

# Building Plaque Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Building Address 632 Center Street

Building Name \_\_\_\_\_

(for public/commercial structures)

Current Owner Dennis Roxworthy

If applicant's name is different from above:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Original Owner GEORGE AND JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Date of Construction 1909

Architect (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Builder (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

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 Dennis Roxworthy

Date 1-13-05

Signed Mary Hill

Date January 8, 2005

## Historical/Architectural

In the 1880's, Elgin experienced a spurt of growth-businesses in the downtown area increased, the watch factory ticked steadily along, and the population expanded. Workers needed places to live and Elgin's north end, north of Kimball Street and west of the Dundee Road, was a perfect area for expansion. Residential development had started at Kimball Street and gradually moved northward. Kimball was the unofficial dividing line between the retail and residential areas. North Division Street (now Jefferson Avenue) was the north city limit while its eastern limit was just east of Logan Avenue. Geographical boundaries fell away as former farms became annexed to the city and were sold off in pieces as residential lots.

Merritt L. Joslyn was the brother of Col. Edward Joslyn of Elgin, both coming from a large family of Joslyns headed by Reverend A. Joslyn who died in 1868. Merritt lived in Woodstock, Illinois and enjoyed a career in local and national politics. Around 1880, Merritt Joslyn acquired a large, rectangular piece of property within the blocks bounded by Spring and Lovell Streets, Prospect Boulevard, and Jefferson Avenue, naming it "M.L. Joslyn's Addition." In 1891, several lots within the Addition were vacated to allow Center Street to be cut through from Jefferson to Lovell.

In 1897, only eight houses were within M. L. Joslyn's Addition and faced either Jefferson or Prospect. Although Center Street was open, no houses were built upon it until the early 1900's when Sam Peterson's home was built at 619 Center.

Charles Rippberger was a long time real estate dealer in Elgin and Peterson was married to his daughter, Clara. A small piece of Joslyn's Addition was subdivided by Rippberger on the east side of Center to allow for the wedding gift house to be built. Sam Peterson operated his father-in-law's real estate business along with Rippberger's son, Walter, until 1925. On Christmas Eve 1925, the Rippberger Company crashed and burned in a scandal that sent Walter to prison for 6 years.

Construction of other houses quickly followed on Center Street's east side while its west side remained vacant. Lot 15, on the west side of Center, was carved up into numerous pieces and these pieces owned by numerous individuals. Out of that dazzling array of land parcels and owners, a rectangular parcel, 50 feet wide and 145 1/2 feet deep, was sold to Jessie Montgomery in 1905. Jessie Montgomery was married to George Montgomery who worked for the Illinois Watch Case Company on Dundee Avenue.

In 1890, a group of Elgin citizens formed the Elgin Improvement Company in an effort to draw businesses to Elgin. Some of the those that came were the Ludlow Shoe Factory and the Eppenstein brothers company which became the Illinois Watch Case Company.

IWC Co. was started by the Eppenstein brothers and made cases that were sold to the watch factory, but was not part of the Watch Factory itself. Cases were solid gold, gold filled, or gold plated; some were silver or silver plated. Decoration on the cases was done by hand or by machine. IWC Co. also made cases for lighters and ladies' vanity cases--the "Elgin American" brand. Mr. Montgomery came to Elgin with the company and became its superintendent, retiring in 1927. Montgomery was also a top notch gardener, making his home at 632 Center Street a showplace. In September 1909, George and Jessie Montgomery executed a Trust Deed for \$2,500, likely to build their home.

The 1909-10 *Elgin City Directory* indicates the Montgomery's living at 565 Center Street, their home for a number of years; the 1911-12 directory lists them at 632 Center Street. The 1913 Sanborn Map shows a one story plastered dwelling at 632 Center.

Later, small pieces of an adjoining Subdivision and Addition were added to the aforesaid parcel to make the legal description one address comprised of three parcels.

George Montgomery died in 1945. Inventory of Jessie Montgomery's estate in mid January 1960 included "house and lot at 632 Center Street." Several weeks later, the property was sold to Elmer Steinmann who kept the house until 2004. The house was then sold to Dennis Roxworthy, well known and prolific house restorationist in Elgin.

## Architectural

*Historic Resources in the Northeast Neighborhood: A Summary and Inventory* lists 632 Center Street as a Craftsman Bungalow and contributing to the historical significance of the area. The *Lord's Park Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey* states

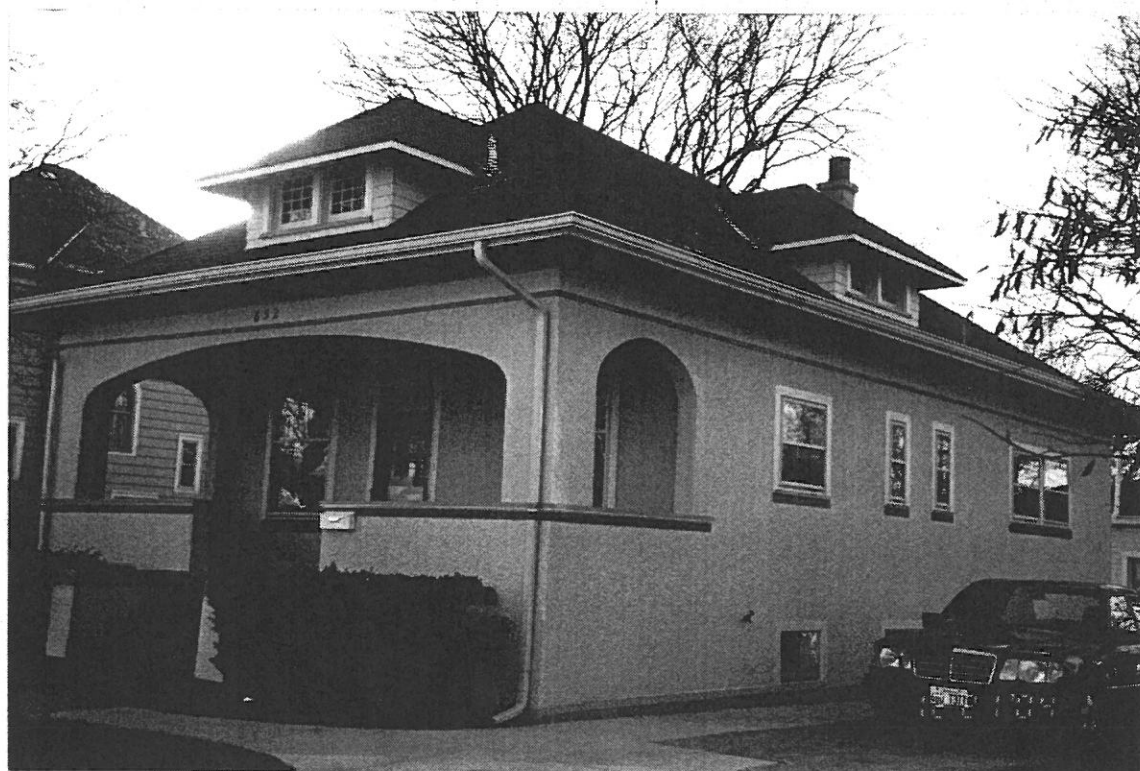
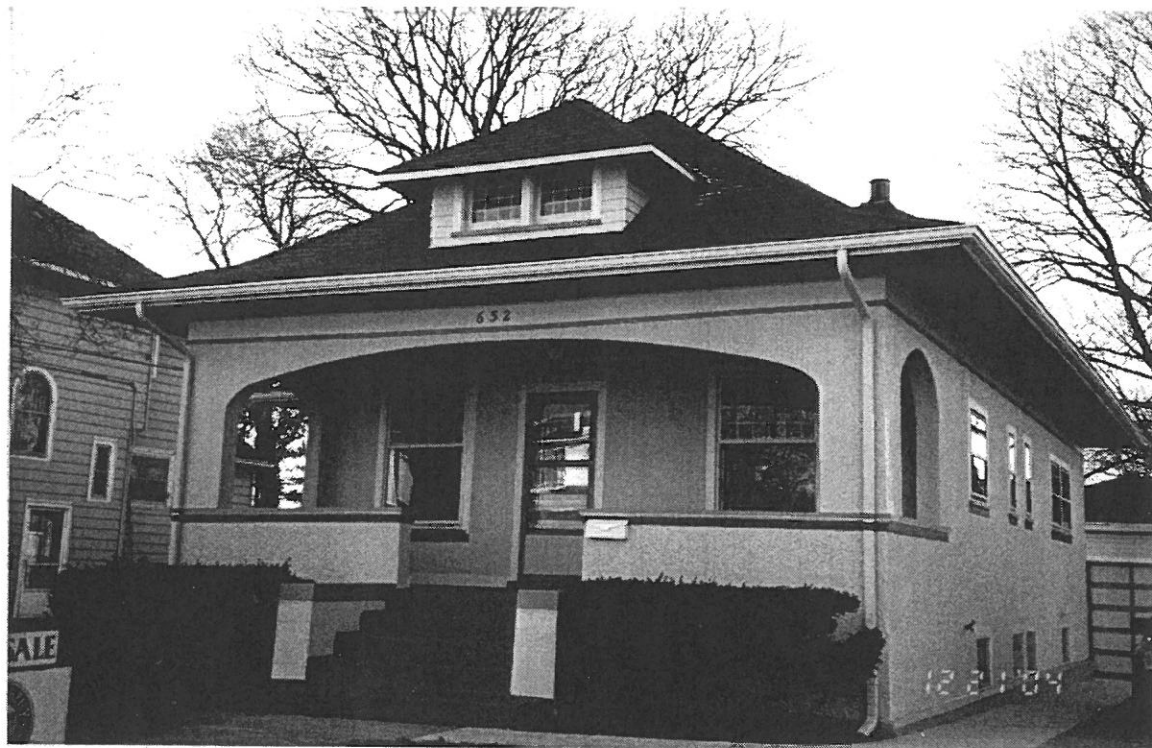
Craftsman Bungalows were inspired by the work of the architects Greene and Greene in Pasadena, California, from 1893 to 1914. Their work was widely published in architectural and popular homemaking magazines of the day. The style was offered in plan books and soon became the most popular smaller house in the country.

