

Building Plaque Application

Building Address 111 CRIGHTON AVENUE

Building Name _____
(for public/commercial structures)

If applicant's name is different from above:

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Original Owner	<u>WILLIAM GAGE</u>
Date of Construction	<u>1890</u>
Architect (if known)	_____
Builder (if known)	<u>DAVID A. McBRIDE</u>

Check if attached:

Statement Of Value

Please review the criteria on page 5. The Elgin Heritage Commission uses these criteria to review your application and award a plaque. Attach an explanation of the historical **and** architectural value of the building. Attach photocopies of relevant materials such as copies of Sanborn maps, original property deeds and City Directory listings. Applications without these requirements will not be considered by the Elgin Heritage Commission.

Building Alterations

Describe any alterations to the **exterior** of the building and include dates. Attach description to the application.

Photograph

Include a recent photograph in which the building is clearly visible. Additional photographs depicting a close up and details of decorative features are helpful.

Stipulations

If the building is not awarded a plaque, the application fee of \$15.00 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 the property of the City and cannot be altered or removed from the building. It is the City's responsibility to replace the plaque if and when the situation warrants it.
In addition to agreeing to the above stipulations, the undersigned attests that the information provided is, to the best of his/her knowledge, accurate.

Owner's Signature *Amel S. Kelly*
Signed *Mary M. Hill*

Date *9-23-03*
Date *21 Sep 2003*

Historical/Architectural

David A. McBride was a man of varied interests and seemed to possess a talent for doing anything well. He was the son of Henry McBride and had immigrated from Ireland. With his father, he built a steamboat, *The Dauntless*, which ran from South Elgin to Dundee. He was a contractor and builder; among the vast number of houses McBride built in the late 1880's/early 90's, was one for his sister, Mattie McBride Gage on Hamilton Avenue and one for his sister, Mrs. Albert Dohle, on Highland

McBride had a fondness for this area of the west side, building many houses on Hamilton, Highland, W. Chicago, and distinguishing himself as a builder by building 4 houses in a cluster on Crighton Avenue: 102, 105, 111, and 114, all of them within a couple of years of each other and in the same Queen Anne style.

McBride moved on to invent the back-gear windmill and to further pursue his interest in farm machinery. With his brothers, he started a farm machinery "dealership" and then began selling automobiles. He bought out his brothers and with his sons operated McBride Buick.

William J. Crighton was a Scottish immigrant who settled in Dundee in 1843. In 1888, his heirs had their property annexed to the city of Elgin as "Crighton Park Addition." It comprised 10 blocks that were bounded on the north by W. Highland and Larkin Avenues; Worth Street on the west; and Union Street on the east. Its south boundary was Silvanus Wilcox' land that began a few lots south of Pennsylvania Avenue. Crighton Avenue ran just one long block from W. Highland to Pennsylvania and may have been the main road leading to Wilcox' solid stone house, built around 1860 at 52 Crighton Avenue. Pennsylvania Avenue lifts to the west from Union Street and 52 Crighton was built on the highest lot in the Addition. Lot 5 was vacated sometime after 1888 to extend Crighton to the south.

The Addition was praised for its proximity to Highland Avenue, "the finest boulevard of the west side and one of the best streets of the city." *Elgin Every Saturday*, May 12, 1888, p.1. It was close to the high Chicago and North Western Rail Road depot and the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Rail Road depot besides being just one block from the Elgin Packing Company.

On May 12, 1888, a land auction was held for the purpose of disposing of lots in the Addition. In block 1, lot 5 facing Crighton Avenue, and lot 6 facing Union Street were sold to William Seapy. 2 years later, the lots were sold to Cyril Gage. Gage was a member of a large family of Gage's who lived in and farmed in the Hampshire area, at Starks Station and Thurnau Road. In May 1892, lot 5 only was warranted to Gage's son Willis. Willis Gage and Nellie Coon were married in 1883. Willis was a carpenter and Nellie worked at the Condensed Milk Company.

The *Elgin Daily Courier*, December 19, 1890 published a front page review of all of the construction that had taken place that year. It states "David McBride has erected buildings as follows:...William Gage, Crighton Avenue, two story frame dwelling \$1,000." Numerous Gage's were involved with the land purchase and building of the house; however, they were all related and 111 Crighton became the residence of Willis and Nellie Gage. The Elgin City Directory for 1889-90 lists "Mrs. Nellie Gage, wks (works) Elgin Cond Milk Co, bds (boards) 105 Highland." In the 1892 edition, Mrs. Gage is listed at 57 Crighton and when the city revised the address numbering for the final time in 1894, it became 111. David McBride did not make it to the auction on May 12;

the harness broke on his horse and the horse ran into a culvert on Bridge Street, possibly on their way to the auction.

