

Historic Preservation Commission

2014 Winter Property of the Season

386 S. Madison Street



The Oswego Historic Preservation Commission designates 386 south Madison Street as this winter's Property of the Season. This well-preserved gable-ell style home with Italianate features was built circa 1870 by Theron Richards Sr. (also known as T.C. Richards). A gable-ell style house has two intersecting roof lines that form an "L" shaped home. This two-story wood framed home has a large bay window protruding from the front bay of the home and a narrow 'shed style' roof over the small porch. The home has had the windows and siding replaced, but the style and structure has remained virtually unchanged. Because of this consistency, the home would be eligible for local landmark status if the siding was returned to its original building materials.

The home resides in Block 1 Lot 2 of Judson's Third Addition to the Village of Oswego. This short two block addition to the original town only includes thirteen houses on the east side of Madison Street. It was platted by Lewis Judson on January 1, 1856. Lot 2 was sold by Lewis and his wife Diana to Mary Richards, wife of T.C. Richards in August 1867.

T.C. and his wife Mary McCormack raised a large family in the home. T.C. was a local carpenter whose family built many homes in and around Oswego in the 19th and 20th centuries. T.C. and Mary had 8 children, many of whom were born in the house on Madison Street. When T.C. died suddenly in 1894, he left a widow with several young children still living at home. His widow Mary moved to Aurora with her younger children and rented out the home to Jacob Constantine until she sold the property to her son Bernard and wife Lillie Collins on September 9, 1897. Bernard and Lillie never lived in the home. They sold the home to George Troll Sr. November 11, 1897.

George and Minnie Troll had already lived in Oswego for many years. The family was well known around town as George was a local saloon keeper who saw lots of lively activity in his establishment. The Kendall County Record often reported on the more excessive outbursts occurring within the saloon. George emigrated from Germany when twenty years old and moved to Kendall County in 1857.

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He lived the rest of his life in Oswego Township. He married Miss Wilhelmina Gruel on October 30, 1864 in DeKalb, Illinois. They had eight children: George Jr., Ernest, Edith, Bertha, Emma, Elizabeth, Charley and Otto. Death frequently visited the Troll family. He lost a son in 1872 and a newborn baby in 1876, but 1889-1890 was by far the worst. George's eldest daughter Bertha, only 23 years old; the wife of Lon Lamb died suddenly in March of 1889. She left her husband and young son to mourn her loss. Just eight months later, her husband Lon died of Typhoid fever leaving their young son William Lamb an orphan. The Kendall County Record reported,

"The funeral of Lon Lamb took place Monday. A little more than a week ago the deceased returned to George Troll, his father-in-law, from a hunting and trapping expedition down the river, complaining of being unwell from a severe cold he had contracted; the ailment soon developed into typhoid fever and other complications which ended his life Saturday. He was 29 years of age and brought up in this place and it is but little more than eight months since his young wife died. Little Willie, about five years old, is now alone left of the family."

Just 4 short months later George and Minnie lost their daughter Emma suddenly. She was buried in Oswego Township Cemetery three days later on what would have been her 20th birthday. George and Minnie raised their grandson William. He lived with them in the home on



Madison until he moved to Aurora to work for the railroad. In February, 1904 William surprised his family by marrying Anna Hattersley of Aurora. They raised a big family moving between Aurora and Oswego. Tragedy plagued William's life. His eldest daughter Ruth was struck and killed by an automobile in 1913. His family was also the unlucky victim of two house fires before purchasing his grandparents' home from his uncle E.C. Troll in April 1924. William and Anna lived in the home for many years until the home was sold in 1941 to Frank and Martha Potter Herren. Frank and Martha's son, Howard and grandson Doctor Stanley Herren sold the property to Daniel Yoches in 1989. Daniel lived in the house for several years at which time he sold the property to the current owners Carol Mason and Heather Fischer in 2005. The home is currently rented.



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