

# The Archaeology of Racial Hatred: The Springfield Race Riot of August 1908

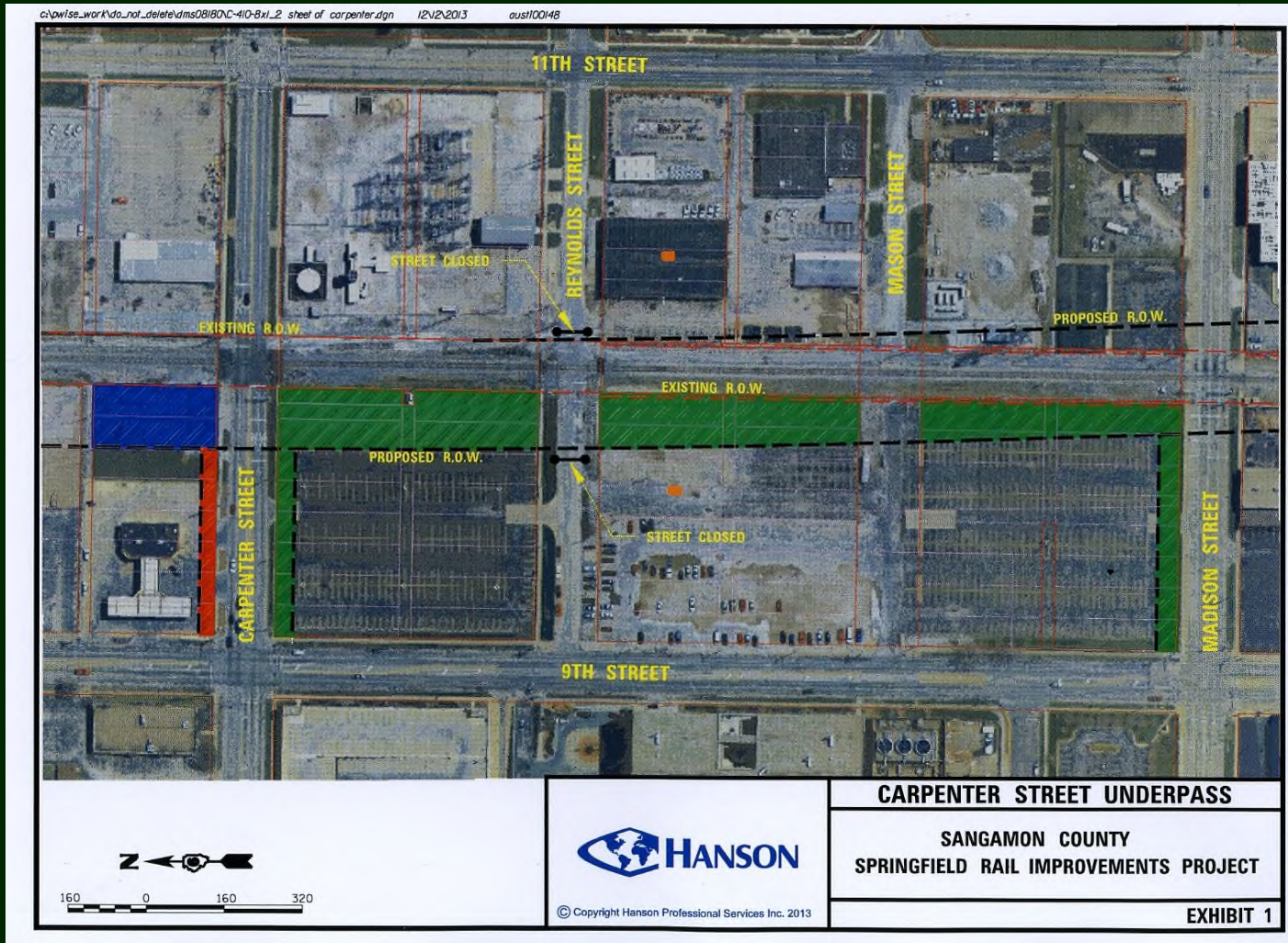
by  
Floyd Mansberger  
and  
Christopher Stratton

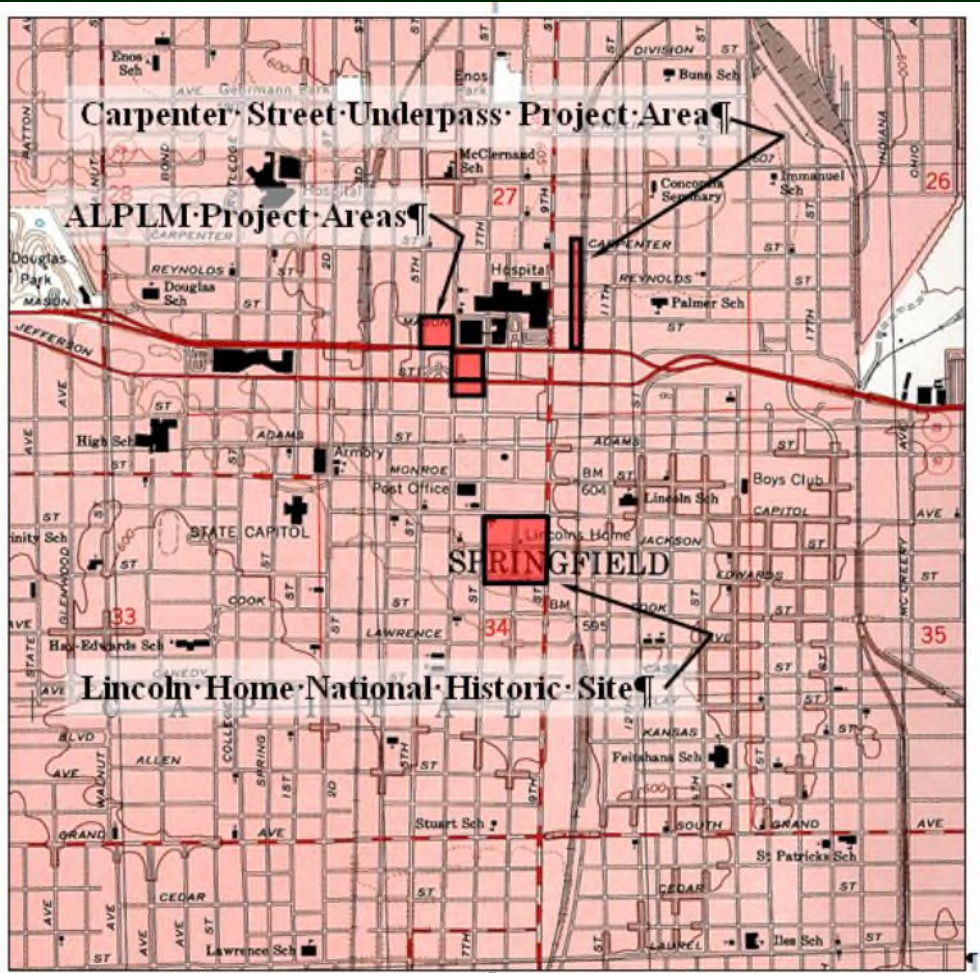
Fever River Research  
Springfield, Illinois

Paul Mickey Science Series Lecture  
Illinois State Museum  
Springfield, Illinois  
February 15, 2017



