

# Building Plaque Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Building Address 361 Douglas Avenue

Building Name \_\_\_\_\_

(for public/commercial structures)

Current Owner Neighborhood Housing Services

Street 300 Douglas Avenue Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City Elgin State IL Zip 60120

If applicant's name is different from above:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Original Owner Samuel Christie

Date of Construction 1891

Architect (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Builder (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signed

Rich A. Jacobs Assistant Executive Director

Date 02-23-03

Mary M. Hill

Date Feb 18, 2003

## Historical/Architectural

Phineas J. Kimball came to Elgin in 1835. He bought a parcel of land adjoining James T. Gifford's Original Plat of Elgin at present day Division Street and extending north to Kimball Street. The 1855 map of Elgin shows P.J. Kimball's house on Douglas Avenue, just north of Kimball.

Kimball's Second and Third Additions to Elgin continued north to present day Jefferson Avenue-then, North Division Street, the city limit. P.J. Kimball, Jr.'s Third Addition began at Ann Street. In the same 1855 map, at the northeast corner of Ann and East Streets ( East St. was Douglas Avenue up that way), there is a structure with the name "Christy." Christie's house also appears on the 1891 Sanborn Map and the 1895 hand drawn map of Elgin. In 1854, Kimball sold " part of lot 1" to James Christie, an Irish immigrant by way of Philadelphia. Lot 1 ran along Douglas Avenue and Spring Street from Ann to Cherry Street; the south half of the lot was also the south half of the block. Present day address of Christie's house was 351 Douglas.

In 1891, James Christie warranted a part of lot 1, 50 feet by 80 feet, to his son Samuel. The 1891 Sanborn Map indicates a structure "being built" next door to Christie on this parcel. The 1892 Elgin City Directory gives the address of this house as 219 Douglas and Christie's as 211; when the city re-aligned its address numbering system in 1894, they became 361 and 351. The same city directory lists Robert Fitz living at 361, though he did not become its owner until 1898. *The Nomination of the Spring/Douglas Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places*, section 7, p.7, 2000, lists 361 Douglas as the Christie house, built in 1891. Samuel Christie moved to Massachusetts shortly after the house was built and it was then warranted to Frederick Glines of Massachusetts. In 1898, Glines warranted it to Robert Fitz

John Shuler Wilcox was the son of Judge Silvanus and Jane Mallory Wilcox. Judge Wilcox had come to Elgin in 1844. He was involved in the Elgin Condensed Milk Company, the Elgin Packing Company, and the Elgin National Watch Company besides practicing law. John S. Wilcox was also an attorney. He fought in the Civil War and was foreverafter called Col. Wilcox. Col. Wilcox and his wife Lois lived in the large house at 456 Douglas Avenue. In 1892, their eldest daughter Marie married Robert Fitz, manager of Elgin American Gas Company. *Elgin Every Saturday*, March 19, 1892 carried a delightfully descriptive and long article detailing the society wedding so vivid that one can smell the orange blossoms and hear the organ playing the Wedding March! The final sentence of the article states "Mr. and Mrs. Fitz will be at their new home No. 219 Douglas Avenue." Although Samuel Christie built the house, it was occupied by Robert and Marie Wilcox Fitz-perhaps it was a wedding gift from the Col.? Robert Fitz became the owner of 361 Douglas in 1898.

Fitz sold 361 Douglas in 1902 to Letitia Hunter, the second wife and widow of Wilson J. Hunter. She was also the last person to live in 361 Douglas Avenue as a single family residence. Mrs. Hunter died in 1920 and the house was inherited through the estates of three people, all relatives of Mrs. Hunter, before being sold in 1940. It became a 2 unit apartment house after Mrs. Hunter's death and bounced from owner to owner to owner. It was put into a trust in 1983 and bought from that trust 3 years later. In 2002, the owners lost the house in foreclosure proceedings. It was then bought by Neighborhood

Housing Services who have set about rehabbing and restoring the once elegant residence of a high society couple. 351 Douglas Avenue disappeared from city directories in the mid '30's and the lot has sat vacant next to 361 since then.

