

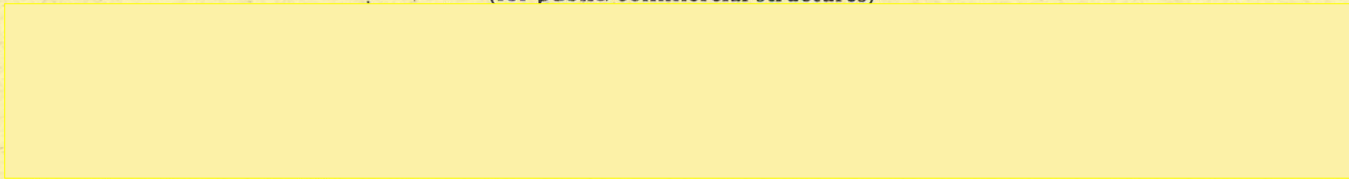
# Building Plaque Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Building Address 514 DOUGLAS AVENUE

Building Name \_\_\_\_\_

(for public/commercial structures)



If applicant's name is different from above:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Original Owner V. GARTY

Date of Construction 1881

Architect (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Builder (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

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 William T. Barner

Date June 18, 2001

Signed Mary M. Hill

Date June 10, 2001



## Historical/Architectural

From its beginning in 1835, Elgin grew to the north, south, and east along the east bank of the Fox River. The retail center of the town was Market Square, a crossroads of River Street, E. Chicago Street, and Mill Street--today called Fountain Square. Wooden buildings were constructed along the three streets and over time, some were destroyed by fires which raged through them. By the 1870s, the burned wooden buildings were being replaced with brick ones. Chris Lay, a German immigrant, built a saloon or "lager hall" at 14 Douglas Avenue, formerly Mill Street. The Elgin City Directory for 1877-78 lists "Christ Lay, saloon, 11 Douglas Ave., res. same" as his business and home. At that time, downtown street numbers often contained both even and odd on the same side of the street. Later directories list Lay at 14 Douglas. Today, Lay's building on Douglas Avenue is 18-20. It is a 2 story Italianate business building with 2 store fronts.

A short biographical sketch carried in the Elgin City Directory from 1880 states "C. Lay, Lager Beer Hall" and describes it as "one of the finest and most elegant liquor houses in the city" and "Lay's is a favorite resort for 'the boys' as they know he keeps nothing but the finest goods..." Mr. Lay was described as a pleasant and genial man and one would certainly be satisfied at his establishment. An ad in the directory says "I aim to keep a quiet and orderly place."

Kimball Street became the unofficial dividing line between retail and residential Elgin. P.J. Kimball, jr. claimed a large parcel of land north of Kimball Street called "P.J. Kimball jr.'s third Addition" and platted it into blocks. Lots started selling in the blocks immediately north of Kimball Street. Houses built along Douglas Avenue from Kimball Street to Jefferson (once the north city limit) date to the 1870s and earlier; for example, 251, 403, 453, 457, 469, and 471 Douglas Avenue. Development continued to creep up the street. All of block 35, bounded by Douglas Avenue, Plum Street, Summit Street, and Brook Street, was sold to James Lane, an Elgin businessman and J. D. Hibbard, a carpenter, in 1879. Lot 3 in block 35 went through some legal transactions involving H. Lee Borden, a director of the Home National Bank and resident on Douglas Avenue and ended up, in 1881, with the south 1/2 of lot 3 in the possession of Hibbard, the carpenter who also lived on Douglas. He immediately sold the property to M.J. and Vienna Garty. The following April, Garty's sold the property for quadruple the price to Grote and Waldron, well known Elgin real estate dealers, suggesting that it had been developed. One more transaction put the property into the hands of a single party and then was sold to Chris Lay, the saloonkeeper, in 1882. The Elgin City Directory for 1884-85 lists Chris Lay at 316 Douglas Avenue; with the final realignment of addresses in 1894, it became 514.

In 1885, the property was put into the name of Lay's wife, Katharina (alternate spelling Catherine). Catherine Lay died of Bright's disease in June 1898. According to verbal report, Lay then married the maid, Minna. Lay's obituary from 1932 indicates Minna Lay as his surviving widow. There were no children from either marriage. The house stayed in possession of Minna Lay until her passing in 1949 when it was sold from her estate, thus ending 67 years of ownership by the Lay family. 2 owners later, it was sold to its present owner. The present owner set about restoring the exterior with assistance from a city grant program and in 2001, received a Mayor's Award for his restoration project.

## Architectural

Features of the Italianate style: a low pitched, hipped roof topped with original iron cresting. The body of the house is square with a rectangular wing off the south side containing a bay window and a bay window on the flat facade of the north side, both topped with iron cresting. 2 over 2 paned original windows are symmetrically placed in the facades of the second and first floors, giving the house an even, balanced look. 2 small leaded glass windows balance each other on the south and north sides. Double front doors, square supports on the restored front porch and vertical banding complete the Italianate features. The original horse barn now serves as a garage. 514 Douglas Avenue is listed as "contributing" in the nomination of the Spring/Douglas Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

mmh/jun01







This Indenture, Made this Eighth day of April in the year of our Lord One

Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Two BETWEEN Vienna Party and  
Wm J. Party her husband  
of the City of Elgin in the County of Stam and State of Illinois party of the first part,  
and William Korte and Ed. Waldron  
of the City of Elgin County of Stam and State  
of Illinois party of the second part.

WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of \$3500  
Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the  
receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second part forever released and discharged therefrom, have granted, bargained, sold, remised,  
released, conveyed, aliened, and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, convey, alien and confirm, unto the said party of the  
second part, and to their heirs and assigns FOREVER, all the following described lot, piece, or parcel of land, situated in the County of  
Stam, and State of Illinois, and known and described as follows, to-wit:

The South Half (1/2) of Lot Number  
Three (3) in Block Number Thirty-five (35) of P. J. Kimball's  
Third (3rd) Addition to Elgin, excepting and reserving one  
half (1/2) rod in width off the West end of said Lot for part of  
an alleyway One (1) rod in width running through the center  
of said Block Thirty-five (35) from North to South, for the free  
and unobstructed use of the persons possessing the Lots abutting  
thereon.

SELLER

Warranty deed dated 04-08-82  
Vienna + W. J. Party sold property  
to real estate dealer in consideration  
of \$3500  
BK 212  
page 30  
DC 19123

TOGETHER WITH ALL AND SINGULAR the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion  
and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim or 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 to Hold the said  
premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns, FOREVER.  
AND the said Vienna Party and Wm J. Party her husband do covenant, grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, convey, alien and confirm, unto the said  
party of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, convey, alien and confirm, unto the said  
party of the second part, their heirs and assigns, that at the time of the enrolling and delivery of these presents, they own  
well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law, in fee simple; and in full 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, liens, taxes, assessments and encumbrances, of what kind or nature soever; and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peace-  
able possession of the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns, against all and every other person or persons lawfully claiming or to  
claim the whole, or any part thereof, the said party of the first part shall and will Warrant and Forever Defend.

AND the said party of the first part hereby expressly waives and release any and all right, benefit, privilege, advantage, and exception, under or by virtue  
of any and all Statutes of the State of Illinois, providing for the exemption of homesteads from sale on execution or otherwise.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part, Vienna Party and Wm J. Party her husband hereunto set their hands and seals the day  
and year first above written.  
Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of  
William Korte  
Ed. Waldron



*(Note to Dan: I've included notes like this to you in ( ) parenthesis to give you instructions and ideas on what to say, ad lib, etc. feel free to add stuff you think will be helpful. Also, don't forget your jokes!)*

Good evening!

I would like to welcome everyone to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Plaque Presentation. Before moving on with the presentations and ceremony, I would like to thank Liz Marston and the Elgin Area Historical Museum for hosting us this evening and providing us with wonderful refreshments.

I would like to introduce the members of our Heritage Commission present here tonight..

Linda Rock, who helped put the evening's event together along with Liz Marston and Sarosh Saher

Patricia Hill   Stephen Hart   David Jurina   Eric Pepa   Dennis Roxworthy  
Steven Stroud                      and   James Mullally.

I would also like to introduce our Associate members

Jerry Turnquist                      Lynda Bloom-DeGroot                      Leola Ellsworth  
Tom Wahl                      and                      Jo Ellen Doscher

I would now like to invite Mr. Mike Alft to talk to us about Elgin's involvement in the Civil War.

(Mike Alft's presentation)

Thank you Mike for giving us valuable insight into Elgin's involvement in the Civil War.

Now on to our plaque presentations.

*(Note to Dan: Introduction, the slides will be turned on at this time to begin the presentation. Linda Rock will help me pass the plaques and certificates to the you)*

The commitment to historic preservation is evident in the Elgin Heritage Commission's Building Plaque Program, which began in 1985. Every year a select group of property owners are awarded plaques for the research done on their on their home's architectural value, maintenance, historic value, and age. Properties are chosen to be awarded plaques by the Heritage Commission based on these criteria for selection and a first hand look at each property.

Each home owner is presented with a plaque and certificate that show the year when the home was built and the original owner's name. Some of tonight's recipients have already received their plaques earlier and will receive their certificates tonight.

To date, around 150 plaques have been awarded, which is evidence that the plaque program is a success. The benefit from this success is the rise in owner, neighborhood and community involvement, a stronger commitment to preserving the past for future generations, and the desire to make Elgin a better place to live.

The first plaque is presented to:

**1. Robert & Laura Weiss for the plaque at 52 Hamilton Ave**

The house that stands at 52 Hamilton Avenue was build by Charles Wolff in 1900. Mr



Wolff, a partner in Wolff Brothers a flour and feed company, purchased the land in 1889 for seven-hundred and fifty dollars and then warranted the property to his son Charles J. Wolff for three-thousand dollars in 1900. The house would remain in the possession of the Wolff family until 1959. The house has elements that suggest a Colonial Revival style with its gable front roof that has a gross gabled roof, the symmetry of the second story windows to the window and door on the first floor, and the front porch that wraps around the house and contains a peaked roof with decoration.

