



### 18 WARWICK

#### HISTORY

After arriving in Elgin from Denmark in the spring of 1871, Henry Jensen, a carpenter, became a successful contractor. Among the many homes he built were 600 Margaret Place, on this year's tour, 116 N. Porter, on last year's, and 33 N. Porter, the Shingle-styled house designed by architect W.W. Abell. In 1887, Jensen began building 18 Warwick for his family; in 1888, it was finished, and they moved in.

After a series of owners—one of whom had converted the single-family home into a 2-flat, another of whom had sandblasted the exterior and failed to properly restrain it—18 Warwick was passed to kinder hands. Alerted by one son-in-law that the property was for sale, in 1976, a Chicago couple bought it. Another son-in-law and daughter moved in.

Almost immediately, the men went to work to repair the damage that sandblasting had done to some of the trim and to complete the painting that had been begun. When they were finished, startlingly revealed was the detailing of the previously all-white house. Thus even though the colors were but 2, it stood out as a neighborhood jewel. Last year, however, in anticipation of its one-hundredth birthday, the men rolled up sleeves again and with colors of cream, burnt red and 2 shades of willow green, transformed 18 Warwick into a "painted lady" most proper.

This spring, as he'd long intended, the owner retired and with his wife, moved to Elgin and into the first flat of the house. Moving out, however, is their daughter and her husband, for with the addition of children, they have outgrown the flat that for eleven years has been their home.

#### EXTERIOR

Style Built 100 years ago, 18 Warwick is a High Victorian expression of Stick/Eastlake architecture. (See Glossary)

Irregularity is created by the following features:

- 1) the curving porch on the entrance to the right;
- 2) the asymmetrical entries to the house;
- 3) the 6-sided, 2-story tower to the left;
- 4) the multiplicity of roofs, including a) the pagoda-styled roof over one entrance, b) the witch's cap or candle-snuffer top of the tower and c) the small roof over the half-circle window at the very top/center of the house.

Detailing that can only be called extravagant is center stage when a multi-colored paint scheme is used on a High Victorian Stick/Eastlake house. Adding to the total effect of the detailing of 18 Warwick are the following:

- 1) the cream-colored, rectangular, slightly projecting columns, called pilasters, along the sides of the windows in the tower;
- 2) the use of vertical siding in the second story of the tower;
- 3) the tooth-like blocks called dentils at the roofline of the tower;
- 4) the stylized sunbursts popularized by Eastlake that appear in red above the second-story windows of the tower;
- 5) trim applied over trim, especially noticeable below the windows of the second story of the tower, where added to added boards painted cream are stylized griffins in red;
- 6) the overlaid, square lattice work in cream with red bulls' eyes inbetween that appear above the entrances to the house;
- 7) the bargeboards—decorative boards running along the gable—with stylized flowers inset in red;
- 8) Eastlake-inspired panels of stylized flowers between the brackets beneath the front bay;
- 9) the framing added to the first-floor windows on the south side of the house, framing that suggests a stylized flower;
- 10) a variety of shingle cuts—diamond in one side gable, undulating in another;
- 11) the festooning applied to the pediment atop the back porch;
- 12) the Eastlake-inspired spindlework and red-painted griffin on the back porch.

#### Other Exterior Features

The clapboard siding is of ponderosa pine.

Machine-turned balusters support the railing on the curved porch.

The second-story porch that extends beyond the house in the rear is a later addition.

#### INTERIOR

Woodwork Throughout the house, the woodwork is pine, stained redwood.

More elaborately capped than many are the mop boards running along the bottoms of the walls to serve as protection for the walls.

Wood Detailing That Henry Jensen was also a woodcarver par excellence there is no doubt, for it was he who did the detailing in the woodwork throughout the house. Perhaps the most stunning feature of the interior, it is everywhere, always in the stylized manner dictated by Charles Eastlake.

Into the corner blocks of each door and window, for example, is carved a flower, below which are leaves so highly abstracted that to many, they may appear to be only designs.

On window and door casings are incised flowers, tulips perhaps.

Even the top panel of the front bay has a floral design incised in the center.

Across the molding topping the wainscot in the dining room runs another incised design.

Also part of Jensen's artistry is the detailing in the modified rail of the front stairway.

Fireplace The oak mantle was also carved by Jensen.

Framing the firebox, in which coke was originally burned, are burgandy ceramic tiles. At opposite corners are tiles featuring busts of a man and woman done in a Grecian/Roman manner.

Floors In both parlors, bird's eye maple is edged with a light oak band and chain-link walnut parquet. The chain links reappear in a stylized "burst" in the center of both floors.

Doors Between the 2 parlors and a parlor/bedroom are 8-foot high double doors with inset panels.

On the brass knobs throughout the first floor are butterflies, stylized in the Eastlake tradition.

Glass Framing the front bay is multi-colored, leaded, stained glass inset with jewels, or little circles, and occasional squares of clear, beveled glass. The design in the center piece, a stylized basket of fruit, promises a good life to any who live in the house.

In the door leading from the parlor to a side porch are vertical panes of ribbed glass, above which are 2 squares of plain. Whether or not this glass is original to the house has yet to be determined.

Two leaded, stained glass windows, each featuring a stylized tulip, are found in the small bedroom of the first floor. (These are the windows that are so elaborately framed on the south exterior wall of the house.)

Light Fixtures on the first floor, though antique, are not original to the house.

Transoms above the bedroom doors on the second floor are still operative.

First Floor Plan Before the house was converted to a 2-flat, the main entrance was through the doorway at the end of the pagoda-roofed porch. Once inside, one turned left and through a now-walled-off doorway entered the first floor proper.

The wall between dining room and parlor was recently opened to provide a passage way between these 2 rooms.

The original use of the 2 rooms now serving as bedrooms is uncertain.

Second Floor Plan Upstairs originally were 4 bedrooms and a bath.

Thought to be an addition to the second story is the room at the back which runs the width of the house.

#### CARRIAGE HOUSE

Research to date is supportive of an often-repeated story about the carriage house on this property. Once at the corner of DuPage and Villa stood the beautiful home of one of Elgin's most prominent surgeons, Dr. D.E. Burlingame. In the early 1920s, after the death of his widow Sarah, the home was occupied in rapid succession by one family and then another, the latter of which sold it to The Benevolent Order of Elks.

Though the Elks razed the house to erect their lodge, supposedly saved and moved to 18 Warwick was the carriage house on the property. At present, research is being done to determine who lived at 18 Warwick at the time. If it turns out to be a member of the Elks, another piece of the puzzle may have been found.