

Building Plaque Application

Name _____
Building Address 715 Brook Street
Building Name _____

Original Owner	<u>MARTIN ROEFER</u>
Date of Construction	<u>1892</u>
Architect (if known)	_____
Builder (if known)	<u>HAYWARD BROS.</u>

Check if attached:

Statement Of Value

Please review the criteria on page 5. The Elgin Heritage Commission uses these criteria to review your application and award a plaque. Attach an explanation of the historical and architectural value of the building. Attach photocopies of relevant materials such as copies of Sanborn maps, original property deeds and City Directory listings. Applications without these requirements will not be considered by the Elgin Heritage Commission.

Building Alterations

Describe any alterations to the exterior of the building and include dates. Attach description to the application.

Photograph

Include a recent photograph in which the building is clearly visible. Additional photographs depicting a close up and details of decorative features are helpful.

Stipulations

If the building is not awarded a plaque, the application fee of \$15.00 will be refunded.

This application and submitted materials shall be retained by the City of Elgin as a part of the permanent record of the building.

The Elgin Heritage Commission has the authority to edit and publish the information submitted in the application. This does not prohibit others from using the information.

When awarded, the plaque will remain the property of the City and cannot be altered or removed from the building. It is the City's responsibility to replace the plaque if and when the situation warrants it.

In addition to agreeing to the above stipulations, the undersigned attests that the information provided is, to the best of his/her knowledge, accurate.

Owner's Signature Mary M. Hill Date 12-24-02
Signed _____ Date _____

Historical/Architectural

In the 1850's, Vincent S. Lovell owned a large farm east of the Fox River and north of the town of Elgin. Over time, pieces of the farm were annexed to the now incorporated city of Elgin. One of the annexed pieces of Lovell's farm was named Lovell's Addition. Ithiel C. Towner acquired lots 7 and 8 of block 8 of the Addition and named it "I. C. Towner's Subdivision," thus making his own empire of 9 lots. Towner built his own house at 706 Douglas Avenue on lots 1 and 2 of his subdivision. He was a blacksmith who came to Elgin in 1851. Good fortune was his friend; by the early 1870's he was operating his carriage making business out of a large, two story, brick building approximately where the post office now stands on N. Grove Avenue.

Towner sold the remaining lots in his subdivision, with lot 5 going to Martin Roefer in 1889. The 1890-91 Elgin City Directory lists Roefer at 217 Summit Street; the 1894-95 directory indicates Martin Roefer at 717 Brook Street. The true address of the property is 715 Brook; a 1939 update of the 1913 Sanborn Map shows 715 and 717 Brook at the same location. Deeds to the property state 715. The *Elgin Daily Courier*, December 31, 1892, published its annual review of construction in that year on p. 1, it states "Hayward Brothers have built a neat residence on Brook Street for M. Roefer, costing \$2,200."

Martin Roefer was a German immigrant who came to Elgin in 1883. Shortly after, he began working at the George M. Peck Company, a dry goods store on S. Grove Avenue. For more than 40 years, Mr. Roefer was the manager of the carpet, rug, and drapery department. Peck's store was destroyed in the Palm Sunday tornado that struck Elgin in March 1920. He intended to rebuild the store and carry on the business, but decided to retire instead. The rebuilt store was leased to Joseph Spiess, an employee of Ackemann Brothers. Martin Roefer continued on as the manager of the carpet department. Joseph Spiess was only 35 when he opened his own department store, becoming "one of the youngest businessmen in Elgin." *Elgin Daily News*, July 21, 1920, p.1. Joseph Spiess Company held reign as the largest department store on S. Grove Avenue for over 60 years. Martin Roefer died at age 77, in 1928. His son Carl died tragically six years later in Gulfport, Mississippi. He was found dead in his bed with his skull fractured in three places, the victim of a lethal beating. Another son, Max, died in 1931 of a lingering illness at age 42.

715 Brook Street stayed in possession of the Roefer family until 1936 when it was sold to Carlton Hoth. Hoth kept the house for 42 years before selling it to new owners who had possession for the next twenty years. Just six years intervened before the house was sold to its present owners.

