

Building Location : Street: East Chicago Street
Number: 310

Present Owner : Name: Elgin Lodge No. 117 A.F. & A.M.
Street: 310 East Chicago St.
City: Elgin
State: Ill. Zip Code: 60120

Building Name : Masonic Temple

Date of Construction : April 1923 - April 1926

Builder : Charles Giertz and Son

Architect : Ralph Abell

Architectural Style : Bungalow

Beauty Arts



* Please list all sources of information

Description of Present and Original (if known) Physical Appearance :
(identify information sources)

The Masonic Temple is situated on the northeast corner of Geneva and Chicago Streets. The measurements of the lot are 132 feet square and of the building itself 100 feet north and south by 115 feet east and west. It is a four story structure, not including the basement, and is finished in ionic and classical style with an exterior of hard-burned shale, cream colored brick.

The building was built from April 1923 to April 1926 at a cost of \$350,000. It is completely unaltered today with the exception of an elevator shaft added in the 1950's to the southwest corner of the building.

Sources

- Architects drawings and miscellaneous receipts, Elgin Masonic Temple Safe
- Elgin Daily Courier News June 9, 1926
Section 2

Statement of Significance :

X architecture, _____ commerce, _____ community planning, _____ education, _____ industry, _____ government, _____ religion, _____ social, local, _____ history. Please check appropriate categories and describe the importance of the building being considered for a plaque including information sources.

The Masonic Temple powerful size along with it's elegant pediments and classically detailed facade characterize the Beaux Arts and Classical elements of it's style. Along with the triangular pediments over the windows and the ionic pilasters, the building is highlighted by the emblem of masonry, the badge of the Blue Lodge, emblazoned in stone on the large pediment on the building's front.

Although distinctive elements of Neoclassicism are present here, the building also displays evidence of the Beaux Arts style (French for "fine arts") This style was in vogue from the turn of the century until the Depression and was particularly noteworthy because it displayed the wealth of the owners in unusually ornate and expensive structures. Although many of these structures have been demolished because they are expensive to maintain in during times of recessions and higher taxes, others have managed to survive.

The Masonic Temple is a truly significant architectural example of a bygone era and should be recognized and preserved as such.

Other Pertinent Data :

Representation in Existing Surveys:

☒ National Register of Historic Places
☐ Illinois Register of Historic Places
☒ * Illinois State Survey of Historic Structures
☐ Other Surveys or Studies (please list)

*Il Historic Landmarks Survey, I.D.O.C., 1974

Building Condition:

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair
☐ deteriorated
☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Application Submitted By :

Name: Jerry L. Turnquist

Address: 1004 Adams Street

City: Elgin

State: Il 60123

Date of Application Submission :

