

ELMHURST HISTORY HIGHLIGHT: A HISTORY OF THE GLOS FAMILY & MANSION

Henry and Lucy Gos

Henry L. Gos (1851–1905, *left*) of Elmhurst and Lucy Schween (1852–1941, *right*) of Elgin married in 1876 and settled in Elmhurst. Mr. Gos, an astute businessman, worked in real estate, opened the first bank in Elmhurst and built a commercial block on the southeast corner of York Street and Park Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Gos were active in the community's social life and church activities, and Mr. Gos was busy in politics serving as the first village president of Elmhurst, a position that he held for almost 20 years.



The Gos Mansion



The Gos Mansion was built for Henry and Lucy Gos in 1892-93, and it has been the home of the Elmhurst History Museum in downtown Elmhurst since the 1970s. Designed in the Romanesque style, the mansion's rough-hewn limestone exterior, copper dormers, slate roof, large front porch, leaded glass windows, ornamental trim, and white oak woodwork all contribute to the impressive look of this regional landmark.

The building has been adapted for use as Elmhurst City Hall (1946–1970) and has been home to the Elmhurst History Museum (previously known as the Elmhurst Historical Museum) from 1975 to the present. The Gloses had no children, and consequently Lucy Gos deeded her home, the Gos Mausoleum, and associated property to the City of Elmhurst in 1939 with the following conditions: 1) Lucy could continue living in the house for the duration of her life; 2) after her death and burial in the Gos Mausoleum, the City could utilize the properties for municipal purposes only excepting no fire

extinguishing apparatus house ever be erected on the property, no building could be erected, no playground be developed in the land north of the mausoleum, and no other body could be buried in the mausoleum or anywhere else on the property. These stipulations were included in the ordinance at the time Mrs. Glos conveyed the property to the City of Elmhurst. Lucy Glos died in 1941. The City of Elmhurst owns the Glos Mansion, which was granted *Historic Landmark Designation* unanimously by Elmhurst City Council on September 4, 2007.

Glos Mausoleum

In 1892, the village board passed an ordinance granting Henry Glos the right to build a mausoleum for himself and his family provided that the building was constructed of stone and that it would cost at least \$5,000 to build. The mausoleum was built of granite and bronze in the Beaux Arts style for \$20,000 at 142 E. Park Avenue in 1899. Henry Glos was



buried there in 1905 and Lucy in 1941. The City of Elmhurst owns the Glos Mausoleum, which was granted Historic Landmark Designation unanimously by Elmhurst City Council on September 4, 2007.

*Nancy Wilson, Curator of Collections, Elmhurst History Museum
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