



The Village of
Glenview

NEWS RELEASE

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Village Historic Preservation Commission Seeks to Raise Awareness about Burnham Home

September 22, 2008 – Back in the mid-1890s, **Hugh Burnham**, a prominent lawyer and nephew of well-known architect and city planner Daniel Burnham, purchased several acres of land northwest of Shermer and Glenview Road for his church, the New Church, also known as the Swedenborgian Church of New Jerusalem. Burnham, who served as Glenview's first Mayor, also moved to the site (known as "The Park"), and in 1894 built himself a Queen Anne home featuring a corner turret and a wraparound porch.

The Burnham home, converted into apartments many years ago, is among the potential properties that the Church may demolish shortly if it is able to move ahead with conceptual plans to for redevelopment of the site. Because architectural historians believe the Park is of local historical significance, **the Village's Historic Preservation Commission is seeking to raise awareness about this important piece of Glenview's history.**

A report submitted to the Commission by Granacki Historic Consultants in March, 2008 noted that "some of the most significant exterior features of the Burnham home are remarkably intact. The original massing with its distinctive round, corner tower, balanced by the opposite corner dormer and bay remain, including brackets under the dormer. All window openings also appear unchanged," and concluded by saying, "Poor maintenance shouldn't justify the demolition of so important a structure to the history of the Swedenborg community nor the history of Glenview."

While committed to its proposed redevelopment plans for the land, **the New Church would be willing to save the Burnham House from demolition should interested parties come forward to purchase, move and restore the property.** Interested? Contact:

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The New Church
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Hugh L. Burnham House
8 Park Lane, Glenview Illinois
1894

This historic Queen Anne Home, built by Glenview's first Mayor (he was also the nephew of architect and city planner Daniel Burnham) is located in a unique area of the Village developed in the 1890s by the Swedenborgian Church of New Jerusalem (also known as the New Church). It must be moved in the near future as the Church, which owns the property, has long-term plans to demolish it and redevelop the site.

According to Granacki Historic Consultants, the home, now divided into small apartments, originally featured a round corner turret and wraparound porch. It incorporates an existing two-story, Gable Front house that may have been the homestead of the Clavey family from whom Burnham bought the land (an 1886 County plat map shows a house on the southeast corner of the property and a recent inspection of the interior displays 1870s and 1880s trim on window and door casings throughout.) The rear Gable Front structure is connected to the Queen Anne home at the corners of each. There is an internal staircase between them with 1880s trim that provides access to the second floors.

The most obvious change is the removal of the wraparound porch and the addition of siding. But despite its current appearance, some of the most significant exterior features of the Burnham home are remarkably intact. The original massing with its distinctive round, corner tower, balanced by the opposite corner dormer and bay remain, including brackets under the dormer. All window openings also appear unchanged according to Granacki.

The Village of Glenview Historic Preservation Commission is seeking a buyer interested in moving and restoring this important piece of Glenview history. For more information, contact Ken Cole, President, Park Dwellings, The New Church, at (847) 729-3265, David Silver, Chairman, Historic Preservation Commission, at (847) 564-0688 or Lisa Porter, Senior Planner, Village of Glenview, at (847) 904-4307.

Hugh L. Burnham House
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Images



The Burnham House as it originally appeared at the turn of the 19th Century . . .



. . . And as it appears today

Interior Details . . .

