Chicago Oct 11th 1841 

to the Honerable 

the Common Council of the City of Chicago 

the fire Warden of the Second Ward would Respectfully 

Suggest to your honerable Boddy the propriety 

of an additional Ordinance on the Subject of 

Stove pipes Chimneys &c Simalar to the following 

Viz that no Stove pipe Shall be placed less than 

3 inches from wood or other Combustible matter 

part of a 

and that no ^ stove pipe Shall be hid from the view 

of the fire Warden, and no Stove pipe Shall 

Enter a Chimney in a garret unless there is 

a Stair way and Steps into the garett that 

the fire warden may ^ up to Examine the pipe 

and Chimney — And no Stone Crock or Earthen 

Ware Shall be considered a Safeguard from fire 

when around a Stove pipe unless the wood 

or other Combustible matter is 3 inches from said 

Shall be built 

pipe — And no Chimneys ^ without plastering the 

flues — And all flues Shall be Surrounded with 

not less than a 4 inch wall (Except a petition between 

two flues) And all Chimneys Shall have a Convenient 

place at their bottom for taking ^ the Sut — And all 

be 

Chimneys and Stove pipes Shall ^ Swept or Cleaned out 

once in 5 weeks in all Blocks of Buildings — 

the above Suggestions I would Respectfully Submit
EXPLANATION

The city’s charter of 1837 empowered it to issue regulations “to prevent the dangerous construction and condition of chimneys, fire places, hearths, stoves, stove pipes, ovens, boilers, and apparatus used in any building or manufactory.” In November of 1835, a fire warden was appointed for each of four fire districts established in the city. Their duties included directing volunteer companies and bystanders at fire scenes and inspecting homes and businesses for potentially dangerous fire producing conditions. Most dwellings and businesses were constructed of wood.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What was the chief source of fuel in Chicago during the winter months of 1841?

What was the job of a fire warden?

What common occupation is suggested by the proposed regulations in this communication?

Considering this document, what degree of anxiety did Chicago citizens have regarding fires?

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