

Building Plaque Application

Name _____

Building Address 453 DOUGLAS Avenue

Building Name _____

(for public/commercial structures)

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Original Owner JENNIE STONE

Date of Construction 1877

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 J. Elaine Mardak

Date 7/17/02

Signed Mary M. Hill

Date 5-25-02

Historical/Architectural

Kimball Street was the dividing line between retail and residential Elgin, to the north of the city's center. Houses were built from Kimball Street up to North Division Street (now Jefferson Avenue), the north city limit, beginning in the 1850's. A cluster of houses along Douglas Avenue in the 400 blocks contain the triangular pedimented window hood, characteristic of the Greek Revival period of the 1870's.

Phineas J. Kimball, Jr.'s Third Addition covered a large piece of the land north of Kimball Street to North Division Street. In block 21 of the Addition, lots 1 and 2 were bought by Bernard Healy from Kimball in 1857. In July 1877, the south half of lot 2 was sold to Jennie Stone, the wife of Arthur N. Stone, with a trust deed (loan) quickly following. The Elgin City Directory for 1875-76 lists Mr. Stone as residing on the north east corner of Douglas and Jefferson. In the next edition, 1878-79, Stone is listed at "125 Douglas Ave., corner of Seneca." The city of Elgin realigned its address numbering system several times before settling on the system in use today. By 1894, 125 Douglas Avenue became 453.

Arthur N. Stone came to Elgin in the 1850's as a young boy. He served in the Civil War and then took up dentistry. His brother Charles was a physician; his nephew, C. Alex Stone, was associated with a downtown Elgin bank and lived on upper Douglas Avenue. By 1924 Jennie Stone had died and a year later, Dr. Stone moved to Resthaven Sanitarium for health reasons. He died there, at age 83, in 1927.

Frank Ellis and his wife Katie lived next door to Dr. Stone at 457 Douglas (the north half of lot 2). In 1924, Dr. Stone sold 453 Douglas to Frank Ellis. When Dr. Stone left his house, the Ellis's then moved to 453. Katie Ellis died in 1935 and Frank moved to Lovell Street to live with relatives.

Frank Ellis was a lineal descendant of General Robert E. Lee, according to his obituary in the *Elgin Daily Courier News*, January 26, 1940. Mr. Ellis was a business teacher and the founder of the Ellis Business College at 101 N. Spring Street-the building stands there today. Failing health compelled Mr. Ellis to give up his involvement in the college in 1919, and several years later, one of his students at the college became its leader. Ellis' daughter, Ethel, was a teacher at Waller High School in Chicago. She inherited the house.

453 Douglas Avenue became a rental property following Frank Ellis' departure in 1936. The house sat vacant for several years and then was occupied by one family after another. In 1946, Ethel Ellis sold it. Many more owners followed until the house was bought by the parents of the current owner in 1968.

The current owner relates the following anecdotes: her parents owned 420 Douglas and operated it as a nursing home. Employees from the home lived in 453 Douglas and it was known as the "work house." 413 Douglas was owned by the current owner of 453 for a while. The current owner's sister lived at 456 Douglas. The entire corner of Douglas and Seneca was called "Grandma's Corner" by the current owner, her sister, and their children.



The current owner received a grant from the city of Elgin's deconversion program to rehabilitate the house to a single family residence.

Architectural

453 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 and as in the Folk Victorian architectural style. It is a simple house with a front facing gable, originally built without the front porch.

The house has little detail, a basic element of Folk Victorians. Detail is limited to a diamond above the second floor windows. Windows contain an Italianate element, a segmented arch and a Greek Revival element, a triangular pediment above. Both Italianate and Greek Revival elements are common to Folk Victorians.

The Sanborn Map of 1891 indicates no porch while the next map in 1897 indicates the porch. As a separate unit, the porch contains the greatest amount of detail on the house, yet those details reflect the simplicity of the Folk Victorian style. The structure is polygonal, both in roof and sidewalls. A triangular pediment is placed over the front steps; the porch supports are simple, rounded posts, and Queen Anne dentil detail is at the roof line.