Craftsman homes were popularized through architect and furniture maker Gustav Stickley's *The Craftsman* magazine and were at their peak from 1901 through 1916. The popularity of Prairie style bungalows overlapped and continued beyond that of Craftsman bungalows into the building boom of the 1920's. The distinguishing characteristic of the Craftsman style is open rafters in the exterior eaves.

632 Center is a 1 story, stuccoed bungalow with a hipped roof containing several hipped roof dormers. A full width front porch has arched openings. Windows are in various sizes and are used singly or in pairs. Multi-paned windows are seen in the front facade of the house, but it is not known if they are original to it. The house lacks the distinguishing open rafters of the Craftsman style, but is considered a Craftsman bungalow by way of its hipped roof and single story. An addition was made to the south facade of the house; the garage was built in 1964.

*mmh/jan05*







This Indenture Witnesseth, THAT THE GRANTOR Samuel Sheddens and Mattie D. Sheddens his wife

of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois  
for and in consideration of the sum of Eight Hundred and Twenty five DOLLARS  
in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to

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

Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot fifteen (15) Block one (1) of Dr. L. Jocklyn's Addition to Elgin Kane Co. mty. Ill. for place of beginning thence Westerly along the South line of said Lot one hundred forty five and one half feet (145 1/2) thence Southerly at right angles fifty feet thence Easterly at right angles one hundred forty five and one half feet (145 1/2) to the West line of Chester Street thence Northerly along the West line of said Street fifty feet to the place of beginning, intending to convey the North fifty feet of the East one hundred forty five and one half feet (145 1/2) of Lot fifteen (15) Block one (1) of Dr. L. Jocklyn's Addition to Elgin.

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 fifth day of June A. D. 1905

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

Samuel S. Sheddens

SEAL

Mattie D. S. Sheddens

SEAL

SEAL

SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
County of Kane ss.

P. D. Hollenback a Notary Public in and for said County, in the State aforesaid,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that

Samuel S. Sheddens and Mattie D. S. Sheddens his wife

personally known to me to be the same persons whose names 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 5th day of June A. D. 1905

P. D. Hollenback

Notary Public

No. 76029 Filed for Record this 7th day of June A. D. 1905 at 11 o'clock A. M.

Frank C. George

RECORDED

**STANDARD FOR PURITY** **Springbrook**  
**Your Grocer Sells It. Creamery**  
**John Newman Co., Elgin, Ill. Butter**

ELGIN CITY DIRECTORY.

1909-10

263

Monroe Helen E Mrs, emp w f, h 101 Standish

Monroe Hiram (Louisa) h 678 Slade ave

Monroe Mary H Miss, h 101 Standish

Montfort Mary Miss, h 224 Chicago

Montgomery George S (Jessie) h 535 Center

Montgomery John, clk Sprowls, h 430 Prairie

Moody Alma T Miss, dressmkr, h 387 Jefferson ave

Moody Andrew G (Pauline) emp w f, h 762 Raymond

Moody Axel W (Nellie) emp I W C co, h 316 Jefferson ave

**MOODY BROS**

(Charles and Victor E) garage 98-102 Milwaukee, machinists and auto repairers 56 River, C tel 7041

**MOODY CHARLES**

(Anna) (Moody Bros) h 605 Prospect, C tel 1324

Moody Olaf G (Sophie) emp Moody Bros, h 387 Jefferson ave

**MOODY VICTOR E**

(Mary) (Moody Bros) h 600 Dundee ave, C tel 9294

Mooney, see also Money

Mooney Edward H (Catharine) emp Brethren pub house, h 110 Wilcox ave

Mooney Ellsworth A (Sadie) milk depot, h 265 Douglas ave

Mooney Emile, emp Elgin mfg co

Mooney Kitty R Miss, clk Malcomson tea co, h 214 Ann

Mooney Margaret Miss, emp E S F co, h 6 Almg ave

Mooney Minnie Mrs, emp w f, h 481 N Gifford

Moore, see also Mohr, also Muhr

Moore Anna Miss, student academy, h 317 Hinsdell pl

Moore C Frank (Mattie) traveler Mueller furnace co, h 351 Chicago

Moore Charles H (Teresa) (T Juzek & Co) h 860 Larkin ave

Moore Cora Miss, teacher, h 618 Linden ave

**MOORE EDWARD C, D D S**

(Clara) dentist rm 24 Home bank blk, C tel 863, h 174 S Gifford, C tel 8362, I S tel 175

Moore Etta J Miss, h 270 S State

Moore Frank, 7<sup>th</sup> hand, h 618 Linden ave

Moore George, blacksmith Elbert, h Burns hotel

Moore George I (Roxana) emp w f, h 383 Raymond

Moore H Lavina Miss, principal Edwardsville high school, h 370 S State

Moore Harry, printer Courier, h 489 Jefferson ave

Moore Harry, confectionery (Coliseum) h 170 Cherry

Moore John H (Phoebe) gospel messenger editor, h 119 N Commonwealth ave

Moore L B Mrs, h 154 S Porter

Moore Loreto Miss, teacher, h 618 Linden ave

Moore Marion Miss, stenog, h 283 Raymond

Moore Mary (wid John) h 618 Linden ave

Moore Nathan S (Ella) emp w f, h 107 Lovell

Moore Sadie Miss, emp w f, h 220 Morgan

Moore Sherwood R (Miriam) (McCor-nach & Moore) h 370 S State

Moore Spencer B, emp w f, h 370 S State

RESIDENCE **WM. BELL** OFFICE  
 500 Hill Ave. McBride Bldg.

