



Built about 1836 at 16th and Michigan the "Widow Clarke House" was subsequently moved and restored and now stands adjacent to the St. Paul Church of God in Christ at 45th and Wabash. The historic building will be officially designated a Chicago Landmark Sunday.

# Oldest house to earn landmark status Sunday

The St. Paul Church Of God in Christ's "Tea Of Flowers", scheduled for Sunday, April 20, will be highlighted by the unveiling of a new plaque designating Chicago's oldest house, located next door to the church at 4526 S. Wabash, as an official Chicago landmark at 10:30 a.m. initiating the day's activities. Participants will include officials of the Landmark Commission and the Chicago Historical Society.

Bishop Louis H. Ford, under whose dynamic leadership the oldest house was acquired by the St. Paul Congregation 34 years ago, has extended a special invitation to the Chicagoland community for the occasion. Special invitations have also been extended to outstanding public figures, including

Governor Dan Walker, Mayor Richard J. Daley, and U.S. Senators Adlai E. Stevenson and Charles Percy.

The oldest house, known as the "Widow Clarke House", was built about 1836 at 16th and Michigan. It was purchased in 1941 by the St. Paul Congregation. Approximately \$150,000 has been spent on repairs and maintenance since that time.

Commenting on St. Paul's unique role in the restoration of this Chicago Landmark, Bishop Ford declared: The oldest house is a symbol which proves that the black

community can preserve and build."

The Tea of Flowers on April 20 will be held at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the oldest house and the Church's Fellowship Hall. The day's activities will be highlighted on St. Paul's regular Sunday Broadcast heard at 1:30 p.m. over WVON Radio.