

FITZGERALD HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

Historic Dwelling Probably Razed by Incendiary Torch Early This Morning

Two Minor Blazes Likewise Incendiary, Cause Police To Investigate

The mysterious fire which destroyed the old Fitzgerald home at Twentieth and B streets together with two other minor fires of unknown origin have caused the police to believe that Lincoln has some of the insects known as "firebugs." Small fires at Sixteenth and O streets and at Fourteenth and Pine streets were reported.

The Fitzgerald home was burned to the ground and is a total loss, for Col. C. J. Bills, the owner, carried no insurance on it. The house was rather an old one, having in its prime been one of the best houses in the city. The material in it was valued at about \$5,000 and it was the plan of Colonel Bills to tear it down. Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald still resided in the house, but she intended to move out soon. She was not at home last night and the fire was under great headway when discovered.

The old Fitzgerald home was one of the historic places in Lincoln. Situated in a tract of land covering several blocks, with large rooms and massive porches, it presented an imposing appearance. John Fitzgerald, the builder, was one of the best known men of the state in his day. He built the Burlington railroad, or a large part of it, and made and spent money profusely. The family was hosts at many a hospitable gathering at this old homestead.

It is estimated that the house cost about \$20,000 when constructed, but it has run down considerably in recent years. It was reported this morning that Mrs. Fitzgerald had her furniture insured.