

# Building Plaque Application

Name SUSAN M + PHILIP A. KOMORNIK

Building Address 870 MILL ST

Building Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(for public/commercial structures)

Current Owner SUSAN M + PHILIP A. KOMORNIK

Street 870 MILL ST Daytime Phone 847 458-2599

City ELGIN State IL Zip 60123

If applicant's name is different from above:

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

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

Original Owner JOHN A + MARY A. LOGAN

Date of Construction 1899

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

Builder (if known) JOHN BOESCH

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 Susan M Komornik

Date 5/30/99

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Owner's Signature Susan M Komornik

Date 5/30/99

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Statement of Value**

870 Mill St

This house was build for John and Mary Logan in 1899. John had been an Alderman for the 7th District in Elgin and was also the Marshall in Elgin. He eventually formed Logan and Goetz Construction Company. Logan and Goetz was the contractor which designed and built the Elgin Sewer System.

Additionally, this house was pictured in the book, *Daughters of Painted Ladies*, by Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen, Photographs by Douglas Keister, 1987, pgs 70 & 71. At the time of the publication of the book, there were few of the old Victorians painted in the "Painted Ladies" style. This house was one of the few in the nation, outside of San Francisco.

Just recently a couple from Sugar Grove, Illinois, who saw our house in the book, drove to our home to see if they could get examples of the colors to use on their home in Sugar Grove, which is similar to ours.

### **Alterations**

The only alteration that we have been able to ascertain is not with the house, but with the garage. When the 2 lots where divided so that Mrs Buchman's house could be built next door, the original garage for our house became the garage for her house. Another garage was then built behind our house - to the north.



Elgin Heritage Commission  
City of Elgin  
150 Dexter Court  
Elgin, IL 60120

We hope to have our home at 870 Mill St considered for a Heritage Commission Plaque.

**The legal Description is Bk 12 of Plats pg 29 Nw Qr of Sec 14 Twp 41 Rg 8  
Lots 8 & 9 Block 4**

The research on our house has been fascinating and has resulted in strengthening my family's bonds with our neighbors, neighborhood and Elgin itself. We looked a long time to find this house. Our 3 year search for "the perfect" Victorian home in Elgin was well worth the yield.

Attached to our application is a brief outline of ownership of the land and buildings from 1893 to the present. The following documents are also included:

- Warranty Deed to Lot 9: Finla McClure to John A. Logan - June 24, 1893.
- Warranty Deed to Lot 8: George Linkfield to John A. Logan - June 28, 1893.
- Warranty Deed to Lots 8 & 9: John A. Logan to Mary A. Logan - June 29, 1899.
- *Elgin Daily Courier* announcement of new home built for John A Logan on Commonwealth dated Feb 6, 1900.
- *Elgin City Directory* dated 1900 listing John A & Mary A Logan (and children) at 870 Mill St.
- 1913 Sanburn Fire Map with home outlined.
- *Daily Courier News*, Oct 22, 1987 with home information.
- Oct 1988 Larkin Bank Calendar of the Historic Elgin Area Series.
- Sept 1997 Realty Executives Sale papers.
- Copy of pages from the book, *Daughters of Painted Ladies*, by Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen, Photographs by Douglas Keister, 1987, pgs 70 & 71.

Much of the more personal information of our home is the result of interviews with Mrs Elizabeth (Miller) Buchman, who resided with her parents and family in this home from 1916 to 1959. She now lives in the home she and her husband built on the east parts of lots 8 & 9, about half of the original property. All dates and names given by Mrs Buchman were confirmed at the Recorder of Deeds Office, Geneva.

If additional information is required, our phone numbers are:

Home - 847-429-0395  
Work Susie - 847-286-6138 (Sears Corp Offices)  
Work Phil - 847-695-3595 (Seattle Mountain Coffees)



The following is some additional transfer information on this property:

- 1893 - John A Logan purchases lot 8 from George E & Frances E Linkfield for \$750.
- John A Logan purchases lot 9 from Finla L McClure (widower) for \$380.
- 1899 - John A Logan Deeds to Mary A Logan (Wife) lots 8 & 9 for \$500.
- 1902 - Edward C Althen & Hannah L Althen purchase from Mary A & John A Logan property at lots 8 & 9 for \$6500.
- 1916 - Adolph G & Hulda Miller purchase property at lots 8 & 9 for \$6000.
- 1958 - Probate of Estate of Aldoph Miller.
- 1959 - Gustan A Miller & Jeanette M Wrona to Elizabeth Miller Buchman.
- 1959 - Elizabeth Miller Buchman to J Benton Rhoades.
- 1961 - J Benton Rhoades to Robet L Soderstrom.
- 1983 - Robert L Soderstrom to Stephen E and Robin Lotta.
- 1997 - Susan M & Philip A Komornik for \$152,400.

Thank you for considering our home for a Heritage Commission Plaque.

Sincerely,

Susan M Komornik  
870 Mill St  
Elgin, IL 60123

## A Painted Lady (the genteel kind)



# ne of Elgin's gracious ctorians in spotlight

/ Buchwald

Painted Ladies can be found across the United States. Unlike the painted ladies of dancehall lore, these old Victorian homes—are introduced

as, a painted lady rests comfortably in neighborhood at the corner of wealth and Mill streets.

Colonial Revival/Queen Anne home of 1900. The house stands proudly, a native of Victorian homes that have lived lovingly.

In comparison to some of the more storians in Elgin, this house is unique. It was chosen by authors Pomada and Michael Larsen to be included and noted in their book, "Painted Ladies," published by Knopf, New York.

It is a sequel to their book, "Painted

Painted Ladies" immortalizes San Francisco's Victorian homes, "Daughters" is a guide to Victorian homes across the

and Robin Latta, both 36, are the owners of their Elgin home, which is among the best in "Daughters."

THE INTERIOR OF the home has been painted in authentic colors of the era—forest green, rose, mauve and cream. Taking on the colors of the same tones, the colors cross the wall to enhance the interior as well. The restoration is a task that the Lattas have taken painstakingly, authentically and lovingly over the years. They had previously renovated a Victorian home in Elgin.

They came to Elgin in August 1983 from Chicago, when Steve, a senior chemist for DuPont Co., was transferred to the Elgin office. The family originally is from Elgin Heights.

When they lived in an 1875 Victorian house in Chicago, the Lattas felt they would be able to live in a modern new house. But after only one week to house-hunt, they set their sights on a Victorian house.

Initially, they couldn't find one that met their requirements. A frustrated couple returned to Elgin with no house in mind to buy. Finally, Robin took over the house-hunting,

and was the one who found the Mill Street house. "She didn't want us to buy it, but she called and said she thought she found a house for us," Robin said. The Lattas went to see it, liked the house and bought it.

That Robin's mother had reservations is understandable. The 10-room home had fallen into a state of disrepair, inside and out. Pillars swayed freely in the wind, and portions of the siding were rotting. Paint was peeling, plaster cracked and broken, moldings missing and falling away, to name just a few of the problems.

THE CROWN MOLDING was gesso over wood—a mixture of plaster and glue—in an ornate design. That had crumbled and had to be carefully replicated.

When the Lattas began the renovation, they removed old plaster down to the lath in some rooms. Even now, the kitchen of the home—while neat and orderly—has exposed lath for walls.

Despite it, there is an air of elegance about the home, a reflection of the Lattas' lifestyle. A tablecloth graces the kitchen table, despite the exposed wall lath. Curtains hang across sparkling windows. Robin graciously offers coffee or tea, and serves it from a silver service. The teapot is fine china. A basket with freshly baked muffins is offered to a guest.

"I feel there has to be an air that you keep about your home. To me, a house isn't just a place to live. It is a haven for your family ... a refuge from whatever happens outside your house," Robin said.

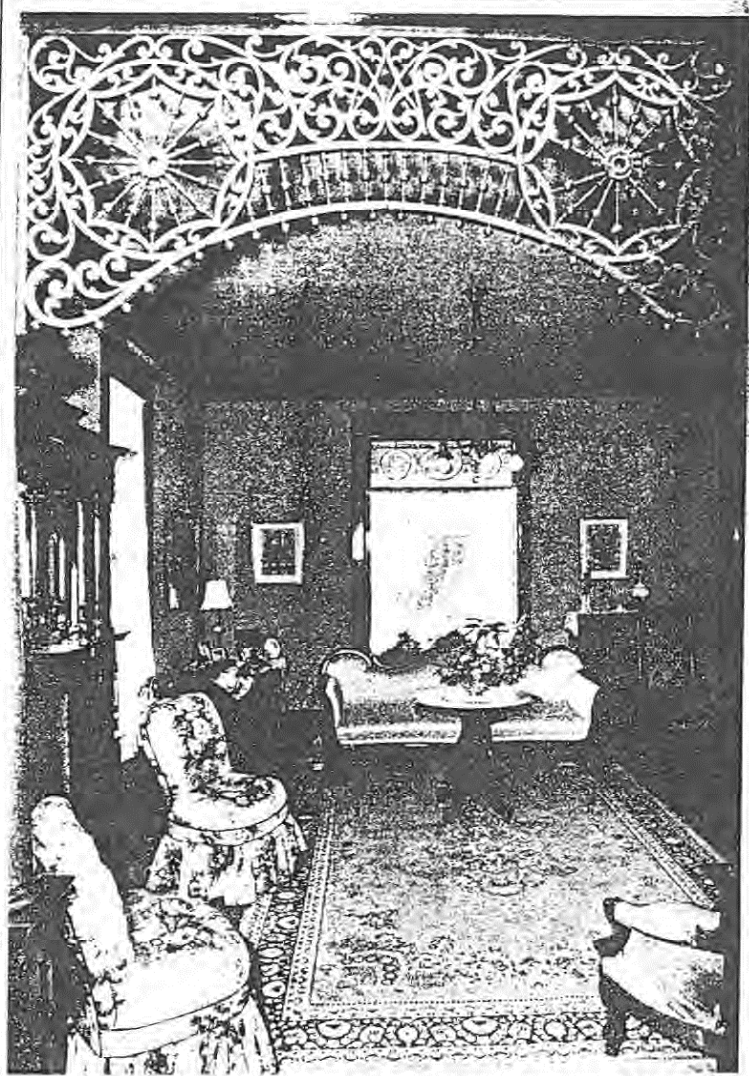
"There are beautiful things. We like good books. We like fine classical music, paintings, things like that. We want to pass it on to our children; we want to pass along our love for things that are fine. The house is a beautiful thing that deserves to be restored."