Architectural

715 Brook is of square shape with the front facade divided into three parts, each having a different depth. A front facing gabled section is most prominent and presents a balance from top to bottom with a single, small window in the roof peak, a pair of 2 over 1 windows at the second floor and a triple windowed bay with a small mansard style roof at the first floor. The next section has a small, rectangular window up under the eave at the second floor with a small vertical window and front door as the sole detail on the shed roofed porch. The third section shows the side gabled second floor section projecting

over a three windowed bay on the first floor. The north facade of the house contains asymmetrical windows in three different sizes.

The roof contains three different lines: hipped, front gabled, and side gabled. All of this asymmetry in roof lines, window size, and facades denotes the Queen Anne style, popular from the late 1800's through the first decade of the 1900's.

Visual inspection suggests that the front porch has been altered from its original appearance as well as the three part section under the front window. A roof on the south facade hints at a possible porch, now gone. *Historic Resources in the Northeast Neighborhood: A Summary and Inventory* rates 715 Brook Street as contributing to the historic significance of the area.

mmh/dec02



6

12:57

This Indenture Witnesseth, that the grantors Arthur C. Townes and Mary A. Townes, his wife Lois W. Wilcox and John S. Wilcox, her husband

of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois for and in consideration of the sum of Five hundred and twenty (\$520.00) DOLLARS, in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to

Marlin Koepfer

of the City of Elgin County of Kane and State of Illinois the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

Lot five (5) of Townes' Subdivision of Lots seven and eight (7 & 8) in Block eight (8) of Lovell's Addition to Elgin Kane County Illinois.

situated in the City of Elgin in the County of Kane in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Dated this twenty seventh day of May A. D. 1897

signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

Arthur C. Townes
Mary A. Townes
Lois W. Wilcox
John S. Wilcox

STATE OF ILLINOIS, Kane County

I, A. F. Lewis a Notary Public in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that Arthur C. Townes and Mary A. Townes, his wife Lois W. Wilcox and John S. Wilcox, her husband

Notarial Seal

personally known to me to be the same persons whose name are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of Homestead.

GIVEN under my hand and Notarial seal, this twenty seventh day of May A. D. 1897

A. F. Lewis
Notary Public

No. 2525 Filed for Record this 6 day of June A. D. 1897 at 10³⁰ o'clock P.M.
John A. Hillier RECORDER.

SPROWLES & MORROW, PHARMACISTS.

CORNER RAYMOND AND NATIONAL STREET.

222

ELGIN

1890-91

- Robinson John, retired, res 81 Milwaukee.
 Robinson J P, foreman composing room, Publishing house,
 res 340 Addison.
 Robinson Kate Mrs, wid Coleman, bds 349 Jefferson ave.
 Robinson Mrs, wks weh fac, rooms 46 National.
 Robinson Nellie Miss, wks weh fac, bds 200 Grove ave.
 Robinson Samuel, retired, res 81 Milwaukee.
 Robinson Wm, teamster, bds 4 Ann.
 Roche Chas, lab, res 158 Moseley.
 Roche John M, clk, bds 362 Ann.
 Roche Maggie Miss, dressmaker, over 32 Grove ave, bds South
 Elgin.
 Roche Mary Miss, dressmaker, bds South Elgin.
 Roche Rosie Miss, bds 63 Division.
 Rochford Maggie Miss domestic, 176 S State.
 Roddis Edward, res 278 Walnut ave.
 Roddis Richard, wks weh fac, res 278 Walnut ave.
 Rodden Lizzie Miss, wks Elgin cond milk Co, bds —
 Rodgers Benjamin, artist, bds 51 S Chapel.
 Rodgers Cora Miss, wks weh fac, bds 92 Fulton.
 Rodocker A D, wks weh fac, res 194 Fulton.
 Roeder Martin, clk, res 217 Summit.
 Rogers Albert, teamster, res 33 Mill.
 Rogers Chas, wks Elgin Co-Op Butter Tub Co, bds 33 Mill.
 Rogers E F, res 165 Douglas ave.
 Rogers Frank, wks weh fac, res 187 Morgan.
 Rogers F N, wks Am Exp Co, bds 165 Douglas ave.
 Rogers Geo, wks weh fac, bds 96 Stella.
 Rogers James J, wks weh fac, bds Natl house.
 Rogers James F, hatter, res 81 Chicago.
 Rogers James F Mrs, milliner, res 81 Chicago.
 Rogers John, wks weh fac, res 177 Morgan.
 Rogers Lizzie Miss, wks weh fac, bds 177 Morgan.
 Rogers Mary A Miss, bds 177 Morgan.

