



16 NORTH LIBERTY STREET

The residence at 16 North Liberty Street was built in 1891 by local contractor John A. Wright for Joseph and Anna Child at a cost of \$3,000. This house is listed as a significant structure in the National Register Nomination for the Elgin Historic District. Exterior architectural features include the following:

- siding-The siding varies from clapboard on the first floor, to rectangular shingles on the second floor, to decorative shaped shingles in the gables.
- porch-The turned spindles along the top of the porch reflect Eastlake detailing.
- sunburst motif-Sunbursts were design elements associated with the Eastlake architectural style. Note the sunburst design over the second story Palladian window as well as below the north side windows and incorporated onto the monumental brackets, also on the north side of the house.
- windows-The windows on this house vary from simple double-hung to Palladian.
- The southeast corner cutback gives prominence to the second story of this house.
- Note the chiseled detailing along the decorative fascia board.

This house is not a pure architectural style but rather it takes elements from a number of styles and blends them harmoniously resulting in a unique two story frame residence.

The interior of the Child residence contains features common to its era of construction. All the hardware throughout the house is all original. Upon entering the

vestibule note the swinging etched glass doors separating the vestibule from the hall. In the front parlor note the ornate carved fireplace with glazed tile. A single piece pocket door separates the front parlor from the dining room. A similar pocket door separates the dining room from the hall. Note the fretwork across the pocket doors. The majority of the woodwork in this house is pine.

Original to the house, and best seen from the dining room are the three narrow stained glass windows in the hall stairway. Note also the carved oak newel post of the staircase. At the top of the stairs is a small paned glass window. Its unusual placement can be resolved when viewing the exterior of the house, for it clearly is part of the building's symmetry. Note the glass transoms above the doorways. Entering the master bedroom note the parquet banding around the floor. Clearly constructed for area rugs, the remainder of the floor is plain wide boards. The coal burning bedroom fireplace is noteworthy for its male/female tile figures. Also, on the second floor is a bath and three more bedrooms. Two of the bedrooms have maple wood floors while the third, like the hall, has an oak floor.

At the bottom of the back stairs is an etched window similar to the etched glass in the front vestibule. Finally, the kitchen, remodeled by the current owners, can best be appreciated by stepping out onto the back porch and viewing the "before" pictures.

ALONG THE WAY

The Richardson residence at 600 E. Chicago (corner of Liberty and Chicago) has undergone exterior renovation. The new Victorian Period colors are Deep Green and Con-Rose. This home was on the Elgin Historic House Tour last year.

3 NORTH LIBERTY

A cornice with prominent brackets and a paneled frieze tops this two-story double residence designed by Turnbull & Postle and erected in 1892. Stone trim is more abundant than usually found on Elgin flats, and the original cresting remains above the oriel on the south side. A neighborhood grocery occupied the store on Chicago Street for many years.