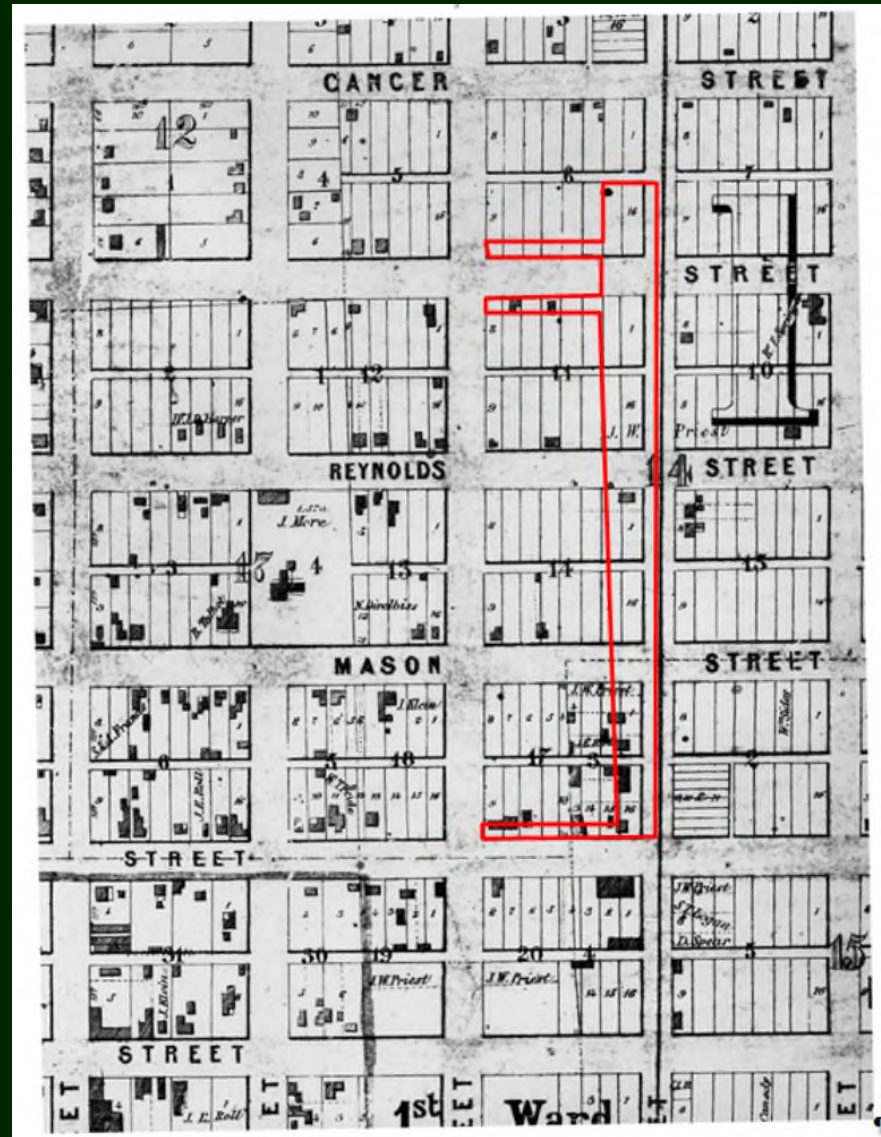
# Project Location:





The Carpenter Street Underpass project area is located immediately to the east/northeast of Springfield's central business district, in an area historically known as the Near North Neighborhood.

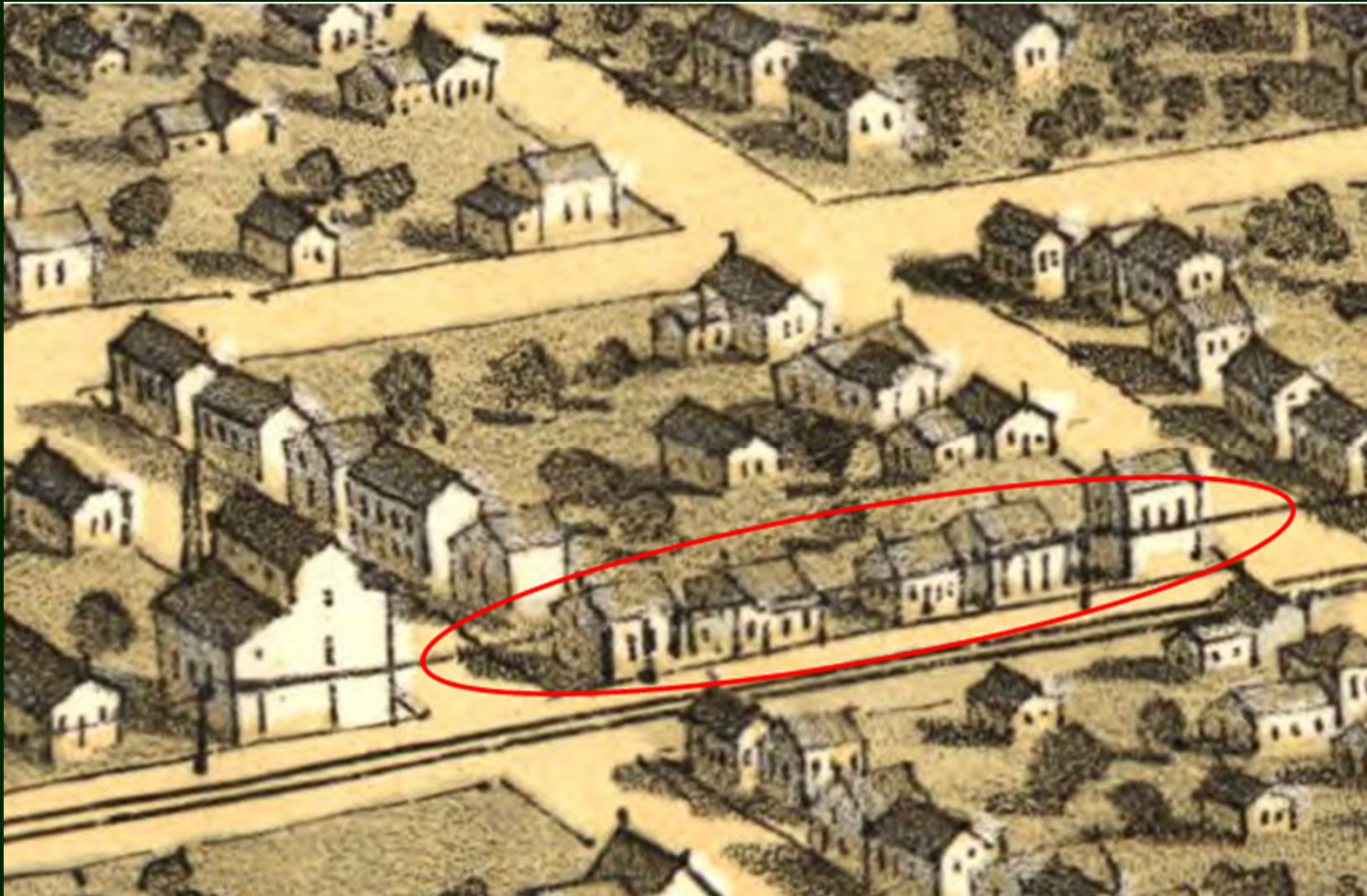
By 1858, the majority of the project area was undeveloped. That area between Madison and Mason Streets was the most heavily developed within the immediate project area, and consisted of five houses facing Tenth Street. These houses had been constructed in the middle 1840s through early 1850s and were occupied by Euro-American working class families. The rail line had been constructed through the neighborhood only a few years earlier.



