

SUZANNE WOELFEL HOUSE

1539 North 8th street

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This interesting and unusual structure was built in 1886-87 as a replica of an authentic Bavarian Bierstube, the architect is unknown. The location was a splendid choice as it coincided with the opening of the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Home, which is located nearby.

Mrs. Woelfel had a very successful business, was extremely popular and was known as "a north end character". After her death the property changed hands several times. Eventually it became Murray's grocery store which operated until 1941. During the years the building was modernized losing much of its original features. Later it was converted into apartments which declined and finally became unfit for habitation.

The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillip Elligsen, intend to restore the entire building, replacing roof orbs, fretwork, brackets and gingerbread molding. The interior and exterior will be painted as it was originally; original woodwork and fireplace mantel will be refinished and replaced. The second and third floors will be remodeled for living quarters and the lower floor will become a bakery.

OPEN HOUSE TOUR, 1984