HART P. WOLAVER 3 Fountain Square, dealer in
 KEEPS THE MOST COMPLETE STOCK IN THE CITY.
BOOTS and SHOES

WM. H.

Rogers Nel
ROGERS
 South.

ROGERS
 bakers

Rohles Abb

Rohles Bern

Rohles Chri

Rohles Emr

Rohles Eva

Rohles Fran

Rohles Jam

Rohles John

Rohles Mat.

Rohles Pete

Rohles Pete

N Crys

Rohles Phil

Rohmuer M

Rohraker M

Roland Tho

Rollins W

ROOT A

Root J C.

28 D C

Rorlisberge

Rosborough

Rosborough

Rosborough

Rosborough

Rose Carrie

Rose E H M

Rose G E.

Rose L M.

THE WEST

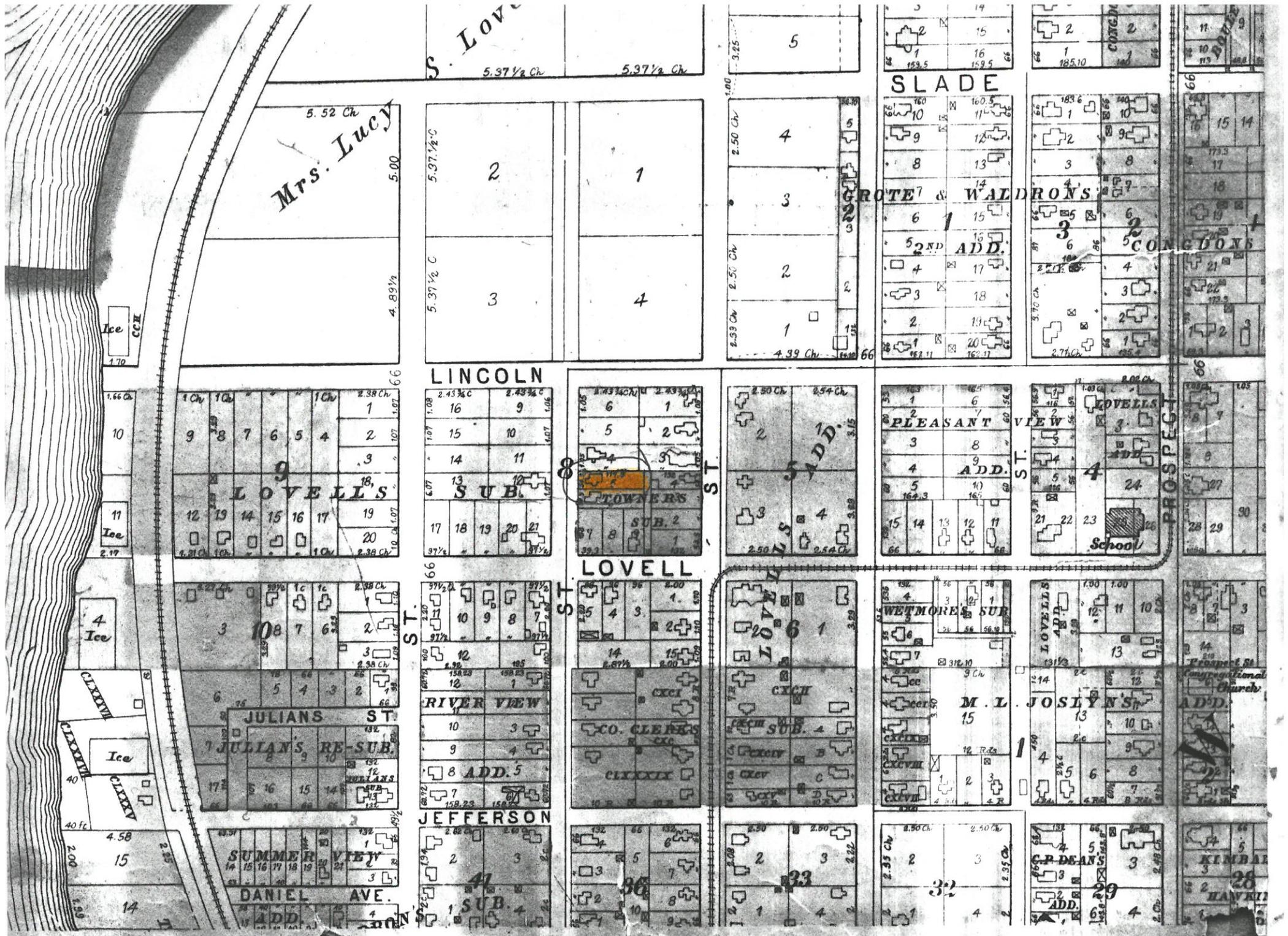
TOILET and

1894-95

FRED VOLSTORFF, Fire and Tornado, Life and Accident INSURANCE.
NOTARY PUBLIC. ROOM 5 COOK'S BLOCK. ELGIN, ILL.

