



Heritage Building Plaque Application

Name: Adam and Elizabeth Long

Building Address: 706 Douglas

Building Name (for public/commercial structures only):

Current Owners:

If different than above:

Applicant's Name

Daytime Phone:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email:

Address:

Original Owner Mary Ann Towner
Date of Construction 1892 or 1893
Architect (if known) William Wright Abell
Builder (if known) John A. Wright

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

In 1868, Vincent S. Lovell platted an addition to Elgin, bounded on the east by Dundee Avenue, on the South by Jefferson Street (then North St), on the north by what is now Slade Avenue, and on the west by the Fox River. After his death, his widow Lucy inherited the property. In 1869, she sold lots 7 and 8 of Block 8 for \$1000 to Ithiel C. Towner. Towner, a businessman in Elgin since 1850, retained the two vacant lots until 1872, when he sold them temporarily to Martin Switzer for the sum of \$1000. Switzer was probably a relative of Towner's wife Mary Ann Switzer Towner. In March of 1882, Martin Switzer and his wife Mary Ann Towner Switzer, sold the property, still vacant, back to I. C. Towner for \$1000. That same year, Towner platted his own subdivision of the two lots, creating nine smaller lots. He retained lots 1 and 2 for his own use, and sold the remaining lots. In August of 1882, Ithiel transferred the title to the property to his wife Mary Ann in exchange for "love and duty". The 1892 city directory lists the house, but the I. C. Towner residence on Douglas Avenue is not mentioned in the annual building report published in the Elgin Daily Courier until December 30, 1893. It was designed by W. W. Abell and built at a cost of \$6300.

Ithiel Crosby Towner was born September 25, 1831 in Canada. His father, William A. Towner, was born in Canada September 2, 1804. He died in 1874 and is buried at Bluff City Cemetery in Elgin. He and wife Eliza had two children, Ithiel Crosby and Harriet Louisa. Harriet was born in December 1832 in Montreal, and died in 1906 in St. Charles, Illinois. Harriet married Samuel Switzer, and they had nine children.

I. C. Towner married Mary Ann Switzer on July 17, 1855. Of this union, eleven children were born, six of whom died in infancy. The surviving children were Harriet, born in 1859; Eva May, born in 1861; Jeanette (Jennie), born in 1867; Inez C., born in 1873; and Wellington, born in 1875.

Mary Ann Switzer Towner was born in 1839 in Canada, as were her parents.

According to the 1878-79 Elgin City Directory, I. C. Towner had been in business in Elgin since around 1850. He was a wagon and carriage maker, with an extensive factory located at the northwest corner of Division and Brook (Dexter's Addition Lot 1 of Block 8) that he purchased in 1869 for \$4000. Details can be seen on the 1887 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. He purchased water power rights from the dam on both the east and west sides of the river. His widow sold this property in 1912 to Gottlob Eisenbaum and Fred Gebert for the sum of \$12,000.

In addition to his business, he owned a number of other properties purchased between 1885 and 1892, including Dexter's addition Lot 6 of Block 2, 2 properties in the Town of Elgin 13-142-3, Bowen Heights Addition Lot 4 of Block 2 and Waldron's subdivision part of Lot 4 in Block 41.

The 1870-71 Elgin city directory shows the Towner residence at the "corner of Kimball and Center". On May 29, 1868, George Dunlap sold I. C. Towner lots 14, 18, and 19 of P. J. Kimball Jr.'s second addition, which is located at the southeast

corner of Kimball and Center. Here, he built a two-story house with several one-story wings on the south elevation visible on the 1880 aerial map and the 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. By 1884-85 the address was listed as 143 Center Street. The Towner family lived there until they built their new house on Douglas Avenue. The original address, 440 Douglas Avenue, first appears in the 1892 Elgin City Directory. In 1894, the house number was changed to 706.

The Towners lived here until I.C.'s death on March 31, 1907. Two months prior to his death, his wife filed a petition for appointment of conservator, claiming that he was "distracted, feeble-minded, and addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors to the extent of lessening his estate and exposing himself and his family to want by reason of his incompetent and reckless management of his property". Towner's estate consisted of \$15,000 of real and personal estate. Receipts, largely from rentals, totaled 19,267; payments totaled \$18,305, leaving a balance of only \$962 that was divided between his wife and their five living children.

Mary Ann Switzer Towner continued to live at 706 Douglas until her death in 1912. Her estate consisted of \$8,428 in assets with expenses of \$1,258, leaving a balance of \$7,169 for her children. Executor of her estate was Eva M. Springer, the only child still living in Elgin. The other children had all left Elgin; Harriet and Inez were in Los Angeles, Jennie in Portland, and Wellington in Great Falls Montana.