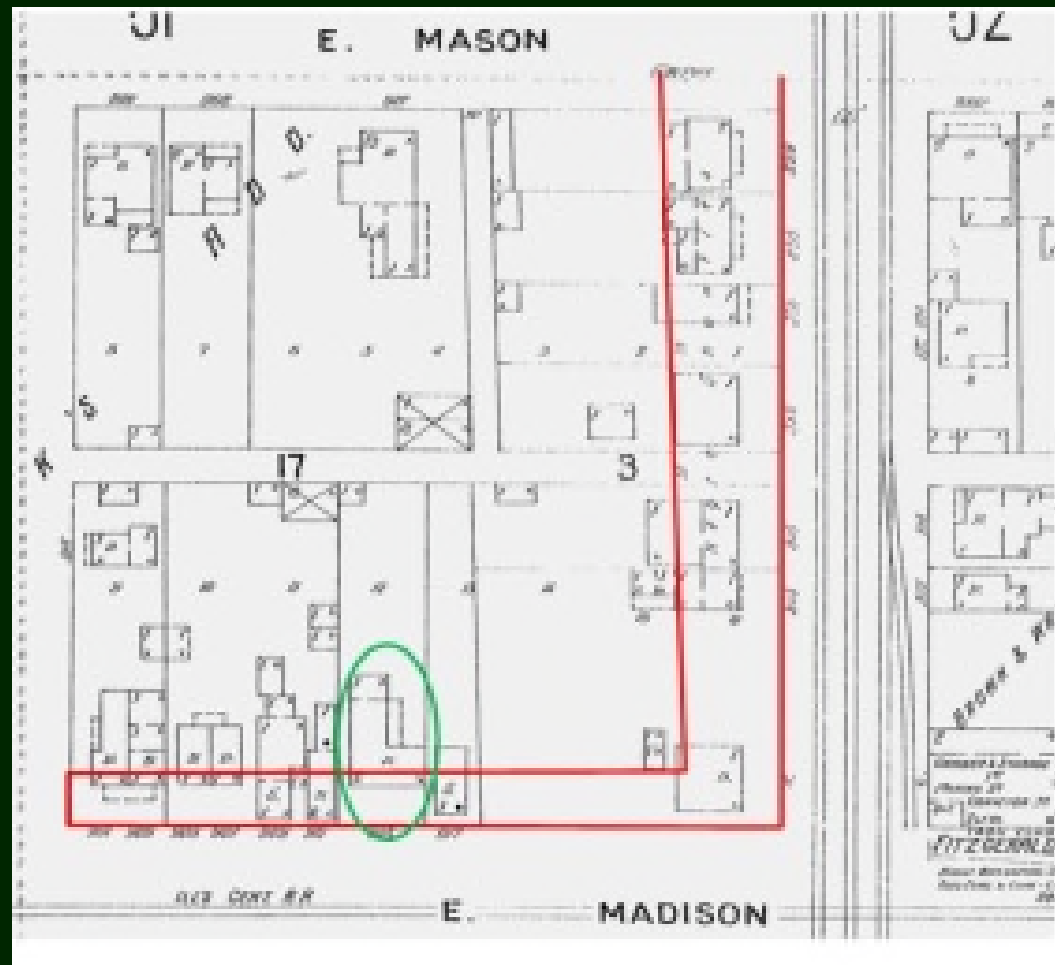
General view of Springfield's Near North Side and the Carpenter Street Underpass project area, as illustrated on the 1867 *Bird's Eye of Springfield* (Ruger 1867).



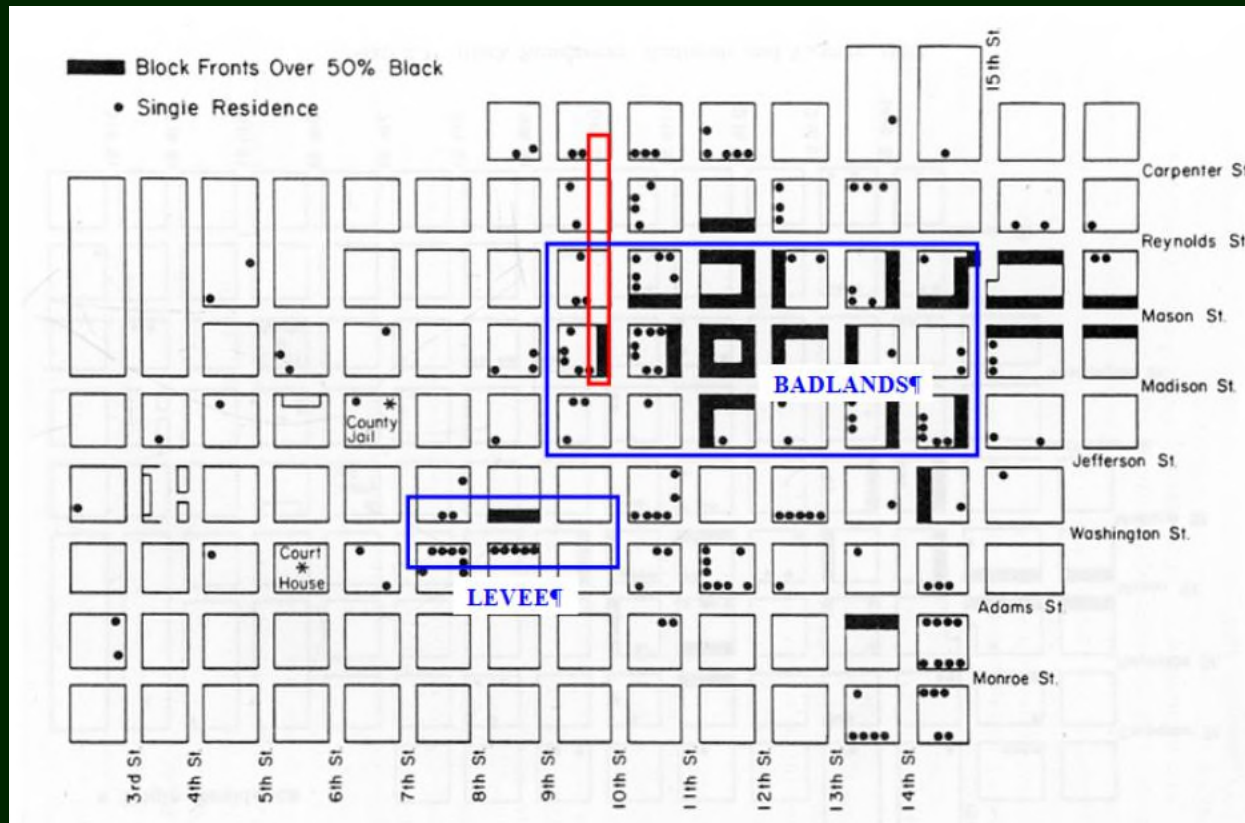
Detail of the 1867 *Bird's Eye View of Springfield* illustrating the southern end of the Carpenter Street project area. Note the large Phoenix Mill located across Madison Street to the south.



The 1896 Sanborn fire insurance map labeled the houses along Tenth Street, between Madison and Mason Streets as “Negro Shanties.” The red line indicates the location of the Carpenter Street project area.



By 1900, the south half of the project area was located in a predominately African-American residential neighborhood that had become known as the “Badlands.” The “Levee” was a short stretch of Washington Street known for its saloons, gambling houses, pawn shops, and prostitution. The Carpenter Street Underpass project area is outlined in red.



On the morning of August 14, 1908, Mabel Hallam accused George Richardson of having raped her the night before.



Mabel Hallam (21; wife of streetcar motorman William Hallam)



George Richardson (36; construction laborer)

Although Mrs. Hallam was later to recant her story, absolving Mr. Richardson of any wrong-doing, her actions unleashed a fury of violent activity that was to wreck havoc with the City of Springfield.

