuelson **grocery**
 464 W M Harris
 470 Mrs Libbie A Samuelson
 476 Charles Ehlert
 486 Thomas M Page
 486 Mrs Amelia Holst
 Lord crosses

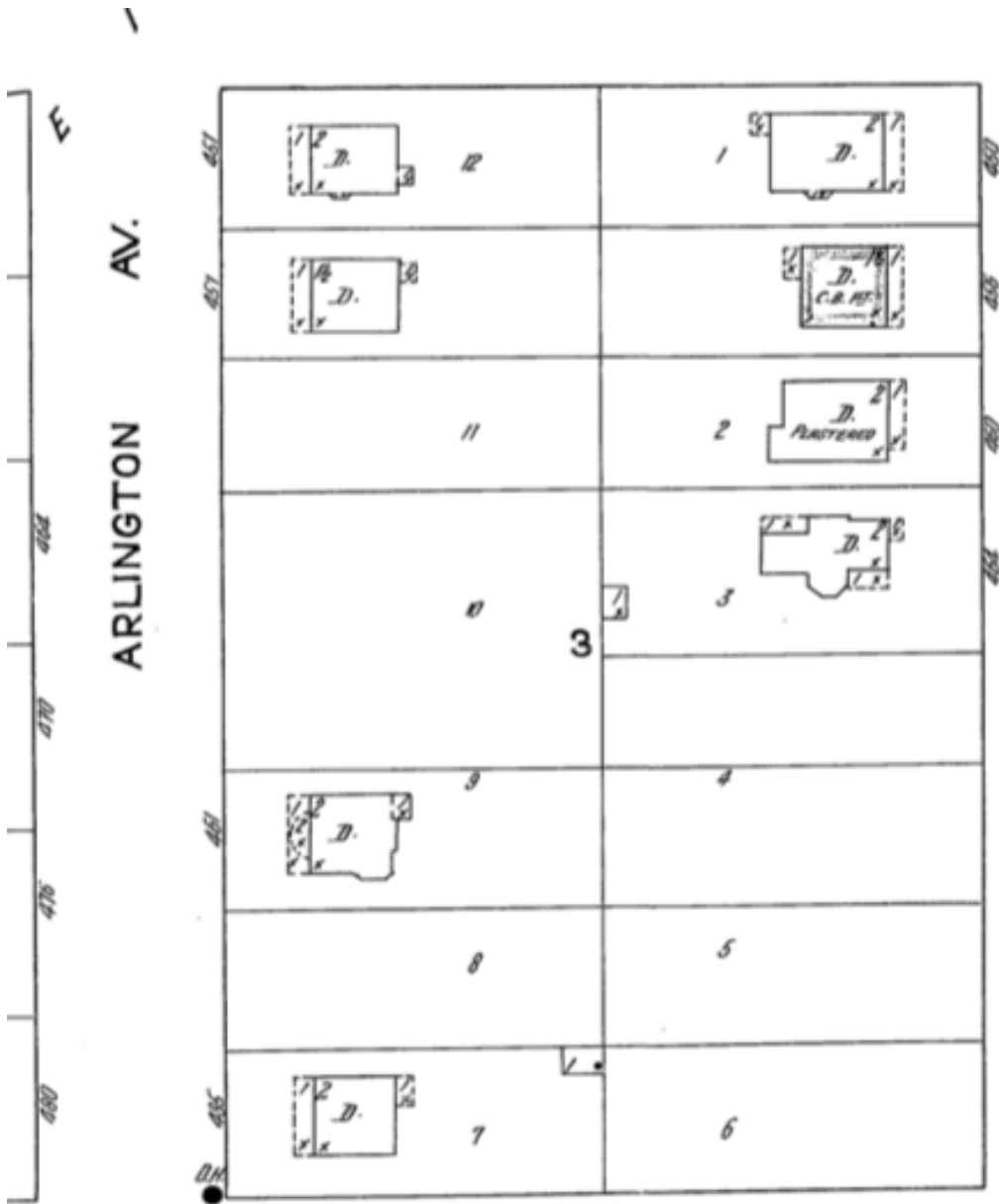
Bowen Heights Addition to the C



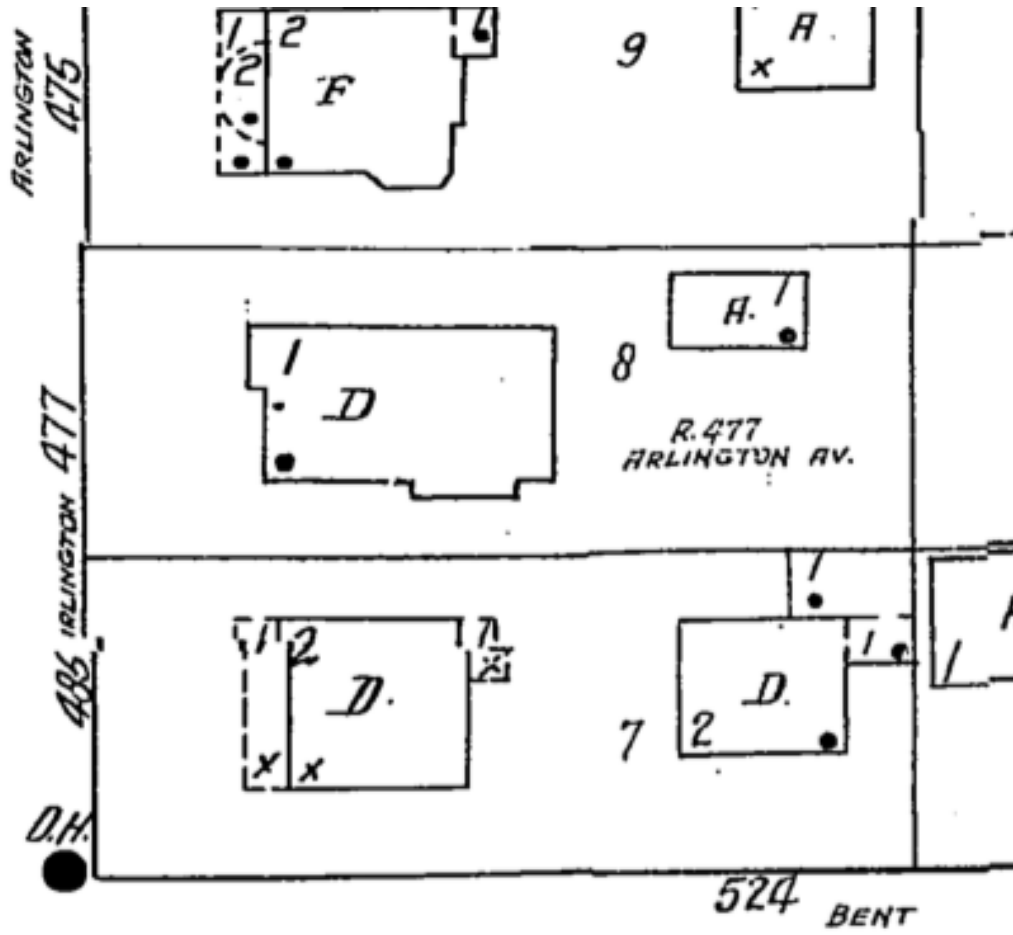
November 1905 Plat surveyed by W. W. Abell