January 20, 1987



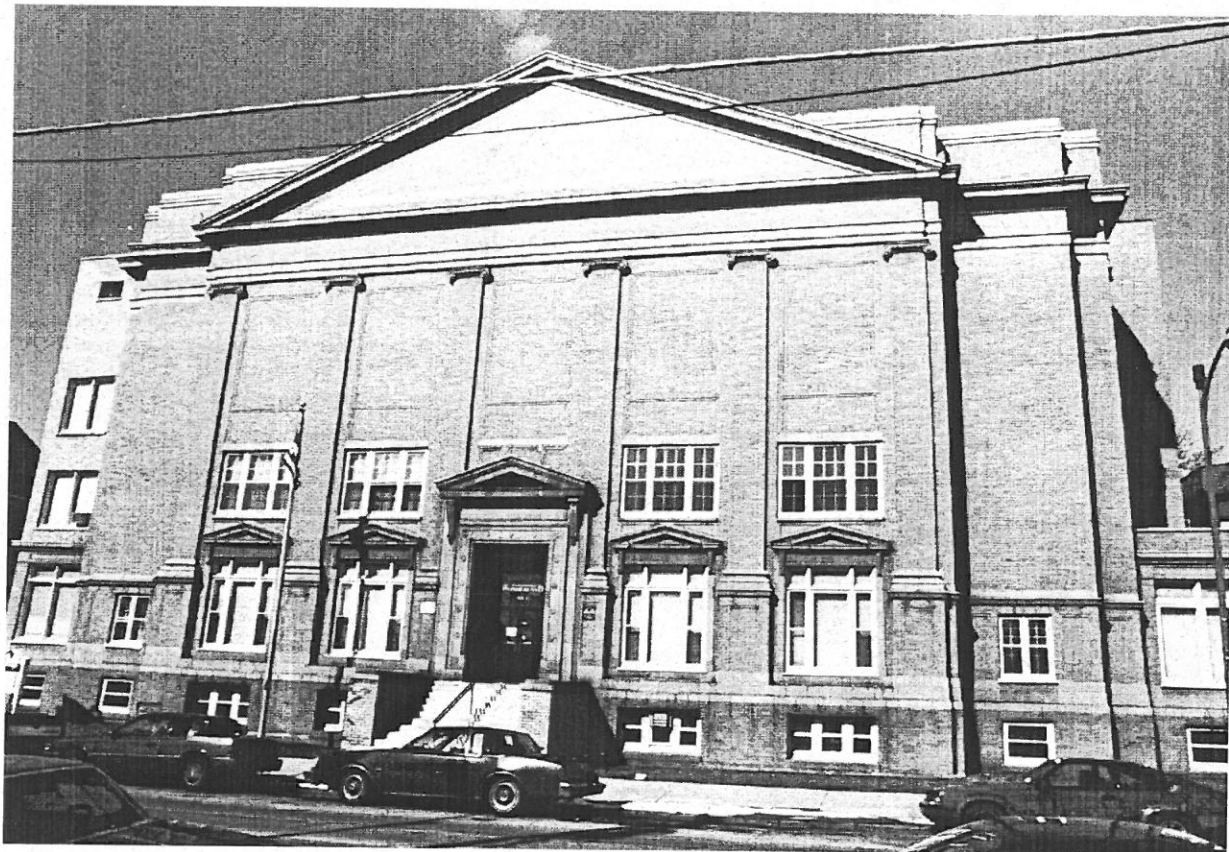
MASONIC TEMPLE
310 East Chicago Street/Elgin

Tina and Caesar Kalinowski
Owners

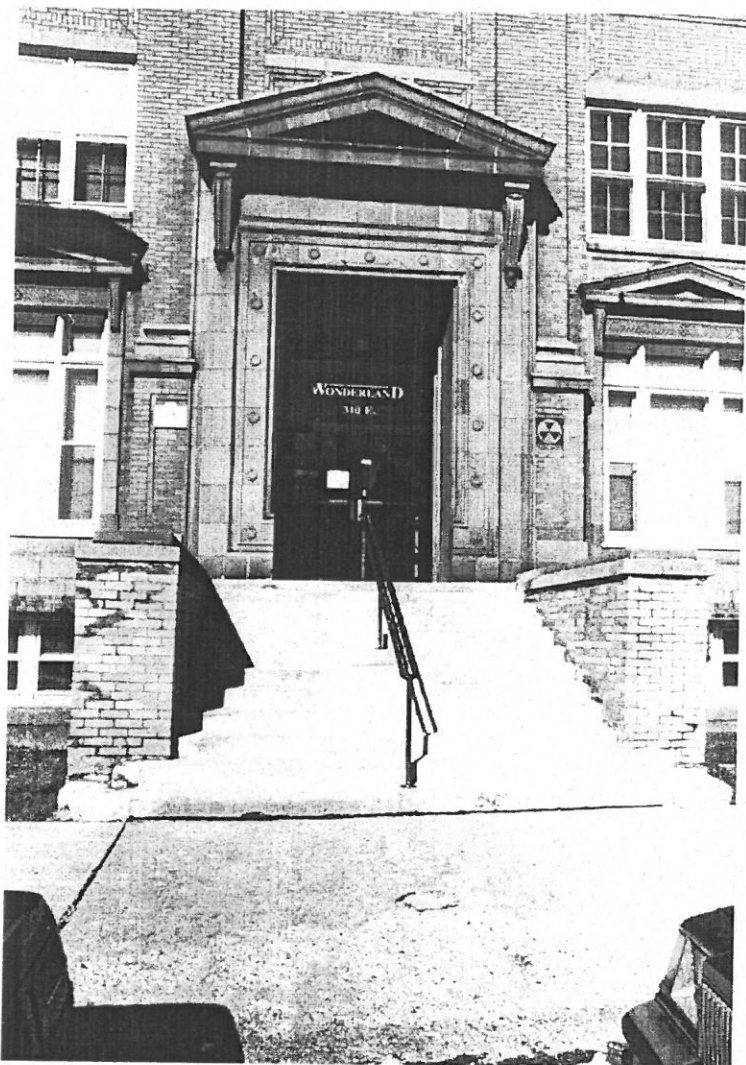
PICTORIAL SURVEY
OF EXTERIOR REHABILITATION