## Architectural

Queen Anne style houses are marked by their use of various means to avoid a plain appearance, such as numerous roof lines, various shingle shapes, gingerbread, and gables. The free classic subtype of Queen Anne's appeared later in the period and was influenced more by the classical style that followed in the early 1900's. Free classic Queen Anne's still avoid plainness, but do not use frilly gingerbread detail.

361 Douglas Avenue on the 1891 Sanborn Map is boxy in shape; as seen in 2003, the back of the house shows a hodge podge of enclosed porches and additions. 2 striking things about the house are 1) the numerous windows it contains and 2) it bears a strong resemblance to Col. Wilcox's house at 456 Douglas. Both of them are distinguished by the gabled "tower" that sits atop the middle of the house, much like a widow's walk on an Italianate.

The most prominent architectural feature of 361 Douglas is a section with a small front facing gable topping a hipped roof, that projects out from the front facade of the house. The upper half of the projecting section contains 2 windows over a band of scalloped shingles. The lower half shows a band of rectangular decoration over a set of windows that are symmetrically balanced with those in the upper half. The lower half facade is bowed out, as shown on the 1891 Sanborn Map.

The 3 small, front facing gables seen on the front facade appear to be used as a way of giving the house a soaring sense of height. The north half of the house is recessed back from the south half and contains a small, open porch which has been altered.

The north facade contains 2 windows in the upper half symmetrically balanced over 4 in the lower half--separated by the aforementioned band of scalloped shingles. The south facade contains a gabled section in the roof over a grouping of three windows in the upper story and separated from the lower story by the band of scalloped shingles--again, symmetry.

361 Douglas Avenue is listed in the *Nomination of the Spring/Douglas Historic District* to the National Register of Historic Places as contributing to the historical significance of the district.





