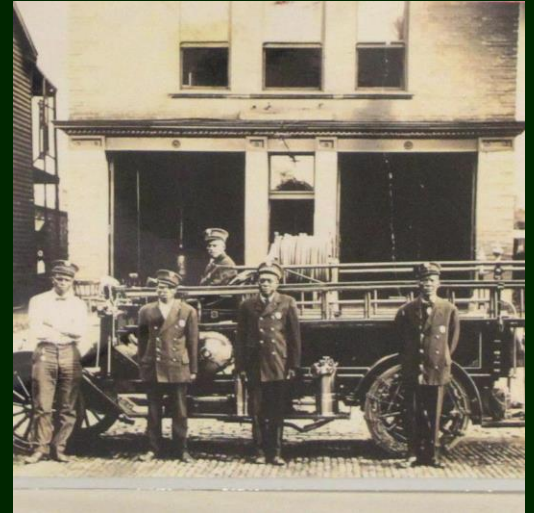
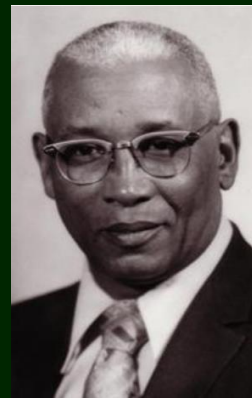


# National Register of Historic Places Thematic Survey of Springfield's African-American Community

by  
Floyd Mansberger  
and  
Christopher Stratton

Fever River Research  
Springfield, Illinois

Presented at:  
Union Baptist Church, Springfield, IL  
September 18, 2017





This public presentation is part of a thematic study of African American life in Springfield initiated by the City of Springfield's Historic Sites Commission, and administered by the City of Springfield's Office of Planning and Economic Development, 800 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701.



The activity, which is the subject of this presentation, has been financed in part with federal funds from the Department of the Interior, administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

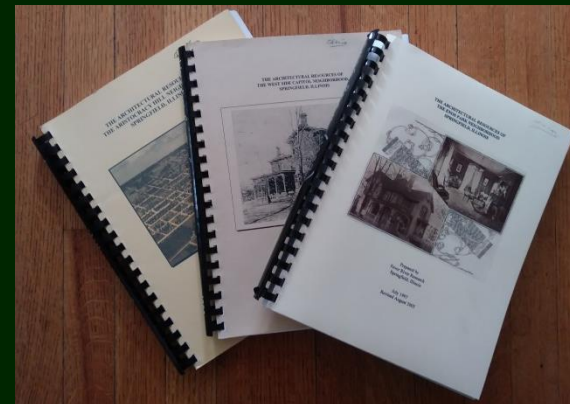
# Fever River Research: About Us



Our Offices on Cook Street

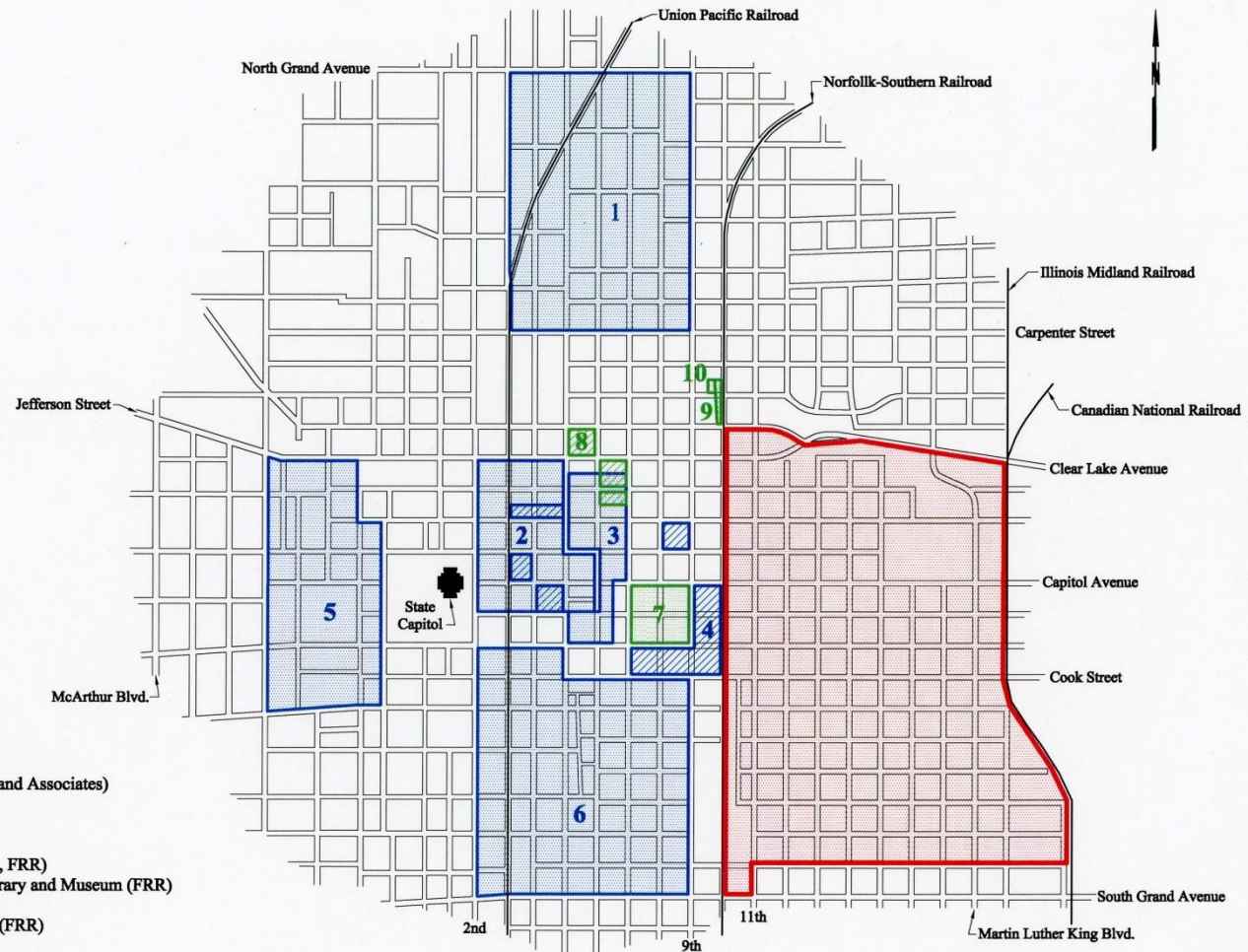
Fever River Research (Springfield, Illinois) is a full service Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firm that has been doing CRM work in Illinois for over 35 years.