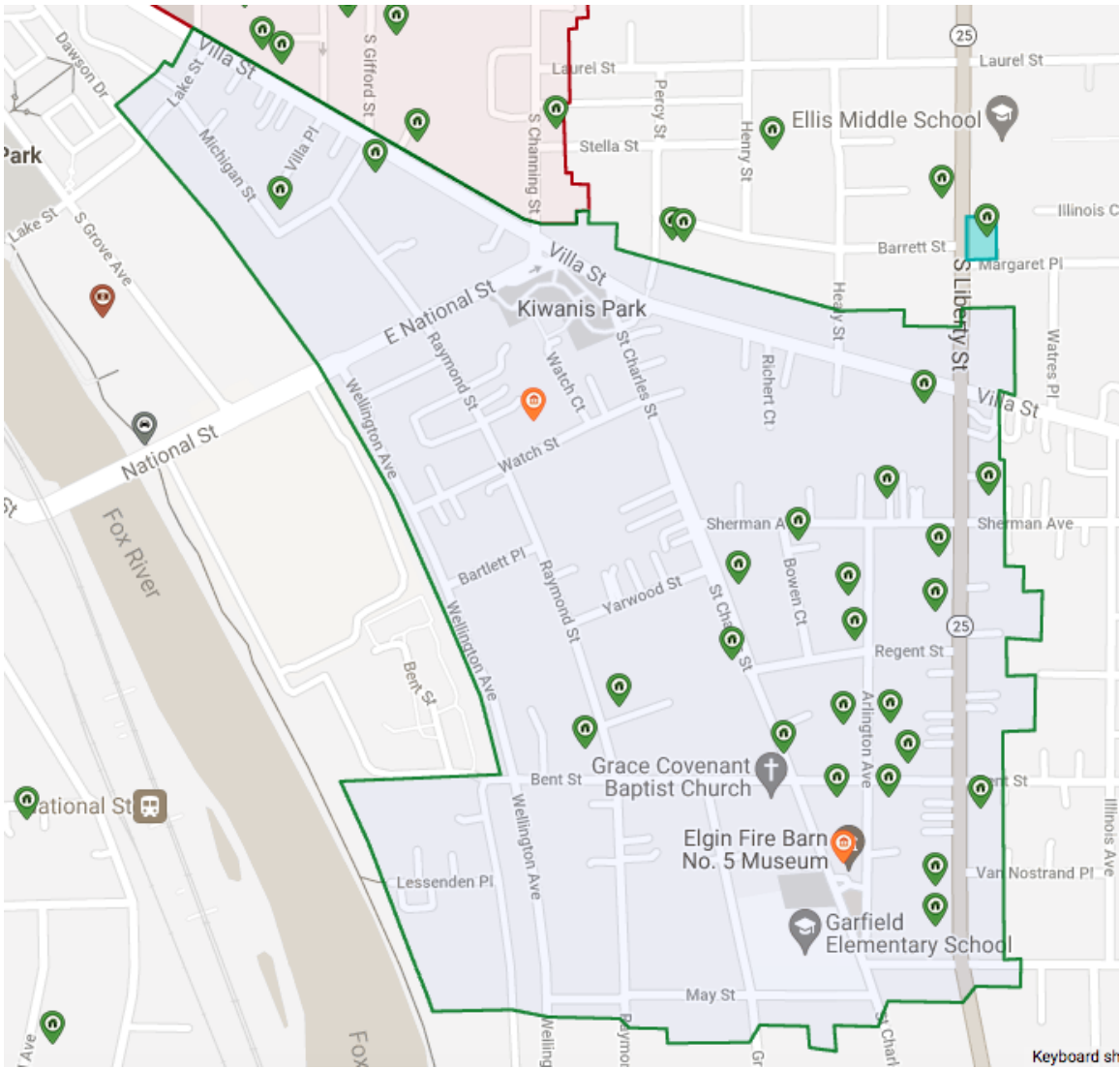
1895 hand-drawn map excerpt



1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map excerpt



c.1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map p. 60 excerpt



Watch Factory Historic District

SIGNIFICANCE

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE RATING: S

Significant (S) Contributing (C)
Non-Contributing (NC)

POTENTIAL INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL REGISTER? (Y or N) _____
Criteria _____

CONTRIBUTING TO A NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT? (C or NC) _____
C