Robert & Laura Weiss please come forward to accept your plaque and certificate.

## **2. Dennis Roxworthy and Allen Anderson for the plaque at 1127 Morton Ave**

In 1919, William Supernaw purchased the land at 1127 Morton Ave along with the three other properties attached. From 1921 to 1923, Frank Russell resided at the address and purchased the home in 1924 from Mr. Supernaw. The home is a Prairie Style bungalow with simple, clean decorative details, which includes front window with a stained glass pane.

Dennis Roxworthy and Allen Anderson, please come forward and accept your plaque and certificate.

## **3. Steven and Susan McCracken for the plaque at 560 Douglas Avenue**

In 1882, the house at 560 Douglas Avenue was erected for Henry H. and Jennie Denison. The Denison's owned a book and stationary store, which would eventually sell pianos and organs. Sadly the store would close and the Denison's would lose their home in the Panic of 1893. The home is an example of a vernacular Italianate structure with cross gable roof and a bay window with circular arched windows on the house's south side. Incidentally, Steven & Susan

McCracken were also recipients of a Mayor's Award earlier this year for the restoration of their home.

Steven and Susan McCracken, please come forward and accept your plaque and certificate.

#### **4. Steven and Ruth Mackey for the plaque at 149 S. State Street**

In 1899, the Honorable Judge David B. Sherwood hired the architect's firm of Turnbull and Jones to design and build a home at 149 S. State Street. The home was a wedding present to Judge Sherwood's daughter Martha and her husband Lee Judson, who were married on November 29, 1899. The price listed in the deed was "love and affection." The couple would remain in the home until 1907. This home is an example of a Queen Anne with its dormer on the front elevation and curved roof.

Steven and Ruth Mackey, please come forward and accept your plaque and certificate.

#### **5. George & Luanne Pross for the plaque at 665 Lillie Street**

The home at 665 Lillie was constructed in 1899 by Louis Stettner for one-thousand six hundred dollars. Mr. Stettner, a harness maker, was not the only Stettner to live on Lillie. The Stettner's were a close knit family, with most of them living at 665, 633, 659, and 671 Lillie Street. The house is an example of Gabled Ell style with simple decorative detail.

George & Luanne Pross, please come forward and accept your plaque and certificate.

#### **6. Patricia & Joel Smith for the plaque at 376 River Bluff Road**

In 1898, Elizabeth R. Congdon purchased the land at 376 River Bluff Road, know at the

time as Alexander Ave. George Congdon had the house erected the same year. Mr. Congdon is known for his shoe factory business and Congdon Road. The architecture of the home as elements of a Queen Anne, with its various roof lines and fish scaled shingles on the second story in contrast with the horizontal clapboards on the first story. It also has a large, single paned front window, which is highlighted with a decorative upper rectangular part at the top.

Patricia & Joel Smith, please come forward and accept your certificate.

#### **7. Peter Haas for the plaque at 212 Lovell Street**

In 1887, Elsworth M. Payne purchased the land at 212 Lovell Street and in the same year erected the house that stands today. Mr. Payne, a pressman at David C. Cook's publishing company, found the house to be in a perfect location, as it was close to the electric streetcar that allowed him to get to work rapidly. The house is a Gable Ell style with a two story rectangular body with a wing or ell extending from only one side of the house.

Mr. Peter Haas, please come forward and accept your certificate.

#### **8. Michael and Lori Kemmler for the plaque at 168 North Commonwealth Ave**

In 1891, Granville T. Veazie hired Hayward Brothers to construct the home at 168 N. Commonwealth. The original cost to build the house was four-thousand dollars. In Elgin's 1891 City Directory, Mr Veazie was listed as a Lather. In 1896, Mr. Veazie sold this house to a Emma Bishop. This house is an example of a Queen Anne with Free Classic details, such as the steeply pitched, hipped roof, its dominant front facing gable decorated with variegated square coursed and fish scaled wood shingles, and a single story wing with hipped roof and projection covering



back entry.

Michael and Lori Kemmler, please come forward to accept your certificate.

**9. Chester Kwasniewski for the plaque at 217 Lincoln Avenue**

The home at 217 Lincoln Avenue was constructed in 1922 by Roy Coleman for six-thousand dollars after his wife purchased the land from Wheeler Morgan. Roy Coleman was the secretary of the Farmer's Cooperative Oil Company. He and Mrs. Coleman lived in the home until 1971. The home is an example of a Foursquare, with its square dimensions, hipped, pyramidal roof; symmetrically placed windows; and a small rectangular window on the west wall.

Chester Kwasniewski, please come forward and accept your certificate.

**(Closing Remarks)**

That brings us to the end of this evening's presentations.

- Thank you Mike Alft for sharing your knowledge and experience with us this evening,
- Thank you Liz Marston and the Elgin Area Historical Museum for hosting us and providing the refreshments,
- Thank you to the members of the Elgin Heritage Commission for reviewing and awarding the plaques to this evenings recipients,
- Thank you to Sarosh Saher and Cheryl Lemus for putting the plaque presentations together, and
- Thank you to all of this evening's plaque recipients, and thank you all for coming.