February 28, 1997

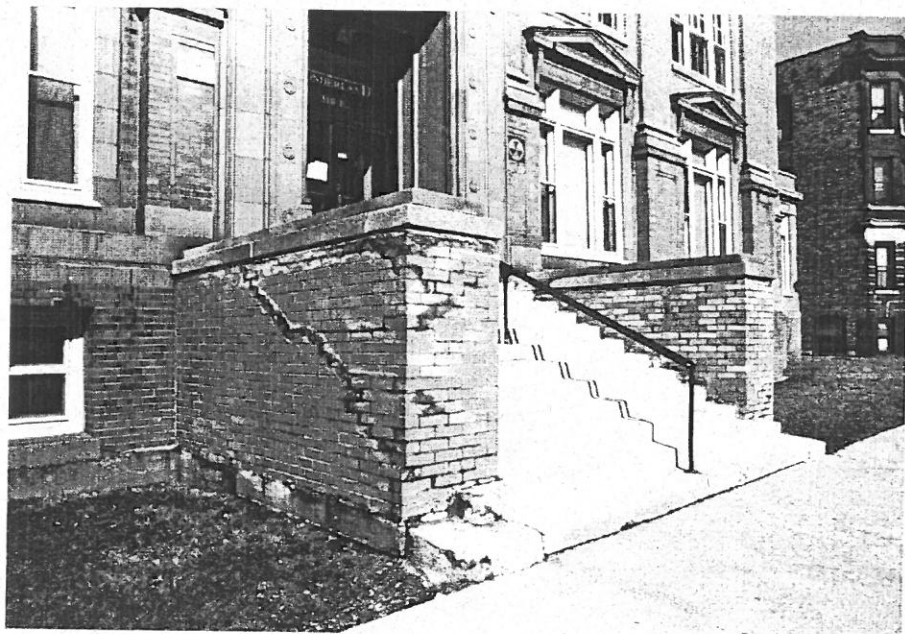
DIXON ASSOCIATES, LTD. / ARCHITECTS
202 West Main Street
St. Charles, Illinois 60174
(630) 377-9399
(630) 377-9388 fax



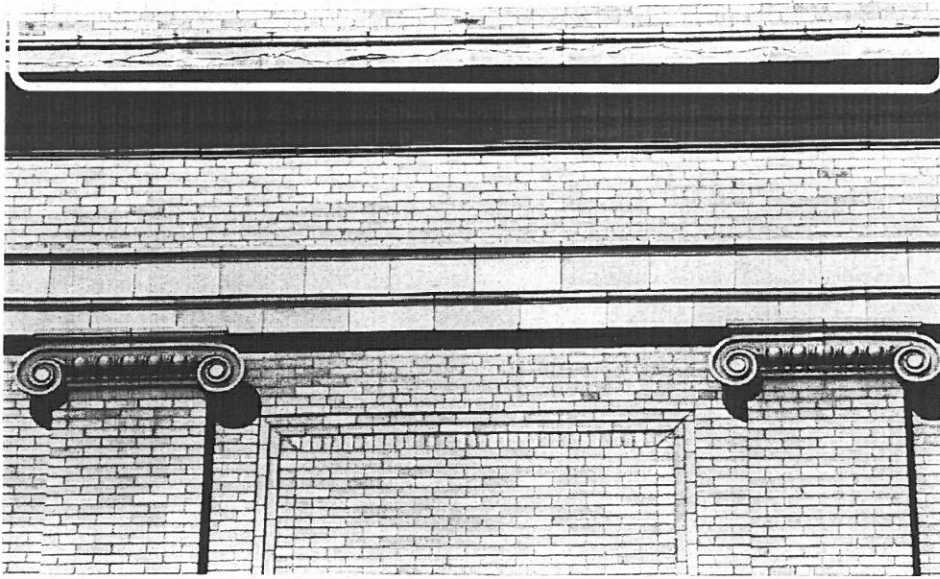
South Elevation
Brick structure with stone and terra cotta
trim
Dedicated June 12, 1926



