

352 North Street

This was the home of David Barclay, Jr., a photo engraver, and son of David F. Barclay Sr., who was a prominent Elgin citizen. Barclay Sr.'s home was at Dundee & Park Streets in what is now the Wait Ross Allanson Funeral Parlor. A pioneer in the dairy business, he manufactured the cans in which the first shipment of milk was made to Chicago, was one of the founders of the Elgin Board of Trade, and president of the First National Bank of Elgin.

David Barclay served four terms as Mayor of Elgin and two terms as alderman. He was president of the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, and served on the Board of Water Commissioners, which put into operation the Elgin system of water works.

In 1912, David Barclay Sr. died and left this property to his son, David Jr., and willed the property next door to another son, Archibald Barclay.

This house is an American Four-square, illustrating how architectural detailing contributed to the balanced, symmetrical style of house so popular in the early 20th century. Wide overhangs and a shallow hipped roof cap the building, while the verandah



roof is nearly flat. The second floor line favors a decorative molding strip which emphasizes the second-floor window sills highlighted with color. The house has a classical style with restrained ornamentation, as you can see in the gable returns over the triple dormer window, which create a composition that alludes to the Palladian Classical tradition. Also of interest on the exterior are the Tuscan porch columns and foliate scroll panel.

The interior has been nicely kept up over the years, and features a beautiful oak staircase, stained glass windows, and a built-in china cabinet in the dining room.

The picket fence outside adds a charming touch too, as well as the backdrop of Old Main in the distance.