

ELGIN BUILDING PLAQUE PROGRAM
APPLICATION

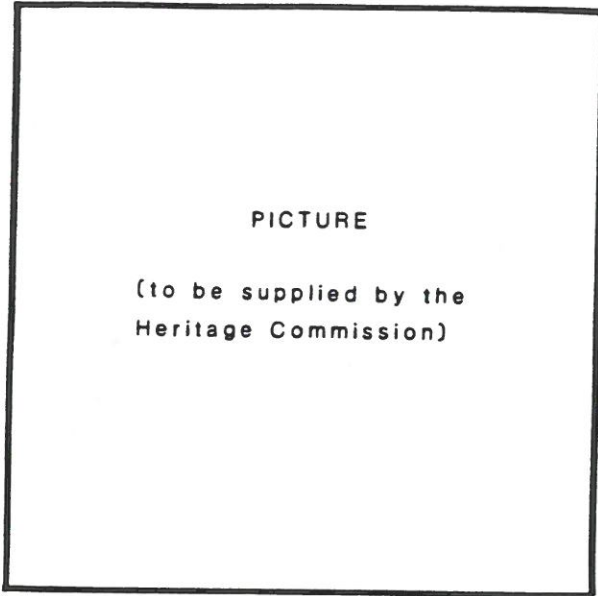
HERITAGE COMMISSION
CITY OF ELGIN

DOCUMENTATION

Original Owner: First Congregational Society
Building Name: Parsonage
Date of Construction: 1892
Architect: _____
Builder: Joseph Pavey
Architectural Style: Queen Anne with Eastlake influences.

Applicant's Signature: Michelle Dessert Date: 10/18/89

Description of Present and Original (If known) Physical Appearance:



Exterior -

- variety of surfaces including clapboard butt shingles, fish scale shingles, diamond shingles
- Second-story bay on front, east and west facade
- First floor porch shows Eastlake detail with sunburst and spindle work.
- Dormer along with multi-layered roofs.

Interior -

- Hardwood floors throughout house
- Two fireplaces with mantles showing distinctive "rope" decoration.
- Large entry with double door airlock.
- ~~Wainscoting~~ Wainscoting and sitting bench still present.
- * Will add another sitting bench opp. this to return to original.

Statement of Significance (please check the appropriate categories and describe the significance):



Architecture



History (Local, State, National)



Commerce



Industry



Education



Religion



Social



Government

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It was one of the significant structures that contributed architecturally to the formation of the Historic District here in Elgin.

It was the gathering site for many social & religious functions at the turn of the century. It's larger property once proudly displayed a gazebo for ice cream socials.

Representation on Existing Surveys:

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

Local Surveys.

Building Condition:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated

Building Modifications (please check the appropriate category and, if known, describe any modifications to the exterior of the building):

- Unaltered
- Minor Alterations
- Major Alterations

- Front entryway removed. Will be returned to original entryway with original doors.

- Upper porch has small addition built onto it. This will be removed to return to original size.

Please list all sources of documentation and attach copies of documentation when possible. For assistance in completing this application, contact the:

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12/31/1892
- 2. Documentation for Elgin Historic District's Application to National Registry
- 3. "Elgin Historic District" by E.C. Alft
- 4. 8th Annual Elgin House Tour booklet.

Planning Department
City of Elgin
150 Dexter Court
Elgin, Illinois 60120
(312) 695-6500, extension 235

**BUILDING PLAQUE PROGRAM
PLAQUE CRITERIA RANKING WORK SHEET**

Applicant Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Address of Building Under Consideration _____

Average Scores

- 1. Architectural Significance _____
- 2. Maintenance of Building _____
- 3. Conservation of Details _____
- 4. Historical Significance _____
- 5. Age of Building _____

Average Total Score _____

*Note: To qualify for a plaque a building must receive at least 65 points for a total average score.

Voting Record

Members

Criteria

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Arthur Allen	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Janice Gendreau	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Mark Herzog	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Randy Maid	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Patricia Miller	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. John Roberson	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Viola Swanson	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Jerry Turnquist	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Karen Schock, Chair	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL SCORES	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Owners: Chuck & Michelle
Gessert

403 Division

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During the Depression, the house provided five small apartments. Two years ago, there were seven units with residents sharing three bathrooms. The home was for sale as a rooming house when the current owners bought it in September.

Typical of Victorian architecture, the home reflects detailing of several styles, but primarily Queen Anne:

- the variety of wall surfaces includes clapboard, butt shingles, fish scale shingles, and diamond shingles as an accent
- the front facade is defined by a second-story bay with truncated corners
- the roof overhang is cantilevered
- dormer and variety of roofs are visible
- second-story bays appear on east and west facades
- intricate detailing is seen on second floor porch
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The interior reveals evidence of changes made when the large home was converted to a rooming house, especially with the variety of flooring and



wall treatment. For most rehabbers, much of the enjoyment of obtaining an older home comes from deciphering the pattern of past "home improvement projects." (There is a wallpaper "display" of sorts in the kitchen.)