# The Illinois State Journal

SEVENTY-SEVENTH YEAR      SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS      SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1908—10 PAGES      PRICE 3 CENTS

## Frenzied Mob Sweeps City, Wreaking Bloody Vengeance For Negro's Heinous Crime.

### MOB WRECKS LOPER'S CAFE DURING RIOT

Throng Attacks Restaurant  
Invaded by Mob Who Took  
Suspect Away.

PLACE TOTALLY BURNED

FIREMEN 'CHAOS' TAKEN AND  
CHIEF VALIANTLY BURNED  
IN THE STREET.

AUTHORITIES HELPLESS

VICTIM OF NEGRO ASSAULT.



MRS. J. HALLAM.

### NEGROES REMOVED TO BLOOMINGTON

OFFICERS FEAR VIOLENCE AND  
SPIRIT PRODUCE AWAY.

Street Stripped From County Jail by  
Fate Alone of Five White Deputies  
Killed Remains a few bones in  
Automobile and Loose Cop—Papers  
as They Near Bremen.

### THE CASUALTIES

DEAD.

W. J. MOYER, slain by mob; killed.  
EDWIN JOHNSON, 120 East Riverside street, shot through the abdomen.

INJURED.

ROBERT BEVERLINE, 410 South First street, shot through the left eye during street racing.  
GEORGE STUBBS, 401 North Third street, shot through the left eye during street racing.  
ANDREW ALDRANAHIA, 101 East Jackson street, shot through the right eye during street racing.  
HARRY D. PARKING, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, member of the Springfield chapter of the I.O.O.F., shot in the head while passing Lewis's restaurant.  
WALTER J. JONES, shot in one leg.  
E. J. BRIDGMAN, struck in the head with brick.  
JESSE H. CAMPBELL, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, gunshot wound, shot through the head during meeting of Liggett's.  
DAVID HALEY, struck on head with brick.  
ALEX. BOWMAN, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, shot through the head with brick.  
WILLIAM STUART, Chicago & North street, gunshot wound, struck in the head.  
THOMAS REAVEL, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, shot through the head.  
CLAUDE ANAPPE, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, shot through the head.  
JAMES BROWNELL, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, shot through the head.  
ROBERT BROWN, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, shot through the head.  
ROBERT LAWRENCE, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, shot through the head.  
EUGENE W. CHAPIN, 120 1/2 South Sixth street, shot through the head.

### TWO ARE KILLED AND MANY HURT AS MOB WORNS

Springfield Helpless as  
Hordes of Thousands of  
Frenzied Citizens.

ASSAULT INCITES  
MORNING WAR FOLLOWS THE ACT  
MADE BY NEGRO DYING  
LOCAL WOMAN.

RESTAURANT IN RUIN

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1908, the City of Springfield erupted in racially motivated mob violence that lasted for several days, and resulted in the lynching of two African-American citizens, as well as the destruction of numerous houses and businesses within the city. Much of the violence was centered on the Levee commercial district and residential Badlands. The violence was subdued through the efforts of the Illinois National Guard.



Images of scrapbook from Cultheritage.com.



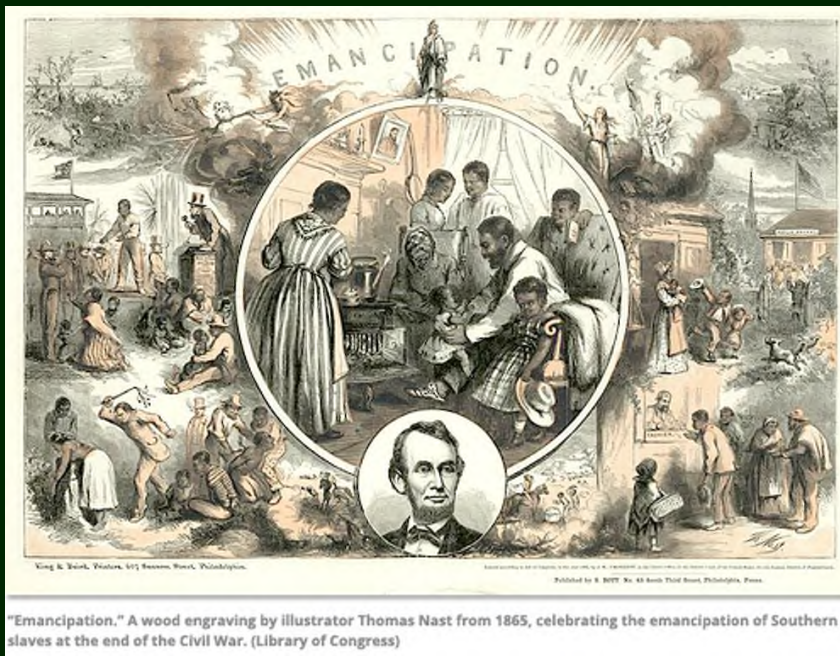
Photographs of East Madison Street, and National Guard in Springfield (August 1908).



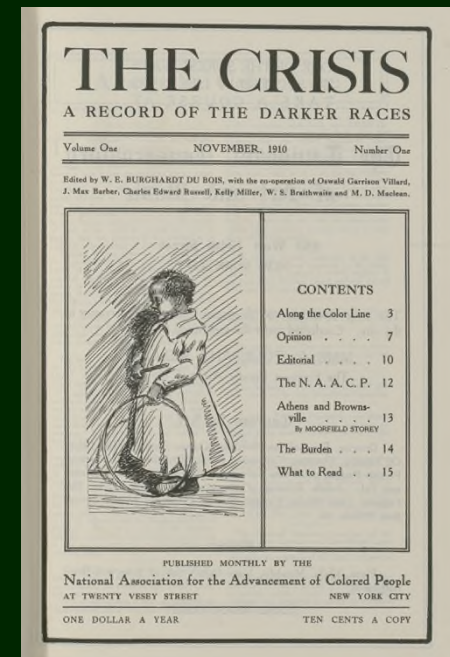
Over 40 houses and business were destroyed in the Badlands during the August 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 1908 riot in Springfield. This map depicts the location of the houses and businesses destroyed by fire during the riots (as depicted on the 1896 Sanborn fire insurance map). The current project area is circled in red. The blue arrows indicate the location of perspective view historic photographs. No photographs have been located depicting the houses in the existing project area.



