

Inventory of the

DeKalb-Pond-Fisk
Neighborhood Redevelopment Project
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 237

INTRODUCTION

Helen Merritt donated the records for the DeKalb-Pond-Fisk Neighborhood Redevelopment Project to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on April 5, 1999.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: .50
Number of containers: 2
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 237

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The DeKalb-Pond-Fisk Neighborhood Redevelopment Project records document the redevelopment of a deteriorated neighborhood through the cooperative efforts of the City Council, City staff, and the DeKalb/Pond/Fisk Block Group. The records are arranged chronologically and include proposals, maps, correspondence, memorandums, press releases, and histories of the development project.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb-Pond-Fisk neighborhood covers approximately four acres and is situated about four blocks from the downtown business district. The neighborhood, known as “The Haish Flats,” was built circa 1904 with a mixture of single family homes and two story wooden apartment buildings. Built by Jacob Haish for his factory workers, “The Haish Flats” were assembled out of materials salvaged from the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Overtime the neighborhood deteriorated. In an attempt to preserve the flats, because of their association with Haish and as examples of distinctive worker’s housing, a proposal was presented before the DeKalb Landmarks Commission. The Commission deemed the area unsuitable for landmark status and preservation was never widely supported.

Fortunately the area was located in a Tax Increment Finance district so monies were available for improvements. Through the cooperative efforts of City Council, City staff, and the DeKalb-Pond-Fisk Neighborhood Block, the area was redevelopment from a deteriorated neighborhood to a one of sound older homes, fourteen new single-family dwellings, and a children’s park.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb
 DeKalb-Pond-Fisk Neighborhood Redevelopment Project
 Historic Preservation
 Urban Renewal

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1 2-4	Histories, April 1988-December 1993 DeKalb-Pond-Fisk, 1988-1990
2	1-5	Dekalb-Pond-Fisk, 1991-1992