Elgin City Directory. 201

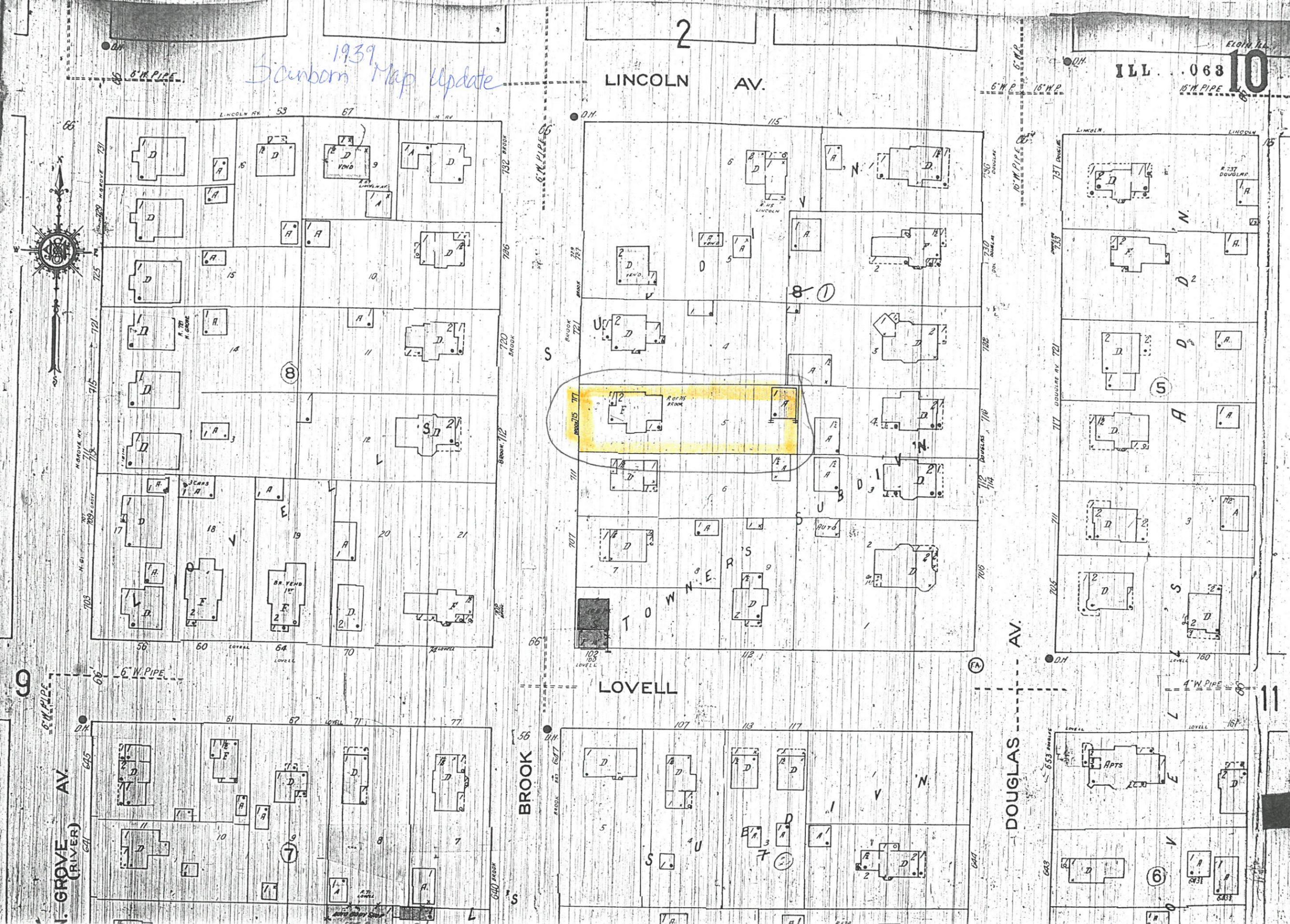
- Rochford Maggie, domestic 74 S Jackson
- Rodan Mary Mrs, wid Christopher, h Commercial hotel
- Roddis Richard, machinist, h 664 Sherman ave
- Roden Lizzie, dining room hand I N H I
- Roefer Martin F A, clk G M Peck, h 717 Brook**
- Rogers Albert, laborer, h 213 Mill
- Rogers Benjamin E, emp w f
- Rogers Charles B, pressman Cook pub co, bds 213 Mill
- Rogers Cora Mrs, h 426 Villa
- Rogers Cora B Miss, emp w f, bds 426 Villa
- Rogers Ed, student horological school
- Rogers Edward, bds 426 Villa
- Rogers Eugene F, city editor Courier, bds 265 Douglas ave
- Rogers Harry, emp McCormick's reaper wks Chicago, bds 14 N Geneva
- Rogers James, emp C F
- Rogers James, emp Cook pub co, bds 213 Mill
- Rogers James F, foreman Hoagland's livery, h over 214 Chicago
- Rogers James F Mrs, milliner over 214 Chicago, h do
- Rogers John, emp w f, h 253 Morgan
- Rogers Nelson, real estate, h 265 Douglas ave
- Rogers Orison, wks in Chicago, h 323 Plum
- Rogers Patrick, emp Elgin Am gas co
- Rogers Walter A, civil engineer C M & St P, h 369 Division
- Rogers Will, bds 213 Mill
- Rohl Ludwig, emp A M Stewart, h 64 N State
- Rohles Abbie Miss, bds 316 N Crystal ave
- Rohles Bennet, h 635 Raymond
- Rohles Christ, teamster, h 227 Moseley
- Rohles John, city express (No 49) h 635 Raymond
- Rohles John, emp E B T co, bds 316 N Crystal ave
- Rohles Louise Miss, emp C F, bds 316 N Crystal ave
- Rohles Matthew, emp E B T co, bds 316 N Crystal ave
- Rohles Peter, billiards and pool, also tobacconist, 13 River, h 316 N Crystal ave
- Rohles Peter jr, emp E B T co, bds 316 N Crystal ave
- Rohles Philip, bricklayer, h rear 635 Raymond



Kane County Atlas 1892

1939
Scinborn Map Update

ILL. 063 10
6" W. PIPE



LINCOLN AV.

LOVELL

BROOK

DOUGLAS AV.

