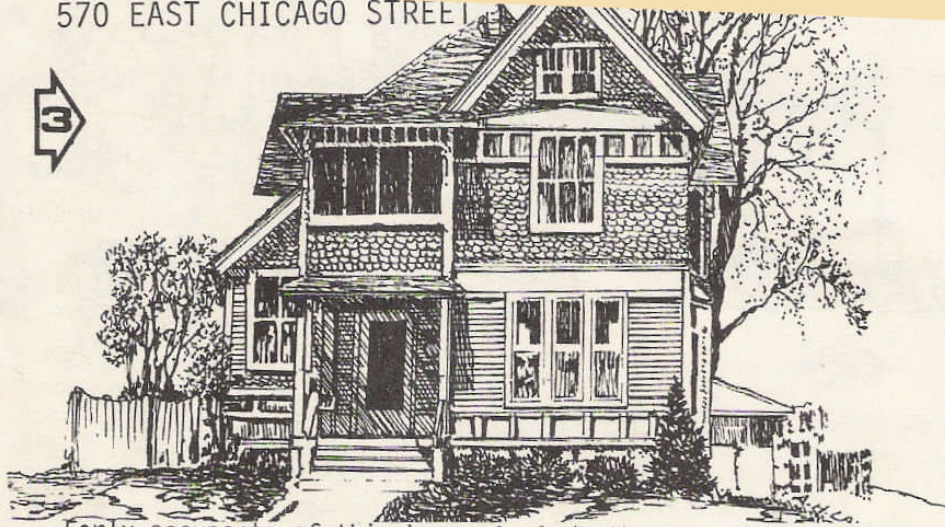


570 EAST CHICAGO STREET



Early occupants of this house include the Rev. Walter and Harriet Walker of the First Baptist Church, and Harry and Ida Barnes, secretary and manager of the Elgin Packing Company. Barnes ran for mayor in 1915 as the "dry" candidate and narrowly lost to the "wet" candidate.

In 1905 William and Emma Gabriel and their three daughters took possession. Gabriel was a draftsman and chief designer for the Watch Factory and came to Illinois from Connecticut. He was a designer for the Illinois Watch Company in Springfield, Illinois before joining the Watch Factory in Elgin in the late 1880's. He held the chief designer position for over forty years. Gabriel was considered to be a mechanical genius and invented automatic machines to be used in the watchmaking industry that were viewed as a threat to their livelihood by employees and as a boon to profits by management. The north bedroom upstairs was used by Gabriel as his home office and he had a skylight installed to aid his work. This room is also used as an office by the current owners. Though the skylight is gone, to this day this is the only room in the house which does not have an overhead light fixture. The massive oak desk in this room requires the strength of four men to move it and was used by Dr. Eichler of Dundee during the many years of his practice.

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While this house is large, it is finely detailed and is a very good example of Stick Style Victorian architecture in 1891. Varied roof forms play against the sky and the facade treatment represents the essence of Stick Style. Note, however, the original Eastlake columns on the second floor sleeping porch.

All in all, this home remains as it was 95 years ago---a very comfortable and attractive family home.