

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SENT TO D.C.

3-21-2000

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fisher Building-Latham Block

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 111, 113 & 115 North Sixth Street

not for publication

city or town Springfield

vicinity

state Illinois

code IL

county Sangamon

code 167 zip code 62701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Usher / S.H.P. 3-17-00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Fisher Building-Latham Block
Name of Property

Sangamon County, IL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/restaurant
- COMMERCE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/business
- COMMERCE/professional
- COMMERCE/warehouse
- DOMESTIC/hotel
- DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/financial institution
- Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Mid-19th Century
- Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
- walls Brick
- roof Asphalt
- other Limestone/Cast-iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1856-1900

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lincoln Library/Sangamon Valley Coll

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Fisher Building-Latham Block

Description

The Fisher Building-Latham Block, 111, 113, and 115 North Sixth Street, are two three-story, brick, mid-19th Century classical inspired and later Classical Revival commercial buildings located in Springfield, Illinois. The Fisher Building, 111 North Sixth Street, abuts the Latham Block, 113-115 North Sixth Street, from the south side. Though the buildings were constructed separately, they are counted as one contributing building because they have interconnecting entrances between them at the first and second levels. The Fisher Building-Latham Block is located on the west side of Sixth Street between Washington and Jefferson Streets in the downtown Springfield, Illinois commercial district. This block is directly north of the public square. The area around the buildings is a mixture of commercial buildings housing financial institutions, professional offices, and restaurants. Parking lots lie to the north and west. A narrow alley separates the Fisher Building from its neighboring building to the south. A wider alley separates the north side of the Latham Block from a parking lot.

FISHER BUILDING, 111 North Sixth Street

The Fisher Building is a rectangular three-story, Classical Revival, brick commercial block with a sloped roof and parapet walls. It has a basement with stone walls and foundation. Its north wall abuts the Latham Block.

East Elevation

First story

The east façade or front of the building has a modernized (circa 1960s – 70s) storefront at the first level. The south wall of cut stone veneer extends about five feet down the side of the south elevation. At the corner, below this wall, there appears to be a cast iron stoop. Metal sheeting covers the original transom-level store windows, wrapping around the southeast corner of the building. The first floor entrance is an aluminum framed glass door with a glass panel on the left-hand side and a transom light. A large plate glass display window lies north of the doorway. The window has a thin stone sill and bulkhead or apron wall of limestone veneer. A recessed entrance to the second and third stories is located just north of the display window. The walls on either side of the

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recessed entrance are decorated in one-inch tiles with mixed colors of white, blue, and red. This doorway also contains an aluminum-framed glass door.

Second and third stories

The second and third stories are constructed of a light brick veneer that replaced the original façade about 1900. A two-story, three-sided bay window with three windows at each story, is centered in the middle of the elevation. These windows are 1/1 single hung, wooden framed windows fitted with aluminum storm windows. The bay window is constructed of wood and has decorative moldings below the windows and a decorative Classical Revival cornice with acanthus-shaped brackets. Single double-hung windows flank the projecting bay on each story. Two narrow stringcourses of limestone run across the façade in horizontal bands forming sills for the windows. A stone molding lies below this band at the second story. Three wider bands of limestone run across the entire width of the façade. The bottom band sits atop the sill band of the second story. The middle and top bands line up with the window lintels of the second and third stories. Decorative elements representing a capstone are carved in the bands directly above the second and third story windows. A simple Classical Revival cornice supported by modillions tops the east elevation.

South Elevation

The south side of the building faces an alley. At the first level several arched window openings and one door have been enclosed with brick. The second and third levels have six 1/1 double-hung windows with segmentally-arched brick tops and cast iron sills. Structural tie rods are located at the second and third floor levels. An electric meter base and other utility surface boxes are mounted on this wall and power lines and other cables enter the building here. Two vent pipes exit the foundation wall at ground level and extend to the roofline. The entire side of the wall has been painted.

West Elevation

The west side of the building abuts the east wall of the building at 3 Old State Capitol Plaza North.

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Exterior Alterations

The original façade of the Fisher Building had a cast iron storefront. A photograph of the building taken in 1892 shows the south support of the storefront was a brick pier and the rest were cast iron columns. Plate glass display windows flanked the doorway to the store space. Transom windows ran the entire length of the first floor. The entrance to the upper floors was located to the north of the store entrance. The second and third floors had four windows apiece. The two center windows at each level were six over six. The outside two windows were four over four. All windows had pedimented cast iron hoods and cast iron sills. A decorative cast iron cornice topped the façade.

About 1900, the entire façade was altered to its present appearance. The second and third floors have changed little since this alteration. The storefront level was converted circa 1912 to accommodate a movie theater, the Amuse-U Theatre. The 1912 storefront had a cast iron beam above the transom area. The entire storefront was recessed about 5 feet. A cast iron column supported the south corner. A ledge ran the length of the storefront. The stoop located at the southeast corner of the building may be a remnant of that ledge. A ticket booth was centered in the middle of the storefront. Transom lights were located above the entrance. A lighted sign reading "Amuse U 5(cents) extended from the building over the sidewalk. The storefront was remodeled to its current state sometime in the late 1960s.

