

Glossary of Abbreviations and Obscure Terminology in Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlases
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Abbreviation	Meaning
A	
A	Automobile (private garage)
A. (in) B.	Automobile in basement
A.C.S.	Automatic chemical sprinklers
A.F. of L.	American Federation of Labor
A.F.A.	Automatic fire alarm
A.S.	Automatic sprinkler
AB	Automobile in basement
Ab(v)	Above
Agl. Implts.	?
Agrl. Imps.	?
Agr.	Agricultural
App.	Apparatus
Appar's	Apparatus
Apts.	Apartments
Asb. Cl.	Asbestos clad
Att.	Attic
Att'd	Attended
Aud'it'm	Auditorium
Auto	Automatic, Automobile
Auto Ho.	Automobile house, or garage
Av.	Avenue
B	
B	Basement, boiler or occasionally brick
B&S	Boots and shoes
B(l)sm	Blacksmith
B(st)	Basement
B. Sm.	Blacksmith
B.C.	Brick chimney
Bak'y	Bakery
Balc.	Balcony
Bap.	Baptist [Church]
Batt'y	Battery
Bbl.	Barrel
Bbls	Barrels
B.E.	Brick enclosed elevator w/ wire-glassed door
Bill'ds	Billiards



Bl(k)	Block
Bl. Sm.	Blacksmith
B'ld'g	Building
Blk Sm	Blacksmith
Blr.	Boiler
B'lr.	Boiler
Blvd.	Boulevard
Book Mkr.	Book maker
B.P.O.E.	Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
Br.	Brick
Bst.	Basement
B's't	Basement

C

C.B.	Concrete brick or cement block construction
C.Bl.C.	Concrete block chimney
C.Br.	Concrete brick or cement block construction
C.C.	Concrete chimney
C.L.	Cloth lined
Calaboose	Jail
Cap'cy	Capacity
Carp'r	Carpenter
Carptr	Carpenter
Carriage Repository	
CBET	Concrete enclosed elevator w/ traps
Chem(l)	Chemical
Chem.	Chemical
Chinaw	Chinaware or porcelain
Chine	Chinese
Cistn.	Cistern
Cl.	Clad
Clo.	Clothes
Co.	Company
Coffin Storage	
Coll.	Collector
Col's	Columns
Comb.	Combination
Comp.	Composition construction (ie, stucco) or compressor
Conc.	Concrete
Concrete Plunge	Swimming pool
Confec'y	Confectionary (candy store)
Conf'y	Confectionary (candy store)
Congl.	Congregational [Church]



Constr'n	Construction
Cont'r	Contractor
Cor. Ir. Rf.	Corrugated iron roof
Corp'n	Corporation
Corr.	Corrugated
Crocky	Crockery (with groceries)
Cupola	Domed ceiling

D

D	Dwelling
D.G.	Dry Goods
D.H.	Double (fire) hydrant
Distn.	Distribution
Drs.	Dealers
Drs. Off.	Doctor's office
Dwg.	Dwelling
Dw'g	Dwelling

E

E	Open elevator
E.	East
E. Fl.	Each floor
El.	Electric
Elec.	Electrician
Elev'd	Elevated
Eng.	Engine
Ent.	Entertainment
Episc'l	Episcopal [Church]
ESC	Elevator frame w/ self-closing traps
ET	Elevator frame w/ traps
Exch.	Telephone exchange
Exp. & Tel. Off.	Express & Telegraph Office
Expr.	Express delivery service
Ext'g'rs	Extinguishers

F

F.	Flats (Apartments)
F. Pump	Fire pump
F.A.	Fire alarm box
F.B.	Female boarding
F.ch R'f	French roof
F.E.	Fire escape
F.O.E. / F.O.A.	Fraternal Order of Eagles (“Aeries”)



F.P.	Force pump/Fire proof
FE	Frame enclosed elevator
Fill'g Sta.	Filling station, or gas station
Fl.	Floor
Found'n	Foundation
Fr.	Frame
Fr. Attic	Frame constructed attic
Fr. R'f.	French roof
Frat.	Fraternity
Fr.	Freight
Fur.	Furnishings
Furne	Furniture
Furn'g	Furnishings

G

G.A.R.	Grand Army of the Republic
G.F.G.	Grocery and feed goods
G.T.	Gasoline tank
G.T. Hall	?
Gal	Gallery
Gall	Gallery
Gall'y	Gallery
Gasol.	Gasoline
Gen'l	General (General Store)
Gents	Gentlemen's
Gl.	Glass
Grd.	Ground
Greas'g	Greasing
Gro.	Grocery
G's	Goods

H

H	Hoistway (basement to 1st floor)
H & L Truck	Hook and ladder truck
H.P.F.S.	High pressure fire service
Hack.	Hackney or delivery service
Hardw.	Hardware store
H'dw	Hardware store
Ho.	Hotel or house (as in warehouse)
Htr.	Heater
Hyd(s).	Hydrant(s)