"We felt the house needed someone to love it and bring it back to its former glory, which is what we are trying to do," she added.

ROBIN WAS GREATLY influenced in appreciating Victorian homes by her parents. They held a reverence for the past. She recalls her mother's love of antiques (her parents are members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation).

At times, the Lattas have regretted their

•Turn to page 10



Much of the charm of Victorian homes is in the top of photo, in the parlor of the home of Steven and Robin Latta. found in details, such as the fretwork at



# Victorians

On page 9  
decision to buy a house that needed so much  
work. But these moments are fleeting. The  
use means more to them than just a place to

(It's) a sense of history, a sense of time  
eternal," said Steve.

A sense of identifying with the past and  
working it for the future; to realizing there  
is beauty and values associated with these  
things. They are part of our history," echoed  
him.

The Lattas plan to remain in Elgin and raise  
their children in the house they love.

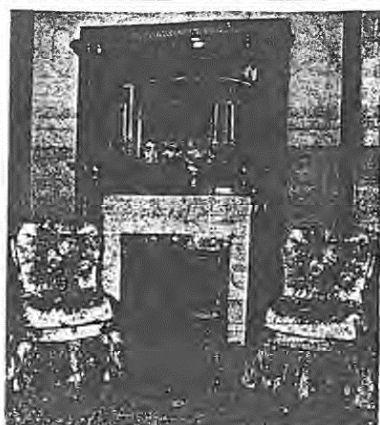
It will take years to complete the renovation,  
as been difficult at times to live with the  
house. The Lattas' children, Steven, 13, and  
Abeth, 10, were often embarrassed by the  
mess. Robin's difficult pregnancy with the  
last third child, Teddy, 2, held up the work  
almost a year.

No matter how much one loves old Victorian  
homes, the Lattas don't recommend others take  
on a task without true dedication to the

It the rewards do come eventually, they  
are, and in many different ways.

WE FEEL IT IS important to continue this  
work. Not everyone wants to do this, or should do  
it, if you have this kind of love, I think this  
is what you can do with it," Robin said.  
While they stay as authentic as possible,  
they recognize the need to adapt the house  
for modern living. He is in the process of adding a  
bathroom to the downstairs bathroom, and modern  
appliances are planned for the kitchen. But  
the cupboards will be used instead of new  
ones.

Living in a home during renovation is never  
easy, but the Lattas credit themselves with  
being a good team. They share the tasks. "We  
work well together. I do the plastering, and she  
does my plaster," Steve said. Steve doesn't



Courier-News Photo by Marcie Ruker

A focal point in the living room, the fire-  
place, has been restored. Floral chairs  
complement the wood and ceramic fire-  
place.

have any qualms about doing chores normally  
delegated as women's work.

Restoring the home has been, and continues to  
be, expensive. The Lattas have spent about  
\$15,000 on the exterior alone. That doesn't  
include any landscaping. It cost \$9,000 just to  
paint the house. It had to be chemically peeled  
and scrapped before it could be painted.

"We feel what we are doing here in Elgin, is  
what is Elgin's future. What attracted us to  
Elgin was the neighborhood. The people are  
warm and friendly, and they are supportive of  
what we are doing," she added.

The Lattas have observed that as they worked  
on their home—a former neighborhood eyesore—  
their neighbors were encouraged to do the same.  
"It spurs us on," she said.

# Painted Ladies' authors to give lecture in Elgin

Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada, co-  
authors of two books on Victorian homes, will  
speak on that topic at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct.  
22, at the Sears Gallery, Elgin Academy, 350 Park  
Avenue.

The event is sponsored by the architectural  
firm of Burnidge, Cassell and Associates, Elgin;  
the Elgin Park Association; and the Elgin  
Historical Commission.

Larsen and Pomada are the authors of  
"Painted Ladies: San Francisco's Resplendent  
Victorians," and a sequel, "Daughters of Painted  
Ladies: America's Resplendent Victorians."

The authors were invited to speak in Elgin due

Burnidge, Cassell, the authors were encouraged to  
come to Elgin to view the town's many lovely  
Victorian homes. Hanlon had responded to an ad  
placed by the authors in the Old House Journal.  
They were requesting information on Victorian  
homes for a tour they were planning in search of  
homes for their upcoming book.

Hanlon, who has a Victorian home, called  
Larsen. Larsen and Pomada came to Elgin and  
toured with Hanlon and Charles Burnidge,  
president of Burnidge, Cassell.

"Daughters of Painted Ladies" contains 172  
color photos of the painted ladies, including the  
Mill Street house.

There is no cost to attend the lecture.

# New help for Victorian buffs

My wife and I have painstakingly restored the basic structure  
of our old Victorian and now we  
are ready for the inside. Neither  
one of us likes the dark, cluttered  
interiors typical of that period,  
but we would like our decor to re-  
flect a Victorian mood at least.  
How could we accomplish this?

—R.F.

I would first isolate those ele-  
ments of Victorian interiors that  
do appeal to you and build on  
them. Don't make the mistake of  
adding something you find ugly  
simply because it is authentic. It's  
1887, and you have to live here,  
after all.

Clutter is always within your  
control. Just use less of the Vic-  
torian that appeals to you. This  
way, favorite pieces get the atten-  
tion they deserve, and you avoid  
claustrophobia.

Dark woods are typically Vic-  
torian, but you might use them  
against light backgrounds or em-  
phasize upholstered pieces that  
are covered in light fabrics. For-  
tunately, new interest in Victorian  
furniture has encouraged manu-  
facturers to offer more in these  
designs.

Fabric treatments should be  
full, but they needn't be heavy.  
Try cottons or other lightweight  
fabrics in Victorian-style patterns  
such as florals, but with light,  
more contemporary color  
schemes. Use the same tactic  
with wallcoverings.

Art and accessories of the  
period will contribute significantly  
toward establishing the ambience  
you want. And, should your re-  
straint leave large empty places,  
try using the palms and ferns the  
Victorians so loved to soften the  
hard edges of the furnishings and  
establish a connection with the  
outside.

I am interested in using sheets  
in lieu of more expensive fabric  
for my decorating. Do you have  
any good tips or ideas?

—C.W.

If you need lightweight materi-  
al, sheets can be a real fabric  
bargain. They have the added ad-  
vantage of providing wide lengths  
with no seams, particularly useful  
in making floor-length tablecloths  
and drapes.

There are countless ways to use  
sheets. Keep an eye out for arti-  
cles in home magazines where  
specific ideas abound. Of course,

## Decor Score

Sharon Owen Haven

Decorating sheets also can be substituted for  
lightweight cotton yardage for  
any decorating project.

For some great ideas and de-  
tailed how-to instructions, you  
might write for a new publication  
from Fieldcrest Mills. Titled  
"Fieldcrest's Profiled Design

Decorating," this illustrated book-  
let is available for \$3.50 from  
Fieldcrest Mills Inc., 60 W. 40th  
St., New York, NY 10018.

Just keep in mind that sheet  
patterns change with the rapidity  
of clothes fashions, so buy extra  
for errors, replacement or new  
ideas. You don't want to be  
caught napping without a sheet.

Send questions to Decor Score,  
Copley News Service, P.O. Box  
190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190.

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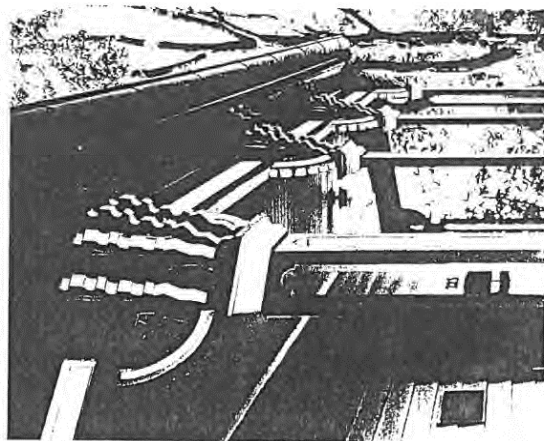
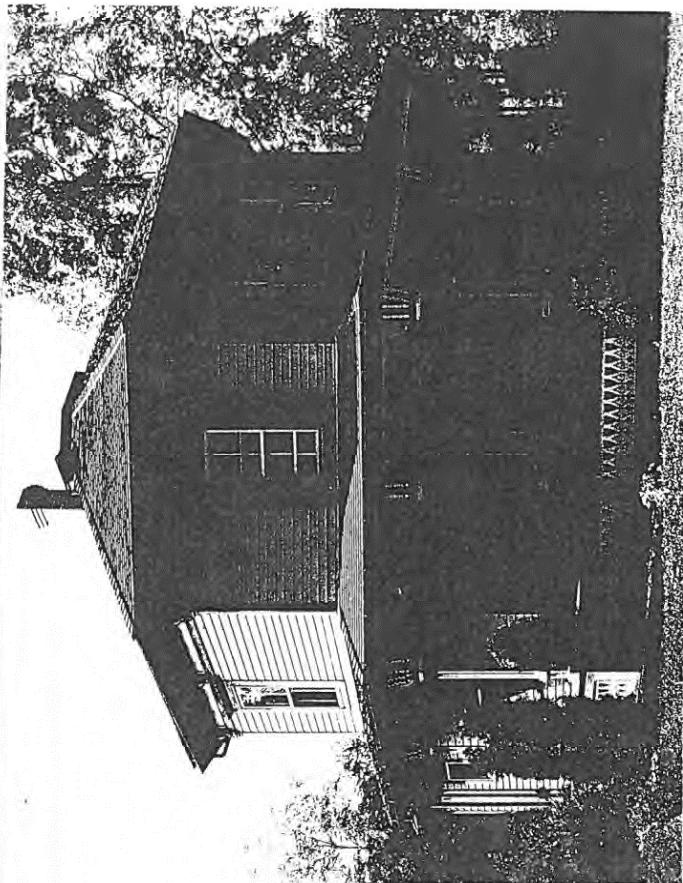
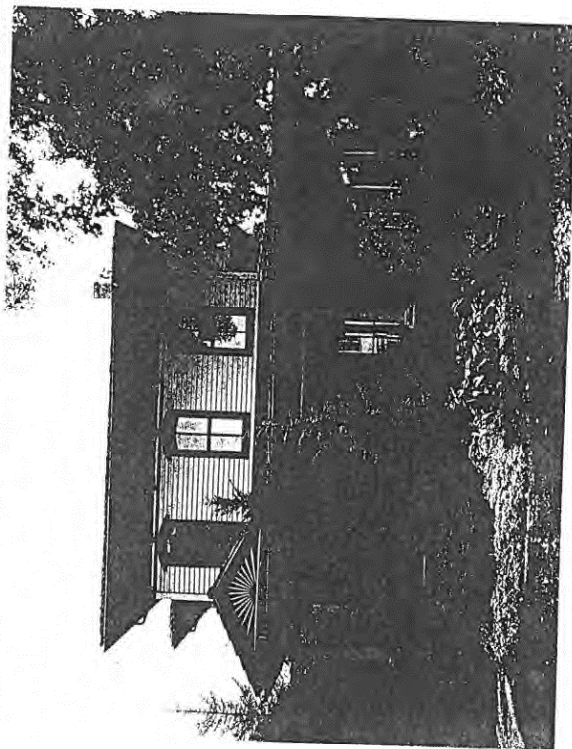
1827 N. LaFox, South Elgin

