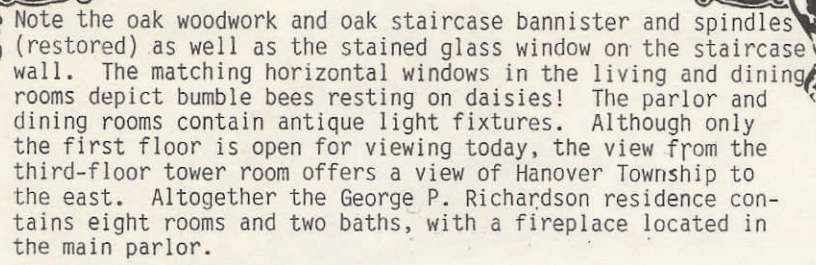


## 600 EAST CHICAGO STREET

Vermont native George B. Richardson moved to Elgin in 1889 to take the position of General Superintendent of the David C. Cook Publishing Co., which had moved to Elgin in 1882. He apprenticed in the printer's trade in Peru, Illinois and eventually became part owner of the Woodstock Sentinel Newspaper and owner of the Clinton Public Newspaper. He was also a publishing manager in Boston, New York and Chicago. In 1900 he purchased Elgin's first privately owned automobile - a Waverly Electric.

In 1892, Richardson commissioned a local architectural firm - Turnbull & Postle - to build his new home at 600 East Chicago. The cost was \$6,500. Designed in the Queen Anne style, this house has varied roof forms, different types of siding material which are emphasized by the imaginative color scheme, and a prominent tower. The peak on the tower was called a witch's cap. The stone balustrade which surrounds the front porch is of rose granite accented with rose grouting. The current owners have restored the original colors to the exterior, though in deeper shades. While scraping the house prior to painting, they discovered the original colors of dark green and beige, and today you see our painted lady decked out in deep green and deep rose, with accents of peanut and wine.

As you enter the house note the glass in the entry door in the shape of a spider's web. The rose carpeting brings in the exterior colors. The interior has been nicely renovated.



Note the oak woodwork and oak staircase bannister and spindles (restored) as well as the stained glass window on the staircase wall. The matching horizontal windows in the living and dining rooms depict bumble bees resting on daisies! The parlor and dining rooms contain antique light fixtures. Although only the first floor is open for viewing today, the view from the third-floor tower room offers a view of Hanover Township to the east. Altogether the George P. Richardson residence contains eight rooms and two baths, with a fireplace located in the main parlor.