In 1912, Mary Ann Towner transferred the property to the Toppings for \$10, and the Towners filed a quit claim deed to William P. and Grace Topping in exchange for "one dollar and other valuable considerations".

William Topping was born December of 1869 in Wisconsin. His father, Nelson H., also was born in Wisconsin, his mother, Evaline A., in New York. He married Grace in 1892. Prior to moving to 706 Douglas, they lived at 459 Laurel Street in Elgin with daughters Gladys (born 1895) and Mildred (born 1899). In 1900, William was assistant superintendent at a publishing house; by 1920 he had been promoted to superintendent. The 1920 census shows occupants of 706 as William, Grace, daughter Gladys and servant Bertha Edeher.

The Great Depression of 1929 was unkind to the Toppings. They financed the house in 1931 and again in 1932 but still lost it to foreclosure in 1933. William died on July 8, 1952, leaving no real and personal estate. He was owed \$5000 by Carl and Ramona Carlson of 269 Henry Street in Elgin. The Carlsons were unable to pay the debt of \$9233 (\$5000 loan plus accrued interest at 6%), and offered a settlement of \$2200, which was accepted by William's widow Grace of 320 East Chicago Street in Elgin and their daughter Gladys T. Aubrey.

The 1935-36 directory shows a renter, James S. Lipson, at 706 Douglas. In 1937-38 the house was vacant.

In 1938, George W. and Berniece Therien purchased the property. George W. was born October 28, 1889 in Montreal. He immigrated in 1891 at age 2 and became a naturalized citizen. His father, Ephraim, was also born in Montreal; his mother Olive Mombteau was born in St. Anne, Illinois. The couple had at least three children: Ellwood G. (born c.1911), Gordon G. (born c.1913) and Margaret L. (born c.1917). George W. worked as a silo salesman at Mason and Lawrence Silos.

Son George Ellwood was also in the silo business, working at Therien and Long Silos headquartered at 865 Van Street in Elgin. Son Gordon G. and wife Florence lived at 340 Griswold; he was a foreman at Mason and Lawrence Silos.

After George W.'s death in 1943, widow Berniece continued living at 706 Douglas. By 1946, Berniece had married Robert C. Mason, who worked at D. C. Cook Publishing, promoted to Comptroller by 1959. The Masons lived there until their deaths, Berniece in 1959 and Robert in 1960.

The 1946 directory also lists Milton H. McBride as an occupant of 706, indicating that the house had been split into two apartments. In 1954, the house was shared with Roberta and Russell K. Nelson. The 1956 city directory shows George W's son George Elwood and his wife Nancy as additional occupants of 706.

After their deaths, the house became a rental property occupied by Robert and Ruth Haas. In 1966, Richard and Catherine Hale were living there. In 1968, the Hales bought the house for \$28,800. After Richard's death c.1973, Catherine lived there alone until 1980.

The next owners were Catherine Hale Harrington and her second husband Howard Harrington who took over the property in 1981. They used the house as a rental until its purchase in 1986 by Adella Bedwell for \$10 and other good and valuable consideration. Bedwell also signed an installment agreement for purchase from the Harringtons. The agreement included a clause stating that neither the purchaser nor any contractor or subcontractor would be entitled to claim a lien against the premises.

Adelle was born in 1918, daughter of Clifford Washer. She married Ernest W. Bedwell, a machine operator with a 10th grade education. In 1935, the Bedwells lived at 1029 St. Charles; in 1939 at 702 Grace; and in 1948-66 at 371 N. Crystal. Ernest then lived there alone. Adella does not appear in city directories from 1967-85. She lost 706 Douglas to foreclosure in 2016.

Jena and Paul Bednar purchased the house in 2019, and proceeded to carry out major restorations, for which they received a Mayor's Award in 2020.

