



## Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission

# Grantham House

215 Illinois Street  
Built 1929

This house is a Barrington Model kit home, which was offered by Sears between 1926 and 1929. Advertisements describe the Barrington as, "For those who appreciate the value of economical design in a big, attractive home." The Barrington was a popular model for narrow lots. The front façade features a Tudor-style face, sheltering a vestibule as opposed to other models having a covered porch. The home still has its original cedar shake siding. The Barrington's floorplan features a living room, dining room, kitchen with breakfast nook, three bedrooms and one full bath. A built-in telephone cabinet and drop-down ironing board add charm and practicality to the home. A fieldstone fireplace in the living room is flanked with a pair of casement windows. The rear of the house was later extended with a second brick chimney along the exterior of the south wall. Likewise, the rear open porch was enclosed, and a second floor was added over it as part of the extension. The original 1-car garage has been replaced with a 2-car garage by the current owners.



Christena Baird was born November 4, 1883 on a farm near Barreville (about four miles northeast of Crystal Lake). On March 5, 1901 she married another Barreville farm native, Arthur Willard Grantham. Shortly after they married, the Granthams moved to Louisiana to become rice farmers. After three years, the couple gave up on rice and moved back to northern Illinois. Their daughter Mabel Irene was born in 1905 and son Colin Arthur was born in 1916. Tragedy struck in 1917 when Arthur was out West (for health reasons) and died of heart failure on a train between Phoenix and Las Vegas.



**SIX ROOMS AND BATH**  
Monthly Payments  
\$45 w/ \$5  
Cash Completion on  
Your Lot

**THE BARRINGTON**  
No. 3260 "Already Cut" and Fitted  
\$2,425.00

**FIRST FLOOR**  
The vestibule, from the open vestibule, which has an attractive panel and, you enter the living room, 13' 0" x 13' 0" by 13' 0" by 13' 0" and contains a fireplace and built-in telephone cabinet. The dining room, 11' 0" x 13' 0" by 11' 0" x 13' 0", is lighted by a large triple window in the front.

**SECOND FLOOR**  
The bedrooms, two 11' 0" x 13' 0" by 11' 0" x 13' 0", are lighted by the triple window in the front. The bathroom, 5' 0" x 7' 0" by 5' 0" x 7' 0", is lighted by a window in the rear. The closets, two 5' 0" x 7' 0" by 5' 0" x 7' 0", are lighted by windows in the rear. The stairs lead to the attic.

**Basement**  
The basement, 11' 0" x 13' 0" by 11' 0" x 13' 0", is lighted by windows in the front. It contains a fireplace, a built-in telephone cabinet, and a drop-down ironing board. The stairs lead to the first floor.

**Garage**  
The garage, 11' 0" x 13' 0" by 11' 0" x 13' 0", is lighted by windows in the front. It contains a built-in telephone cabinet and a drop-down ironing board. The stairs lead to the first floor.

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SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

With two children to support, Christena Grantham moved in with her mother and underwent training to be a telephone operator, starting her 31-year career with the phone company in 1918. With her earnings, Christena was able to save up money to purchase this lot in 1925 for \$346.50. Three years later, she took out a mortgage through Sears and had her Barrington Model kit home built.

Christena Grantham lived the remainder of her life in the home. In 1967 Christena's children sold the property to Ronald and Roberta Reed. The property remains in the Reed family.

In 2022, The Grantham House became the 17<sup>th</sup> property to be landmarked by the City of Crystal Lake. The City's landmark program bestows legal protection to a property for the purpose of preserving its public character and history.