

Wilder Mansion

Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst
(Seth Wadhams, 1868; E. Norman Brydges, 1937 alterations)

Built in 1868, the Wilder Mansion housed the Elmhurst Public Library from 1922 to 2003. The original, central section of the building was later updated in 1937 to reflect a Neo-Classical style. It was at that time that the side wings and the front portico were added to the building. A later 1964 addition was constructed off the back of the building and does not detract from the historic appearance of the primary façade.



When the city decided to construct a new library in 2000, the Elmhurst Park District gave land from Wilder Park (which surrounds the mansion) to accommodate the new building. In exchange, the city agreed to fund life safety and ADA code upgrades to the Wilder Mansion and to transfer the property to the Park District for use as a multi-use facility. However, since the library vacated the former mansion in 2003, it has remained vacant and no upgrades have been made. Requests by concerned citizens regarding specific plans for the building have gone unanswered.

2006 Chicagoland Watch List