The current owners, Adam and Elizabeth Long, bought the house in 2021. They moved to Elgin from Chicago with their three children Eloise (9), Peyton (7), and Graham (3). They appreciate the bright, open feeling of the house, the large yard, and the close walking distance to downtown.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

As befits a dwelling for a wealthy and successful businessman, Towner hired one of Elgin's foremost architects, W. W. Abell, to design this massive structure with elaborate decorative detailing. The Shingle Style, popular between 1880 and 1910, was an American adaptation of previous traditions. From Queen Anne Style came wide porches, shingled surfaces and asymmetrical forms. Borrowed from Colonial Revival Style were gambrel roofs, rambling additions, classical columns and Palladian windows. Richardsonian Romanesque Style contributed irregular sculpted shapes, Romanesque arches and use of stone on the porch or lower story. Throughout its reign the style remained a high-fashion architect's phenomenon and never became adapted to mass vernacular housing. The name derives from the use of continuous shingle cladding on the exterior and the roof. Subtypes include hipped roof with cross gables (15%), side-gabled (20%), front-gabled (20%), cross-gabled (20%), and gambrel roof (25%). (McAlester *A Field Guide to American Houses*)

706 Douglas evidences a wealth of the decorative detailing so beloved by architects and home buyers alike. In this instance, as is common in Elgin, shingle cladding is seen only on the second story. The façade is irregular, with a steeply pitched hipped roof and intersecting cross-gables. Originally, the roof would have been wood shingles. A rounded tower on the southeast elevation is blended into the two-story polygonal bay on the east elevation by a continuous roofline. There is a large recessed balcony on the second story of the east elevation under a pedimented gable. Elaborate pointed window hoods sit atop the small oval windows in the attic gables on the north and south elevations. The small rectangular multi-paned window in the east gable is recessed and framed by rounded shingle-clad elements that mimic small columns. A polygonal dormer with three rectangular multi-paned windows extends out from the roof and crowns peak on the east elevation.

The eave line of the house and porch is emphasized by rows of dentils. An extensive porch, recessed under the main roof, wraps around the north elevation. The porch roof is supported by round classical columns. The pedimented porch entry is decorated with raised designs. The house in its current configuration appears on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for 1913 and is identical on the 1950 revision of the map. A garage for an automobile is shown on both maps near the northwest corner of the lot, west of its current location.

Architect William Wright Abell (1853-1916) designed a number of architecturally important buildings in Elgin between 1891 and 1915. Born in Cummington, Massachusetts in 1853. Abell worked for Massachusetts Central Railroad, and architectural and civil engineering firms in Springfield, Massachusetts and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in Canada. In 1873 he came to the Elgin National Watch

Factory where his uncle, George Hunter, was superintendent. He worked there for 18 years. In 1891, he opened a private practice, and worked in nearly every state in the country. He belonged to the American Institute of Architects, Illinois Society of Civil Engineers and Surveyors, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Archidean Union, and Elgin Century Club.

He resided at 527 Laurel. He had a son and a daughter. Son Ralph also became an architect and joined his father's firm, which was renamed W. W. Abell and Son, Architects and Civil Engineers.

A photo of the house appears in the 1902 *Picturesque Elgin*. It is included in Volume One of *There Used To be* (2005).

ALTERATIONS

Sometime after 1950, a large enclosed porch was added on the south elevation. It appears that this work may have been carried out without a permit. The addition was not compatible with the original architecture, and was removed during the 2020 restoration by Paul and Jean Bednar. Previous owners had also made many interior changes, including covering most of the walls with vertical wood paneling and many large mirrors.

In 2010, the garage was raised up and moved closer to the house, and the house was painted.

Addenda

Photos of house, current and historical

Deeds 1869 and 1882

City directory page 1892

Building report 1893

Subdivision plat map 1882

Sanborn fire insurance map 1913

1880 aerial map excerpts

1895 aerial map excerpt

Survey pages

1912 Appointment of conservator

Kane County Recorder deed references

www.kaneountyrecorder.net >search land records> document books

1869 Book 117 p. 350: Lucy Lovell sells lots on Douglas to I. C. Towner \$1000

1869 Book 117 p. 628 J. Dunse sells factory site to I.C. Towner \$4000

1872 Book 143 p. 163: I.C. Towner sells lots on Douglas to M. Switzer \$1000

1882 Book 215 p. 18: Martin Switzer sells lots back to I. C. Towner \$1000

1892 Book 215 p. 322: I.C. Towner deeds 706 to Mary Ann Towner for "love

& duty"

1912 Book 541 p. 595: M.A. Towner et al quit claim 706 to W. P. Topping \$1

1912 Book 548 p. 146: M.A. Towner sells factory to G. Eisenbaum & S.

Newton \$12,000

\$10

1912 Book 548 p. 517: indenture M.A. Towner conveys 706 to W. Topping

1931 Book 790 p. 171: Topping mortgage

1932 Book 965 p. 165: Topping mortgage

1938 Book 1077 p. 575: mortgage G & B Therien

1968 Book 2484 p. 425: mortgage R. & C. Hale

1986 Document 1759165: acquisition by Adella Bedwell

ADDENDA



East elevation



South elevation



East balcony, gable and dormer



North gable

(From "Picturesque Elgin," 1902)



1902 photo *Picturesque Elgin*



Dining room before 2019 restoration



Dining room post restoration



Garage

350350

WARRANTY DEED - Sold by Culver, Page & Hoyle, Stationers, 128 and 137 Lake Street, Chicago.

