

2011 HISTORIC LANDMARK AWARD

1911 - "The Original Community Congregational Church", 235 E. Highland Avenue



The Historic Landmark plaque was given to Stephen and Kathleen Bunjes for their unique home that was built in 1911 and located at 235 E. Highland Avenue in the 1908 Villa Park Subdivision. It is named the ORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. This building was built to serve as the first church in the community by Charles Heisen, an early developer. The land resides in the 1908 Ardmore subdivision that had been part of the Canfield farm and was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Austin. In 1912, the Community Congregational Church was established at this location. After the congregation moved to its new church at 410 S. Cornell Avenue in 1929, it was converted to the American Legion Hall and was used for this purpose for nearly 25 years. The hall was rehabbed into a private residence. In 1957, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Mitchell purchased it and later sold it to Dorothy Bohasseck and Sara Mc Williams in July of 1960. Then in 2001, the house was sold to the current owners. Over the years, they have made many improvements to its exterior and interior.