



G.L Laws House, 484 North Church Street – circa 1860.

Built in the 1860s, similar to the James McKee House at 222 North Central Avenue, the G.L. Laws House exhibits the cornice returns, low pitched gable roof, and offset entrance in the street facing gable end, typically associated with the Greek Revival style. The house has the wide, plain frieze board and six over six windows so often associated with the mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival style. Although altered by the addition of a porch with a concrete block base and rear additions, this architecturally and historically significant house continues to display its original architectural character.

An adaptation of the classic Greek temple front employing details of the Doric, Ionic or Corinthian order, the Greek Revival style (1830-1860) is symmetrical and characterized by prominent gables framed with heavy moldings. Influenced by the new interest in the architecture and culture of Greece and Rome in the late 18th and early nineteenth century, this style was still popular when Richland Center was in its early 1850s and 1860s development period.

This house was built by a member of the Baptist congregation's founders, and it is thought he may have arranged for Rev. William Wright and his family to locate in the Weighley house at the corner of Church and Second Street directly north of the Laws House. The Weighley House is considered to be one of the seven possible birthplace locations of Frank Lloyd Wright; many Richland Center old-timers swear it's the true location.

Gilbert L. Laws was an important person in Richland Center during its formative years. He was one of three teachers in the village in 1861. His teaching career was interrupted by his army service during the Civil War. Mr. Laws served with the Scott Guards; the first company made up entirely of Richland Center men, and later received an injury that cost him a foot. On December 1, 1866, Richland Center was incorporated as a village with D. L. Downs as president. G.L. Laws became postmaster in 1865 and held

that position for eleven years and was village president in 1869. He was also involved in publishing the Richland County Observer newspaper. In 1876 he resigned his post as village postmaster and moved to Nebraska.



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(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).