



### **The Cleveland House, 361 South Burnham Street - 1883.**

*(Keep in mind the homes listed are private residences which are not open to the public. Please respect the occupants' privacy when viewing their homes from the sidewalk).*

The I.A. Cleveland House is another of Richland Center's grand houses that still remain although much of its original fit and finish have been altered or lost over the years. Characterized by overhanging eaves decorated with dentils under the soffit, the house retains a number of its Italianate features. The narrow borders of colored glass on the bay windows remain as well as the detail around the windows and doors. In the foyer there is a hook in the ceiling which is believed to have supported a large chandelier which was lit with crystal bulbs when electricity came to the city. The house was described as being two and one-half stories in height which illustrates that the roofline and pitch has been altered and the attic removed along with a tower on the south facing bay window.

In the May 17, 1883 issue of the *Republican Observer*, the house is described as "Among the most costly, elegant and conveniently arranged dwellings of Richland Center is numbered that of Mr. and Mrs. I.A. Cleveland, on the eastern suburbs of the village, the erection of which commenced last season. The building is of solid red brick, trimmed on outer walls with cut stone and white brick, it has a tin roof, size 33 by 44 feet and is two and one-half stories high, basement complete and under full size of the house with brick walls throughout underneath every main partition of the story above. The basement is conveniently arranged with wash room, wood room, summer and winter cellars.



On the first floor above are six very large, light apartments consisting of double parlors, bed room, dining room, bath room, and kitchen, connected with three sets of folding doors. Added to these but separate, is a magnificent conservatory and plant room. The second floor embraces a finely arranged suit of rooms numbering six and consisting of sitting, bed rooms which provide convenient wardrobes. The attic is large and will be used for storage purposes. On the second floor above the kitchen is located a reservoir that hold sixty barrels which will supply water conveyed to the different apartments through lead pipes. These pipes, sinks, etc. are all connected with a sewer in the cellar, which conveys slop a good distance from the premises.

The house is furnished with two stairways, one from the large hall which is at the main entrance, the other from the large hall which is at the main entrance, the other from the cellar to attic. On the south facing front of the building is a brick bay window extending from the bottom of the basement to the top of the house, which is erected a tower twelve to fifteen feet high.”

The Cleveland House was built by I.A. Cleveland in 1883. Cleveland was born in New York State in 1846 and came to Wisconsin in 1866. He married Minnie J. Benbow of Ithaca and established his store on Court Street in May of 1881. The store sold drugs, millenary, neckties, ribbons novelties, Sahwag remedies and groceries. The house was built on land that was used as the location of the first county fairgrounds.



**George Krouskop House - 475 North Central – 1881 – Col. Stephan V. Shipman, architect.**

The *Republican Observer* also printed a description of the elegant residence of Senator George Krouskop located at 475 North Central. This house was designed by Madison architect Col. Stephan V. Shipman who also designed the Cleveland House. The two narratives are very similar. Both houses were large, well-appointed mansions; one was razed in 1937 and the other still remains,

although missing much of its original panache. (It has been used as a four unit rental for many years).

Stephan Shipman was born in Pennsylvania and learned the building trade from his father. He established an office in Madison, Wisconsin in 1855 and began a prolific career as an architect. He designed the first dome and rotunda of the second Wisconsin state capitol. He entered the Civil War in the First Wisconsin Calvary Regiment as a first Lieutenant and was promoted to Colonel as the war went on. He is known for leading a force of forty men against 3,000 confederate soldiers on April 27, 1863, at Whitewater Bridge in southeastern Missouri. In the skirmish he suffered wounds that crippled him for the remainder of his life.

He returned to Madison in 1865 and was elected City Treasurer. Like another Wisconsin architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, he was drawn to Chicago after the Great Chicago Fire because of the opportunities created to re-build the city. He died in 1905 and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison.



In addition to the two houses in Richland Center, he designed many large commercial buildings in Madison and Chicago. Among the Madison structures still extant are the American Exchange Bank, the Castle & Doyle building, and the Willet S. Main Building. Shipman designs that are gone include the First Park Hotel, the Old Post Office on the Square, the dome of the second state capitol, the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane and the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward schools. Three of his designs are on the National Register of Historic Places. It's quite a comment on the stature of the city of Richland Center in these years to have had two elegant houses designed by such an architect as Col. S.V.Shipman.

**Col. Stephan V. Shipman-Wis.  
State Historical Society  
photo.**



**Designed by Col. Stephan V. Shipman - architect.**