Cement Walks, Curbs and Floors, Felt Gravel Roofs, Tar and Concrete Walks Laid and Repaired **Beth Phones 713**

**Maker**  
 ence, 1174  
 and Steam  
 Iron Work



# Improved Method Laundry

121-123 Division St. C. Phone 130, L.S. 93

278

ELGIN CITY DIRECTORY.

1911-12

Montgomery George (Jessie) emp. I. W. Co. h 602 Center

Moody John h 418 Sprouts h 439 Prairie

Moody Andrew (Pauline) mach. C. J. h 328 Spring

Moody Axel W. (Nellie) emp. C. J. h 310 Jefferson ave.

## CHAS. J. MOODY

AUTOMOBILES AND GARAGE

Hudson, Cole 30, Inter-State

56 River St. Garage across the street

### MOODY CHARLES J.

(Autom. machine shop 56 River St. phone 1181) also garage 102 Milwaukee St. phone 1362 h 1004 Chicago St. phone 1386 W. (See Adv. center space and industrial lines)

Moody Ella Miss student 29th century bus college h 605 Prospect

Moody Helen Miss h 605 Highland ave

Moody Louise Miss h 605 Highland ave

Moody Orlaf G. (Sophie) h 712 Cedar ave

Moody Theodore emp. Moody garage h 600 Dundee ave

### MOODY VICTOR

(Mary) Fatigue 104 100 Grove ave. Chi. phone 462 h 208 Mosley

Moody W. H. (Nellie) mach. co. h 605 Highland ave

Mooney see also Money

Mooney Edward H. (Katherine) pressman Brethren pub house h 110 Wilcox ave

Mooney Ellsworth A. (Gladie) milk dealer h 311 Douglas ave

Mooney Margaret Miss emp. Mader's dept Cook pub co 6 Elma ave

Mooney May Miss h 110 Wilcox ave

Moore see also Mohr also Mohr

Moore Alice C. Miss county sec. A. W. C. A. h 225 Spring

Moore Anna Mrs. h 132 Crichton ave

Moore Charles F. (Matthew) traveler h 341 Chicago

Moore Charles H. (Feresay) watchmaker Jewell h 508 Larkin ave

Moore Clifford emp. Woodruff & Edwards co. resides Chicago

Moore Edward C. D. D. St. Charles, Mo. dentist em 21 Home Bldg. 118 h 311 13 Alford

Moore F. C. (est. storekeeper State hospital

Moore Genevieve Miss student high school h 618 Linden ave

Moore Harry pres. leader Brethren pub house h 320 Washington

Moore Harry D. compositor Courier h 189 Jefferson ave

Moore Hazel M. Miss emp. Keith re. 1105 Carpentersville

Moore John H. (Phoebe) editor Gospel Messenger emp. Brethren pub house h 110 Commonwealth ave

Moore Katherine (wid. Wayne) h 189 Jefferson ave

Moore Lloyd emp. Seybold printer h 271 Villa

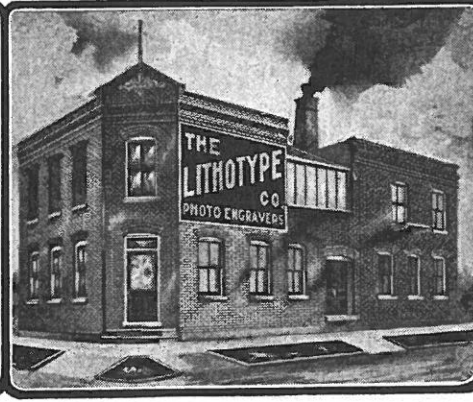
Moore Loretta Miss h 618 Linden ave

*St. Cohien & Co.*  
PUBLISHED BY ST. COHEN & CO.  
100 N. W. 10th St. W. MINNAPOLIS, MINN.





G. E. Stahl



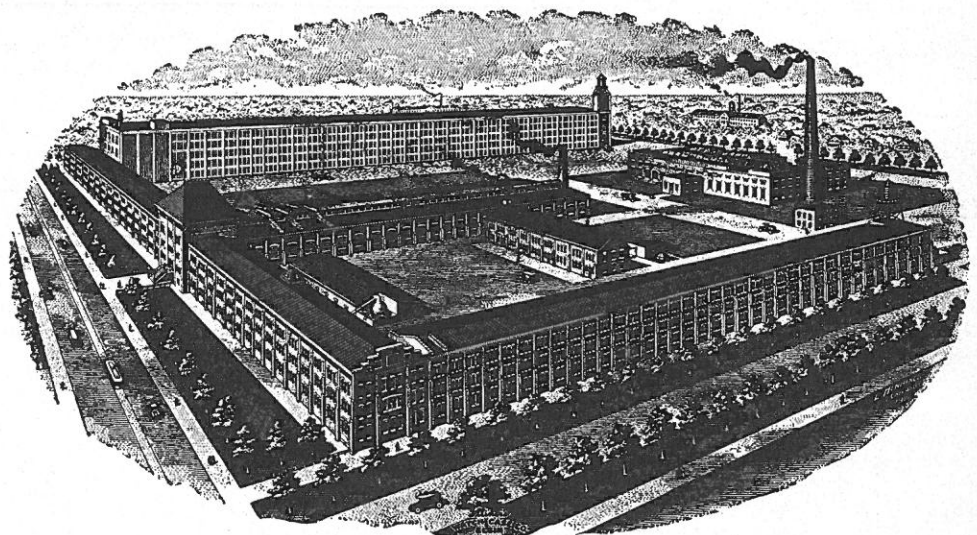
J. A. Schmidt

### The Lithotype Company, Photo Engravers

The Lithotype Engraving Company was organized in 1900 and has been doing business at North Street and North Grove Avenue for the past twenty-seven years. It is the only lithotype company in the northern part of the county and maintains a thoroughly equipped establishment for the production of high-class halftones, zinc etchings and color plates of every process. It also maintains an art department, where drawings, and

layouts in pen, wash, or color are executed by artists of experience and ability. It also has a competent force of mechanical retouchers in its service at all times. It maintains a strictly up-to-date modern engraving house not surpassed in northern Illinois for any service coming within its scope.