361 Douglas

361 Douglas

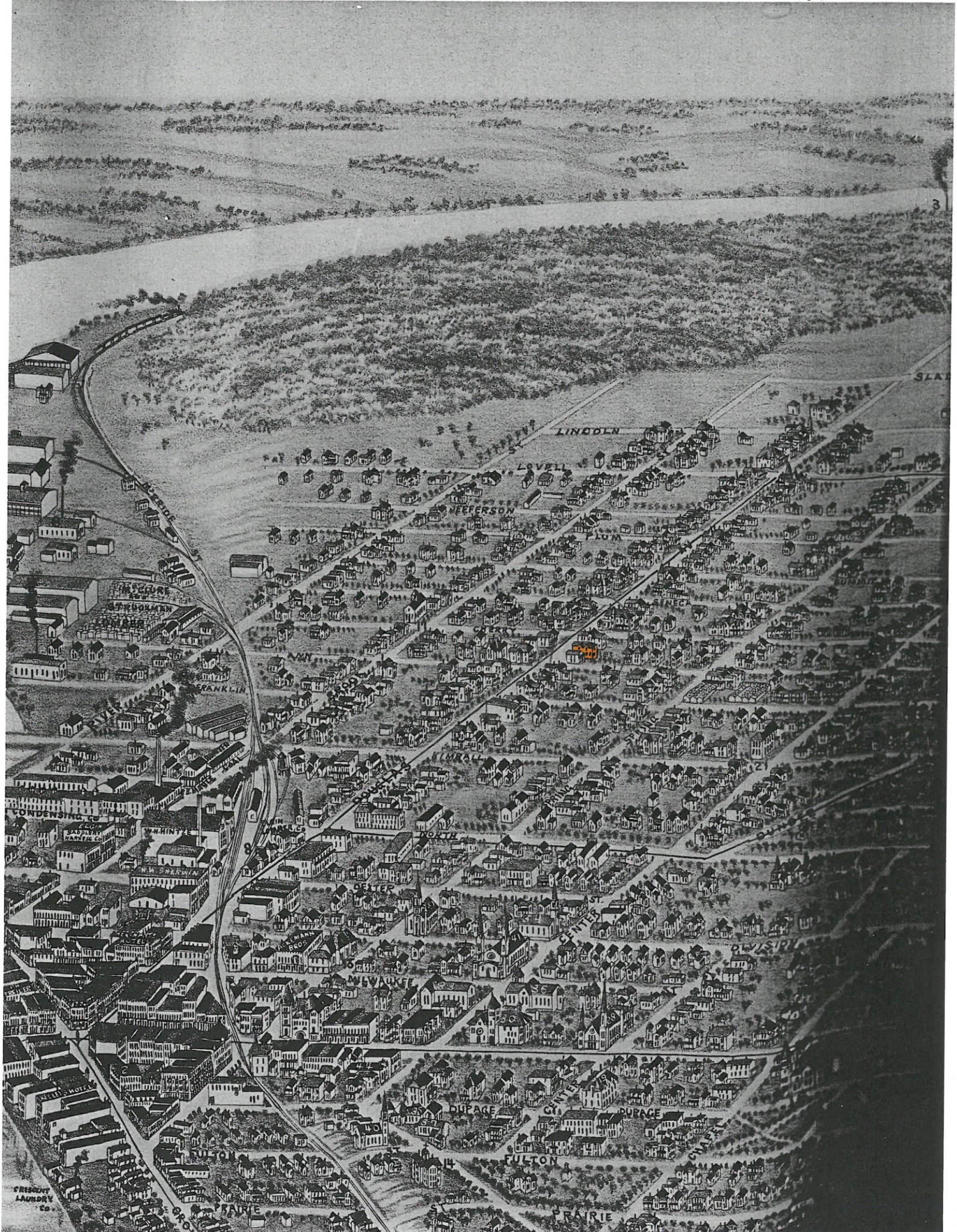




361 Douglas









United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Spring Douglas Historic District, Elgin  
Kane County, Illinois

STREET	No.	Architectural style/house type	Date	Original use		Secondary Structure		Historic name	Architect	Builder
Douglas Ave	278	Italianate	c. 1880	single-family	C					
Douglas Ave	279-279 1/2	Gabled Ell	c. 1880	single-family	C	detached garage	C			
Douglas Ave	280-282	Apartments/ Italian Renaissance	1920	multi-family	C			Goldman Apartments		
Douglas Ave	300-302	Flats/Italianate	1885	multi-family	C	detached garage	NC		Tumbull, Gilbert M.	
Douglas Ave	303	Queen Anne	c. 1890	single-family	C	detached garage	C			
Douglas Ave	307	T-Form	c. 1885	single-family	C	detached garage	C			
Douglas Ave	315	No Style	c. 1915	single-family	NC	detached garage	NC			
Douglas Ave	316	Institutional	1970	institutional	NC			Salvation Army		
Douglas Ave	317	New England One And A Half	c. 1860	single-family	C					
Douglas Ave	321-321a	Gabled Ell	c. 1890	single-family	C					
Douglas Ave	361	Queen Anne	1891	single-family	C	detached garage	C	Christie House		
Douglas Ave	365	Tudor Revival Cottage	c. 1915	single-family	C	detached garage	C			
Douglas Ave	370	Gable Front	c. 1890	single-family	C					
Douglas Ave	373	Cross Form	c. 1890	single-family	C	detached garage	C			
Douglas Ave	400	Apartments/ Spanish Colonial Revival	1929	multi-family	C			Lucile Cooper Apartments		Zomo, H. Frank
Douglas Ave	403	Italianate	c. 1870	single-family	C	detached garage	C			
Douglas Ave	409	Queen Anne	1892	single-family	C	detached garage	C	John T. Jencks House		St. Peter. Leon



# LACE

Curtains, Carpet Cleaning & Light Mending  
Done at ELGIN STEAM LAUNDRY, Wm. H. Goetting, Proprietor,  
35 Division Street ELGIN, ILLINOIS.

98

ELGIN

**FITZ R F**, Supt and Mgr The Elgin American Gas Co, 47  
Chicago, bds 49 DuPage.

Fitzgerald Anna Miss, wks wch fac, bds Natl House.

Fitzgerald Clarice Mrs, domestic, bds 184 Franklin.

Fitzgerald John, blksmith, bds 18 S State.

Fitzgerald John J, opr C & N W depot e s, bds 113 Douglas  
ave.

Fitzgerald Margaret Mrs (wid), res 18 S State.