Our firm has completed multiple projects in Springfield over the years, including: architectural surveys of the Enos Park, West Side Capitol, and Aristocracy Hill neighborhoods; IL-HAER documentation of CWLP's Lakeside Generating Station; and archaeological investigations within the Lincoln Home Neighborhood (for the National Park Service), the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (State of Illinois), and on-going investigations for the Springfield Railroad Improvements project (City of Springfield).





# Previous Survey Work in Springfield



## Previous Surveys/Investigations

1. Enos Park (FRR)
2. Central Business District (FRR)
3. Central Business District (Kirchner and Associates)
4. Lincoln Center (FRR)
5. West Side Capitol (FRR)
6. Aristocracy Hill (FRR)
7. Lincoln Home Neighborhood (NPS, FRR)
8. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (FRR)
9. Carpenter Street Underpass (FRR)
10. St. John's Medical Office Building (FRR)



# Current Project Area

The current project area is bordered on the west by 10<sup>th</sup> Street, on the east by 19<sup>th</sup> and Wirt Streets, on the south by South Grand Avenue and Brown Street, and on the north by Madison Street and Clear Lake Avenue. This entails a very large area (over 500 acres in size) with over 1,300 primary buildings.



# National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility to the National Register is based on four broad criteria that are defined by the National Park Service and used to guide the evaluation process (36CFR60.4 Criteria for Evaluation).. These criteria state that:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

- a) that are associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history [Social History]; or
- b) that are associated with the lives of **persons** significant to our past [People]; or
- c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction [Architecture]; or
- d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history [Archaeology].

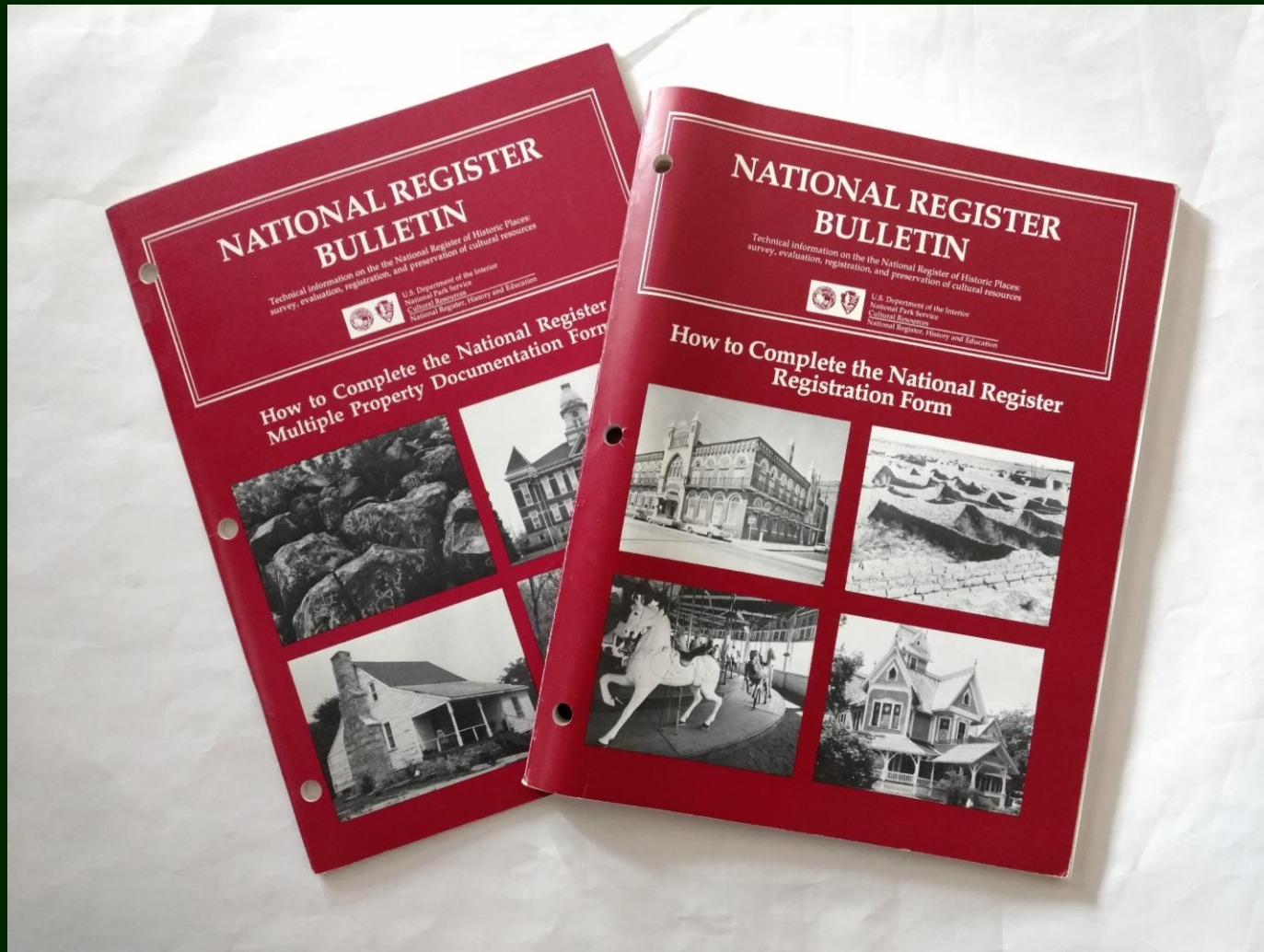
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A property may qualify under one or more the above criteria, provided:

- 1) that it is historically significant, through its association with an important *historic context*,
- 2) it retains the historic *integrity* of those features necessary to convey its significance; and,
- 3) in the case of archaeological sites, it offers information that can answer relevant research questions and fill in gaps in the historical record.



The National Park Service provides guidance for the National Register process through a series of published bulletins, which are available in print and on-line.



