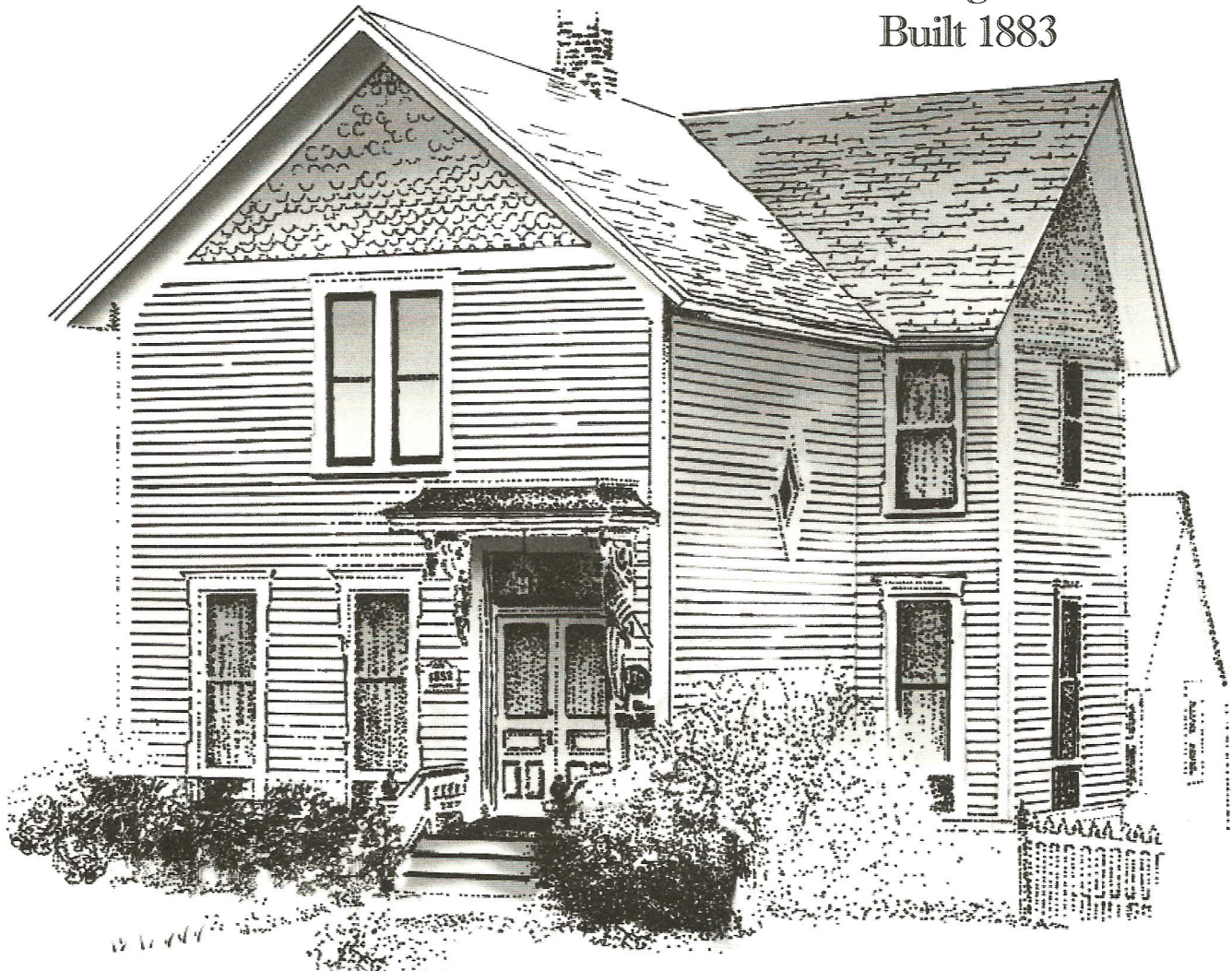


132 N. CHANNING

Cross-gabled
Built 1883



This home was built in 1883 by Thomas Mackey, a contractor. Mackey lived here for about dozen years afterward. When he left, the home was occupied by a series of families who often took in boarders.

Sometime around the 1930s, the house was "modernized" using green-colored asphalt siding. This product, applied right over the existing clapboard siding, offered a no-maintenance alternative to periodic painting. It proved to be durable, although not particularly attractive. What few qualities it had in the latter regard were long gone by the 1980s. The home's landscaping became completely neglected, and a small barn in the back, long since fallen into disrepair, was razed. Worn and unkempt, the house was a glaring eyesore. The inside was an eyesore as well; it had been subdivided into two apartments by installing a shower in the front hallway to create a second bath and wall the units off from each other.

In 2003, the Gifford Park Association was looking for a rehab project. One criterion was finding a house whose renovation would encourage others to do the same. GPA wanted a house that other rehabbers had passed by because it required too large of an investment to be profitable. Such homes seemed doomed to further deteriorate as slum properties. Unlike private investors, GPA was willing to lose money on the rehab effort, because it was an investment for the good of the neighborhood. As such, it had the potential for larger but less tangible returns. Using money earned from annual historic house tours and salvages, plus plenty of volunteer labor to supplement professional contractors, GPA looked for the "worst of the worst." In early 2004, GPA began the two-year process of rescuing this house.

Barb Counterman and Tony Sanchez bought 132 N. Channing and closed on it in March 2006. The married couple left a 1930s-era apart-

