

## ELMHURST HISTORY HIGHLIGHT: GLOS BLOCK ROOF FINIALS

The Glos Block, built to house the business interests of Henry Glos, an early Elmhurst entrepreneur and the town's first president, was constructed in phases. The original building went up in 1874 on the southeast corner of York Street and Park Avenue with an addition built to the south in 1884.

Over time the building housed a grocery store, the Bank of Henry L. Glos, and the post office. It was also home to the Elmhurst Public Library when it first opened in 1916. In 1896, recognizing the needs of a developing village, Henry Glos expanded the Glos Block again, adding a third floor for a public hall. *The Elmhurst Enterprise* reported, "the improvements on Henry Glos' business block are about finished, making it one of the finest buildings in the county" (December 11, 1896). The hall was used for a variety of activities including dances, music recitals, patriotic pageants, and school programs.

In the photograph of the Glos Block, several decorative finials (capping ornaments) can be seen along the roofline. When the Glos Block was razed in 1927, two of the finials were saved, and they are now on exhibit on the south lawn of the Elmhurst History Museum.

*By Nancy Wilson, Elmhurst History Museum staff  
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*Glos Block Finials on the Museum  
Grounds, July 2016*