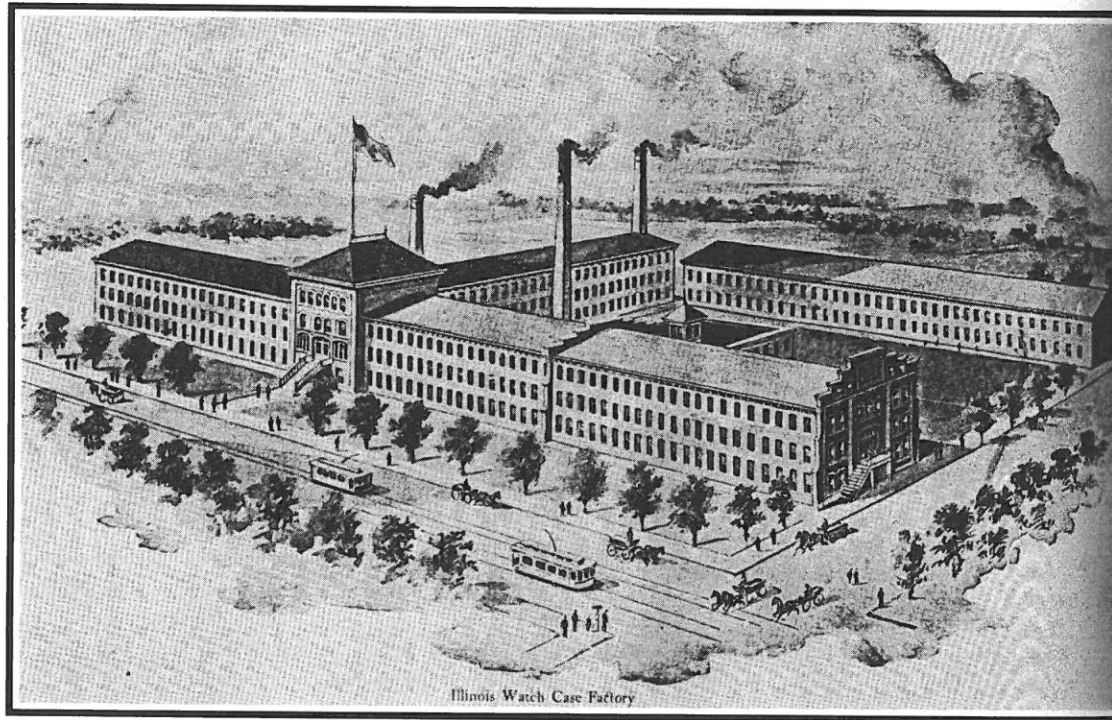
The officers are J. A. Schmidt, president; G. E. Stahl, vice-president and secretary.



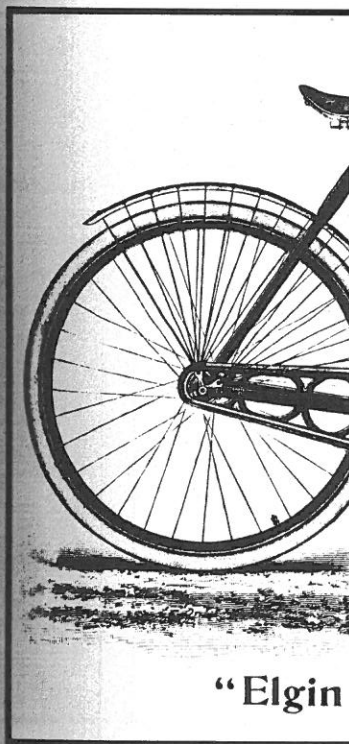
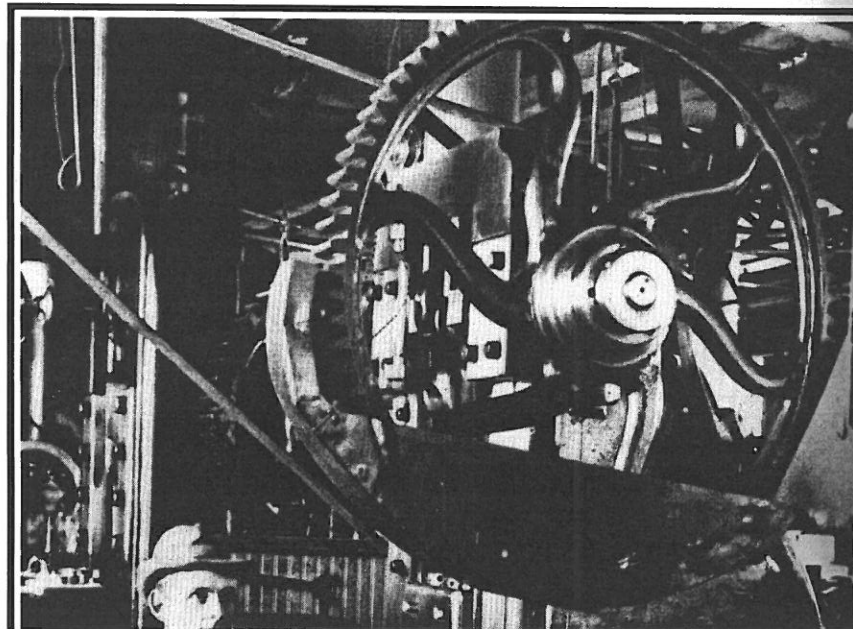
Plant of Illinois Watch Case Co., Elgin, Illinois

# Old Elgin - A Pictorial History

The "case factory," not connected with the Elgin National Watch Co., was the city's second largest employer for more than forty years. The Illinois Watch Case Co. removed from Chicago in 1890. It was one of the industries encouraged to locate in Elgin by William Grote's efforts. The cases were of solid gold, silver, gold-filled, and silver and gold plated of all sizes. Decorative work was both hand engraved and stamped. Besides watch cases, the company manufactured lockets, novelty jewelry, cigarette lighters, and vanity cases. During World War II the firm was a major producer of chemical mortar shells. Output in the big plant on Dundee avenue, hard hit by foreign competition, ended in the early sixties.



A press with one operation cut and shaped the back of the watch case from long strips of metal. "This press is provided with dies of every description, size and shape; some with the various designs which ornament the back and front of the case," reported the *Elgin Weekly Courier*, July 12, 1890. "When it cuts from the sheet of



*Elgin: An American History*  
*by E. C. Alft*

the Elgin City Railway Company was chartered in 1886. The corporation purchased Payne's franchise for a reported \$41,000 in the summer of 1889. Pledging to lay nine miles of new track at once, six on the east side and three on the west side, the firm secured a new franchise from the City Council over vigorous competition from Chicagoans. To power the cars, the line acquired and expanded the Edison electric light plant and assumed responsibility for furnishing the city with light and power as well as transportation.

During consideration of an amendment to the franchise in February 1890, one alderman announced that he had been offered a bribe in connection with the type of track to be laid. The alleged offer was traced to a supplier of rails, and the Elgin City Railway was free of taint. One alderman was indicted and subsequently acquitted, but of the seven aldermen up for re-election in April 1890, four chose not to run and the other three were defeated.

On July 4, 1890—before Chicago and most other Illinois cities had them—Elgin's first electric street cars began carrying passengers between what is now Lords Park and Fountain Square. Within a year, the company was operating fifteen motor cars and six trailers over thirteen miles of track. A four-track barn built on the west side of South Grove Avenue housed the equipment. The cars all came down to the Square but did not cross it. Passengers received transfers to another car if they wished to continue their trip. Fares were five cents for adults and three cents for children under twelve.

The trolley line gave Grote and his associates an additional inducement to lure new industries. The Illinois Watch Case Company had been incorporated in 1888 as an outgrowth of a wholesale jewelry firm in Chicago. The president, Max C. Eppenstein, agreed to move to Elgin in return for land and a building along Dundee Avenue. In return, the firm agreed to employ at least one hundred the first year, hire fifty more the second year, and an additional fifty the third year. Shortly before the plant opened, Grote, Church, and Waldron began selling lots in the Grand View subdivision across the way. Its boundaries were Cooper, Cedar, Lincoln, and Dundee avenues. Lots varied in price from \$460 to \$820.