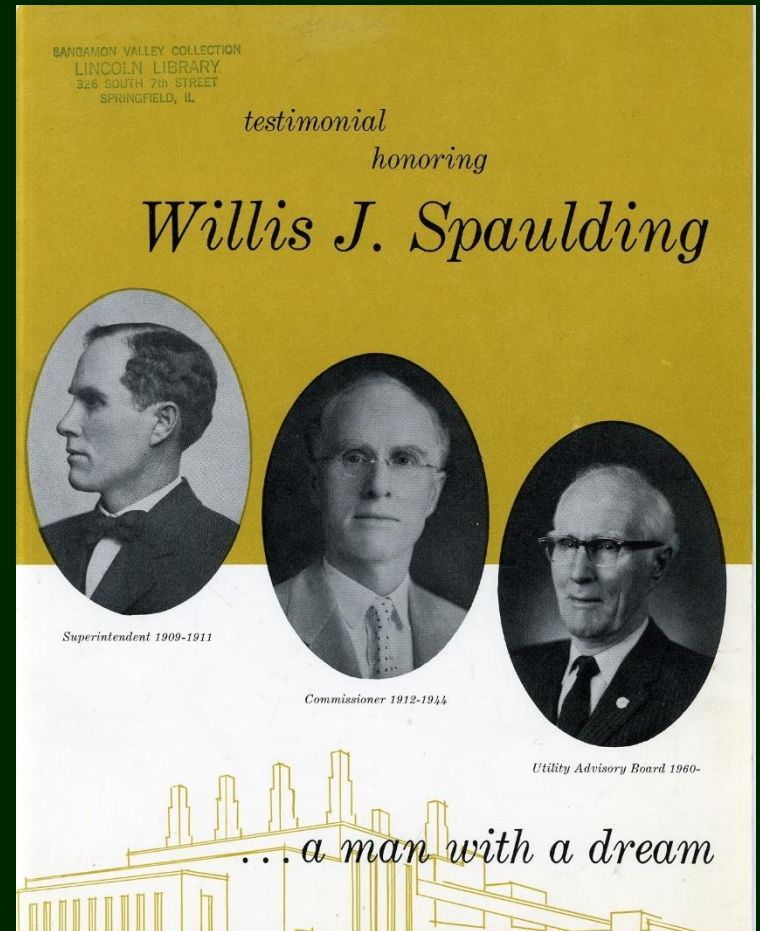
# Context

Developing a historical context is a key component to a developing a National Register of Historic Places thematic study, and in assessing the National Register eligibility of individual properties.

All context statements place the historic property in an historical framework, identifying the relevant aspects of the historic property that determine its significance. As such, as historic context statements have three parameters, that include:

- 1) **Theme**: African American Life [Sub-themes include home life, work, recreation, religion, etc.]
- 2) **Time Frame**: Initial Settlement to 50-year cut-off of the National Register of Historic Places (Circa 1820-1968)
- 3) **Location**: Springfield, Illinois

An example of a context statement prepared by Fever River Research for the City of Springfield is the Illinois Historic American Engineering Record documentation package prepared for the Lakeside Generating Station—which discussed the property in the context of the history of Springfield’s water and electrical supply and the career of Willis Spaulding.





# Integrity

National Register eligibility is also based on integrity. A property may be associated with an historic event or person, but if it lacks sufficient integrity to convey its significance, it fails to meet the standards for National Register eligibility.

Buildings inventoried during an architectural survey are given broad integrity assessments, such as those illustrated here (which were part of the Aristocracy Hill neighborhood survey conducted by Fever River Research).



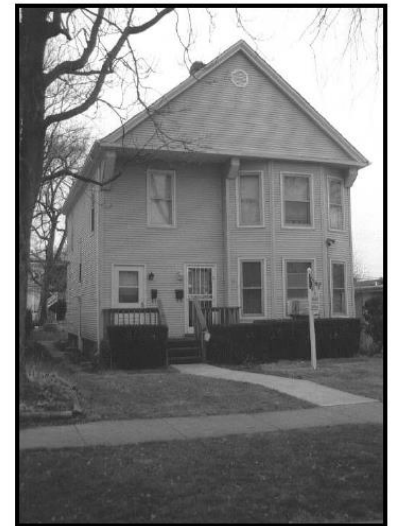
**Excellent**  
Survey No. 214 (1210 South Fifth Street)