Route 31

Just South of State Police

Phone 741-8004

Mon. & Thurs. 9:00-8:30; Tues., Wed., & Fri. 9:00-5:30; Sat. 9-5:00



#### ELGIN

(Opposite, above) 870 Mill Street, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, 1900. Maurey Garvey even painted the fireplug in front to match this corner house. The cream trim is like thread tying together the burgundy and dark green sections of this simple, comfortable home.

Elgin, an agricultural center, once set the nationwide price of butter. Today it is a thriving, self-reliant town concerned about preservation.

#### ROCKFORD

(Opposite, below) 803 North Church Street, Italianate, 1870s. Gold, orange, brick red, and brown highlight the cornice brackets and dentils in this handsome renovated office building.

Rockford is the home of the celebrated Tinker Cottage, a Swiss chalet that is filled with Victorian treasures and preserved exactly as it was, complete with greenhouse, when businessman and inventor Robert Tinker lived there.

#### BARRINGTON

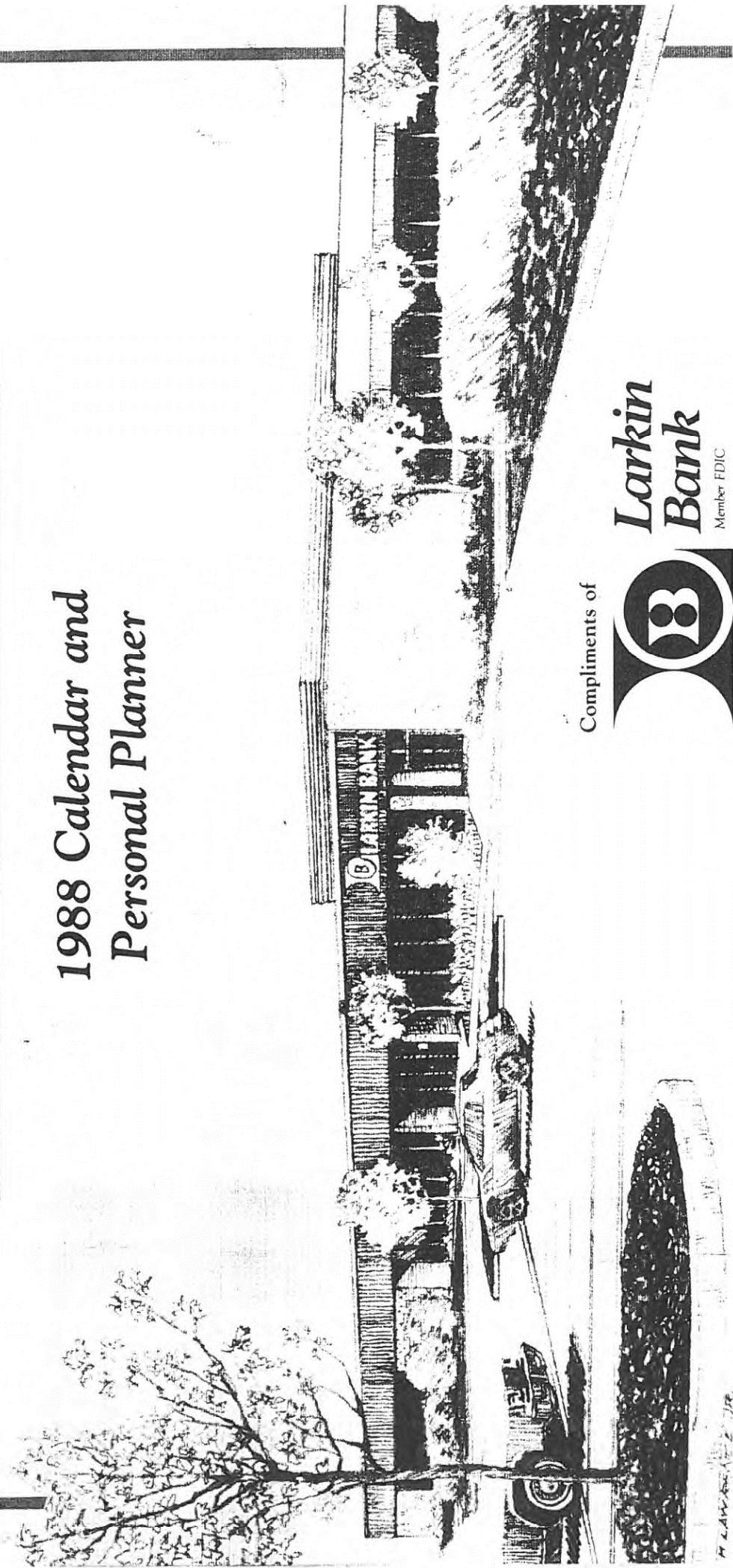
(Above and right) 223 West Main Street, Octagon, 1878. This meticulously painted eight-faceted gem is highlighted by the flutings and bracket crests on the columns. This carefully restored building is listed on the National Register.

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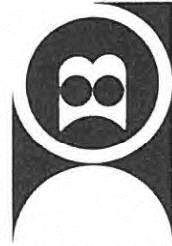
# *“The Historic Elgin Area Series”*

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*1988 Calendar and  
Personal Planner*



Compliments of



*Larkin  
Bank*

Member FDIC



# DAILY COURIER.

5, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1900.

PRICE TWO CENTS. NO. 144

Murphy they erected a two-story frame warehouse, 40x100 feet, on Holly street, costing \$1,500; for J. Seymour, Gifford and Park streets, on addition, \$500; and did general repair work amounting to \$300, built considerable country work.

M. J. Sullivan built for Eugene G. Hammond a very handsome residence on DuPage street, opposite the Everett apartment building, at a cost of \$6,000. The home is handsomely finished in choice hardwoods and is provided with all the modern improvements. For the Elgin Packing company, on Union street, he erected the new building which cost \$2,700; built a frame dwelling on Laurel street for M. O'Brien, costing \$1,300; for G. Barthold, Commonwealth avenue, frame dwelling, \$300, and did general repair work amounting to \$4,700.

Henry Jensen built for C. W. Cornell his handsome new residence on Porter avenue. The building is of the colonial style, of very attractive exterior, and is finished throughout in hard woods. The parlor finish is of mahogany and the balance of the first floor in quarter sawed oak. The second floor is of white oak except the next chamber, which is in white and oak. The interior arrangement is all that could be desired and everything in the way of modern improvements is provided. The cost was \$7,000. For A. Badendick, on Jewett street, an addition, \$450; for Fred Conner, Channing street, addition, \$200; at Lord's ark, building, \$200; for G. P. Lord, improvements on above building, Chicago street, \$1,100; work on academy building, \$1,000; J. E. Farrington, race street, \$900; E. Starr, in Silver lake factory addition, cottage, \$1,000; H. Smith, Raymond street, addition, \$400.

W. E. Buser designed the Brethren publishing house on South State street and superintended its construction. In addition the following buildings. For A. Plate, Commonwealth avenue.

Charles Bauman remodeled a frame house for L. E. Taylor on Douglas avenue for \$2,000; remodeled a barn for Dr. A. L. Clark on Spring street for \$100; repaired a house and barn for H. B. Willis on Prospect street, \$100; remodeled the Charles Bippberger dwelling on Jefferson-avenue, \$1,000; repaired barn for William Belton Hill avenue, \$1,250; erected frame barn for C. H. Geister, North State street, \$400; remodeled a dwelling for Charles Vandriesen on Prospect street, \$300; remodeled the Charles Mohr dwelling on Clark street, \$300. Also general repair work amounting to \$1,200.

Gottlieb Stowe did the mason work on the H. W. Pixley flats on Linden avenue, and Ben & Hubbell the carpenter work. It is a double flat, nicely arranged, and has all modern improvements, making an attractive and comfortable dwelling. The cost was about \$1,000.

William Bluet erected a frame cottage for William Dierchow on Crystal street at a cost of \$1,400, and did general repair work amounting to \$1,700.

Marckhoff Bros. give the cost of the mason work only, done by them on the following buildings: For the Elgin American Gas company \$3,100; the Everett flats, Park Row, \$2,100; Eugene Hammond, DuPage street, \$400; Grace M. E. church, South street, \$400; Frank Haven, \$110; miscellaneous

work, \$1,700. Daniel Beard, field addition, frame dwelling, \$500; W. A. Downer, Hill avenue, residence, \$3,300; S. M. Ebel, Commonwealth avenue, \$1,700.

J. Miller erected for Louis Stettin an attractive frame dwelling on a street, costing \$1,400; for S. ter, Ard, dwelling, \$1,400; for Mrs. Mary Bender, dwelling, Balverne, \$1,000; H. Spangler, Fulton street, addition, \$250; E. Belmer, avenue, addition, \$250. Mr. Condon, Congdon, avenue, barn, \$1,150; L. S. Taylor, Gifford and on Douglas avenue, repairs.