The Eppenstein firm intended to change its name to the Elgin Watch Case Company. The Elgin National Watch Company, which did not ease its movements and was wary of the possible confusion, quickly moved to charter a corporation with that

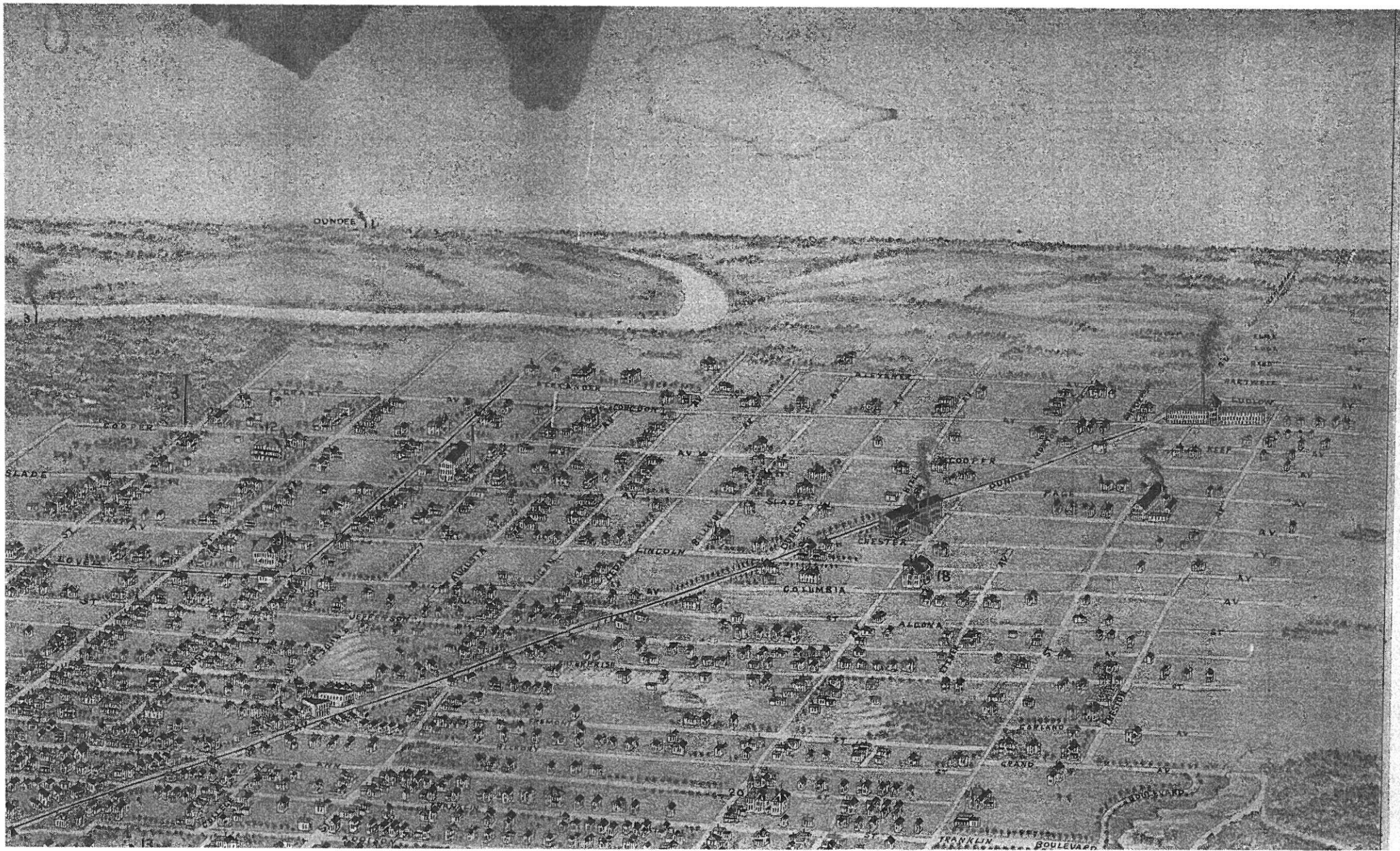
name. Then Eppenstein countered by organizing the National Watch Case Company of Elgin. The dispute was litigated and ultimately appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, which in 1901 ruled that "Elgin" was a geographic designation which could not be an exclusive trademark because the city existed before the arrival of the watch factory. Meanwhile, the case works prospered. Within a year of its arrival, it was employing about two hundred fifty workers and producing about nine hundred cases daily. Before the decade was over, it had doubled its plant capacity.

Early in 1891, Grote organized a pool of land owners in the far northeast side to attract the Ludlow shoe factory from Chicago. Under the aegis of the improvement association, each land owner was given shares in the pool in proportion to the value of his property. The Ludlow firm was given shares worth forty thousand dollars for a site and building. The firm would gain a twenty percent interest in the property for each consecutive year it employed three hundred fifty. The total amount of land in the pool came to nearly two hundred acres. On April 4, 1891, lots in the Riverside Park addition, carved out of this acreage, were auctioned off in the largest lot sale ever staged in Elgin. Free trolley rides were given prospective buyers to and from the sale. Many bought lots anticipating a rise in price. The area extended north of the Grand View subdivision from the west side of Cedar Avenue to the north side of what is now River Bluff Road, and east to the county line.

George W. Ludlow & Company was headed by Ludlow and his brother-in-law, George R. Keep, and it specialized in making women's shoes. The first pair was turned out in July, while the plant on the northeast corner of Dundee and Congdon avenues was still under construction. By August 1891, 370 employees were making about nine hundred pairs daily. The firm manufactured some three hundred different styles. Its office and sales rooms remained in Chicago.

In October 1891, Grote convinced H. K. Cutter and C. H. Grossette to move their shirt factory from Chicago on a promise of a factory to be constructed on the east side of North Liberty Street between Slade Avenue and Page Street. In return for the plant, a three-story brick structure, Cutter and Crossette were obligated to employ two hundred the first year and three hundred in the ensuing four years. The shirtmakers started a temporary workshop to train employees until their building was ready for occupancy in June 1892. Investors in the improvement association







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market, 1401 Dundee ave., some-  
time Saturday night or early Sun-  
day morning and escaped with be-  
tween \$50 and \$60 in change which  
had been concealed in the building.  
The burglary was discovered  
Sunday morning by the proprietor,  
Merritt Phillips, and he notified  
police. Lt. Robert Koch inves-  
tigated.

Entrance was gained by jimmy-  
ing a rear door which was not se-  
curely fastened. After the bur-  
glars had obtained their loot, they  
closed the door so that it appeared  
to have been undisturbed. Phillips  
told police the money was all in  
change.

### TRAIN CREW SAVES CHURCH.

DECATUR, Ill.—(AP)—A crew of  
Baltimore and Ohio railroad men,  
hurryng to the scene with 3,000  
gallons of water in a locomotive  
tender tank, saved the Antioch  
Christian church four miles south-  
east of here from destruction by  
fire Sunday.