1
South Entrance
showing entry steps to be r



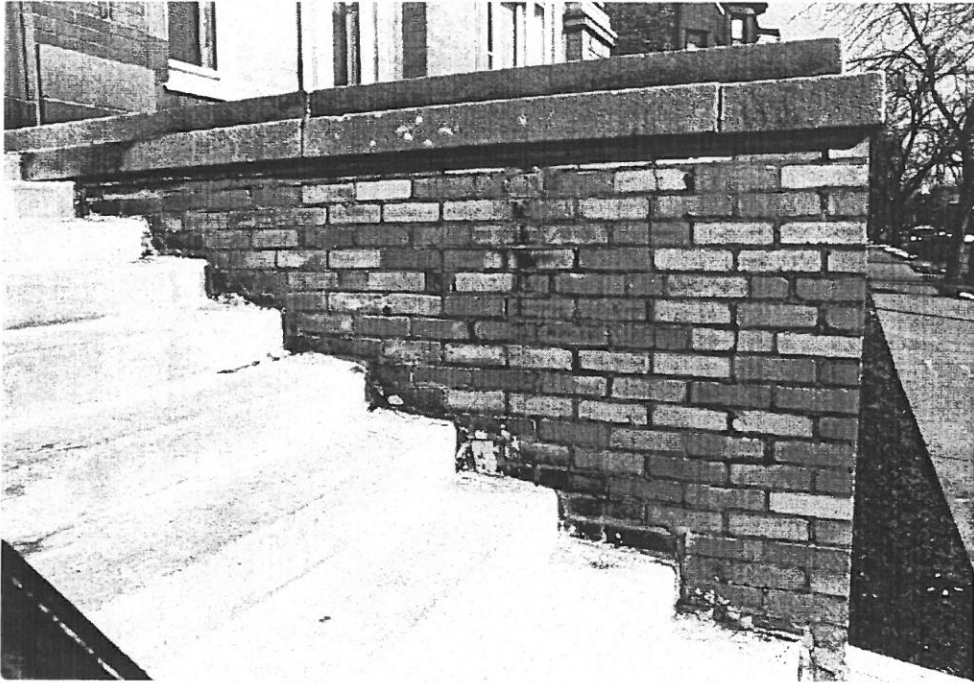
2
South Entry Steps



3
Deteriorating terra cotta at
south elevation



4
Terra cotta piece at northwest
corner to be replaced



5
Detail at south entry steps
to be reconstructed

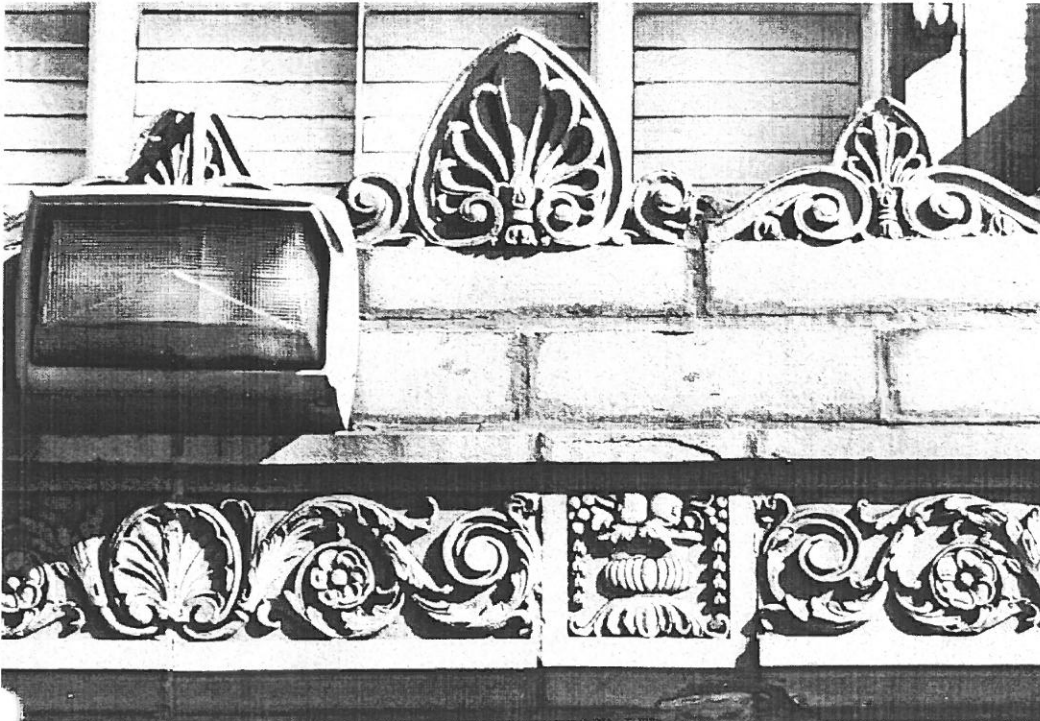


6
Top of stone cap at south entry
stairs showing electric conduit
locations. New light fixtures of