Other work aggregating \$200. In A. Wright built the pretty newly finished residence for Phil Miller, on Park Row, fronting the school park. The building is

and is a fine example of modern architecture.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

John Busch built for J. A. Logan, the city marshal, a handsome eight-room house on Commonwealth avenue. The building has all modern improvements and makes use of the most attractive residences in the city. It is finished in hard wood throughout and has been designed to afford all the conveniences of a model home. The cost was \$4,500.

Mr. Busch also built for G. B. Royer, on West Chicago street, a frame residence costing \$2,300.

One for Conrad Krabbe on Cedar avenue, \$1,200; dwelling for L. Seeger, Healy avenue, \$2,000; house for A. Anderson, on Lombard avenue, \$2,000; for G. Boehm, on Monroe street, dwelling, \$1,500; and one for himself on Shade avenue, \$2,500.

He also built the brick addition and did the remodeling of the entrance to Grace M. E. church, at a cost of \$2,000.

ing, \$3,000; A. N. Downer, Hill street, brick dwelling, \$3,300; park commissioners, frame waiting pavilion and steps, \$900; D. B. Sherwood, South State street, frame dwelling, \$2,400; H. P. Zimmermann, Hill street, frame house, \$2,300; A. Flaher, West Chicago street, barn, \$340; H. Ackemann, Division street, barn, \$275; Elgin, Carpentersville & Aurora railway company, waiting room, South State street, \$180; W. A. Kerber, Rugby place, addition to residence, \$700; J. Amick, Commonwealth avenue, addition, \$450; general repairing, \$2,500; country work, \$8,300.

## MISCELLANEOUS WORK

(In Which Is Included Many Valuable Additions to Elgin.)

R. Crucker built for Mrs. D. J. Bowers on Prospect street, a frame dwelling costing \$1,400, did repair work to the amount of \$200 and considerable outside of the city.

Henry Brammer built for Fred Range, River street, a brick house costing \$2,300, and repair work \$500.

J. H. Baker built for Charles Pierce on Liberty street, a frame house costing \$2,300 and a barn \$250.

Charles Grow built for Thomas Heslin, on Elm street, a two-story residence costing \$2,100.

William Jarrett built for himself a seven-room cottage on Wilcox avenue costing \$1,000.

Oscar E. Lilley & Sons did little work in the city, having been engaged a great part of the season at Carpentersville where they built a large addition to the Star Manufacturing company's plant.

C. C. Spencer did repair work amounting to \$2,000.

August Klitzner built an addition of three rooms to his residence on North Crystal street at a cost of \$500.

T. A. Calver built an addition to G. D. Silliman's residence on Monroe

E. W. and F. Barton did repair work in the city amounting to \$3,000, and also had considerable country work.

Frank Anderson built a frame cottage on Park street for himself, at a cost of \$1,700.

H. E. Corey did remodeling and repair work amounting to \$500.

Stewart Christie erected a dwelling on Commonwealth avenue at a cost of \$1,000.

J. C. Beebe did repair work to the extent of \$6,000.

Daniel Baird, Worth avenue, dwelling, \$1,500.

H. G. Thiel, Orchard street, addition, \$350.

G. E. Linkfield, Commonwealth avenue, barn, \$350.

A. Jochims, Center street, improvements, \$200.

August Anderson, Lorell street, barn, \$250.

Charles Pierre, Liberty street, house and barn, \$2,300.

L. H. Smith, Villa street, alterations, \$400.

Prince Anderson, Hill avenue, barn, \$300.

E. Retan, River street, addition, \$400.

August Hammerster, River street, alterations, \$250.

A. H. Gahan, Creighton avenue, barn, \$250.

Free Methodist society, parsonage, \$1,200.

Fred Sauer, new stone front, Douglas avenue, \$350.

H. F. Van Wambeke, Jefferson avenue, addition, \$250.

M. C. Caldwell, Center street, addition, \$250.

Gus Blomke, Perry street, addition, \$200.

Carl Badke, North Crystal street, alterations, \$200.

William Gruel, River street, addition, \$400.

William Smith, Hill avenue, addition, \$250.

Radolph Rodker, North Porter street, addition, \$300.

J. H. Wehrbach, Eldene avenue, frame dwelling, \$1,300.

R. P. Jackson, Fulton street, alterations, \$500.

Fannie Finley, Vine street, store building, \$600.

Spruill & Morrow, National street, barn, \$300.

Robert Belmer, Grace street, addition, \$300.

M. Getzelman, Highland avenue, improvements, \$600.

C. G. Smith, Oak street, addition, \$100.

B. F. Fitz, Douglas avenue, addition, \$500.

P. C. Brown, Logan avenue, cottage, \$1,000.

H. A. Schuchoven, Douglas avenue, barn, \$500.

Del Burnidge, Wilcox avenue, cottage, \$1,000.

A. A. Sherwin, barn, \$250.

William Nohr, River street, addition, \$400.

Fred Gruner, Center street, barn, \$250.

James Kovacs, Dwight avenue, addition, \$250.

church at a cost of \$65,000; Methodist churches at Harvard, Elgin, and Hinchley, costing \$12,000, \$4,000 and \$4,000, respectively; Baptist churches at Big Rock and Sycamore for \$4,000 and \$1,000. A Presbyterian church at Warren, \$10,000; German Evangelical parsonage at Barrington, \$3,000; a residence at Danville, \$10,000; three more at Sycamore for \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$5,000 respectively; stores at Elgin, \$6,000; two schools at Sycamore, \$19,000; four buildings at McHenry, costing \$4,000, \$4,000, \$2,000 and \$4,000; residence at Kirkland, \$5,000; store at Mankato, Minnesota, \$5,000; and a residence at Sycamore, beside several others in the course of erection.

## W. W. ABELL

Designed the handsome home of Eugene Hammond, on DuPage street, costing \$5,000; Clark H. Eno's new residence on Spring street, built at a cost of \$4,300, and A. C. Hartman's residence on Chicago street, costing \$4,500. Improvements on W. S. Johnson's summer home, \$2,000; Charles Kipler's five islands dwelling, \$2,000; alterations to Grace church \$2,000; remodeling Hubbard block, \$1,000; for Hawthorne Bros., remodeling fourth floor of Spaulding block, \$1,300; R. P. Jackson, improvements, \$500; remodeled two stores for J. W. Bamstead, \$4,000; C. D. Moore, St. Charles, improvements, \$300; Charles Foley's residence, \$1,500; G. E. Farrington, remodeling residence, \$1,300; Plant & Beverly, studios, \$500. He has planned much work for the coming year and has had the contracts for a \$6,000 residence on St. Liberty street, for T. S. Wallin. He has built two houses at Long Island, four at Kahnman, one in Iowa, one at Dundee, three at St. Charles, two at McHenry, four at Opaucerville, forty-two in all, at an aggregate cost of \$125,000.

## B. E. FOSTER

In addition to the Silver Plate factory building, the Everett flats and the C. W. Cornell residence, described elsewhere, Mr. Foster planned the residence for T. A. Munshaw, on Channing street, costing \$250, a handsome residence for Mr. Deuchler, on Prospect street, costing \$3,000, designed and superintended the pavilion and steps at Lord's park entrance and the double house for H. W. Pixley, on Linden avenue, costing \$3,300. He has recently let contracts for a house for C. G. Heine on Hill street which will be an attractive home and will cost about \$2,500.

He remodeled several store fronts for G. P. Lord and superintended the improvements at the academy which cost about \$2,000.

In addition he planned the new Thrifty building erected by the Illinois Iron and Bolt company at Carpentersville.

## W. E. ELLIOTT

Has planned for the Elgin Butter Tub company a fine new building to be erected on North State street this season. It will be 120x100 feet and three stories high. The mill construction and mason work has already been built. The building will be provided with rolling steel doors and elevators, and a skylight nearly the entire length of the upper story. It will be one of the best manufacturing plants in the city and will cost about \$10,000.

## SMITH NOAM

Designed and superintended the construction of Philip S.

# Use Elgin Soap... For Sale by ALL GROCERS

218

## ELGIN CITY DIRECTORY

Lindoefer Ricka Miss, emp R S F, h 181 Addison  
 Lindoo William (Jennie) emp W F, rms 209 National  
 Lindorfer Charles, emp E H T co, h 609 Wellington ave  
 Lindorfer Ernest H, emp W F, bds 609 Wellington ave  
 Lindorfer Henry (Paulina) mason, h 199 Wellington ave  
 Lindquist Augusta Miss, emp W F, rms 466 St Charles  
 Lindsey Mary Mrs, dressmaker, h over 159 Douglas ave  
 Lindsey Raymond, h 159 Douglas ave  
 Lindsey William (Mary) emp C & N W, roundhouse, h over 159 Douglas ave  
 Lindsay Julia Miss, emp D C Cook, rms 214 Chicago  
 Lindstrom Knute, emp I N H I  
 Lindstrom Sidney, emp Chicago, h 619 Little  
 Lingenfelter, see also Lengenfelder  
 Lingenfelter John, motorman, rms 63 Grove ave  
 Link Adolph P (Gertrude) emp W F, h 171 Gifford pl  
 Linkenfelder E, bds Burns hotel  
 Linkfield Alice E Miss, student high school, rms 277 Chicago  
 Linkfield Edith A Miss, student high school, rms 277 Chicago  
 Linkfield George E (Frances R) farmer, h 219 Highland ave  
 Linkfield Ralph (Edith R) fireman, rms 277 Chicago  
 Linkfield William, rms 12 S Chapel  
 Linquist, see also Landquist  
 Linquist Eric, emp Rinchlow, bds 79 Franklin  
 Lisk Grace Miss, emp I W C co, h 551 S Porter  
 Lisk Herbert M, emp Chicago, h 121 Grove ave  
 Lisk Harold S (Mary) horseman, h 121 Grove ave  
 Lisk Sarah E Miss, timekeeper St Charles, h 121 Grove ave  
 Lisk William A, emp Chicago, h 121 Grove ave  
 Litewski Ferdinand (Mary) emp Heidenmann, h 189 Brook  
 Little William H (Martha) thiner Ziegler, h 181 Division  
 Lloyd A Sherwood (Alta M) barber 208 Chicago, h 366 Addison  
 Lloyd Mary Edna Miss, cosmetician, h 296 Mill  
 Lobell Charles H (Katherine) emp machine co, h 105 Crichton ave  
 Locke, see also Lock  
 Locke Fred C (Helen) painter, h 251 Franklin  
 Lockhardt Laura Mrs, emp W F, h 217 National  
 Lockhart Nora Miss, student business college, h 217 National  
 Lockmiller Elizabeth, wid Thomas, h 133 Oak

ALWAYS Fresh and Pure, the fine-  
 est Creamery Butter produced...  
 Manufactured by JOHN NEWMAN CO.