Interior Description

Basement

Wooden stairs lead from a doorway in the first floor to the basement. The walls of the basement are made of stone. The floor is made of cement. The basement houses the furnace for the building.

First Floor

The first floor has a large display room. The walls are covered in wood paneling. A pressed metal ceiling is located above a suspended ceiling. The room is illuminated with fluorescent lights. The floor is carpeted. The room is heated by baseboard electric

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heating units. A smaller room and two bathrooms are located to the rear. A doorway, located on the north wall, leads to the basement. An entrance way exists between this building and the south storeroom of the Latham Block. This space is currently vacant and will be renovated.

Second and Third Floors

An outside entrance reaches the second floor by a wooden staircase. The stair to the third floor has a wooden balustrade. Both the second and third floors basically have the same floor plan except for the location of a few closets in rooms. Each floor has five rooms that face a hallway on the north side of the building. The front room on the east end of each floor has a bay window. All the rooms have modern wood paneling, wood trim and carpet. Plaster walls exist behind the wood paneling. The floors are constructed of wood, tongue and groove boards. Each room has a five paneled, wooden door. Steam heat radiators heat them. A sink is located in the room at the west end of the floor. A single full bathroom is located at the west end of the hallway. All the rooms on both floors are currently vacant.

LATHAM BLOCK, 113-115 North Sixth Street

The Latham Block is a rectangular three-story, mid-Nineteenth Century, Classical-influenced, brick commercial block with a flat roof and parapet walls. It has a basement with stone walls and foundation. Its south wall abuts the Fisher Building.

East Elevation

First story

Like the Fisher Building, the east façade or front of the building has a modernized (circa 1960s – 70s) storefront at the first story. As stated before this is a continuation of the storefront design on the Fisher Building. The first story consists of two storefronts. The south storefront has a recessed entrance adjacent to the wall dividing the two buildings. The recessed wall is decorated with one-inch tiles of blue, white, and red colors. The south entrance doorway is an aluminum framed, glass door. North of this doorway is a large plate glass display window. The window has a thin stone sill and apron or

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bulkhead wall of limestone veneer. This window is flanked on either side by a smaller plate glass window panel. A recessed entrance to the second and third stories is located to the north of the display window. The wall dividing it and the north storefront is decorated with the same one-inch tiles and has an apron wall of limestone veneer. North of this wall is a second entrance to the second and third stories. Another large plate glass display window with side window panels lies to the north. The entrance to the north storefront is located at a diagonal at the northern end of the building. A support column decorated in one-inch tiles stands in front of the entrance. The metal sheeting located at the transom level runs across the Latham Block and wraps around the corner of the building on the north side. A large yellow business sign with red lettering title "Springfield Currency Exchange" is located on the metal sheeting above the north store front.

Second and third stories

The second and third levels have seven evenly space 1/1 double hung wooden windows each. The windows have decorative, pedimented cast iron hoods and cast iron sills. The second and third levels are believed to have not been changed since the building's construction in 1856. The east elevation has a metal, decorative cornice. This cornice is typical of late Nineteenth Century Classical Revival cornices. It is made up of a frieze decorated with a festoon. Above this festoon is a row of dentils surmounted by modillions supporting a deep overhanging crown.

North Elevation

The north wall faces an alley. At the first story large ventilator louvers and a metal fire door have replaced the original openings. A wall unit air conditioner is located on the first story. Three electric meter bases are mounted on the surface of the wall at the first story. The second story has six 1/1 double hung, wooden windows fitted with aluminum storm windows with cast iron sills and pediments. Another wall unit air conditioner is centrally located on the second level. The third story also contains six windows of the same design and make as the second story. The windows farthest east on this elevation have metal fire escape landings bolted outside them. A wooden fence is located on the west end of the northside and runs across the narrow alley behind it.

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West Elevation

The west elevation is the rear of the building. It has 3 windows at the second and third levels. Two vent pipes exit the foundation and extend along side the wall to the roofline. Air conditioning units are located on the ground outside this elevation

Interior Description

First floor, 113 North Sixth Street

The first floor of 113 North Sixth Street has an exterior doorway that leads into a small vestibule. An interior doorway leads into a large open room. Like the 111 store space, this room is carpeted and has baseboard electric heat. The walls have modern, false wood paneling. A suspended ceiling hides a tall pressed metal ceiling. An exit is located at the west end of the floor. The room is currently vacant, awaiting renovation.

First floor, 115 North Sixth Street

The first floor of 115 North Sixth houses the Springfield Currency Exchange business. The floor is divided into four rooms. The east room, which is entered by the Sixth Street door, is used as a lobby for customers. A customer counter is located on the west wall of this room. Two other rooms on this floor are used as office and storage space for the business. A bathroom is located on this floor. The west room is an empty office space. An exit, that is located in the second room from the west end, leads to the alley north of the building.