an appropriate design are to
return to two such locations.



7

West entrance with highly decorative terra cotta



8

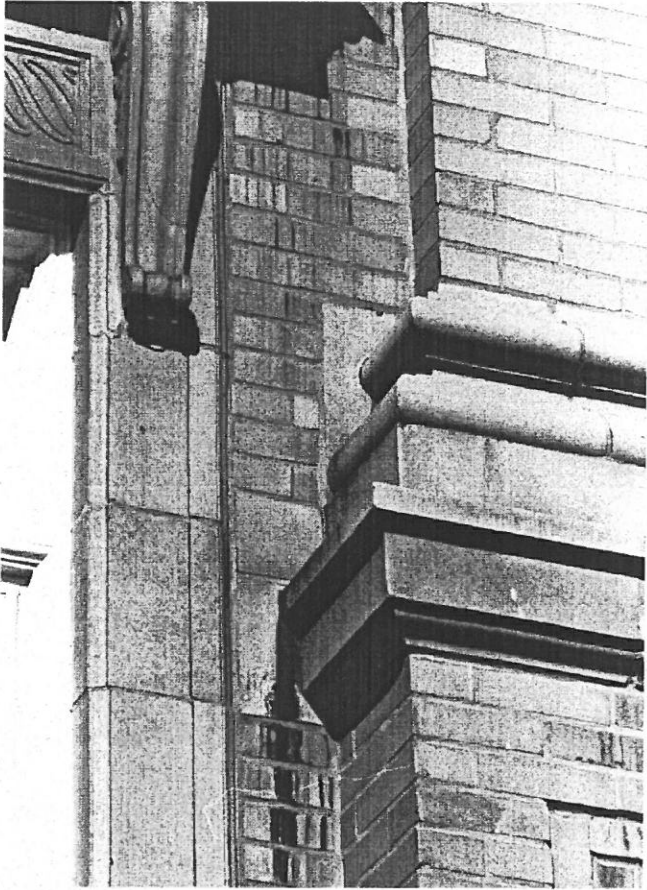
Terra cotta and brick detail showing inappropriate light fixture to be removed (at west entry)



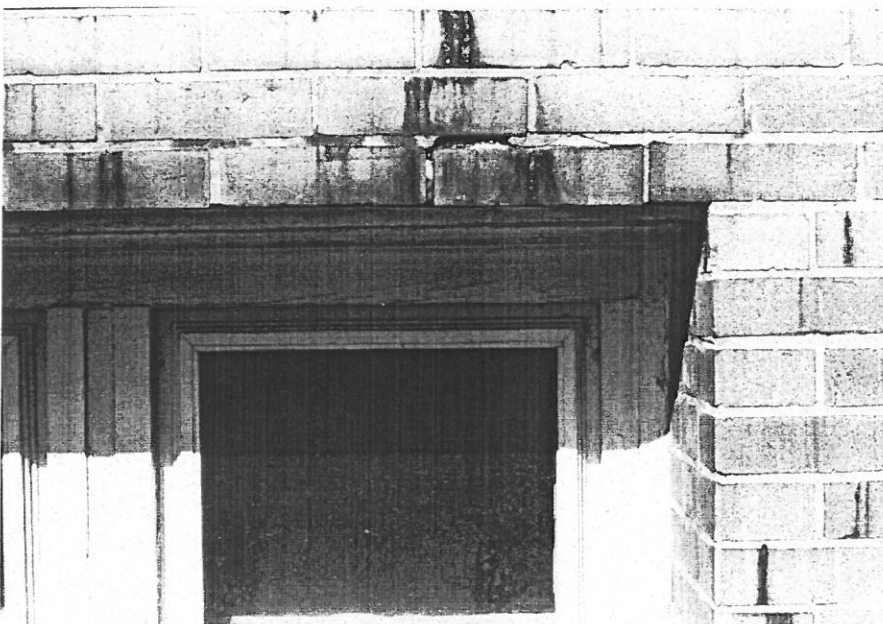
9
Detail at west entry showing terra
cotta requiring removal, structural
repairs and replacement