Contributing secondary structure? (C or NC) _____
-

LISTED ON EXISTING SURVEY:(IHSS, NR, etc.) No

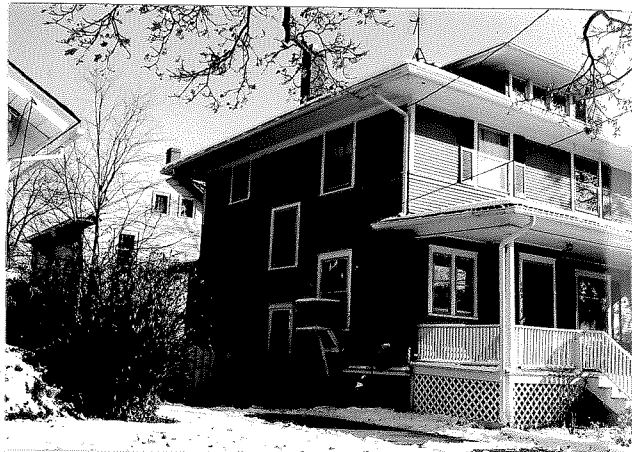
RESEARCH INFORMATION

HISTORY

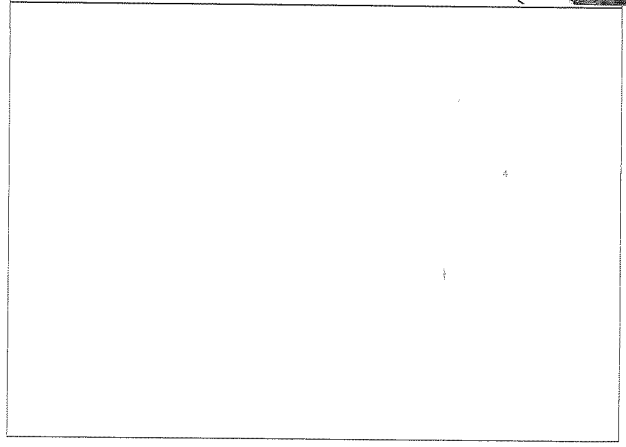
HISTORIC NAME: _____

COMMON NAME: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SOURCES:



COST _____
AREA Southeast _____
SURVEYOR Jennifer Kenny _____
DATE 09/05/1997 _____
RESEARCHER _____



City of ELGIN

ILLINOIS URBAN ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY

STREET # 485
 STREET Arlington Av
 ROLL # 7
 FRAME #s 6-8
 ROLL # _____
 FRAME #s _____



GENERAL INFORMATION

CLASSIFICATION building PRESENT USE single-family CONDITION excellent
 SECONDARY STRUCTURES _____ ORIGINAL USE single-family INTEGRITY altered but reversible
 LOCATION corner

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE/TYPE	<u>American Foursquare</u>	NO. OF STORIES	<u>2.5</u>
ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS	_____	EXT. WALLS (current)	<u>wood clapboard</u>
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DATE	<u>c. 1905</u>	EXT. WALLS (original)	<u>wood clapboard</u>
SOURCE	<u>surveyor</u>	FOUNDATION	<u>limestone</u>
OVERALL SHAPE OR PLAN	<u>square</u>	ROOF (type & materials)	<u>pyramidal</u>
ARCHITECT	_____	WINDOW MATERIAL, TYPE(S)	<u>wood double hung 8/1; 1/1</u>
BUILDER	_____	PORCH	<u>full front</u>
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	<u>20' setback; side driveway; lot on slight rise; concrete steps at sidewalk</u>		

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES: Full width front porch with tuscan columns, wood rail, and deck; hipped dormer with 3 light windows; 10 light transom on porch window; broad overhanging eaves;

ALTERATIONS (removals, replacements, additions, date (if known), etc.): Restoration work on clapboard siding; clapboard added to chimney?; metal screen door; fixed shutters; window air conditioning unit