Second and third floors, 113 North Sixth Street

The second and third floors have similar floor plans. Each floor consists of five rooms located against the south wall with a hallway running along the north interior wall. A bathroom is located on each floor towards the west end beyond the staircase leading to the third floor. This staircase is located on the south wall of the hallway. Each room has modern wood wall paneling. Behind the paneling is plaster walls. The doors to the rooms are five-paneled and made of wood. The floors are carpeted and have wood, tongue and groove planks. All are heated by steam radiator heat. The west room on each floor also

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has a sink. All the rooms are vacant. Two skylights are located on the roof. Shafts lead from these skylights down into the second and third levels to provide light.

Second and third floors, 115 North Sixth Street

Like 113 North Sixth Street, the floor plan for the second and third levels of 115 North Sixth Street consists of five rooms. These rooms are located against the north exterior wall of the building with a hallway running along the south interior wall. A bathroom is located on each floor west of the staircase leading to the third floor. This staircase is located along the north wall of the hallway on the second floor. Another toilet and sink are located in the middle room on the second floor. Both rooms on the west end of the floors have sinks as well. These rooms are also wood paneled, wood trimmed and have wood paneled doors. They are heated by steam as well. Unlike 113, the rooms in 115 each have small closets.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Fisher Building-Latham Block building, 111, 113 and 115 North Sixth Street, originally built circa 1856, is a historically significant local example of commercial building design in Springfield. Its basic design as a two-part commercial block is representative of Nineteenth Century commercial structures. The Latham Block, 113, 115 North Sixth, is a good example of mid-19th Century classical-inspired commercial buildings once common in Springfield but now numbered to a few structures. These early commercial structures, many built in the 1850s, were speculative buildings exhibiting minimal classical elements. The Latham Block, with its relatively unchanged upper stories, best exhibits classical design in its original cast iron window hoods and symmetrical fenestration. The Fisher Building, 111 South Sixth Street, was originally a mate to the Latham Block but underwent a complete façade change circa 1900 and reflects a manifestation of the Classical Revival. In many instances older buildings like the Fisher block were given new facades as architectural tastes changed. The Fisher Building with its symmetrically balanced fenestration and central bay window, is a good example of the post Columbian Exposition Classical Revival. This building is architecturally significant because the Latham Block represents an early, once common but now rare classical style of commercial building design in Springfield while the Fisher Building exhibits the later Classical Revival. The pair of facades documents the changes in appearance of commercial property typical in Springfield from the 1850s to the turn of the century. Their period of significance is from 1856, the time of their construction to 1900, the time of the renovation of the Fisher Building. The buildings are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture.

Architecture

The circa 1856 Latham Block is in the classical two-part commercial block tradition. Richard Longstreth defines the two-part commercial block in his book, The Buildings of Main Street, as having a two-part division. "The single-story lower zone, at street level, indicates public spaces such as retail stores, a banking room, insurance office or hotel lobby. The upper zone suggests more private spaces, including offices, hotel rooms or a meeting hall." The Latham Block and the Fisher Building housed a variety of retail stores on their first story with hotel rooms and offices on the second and third floors.

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Greek Revival, with its adaptation of Greek temples, employed Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian orders and other details. Several early and important public buildings in Springfield were constructed in the Greek Revival style. These include the Old State Capitol (1837), Illinois State Bank (1839), Sangamon County Courthouse (1845), and Tinsley Building (1840). The Old Capitol was an important, early, full-blown example of Greek Revival with its Doric order of columns, cupola and classical detailing. The Courthouse and State Bank were temple form buildings and the Tinsley Building, a simplified business block with clerestory windows, undecorated pilasters, and low-pitched roof. That Springfield citizens were keenly aware of this new and fashionable style can be easily inferred from an 1842 sale advertisement for a private house located in the 200 block of South Fourth Street. The sale bill describes it as a Grecian Cottage featuring "a portico extending across the entire front."

Other commercial structures like the Enterprise Building (1854), 427 East Washington, and Buck's Building (1855), 3 Old State Capitol Plaza North, were built using classical details. The Enterprise and Bucks are representative examples of speculative commercial buildings exhibiting minimal classical elements. The Enterprise Building also shows classical cast-iron window hoods, evenly spaced windows, and brick corbelled cornice. All of these elements remain today. Early photos of the Buck's Building confirm that it once looked very similar to the Enterprise. Buck's Building underwent a façade change in the 1890s with an addition of a metal cornice, decorative metal balustrade, and more elaborate hoods.

The Latham Block is a good example of a speculative commercial building exhibiting classical inspired elements. The original cast-iron pediment window hoods are a particularly important Greek Revival element. The original cornice of brick corbelling was replaced the present classical metal cornice circa 1900. The Fisher Building originally had many of the same details of the Latham Block but its façade was completely changed circa 1900 and is in the later Classical Revival style coming after the Columbian Exposition. This more embellished Classical Revival style with elaborate cornices, trim, and stonework was being employed in other new buildings in Springfield including 420-426 East Monroe, the Illinois Hotel (1903), 405-407 East Washington; and St. Nicholas Hotel Annex (1912), as well as in façade changes like the Fisher Building - Latham Block.