The entry doors (the originals were found in the basement) just recently have been relocated to the west (right) to align with the existing transom and threshold remaining in place. The vestibule doors were also relocated to match the entry doors. Existing woodwork yields clues as to the original design.

The next major project, now that the walls between rental units have been demolished, is the rewiring of the home. The restoration of the front rooms is in progress. Look closely to see that the fireplace mantle is adorned by a "rope" decoration.

Now being restored to its original configuration, the stairway will be reconstructed with the same spindles and newel post. While earlier days found this window lost in the maze, the cut/bevelled leaded glass on the landing will be a highlighted feature of the home.

One of the most interesting transformations will appear on the second floor where the owners will create a large bathroom complete with dressing room and jacuzzi—what the owners refer to as a "Yuppie bathroom" where a spa atmosphere can create relaxation for busy (and exhausted) residents.

"To Be Continued....."

ITS FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Rev. John W. Welsh, March 28, 1920

Reverend Welsh heaved a sigh of relief as he finished his personal devotions on the evening of March 28, Palm Sunday, 1920. It had been a fateful day. He had pronounced his benediction a trifle early at his morning service that many of the leaders of the Church might adjourn to the parlors for the pre-Easter meeting of the Prudential Committee. A storm which had been gathering ominously all morning broke in a torrent of fury over the church just as the congregation was departing. During a momentary breathing space most of those present escaped in the cars of friends or relatives. Then the black storm swooped down with a cyclonic roar, stunned the silent church and hushed its members, and toppled the tower, much of the roof, and the gallery through the main floor into the basement.

Only a few breaths were drawn before the storm was over, the sun shining, and devoted friends were gathering to take their shaken ones from their dangerous imprisonment. When all the plaster, smoke and debris were cleared away, it was found that among all those buried in the falling timbers, only three had lost their lives: "The hour would ever be sacred to the memory of Miss Elizabeth M. Mowatt, Miss Lula M. Foote and little Miss McConackie."

The Advisory Committee had met that evening at the home of Mr. A. L. Warner. Plans were drawn up to organize volunteer service among the men in clearing out the Church, while the women would be asked to provide them with hot lunches. There was ten thousand dollars of tornado insurance which would meet a fraction of the cost of repairs. Loan of the Evangelical Church had been offered for services until his Church should be ready for use.

From all sides there came pouring in offers of money, of help, of kindest co-operation. Tomorrow he would call on all the families of the injured or bereaved to extend to them the deepest sympathy of the Church and its solicitude for their welfare.

All was being taken care of. The Church would survive this body-blow and be all the stronger, thereafter, God willing. (18).

(18) Source: Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee, March 28th, 1920, 7:30 p. m.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

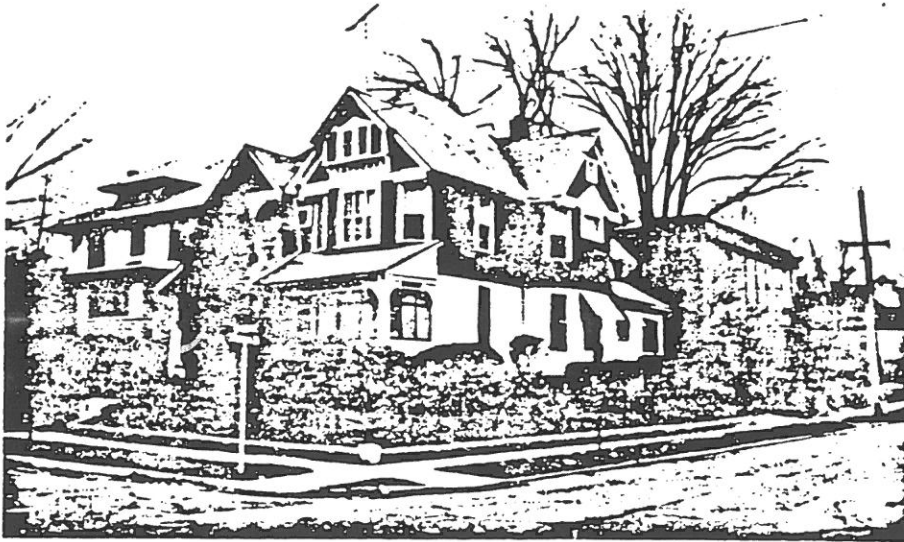
SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 37

LIST OF SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES BY ADDRESS:

