

Building Plaque Application

Building Address 108 CRIGHTON AVENUE

Building Name _____

(for public/commercial structures)

If applicant's name is different from above:

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Original Owner ROBERT ROSS HUNT

Date of Construction 1891

Architect (if known) _____

Builder (if known) STEPHEN A. SMITH

Check if attached:

Statement Of Value

Please review the criteria on page 5. The Elgin Heritage Commission uses these criteria to review your application and award a plaque. Attach an explanation of the historical and architectural value of the building. Attach photocopies of relevant materials such as copies of Sanborn maps, original property deeds and City Directory listings. Applications without these requirements will not be considered by the Elgin Heritage Commission.

Building Alterations

Describe any alterations to the exterior of the building and include dates. Attach description to the application.

Photograph

Include a recent photograph in which the building is clearly visible. Additional photographs depicting a close up and details of decorative features are helpful.

Stipulations

If the building is not awarded a plaque, the application fee of \$15.00 will be refunded.

This application and submitted materials shall be retained by the City of Elgin as a part of the permanent record of the building.

The Elgin Heritage Commission has the authority to edit and publish the information submitted in the application. This does not prohibit others from using the information.

When awarded, the plaque will remain the property of the City and cannot be altered or removed from the building. It is the City's responsibility to replace the plaque if and when the situation warrants it.

In addition to agreeing to the above stipulations, the undersigned attests that the information provided is, to the best of his/her knowledge, accurate.

Owner's Signature Melvin L. Temmer

Date 9-23-03

Signed Mary M. Hill

Date 21 Sep 2003

Historical/Architectural

William J. Crighton was a Scottish immigrant who settled in Dundee in 1843. In 1888, the heirs of William Crighton had their property annexed to the city of Elgin as "Crighton Park Addition." It comprised 10 blocks that were bounded on the north by W. Highland and Larkin Avenues; Worth Street on the west; and Union Street on the east. Its south boundary was Silvanus Wilcox' land that began a few lots south of Pennsylvania Avenue. Crighton Avenue ran just one long block from W. Highland to Pennsylvania and may have been the main road leading to Wilcox' solid stone house, built around 1860 at 52 Crighton Avenue. Pennsylvania lifts to the west from Union Street and 52 was built on the highest lot in the Addition. Lot 5 was vacated sometime after 1888 to extend Crighton to the south.

The Addition was praised for its proximity to Highland Avenue, "the finest boulevard of the west side and one of the best streets in the city." *Elgin Every Saturday*, May 12, 1888, p.1. It was close to the high Chicago and North Western depot and the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul depot besides being just one short block from the Elgin Packing Company.

On May 12, 1888, a land auction was held for the purpose of disposing of lots in the Addition. In block 3, lot 10 was bought by Robert R. Hunt. The *Elgin Daily Courier*, December 19, 1891, published a front page review of the huge amount of construction that had taken place that year. It states "Stephen Smith has built for...R. R. Hunt, Crighton, \$2700." The Elgin City Directory for 1890-91 lists R.R. Hunt living on Center Street; in the 1892 edition "R.R. Hunt h(house) 60 Crighton." When the city realigned the address numbering system for the third and final time, 60 Crighton became 108.

Robert Ross Hunt came to Elgin in 1891 from New York City. He was superintendent of the Elgin Windmill Company, then moved to the Watch Factory where he worked as a machinist for 28 years. He was a veteran of the Civil War and an active member of the local GAR (Grand Army of the Republic), having served as its post commander. Hunt was also involved in the Masonic Order and was a member of several of its higher degrees; he had served as Master of the Batavia Masonic Lodge. In 1905, Hunt's second wife, Eloise, died from a lingering illness. In 1910, he remarried to Mrs. (Mary)Olive Parsons; they had no children.

In July 1933, Robert R. Hunt was on a ladder fixing a screen on the driveway side of the house. He fell from the ladder onto the concrete drive, striking his head. 2 hours later he died from the injury.

Hunt's 4 children inherited 108 Crighton. Robert Roy Hunt had been declared incompetent and was at Elgin State Hospital; Edward worked for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan. Through quit claim deeds by Robert Roy's conservator and his siblings, Edward's widow, Ida, became the sole owner of the property and in 1965, sold it to LeRoy Rehberg. 108 Crighton remains in possession of its second owner.