REVENUE STAMPS
to the amount of
\$ 1.00
on this
DEED.

This Indenture, Made this twelfth day of July
in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty five BETWEEN Lucy L. Lovell
of Elgin Grove County Illinois party of the first part, and
I. C. Towner of the same place party of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Thousand (\$1000) Dollars

in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, ha s GRANTED, BARGAINED AND SOLD, and by these presents do GRANT, BARGAIN AND SELL, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all the following described lot one piece or parcel of land, situated in the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois, to wit:

Lots number seven (7) and eight (8) in Block number eight (87) in Lovell Addition to Elgin as laid out and recorded in the Recorder's Office of said State of Illinois excepting a strip two (2) feet in width of the West side of said lot seven (7) to be used as a part of the continuation of Brook Street in said City

TOGETHER with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever, of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances; To HAVE AND HOLD the premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part Lucy L. Lovell heirs and assigns FOREVER. And the said Lucy L. Lovell party of the first part, hereby expressly waive, release and relinquish unto the said party of the second part, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all right, title, claim, interest and benefit whatever in and to the above described premises, and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State pertaining to the exemption of Homesteads; and the said Lucy L. Lovell party of the first part, her heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that at the time of the encoding and delivery of these presents, she is well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law, and in fee simple, and as good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, leases, taxes, assessments and encumbrances, of what kind or nature soever, and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs, and assigns, against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said party of the first part heretofore and will WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND.

In Testimony Whereof, The said party of the first part hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Official

Lucy L. Lovell

SEAL
SEAL
SEAL
SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
City of Elgin, Kane County. }
I, Alfred G. Lewis, a Notary Public for the State of Illinois,

in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Lucy L. Lovell who is

personally known to me as the same person whose name is subscribed to the annexed Deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that she signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument in writing as her free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

And the said she of the said

having been by me examined, separate and apart, and out of the hearing of her husband, and the contents and meaning of the said instrument of writing having been by me fully made known and explained to her, and she also by me being fully informed of her rights under the Homestead Laws of this State, acknowledged that she had freely and voluntarily executed the same, and relinquished her dower to the lands and tenements therein mentioned, and also all her rights and advantages under and by virtue of all laws of this State relating to the Exemption of Homesteads, without compulsion of her said husband, and that she do not wish to retract the same.

Given under my hand and Notarial seal, this twelfth day of July, A. D. 1867

Alfred G. Lewis, Notary Public

Filed for Record this 14th day of July, A. D. 1867, at Elgin, Kane County, Illinois.

1869 deed Lucy Lovell to I.C. Towner

This Indenture, WITNESSETH, That the Grantor, Julius G. Towner





of the City of Elgin in the County of McDonough and State of Illinois
 for and in the consideration of the sum of two and fifty Dollars and NO CENTS
 in hand paid, CONVEYS and WARRANTS to Gary Ann Towner his wife

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

Lots One (1) and Two (2) of S. W. McDonough Sub-
division of Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8) in Block Eight (8) of 1100th
addition to Elgin

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

Dated this eleventh day of August A. D. 1883

Julius G. Towner 




STATE OF ILLINOIS,
 KANE COUNTY, ss. John G. Foley a Notary Public
 in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, do HEREBY CERTIFY that Julius G. Towner
 personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the fore-
 going instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and deliv-
 ered the said instrument as his 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 official seal, this 9th day of August A. D. 1883.
John G. Foley
 Notary Public

No. 1943 Filed for Record this 6th day of December A. D. 1883, at 10 o'clock P. M.
W. G. Sullivan Recorder.