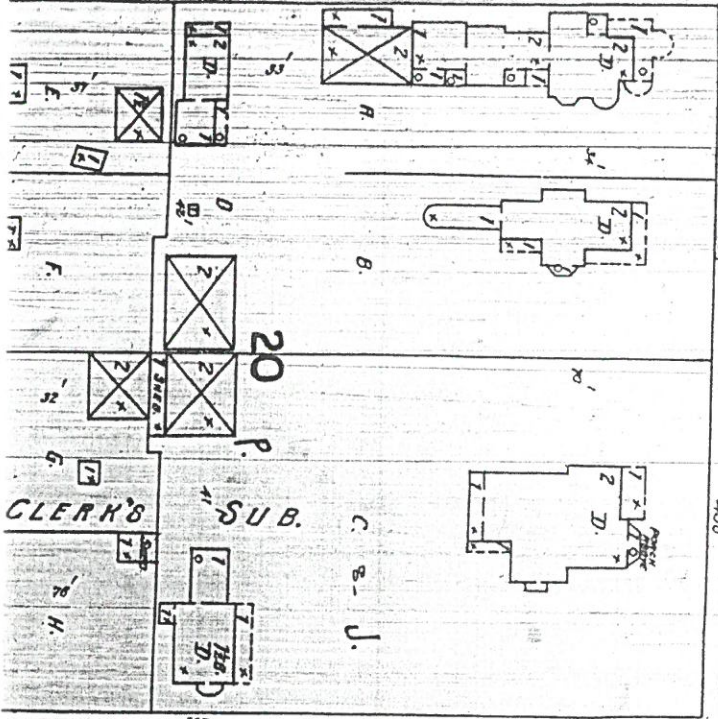
mmh/may02

* (Additional information) After the close of the nursing home in 1975, 453 Douglas provided, at different times, three young couples in the owner's family a "place to get started."