# "Springbrook"

## ELGIN CITY DIRECTORY

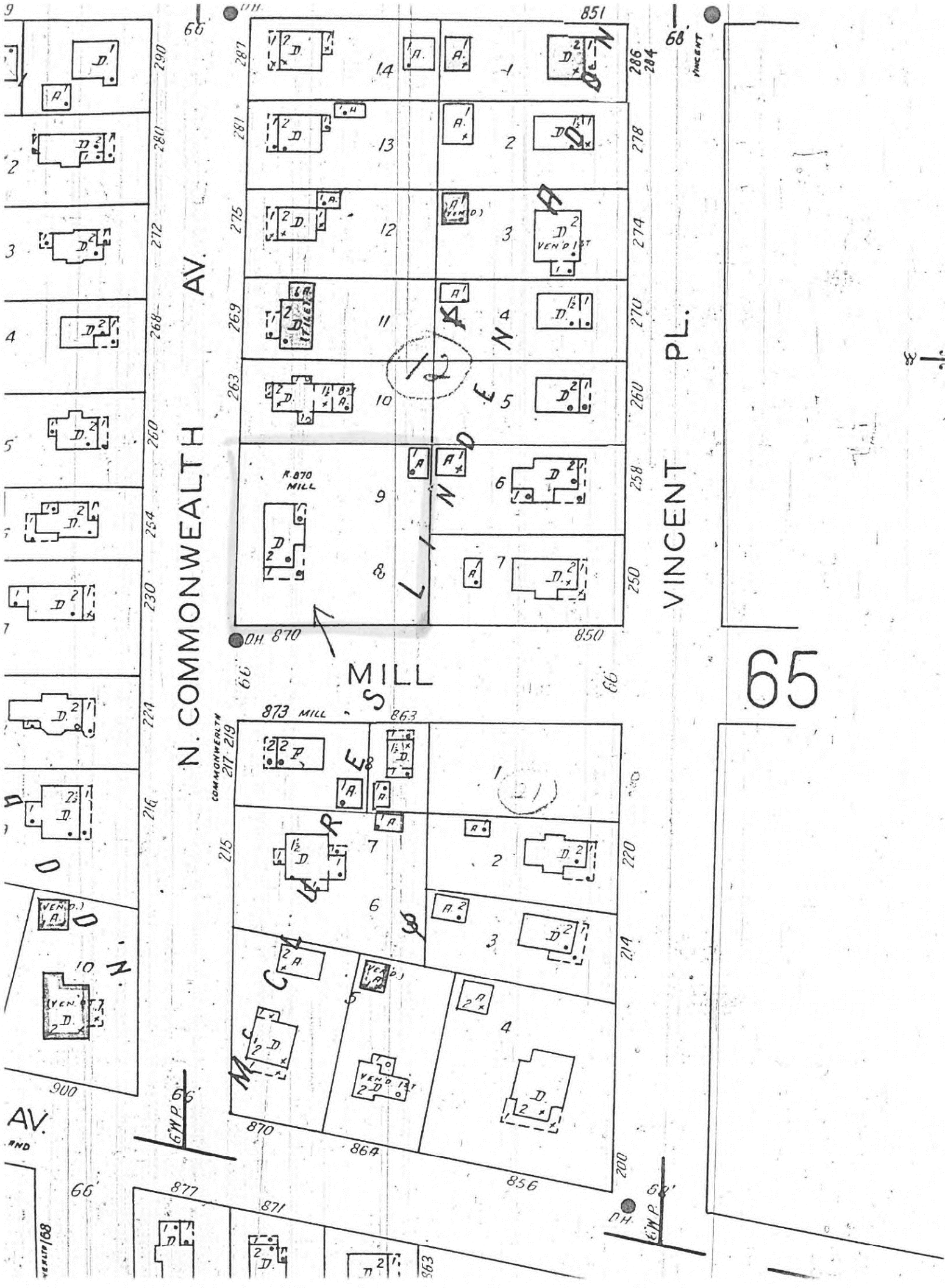
219

Lockmiller Martin J, emp W F, h 133 Oak  
 Locust St School, Locust bet Perry and Elm  
 Loehner Christ (Christiana) emp I W C co, h 113 Porter ave  
 Loehner Will, emp I W C co, h 305 Porter ave  
 Loewy Eugene A (Lauretta) agent J W Sharp, h 359 N Crystal ave, tel 651  
 Long, see also Long  
 Long John A Jr, h 570 Mill  
 Long John T (Margaret) emp W F, h 172 S Chicago  
 Long Julia A Miss, stenographer main office W F, bds 172 N State  
 Long Margaret M Miss, h 570 Mill  
 Long Mary J Miss, h 172 N State  
 Long Thomas, h 172 N State  
 Lombard Elsie G Miss, emp W F, h 61 S Gifford  
 LOMBARD FRANK S, D D S (Edna M) dentist, h 19 S Liberty, tel 216  
 Lombard Harry E (Thelma M) emp W F, h 11 S Liberty  
 Lombard Josephine Mrs, dressmaker, h 61 S Gifford  
 Lombard William E, rms 11 Center  
 Long, see also Long  
 Long Amelia Miss, emp W F, h 212 Center  
 Long Anna Miss, dressmaker, h 108 Pershing  
 Long Aug (Henrietta) emp Wild prove co, h 219 Madison ave  
 Long Bertha Miss, emp C P, h 220 Dundee ave  
 Long Caroline, wid Philip, h 108 Pershing  
 Long Charles, prop Sun Beauty Laundry 17 Chicago, h do  
 Long Ellen Mrs, h 107 Douglas ave  
 Long Fred (Minna) h 220 Dundee ave  
 Long Cook (Emma) emp auto power co, h 17 Walker pl  
 Long Herman F, wagon mfr 111 Division, h 178 do  
 Long John, wagon maker, 215 North, bds cor Bluff City Blvd and Wild track  
 Long John (Henrietta) emp W F, bds 111 Raymond  
 Long John F (Louise) (Long & Golden) h 156 S Chicago  
 Long John Walter, bds cor Bluff City Blvd and I Wright ave  
 Long Katherine A Miss, h 522 Prospect  
 Long Margaretta, wid Peter, h 212 Center  
 Long Marguerite, wid John, h 616 Grace

1900  
 City  
 Directory

First Listing of 270 11







This Indenture Witnesseth, That the Grantors George E. Linkfield and Frances Linkfield his wife,

of the City of Elgin in the County of Deane and State of Illinois  
for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred & fifty (\$750.00) DOLLARS,

in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to John A. Logan

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

Lot No. Eight (8) in Block No. 11 of I. L. M. Co's Sub-  
division of Elgin, as laid out and recorded in the Recorder's  
Office of Deane County, Illinois.

situated in the County of Deane 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 22 day of June A. D., 1893.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of—

George E. Linkfield  
Frances E. Linkfield



STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
Deane County

ss. C. H. Mayne a Notary Public

in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that  
George E. Linkfield and Frances E. Linkfield  
his wife

Notarial Seal

personally knows to me to be the same person<sup>s</sup> whose name<sup>s</sup> 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 true 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 28 day of June A. D. 1893.

C. H. Mayne  
Notary Public

No. 5978 Filed for Record this 8 day of July A. D., 1893, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Joe. Ingham

RECORDER

3176  
This Indenture Witnesseth, That the Grantor Carla L. M<sup>rs</sup> Clure widow

of the City of Elgin in the County of Rock and State of Illinois  
for and in consideration of the sum of Three hundred and eighty  
in hand paid, CONVEYS and WARRANTS to

John V. Hogan  
of the City of Elgin County of Rock and State of Illinois  
the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

Lot 10 in Block 10 of M<sup>rs</sup> Clure's Subdiv. old  
to Elgin, Illinois.

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

Dated this Twenty day of June A. D. 1893.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of  
Carla L. M<sup>rs</sup> Clure

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
County of Rock

Notarial Seal

I, Oscar Jones a Notary Public  
in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that  
Carla L. M<sup>rs</sup> Clure widow who is  
personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared  
me this day in person, and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as his free and  
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 27th day of June A. D.  
Oscar Jones  
Notary Public

day of July A. D. 1893 at 11 o'clock A. M.  
John V. Hogan RECD

This Indenture Witnesseth, That the Grantor, John A. Hogan

of the City of Elgin in the County of Warne and State of Illinois  
for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred (\$500.00) DOLLARS  
in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to

Mary A. Hogan.

his wife

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

Block eight (8) & nine (9) in block four (4) of St. No. 101 Suburban Addition  
Addition to Elgin, Warne County, Illinois as recorded in the Recorder's  
Office in said Warne County.

situated in the City of Elgin in the County of Warne 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 Twenty eighth day of June A. D. 1899

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

Reverend 50

John A. Hogan



STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
County of Warne } ss.

I, Geo. F. Kirby a Notary Public

in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, do HEREBY CERTIFY, that

John A. Hogan who is

personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before  
me this day in person, and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered 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 Notarial seal, this Twenty eighth day of June A. D. 1899

Notarial Seal

Geo. F. Kirby

Notary Public

Noted for Record this 29 day of June A. D. 1899 at 2 o'clock P M.

Frank E. George

RECORDER



**OFFERED FOR SALE**

**870 MILL STREET**



**HOME FOR THE ANTIQUE LOVER**

**HISTORICAL, VINTAGE, VICTORIAN  
BEAUTIFUL RESTORED WOODWORK, PANEL DOORS & TRANSOMS  
BUILT-IN CHINA CABINET AND SOME BEVELED GLASS**

**2500+ SQUARE FEET**

**4 BEDROOMS, 1 1/2 BATHS**

**\$169,500**



**PAT BURNIDGE**

**REALTY EXECUTIVE**



**847-695-9547**

**847-931-PATB**

Subject to errors, omissions, change of price, prior sale, and withdrawal without notice. Dimensions approximate.