Unofficial

1892 deed to M. A. Towner

1892

292

ELGIN CITY DIRECTORY

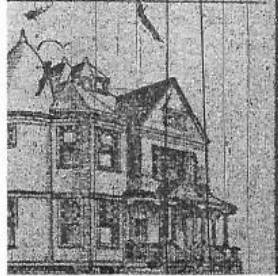
Tofsrud Martha, wid Hans, r 150 Hendee
Tomlinson Albert L, clk W L Weatherill, r 202 DuPage
Tompkins Wm N, E W F, h 142 Hastings
Topper William M, house mover, cor Oak and Western ave
Toppin Sadie Miss, C P C, r 190 Prairie
Topping William, bkkpr C P C, r 149 S Channing
Tornquist Carl, E W F, h 316 Raymond
Tornquist Charles, mason, h 1 Dundee ave
Torrey Arthur, E W F, r 205 Villa
Torrey Willard C, E W F, h 130 Watch
Town Albert, E N W F F, r 376 Prospect bld
Town Anna B Miss, r 14 S Chapel
Town's Block, Fountain Square, se cor Chicago
Town George, groom, 296 Douglas ave
Town George, baker F Traub, h 376 Prospect bld
Town George, wks D J Chamberlain, h 376 Prospect bld
Town Kate Miss, E N W C F, r 376 Prospect bld
Town M C, prest First National Bank, h 72 S State
Town Sidney, harnessmkr, r 376 Prospect bld
Towner's Building, cor Brook and River
Towner Inez Miss, r 440 Douglas ave
Towner Ithiel C, r 440 Douglas ave
Towner Willington, r 440 Douglas ave
Townsend Charlotte, wid Philip, r 205 Fulton
Townsend Erwin L, opr I C C, h 216 Prairie
Townsend Harvey J, E W F, h 30 S Porter
Townsend Howard E, E W F, r 80 S Liberty
Townsend Jesse, E W F, h 211 Villa
Townsend Lulu Miss, milliner R D Johnson, r 30 Porter
Townsend Mary Mrs, r 127 Cherry
Townsend Milton S, E W F, h 80 S Liberty
Townsend Samuel, r 127 Cherry
Traba Wm, lab, h 500 Lovell
Tracey J J, r 193 Douglas ave
Tracey M E, dry goods, 20 River
Tracey Ambrose T, foreman Gas Co, r 65 Locust
Trainer James W, mngr Singer Mfg Co, h 140 Grove
ave
Trantainn Gertie Miss, E W F, r National House
Trappe Charles, lab, h 100 Center
Trappe Dora Miss, I C C, r 100 Center
Traub Fred, baker and confectioner, 41 Douglas ave, h 445
Lillie
Treat Mary, E W F, h 94 Raymond
Treat Samuel T, E W F, h 94 Raymond

and John Wright the car-
 PUBLISHING HOUSE.
 addition to the D C Cook
 ouse, while started last
 uly included in this year's
 building as three stories,
 cost \$15,000, all but \$4,000
 expended this year. A
 as been added at a cost of
 n engine room, with the
 engine cost \$600. In addi-
 900 has been expended in
 A cut of the entire plant
 ew addition is given.

THEN BLOCKS.
 Arthur's fine three-story
 ve avenue was built at a
 It is 22x150 feet. The
 istic in design and was
 Turnbull & Postle. The
 Lilley & Palm and M.

bia block, built by Royel
 affin, adjoins the Mc-
 on the north. It is a
 miding, two-stories high,
 e upper floor fitted for
 dding is finely finished,
 r did the carpenter work
 nd the mason work. The
 \$19,000.

ster has remodeled his
 building into a five store
 osephe Pavey planned the
 The cost was 2,500.
 One elegant block on the
 ck and Dexter avenue
 by Turnbull & Postle.
 ork was done by Charles
 e carpenter, by Seiger &
 The building is of dark
 rick, with granite trim-
 same color. It is a de-
 o the city and cost \$15,000.



a large and commodious building. It is
 erected in a part of the city that has
 been hitherto churchless. Rev Hayden,
 the pastor is supervising the construc-
 tion, and when completed it will cost
 \$5,000. The First Baptist society has
 erected a neat chapel on Washburn
 street, costing \$1,700.

Elgin's Architects.

Elgin's architects have secured most
 enviable reputations, and these reputa-
 tions are well deserved. Few cities
 have handsomer or more artistic build-
 ings than Elgin, and our better build-
 ings are planned not only to please the
 artistic eye but have the very best
 arrangement for the comfort and con-
 venience of their occupants. The
 buildings erected this year are notable
 examples. Not only in Elgin are our
 architects known, for their services are
 in demand throughout the state, and
 they are often called upon to provide
 plans and drawings for buildings in
 other states.

