



## 719 Grand Avenue

### Bicentennial Landmark

Although ravaged and altered by time, the residence at 719 Grand Ave. is still almost a textbook example of the Queen Anne style of architecture, which flourished from 1880 to 1900. It was built by architect-contractor G. K. Williams of Waukegan in 1888 for Dr. Vincent Price, who was the grandfather of the well-known actor, Vincent Price.

Dr. Price made his fortune as a chemist and founded Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder Co. in Chicago. He had come to Waukegan from Buffalo, N.Y. in 1858, after having earned his M.D. at age 20. His cream baking powder and flavoring extracts were known worldwide at the turn of the century.

The home at 719 was one of four palatial mansions built on Grand Avenue for himself and his children. One has been razed and the remaining homes converted to apartments.

The veranda, which once circled the first floor of 719, is gone. And the third floor no longer echoes to waltzes and minuets as it did when the Prices and their guests used it as a ballroom.

Much of the exuberant, visual display of the Queen Anne remains, however: the prominent castle-like turret; the roofline with its dormers, gables and ornate brick chimneys; the stained glass windows; the variety of textures evident in stone block on the first floor, split wood shingle siding on the second and fish-scale siding over the oriel window to the west.

Behind the main house the former carriage house, built in simplified Queen Anne, still stands.