LISTING #: 97190664 STATUS: NEW CTGF: AREA: 123 DETACHED SINGLE FAMILY  
LDR: 09/11/97 OMD: MT: 1 OLP: \$ 169,500  
LD: 09/10/97 LD: 09/10/97 LP: \$ 169,500  
CONTRACT DATE: SO: SP: \$  
CLOSED DATE: SAG: FIN:  
AD: 870 MILL STREET UNIT: PNT: \$  
CIT: ELGIN ZIP: 60123-0000 TYP: DE LN: 97190664  
DIR: HIGHLAND TO COMMONWEALTH TO MILL (NORTHEAST CORNER) SUB:  
CRB: ELGIN GNY: KANE TWN: ELGIN CT: 0.00 BLT: 1910 B78:Y  
RMS: .9 BR: 4 BTH: 1.1 MBB: N FP: 1 BMT: Y BB: N PKN: G CARS: 1 WF: N  
DIM: 66X120 TAX: \$3467.51 TXY: 96 SAS: N PIN: 0614152006  
REMARKS: BEAUTIFUL, HISTORICAL 2-STORY WITH FRET-WORK,  
BUILT-IN CHINA CABINET, LOVELY RESTORED WOODWORK, PANEL  
DOORS WITH TRANSOMS, SOME BEVELED GLASS AND WRAP AROUND  
PORCH. OVER 2500 SQ. FEET OF LIVING AREA FOR THE ANTIQUE  
LOVER.

LR: 15X13 1 H N	MB: 17X13 2 H N	GS: GRANT 46	ASM:	COORDINATES
DR: 13X13 1 H N	B2: 13X13 2 H N	JH: KIMBAL 46	FREQ:	N NORTH: 11
KT: 17X14 1 H N	B3: 14X11 2 H N	HS: LARKIN 46		EAST: 0
FR: 17X13 1 H N	B4: 12X10 2 H N	OT:	WI:	SOUTH: 0
POR 28X8 1	N		CI:	WEST: 34
N	N			

AGE 51-100 YRS  
AIR NONE  
AMN  
APP

PRK OWNED  
KIT EA-TABLE  
HEA GAS, HOT WTR/STEAM  
IMP CURBS/GUTTERS, SEWER, SEWER-STORM,  
SIDEWALKS, STREET LTS, STRTS-PAVED,  
WTR-MUNI

ATC PULL/DN STR, UNFNHSD  
BAS FULL-UNFIN  
BAT 1 1/2 BTHS  
DIN SEP  
DRV CONCRETE  
ELE 60 AMP SVC  
EQP  
EXT FR  
FEA PORCH  
FND STONE  
FPL LOC-LIV RM  
GAR 1 CAR  
CC: 3%  
SHO: CLO

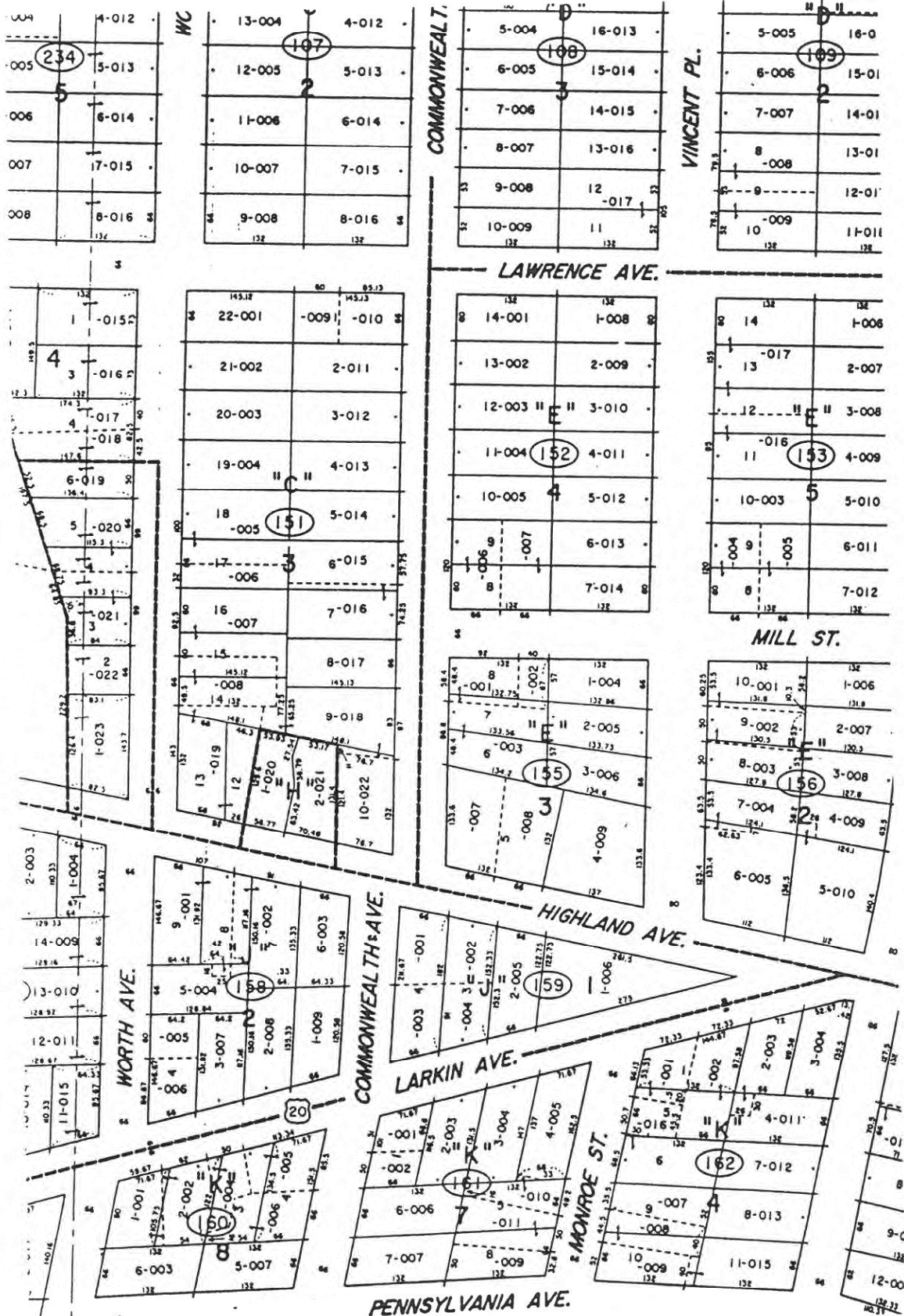
INF SHOW-CLO  
LDS WOODED  
LSZ LT .25 AC  
MAI NONE  
NCO  
OTR FAM ROOM  
POS CLOSING  
ROF ASPHLT/GLS-SHNG  
STY VICTORIAN  
TPE 2 STORY  
TRM CONV  
INTERNET LISTING ALL

SCI: N

OWNER: A.J.B., LLC  
BROKER: REALTY EXECUTIVES ADVANTAGE  
AGENT: PAT BURNIDGE, GRI, CRS GRI CRS  
COLIST:

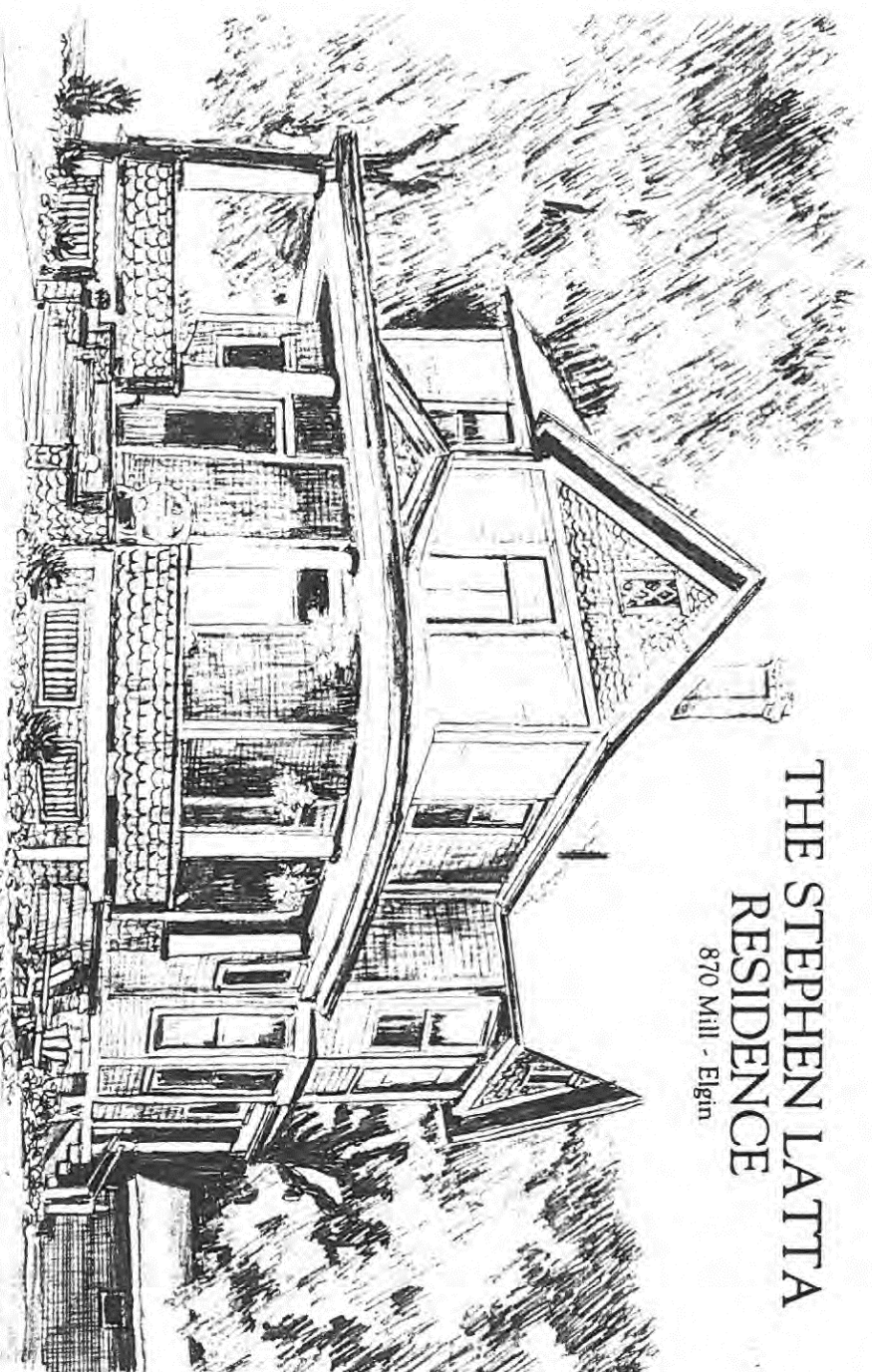
AON: Y PHONE: WITHHELD  
ID#: 7490 PHONE: 847-622-5100  
ID#: 77082 PHONE: 847-695-9547  
AAN: 847-331-PATB

INFORMATION NOT GUARANTEED, CHECK FLOOD INS., RM. SZ. ROUNDED TO NEAREST FOOT





## THE STEPHEN LATTA RESIDENCE 870 Mill - Elgin



This home was chosen for the book, *Daughters of Painted Ladies*, a recent publication featuring colorful Victorian homes selected from 35 states.