W W Abell during the year 1893 has
 designed buildings aggregating in cost
 232,750, a splendid showing that
 speaks well for the value of the work.
 Some of the finest and most artistic
 buildings erected in the city this year
 were designed by him and erected
 under his supervision. Among those
 built in Elgin this season from Mr.
 Abell's plans we mention the following.
 Several of them are more extensively
 described elsewhere: The Spurling,
 on Spring and DuPage streets, erected
 at a cost of \$85,000; the Gail Borden
 public library building, \$12,500; the I
 C Towner residence, Douglas avenue,
 \$6,300; C H Radcliff's store building,
 Chicago street, \$6,200; L A Baker's
 residence, Highland avenue, \$5,300;
 gate lodge at Bluff City cemetery
 \$3,650; A Krogsrud, residence, Gris-
 wold street, \$3,200; C E Gregory, resi-
 dence, Villa street, \$2,800; A Lavoie,
 residence, Bluff City boulevard, \$2,400;
 Kenyon Bros, residence, \$2,300; R
 Beckwith, store, \$2,800; W E Clark,
 residence, \$2,000; D E Wood, South
 State street, improvements, \$1,750; Dr
 D E Burlingame, stables, \$1,500; Mrs
 A B Church, director's room in library
 building, \$1,200; H H Hilton, residence,
 \$1,400; A Revoked, L...

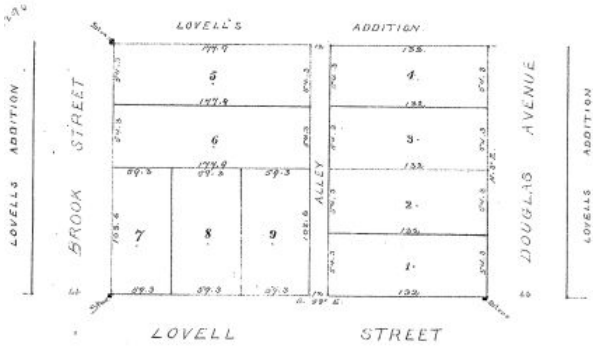
street, resid
 Brook, story
 North Cent
 In neigh
 have super
 \$8,000 clare
 Barrington,
 M-rekhoff F
 \$12,000; ce
 dence at St.
 at McHenry
 Geneva, \$5,
 work in Chi
 Smith Ho
 been largely
 he has plan
 buildings ar
 ments about
 block on Gr
 ing fixtures,
 by and built
 Mr. Hoag,
 scribed else
 the addition
 on Grove av
 rear of iron
 will cost \$4,
 vator on So
 was also p
 drawn plans

Elgin Daily
 Courier
 Dec. 30, 1893

1893 building report

Towner's Sub-division

of Lots 7 and 8 of Block VIII
OF LOVELL'S ADDITION
TO ELGIN.



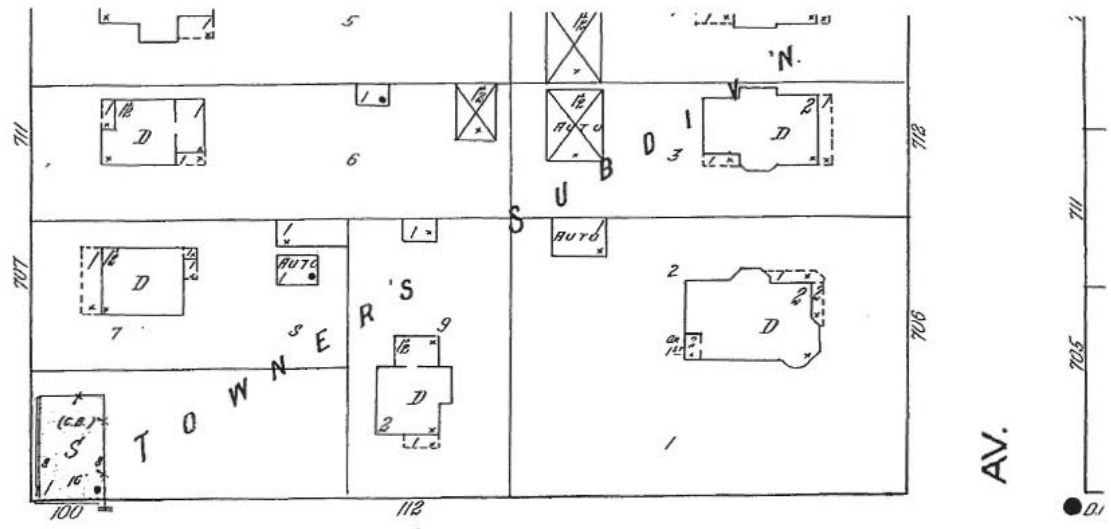
POOR ORIGINAL
Recorder Not Responsible
For Reproductions

I, J. C. Towner, of Elgin, Roane County, Illinois, do hereby certify this to be a correct Plat of Towner's Sub-division of Lots 7 and 8 of Block VIII of Lovell's Addition to Elgin as surveyed by me at the request of J. C. Towner the proprietor on the 1st day of April A.D. 1882. Said Addition is a Sub-Division of Lots Seven and Eight of Block Number Eight of Lovell's Addition to Elgin. There are Monumental Stones set in the ground at the South East Corner of lot 1) one and at the South West Corner of lot 7) at the North West Corner of lot 8. An alley running across the Addition is 12 feet in width there are 9 lots in the Addition.
G. Rosenkrons
City Surveyor.