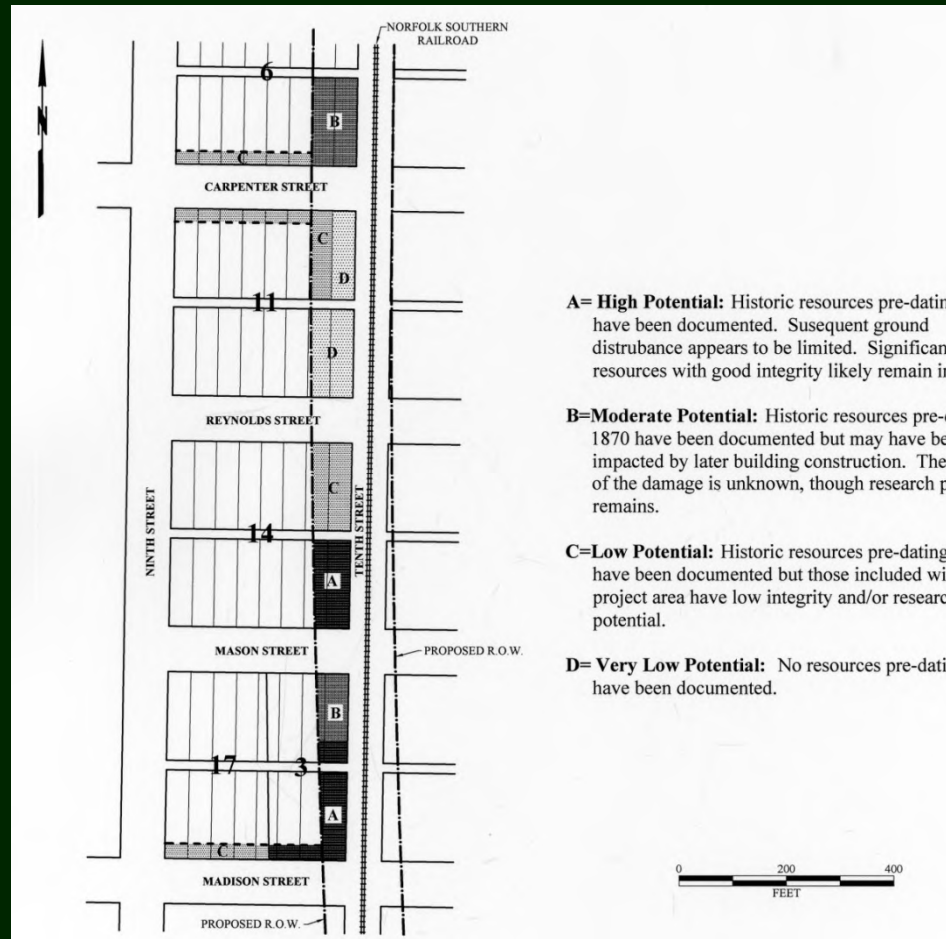
The Springfield Race Riot of August 1908 was one of the catalysts that resulted in the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1909 (in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth), the organization was formed. As quoted in the NAACP's webpage, "The NAACP was formed partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, the capital of Illinois and resting place of President Abraham Lincoln."



"Emancipation." A wood engraving by illustrator Thomas Nast from 1865, celebrating the emancipation of Southern slaves at the end of the Civil War. (Library of Congress)



The first step in the archaeological process was a *Phase I Survey*, which identified areas of *potential* archaeological integrity (ranked from a high potential of “A”, to a low potential of “D”).



**A= High Potential:** Historic resources pre-dating 1870 have been documented. Susequent ground disturbace appears to be limited. Significant resources with good integrity likely remain intact.

**B=Moderate Potential:** Historic resources pre-dating 1870 have been documented but may have been impacted by later building construction. The extent of the damage is unknown, though research potential remains.

**C=Low Potential:** Historic resources pre-dating 1870 have been documented but those included within the project area have low integrity and/or research potential.

**D= Very Low Potential:** No resources pre-dating 1870 have been documented.

A CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES STUDY  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
CARPENTER STREET UNDERPASS,  
SPRINGFIELD RAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



by  
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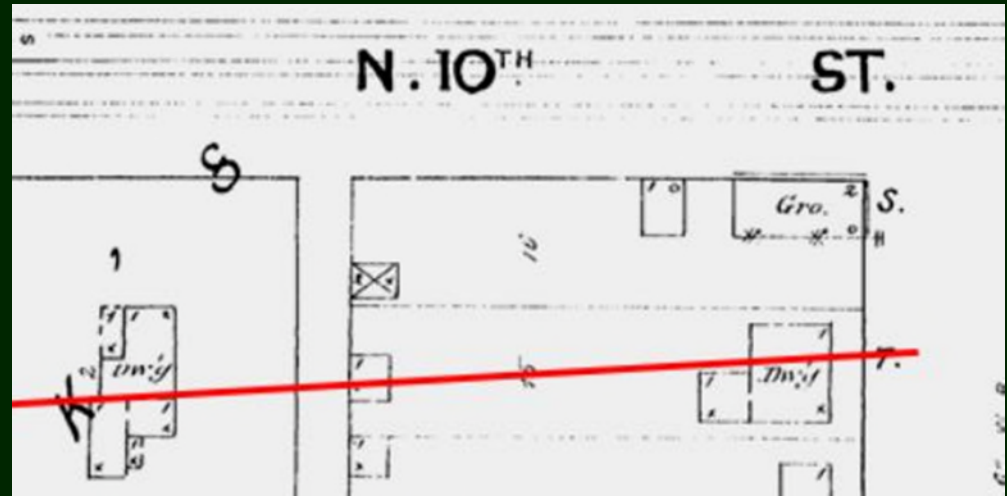
Prepared for  
Hanson Professional Services Inc.

January 2014

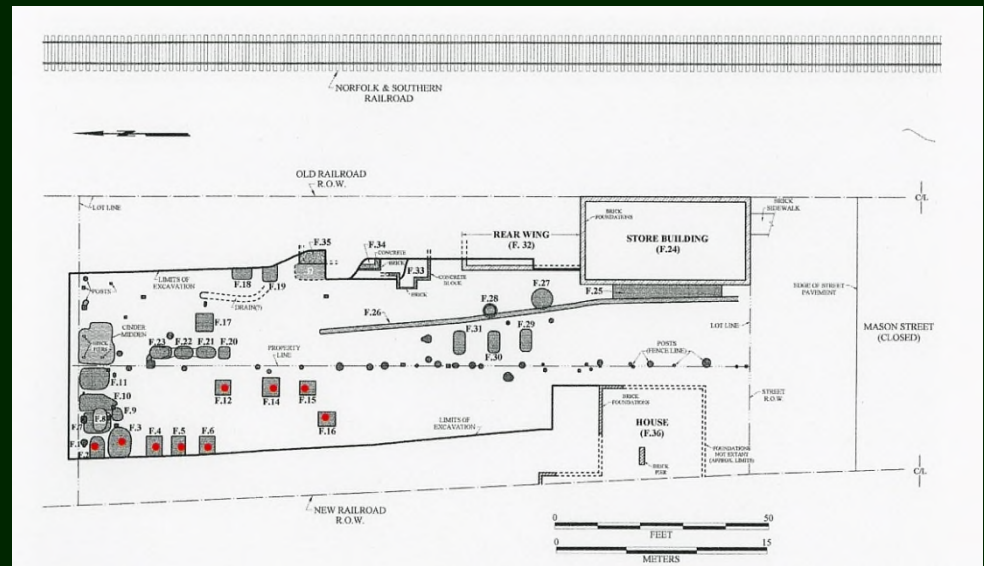
In consultation with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, it was determined that *Phase II archaeological testing* would be required for areas ranked “A” and “B.” The purpose of the Phase II testing was to determine if subsurface archaeological integrity was present, and if the sites were eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Phase II testing required the removal of the parking lot overburden to inspect for subsurface archaeological features.



In the north third of the area tested (that area north of Mason Street and identified as Site 2; 11Sg1433), portions of two lots were stripped of overburden, exposing remains of a house (labeled “Dw’g), a commercial grocery (labeled “Gro”), and a wide range of mid-yard and rear-yard features (including numerous privy pits. These two structures were built and occupied by Portuguese families beginning in the 1850s). Those privy pits illustrated with a red dot on them (lower right figure) were partially excavated.