Sanborn Map 1897

23

SUMMIT



FIREL.
BOX.
291
289

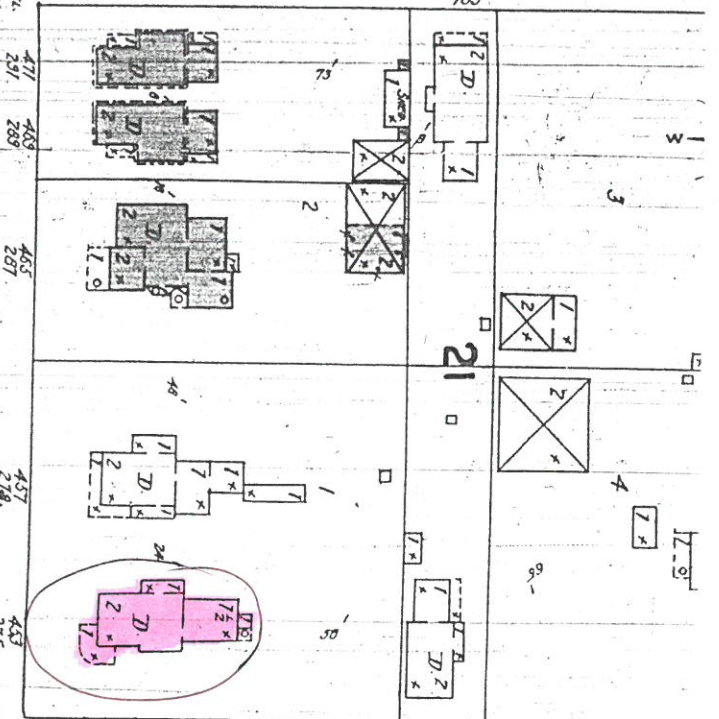
296
470

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404

218
438

175
163

21



FIREL.
BOX.
291
289

471
403

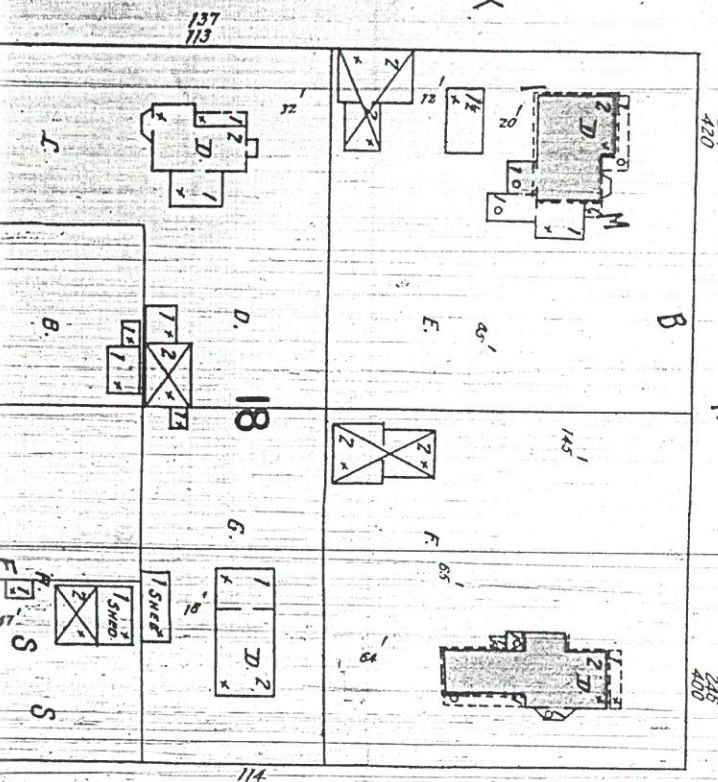
465
287

437
218

453
275

167
172

SENECA



16" W.P.I.P.E.

DOUGLASS

AV.

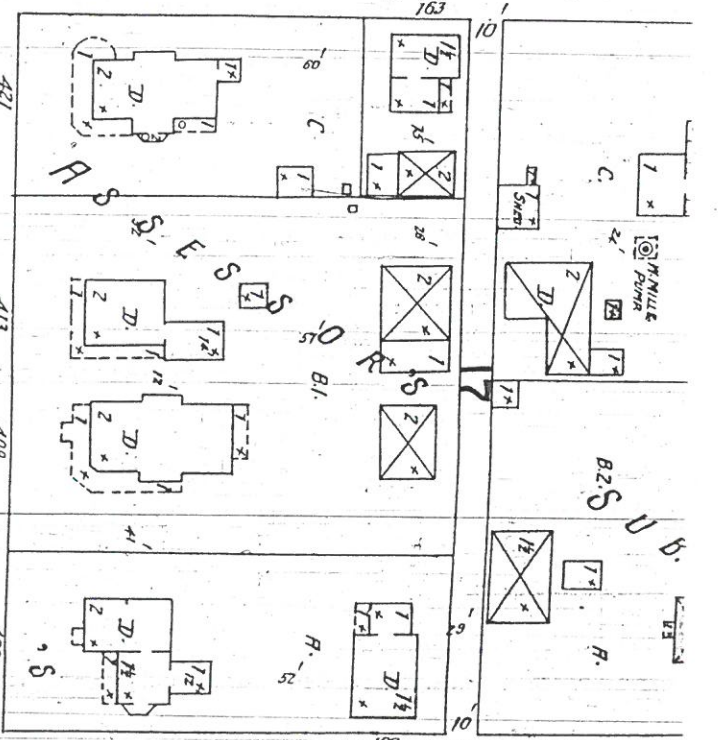
204
420

145

245
400

171
163

17



421
261

413
235

409

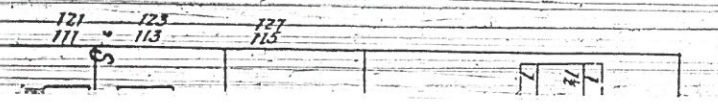
403
245

157
151

167

171

CHERRY



FIREL.
BOX.
291
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471
403

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453
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121
111