In 1885, Stephen A. Smith, who was married to Mary Ann Diercks, lived at 70 N. Liberty Street and by 1889, was at 77. When the city readjusted its address numbering system for the last time in 1894, 77 became 117. Smith was a carpenter in partnership with Herman Wilkening, who lived next door at 123 N. Liberty. Theirs was no ordinary partnership. The 1902 Sanborn Map details the "Smith & Wilkening Contractor's Shop" at the back of their adjoining properties. Access to lumber storage, planing, and bench

works buildings was via an alley that ran between Forest Avenue and Lillie Street. Those buildings and the two men's houses are still there today, though the construction business is long gone. Among Stephen Smith's dazzling array of building projects was August Scheele's grocery store on Division Street in downtown Elgin, Wing School, Brethren Publishing Company plant, David C. Cook Publishing Company, and a legion of additional business and public buildings as well as residences. He had been the city building inspector for a period of time and continued in his construction business until his health began to decline. In December 1932, Smith suffered a stroke and died March 20, 1933. His grand daughter Margene Bell continues to live in Elgin.

Architectural

The Queen Anne style of architecture was at the peak of Victorian popularity in the last decades of the 19th century. Increasing industrialization during this time produced balloon framing, allowing the shape of houses to be made at one's desire, as well as a greater variety of parts to be made; increasing train transportation allowed building materials to be more easily available across the country.

Queen Annes are divided into two subtypes based on their shape and decorative detail. In the shape subtype, they are noted for 1) multiple roof lines 2) frequent use of a front facing gable, 3) devices used on facades to avoid a plain surface, and 4) an asymmetrical facade. In the detail subtype, additional categories of spindlework and free classic are used. 108 Crighton is a "mild" version of the typical Queen Anne and of neither the spindlework nor the freeclassic subtype. The main body of the house is a front facing gable section with a cross gable section behind it and sits on a limestone foundation. The front porch forms an L where the two sections meet.

The house appears influenced by the Italianate style with its less steeply pitched roof, simpler shape, and simpler decoration. Vertical and horizontal banding outlines the house. Window surrounds are simple; the 2 story bay on the south facade distinguishes the house by being topped by a polygonal roof that is part of the rear cross gable.

The front of the house is the most decorative and shows Queen Anne elements with fish scale shingles in the roof peak crossed by a narrow horizontal band. The cornice return is broken and on its north side, forms a narrow roof over a pair of small windows. A pair of larger windows in the second floor facade are in balance with the single large window in the first floor facade. The large window contains no decoration and is framed by a plain surround.

The porch has been enclosed and the windows suggest it occurred in the 1920's. The house colors reflect the "Painted Lady" style with a minimum of 5 colors.

ENTS with John W. Farnum
Room 4, Burden Block.

GIN

ds 14 S Chapel.
ok's Pub House, bds 246 Center.
House.

56 St Charles.
sician, rooms 41 Fulton.

e, bds Natl house.
bds 109 S Channing.
bds Natl house.

S Union.
177 Morgan.
W yards e s res 124 Ann.

254 Chicago.
54 Chicago.

the peace, office over Chi-

r Chicago and Douglas ave.
ard) bds 87 Hill.
ms 86 Highland ave.

mgr Elgin Telephone and
bard blk, res 78 N Gifford.
Grace.

ls 372 Villa.
s 168 Grace.
er ave.

Co.
Moseley.

ng.
& Son) bds 56 Dundee ave.
Son) res 56 Dundee ave.
onrad) dealers boots and

MORITZ KLINGER'S
STREET.

Best grades of all kinds of **CANNED GOODS** Kept by **A. M. STEWART,**
61 CHICAGO STREET.

CITY DIRECTORY. 1890-91 135

Hudson Alfred, wks Cook's pub house, bds 112 Ann.
Hudson Maggie Mrs, wid Joseph, dressmaker, bds 112 Ann.
Huelster Dora Miss, bds 125 Milwaukee.

X Huelster Wm Rev, res 125 Milwaukee.
Huff Belle Miss, bkpr 13 Grove ave, bds 205 Chicago.

Huff Mary Mrs wid Andrew J, res 205 Chicago.
Huffacker Celia Miss, wks weh fac, bds 380 Walnut ave.

Huffman Kate Miss, wks weh fac, bds 139 N College.
Hughes D J, carpenter, res 211 Orange.

Hugill Jennie Mrs, clk 12 Grove ave, res 33 Ryerson ave.
Hull Anna Miss, wks Cook's pub house.

Hull Edgar, Elgin Water Wks, bds 331 Jefferson ave.
Hull Geo, wks weh fac, res 487 Villa.

Hulme Isaac wks weh fac, res 391 Villa.
Hults Smith, clk (R D Johnson) bds 87 DuPage.