I



I.C.R.R.	Illinois Central Railroad
I.E.P.	Independent electrical plant
I.O.O.F.	Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Imp.	Implements
In.	Inches
Incan(d)	Incandescent
Incl.	Incline
Ind'l	Industrial
Ins.	Insurance
Insts	Instruments
Ir. Ch.	Iron chimney
Ir. Cl.	Iron clad
Ir. Still	Iron still

J

Joss Ho.	Joss House
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K

Keros.	Kerosene
K. of C.	Knights of Columbus

L

L.A.A.C.	Los Angeles Athletic Club
Lab.	Laboratory
Lab'y	Laboratory
Lbr.	Lumber
Lbs.	Pounds
Lock Up	Jail (Calaboose)
Lodg'g	Lodging
Lodg's	Lodgings
Loft	Tenants & manufacturing in same building
L'ts	Lights
Luth.	Lutheran [Church]
Luth'n	Lutheran [Church]

M

M.E.	Methodist Episcopal [Church]
M.L. & P.	?
M.W.A. Hall	?
Mach.	Machine
Mach'y	Machinery
Mak'r	Maker
Manf'y	Manufactory or factory



Matl	Material
Mdse	Merchandise
Mer. T'lor	Merchant & tailor
Mezz.	Mezzanine
M'f'g.	Manufacturing
Mfy	Manufactory or factory
Mill'y	Millinery
Mkg	Making
Mo.	Motor

N

N.S.	Not sprinklered
No Ch.	No chimney

O

Off.	Office
Op.	Open
O.U.	Open under

P

P.C.	Patent chimney (non-standard)
P.F.	Perpendicular flue
P.O.	Post Office
Paint'g	Painting
Partns	Partitions
Pat. Med.	Patent medicines
Pilaster	Load bearing, square-sided pillar
Pl.	Place
Platfm	Platform
Platf'm	Platform
Plfm	Platform
Plumb'g	Plumbing
Plunge	Swimming pool
Pool	Pool or Billiard's Hall
Pow.	Power
Press.	Pressure
Print'g	Printing
Prods.	Products
Prop'r	Proprietor
Purlins	Main rafter supports

Q

Q.H.	Quadruple (fire) hydrant
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R

R.C.	Roman Catholic [Church]
Rad.	Radiator(s)
Rebay	Water storage?
Reinf.	Reinforced
Rep.	Repair
Rep'g	Repairing
Repos'ry	Repository
Restr't	Restaurant
Ret'g	Retaining
R'f	Roof
Rf.	Roof
R'm	Room
Rm.	Room
R'y	Railway (Railroad)

S

S	Store
S. Vac.	Portion of store is vacant
S.A.	Spark arrestor
S.D.	Soft drinks
S.H.	Single hydrant
S.P.R'Y. Sta.	Southern Pacific Railway Station
Sal.	Saloon
Shavg's	Shavings
Shooks	Dismantled wooden box parts
Sidel't	Sidelight
Skyl'ts	Skylights
Sky'ts	Skylights
Sm.	Smith (ie, gunsmith or blacksmith)
Smo. Ho.	Smoke house for meat
SP	Stove pipe
Sp'k'l'rs	Sprinklers
St. Ch.	Stone chimney
Sta.	Station
Stay	Stationery
Stat'y	Stationery
St'ge	Storage
St'm	Steam
St'y	Story (ie, of a building)

T



T.C.	Terra cotta chimney
T.H.	Triple (fire) hydrant
Tel. Off.	Telephone
Tel. Off.	Telegraph office
Temp'y	Temporary
Tenem'ts	Tenements
TESC	Tile enclosed elevator w/ closing traps
Tinw.	Tinware
Tk.	Tank
Transf's	Transformers
Trimm'g	Trimm'g
Try Kettle	?

U

U	Upright
Und.	Under
Undertak'g	Undertaking?
Und'gr'd	Underground
Up	Upright

V

Vac.	Vacant
Ven'd	Veneered
Ven'r'd	Veneered
V.P.	Vertical pipe/Stand pipe

W

W	Wares, as in warehouse
W.	West
W. Ho.	Warehouse
W. Mill	Wind mill
W.C.	Water closet or outhouse
W.F. Exp.	Wells Fargo Express
W.G.	Wired glass (skylights or windows)
W.H.	Well hole
W. Ho.	Warehouse
W.N.	Wire netted (skylight or windows)
W.O.W. Hall	Workers of the World Union Hall
W.P.	Water pipe
W.P.A.	Works Progress Administration
W.T.	Water tanks
W.U.	Western Union
Wheelw'r't	Wheelwright



Whol.	Wholesale
Wk'g	Working
Wkg.	Working
W'ks	Works
Wks.	Works
Woodwkg	Woodworking

X

x [over building]	Shingle roof
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Z

Zanja	Open creek or ditch (cement?)
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