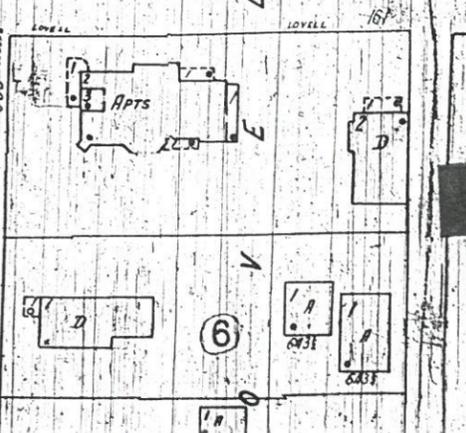
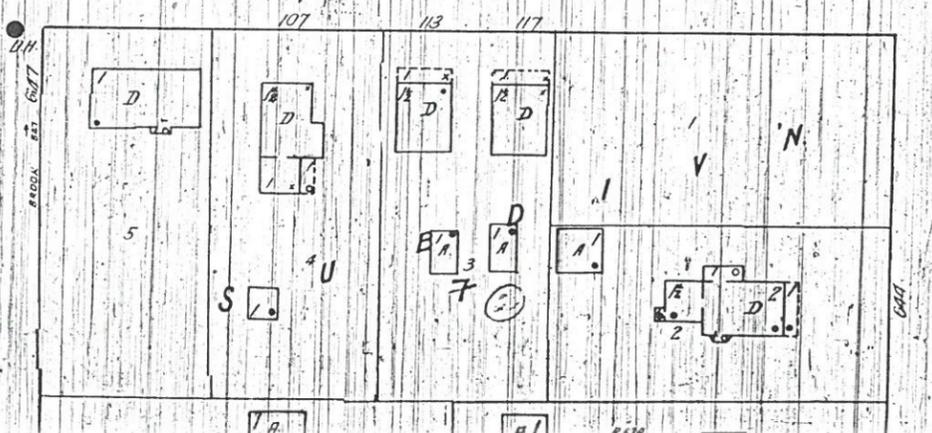
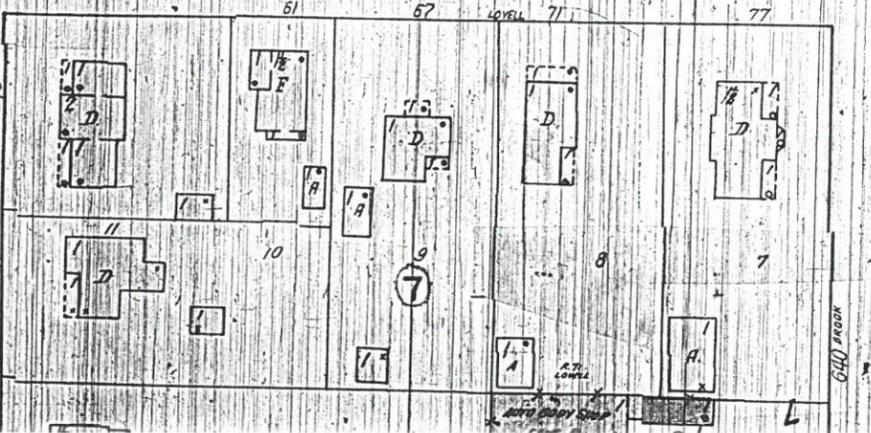
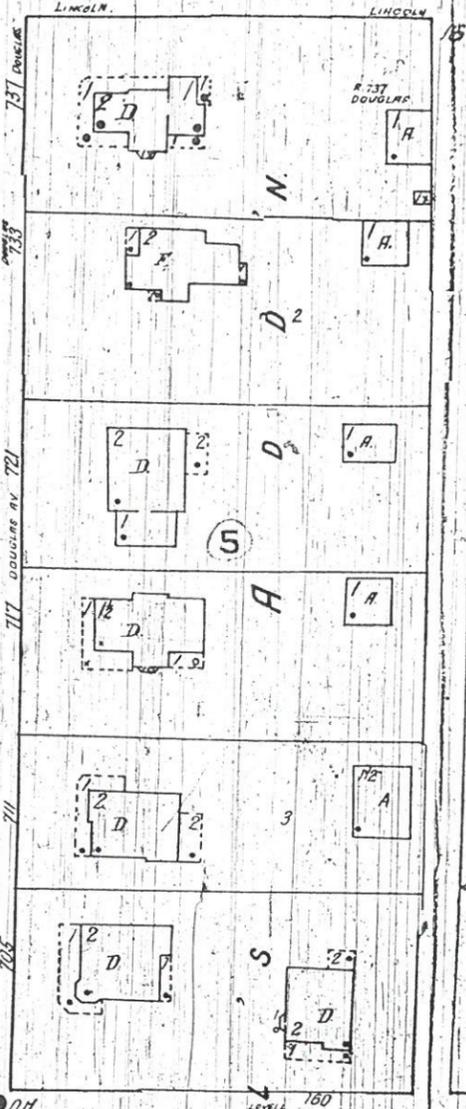
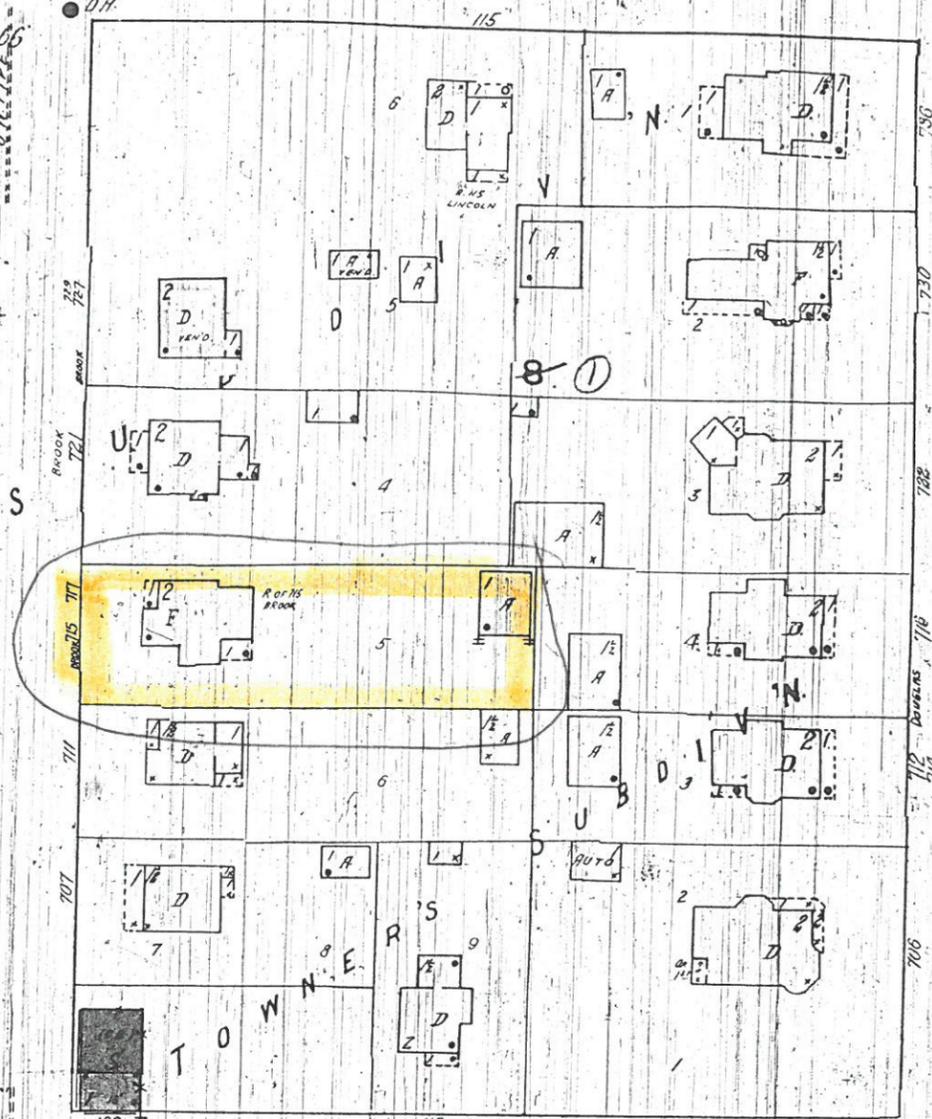
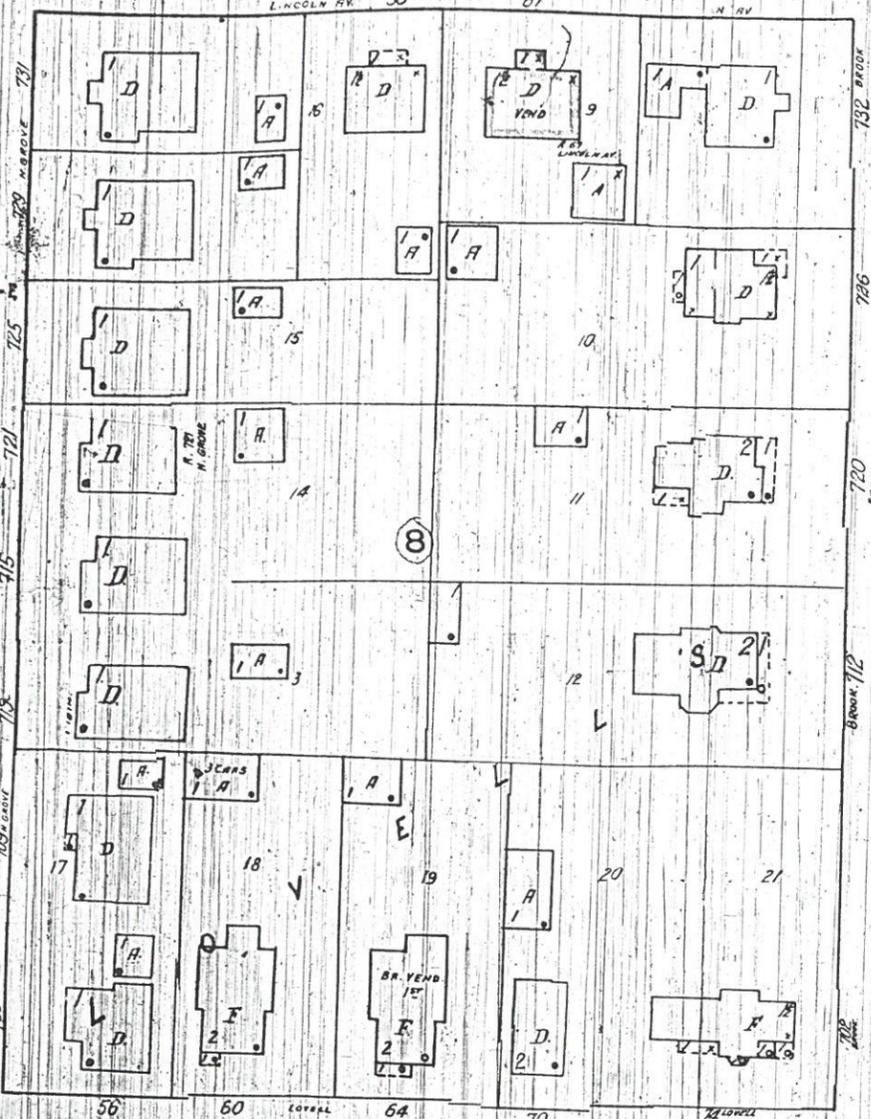
J. GROVE AV. (RIVER)

9

11

2

10



12:137

This Indenture Witnesseth, that the Grantors, Michael C. Townes and Mary A. Townes, his wife Lois W. Wilcox and John S. Wilcox, her husband

of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois

for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred and twenty (\$520.00) DOLLARS,

in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to Marlin Koepfer

of the City of Elgin County of Kane and State of Illinois
the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

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situated in the City of Elgin in the County of Kane in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Dated this twenty seventh day of May A. D., 1877.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in Presence of

Michael C. Townes SEAL
Mary A. Townes SEAL
Lois W. Wilcox SEAL
John S. Wilcox SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
Kane County } ss.

I, A. T. Lewis a Notary Public

in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that Michael C. Townes and Mary A. Townes, his wife Lois W. Wilcox and John S. Wilcox, her husband

personally known to me to be the same persons whose name are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said Instrument as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of Homestead.

GIVEN under my hand and Notarial seal, this twenty seventh day of May A. D., 1877.

A. T. Lewis
Notary Public