Nellie Gage died in 1903. The *Elgin Daily Courier*, October 18, 1911 ran an announcement in the "Events In Elgin Society" section of the marriage of Willis Gage and Mary Lawrence. Rev. Charles Gage performed the ceremony and sang in a pre-wedding concert. 2 years later, the first of two daughters was born to the Gage's. Ruth Gage worked at the Watch Factory and married Charles Lamz. Marjorie Gage married Marvin Zickuhr. 111 Crighton stayed in possession of the Gage family until 1943.

Mary Gage died in 1942, but her passing was ordinary compared to the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of her husband Willis in 1935. Gage's daughter Marjorie married Marvin Zickuhr, who had a severe drinking problem. They lived with the Gage's at 111 Crighton. Marvin was only 26 when the following incident happened. He had been brought home by the proprietor of a tavern 5 miles west of Elgin around 1 am. The driver then had something to eat in downtown Elgin and returned to the Gage home to see if Zickuhr was still there. The driver found out instead that Willis Gage was dead. A search for Zickuhr found him, wearing only his underwear, lying in the street near W. Chicago and Union Streets. It was related that Zickuhr had awakened the sleeping Gage and wife Marjorie and they heard him rummaging around in Gage's dresser for a gun kept there. All the while, Zickuhr muttered about someone outside of the family against whom he held a grudge and he was going to shoot. Marjorie and Gage struggled with Zickuhr to get the gun away from him. A window was broken and they were able to wrest the gun away at which point Zickuhr ran out of the house. Marjorie told her father to go back to bed and went downstairs to wait for Zickuhr. When she returned upstairs, she found her father dead, probably from a heart attack during the struggle.

In 1943, 111 Crighton was sold by Ruth Gage Lamz. 5 years later, it was acquired by its 4th owner Ralph Muchow, a dentist. Muchow achieved some measure of fame by being a table tennis champion in Illinois. He went to own "the largest private historical radio collection in the world" according to his obituary in 2000. The radio collection was featured in an edition of *Smithsonian Magazine*. The property changed hands twice more and has been in possession of the present owners since 1978.

Architectural

The Queen Anne style of architecture was at the peak of Victorian popularity in the last decades of the 19th century. Increasing industrialization during that time produced balloon framing, allowing the shape of houses to be made at one's desire, as well as a greater variety of parts to be made; increasing train transportation allowed building materials to be more easily available across the country.

Queen Annes are divided into two subtypes based on their shape and decorative detail. In the shape subtype, they are noted for 1) multiple roof lines 2) frequent use of a front facing gable 3) devices used on facades to avoid a plain surface and an asymmetrical facade. In the detail subtype, additional categories of spindlework and free classic are used.

The Gabled Ell house is L or T shaped with the porch in the corner of the L or T. It was simple in design, providing better light and cross ventilation than other designs. The Gabled Ell was a common design throughout the U. S. Decoration was usually applied

around the windows and doors.

111 Crighton is a Gabled Ell and has Queen Anne features of a front facing gable, fish scale shingles in the gable, vertical and horizontal banding. A nod is given to the spindlework subtype in the delicately rounded back porch support. Simple decoration is seen in the window and door surrounds. The front porch and part of the back porch have been enclosed--the windows suggesting it was done in the 1920's. The front window appears to be a replacement.

Subdued colors in the "Painted Lady" style highlight the decorative features and complement the natural surroundings of the house.

mmh/sep03

McGlure & Struckman, Cor. River and Ann Streets,
ELGIN, ILLINOIS.
POSTS, BUILDING PAPER AND LUMBER.

GA

98

GA

G.

1889-90

- Gable John, tailor, bds 357 River.
Gabriel E L, wks w fac, r 232 Walnut ave.
Gabriel Geo P, wks w fac, bds National house.
Gabriel W A, mechanical engineer w fac, r 232 Walnut.
Gaebeke Henry, carpenter, bds 93 Seneca.
Gaeiner Gottlieb, wks w fac, r 442 Villa.
Gaffney Pat'k, lab, r 217 Silver.
Gaffney Peter, bds 217 Silver.
Gage Cora B, bkpr Cook's pub co, bds 296 Chicago.
Gage Flora, wid, r 296 Chicago.
Gage Harvey, retired farmer, r 185 Franklin.
Gage Lou E, wks Cook's pub co, bds 296 Chicago.
Gage Martha Miss, wks Cook's pub house, bds 185 Franklin.
Gage Martha M Miss, r 59 Locust.
Gage Nellie Mrs, wks Elgin cond milk co, bds 105 Highland ave.
Gage Silas, wks Cook's pub co, bds 96 Chicago.
Gahan Adell Miss, clk, bds 92 Washington.
Gahan Albert T, foreman Elgin packing co, r 3 n Union.
GAHAN D, insurance and real estate, also justice of the peace,
room 7 town block, r 92 Washington.
Gahan Dan'l, bds 158 Highland ave.
Gahan Edith V Mrs, forewoman, wks Cook's pub co, r 202 High-
land ave.
Gahan Frank, wks w fac, bds 92 Washington.
Gahan John T, clk, r 202 Highland ave.
Gahan Lucy Miss, clk, bds 92 Washington.
Gahan Minnie, wks Ill Cond co, bds 92 Washington.
Gahan Tessie Miss, housekeeper at 92 Washington.
Gahan Thos, r 158 Highland ave.
Gaily David F, (Burdick & Gaily,) bds 126, Park.
Gaiver Fred L, wks w fac, rms 198 Chicago.
Galdforb David, fruit and confectionery, 87 Douglas ave, r same.
Gale Ward, wks w fac, bds National house.
Gale Ward Mrs, wks w fac, bds National house.
Gallitz Elizabeth, wks w fac, r 120 Ann.
Galvin Maggie Miss, rms 13 Raymond.