The residence was originally owned by John A. Logan, a diverse business man and strong influence in the building of Elgin. Venturing into the real estate business, he formed the Logan & Giertz Construction Co. which built much of Highland Avenue and the Elgin sewage system. Mr. Logan went on to become a Deputy U.S. Marshall for the

N.E. district of Illinois, Police Chief of Elgin, a State Representative, and later organized a wholesale ice cream business. He sold the home in 1902 for \$6,800.00 to Mr. Edward C. Althen whose father, Casper Althen, was owner and proprietor of the Elgin Eagle Brewery.

This turn-of-the-century home can be classified as a Queen Anne structure, with Edwardian features and is generally characterized by simple forms and a wealth of detailing. Typical exterior details include "Adam

festoons" at the gable ends, and Tuscan porch columns, which are straight and smooth without capitals. Upon closer inspection one will find beautiful stained and leaded glass, including a sunburst design in the southeast vestibule doorways. Interior details are abundant, including "gesso" (plaster over oak) crown moldings, interior columns connected by intricate fretwork, a floor to ceiling built-in china cabinet with its own stained glass and quarter sawn red oak trim throughout.

**This Indenture Witnesseth,** That the (Grantor) George C. Smith and James  
W. Smith for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred & fifty (\$750.00)  
in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to

of the City of Chicago in the County of DeKalb and State of Illinois  
the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

Lot 20, (containing 51) and Lot 21, (containing 20) of Block 20, in the  
Fourth Addition to Chicago, and said lots are and were in the  
Office of DeKalb County, Illinois.

situated in the \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_  
waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 1895.

George C. Smith  
James W. Smith  
Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

STATE OF ILLINOIS, DeKalb County  
I, C. H. Meyer a Notary Public  
in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that

personally known to me to be the same person whose name is set out  
me this day in person, and acknowledged that the within and delivered the said instrument as  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 1895.  
C. H. Meyer  
Notary Public

No. 5978 Filed for Record this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 1895.  
RECORDED

I, Deane James a Notary Public  
in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that  
before me, John J. McLean personally appeared John J. McLean who is

situated in the City of Springfield County of Franklin  
waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.  
in the State of Illinois, hereby rele-

This document is to be used for the purpose of recording the following described Real Estate, to-wit:  
 of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ and State of \_\_\_\_\_  
 John D. Morgan  
 to and in consideration of the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars  
 to have paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to \_\_\_\_\_  
 of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ and State of \_\_\_\_\_  
 John D. Morgan  
 to have paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to \_\_\_\_\_  
 of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ and State of \_\_\_\_\_  
 John D. Morgan



A. D. 1898, at 2 o'clock.

STATE OF ILLINOIS. } ss. } County of Kane,  
I, John A. Forsgren, a Notary Public, in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, do HEREBY CERTIFY, that  
John A. Forsgren, whose name  
personality known to me to be the same person  
he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as  
act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.  
Given under my hand and Notary seal, this, Twenty eighth day of June, A.D. 1899



waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

situated in the County of Rock in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and

Dated this fourth day of June A. D. 1897.

John A. Tooman

Homestead, 50.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

**This Indenture Witnesseth,** That the Grantor, John A. Morgan  
of the City of Elgin in the County of Elgin  
for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred (\$500)  
DOLLARS  
in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to  
Mary A. Morgan  
his wife  
County of Elgin  
and State of Illinois  
of the City of Elgin  
lots with (8) 1/2 acres (9) in block four (4) of 1/4 to 7th blocks  
in addition to Elgin. Illinois are recorded in the Recorder's  
Office in said Elgin County.

# Life Style/Home

Thursday, October 22, 1987 9

## A Painted Lady (the genteel kind)



# One of Elgin's gracious Victorians in spotlight

By Mary Buchwald  
Painted Ladies can be found across the United States. Unlike the painted ladies of dancehall lore, these "ladies"—old Victorian homes—are introduced with pride.

In Elgin, a painted lady rests comfortably in the quiet neighborhood at the corner of Commonwealth and Mill streets.

She is a Colonial Revival/Queen Anne home built about 1900. The house stands proudly, a representative of Victorian homes that have been restored lovingly.

Modest in comparison to some of the more stately Victorians in Elgin, this house nevertheless is unique. It was chosen by authors Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen to be photographed and noted in their book, "Daughters of Painted Ladies," published by E.P. Dutton, New York.

The book is a sequel to their book, "Painted Ladies."

Where "Painted Ladies" immortalizes San Francisco's Victorian homes, "Daughters" is representative of Victorian homes across the country.

Stephen and Robin Latta, both 36, are renovating their Elgin home, which is among those pictured in "Daughters."

**THE EXTERIOR OF the home has been** painted in authentic colors of the era—forest green, deep rose, mauve and cream. Taking on paler shades of the same tones, the colors cross the threshold to enhance the interior as well.

Restoration is a task that the Lattas have chosen to do painstakingly, authentically and over a period of years. They had previously owned and renovated a Victorian home in Keyport, N.J.

The family came to Elgin in August 1983 from New Jersey, when Steve, a senior chemist for the H.B. Fuller Co., was transferred to the firm's Palatine office. The family originally is from Arlington Heights.

After having lived in an 1875 Victorian house in New Jersey, the Lattas felt they would be uncomfortable living in a modern new house here. With only one week to house-hunt, they set out to buy a Victorian house.

Unfortunately, they couldn't find one that met their requirements. A frustrated couple returned to New Jersey with no house in mind to buy. Robin's mother took over the house-hunting,

and was the one who found the Mill Street house. "She didn't want us to buy it, but she called and said she thought she found a house for us," Robin said. The Lattas went to see it, liked the house and bought it.

That Robin's mother had reservations is understandable. The 10-room home had fallen into a state of disrepair, inside and out. Pillars swung freely in the wind, and portions of the siding were rotting. Paint was peeling, plaster cracked and broken, moldings missing and falling away, to name just a few of the problems.

**THE CROWN MOLDING was gesso over** wood—a mixture of plaster and glue—in an ornate design. That had crumbled and had to be carefully replicated.

When the Lattas began the renovation, they removed old plaster down to the lath in some rooms. Even now, the kitchen of the home—while neat and orderly—has exposed lath for walls.

Despite it, there is an air of elegance about the home, a reflection of the Lattas' lifestyle. A tablecloth graces the kitchen table, despite the exposed wall lath. Curtains hang across sparkling windows. Robin graciously offers coffee or tea, and serves it from a silver service. The teapot is fine china. A basket with freshly baked muffins is offered to a guest.

"I feel there has to be an air that you keep about your home. To me, a house isn't just a place to live. It is a haven for your family ... a refuge from whatever happens outside your house," Robin said.

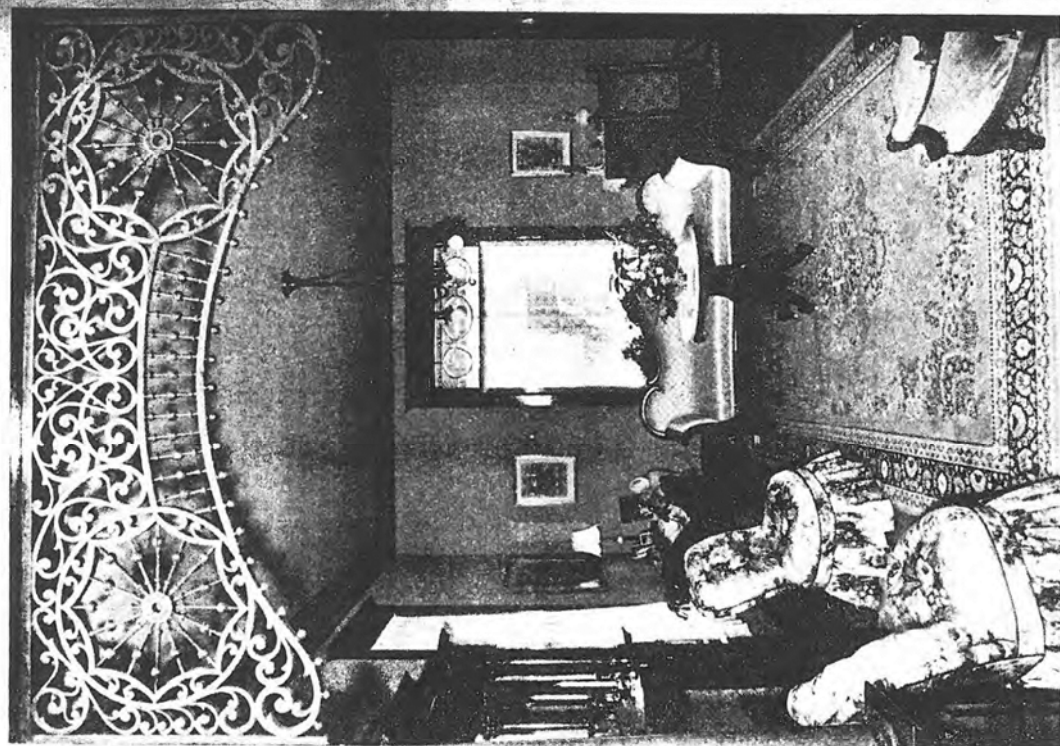
"There are beautiful things. We like good books. We like fine classical music, paintings, things like that. We want to pass it on to our children; we want to pass along our love for things that are fine. The house is a beautiful thing that deserves to be restored."