Hummel Charles, bartender 9 River, res 110 May.
Humphrey Chas T, wks weh fac, res 135 Henry.

Hunn Louise Mrs wid William, res 146 Grove ave.
Hunn Kern, clk "Cafe" sample rooms, bds 146 Grove ave.

Hunn Frank W, wks weh fac, bds 146 Grove ave.
Hunt Edward L, machinist, bds 218 Center. - son

Hunt Kate Miss, res 11 Center.

Hunt R R, Supt Centn Wind Mill & Power Co, res 218 Center.

HUNTER & GIVEN, (W T Hunter and H L Given) real
estate and insurance agts, rooms 5 and 6 DuBois blk

Hunter B Mrs, wid W L, res 135 Milwaukee.

HUNTER CHAS E, sample room 16 Chicago cor River,
bds Hotel Jennings.

Hunter C J, wks weh fac, res 77 Ettner ave.

Hunter David C, wks weh fac, res 121 Cherry.

HUNTER GEO, Supt Elgin National Watch Factory, res
109 Watch.

HUNTER GEO E, asst supt weh fac, res 127 Watch.

Hunter John, bds 63 Ettner ave.

Call at John A. Logan's
SAMPLE ROOMS for
10 CHICAGO STREET.

Fine Liquors & Cigars

age
 7 Division
 es), r 74 DuPage
 , r 74 DuPage
 National House
 99 S Channing
 ave
 ational House
 s and Ella Howe), dressmkr,

 Villa
 Channing
 House
 ve ave
 Ry, h 206 Center

 yle), r 105 DuPage
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 er 17 Chicago, h 87 Hill
 n
 ave and Chicago

 Raymond
 39 Center

 Highland ave

 W F, r 325 Raymond
 H House
 T & E S Co, h 78 N Gifford
 music tchr, 86 Chicago
 Grace
 Bank, h 231 Division
 nt ave
 ave

 ow, h 123 Moseley
 very, h 247 N State
 & Son), r 56 Dundee ave
 n), h 56 Dundee ave

Hubner H & Son (Henry and Conrad J Hubner), boots and shoes, 24 Douglas ave
 Huckstedt Minnie Miss, dressmkr, 98 Perry
 Huckstedt Theodore, lab, h 466 Franklin
 Hudson Joseph, civil engr, r 271 Division
 Huff A Belle Miss, bkkpr G M Peck, r 4 Hazel blk
 Huff Mary, wid A J, h 4 Hazel blk
 Huffaker O T, r 380 Walnut ave
 Huffman Kate Miss, E W F, r 10 S Geneva
 Huffman Ben, driver W F Foster, r same
 Hughes David J, carp, h 226 Vandalia
 Hulbert Byron E, carp, h 519 Grand ave
 Hulbert Henry H, carp, r 513 Grand ave
 Hull Edward A, driver J Coon, r 246 Wabash
 Hull Ida Miss, E W F, r 208 Bridge
 Hull Thomas, butcher, h 65 Grove ave
 Hulme Isaac, E W F, h 391 Villa
 Hummel Charles, E W F, h 108 May
 Hummel Rose Miss, E W F, r National House
 Hummell Christian Rev, r 30 N Geneva
 Hummer Emma Miss, L S F, r 75 Wing
 Humphrey Charles F, E W F, h 135 Henry
 Humm Frank, E W F, r 146 Grove ave
 Humm Jessie Miss, E W F, r 146 Grove ave
 Humm Louise, wid Wm, h 146 Grove ave
 Humm Ralph, bartender F M Lasher, h 146 Grove ave
 Hunshuscher Emma Miss, r 14 Railway ave
 Hunt A S, carp, r 90 Chicago
 Hunt Charles E, E W F, r 29 Grace
 Hunt Cora G Miss, E W F, r 29 Grace
 Hunt Edward L, mach, r 60 Crighton ave
 Hunt Helena Miss, E W F, r 29 Grace
Hunt Robert R, Mach, h 60 Crighton ave
 Hunt _____, carp, r 39 Center
Hunter Charles E, saloon, 16 Chicago, r Kelley House
 Hunter Charles J, E W F, h 77 Ettner ave
 Hunter David C, E W F, h 185 Brook
 Hunter Ernest R (Hunter & Watkins), h 63 Ettner ave
 Hunter F E, wid W S, h 135 Milwaukee
Hunter George, tel 1, supt Elgin National Watch Factory, h 169 Watch
 Hunter George E, asst supt E W F, h 127 Watch
 Hunter Harriet L Miss, r 63 Ettner ave
 Hunter John, clk P O, r 63 Ettner ave
 Hunter Millie Miss, r 49 DuPage

ED. N. DANGERFIELD, Notary Public. P. O. Block.
WILL INSURE YOU against damage by FIRE, LIGHTNING, TOR-
NADO, ACCIDENT. Plate Glass insured.