This is the only sector in which  
the Japanese have put up a fight.  
Gen. Douglas MacArthur said  
Turn to Page 2, Column 4

EDCN 22 Jan 1945

## G. S. Montgomery Dies At Home

George S. Montgomery, retired  
general superintendent of the Illi-  
nois Watch Case Co. of this city,  
died early today at his home, 632  
Center st., following several years  
of failing health. He was born in  
Harriston, Ontario, Canada, on  
July 23, 1858.

As an executive associate of the  
Eppenstein family of this city, Mr.  
Montgomery was one of the men  
responsible for the upbuilding of  
a major industry in this communi-  
ty. He first entered the Eppen-  
steins' employ in Chicago, in the  
'80s, and came with the firm to  
Elgin when it first made this city  
its home some 56 years ago.

A watchmaker by trade, Mr.  
Montgomery subsequently became  
general superintendent for the  
Watch Case and continued in this  
capacity for several years, retiring  
in 1927.

Skilled at the art of gardening,  
Mr. Montgomery had devoted the  
late years of his life to this fas-  
cinating hobby and the gardens at  
his home were considered among  
the finest in the city.

He was a member of the First  
Congregational church of Elgin.

Survivors are the widow, Mrs.  
Jessie Given Montgomery of this  
city, and a brother, William Mont-  
gomery, and sister, Miss Belle  
Montgomery, both residing in Har-  
riston, Ontario, Canada.

A private funeral service will be  
conducted Thursday afternoon at  
2 in the late home on Center  
street, with the Rev. Ernest L.  
Benson officiating. Burial will be  
in Fairview cemetery, a family  
burial plot on the Given home-  
stead acreage near Woodstock.  
Friends may call at the Wolff fu-  
neral home until Thursday morn-  
ing and after that at the late  
home.

This portion of the sel  
law spells out cond  
which farm workers  
ferred for induction.

Meanwhile, reports  
conditions in coal an  
tries were added to  
manpower problems.

To prevent any poi  
decline in coal suppl  
industry invited John  
present soon any ne  
mands he may have

The existing union  
tween the United Min  
America, headed by  
coal operators expire  
1945.

Follow WMC Orders.

CHICAGO—(AP)—  
employment ceilings  
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employees has been sta  
Turn to Page

## Opposi Jones I

WASHINGTON—(AP)

Wallace called for "e-  
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appointment as secre  
merce spread on Cap

Even before his s  
takes over the job  
Jesse Jones reached  
the former Vice-Pres  
statement saying:

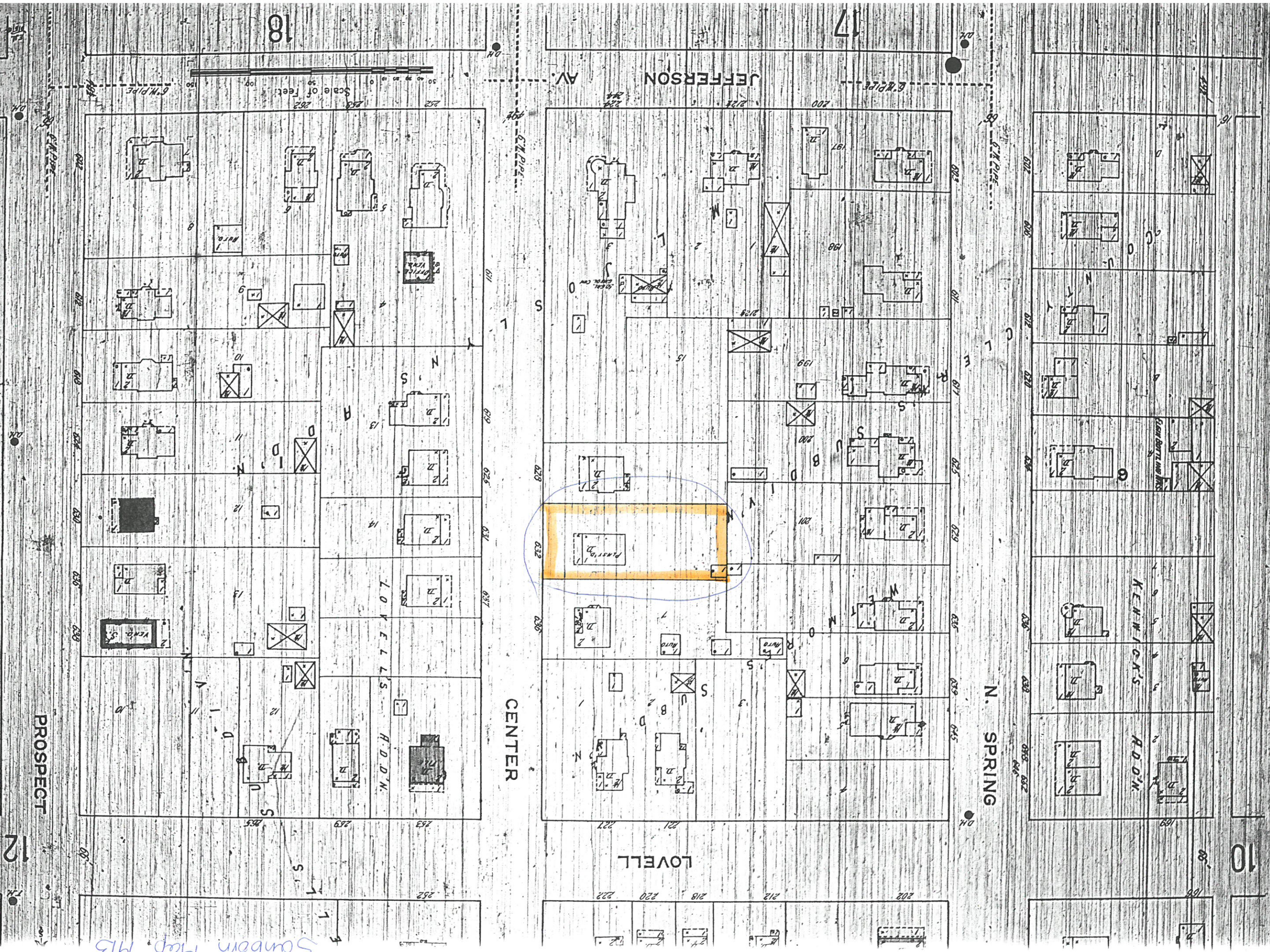
"I am happy that  
has named me to a  
viding for continuo  
the public welfare.

"In the highly ge  
today and tomorrow  
be full and efficient  
throughout the natio  
The senate receiv  
formal nomination fr  
House shortly after 1  
noon.

In what appeared  
for southern Democ  
when his nomination  
confirmation, Wallace  
new job as one des  
note "a maximum of  
playment by private



Sanborn Map, 1913





8

MCH-1897  
**ELGIN**  
ILL.

ST. JOHN

Alcove

0

PROSPECT

AV.