Fitzsimmons Francis Miss, tchr, bds 290 Dundee ave.

Fitzsimmons John, wks wch fac, res 157 Prairie.

Fitzsimmons Josie Miss, bds 290 Dundee ave.

Fitzsimmons Rosa Miss, wks wch fac, bds 20 St Charles.

Fitzsimmons Terrance, lab, res 220 Dundee ave.

Fives Maggie Miss, wks wch fac, bds 157 Prairie.

Flaherty Lizzie Miss, wks wch fac, bds Natl House.

Flaherty Martha Mrs, wid John, res 57 Division.

Flake Charlotte Miss, domestic, 85 Prairie.

Flammer Kate Miss, wks wch fac, bds 157 Chicago.

Flatau B M, wks wch fac, res 231 Grove ave.

Flatau B M Mrs, milliner, res 231 Grove ave.

Flauto Mr, wks wch fac, bds 101 Sherman ave.

Fleming Geo, wks wch fac, bds Natl House.

Fleming John Mrs, bds 143 Center.

Fleming May C (wid), res 153 Grove ave.

Fleming Thos, engineer water tank C M & St P R'y, res 333  
N State.

Fletcher Albert, messenger Am Ex Co, res 505 Logan ave.

× Fletcher A L, drug clk, res 96 Park.

Fletcher Chas, bds 24 Porter.

Fletcher Frank, bds 348 Raymond.

Fletcher Jerome S, tmstr Elgin Lumber Co, bds 282 Division.

Fletcher John, painter, res 6 Barker blk.

× Fletcher Lewis, res 104 Park cor Gifford.

Fletcher Lydla M Mrs, wid Henry, res 24 Porter.

For Pure Drugs and Chemicals call at  
17 Bridge Street,  
S. C. SEXAUER, Proprietor.

"West Side Drug Store"

# INSU

Fletcher Rosa

Flick Lucy M

Flick Margar

Flinn Carrie

Flinn D W, g

Flintrop Hen

Flint Herbert

× Flinn James (

× Flinn John, w

Flinn Nettie M

Flinn Walter,

Flohr Wm, w

Florej Jennie

Flowers Henry

× Fluck John, n

Flynn Bridget

Flynn Katie M

Flynn James I

Flynn John, b

× Flynn John, re

Flynn Maggie

Flynn Mary M

Foehl J P, wks

× Foley James, v

Foley Julia Mi

Foley Maggie J

Foley Mary Mi

Foley Patrick,

Folman Chas, l

Folman John, v

Folman John J

Foltz Fred, coop

Foltz Roka Mrs



seley  
 thrader, r 129 Brook  
 16 Marguerite  
 r 234 Franklin  
 din  
 14 Prairie  
 ve ave  
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 go, se cor Center  
 se cor Center and Mil-  
 l Milwaukee  
 C Town pres, A C Fuller  
 er, w s Fountain Square  
 or DuPage  
 igan  
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1892