**Good**  
Survey No. 414 (910 South Second Street)



**Moderate**  
Survey No. 445 (1104 South Second Street)



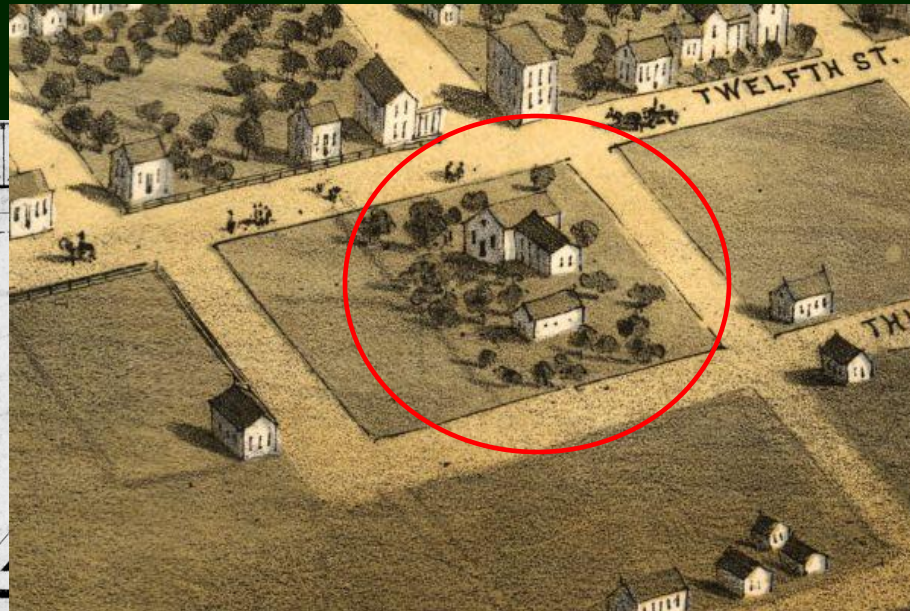
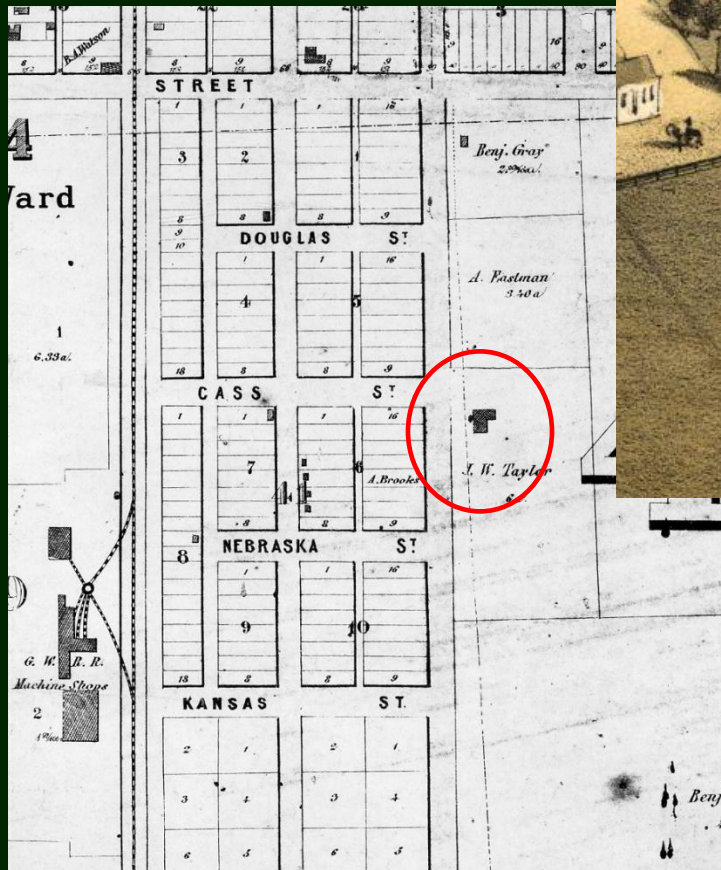
**Poor**  
Survey No. 118 (1207 South Eighth Street)

# Sources of Information

During the course of this project, we will draw on a wide range of resources to develop the historic context, as well as to identify potentially significant individual properties. Some of these sources will include, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Historic plats and atlases
- 2) Public Records
- 3) Contemporary Newspapers
- 4) Published Histories
- 5) Historic Photographic Collections
- 6) Building Survey/Physical Landscape
- 7) Oral Informants

Examples of **historic plats and maps** used in researching Springfield properties.



In 1867, the Taylor House was located on the far southeastern corner of the City of Springfield. It was the only structure on Block 12, which was bounded by Twelfth, Thirteenth, Cass and Clay Streets. Left: Detail; pf 1858 City Map. Right: Detail of 1867 *Bird's Eye View of Springfield*.



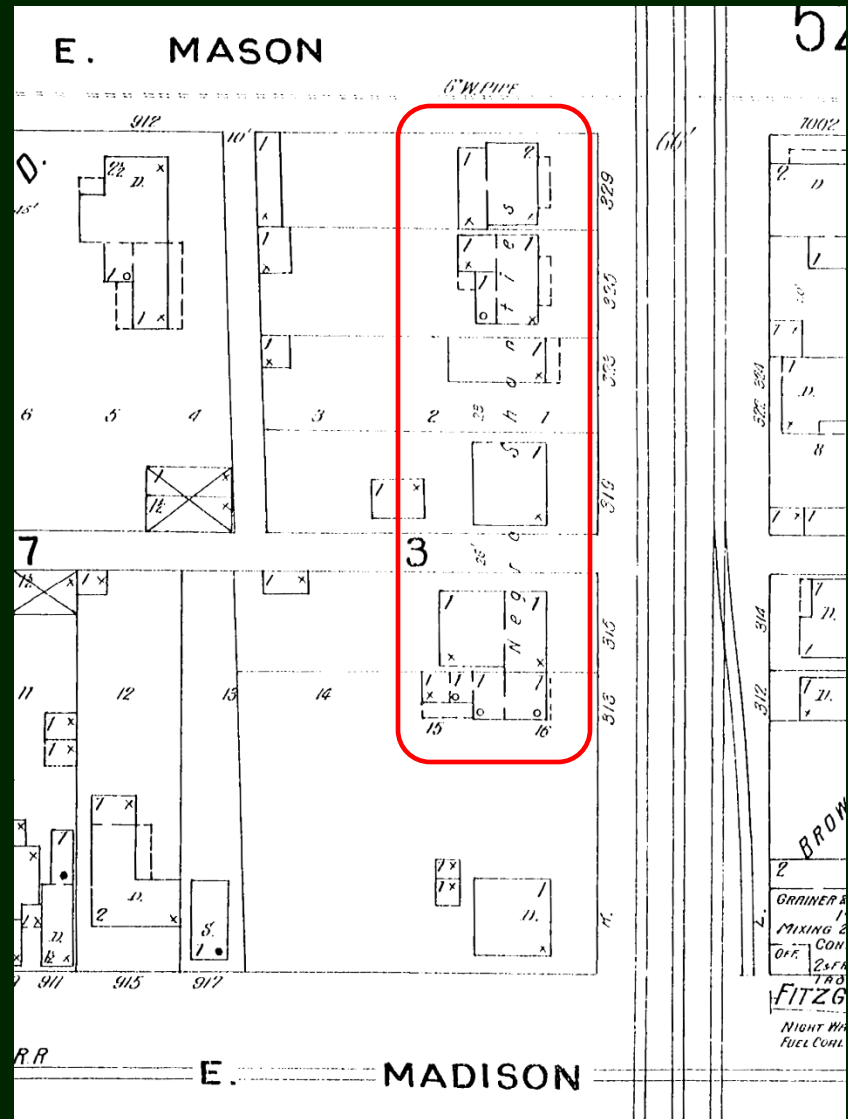
Besides the 1867 *Bird's Eye View of Springfield*, this circa 1872 view is also of great interest. Depicted here is Springfield's East Side at that time.



The red line depicts the western boundary (at Tenth Street), and the northern boundary (at Madison Avenue) of the current survey area.