KIMBALL & HANKINS

LOVELL 24

JEFFERSON

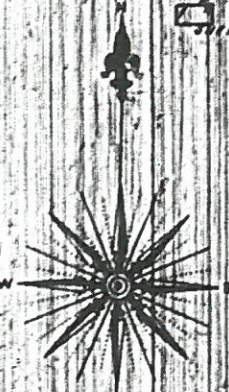
CENTER

C. P. DEAN'S

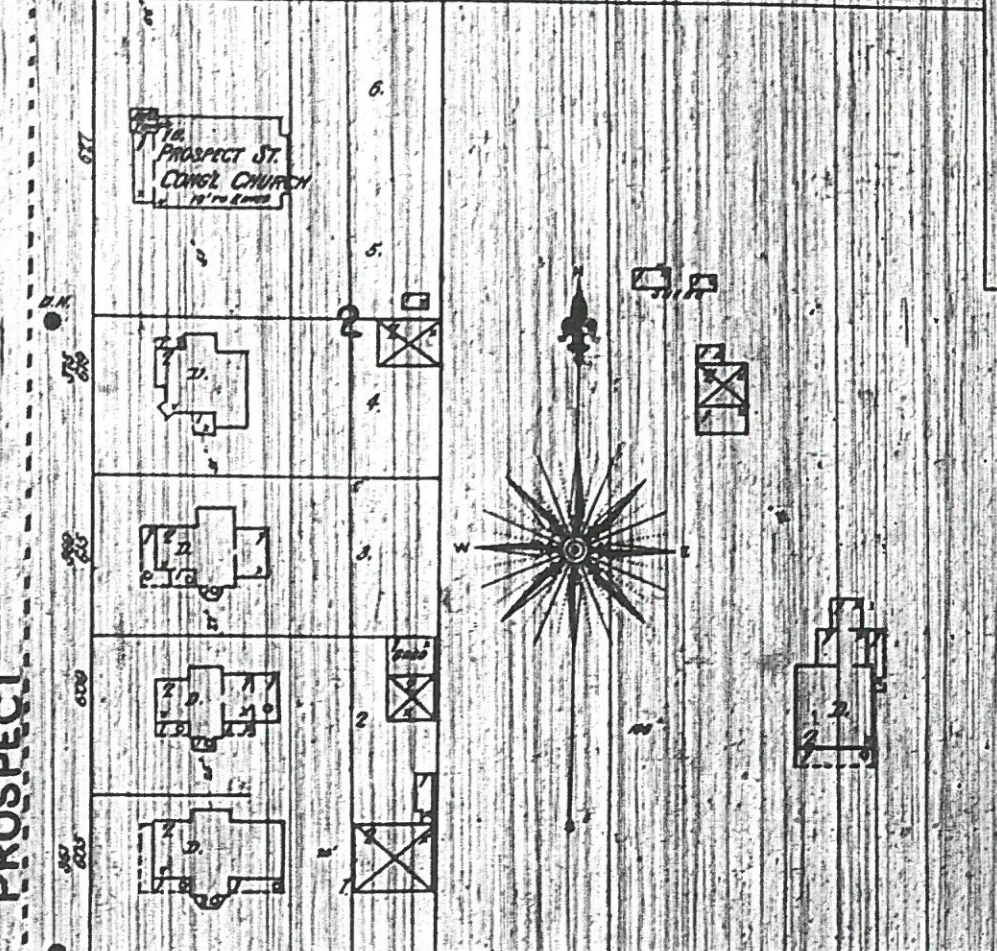
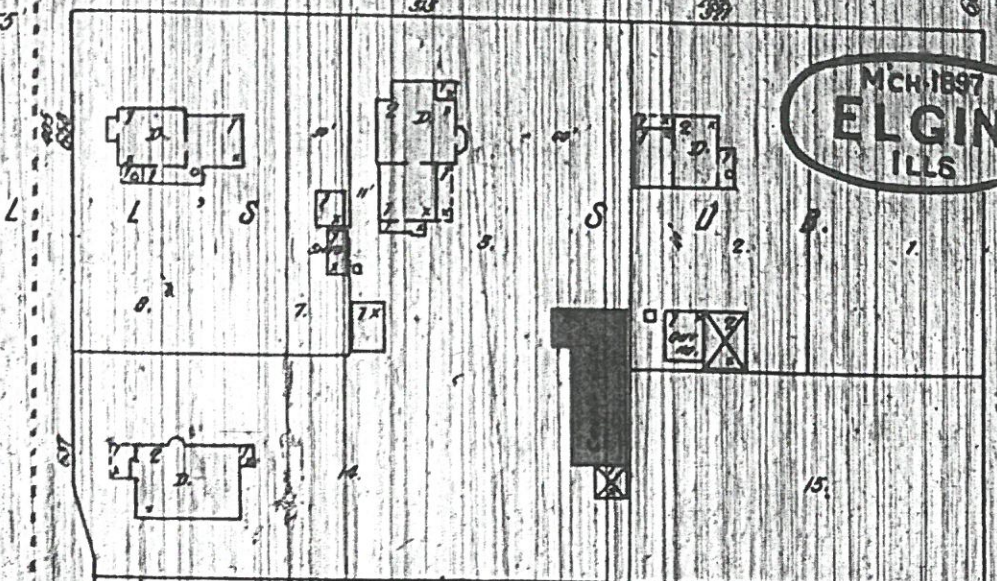
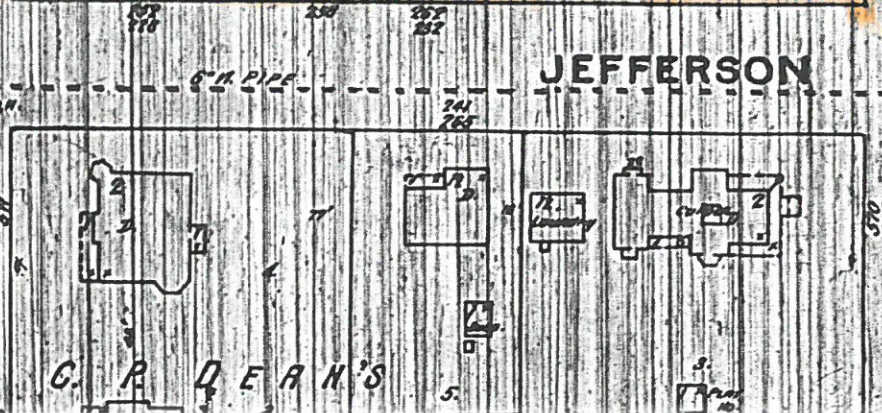
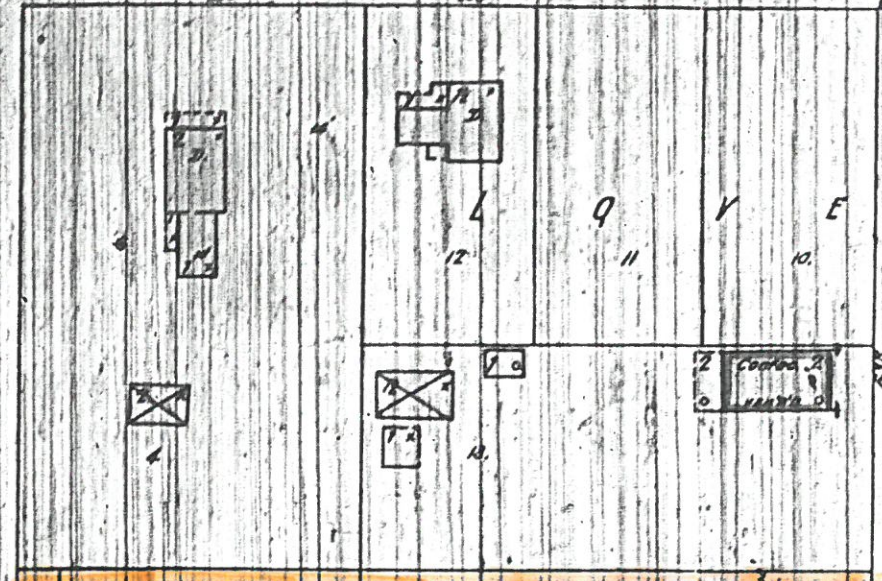
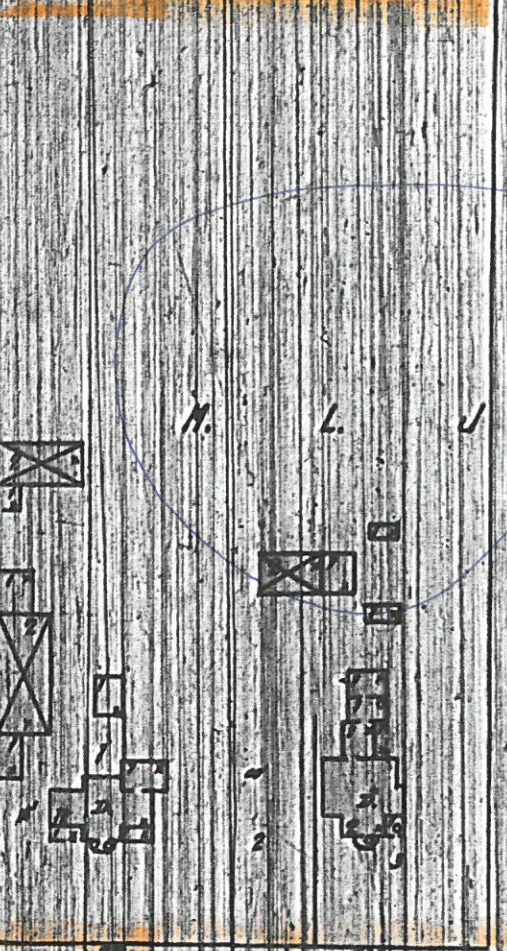
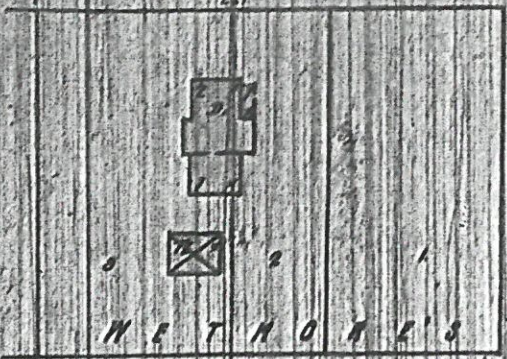
METRO