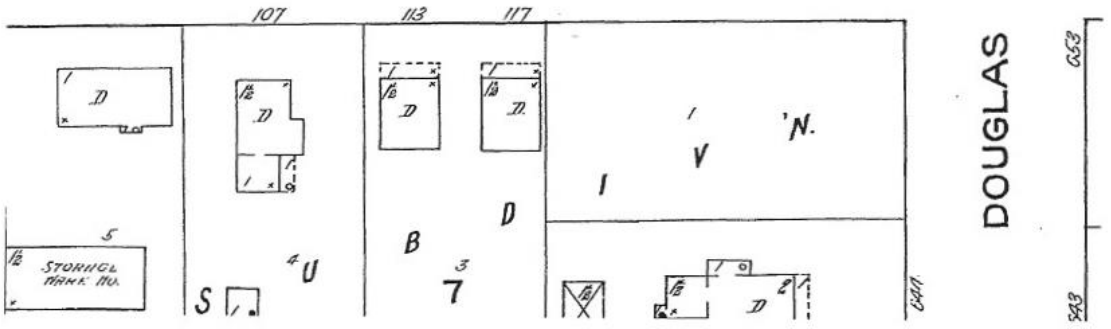
State of Illinois
Roane County
City of Elgin.
I, J. C. Towner of Elgin, Roane County, Illinois, proprietor of the Addition, Plat and land mentioned and described in the foregoing certificate of G. Rosenkrons, City Surveyor as aforesaid, do hereby certify that I procured said Rosenkrons to make said Survey, subdivision and Plat, that the same has been done in accordance with my wishes therein. And I do hereby acknowledge and affirm the same as represented on this sheet under the name and style of "Towner's Sub-division of Lots 7 and 8 of Block VIII of Lovell's Addition to Elgin."
Witness my hand and seal this 1st day of April 1882.

1882 Subdivision map

1913



LOVELL



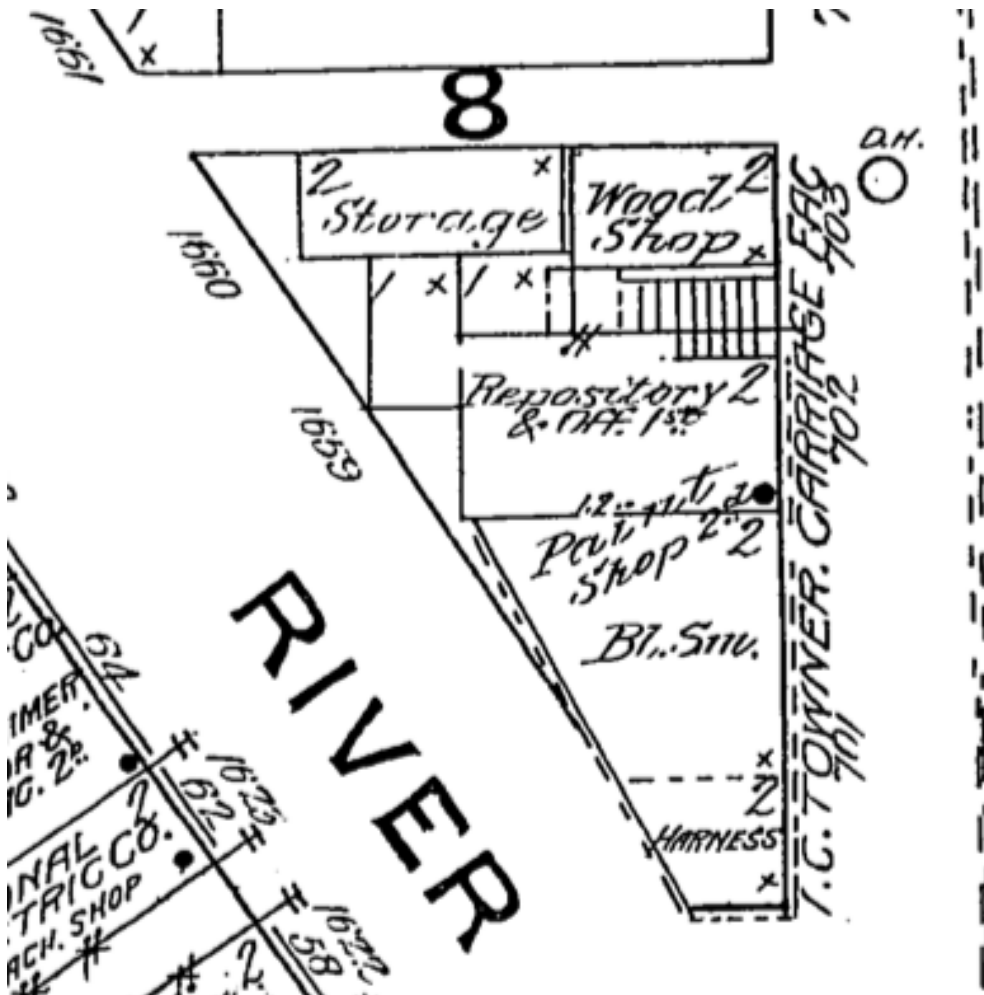
1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance map excerpt