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Historical Context

Commercial property development of Springfield began in 1821 when Elijah Iles opened a store in a log structure on the southeast corner of Second and Jefferson streets. Within a couple of years, a collection of taverns, storerooms, and a temporary courthouse had clustered around the intersection of Jefferson and Second streets forming Springfield's first business district. The opening of a federal land office in November 1823 allowed the town's proprietors to purchase the town site and to survey it. A rectangular tract bounded on the north by Madison Street, on the east by Seventh, on the south by Monroe, and on the West by First was laid out. The town originally consisted of twenty-three blocks and a public square. As part of the agreement that allowed the town to become the permanent seat of Sangamon County in 1825, the proprietors donated to the county the public square as well as the blocks immediately north and south, and a tract between Washington and Madison streets extending east from Sixth to a line midway between Eighth and Ninth streets.

In 1831 a new brick courthouse was built in the center of the public square. This improvement along with a markethouse on the northwest corner of the square caused a gradual shift in the commercial district from the area around Second and Jefferson streets to the new public square. This change in direction of Springfield's growth is noted by historian Paul Angle in his history of Springfield, *Here I Have Lived*. Angle notes that "buildings began to appear on Fifth Street (then known as Main Street) and on Washington Street north of the courthouse. Most of them were one story in height and built of wood, but some were brick. A row of three two-story brick stores was built on Fifth Street south from the corner of Washington in 1831, while in 1835 Hoffman's Row of six two-story bricks, extending northward from the same corner, was constructed." By the 1840s three- and four-story brick store buildings were being built around the public square and on the nearby arterial streets leading to it. The completion of the Chicago and Alton Railroad in 1852 added to the prosperity of the city and construction of brick store buildings advanced at a great pace. Angle notes that a building boom began in 1854 and continued for several years. The Fisher Building and Latham Block were built during this building boom.

The typical commercial building as described in the 1856 and 1857 annual reports for the city of Springfield was a three-story brick store with a cast iron storefront. In many instances the buildings were ornamented with cast iron window caps and sills. Several

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foundries were located in Springfield during this time and cast ornamental iron elements for use in buildings. A strong possibility exists that the hoods and sills on the Latham Block were cast locally in Springfield. The owners of these buildings were often real estate developers seeking to profit from the commercial expansion of the city. Both the Fisher Building and Latham Block fit this description.

Springfield resident Richard Latham built the Latham Block at 113, 115 North Sixth Street sometime in 1856. Latham was an early settler of Logan County who originally settled in the Elkhart area with his father and lived there for several decades before moving to Springfield in 1853. Richard Latham's father, James, had purchased the Latham Block lot in 1823. James Latham died circa 1830 leaving his children as heirs to the lot. The lot was sold off in different parcels. Richard gradually obtained full ownership of the north 40 feet of the lot from his siblings and their heirs. By May of 1854 he was the owner of the west 70 feet of Lot 8. Sometime in the 1840s the family had given the city of Springfield the east 10 feet of the lot to widen Sixth Street because a markethouse was constructed in 1843 in the middle of the street. Richard Latham purchased this last tract on December 26, 1855 to complete the lot. The multiple ownership of the lot was one reason for its delayed development.

The development of the Fisher Building at 111 North Sixth Street follows along a similar pattern. The building stands on a 20 x 80 foot section of the lot immediately south of the Latham Block lot. By court order that section of the lot was sold at auction from the Latham family to Edward Conner on October 25, 1852. Connor in turn sold the lot to Springfield businessman Samuel B. Fisher on February 9, 1854. Like the Latham Block lot, this lot was missing the eastern 10 feet. Fisher purchased this section on the same day as Richard Latham. Construction of both buildings began the following year. Both the Fisher Building and the Latham Block were part of the previously mentioned commercial property boom. Elsewhere, the four sides of the public square were filling up with a collection of two, three and four-story brick store buildings. Disastrous fires had swept the east and west side of the square in the mid 1850s. These fires vividly demonstrated the need to replace wooden structures with more fireproof brick buildings. Springfield contractors were constructing these brick buildings with the use of cast iron materials. The arterial streets leading to the square also experienced commercial development.

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Development of Springfield's downtown commercial district progressed so rapidly that by 1890, it filled nearly eight blocks contiguous to the public square. The northeast part of the downtown became notorious for its collection of saloons, brothels, rundown hotels, and pawnshops. Known as the levee district, this area began at the northeast corner of Sixth and Washington Streets and extended for several blocks north and east. The Fisher Building and Latham Block bordered on the west end of this district. Elsewhere in the downtown, larger, taller buildings were being constructed every year replacing the older structures of the 1850s and 1860s. By 1930 Springfield had several impressive multistoried buildings surrounding the square including the Central Illinois Public Service Company of 1929 designed by Potter and Potter. Other smaller, older buildings were being renovated with new facades.