A. R. VOSS, WESTERN FARM LANDS.

1892

and retail liquors, 12 and 16
 Pendergast, r Kimball House
 Ann
 Ann
 (Tricke), h 81 N Gifford
 Adale
 Co
 trunk mfr, 5 Chicago, h 91
 Gifford
 Hill
 Ave
 ay ave
 S Gifford

h Wing, nr State
 House
 D, delivery clk P O, r 141
 Rev, pastor St John Luth-

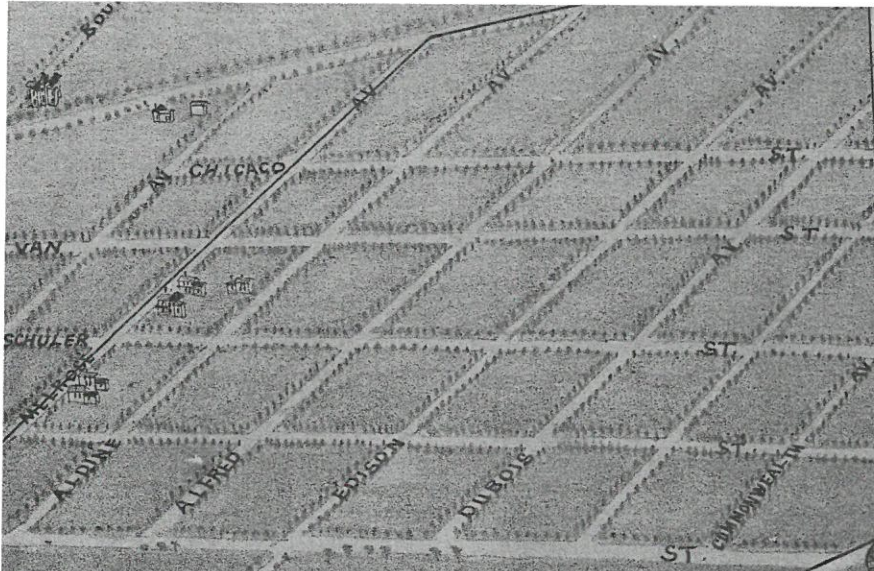
Center
 F, r 141 Center
 Center
 orter
 nk, r Belvidere, Ill
 Charles

ect bld
 lla
 r 177 Franklin
 Chicago
 t Charles
 t Charles
 lergast), h 33 DuPage
 Charles

Fuller O F, D M C, r 391 Villa
 Fuller Perry B, clk J W Raunstead, 30 Home Bank bldg
 Fuller S J, D M C
 Fuller Wm, h 157 S Channing
Fuller & Pendergast (Marshall Fuller and Augustus L
 Pendergast), wall paper, paints, &c, 45 S Spring, after 1st
 of Aug 1892 61 Grove ave
 Fultz Kate Miss, E W F, r 262 Orchard
 Fultz Mary Miss, r 262 Orchard
 Funk Bertha, wid Frank, dressmkr, h 20 Lynch
 Funk Christ, bottler B Hagelow, r 584 Center
 Funk George, lab, h 439 McClure ave
 Funk Jacob, lab, h 193 N Jackson
 Funk Ruth, wid Frank, E W F, h 358 Washburn
 Funai Marie Miss, r Hubbard bldg
 Furze James, teaming, h 36 McBride