Detail of 1890 Sanborn map

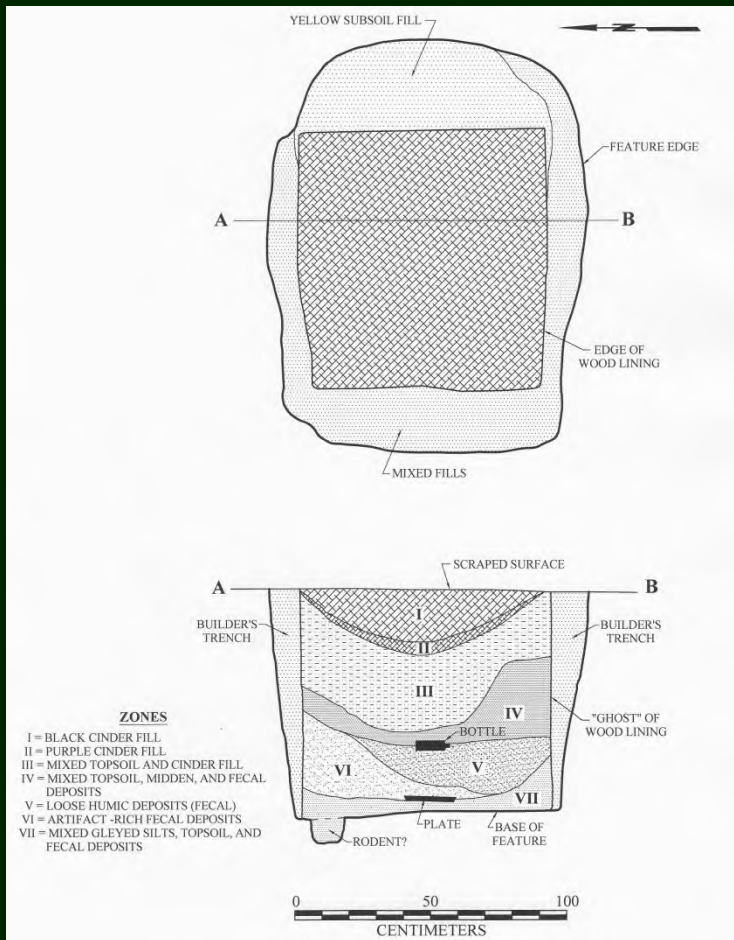


Archaeological base map of Site 2.

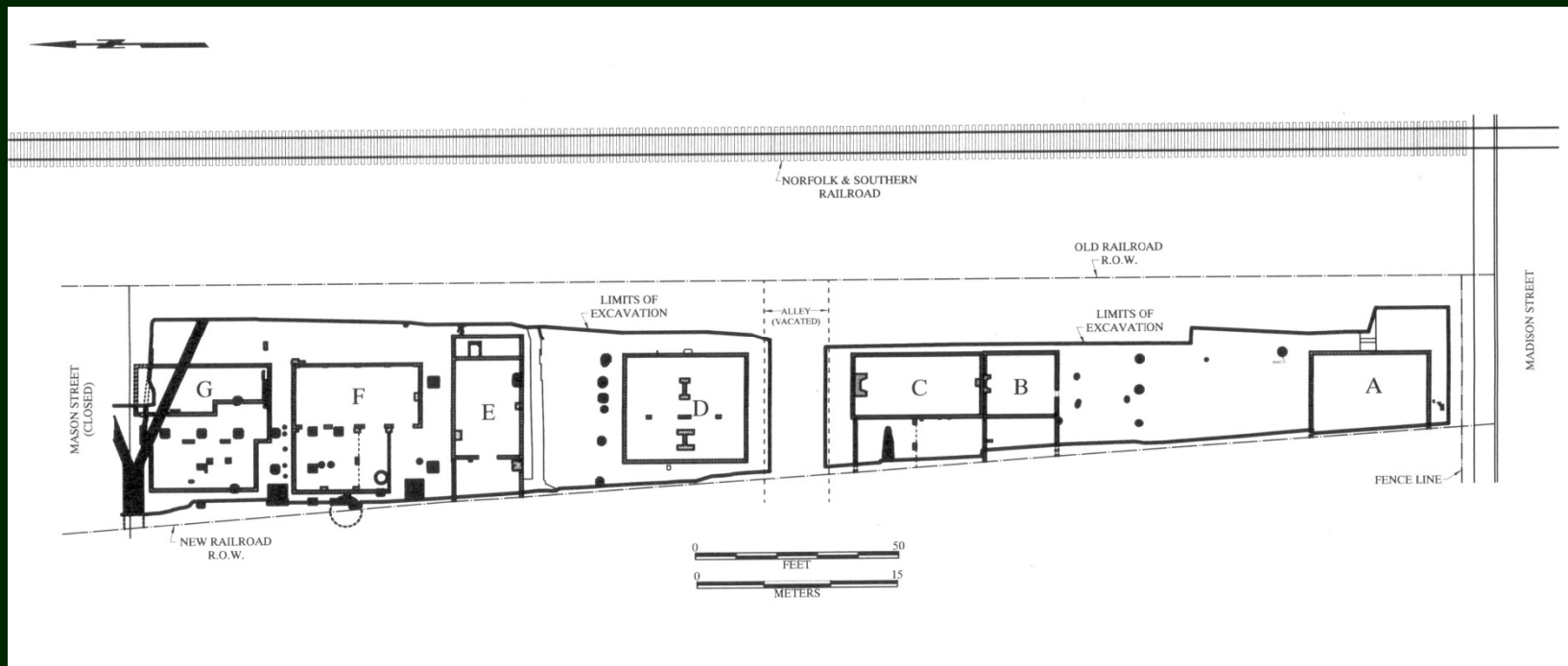
Nine of the features (all representing privy pits) were excavated to assess the age of the features, and their respective artifact content. Left: View of features after initial discovery. Right: During excavation.



The privy pits were mapped in plan view, the east half of each privy was excavated, and the profile of each privy pit was recorded. Each pit was then backfilled with clean sand. These pits were filled over multiple decades, with the earliest being filled in circa 1860 and the latest in circa 1950.



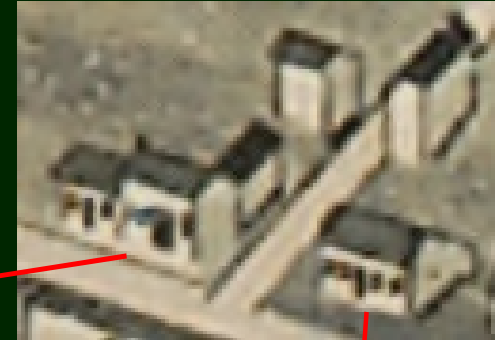
Intact resources were also found within the southern two-thirds of the project area (located between Madison Street on the south and Mason Street on the north) (Site 1; 11Sg1432). In this area, only the front of the lots once fronting Tenth Street were stripped, exposing the physical remains of seven middle nineteenth century houses. The rear yard activity areas associated with these houses lies to the west beneath the existing parking lot.



Views of Houses A (left) and B (right) during Phase II testing. House A appears to have been occupied by, among others, the Smith family at the time of the 1908 riot. House B may have been unoccupied in August 1908. Both houses were destroyed by fire in August 1908.



View of House C (left) and D (right) during Phase II testing. Both houses were destroyed by fire in August 1908.



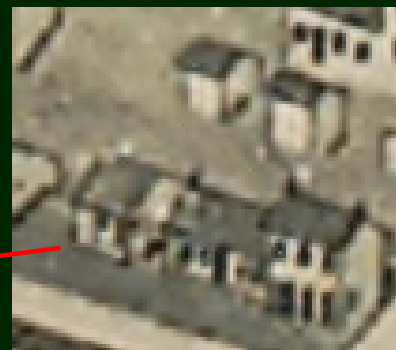
View of one of the back-to-back fireplace foundations associated with House D.



Two views of House E (and associated brick walkway) during Phase II testing. This house was occupied by the Smith family for much of the nineteenth century. At the time of the 1908 riot, the house was occupied by M. Stoutmeyer. It, too, was destroyed by fire during the riot.



Looking west



Looking south

Houses A through E all exhibited physical evidence of having been destroyed by fire.