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1. Academy Pl.	210	39. Division St.	304
2. Center St.	19-23	40.	321
3. N. Channing St.	141	41.	357
4. S. Channing St.	108-9	42.	364
5.	158	43.	378
6.	165-9	44.	403
7. N. Chapel St.	18	45.	433
8. S. Chapel St.	70	46.	439
9.	101-3	47.	465
10. E. Chicago St.	236	48.	472
11.	270	49.	476
12.	277	50.	488
13.	310	51.	489
14.	314	52.	490
15.	320-3	53. DuPage St.	261
16.	350-8	54.	269-75
17.	373-5	55.	307-9
18.	386	56.	315-17
19.	392	57.	323
20.	398	58.	327
21.	416	59.	419
22.	443	60.	427
23.	452	61.	433
24.	456	62.	439
25.	460	63. Fulton St.	302
26.	470	64.	304-10
27.	472-4	65.	385
28.	477	66.	390
29.	492	67.	416
30.	496-8	68.	427-9
31.	503	69. S. Geneva St.	37
32.	543-5	70. N. Gifford St.	16
33.	552	71.	20
34.	564	72.	34
35.	570	73.	105
36.	600	74.	127-9
37. College St.	162	75.	140
38. Division St.	268	76.	164



This is an interesting late Victorian residence with a blending of Eastlake and Queen Anne detailing. Note the second floor porch. Constructed in 1892 this house was built as a parsonage for the First Congregational Church.

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (SEE INDEX FOR ABBREVIATIONS)
FEDERAL _____ STATE X COUNTY _____ LOCAL X

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: 403 Division Street
DATE: 1892 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: _____
SIGNIFICANCE: Architectural

**BUILDING PLAQUE PROGRAM
PLAQUE CRITERIA RANKING WORK SHEET**

Applicant Name Chuck and Michelle Gessart

Address of Building Under Consideration 403 DIVISION

Average Scores

1. Architectural Significance	_____
2. Maintenance of Building	_____
3. Conservation of Details	_____
4. Historical Significance	_____
5. Age of Building	_____
Average Total Score	<u>12</u> <u>80</u>

*Note: To qualify for a plaque a building must receive at least 65 points for a total average score.

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Criteria

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Arthur Allen	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	___
2. Janice Gendreau	___	___	___	___	___
3. Mark Herzog	___	___	___	___	___
4. Randy Maid	___	___	___	___	___
5. Patricia Miller	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	___
6. John Roberson	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	___
7. Viola Swanson	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>
8. Jerry Turnquist	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	___
9. Karen Schock, Chair	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	___
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Date of Construction: 1892 1892

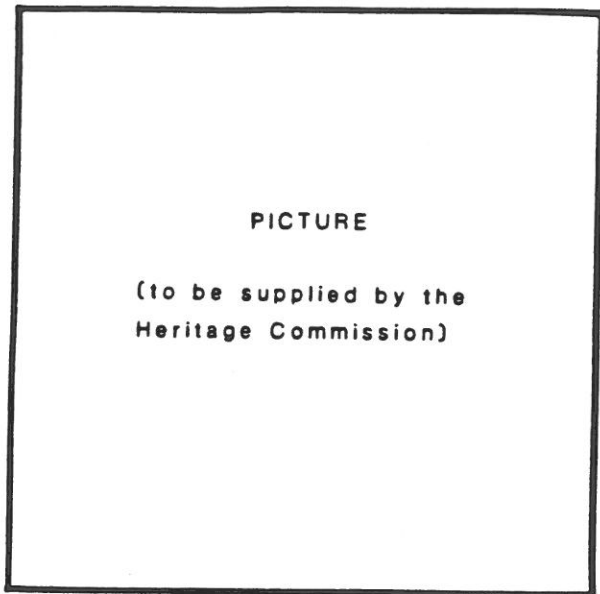
Architect: _____

Builder: Joseph Pavey

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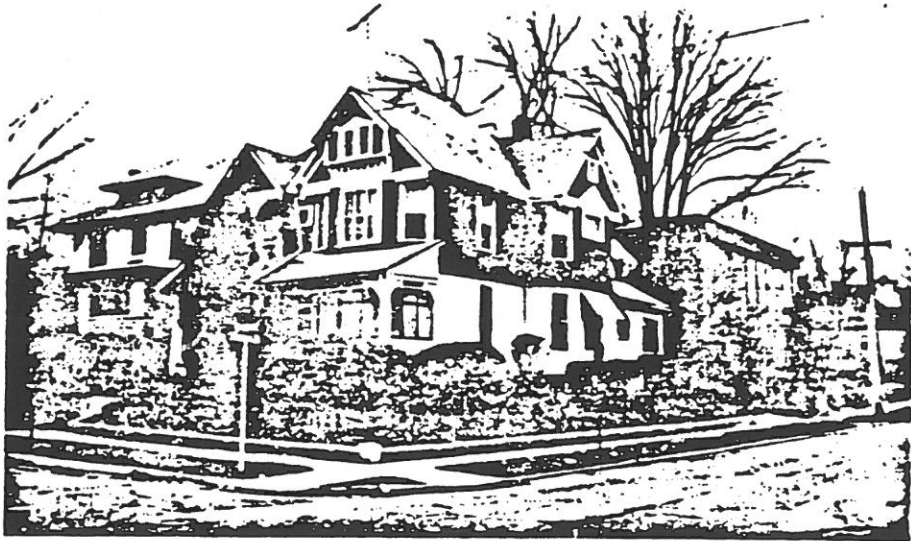
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