123
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177
115

- Stolt Frederick, dry goods and groceries, 29 Douglas av, res same.
- Stone Charles, salesman R. W. Stone, res e sd Douglas av, bet Kimball and Franklin.
- Stone Rodney W. groceries and crockery, 25 Douglas av, res n sd Fulton, bet Geneva and Chapel.
- Stone Dr. Arthur N. dentist, rooms over Weld's drug store, Chicago, res s e cor Douglas av and Jefferson av.
- Stone Reuben R. whol dir in butter, cheese, etc. office n sd Dexter av, w of east depot, res s e cor Spring and Franklin.
- Stone Albert, wks watch f, bds National house.
- Stoner William Henry, drayman, res s e cor Spring and Plum.
- Storm Frederick, lab, res n e cor Moseley and Holly.
- Stowe Levi S. dentist, 39 Chicago (up stairs), res n sd DuPage, bet River and Spring.
- Stowe Edwin, res e sd River, bet Lake and Prairie.
- Stowe Miss Carrie, wks watch f, bds e sd River, bet Lake and Prairie.
- Straussel Martin, res w sd Center, bet Chicago and Milwaukee.
- Straussel Henry A. res n e cor Spring and Jefferson av.
- Strauss Abraham, salesman L. Adler, res s w cor Ann and Douglas av.
- Strauss Nathan, salesman L. Adler, rooms 2 Town's blk, Fountain square.
- Strang Gabriel, boot and shoemkr, res e sd River, bet DuPage and Fulton.
- STRONG MRS. HANNAH M. dress and cloak mkr, parlors 35 Chicago, 2d floor, res same.
- Strong Godfrey, painter, res w sd Railway av, bet Prairie and Lake.
- Strong Francis, wks watch f, bds w sd Railway av, bet Prairie and Lake.
- Strong Samuel, mason, bds w sd Railway av, bet Prairie and Lake.
- Strubing Frederick, res w sd River, bet Cherry and Seneca.
- Strubing William, lab, res w sd River, bet Cherry and Seneca.
- Strubing John, wks Wadhams, Willard & Co. res w sd McBride, n of Cherry.
- Strubing Charles, wks Wadhams, Willard & Co. res w sd McBride, n of Cherry.
- Strubing Charles, lab, res s w cor Lovell and River.
- Strucker Jacob, barkpr L. Schroeder, bds e sd Brook, bet Kimball and Ann.
- Strunberg Charles E. machinist Gronberg, Bierman & Co. res e sd River, bet Cherry and Ann.
- Stryker Joseph R. carpenter, res w sd Dundee road, bet Ann and Seneca.
- Stuamme Henry, cik Hawthorne & Bosworth, bds e sd Brook, bet Kimball and Ann.
- Sullivan Patrick S. milk inspector Ill. Condensing Co. res n w cor Douglas av and Ann.
- Sullivan Michael, lab, res s sd Mill, bet State and Crystal.
- Summe Henry, cik Hawthorne & Bosworth, res e sd Brook, bet Kimball and Ann.
- Sutherland Ephraim M. teamster, res s w cor Spring and Milwaukee.

Buy the SINGER Sewing Machine of J. Joel, Agent, Merlin's Block, Elgin.

This Book Bound by Richmann & Son.

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1878-79

Holland's Elgin City Directory.

Stevenson Chas., hostler, res. over Swan & Smith's stable.

Stevenson John M., watch f'y, res. Walnut, 3 w. of Gertrude.

Stewart Archie, res. 42 S. River.

Stewart A. M. (Stewart Bros.), res. 6 College.

Stewart Fleming, lab., res. 7 Enterprise.

Stewart R. (Stewart Bros.), res. 89 Chicago.

Stewart Thomas, alderman of the 4th Ward, and of the firm of Stewart Bros., res. 68 N. Center.

Stewart Brothers (T. A. M. and R. Stewart), business established 1867, bakers, and dealers in choice family groceries, produce, crackers, bread, canned goods, &c., 31 Chicago. (See advt.)

Stiles Albert J., carpenter, bds. 44 Dupage.

Stiles C. B., machinist, res. 111 Chicago.

Stiles L. C., carpenter, res. 44 Dupage.

St. Louis Ada, waitress, **Waverly House**.

Stoddard Isaac, res. 105 Douglas av.

Stoddard G. F., commission mer., bds. 20 Washington.

Stohr Mrs. Ann, wid., res. 159 Douglas av.

Stolt Fred., grocer, 20 Douglas av., res. same.

Stone A. W., surgeon dentist, and a resident of Elgin since 1852, and in practice since 1866, 17 Chicago, res. 125 Douglas av., cor. Seneca.

Stone Charles A., homeopathic physician and surgeon, room 14, Town's block (south hall), bds. s. e. cor. Dupage and Chapell. (See advt.)

Stone C. C., tinner, res. 49 N. Gifford.

Stone Charles C., sr., res. 97 Douglas av.

Stone Mills, August Heideman, propr., River, foot of Milwaukee. (See advt.)

Stone Dr. R. R., dealer in factory butter and cheese, and of the firm of Stone & Gibbons, res. 43 N. Spring.

Stone & Gibbons (Dr. R. R. Stone and P. F. Gibbons), manufis. of butter pails, tubs and cheese boxes, and wholesale dealers in butter tub and cheese box stock, Douglas av., w. of east side depot.

Stone R. W., a resident of Elgin since 1853, dealer in choice family groceries, crockery, flour, notions, fruits, &c., 25 Douglas av., res. 127 Douglas av.

Stonchouse Robert, gardener, Insane Asylum.

Stoner Wm. H., drayman, res. 88 N. Spring.

Stookey Niles, watch f'y, bds. 55 Grove av.

Stowe L. S., a resident of Elgin since 1852, dental rooms, 23 Chicago, res. 4 Dupage.