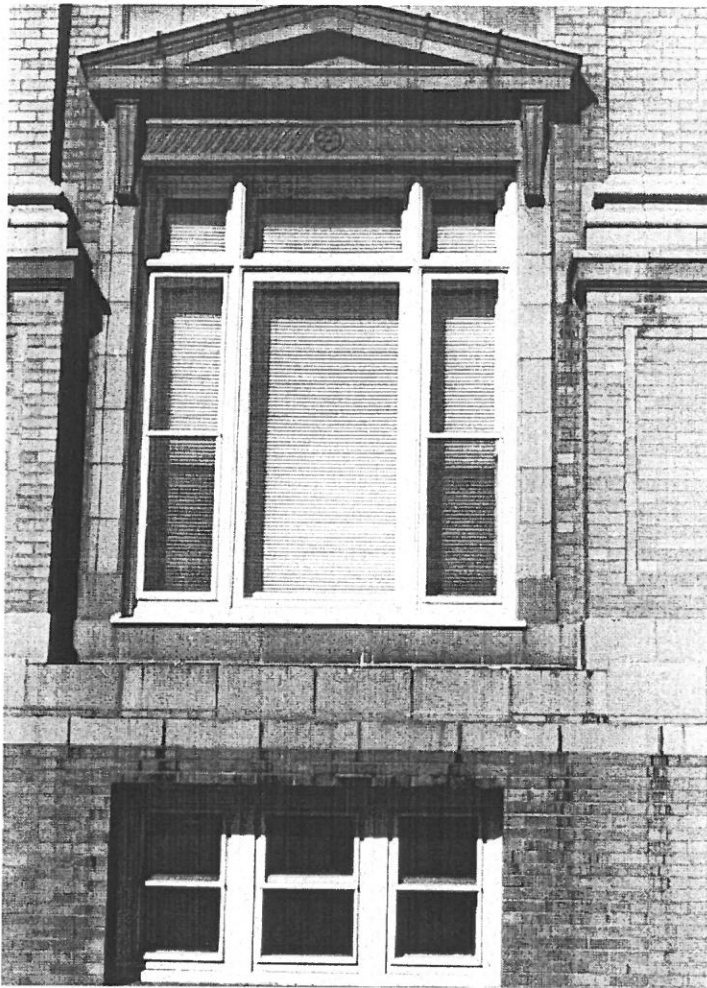
10
Detail at decorative cap
of west entrance



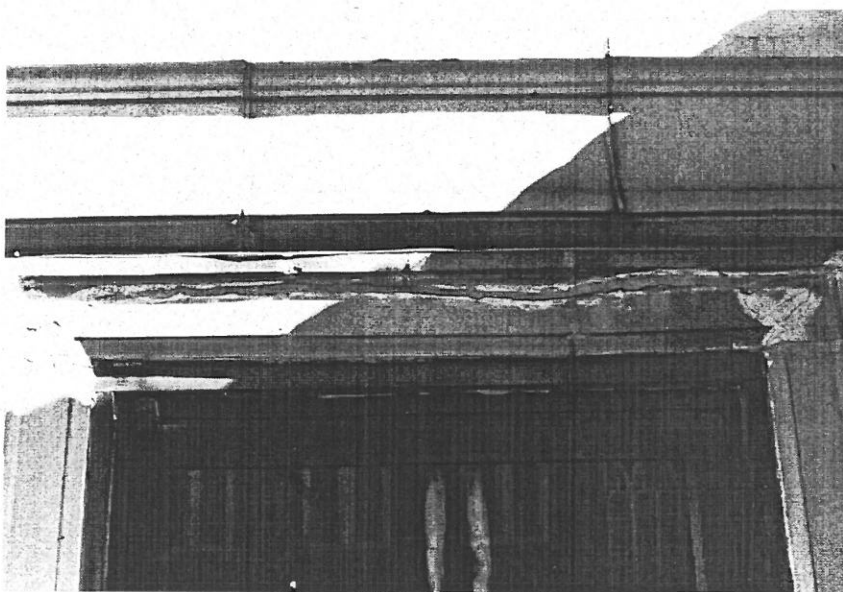
11
Detail at south elevation showing
stained masonry to be cleaned