The coming of the automobile spelled the ultimate end of the downtown area as the center of shopping. Post World War II housing developments expanded Springfield's city limits further and further from the downtown in the 1950s and '60s. Shopping centers began to appear in the 1950s on Springfield's outskirts beginning with Capital City and Town and Country. Several more followed in the 1960s and '70s. While a few downtown buildings like the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office were being historically preserved, entire blocks of buildings were demolished and replaced with the Horace Mann Insurance Company office building, Springfield Convention Center, and Hilton Hotel. Dozens of other buildings were removed to make room for parking lots.

Today very few examples of mid-Nineteenth Century commercial architecture remain in Springfield. Of those existing buildings many had their facades radically altered with modernization. With the exception of the Enterprise Building, the Latham Block is one of the most unaltered examples of the commercial buildings erected in the mid-Nineteenth Century in Springfield. The Fisher Building underwent a complete façade change circa 1900 and has changed little since that renovation. It is an excellent example of later Classical Revival style.

Occupants

With the exception of more recent times, neither the Fisher Building nor the Latham Block was ever occupied by their owners. Both buildings housed a wide variety of businesses that reflected their design as a two-part commercial block. The first floor

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storerooms housed saloons, restaurants, and retail merchants. The second and third levels were used as offices, hotels, and apartments. Little is known of the occupants of the buildings in the era between 1856 to the 1870s. The 1856-57 Springfield City Directory lists a carpentry firm and milliner in the Latham Block. G.A. Van Duyn & Company, which dealt in wool, hides and farming machinery appears to have leased the Latham Block for several years in the 1860s and '70s. The furniture firms of Philip Bisch and later his son Charles T. occupied the Fisher Building (111 North Sixth Street) from 1881 until 1892. In the 1880s the south storeroom of the Latham Block (113 North Sixth Street) was used as a saloon, shooting gallery and Chinese laundry. The upper stories housed the offices of justices of the peace and lawyers, their business connected with the nearby county courthouse and police station. The north storeroom (115 North Sixth Street) also had an eclectic group of businesses occupying it in the 1880s including a junk dealer, tanners and a saloon.

In the 1890s, the Fisher Building storeroom was used as a furniture business. 113 North Sixth continued as a Chinese laundry for the early part of the decade and later became a shooting gallery again. Springfield businessman Fred Yager opened his saloon, Freddie's Thirst Parlor, at 115 North Sixth circa 1890. Yager operated his business here until 1904. August Bernhard succeeded Yager with his own saloon and liquor store. A restaurant was opened in the Fisher Building storeroom circa 1900 and remained a restaurant until 1912. The upper levels of the Fisher Building in this decade were used as a boarding house and hotel. The storeroom at 113 North Sixth Street was used as both a saloon and liquor store in the first decade of the twentieth century. Its upper floors along with those of 115 were used as a hotel.

The Amuse-U Theatre, an early motion picture theater, opened at 111 North Sixth Street in 1913 and occupied the first floor until 1930. The upstairs continued to serve as a hotel. 115 North Sixth Street also had a long term business leasing its first floor, the Italian-American Importing, which occupied first this building and then 111 North Sixth until the 1960s.

