



303 RIVER BLUFF



Phillip M. Sharples was joined by David T. and Robert P. in operating the Sharples Improved Cream Separator Company. In 1892 they purchased the R.P. Jackman & Son foundry and, in 1897 incorporated as the Elgin Manufacturing Company, manufacturing churns, milk testers, separators and other equipment. Lewis Baker of their firm invented a can filling machine for condensed milk, a useful product in 1890's Elgin.

Originally known as 303 Alexander Avenue, this area was purchased and subdivided by the real estate firm of "Grote & Church" in 1887. This home was built in 1892 for David Sharples by W. Wright Abell. Located high on the Fox River Bluff, we are reminded that Elgin used to be referred to as the Bluff City.

This massive Shingle Style house is characterized by its totally shingled facade. The dominating tower is tapered with a variety of window expressions. Note the applied moulding trim and the decorative round window at the second floor and the smaller Queen Anne windows on the top floor. The conical roof form is separated from the wall below by a projecting cornice having dentils. It is capped by a simple finial. The main room is an over-powering asymmetrical gable form extending to the west as a porte cochere. When viewing the stained glass windows notice the tapering of the window trim.