



308 Julian Street

Historic District Landmark

Architecturally the house at 308 Julian St. is of little significance as it has been altered greatly since its construction in 1846. But to Waukeganites and history buffs alike it has great import as "the house where Lincoln slept."

A guest of Elisha P. Ferry, Waukegan lawyer, Abraham Lincoln spent the night of April 2, 1866 in the home following a political rally, which was interrupted by a warehouse fire. Mr. Lincoln, it is reported, rolled up his sleeves and helped fight the fire.

Elisha Ferry was a significant man in his own right. Born in Monroe, Mich., in 1825, he came to Little Fort in 1840 and opened a law office. He was appointed postmaster in 1853, elected Waukegan's first mayor in 1861 and served as a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1861.

During the Civil War he was assistant Adjutant-General and Colonel on the staff of Illinois Governor Richard Yates.

Following the westward exodus after the war, he was appointed surveyor general of the Washington Territory. Ferry continued to distinguish himself in politics and was elected first governor of the state of Washington in 1889. He died in Seattle on Oct. 13, 1895.

Through a succession of owners including Leon H. Prentice, manufacturer of steam equipment, and the American Red Cross Mid-America Chapter, the house continues to be called the Ferry Home.