



900 DOUGLAS AVENUE

In 1903 the Seybold-Reed-Pipe Organ Co. moved to Elgin, offering parlor, chapel and cathedral organs for sale. Officers and directors included William Grote, Alfred W. Church (A. B.'s son), and John A. Waterman. The firm prospered until it merged with a player piano firm in 1913. When the phonograph became popular, the public lost interest in player pianos and the company filed for bankruptcy in 1915. However, the plant was acquired by another piano company, the E. P. Johnson Piano Company of Ottawa, who continued to make pianos in Elgin under the names "Seybold," "P.C.Weaver" and "E. P. Johnson."

In about 1910 John A. and Cora Waterman moved from their home at 800 North Spring to this impressive Prairie Style home designed for them by Postle & Mahler. The strong horizontal influence is emphasized in the broad expansive porch overhang and overhanging eave at the roof line; the banding together of three windows on the second floor, and the stone belt below the second floor windows. The ornamental urns on the porch are typical of Prairie style. Note the classical detailing in the coffered soffit and ball shaped ornamentation on both the porch and main roof; the medallion and classical bracelets in the dormer, and the pilasters separating the main door and sidelights. This house features spectacular stained glass windows, particularly the sidelights, second floor windows, and large two-storey window on the north facade.