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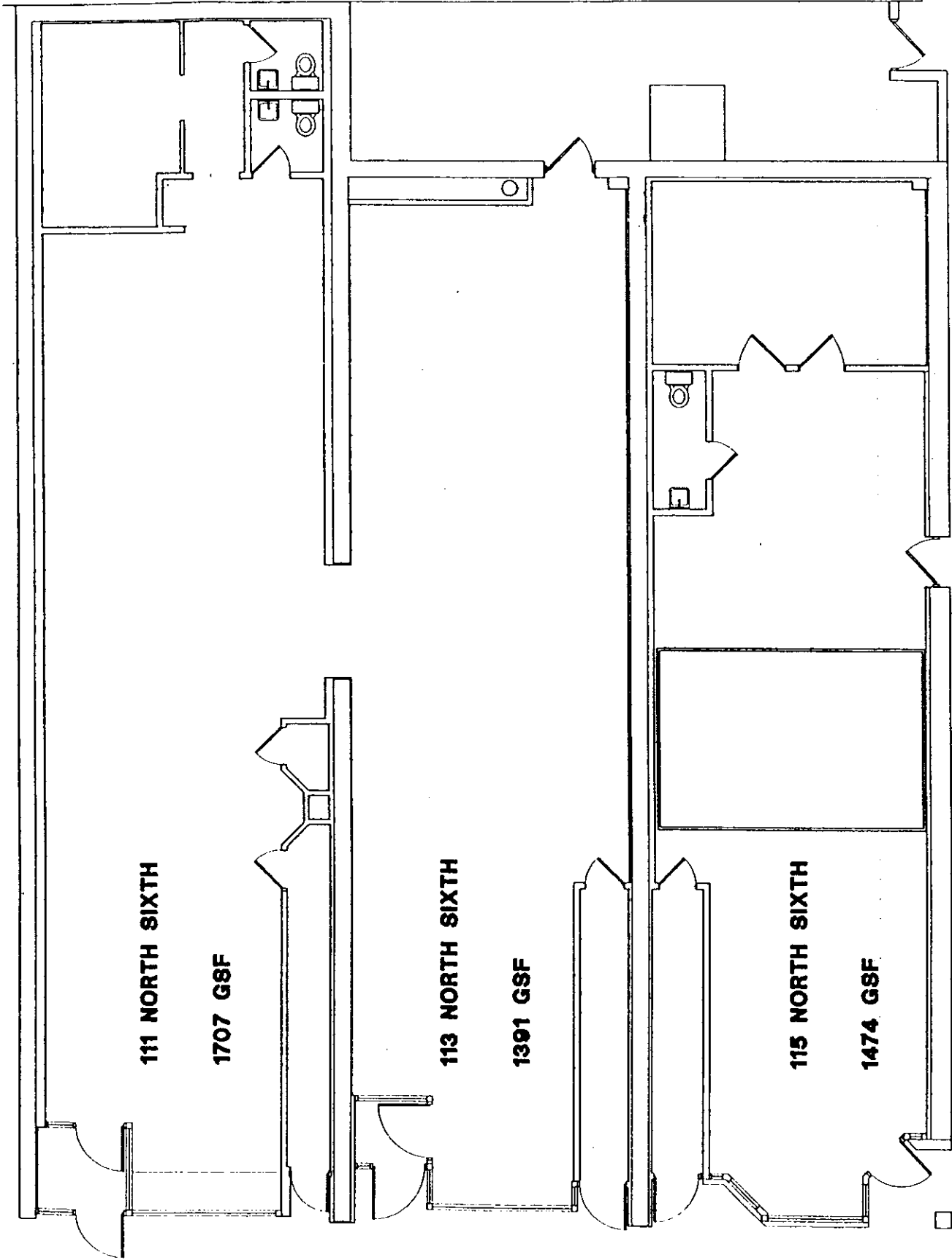
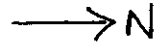
Verbal boundary description

North 60 feet of Lot 8 in Block 11 Old Town Plat of Springfield

Boundary justification

The boundary encompasses the two city lots historically associated with 111, 113 and 115 North Sixth Street in Springfield, Illinois.

Fisher Building/Latham Block



111 NORTH SIXTH

1707 GSF

113 NORTH SIXTH

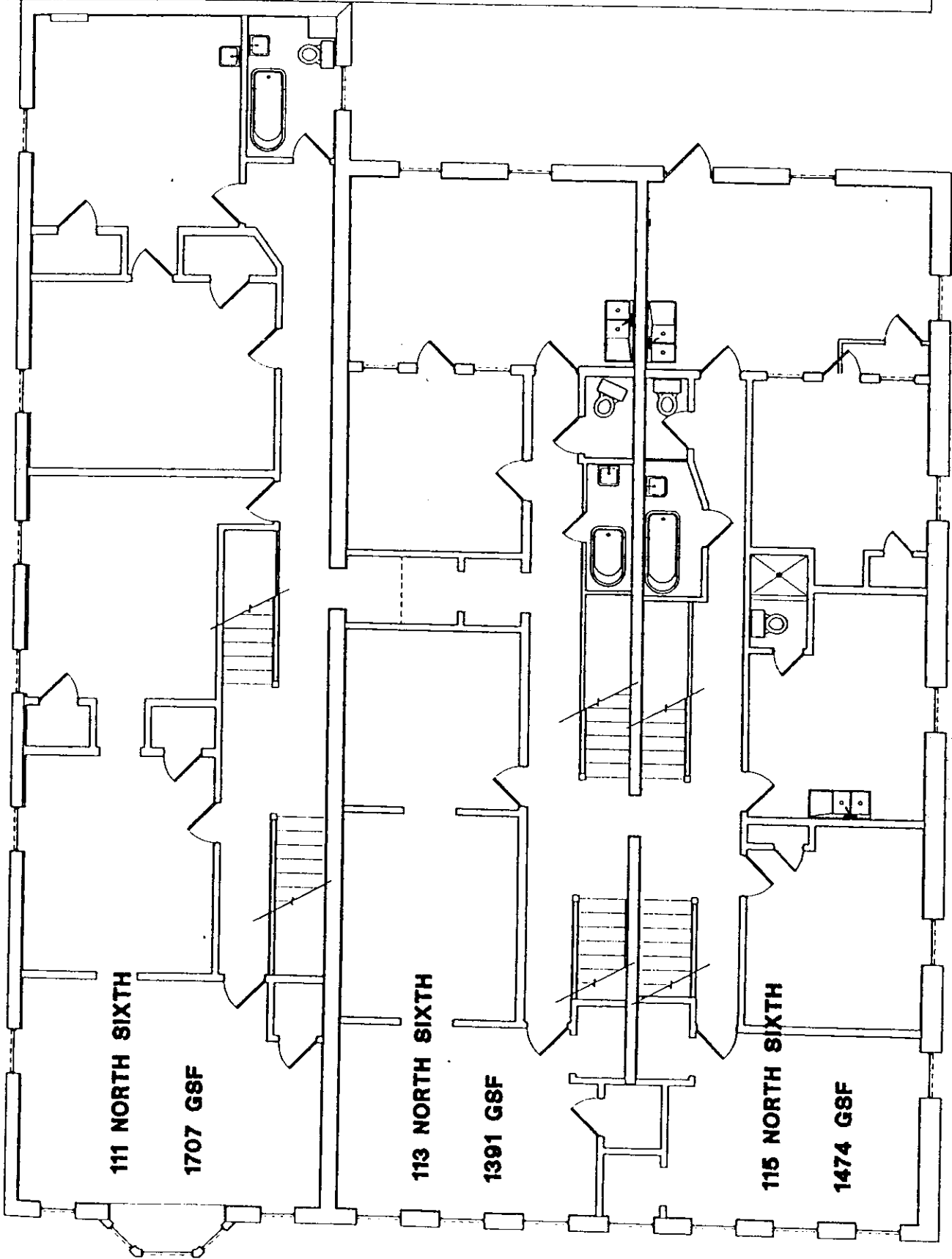
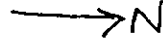
1391 GSF