Although Sanborn maps typically do not identify the race of the occupants of the houses shown, in at least one instance they did. The image right is a detail from the 1896 Sanborn map and illustrates a row of houses on the 300 block of North Tenth Street labelled “Negro Shanties”. Most of these homes were destroyed in the 1908 race riot and were the focus of the recent archaeological investigations conducted for the Carpenter Street Underpass.



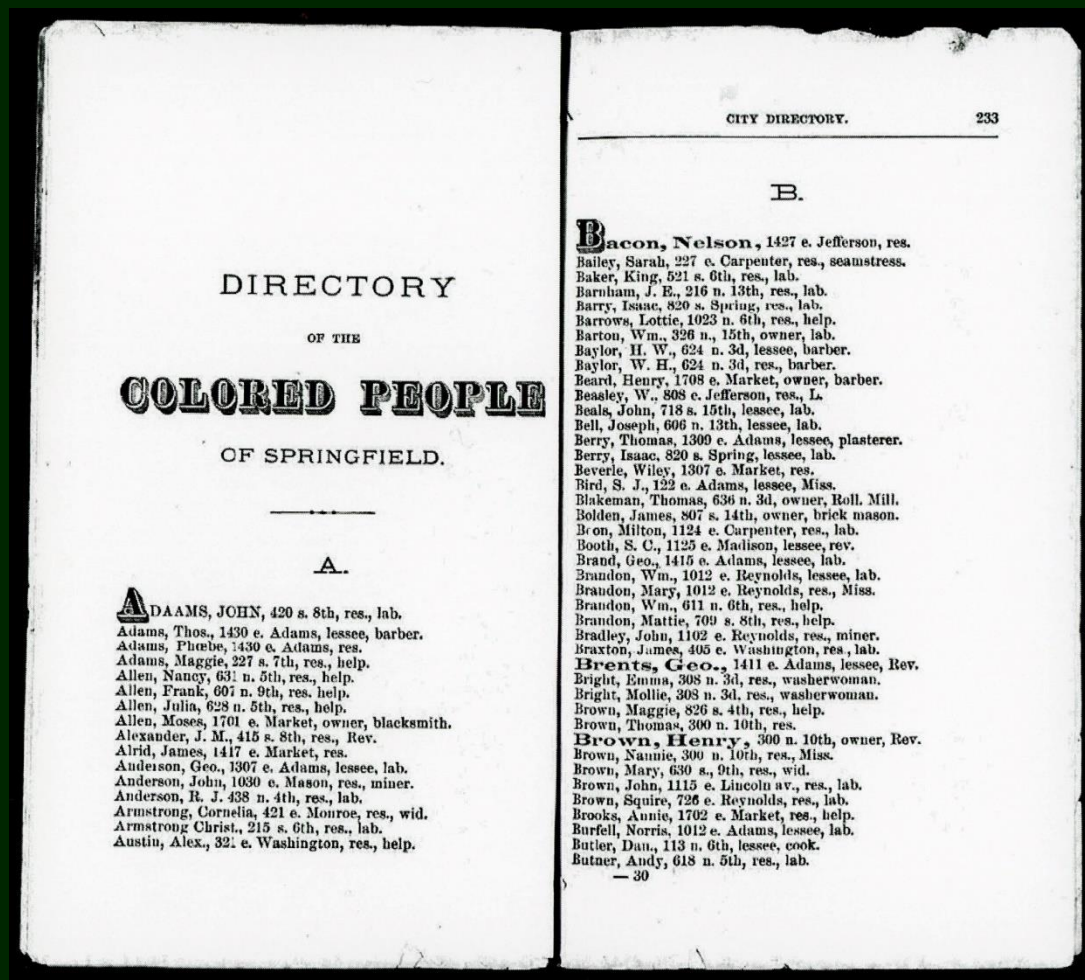


**City directories**, which are available for Springfield from the 1850s onward, provide information as to head of households, their occupation, and place of residence. They also include business listings. Unfortunately, less affluent and/or skilled individuals often were not documented in earlier directories. City directories published prior to 1930 distinguish between white and black residents, as seen below.

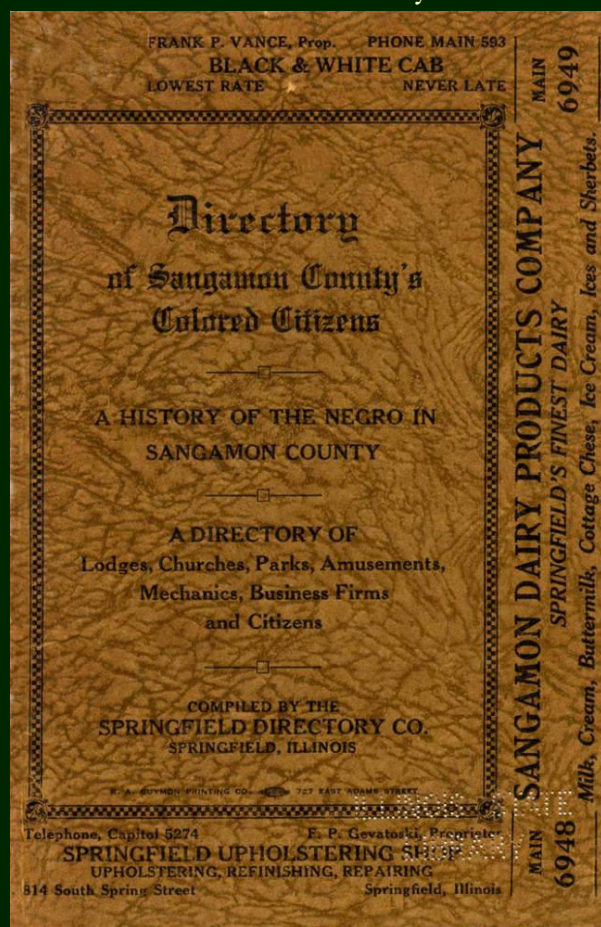
Copy of a page from the 1891 city directory illustrating names of house occupants along 100 block of Madison Street. The “(col’d)” accompanying many of the names is in reference to their skin color (“Colored”). Directories from other years indicate this with a “(c).”

