



## 21 NORTH PORTER STREET

Almina "Mina" Tuck was the daughter of Lysander and Almina Perry, farmers from New Hampshire who arrived in Dundee in February of 1855 when Mina was 10 years old. In November of 1865, Mina married George Tuck, the son of English-born farmers. The Reuben Tuck family left farming and settled in Elgin in 1864. The Tuck family home was built by David Bangs at what was then 168 Division Street. When Reuben Tuck divided the land into lots, he opened a street and named it Tennyson Court, which is the narrowest street in Elgin, and this changed his address to 118 Tennyson Court. George and his father operated a family business, R. Tuck & Son, dealing in coal and wood. George died in 1883.

In April of 1888, Mina purchased a lot from Grote & Waldron for \$1,000 and commissioned Gilbert Turnbull to build a frame house for \$1,882, per building permit records. Mina lived in the house with her daughter Myrtle and Myrtle's husband, Melvin Walker. When Mina died on July 20, 1911, daughters Myrtle and Bertha Baumann inherited the home and lot then valued at \$7,000. In 1913 Bertha gave the warranty deed to her sister who sold it to the William C. Martin family, who had possession of the property until 1954. The Gifford Park Association took possession in 1987!

Considerable remodeling has taken place over the years, including a conversion to a two unit, and the architectural elements were not apparent. However, recent removal of the aluminum siding revealed clapboard in excellent condition, an arched side window, and evidence that dentils once ornamented the underhang of the dormer. The main facade contains a variety of surfaces including four types of shingles. Demolition of the rear addition further revealed the long-hidden Victorian character of the house, as will upcoming porch restorations and multi-colored paint scheme. The house is, of course, being returned to a single-family home.

### ALONG THE WAY

33 North Porter is an excellent example of Shingle Style and was built for Frank B. Cornell in 1892. It was designed by W. W. Abell and the contractor was Henry Jensen.

34 North Porter is a beautiful neo-colonial home built in 1899 for Charles Cornell, Frank's brother. It was designed by David Postle and cost \$7,000. The Cornell's were in the creamery business.

24 North Porter was the home of William Hoar in the late 1890's. He was a bookkeeper at the First National Bank. It was built in 1890 by Martin Bullard for \$2,200.

The next home tour is 116 North Porter.