

11142 S. Champlain Avenue

Before 1907, this address was known as *126 Stephenson Avenue*

1883 City Directory

August Peter

Little information can be found about August Peter, the only source connecting him to the house does not list a date of birth, or occupation.

1889 City Directory

William Hugh

Very little information could be found on William Hugh. His voter registrations showed that he had lived at the house since at least 1888 to 1890 and that he was born in Michigan. The 1889 City directory lists him as a cabinetmaker and the 1890 city directory simply lists his occupation as woodworker. His voter registration also spells his last name as “High”

Charles W. Taylor

Very little information could be found on Charles W. Taylor. He is only referenced in the 1889 city directory as a painter, I could not find any information regarding his date of birth or family

1900 Federal Census

Lillie Nylum

There was very little information to be found about Lillie Nylum outside of information found on the 1900 Federal Census. We know that she was originally born in Indiana in December of 1883. Her Parents were both originally from Sweden and must have emigrated before Lillie was born. At the time of the 1900 Federal Census, Lillie was 16 years old and was already working as a maid. Very little can be found about Lillie’s family but it is possible that she had already moved away from her parents who were still living in Indiana. I found a naturalization record for a Gustav Nylen who was living in St. Joseph county in Indiana in 1888, the year he was naturalized.

John T Presten

John T Presten was born in Wisconsin in October of 1864 which made him 35 at the time of the 1900 Federal Census. Presten’s parents are listed as originally being from England. Presten was a Widower and was living with the Worman family as a boarder. The 1900 Federal Census lists Presten as a Carpenter. Little else is known about Presten.

Worman Family

The Worman family consisted of three members at the time of the 1900 Federal Census. Harry Worman Senior, his wife Annie Worman and their son Harry Worman Jr.. The family did not own the house outright and were renting it. The 1900 census shows that Harry Senior had been out of work for 9 months, the family was likely taking on Lillie Nylum and John T. Presten as boarders in order to alleviate their lack of income. Harry senior born in Pennsylvania in April of 1854, He was 46 years old at the time of 1900 census and was working as an electrician. Annie was born in April of 1864, her maiden name was Uda and was 36 at the time of the 1900 Federal Census. Annie was originally from Germany but emigrated to the U.S. in 1886. Two years later she Married Harry Worman Senior in 1888. The couple had a son also named Harry, born in February of 1892, he was 8 years old at the time of the 1900 Federal Census. The 1930 Federal Census sheds some more light on Harry Junior's later life. He at some point moved to 4028 Sheridan Road and married one Olive L. Warman. Harry Junior worked as a sporting goods salesman. He was also a Veteran of World War 1. He passed away on August 4th of 1938 at the age of 46.

1910 Federal Census

Matzdorf Family

Sometime between 1900 and 1910 the Matzdorf family moved into the house. By 1910 the household consisted of three members, a father, Aaron Matzdorf, his wife Sadie Matzdorf and their son Clyde Matzdorf. The couple also had another son named Roland who had been living with them in 1900 but had presumably moved out. Aaron Matzdorf was born in March of 1858, he and Sadie, who was born in September of 1858 with the maiden name Alwine both grew up in Elkhart Indiana. Sadie and Aaron were not the only connection between the Alwine and Matzdorf families, Aaron's older brother William married Sadie's younger sister Lillie. They were married February 20th in 1878 and their first son Roland was born in December of that year. Their second son, Clyde was born in 1891 and by 1910 was still living with the family at 11142 S Champlain at the age of 19. Aaron and his son both worked in the Pullman company, Aaron as an iron machinist and Clyde as a clerk. Clyde would continue living with his parents after they moved out of the house to 31 E 112th Street where he and his father would continue working together in a car shop. By 1924 Aaron and Sadie would move back to their hometown in Indiana where Aaron passed away on the 17th of October 1924. Sadie would continue to live in Elkhart until she passed away on the 17th of September, 1958. Clyde remained in Chicago and would eventually meet his wife Ann.

1916 Phone Book

Charles R. Higgens

Records on Charles R. Higgens are somewhat spotty. It is unclear exactly when he moved into and out of the house but he was living in or around Pullman until his death in 1934. Born in England in around 1871, Charles emigrated to the U.S. when he was 20 in 1891 aboard a White

Star ship named Teutonic. At some point Charles met his wife who was born Helen/Ellen McQueen in 1877. Helen was a Scottish immigrant who arrived in the U.S. in 1881 and the two married in 1896, both became naturalized citizens. By 1930 Higgens was working as a Watchman for the Pullman company before he passed away on September 25, 1934

1920 Federal Census

Ahlstom Family

The 1920 Census records shows five members of the Ahlstom family living in the house. Frederick Carl Ahlstom was born December 8th of 1884 in Stockholm Sweden. He left for the United States in 1907 at the age 22, he had the equivalent of an 8th grade education. Three years later he married Gertrude Gustine, the daughter of Swedish immigrants. Gertrude was born in Chicago, Illinois in October of 1886. Their first child was Margaret G. Ahlstom was born in 1910 followed by Fredrick J. Ahlstom, born in 1911 and Harold J. Ahlstom, born in 1916. Their father Fredrick, who is sometimes recorded as Fred and Fritz, was working as a draftsman in 1920. By 1930 the family moved out of the house and had two more kids, Ronald G. Ahlstom, born in 1922 and Robert Ahlstom born in 1927. The family also changed their name to Halstrom. By 1940 the family had moved once again, Margaret and Fredrick J had each moved out and gotten married. Fred C. was working as a mechanical engineer by 1940 and presumably up until he passed away on December 31st of 1942.

1930 Federal Census + 1940 Federal Census

Long/Lony Family

Both the 1930 and 1940 Federal Censuses list Mary and Michael Long/Lony as the sole residents of the house. Both were naturalized Irish immigrants, Michael was born in 1886 and Mary was born in 1865. The 1930 Federal Census lists Michael's occupation as a Steamfitter in the Pullman Car Company and by 1940 he had apparently retired. Unfortunately the records outside of this information is particularly spotty and not much else is known about Mary and Michael.

1950 Federal Census

Zenere Family

The 1950 Federal Census lists the five members of the Zenere family as living in the house. The head of the household is listed as Giovanni(John) Zenere. Giovanni was born on the 6th of August in 1900. He was born in Caldogno, Italy and arrived in the United States by boat on July 19th 1923. Giovanni established a permanent residence in Chicago before returning to Italy where he married Margharetta Trevisan on the 23rd of January 1929, the couple immediately returned to the United States that spring, arriving on April 23 1929. In 1930, the

couple had their first son Pietro, who is also listed in some sources as Reno P. Zenere or Peter Zenere. In 1933 they had their first Daughter Rossetta and in 1938 they had a second son named Frank. The 1930 Census lists Giovanni as an Ice cream maker, by 1940 he is simply listed as a laborer, finally in 1950 he is listed as a scrap press machine operator. After 1950 information on John became spotty, but we know he passed away on January 21 1989. Rosetta went on to marry Joseph E Mascarello in 1954. Pietro enlisted in the Army National Guard in June of 1948 until April of 1951 over the course of which he attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. After Giovanni's death the house was transferred to Margherita who would transfer the house to Reno P. Zenere, in 1991 and by 2000, the house was in the hands of the Pullman LLC.. In 2015 the house was purchased by Astrid Fingerhut who has owned the house since then.

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