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This Indenture, Made this Eighth day of May in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy seven BETWEEN Leopold Adler and Rose Adler his wife of the city of Elgin and County of Kane in the State of Illinois Parties

James H. Stone of the same place Party of the first part, and _____ of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has GRANTED, BARGAINED AND SOLD, and by these presents do GRANT, BARGAIN AND SELL, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all the following described lot, piece, or parcel of Land, situated in the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois, to-wit:

Being that portion of Block No. 100, corner of 2^d Street and 1st Street, situated in Elgin as laid out and recorded in the Recorder's office of Kane County Illinois, bounded as follows to-wit: Commencing at the South West corner of said Block No. 100 being the South East corner of Geneva Street and the line there running thence North along the East line of Douglas Street to a certain thence East parallel with the North line of Geneva Street eight rods, thence South parallel with East line of Douglas Street to South line of Geneva Street and thence West along said South line of Geneva Street to place of beginning.

This conveyance is made subject to the taxes for the year 1877

TOGETHER with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances therunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversion remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof, and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever, of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns FOREVER.

And the said Leopold Adler and Rose Adler his wife

parties of the first part, hereby expressly waive, release, and relinquish unto the said party of the second part, and his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all right, title, claim, interest and benefit whatever, in and to the above described premises, and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State pertaining to the exemption of homesteads

And the said Leopold Adler and Rose Adler his wife

party of the first part, for themselves and their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that at the time of the enclosing and delivery of these presents, they are well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law, and in fee simple, and have in good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, liens, taxes, assessments and incumbrances, of what kind or nature soever, and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said party of the first part shall and will WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The said party of the first part hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

Leopold Adler
Rose Adler



STATE OF ILLINOIS, KANE COUNTY.

Wm. R. Hepburn, Notary Public

In and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Leopold Adler and Rose Adler his wife persons whose names are

personally known to me as the same persons whose name is subscribed to the annexed Deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument in writing as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

And the said Rose Adler wife of the said Leopold Adler

Notarial Seal

having been by me examined, separate and apart, and out of the hearing of her husband and the contents and meaning of the said instrument in writing, having been by me fully made known, and explained to her, and she also by me being fully informed of her rights under the Homestead Laws of this State, acknowledged that she had freely and voluntarily executed the same, and relinquished her dower to the lands and tenements therein mentioned, and also all her rights and advantages under and by virtue of all laws of this State relating to the exemption of Homesteads, without the compulsion of her said husband, and that she does not wish to retract the same.

Given under my hand and Notarial Seal this Eighth day of May A. D. 1877.

Wm. R. Hepburn
Notary Public

No. 147 Filed for Record this 12th day of May A. D. 1877, at Kane County

L. P. Dutton Recorder

THIS INDENTURE, Made this _____ day of _____ 1874, between **Bernard Healy** and **John W. Board** of the County of Kane and State of Illinois

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part, has hereunto set his hand and seal, at _____, Illinois, this _____ day of _____, 1874.

Witness my hand and seal, this _____ day of _____, 1874.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The said party of the first part hereunto set their hand and seal, and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said party of the first part shall and will WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND.

TOGETHER with all and singular the benefices and appurtenances thereto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversion, remainder and remainder, rent, issue and profits thereof, and all the hereditaments and appurtenances, with the hereditaments and appurtenances, in and to the above bargained premises, unto the said party of the second part, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all right, title, claim, interest and benefit whatever, in and to the above described premises, and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State, pertaining to the exemption of homesteads.

And the said **Bernard Healy** and **John W. Board** do hereby certify that **Bernard Healy** and **John W. Board** are personally known to me as the same persons whose names are subscribed to the annexed deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument in writing as **free and voluntary act**, for the use and purpose therein set forth.

And the said **Bernard Healy** and **John W. Board** do hereby certify that **Bernard Healy** and **John W. Board** are personally known to me as the same persons whose names are subscribed to the annexed deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument in writing as **free and voluntary act**, for the use and purpose therein set forth.

And the said **Bernard Healy** and **John W. Board** do hereby certify that **Bernard Healy** and **John W. Board** are personally known to me as the same persons whose names are subscribed to the annexed deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument in writing as **free and voluntary act**, for the use and purpose therein set forth.

Open under my hand and seal, this _____ day of _____, 1874.

Notary Public for Kane County, Illinois, at _____, Illinois, this _____ day of _____, 1874.