"We felt the house needed someone to love it and bring it back to its former glory, which is what we are trying to do," she added.

**ROBIN WAS GREATLY influenced in** appreciating Victorian homes by her parents. They held a reverence for the past. She recalls her mother's love of antiques (her parents are members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation).

At times, the Lattas have regretted their

• Turn to page 10



Much of the charm of Victorian homes is found in details, such as the fretwork at Steven and Robin Latta.



## Victorians

From page 9

decision to buy a house that needed so much work. But these moments are fleeting. The house means more to them than just a place to live.

"(It's) a sense of history, a sense of time continual," said Steve.

"... A sense of identifying with the past and reworking it for the future; to realizing there was beauty and values associated with these homes. They are part of our history," echoed Robin.

The Lattas plan to remain in Elgin and raise their children in the house they love.

It will take years to complete the renovation. It has been difficult at times to live with the mess. The Lattas' children, Steven, 13, and Elizabeth, 10, were often embarrassed by the process. Robin's difficult pregnancy with the Lattas' third child, Teddy, 2, held up the work for almost a year.

No matter how much one loves old Victorian homes, the Lattas don't recommend others take on such a task without true dedication to the job.

But the rewards do come eventually, they assure, and in many different ways.

"WE FEEL IT IS important to continue this on. Not everyone wants to do this, or should do it. But, if you have this kind of love, I think this is what you can do with it," Robin said.

While they stay as authentic as possible, Stephen recognizes the need to adapt the house to 1980s living. He is in the process of adding a shower to the downstairs bathroom, and modern appliances are planned for the kitchen. But antique cupboards will be used instead of new cabinets.

Living in a home during renovation is never easy, but the Lattas credit themselves with being a good team. The share the tasks. "We work well together. I do the plastering, and she mixes my plaster," Steve said. Steve doesn't



Courtesy-News Photo by Marcia Rubin

A focal point in the living room, the fireplace, has been restored. Floral chairs complement the wood and ceramic fireplace.

have any qualms about doing chores normally delegated as women's work.

Restoring the home has been, and continues to be, expensive. The Lattas have spent about \$15,000 on the exterior alone. That doesn't include any landscaping. It cost \$9,000 just to paint the house. It had to be chemically peeled and scrapped before it could be painted.

"We feel what we are doing here in Elgin, is what is Elgin's future. What attracted us to Elgin was the neighborhood. The people are warm and friendly, and they are supportive of what we are doing," she added.

The Lattas have observed that as they worked on their home—a former neighborhood eyesore—their neighbors were encouraged to do the same. "It spurs us on," she said.

## 'Painted Ladies' authors to give lecture in Elgin

Burnidge, Cassell, the authors were encouraged to come to Elgin to view the town's many lovely Victorian homes. Hanlon had responded to an ad placed by the authors in the Old House Journal. They were requesting information on Victorian homes for a tour they were planning in search of homes for their upcoming book.

Hanlon, who has a Victorian home, called Larson. Larson and Pomada came to Elgin and toured with Hanlon and Charles Burnidge, president of Burnidge, Cassell.

"Daughters of Painted Ladies" contains 172 color photos of the painted ladies, including the Mill Street house.

There is no need to attend the lecture.

Michael Larson and Elizabeth Pomada, co-authors of two books on Victorian homes, will lecture on that topic at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the Sears Gallery, Elgin Academy, 350 Park St., Elgin.

The event is sponsored by the architectural firm of Burnidge, Cassell and Associates, Elgin; the Gilford Park Association; and the Elgin Heritage Commission.

Larson and Pomada are the authors of "Painted Ladies: San Francisco's Resplendent Victorians," and a sequel, "Daughters of Painted Ladies: America's Resplendent Victorians."

## New help for Victorian buffs

My wife and I have painstakingly restored the basic structure of our old Victorian and now we are ready for the inside. Neither one of us likes the dark, cluttered interiors typical of that period, but we would like our decor to reflect a Victorian mood at least. How could we accomplish this?

—R.F.

I would first isolate these elements of Victorian interiors that do appeal to you and build on them. Don't make the mistake of adding something you find ugly simply because it is authentic. It's 1987, and you have to live here, after all.

Clutter is always within your control. Just use less of the Victorian that appeals to you. This way, favorite pieces get the attention they deserve, and you avoid claustrophobia.

Dark woods are typically Victorian, but you might use them against light backgrounds or emphasize upholstered pieces that are covered in light fabrics. Fortunately, new interest in Victorian furniture has encouraged manufacturers to offer more in these designs.

Fabric treatments should be full, but they needn't be heavy. Try cottons or other lightweight fabrics in Victorian-style patterns such as florals, but with light, more contemporary color schemes. Use the same tactic with wallcoverings.

Art and accessories of the period will contribute significantly toward establishing the ambience you want. And, should your restraint leave large empty places, try using the palms and ferns the Victorians so loved to soften the hard edges of the furnishings and establish a connection with the outside.

I am interested in using sheets in lieu of more expensive fabric for my decorating. Do you have any good tips or ideas?

—C.W.

If you need lightweight material, sheets can be a real fabric bargain. They have the added advantage of providing wide lengths with no seams, particularly useful in making floor-length tablecloths and drapes.

There are countless ways to use sheets. Keep an eye out for articles in home magazines where specific ideas abound. Of course,

## Decor Score

Sharon Owen Haven

sheets also can be substituted for lightweight cotton yardage for errors, replacement or new ideas. You don't want to be caught napping without a sheet.

For some great ideas and detailed how-to instructions, you might write for a new publication from Fieldcrest Mills. Titled "Fieldcrest's Profilled Design

Decorating," this illustrated booklet is available for \$1.50 from Fieldcrest Mills Inc., 60 W. 46th St., New York, NY 10018.

Just keep in mind that sheet patterns change with the rapidity of clothes fashions, so buy extra for errors, replacement or new ideas. You don't want to be caught napping without a sheet.

Send questions to Decor Score, Copley News Service, P.O. Box 191, San Diego, CA 92112-0191.

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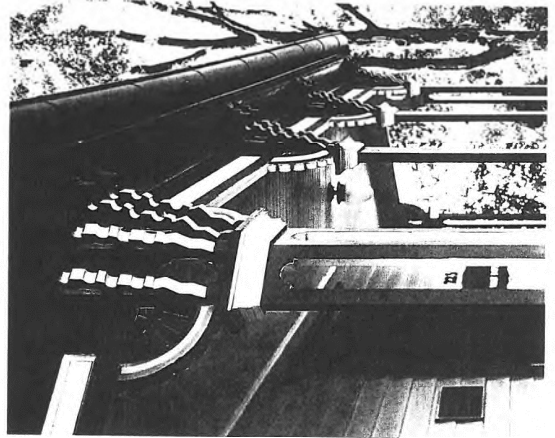
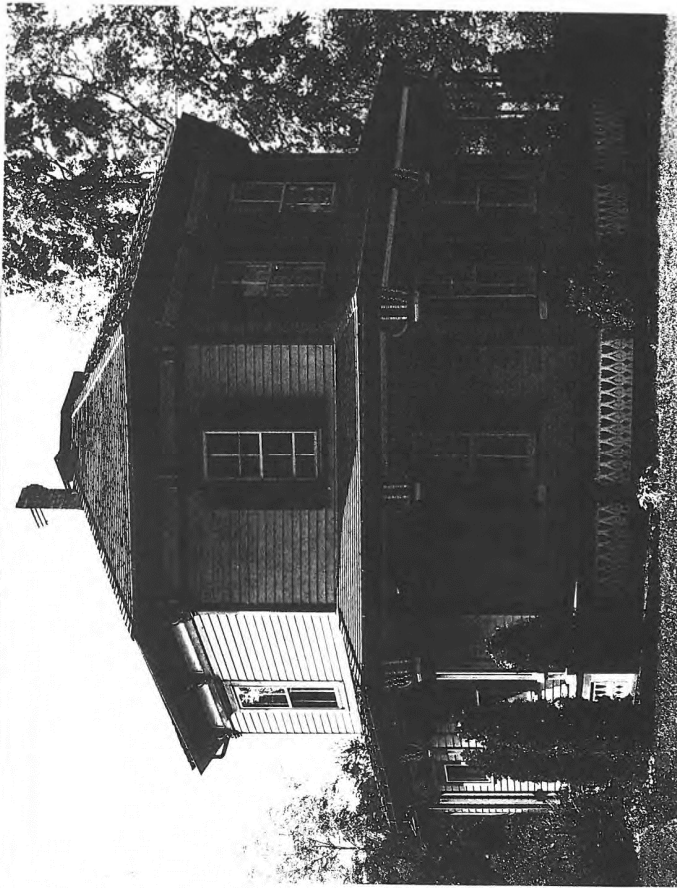
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ELGIN  
(Opposite, above) 870 Mill Street. Colonial Revival/Queen Anne, 1900. Maurey Garvey even painted the fireplug in front to match this corner house. The cream trim is like thread tying together the burgundy and dark green sections of this simple, comfortable home.

Elgin, an agricultural center, once set the nationwide price of butter. Today it is a thriving, self-reliant town concerned about preservation.

ROCKFORD  
(Opposite, below) 803 North Church Street. Italianate, 1870s. Gold, orange, brick red, and brown highlight the cornice brackets and dentils in this handsome renovated office building.

Rockford is the home of the celebrated Tinker Cottage, a Swiss chalet that is filled with Victorian treasures and preserved exactly as it was, complete with greenhouse, when businessman and inventor Robert Tinker lived there.

BARRINGTON  
(Above and right) 223 West Main Street. Octagon, 1878. This meticulously painted eight-faceted gem is highlighted by the flutings and bracket crests on the columns. This carefully restored building is listed on the National Register.