115 NORTH SIXTH

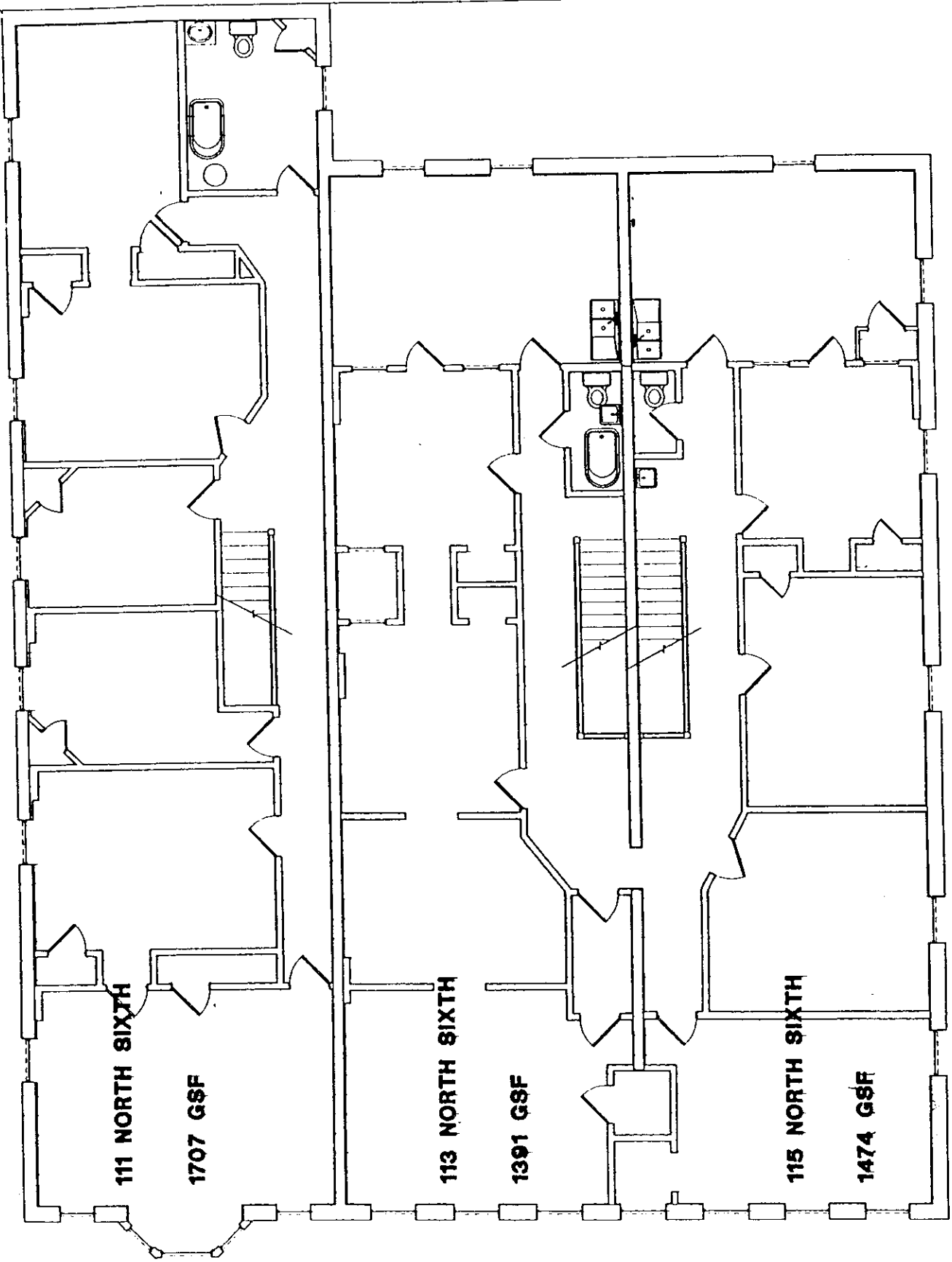
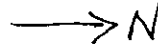
1474 GSF

FIRST FLOOR

Fisher Building/Latham Block



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 5 2000

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places.