Fischer Ida L Miss, E W F, r 41 Michigan  
 Fischer Paulina, wid Christian, h 41 Michigan  
 Fischer Peter, h 60 Kimball  
 Fish Abbie A Mrs, milliner, 53 Milwaukee, h 170 Douglas ave  
 Fish A G, E W F and constable, h 53 St Charles  
**Fish Building, 5, 7 and 9 River**  
 Fish Clara B Miss, r 170 Douglas ave  
 Fish Earl, clk E W P & P Co, r 121 Ann  
 Fish Elizabeth L, wid Gordon W, h 311 Douglas ave  
 Fish Eva, wid Benjamin, E W F, r 327 Gresham  
 Fish Guy, r 121 Ann  
 Fish James E, music teacher, 7 River  
 Fish J Mrs, milliner, h 9 River  
 Fish ~~Re~~ <sup>See</sup> E W P & P Co, h 240 Ann  
 Fisher Charles H (Fisher & Mann), r 4 St Charles  
 Fisher Henry G, painter, h 120 Lawrence ave  
 Fisher Mrs, E W F, r 112 Railway ave  
 Fisher & Mann (C H Fisher & J P Mann), lawyers, Barker's  
 block  
 Fishering Henry M, E W F, h 128 Villa  
 Fisk Edward, driver chemical engine, r 80 Grove ave  
 Fisk Frank, E W F, h 201 Raymond  
 Fisk John T (Sadler, Allen & Co), and E W F, h 260 St Charles  
 Fisk Wm, miller, h 86 Grove ave  
 Fitch John, C P M C, r 127 Douglas ave  
 Fitz Marie Miss, r 219 Douglas ave  
**Fitz Robert F, tel 102, manager The Elgin American Gas  
 Co, h 219 Douglas ave**  
 Fitzgerald Alice Miss, L S F, r 34 Villa  
 Fitzgerald Annie Miss, E W F, r National House  
 Fitzgerald Bridget Miss, r 121 Highland ave  
 Fitzgerald Clarice Miss, E W F, r 131 Smithfield  
 Fitzgerald Margaret, wid James, r 18 S State  
 Fitzsimmons John, carp, h 311 Franklin  
 Fitzsimmons John, carp, h 157 DuPage  
 Fitzsimmons May Miss, L S F, r 311 Franklin  
 Fitzsimmons Rose, E W F, r 20 St Charles  
 Fitzsimmons Terence, lab, r 311 Franklin  
 Fives Margaret Miss, E W F, r 210 DuPage  
 Flaherty Lizzie Miss, E W F, r National House  
 Flaherty Mrs, C P C  
 Flacian Benjamin W C, E W F, h 61 Highland ave  
 Plateau Jacques M, E W F, h 46 Prairie  
 Flammer Kate, E W F, r 240 Villa  
 Fleming John, h 410 Douglas ave



ave  
h 420 Walnut ave  
F, h 479 S Liberty  
h 420 Walnut ave  
F, h 455 Walnut ave  
& Lasher, h 479 S Liberty  
mfg co, h 458 Franklin  
1 S Gifford

oseley  
h 167 Moseley  
brook  
school, h 515 Brook  
er W F, h 157 Oak  
h 474 Chicago  
71 Park row  
ice of fashion, h 121 Elm

lm  
Division  
Division  
and jewelry, smoked meats, etc, 413 Du-

arch, h 236 Harvey  
2 Vine, h do  
130 Vine  
h 130 Vine  
5 Bartlett pl  
and Geneva  
1 A the Spurling  
Center and Milwaukee  
Chicago and Center  
nd Center  
pres; D F Barclay, vice pres; H I Bos-  
ash; A C Hawkins, asst cash; Fountaln  
er Fulton and Geneva  
age and Villa

1900  
Fish Abbie C Mrs, h 268 Douglas ave  
Fish Addie Miss, emp W F, h 276 Fox ave  
Fish Agnes Miss, bds 392 Raymond  
Fish Block, 5-9 River  
Fish Edmond, emp W F, h 363 St Charles  
Fish Elizabeth, wid Gordon W, h 564 Douglas ave  
Fish Jay E (Jennie) teacher banjo and guitar, h 7 River  
Fish Margaret A, wid Gus, emp W F, h 363 St Charles  
Fisher Adolph (Katie) emp A F Schader, h 262 Brook  
FISHER CHARLES H (Mary) (Fisher & Mann) also corporation counsel, h 335  
St Charles  
Fisher Henry, painter, rms 609 Highland ave  
Fisher Paulina, wid Christian, h 243 Michigan  
Fisher William L (Leena) emp E S P co, h 22 Commonwealth ave  
FISHER & MANN (Charles H Fisher and John P Mann) lawyers, real estate  
and loans rms 5-7 Opera house blk  
Fisk Edward W (Alice) capt hose co no 3, h 373 Summit  
Fisk Frank (Josephine) rms 543 Raymond  
Fisk Mary Miss, h 946 Bellevue ave  
Fisk William, gardener, h 820 Kate  
Fitch John, emp E B T co, bds 225 Douglas ave  
Fitchie Hugh W (Clara) emp B C M co, h 208 Dexter ave  
Fitz Robert F (Marie W) agt N Y rubber co, Chicago, h 361 Douglas ave, tel  
1222  
Fitzgerald Anna Miss, emp W F, bds National house  
Fitzgerald Thomas, florist Souster, h 576 S State  
Fitzmorris, see also Morris  
Fitzmorris John, molder Elgin mfg co, bds Washington house  
Fitzpatrick, see also Partrick  
Fitzpatrick Susan, wid, h 333 Jewett  
Flies Maggie F Miss, emp W F, bds 71 S Gifford  
Fizzell Dell, emp C M & St P, rms 212 DuPage  
Flaherty, see also O'Flaherty  
Flaherty Bernard, laborer, h 108 Jewett  
Flaherty John, student St Mary's academy, h 108 Jewett  
Flaherty Martha, wid John, h 108 Jewett  
Flaherty Mattie Miss, emp D C Cook, h 108 Jewett  
Flaherty William A, emp bill posting co, h 108 Jewett  
Flannery Katherine, domestic 433 Division  
Plateau Carrie V Mrs, emp W F, rms 267 S Channing