View of Houses F (left) and G (right). These two dwellings represent the last two houses to have been constructed along this section of Tenth Street. House G appears to have been demolished just prior to the riot (1906-early 1908). House F survived the 1908 race riot, persisting into the 1920s. The archaeological integrity of both structures had been compromised by post-1920s construction activity.



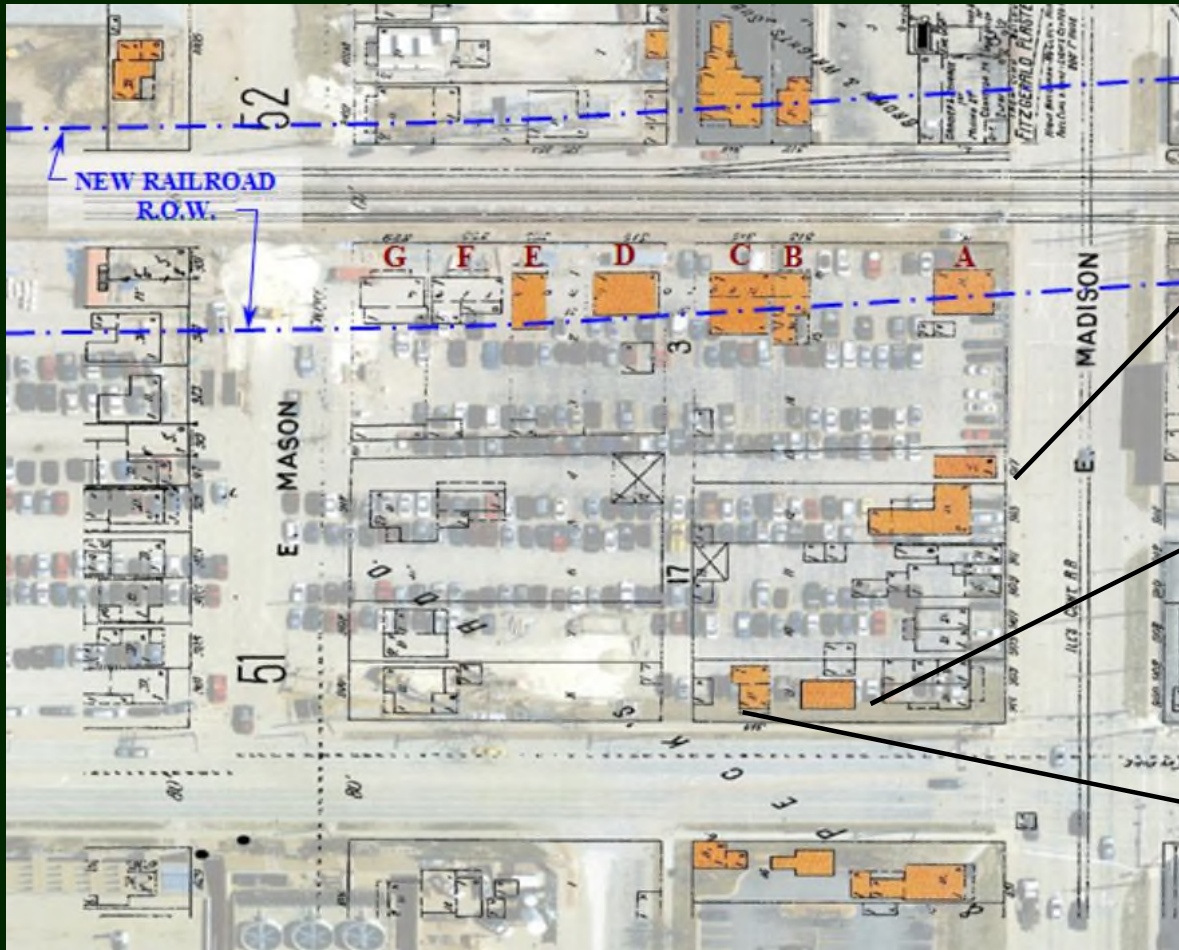
Fieldwork conducted in the fall of 2014 consisted of mapping the exposed features...



... followed by minimal testing (excavation) within each house to assess the depth of fill deposits, character of the artifacts present, and complexity of the resource. Fill depths varied by house, but pre-fire, fire (August 14, 1908), and post-fire deposits were apparent in all test units excavated.

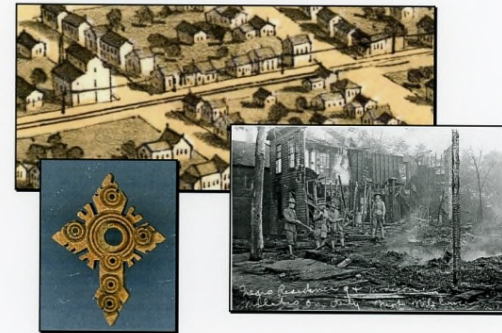


Location of burned (A-E) and unburned (F and G) houses in the Tenth Street Corridor, overlain on existing aerial view. Buildings highlighted in orange were destroyed by fire in the August 1908 Springfield riot.



The results of the Phase II investigations have been summarized in the report entitled *Results of the Phase II Archaeological Investigations of Sites 11SG1432 and 11SG1433 for the Proposed Carpenter Street Underpass, Springfield Rail Improvements Project, Springfield, Illinois*. This report was submitted in March 2016 and is accessible online.

RESULTS OF PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS  
OF SITES 11SG1432 AND 11SG1433  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
CARPENTER STREET UNDERPASS,  
SPRINGFIELD RAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT,  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



Fever River Research, Inc.  
Springfield, Illinois

2016

Both sites have been backfilled, and fenced—awaiting completion of the Section 106 process. Left: Site 2 (11Sg1433). Right: Site 1 (11Sg1432).



The Phase II report does not incorporate the inventory and analysis of the artifacts recovered from these investigations. This work is ongoing and slated for completion sometime yet this Spring (early 2017).

All artifacts removed from the field have been washed, re-bagged in archival plastic bags, and are in the process of being inventoried. The artifacts will be discussed in terms of their context and interpretive value.



Artifacts direct from field (unwashed) (House A, Test 1)



Artifacts being inventoried (after initial washing and cross-mending).

Archaeologists study artifacts and artifact assemblages. Although individual artifacts can often be significant, to the archaeologist *artifact assemblages* (a collection of artifacts from a single *context*) often contain greater research value, as they convey information relevant to a specific *time* and *place*. Archaeologists use the term “feature” in reference to non-portable artifacts such as pits and structures. These “archaeological features” often contain large artifact assemblages.



The recovered archaeological assemblages from Site 1 (11Sg1433) and Site 2 (11Sg1432) are very different from one another, due to the differing contexts in which they were recovered.

The assemblages from Site 2 (11Sg1433) were recovered primarily from abandoned residential privy pits, and consist of a wide range of restorable household items, discarded during a relatively short time period.—such as that presented in this example.



This is an assemblage recovered from a mid-to-late 1860s privy pit excavated as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Project.

The analysis of the artifacts from the privies at Site 2 (11Sg1433) is ongoing, and will be presented in a format similar to that illustrated in the previous slide. One data set of special interest from these privy pits is the faunal remains (bone) preserved within them—such as this assemblage of chicken remains (which documents the on-site butchering of a large number of mature birds).



Feature 5

In contrast, those artifacts recovered from in and around the house foundations at Site 1 (11Sg1432) are considerably different, and represented predominately by a variety of small items that were deposited in accretional middens that developed over a period of time.



Early midden material recovered from around House E.

Archaeological deposits associated with the August 1908 riot, and subsequent destruction by fire of the five houses, were also well documented, and include these fire-deposits from House A. These three images depict materials presumably in a back bedroom of House A at the time of the August 1908 house fire (Test 1).