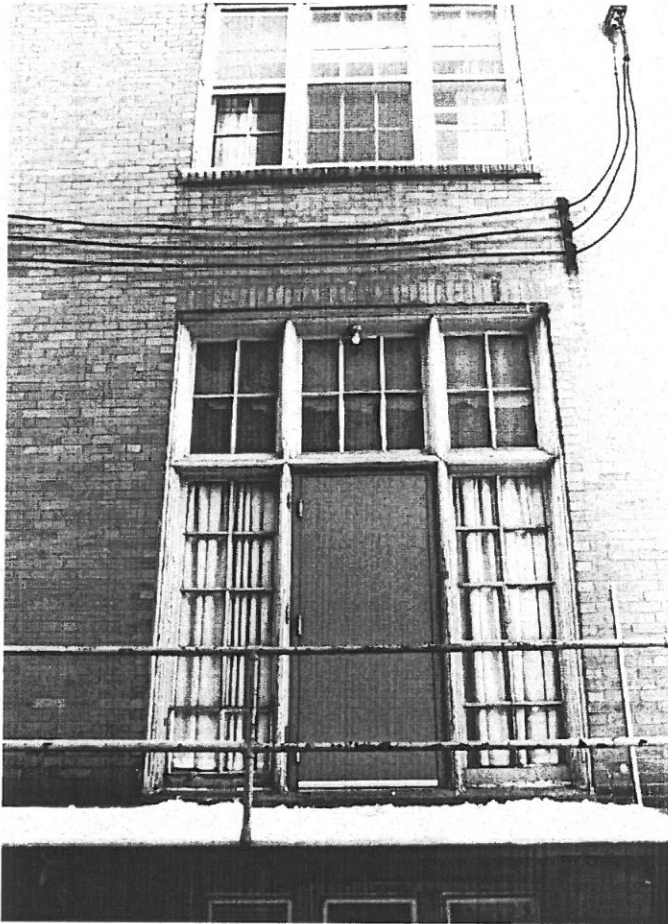
12
Detail showing
tuckpointing required
to stabilize masonry



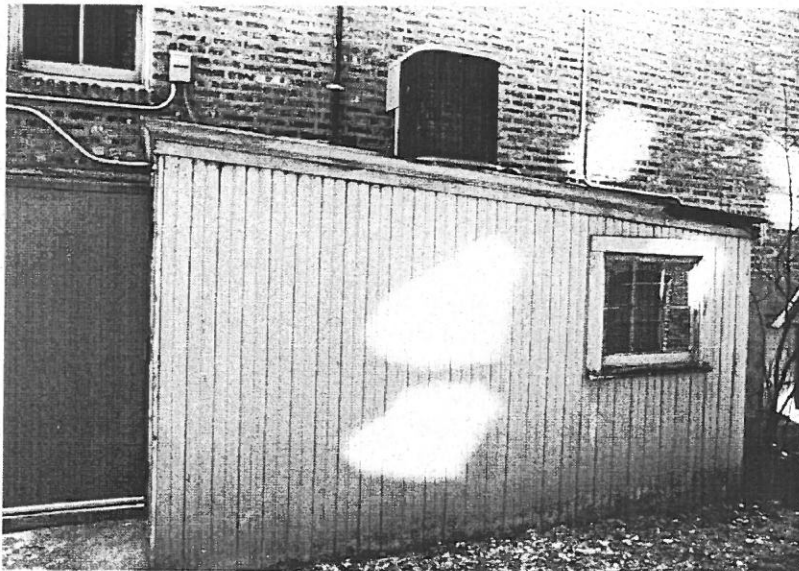
13
Typical window group requiring
replacement storms and
painting



14
Detail showing repairs
required at window head



15
Detail at North Elevation
showing window/door group and
railing requiring painting



16
Shed at east side of
building requiring
painting and repairs