55

# ENGINE

45 1/2

**№ 6**

# SHEET

**SEE**

**№ 5**

ANN

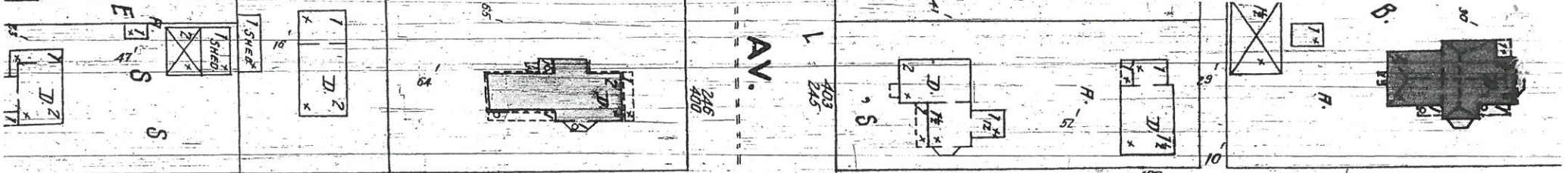
# CHERRY

DOUGLAS  
AV.

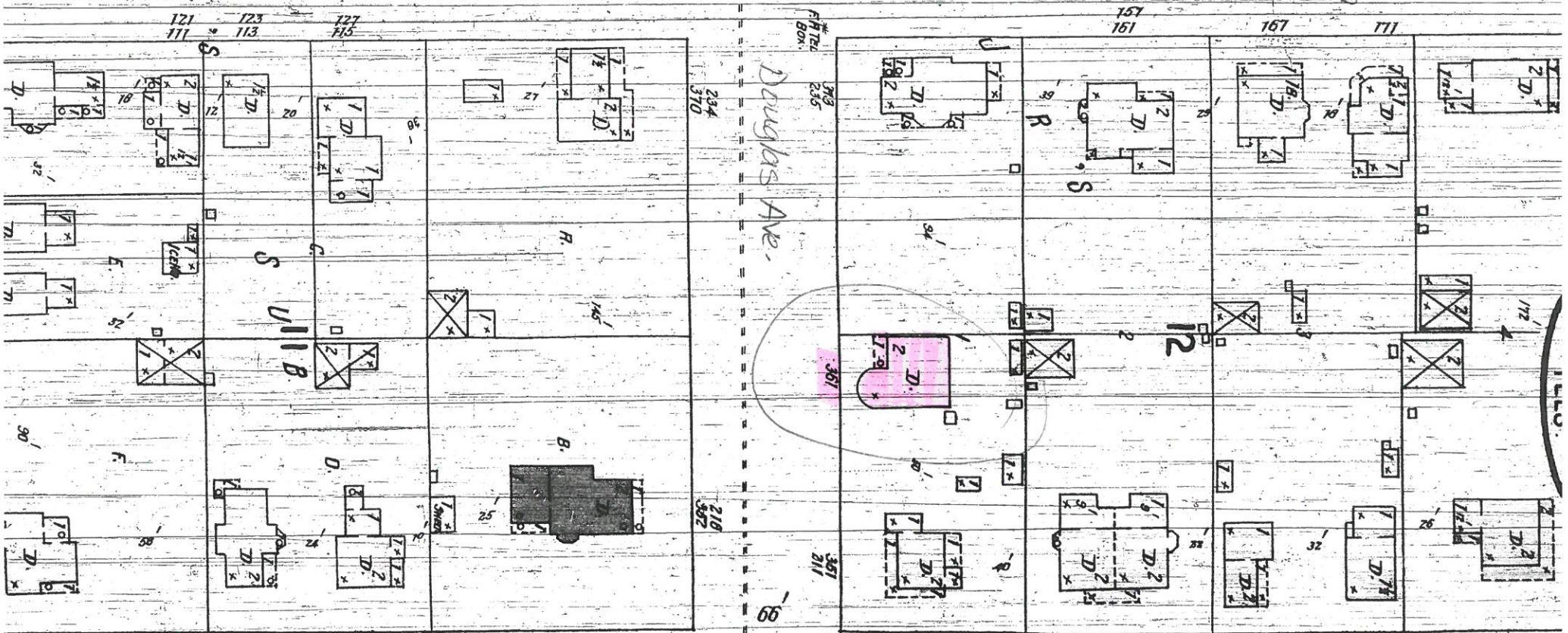
Sanborn  
Map  
1891



*Sanborn Map 1897*



CHERRY

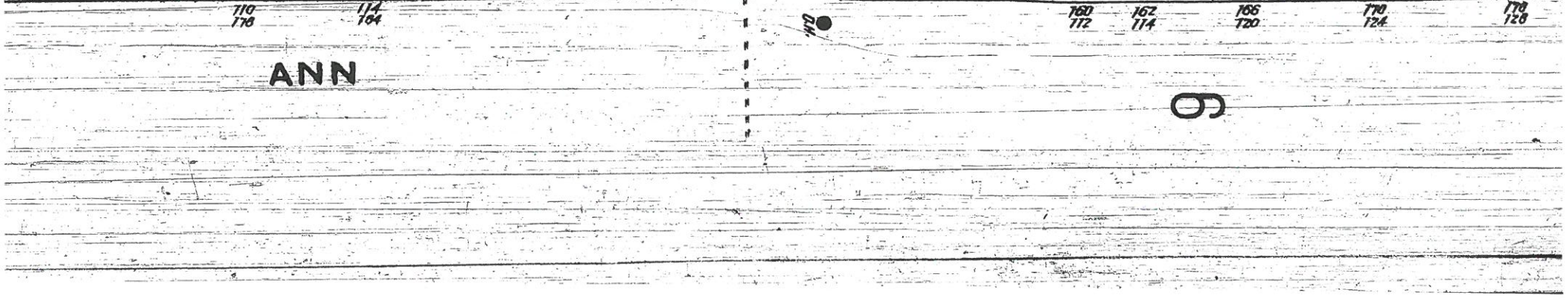


ANN

6

AV.

*Douglas Ave.*





125908

This Indenture Witnesseth, That the Grantors James Christie and Jane Christie, his wife,

of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois

for and in consideration of the sum of One DOLLAR,

in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to

Samuel A. Christie

of the City of Elgin County of Kane and State of Illinois

the following described Real Estate, to-wit: A part of Lot One W Block Twelve (12) of P. J. Winfall, Jr. 3<sup>d</sup> Addition to Elgin, Kane County, Illinois, bounded as follows, to-wit: Commencing on the West line of said Lot at a point Eight (8) rods North of the South West Corner of said Lot, Thence South on said West line Three (3) rods; Thence East on a line parallel with South boundary line of said Lot Five (5) rods; to East line of said Lot; Thence North on said East line Three (3) rods; Thence West on a line parallel with the South boundary line of said Lot Five (5) rods to the place of beginning.

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

Dated this Eighth day of June A. D. 1891

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

James Christie.

Jane Christie.

SEAL

SEAL

SEAL

SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
County of Kane ss.

I, H. M. Fisher a Notary Public

in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that

James Christie and Jane Christie his wife  
who are

Notarial Seal

personally known to me to be the same persons whose name are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their 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 Official seal, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June A. D. 1891.

H. M. Fisher

Notary Public