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.		
MAD	716	MAD
808 Mrs Eliza Roe		1104 Alexander Neil (col'd)
809 Lewis Schwartz		John Carter (col'd)
Joseph Schwartz		1106 Mrs B Howard (col'd)
813 Reuben Robert		1108 Mrs Annie Lyles (cl'd)
816 Mrs Frances Wells		1111 John Neleh
817 Jacob Williams		1113 John Clark (col'd)
818 Lee Fletcher		1114 Miss Norah Galvin
822 Major Huff		1115 Joseph Faro (col'd)
George Coleman		1116 Mrs V Stevenson (cl'd)
825 Mrs Mattie Rankin		1117 Daniel Wines (col'd)
827 David Freedman		1118 Henry Manard (col'd)
828 Mrs Cath'rine McBride		1119 Alfred Porter (col'd)
Mrs Magline Williams		1120 Jeremiah Staren
Miss Annie Young		1123 George Carroll (col'd)
830 Mrs Nellie Lutz		1124 Andrew McCarter
Miss Jennie Leonard		John T Horin
831 Mrs Lucy Place		1125 Mrs Mary DeGarna
x N. Ninth		1127 James E Crowley
901 Mrs Mary Spence		1128 James Hagney
903 Mrs Jennie Goodman		1129 William Minor (col'd)
905 Frank Berline		X N. Twelfth
907 Henry Cleveland		1200 Mrs Bridget Houlihan
908 David Twileman		1201 Charles H Fehr
909 Alphonse W. ...		1202 Mrs Bridget B.

One of the more interesting city directories is that published in 1876 at the time of the country's centennial celebration. This directory included the seven-page *Directory of the Colored People of Springfield*.



Another directory of great interest to this project is entitled *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, and was published approximately 50 years after publication of the earlier directory. This entire directory, which was published in circa 1926, was dedicated solely to the African American citizens of Springfield. It is an invaluable source for researching Springfield's black community in the early decades of the twentieth century.



## MR. A. MORRIS WILLIAMS

### Attorney at Law



Mr. A. Morris Williams, who enjoys the distinction of being the first colored man admitted to the Sangamon county bar, is one of our foremost citizens and race benefactors. He came to Springfield from Virginia some twenty-three years ago and began as a cobbler.

His subsequent rise to a position of power and eminence in the community is as marvelous as an Arabian Knight's tale. He is a graduate of Hampton Institute.

Realizing that the legal profession offered large opportunities for the exercise of his talents, he soon succeeded in passing the examination and was admitted to the bar. Due to his close attention to his client's interests and his rare ability as an orator and pleader Mr. Williams has built up a large and lucrative practice among the people of all races.

He enjoys popular confidence to an extent rarely, if ever, equaled.

That he has a genius for organization is evidenced by the large number of buildings he has erected, notable among which are the Williams building, the Brown Hotel and more recently the beautiful Knights and Daughters of Honor Temple, a model of architectural beauty and sanitation.

By giving employment to many members of our group, Mr. Williams has proved his intense race interest and loyalty.

Of keen, analytical mind, of pleasing personality, polished address, of wide and diversified reading, speaking fluently several foreign languages, of perfect poise, uniformly courteous and of deep sympathy for the oppressed, Mr. Williams stands out as one of the most remarkable men the race has produced in this century.

Mr. Williams typifies in himself the higher colored man—the type that comes from education, brains and the development of high character—the type of colored man whose example and influence must mold the future destiny of the race.



Newspapers contain a wealth of information pertaining to the everyday life of early Springfield inhabitants—whether white or black. These published accounts document the passage of major events (births, marriages, deaths) and are often couched in period language.

Also several dwelling-houses for sale on good terms.  
 ASA EASTMAN,  
 Springfield, August 20, 1868. aug21d6m

**100 CITY LOTS AT AUCTION.**  
 I will offer at public sale on Friday, the 4th day of September, sale commencing at one o'clock P. M., in Eastman's addition to the city of Springfield, one hundred desirable building lots. These lots are situated in the southeast part of the city, less than fifteen minutes walk from the State House. I will also offer on the same day a large commodious house, the former residence of Judge Wickliff Taylor. This house is pleasantly situated on South Twelfth street, with grounds containing eight lots, with fine shrubbery and bearing fruit trees. I will also offer two houses on Eleventh street. These houses are nearly new—built last year.

**Terms of Sale.**—Lots one-third cash, balance in one and two years, with 6 per cent interest. The houses will be sold one-half cash, balance one year, with 10 per cent interest.  
 ASA EASTMAN.  
 Springfield, Aug. 20, 1868. au21dtsep14

**FOR SALE OR RENT.**  
 That commodious cottage on North Fourth street, known as the residence of John W. Whipp, Esq., and one door south of H. C. Corbridge, Esq., is for sale or rent, until

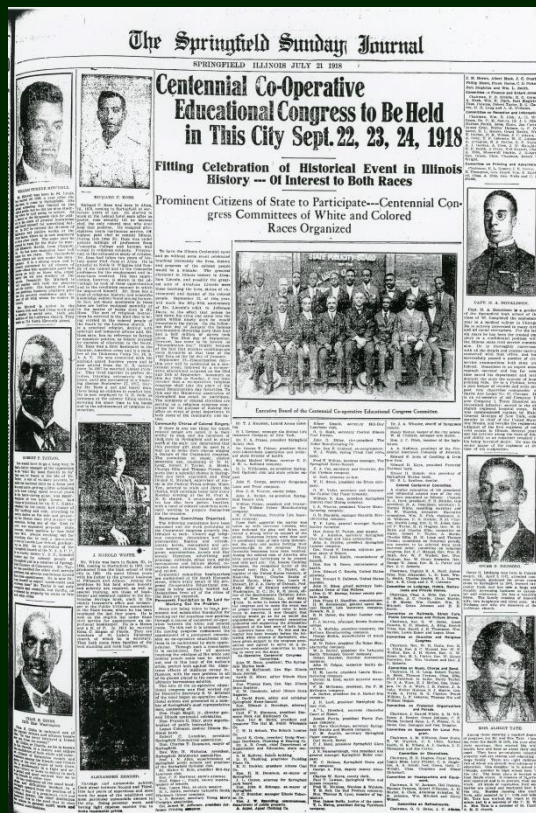
**DEATH OF JOSEPH FARO, SR.**—Joseph Faro, Sr., died at 12:30 o'clock yesterday, at his residence, 813 North Tenth street, in the 59th year of his age. He was a member of St. Paul's A. M. E. Church, and was a devoted and zealous Christian. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss. In the death of Joseph Faro this community loses a good citizen and his church an upright member. The funeral services will take place at St. Paul's A. M. E. Church at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, after which the remains will be taken to Oak Ridge Cemetery for interment. Friends are invited to attend without further notice.