N. L. J. O. S. L. Y. N. S.

23



PROSPECT ST. CONG. CHURCH





This Indenture Witnesseth, THAT THE GRANTOR, S. Samuel Sheddens and Mattie  
S. Sheddens his wife

of the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois  
 for and in consideration of the sum of Eight Hundred and Twenty five DOLLARS  
 in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to

Jessie M. Montgomery

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

Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot fifteen (15) Block one (1) of Dr. L. Jocelyn's Addition to Elgin Kane Co. mty. Ill. for place of beginning thence Westerly along the South line of said Lot one hundred forty five and one half feet (145 1/2) thence South-erly at right angles fifty feet thence Easterly at right angles one hundred forty five and one half feet (145 1/2) to the West line of Center Street, thence Northerly along the West line of said Street fifty feet to the place of beginning, intending to convey the North fifty feet of the East one hundred forty five and one half feet (145 1/2) of Lot fif-teen (15) Block one (1) of Dr. L. Jocelyn's Addition to Elgin.

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 fifth day of June A. D. 1905

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

S. Samuel Sheddens SEAL  
Mattie S. Sheddens SEAL  
 SEAL  
 SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss.  
County of Kane

R. D. Hollenback a Notary Public in and for said County, in the State aforesaid,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that

S. Samuel Sheddens and Mattie S. Sheddens his wife

personally known to me to be the same persons whose names 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 5th day of June A. D. 1905

R. D. Hollenback  
 Notary Public





the Elgin City Railway Company was chartered in 1886. The corporation purchased Payne's franchise for a reported \$41,000 in the summer of 1889. Pledging to lay nine miles of new track at once, six on the east side and three on the west side, the firm secured a new franchise from the City Council over vigorous competition from Chicagoans. To power the cars, the line acquired and expanded the Edison electric light plant and assumed responsibility for furnishing the city with light and power as well as transportation.

During consideration of an amendment to the franchise in February 1890, one alderman announced that he had been offered a bribe in connection with the type of track to be laid. The alleged offer was traced to a supplier of rails, and the Elgin City Railway was free of taint. One alderman was indicted and subsequently acquitted, but of the seven aldermen up for re-election in April 1890, four chose not to run and the other three were defeated.

On July 4, 1890—before Chicago and most other Illinois cities had them—Elgin's first electric street cars began carrying passengers between what is now Lords Park and Fountain Square. Within a year, the company was operating fifteen motor cars and six trailers over thirteen miles of track. A four-track barn built on the west side of South Grove Avenue housed the equipment. The cars all came down to the Square but did not cross it. Passengers received transfers to another car if they wished to continue their trip. Fares were five cents for adults and three cents for children under twelve.

The trolley line gave Grote and his associates an additional inducement to lure new industries. The Illinois Watch Case Company had been incorporated in 1888 as an outgrowth of a wholesale jewelry firm in Chicago. The president, Max C. Eppenstein, agreed to move to Elgin in return for land and a building along Dundee Avenue. In return, the firm agreed to employ at least one hundred the first year, hire fifty more the second year, and an additional fifty the third year. Shortly before the plant opened, Grote, Church, and Waldron began selling lots in the Grand View subdivision across the way. Its boundaries were Cooper, Cedar, Lincoln, and Dundee avenues. Lots varied in price from \$460 to \$820.

The Eppenstein firm intended to change its name to the Elgin Watch Case Company. The Elgin National Watch Company, which did not case its movements and was wary of the possible confusion, quickly moved to charter a corporation with that

name. Then Eppenstein countered by organizing the Watch Case Company of Elgin. The dispute ultimately appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, which ruled that "Elgin" was a geographic designation and could not be an exclusive trademark because the city was the rival of the watch factory. Meanwhile, the Elgin Watch Case Company. Within a year of its arrival, it was employing fifty workers and producing about nine hundred watches. By the time the decade was over, it had doubled its production.

Early in 1891, Grote organized a pool of land on the northeast side to attract the Ludlow shoe factory. Under the aegis of the improvement association, the city was given shares in the pool in proportion to its property. The Ludlow firm was given shares in the pool and sand dollars for a site and building. The firm was given a percent interest in the property for each car. The pool employed three hundred fifty. The total amount of land came to nearly two hundred acres. On April 1, 1891, the Riverside Park addition, carved out of the land mentioned off in the largest lot sale ever staged in Elgin, rides were given prospective buyers to and bought lots anticipating a rise in price. The Elgin Watch Case Company of the Grand View subdivision from the Avenue to the north side of what is now Riverside Avenue east to the county line.

George W. Ludlow & Company was headed by his brother-in-law, George R. Keep, and it specialized in men's shoes. The first pair was turned out in the plant on the northeast corner of Dundee Avenue. The plant was still under construction. By August 1891, the plant was making about nine hundred pairs daily. The plant made some three hundred different styles. Its office remained in Chicago.

In October 1891, Grote convinced H. K. Cutler to move their shirt factory from Chicago to be constructed on the east side of Dundee Avenue between Slade Avenue and Page Street. In 1892, a three-story brick structure, Cutter and Cross, was built to employ two hundred the first year and to employ four years. The shirtmakers started a shop to train employees until their building was ready. The plant opened in June 1892. Investors in the impr