Left: small vase (little to no fire damage)

Middle: partially melted medicine bottle and drinking glass

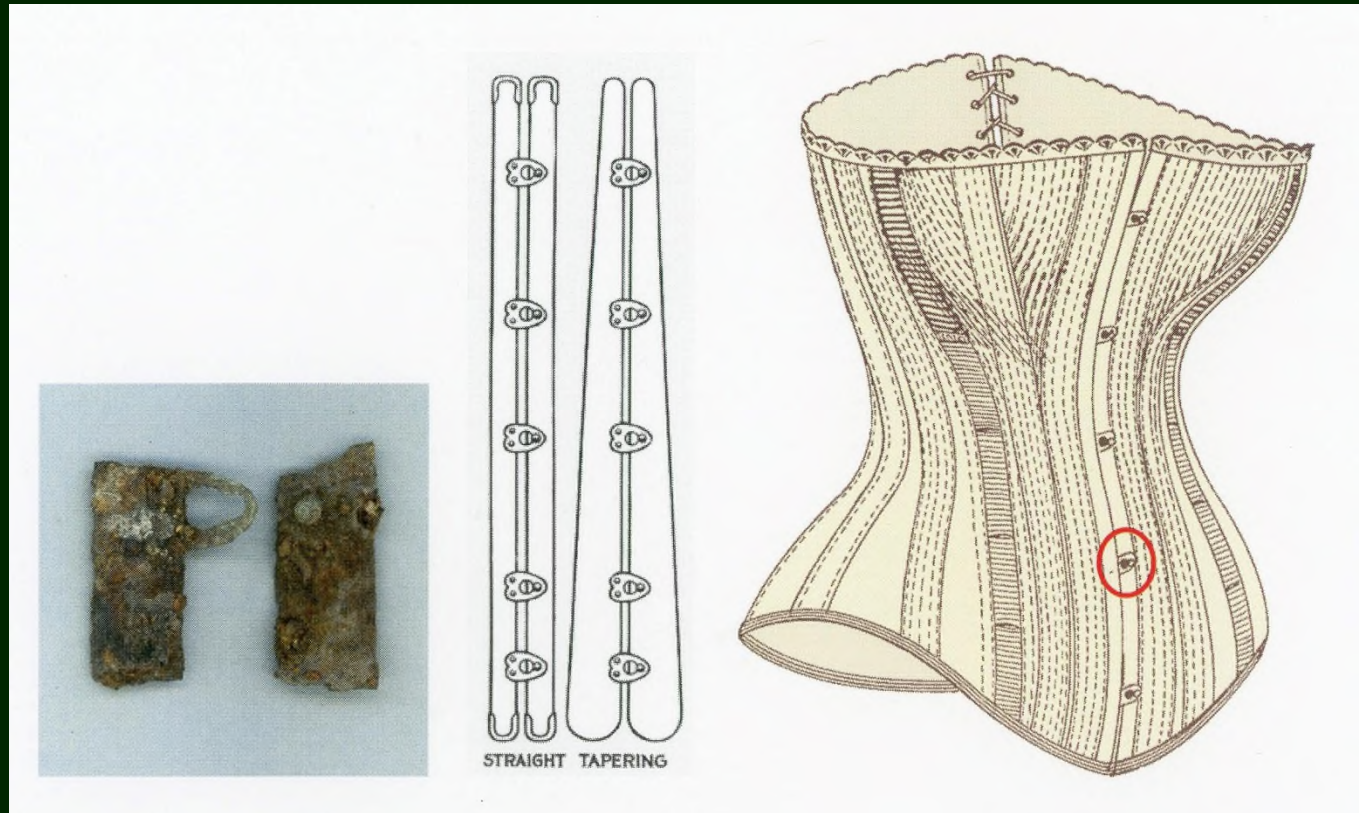
Right: fire smoked and broken wash basin



Unlike House A (which had a shallow crawlspace beneath it), House B has a substantial basement cellar beneath it. The cellar contains a wide range of artifacts directly associated with the 1908 occupants of that dwelling (including cups, saucers, bowls, plates, and platters). This is a fairly intact table setting recovered from House B. The artifacts suggest that the house may have been ransacked prior to the fire.



A variety of “small finds” such as these corset busks were also found in the immediate pre-fire deposits associated with House B. These items document the presence of women in the archaeological assemblage.



Other items believed to have been associated with women, from Houses D and E, included manicurists tools (left; a worked bone cuticle tool) and supplies (right; a potential nail polish jar lid manufactured by Dr. Parker Pray). Such items are not commonly recovered from early domestic working class residential sites.



**Dr. J. Parker Pray's**  
**RENOWNED AND UNEQUALLED**

Established 1868. Sold everywhere by leading druggists and all toilet depots, hotels in America and Europe.



Beware of imitations bearing similar name and label, insist on seeing the DR. PRAY goods.

**Toilet Preparations**

**ROSEALINE**, for tinting the lips, cheeks and nails a soap bar true in color, not medicinal. 50c. and 25c.

**DIAMOND NAIL ENAMEL**, whitest, most brilliant nail polish, free from grit, does not stain; fragrant perfume. 50c. and 25c.

**ONCOLINE** blanches and cleans the nails; removes red, beauty and grease stains from the skin; prevents beriberi. 50c.

**CREAM VAN-OLA** whitens the hands; cures rough, chapped skin, rash; skin food. 50c. and 25c.

**HYGIENA FACE POWDER** contains no bismuth, mica, or chalk or any injurious excipients; is truly medicinal, whitens, refreshes moisture. 50c.

**POCKET EMERY BOARD**, box 10 pieces, 50c.

**IDROSINE**, a powder for odorous sweating. 50c.

**GLORIA LILY**, a non-greasy lotion, bottle, 50c.

**OLIVINE**, a salve for inflammation, suppurations, injuries of the skin, etc. 50c.

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 Always specify DR. J. Parker Pray's goods when ordering.

Fragments of a wash-down Doulton Simplista toilet, dating from the 1880s, was recovered from House E. This is one of the earliest archaeological examples of a ceramic toilet that I have seen in Illinois.



Above: Fragments from House E. These are upside down, and represent the rim upon which the seat would rest. Right: Example of whole toilet.



The artifacts recovered from the investigations come from varied contexts, with each context having a different story to tell. The three artifacts illustrated here were recovered from separate contexts (all dating from circa 1900-10) during the Phase II testing. Each artifact tells a significant and unique story different from the previous one and emphasizes the varied and divergent stories (or “voices”) the archaeology is capable of documenting.

Left: Metal bust of Abraham Lincoln recovered from the base of Feature 6 (a privy associated with a Portuguese family).

Top Right: Example of a motorman 's (or electric street car driver) vest button similar to one recovered from fire deposits from House C (burned in 1908).

Bottom Right: Hand made bone cross recovered from fire deposits in House D (burned in 1908).



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The Phase II testing indicates that the subsurface integrity of these two sites is excellent, and that they both meet the standards for National Register eligibility under Criterion D (archaeology). Archaeology has the ability to contribute to our understanding of past lifeways in Springfield, and has both local and national relevance (or significance). On the local level, both sites can contribute to our understanding of the early settlement history of Springfield, and speak to the cultural diversity of the community in the 1840s-1860s.

Additionally, Site 1 (11Sg1432) is significant under Criterion A (social history) for its association with the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, which was a seminal event in the history of the city as well as of national importance due to its role in the foundation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This site has the ability to “give a new voice” to the victims of the dramatic events that transpired in mid-August 1908, and is a tangible link to the individuals that experienced that horrific August weekend firsthand.

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# Questions?