1880 aerial map Brook and River Street intersection



1880 Kimball and Center St Towner home



1887 Sanborn map of carriage factory at Brook and Division



1890 aerial map Brook and Division

City of Elgin
ILLINOIS URBAN ARCHITECTURAL
AND HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS: 706 Douglas Ave.
 NAME:
 Common: Adella Bedwell, Owner
 Historical: Itiel C. Towner House
 PHOTO:
 Roll No.: 17 Frame Nos.: 17, 18 & 19
 SLIDE: Roll No.: I Frame No.: 8



CONDITION: Excellent: _____
 Good: X
 Deteriorated: _____

DESCRIPTION:
 Shape/plan, no. stories, material, style,
 roof shape, etc.:

Irregular shaped, 2½ story frame Shingle style house with a hip on cross gable roof, with a multi-sided dormer in front. The upper part of the house is shingled. Has a wrap-around front porch on the north part of the facade with a decorative pedimented section over the front steps. The porch has decorative metal columns. There is a second story, recessed porch in the front gable. There is a two story bay in front, plus a round turret with an S-curved roof. The roof is asphalt shingled.

SHINGLE STYLE

Subsidiary Building(s):

A frame, hipped roof 2 car garage in the rear. (Contributing)

Major Physical Changes From Original Construction

With the exception of the replacement of the original porch posts with decorative metal ones, there appears to be few, if any, changes from the original construction.

HISTORY:

Construction Date: 1888-1892 Architect/Builder: Unknown Abell W.W.

Associated Events/People/Dates:

Previous residents have included: 1911 - Mary A. Towner, widow
 1940 - Geo. W. Therien, general salseman,
 Mason & Lawrence.
 1894-95 - Towner, Itiel C. - retired
 (City Directory) Towner, Inez C. Miss - student
 Towner, Wellington - student

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

Contributing X Non-contributing _____ Secondary structure - NR rating C
SIGNIFICANT

Sources/Comments:

Construction date obtained from the owner.
 1892 ANNUAL REVIEW OF LOCAL CONSTRUCTION

SURVEYOR: Charles Kirchner DATE: June - July 1995

PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR.

APPLICATION OF MARY TOWNER, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ITHIEL
C. TOWNER, ALLEGED TO BE DISTRACTED, ETC.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)SS.
KANE COUNTY)

TO THE HONORABLE D. B. SHERWOOD, Judge of the Probate Court of
Kane County, in the State of Illinois:

THE PETITION of the undersigned respectfully represents
that Ithiel C. Towner, of the County and State aforesaid, is
distracted, feeble-minded, and addicted to the excessive use of
intoxicating liquors to the extent of lessening his estate and
exposing himself and his family to want by reason of his incom-
petent and reckless management of his property; that he has real
and personal estate worth about Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.)
over and above his indebtedness, and that he, the said Ithiel C.
Towner, is unfit to properly manage or control his said proper-
ty for the reasons above stated.

YOUR PETITIONER, being the wife of said Ithiel C. Towner,
therefore prays that Your Honor will, upon the proper proceedings
in said Court, appoint your petitioner or some other fit person
to be Conservator of the said Ithiel C. Towner.

DATED this 8th day of January, A. D. 1907.

Mary C. Towner