For further information contact Edson Beall via voice
(202) 343-1572, fax (202) 343-1836, regular or E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov

Visit our web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr>

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 4/24/00 THROUGH 4/28/00

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

CALIFORNIA, ALAMEDA COUNTY, Oakland Waterfront Warehouse District, Roughly bounded by I-880, Madison St., 2nd St., and Webster St., Oakland, 00000361, LISTED, 4/24/00
CALIFORNIA, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, Richmond Shipyard Number Three, Point Potrero, Richmond, 00000364, LISTED, 4/28/00
COLORADO, DELTA COUNTY, Surface Creek Livestock Company Silos, 315 SW 3rd St., Cedaredge, 00000367, LISTED, 4/27/00
CONNECTICUT, HARTFORD COUNTY, Cedar Hill Cemetery, 453 Fairfield Ave., Hartford, 97000333, LISTED, 4/28/97
CONNECTICUT, HARTFORD COUNTY, West End Library, 15 School St., Farmington, 00000369, LISTED, 4/25/00
ILLINOIS, ~~KANE~~ COUNTY, Spring--Douglas Historic District, Roughly Spring St. and Douglas Ave., bet. River Bluff Rd. and Kimball Ave., Elgin, 00000410, LISTED, 4/28/00
ILLINOIS, KANKAKEE COUNTY, Illinois Central Railroad Depot, 199 S. East Ave., Kankakee, 00000409, LISTED, 4/28/00
ILLINOIS, KANKAKEE COUNTY, Windrose Site, Address Restricted, Bourbonnais vicinity, 00000412, LISTED, 4/28/00
ILLINOIS, SANGAMON COUNTY, Fisher Building--Latham Block, 111, 113, and 115 N. Sixth St., Springfield, ~~00000411~~ LISTED, 4/28/00
MASSACHUSETTS, BERKSHIRE COUNTY, Farnams Village Historic District, Farnams Rd., Lanesborough Rd., and Cheshire Rd., Cheshire, 99000866, LISTED, 4/27/00
MASSACHUSETTS, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, Goodwin Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Woodside Ave., Amherst, 00000416, LISTED, 4/28/00
MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK COUNTY, Harvard Avenue Historic District, Roughly bounded by Linden St., Commonwealth Ave., Harvard Ave., and Park Vale Ave., Boston, 00000415, LISTED, 4/28/00
NORTH CAROLINA, DAVIDSON COUNTY, First Reformed Church, 22 E. Center St., Lexington, 00000417, LISTED, 4/28/00
OHIO, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, Falls River Road, Falls Rd., Chagrin Falls, 00000421, LISTED, 4/28/00
OHIO, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, Henn, Albert W., Mansion, 23131 Lake Shore Blvd., Euclid, 00000422, LISTED, 4/28/00
OHIO, TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, Lanning, T., & Co. Department Store, 226-228 Grant St., Dennison, 00000420, LISTED, 4/28/00
VIRGINIA, HENRICO COUNTY, Reynolds Metals Company International Headquarters, 6601 W. Broad St., Richmond, 00000064, LISTED, 4/26/00
WISCONSIN, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, Grignon, Charles A., House, Augustine St., Kaukauna, 72000064, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 4/25/00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

National Register of Historic Places Honors Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

"Celebrating Asian-Pacific Heritage Month May 2000" highlights featured historic sites, publications, related articles, and links to History in the Parks which tell the history of the Asian and Pacific peoples role in the development of the United States from the early 1800s to the present. The National Park's Golden Spike National Historic Site, featured on the site, interprets the social, labor, and ethnic history surrounding the connection of the first Transcontinental Railroad, largely achieved through the labor of Asian immigrants, which took place on May 10, 1869. Other historic sites tell the story of Asian immigration and assimilation into the United States. Related articles featuring Hawaiian and Pacific Island perspectives on preservation can be linked to in the "related articles" section and the "History in the Parks" section. Visit the National Register's site honoring May as National Asian-Pacific Heritage Month at www.cr.nps.gov/nr

The publications found on this site come through Teaching with Historic Places, the program which offers a series of award-winning lesson plans that use places listed in the National Register to enliven the study of history, social studies, and geography and include "Locke and Walnut Grove: Havens for Early Asian Immigrants in California."