October 16, 1878



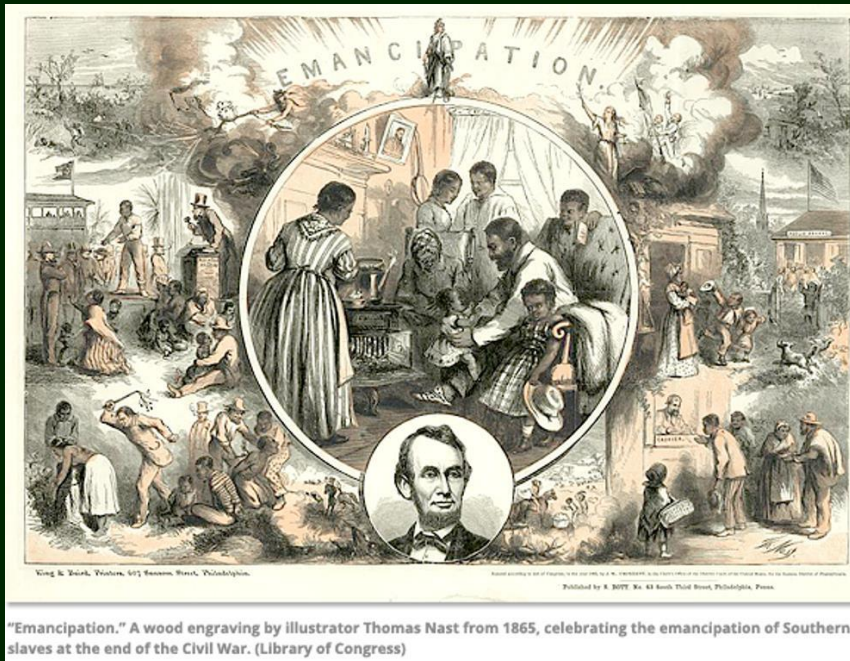
The July 21, 1918 issue of the *Illinois State Journal* announced the formation of the Centennial Co-Operative Educational Congress, which was in conjunction with the State's Centennial Celebration. The Congress exposition was to begin on *September 22<sup>nd</sup>* of that year, and the newspaper included three pages highlighting the achievements of Springfield's African American community.

Can anyone tell me the significance of September 22<sup>nd</sup>?





Newspapers also reported on social events involving the black community. **Emancipation Day (September 22)** was a major social event, celebrated annually with a large festival for many years. The article shown here is from 1878. Within recent years, the current *Juneteenth* celebration seems to have supplanted Emancipation Day activities.



## EMANCIPATION DAY.

### The Arrangements For Its Observance.

Pursuant to previous notice, the colored citizens assembled in mass meeting at Zion Baptist Church last night to make arrangements to celebrate Emancipation Day, on September 22d. On motion, Rev. Geo. Brents was chosen Chairman, and S. V. Casey Secretary. The Chair stated the object of the meeting, and on motion of R. H. Gorum, it was decided to celebrate. Speeches suited to the occasion were made by Rev. Geo. Brents, R. H. Gorum and Samuel Alexander, Esq. A motion authorizing the Committee to solicit funds to defray necessary expenses of the celebration was carried. A motion instructing the Committee to canvass the different Wards and report at next meeting was carried. It was resolved to invite the different towns and surrounding country to participate in the celebration. On motion, it was decided to hold a festival at Zion Baptist Church, Friday evening, the 23d, to assist in raising means to pay expenses. On motion, adjourned, to meet Wednesday evening, the 21st.



**Published histories** add significantly to our understanding of the African American experience in Springfield. One of the first sources to speak directly to the contribution of the African American residents of Springfield was the *History of Sangamon County, Illinois*, which was published in 1881 (Inter-State Publishing Company).

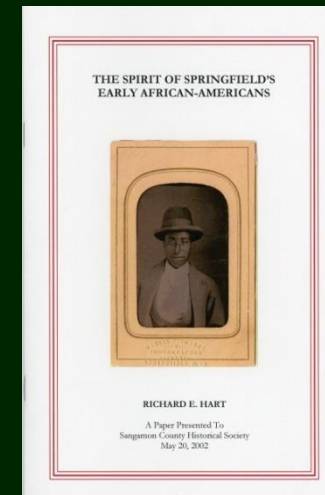
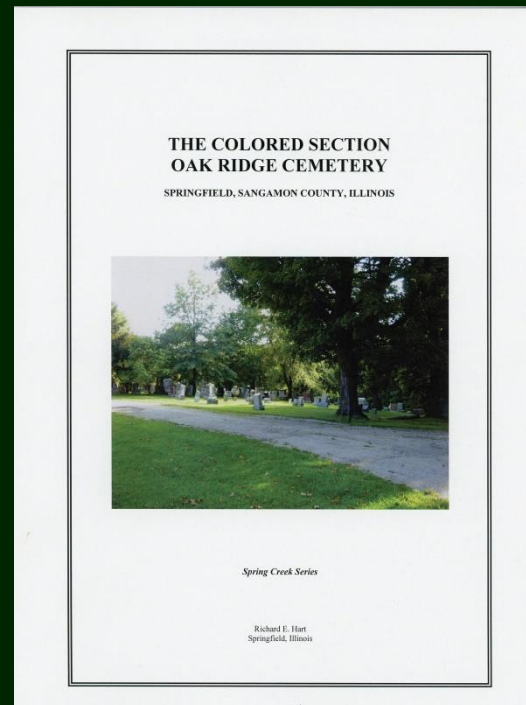
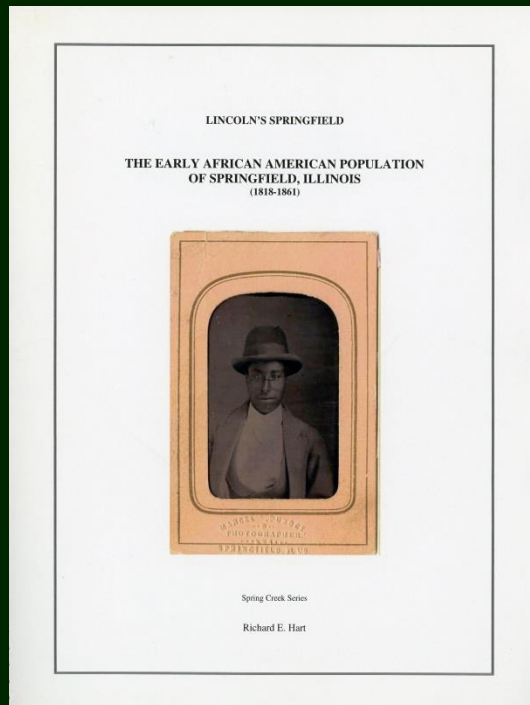
This source published a nine-page section entitled “The Colored People of Springfield”, which highlighted the lives of 22 Springfield residents.

and cast his first vote for U. S. Grant, for President.