G

Gaard Anton, E W F, r 35 Ryerson ave
 Gable John, tailor Smailes Bros, h 357 River
 Gabriel W A, mechanical eng'r E W F, h 65 Hill
 Gabskie Annie, dom 188 Villa
 Gabskie John, h s s Dwight, 1 e Raymond
 Gallin Frank E, E W F, r 383 Chicago
 Gaffney Patrick, h 217 Silver
 Gaffney Peter, wks cold storage, r 217 Silver
 Gaffney Thomas, r 217 Silver
 Gage Flora E, wid Frank, h 8 Chicago
 Gage Harvey, h 457 Walnut ave
 Gage Herbert A, cut-stone contr, h 185 Bridge
 Gage Martha Miss, r 59 Locust
 Gage Martha Miss, r 157 Walnut ave
 Gage Nellie Mrs, E C M C, r 57 Crighton ave
 Gage Silas, painter, r 8 Chicago
 Gage Wm S, carp, h 57 Crighton ave
 Gahan Albert T, foreman E C M C tin shop, h 3 N Union
 Gahan Daniel, justice, Barker bldg, h 92 Washington
 Gahan Daniel jr, r 158 Highland ave
 Gahan D Frank, E W F, h 253 Orange
 Gagan John T, clk Wm Hart, r 202 Highland ave
 Gahan Lucy Miss, clk, r 92 Washington
 Gahan Minnie Miss, I C C, r 92 Washington



CITY WEST OF MALLERY AV.





Scale of feet.
0 10 20 30 40 50 100 150

*Sanborn Map
1903*

W. CHICAGO

71

0

65

WAGON COMPANY.

The Elgin Wagon Company has been organized... The company is organized for the purpose of manufacturing and selling wagons...

THE CITY.

The city has made some improvements... The city council has approved a plan for widening the streets and improving the sidewalks...

HOMES.

Several new homes have been built in the city... The homes are well built and comfortable, and are being sold at a reasonable price...

THE ST. LOUIS RAILWAY.

The St. Louis Railway has been extended... The new line will provide a direct route between Elgin and St. Louis, greatly benefiting the local economy...

THE NEW ASYLUM.

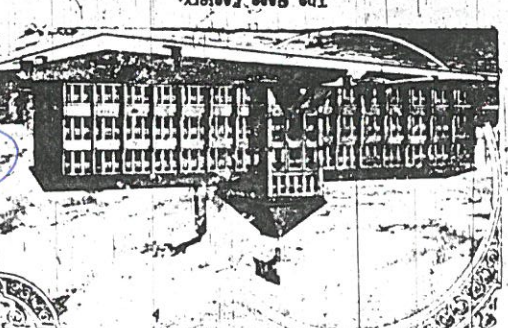
The new asylum for the insane has been completed... The building is a fine example of modern architecture and will provide the best care for the patients...

THE CASO FACTORY.

The Caso factory has been built on the site of the old mill... The new factory is a large and modern building, and will greatly increase the production of the company...

FINE RESIDENCES.

Several fine residences have been built in the city... The homes are well built and comfortable, and are being sold at a reasonable price...



The Caso Factory.

The Caso factory has been built on the site of the old mill... The new factory is a large and modern building, and will greatly increase the production of the company...

The St. Louis Railway has been extended... The new line will provide a direct route between Elgin and St. Louis, greatly benefiting the local economy...

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384
107162





This Indenture Witnesseth, that The Grantors, William R. Seafy and Charlotte A. Seafy his wife
of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois
for and in consideration of the sum of Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) DOLLARS,
in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to Cyril Yage

of the County of Hampshire County of Kane and State of Illinois
the following described Real Estate, to-wit: situate in the City of Elgin, in the County of
Kane and State of Illinois, to-wit: Lots No. Five (5) and Six
(6) in Block, No. One (1) of Brighton Park Addition to Elgin, as
per plat thereof on file in the Recorder's Office of said
Kane County

Witnessed 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.

Dated this Fourth day of May A. D. 1900.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

William R. Seafy 
Charlotte A. Seafy 



STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Kane County

R. D. Hollenback a Notary Public

in and for the said County, do hereby certify, that
William R. Seafy and Charlotte A. Seafy
his wife were and
personally known to me to be the said parties whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument.

Notarial Seal

appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument of their
free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, waiving the release and waiver of the right of Homestead
GIVEN under my hand and Notarial Seal, this Fourth day of May A. D. 1900.
R. D. Hollenback
Notary Public

384

384

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of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois for and in consideration of the sum of Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) DOLLARS, in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to Opert Gage

of the County of Kane County of Kane and State of Illinois the following described Real Estate, to-wit: situate in the City of Elgin, in the County of Kane and State of Illinois, to-wit: Lot No. Five (5) and Block No. One (1) of Brighton Park Addition to Elgin, in Kane County.

Witnessed in the County of Kane 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.

Dated this ninth day of May A. D., 1890.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

William R Seapy
Charlotte A. Seapy
SEAL
SEAL
SEAL
SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Kane County

I, R. D. Hollenbeak a Notary Public

in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that William R Seapy and Charlotte A. Seapy his wife who are

Notarial Seal.

personally known to me to be the same person whose name is are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their 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 ninth day of May A. D., 1890.

R. D. Hollenbeak
Notary Public