182

Elgin City Directory.

1894-95

- Hull George, emp w f, h 653 Congress
HULM, see also HOLMES
Hulm Peter, h 329 Vandalia
Hulme Fred, printer at W. B. Sadler's, bds 520 Villa
Hulme Isaak, emp w f, h 520 Villa
Hulme Mabel Miss, emp Cook pub co, bds 520 Villa
HUMESTER, see HOEMEISTER
Hummel Charles, emp at Barclay's, h 571 Jefferson ave
Hummel Christian Rev, bds 52 N Geneva
Hummel Rose Miss, emp E S F, bds 571 Jefferson ave
Humphrey Charles T, emp w f, h 217 Henry
HUNN, see also HAHN
Hunn Frank W, emp w f, h 168 Grove ave
Hunn Jessie L Miss, bds 168 Grove ave
Hunn Louise Mrs, h 168 Grove ave
Hunn Ralph W, bartender for Frank Lasher, h 168 Grove ave
Hunt Albert S, emp Rinehimer Bros, h 420 Addison
Hunt Bella Miss, attendant I N H I
Hunt Charles E, emp w f, h 511 Villa
Hunt Cora G Miss, emp w f, bds 511 Villa
Hunt Edward, emp w f, bds 170 Porter ave
Hunt Helen Mrs, emp Cook pub co, bds 511 Villa
Hunt Robert R, emp w f, h 108 Crighton ave
HUNTER CHARLES E, saloon 24 Chicago, rms 8
Center
Hunter Charles J, emp w f, h 487 Chicago
Hunter D C Mrs, music teacher, h 373 Brook
Hunter David C, emp w f, h 373 Brook
Hunter Fidelia E Mrs, wid William, h 277 Milwaukee
HUNTER GEORGE, supt, Elgin national watch co, h 309
Watch
HUNTER GEORGE E, second asst supt Elgin national
watch co, h 325 Watch
Hunter Harriet L Mrs, wid Robert, h 123 Porter ave
Hunter John B, musician, bds 123 Porter ave
Hunter Maggie Mrs, wid Joseph, h 261 Center
Hunter Mary Miss, emp w f, bds 427 Chicago



CHICAGO AV

SCHULER ST

ALDRIDGE ST

EDISON ST

DUBOIS ST

COMMONWEALTH ST

LAWRENCE ST

PENNSYLVANIA ST

WILCOX ST

SOUTH ST

27 AV

WING AV

DEMMOND ST

MURKIN ST

OAKLEY AV

PLACE AV

HAWK ST

VINCENT MILL

HAMILTON ST

MCCLIFFE ST

WOODLAND ST

LOCH ST

HOLLY ST

CITY WEST OF MALLERY AV.

VINCENT MILL

COMMONWEALTH ST

27



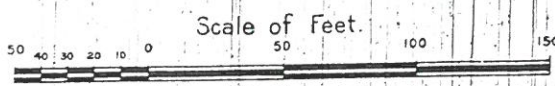
W. CHICAGO

Sanborn Map
1903

PENNSYLVANIA
AV.

GRINGTON
AV.

HAMILTON
AV.



71

66'

E
91'

65

0

0



This Indenture Witnesseth, That The Grantor, Samuel M. Church,
(Satchelor)

of the City of Elgin in the County of Keane and State of Illinois
for and in consideration of the sum of Seven Hundred DOLLARS,

in hand paid, CONVEYS and WARRANTS to Robert P. Hunt

of the City of Elgin County of Keane and State of Illinois
the following described Real Estate, to-wit: situate in the City of Elgin, in the County
of Keane and State of Illinois, to-wit: Lot No. Seven (7) in Block
No. Three (3) of Brighton Park Addition to Elgin, as heretofore
thereof duly recorded.

situated in the _____ County of _____ in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and
waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Dated this Sixth day of March A. D. 1891.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

Samuel M. Church,

SEAL
SEAL
SEAL
SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Keane County,

I, C. R. Hoopon a Notary Public
in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that
Samuel M. Church, (unmarried)



personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument,
appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as his
free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of Homestead.
GIVEN under my hand and Notarial seal, this 6th day of March A. D. 1891.

C. R. Hoopon
Notary Public