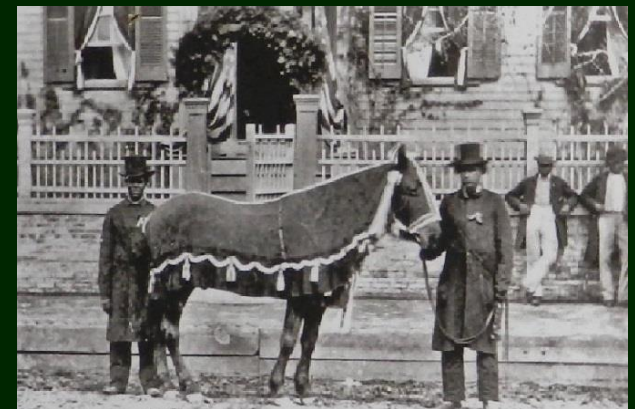
*Mary Faro*, widow of Joseph Faro, was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, December, 1830. July 1861, she was married to Joseph Faro. He was born in Trumbull County, Kentucky. His parents were Joseph Faro, Sr., and Hannah Faro. Joseph Faro, Jr., was first married to Hettie Davis, and they had ten children, six living, viz: Joseph, Daniel, Ada, Carrie, Laura and Martha. His second wife, Mary Faro, the subject of this sketch, had two children, both dead. Joseph Faro, Jr., her husband, was a member of the M. E. Church, and a farmer—died October 15, 1878. Mrs. Faro is a member of the M. E. Church, on Fourth Street. Her father, Abson Taylor, was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, as was his mother, Jane Taylor, they were members of the Baptist Church. Mrs. Faro has a nice residence at 313 North Tenth Street, where she resides.

*William Hatcher* was born on his father's

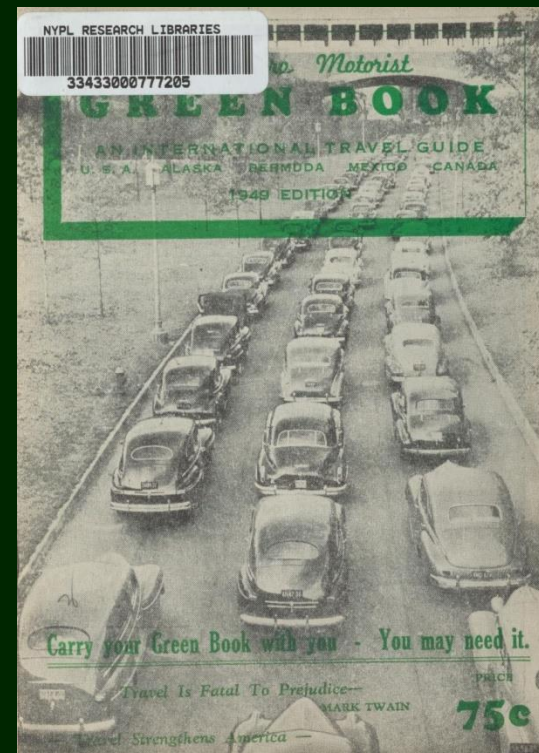
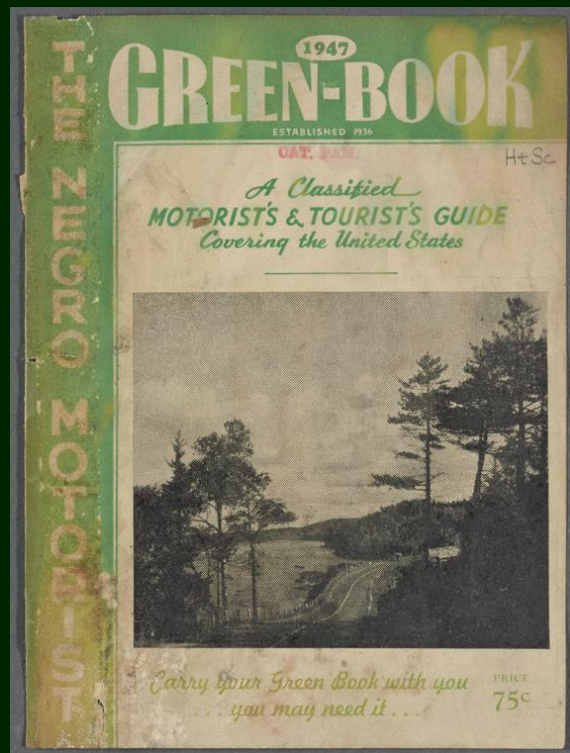
Published histories add significantly to our understanding of the African American experience in Springfield. Recent scholarship by local attorney and historian **Richard Hart** has contributed significantly to our understanding of the contribution of African Americans to early Springfield.



Reverends Brown and Trevan  
with *Old Bob* in front of  
Abraham Lincoln's Home,  
May 1865.



*The Negro Motorist Green-Book* was first published in 1936, as a guide for the black tourist to safely maneuver New York City in the era of Jim Crow. It was such a success, that the following year the Green Book was expanded to cover much of the United States. It continued as a yearly guide through the middle 1960s, being discontinued after the passage of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*.





Details of Springfield listings in the 1939 issue of the *Negro Motorist's Green Book*...

<b>DANVILLE</b> <b>TOURIST HOMES</b> Stewart—E. North St. Mrs. G. Wheeler—106 Hay St. Mrs. C. Vance—1007 Harmon Ave. Mrs. F. Newberry— 412 E. Van Buren St.	<b>TAVERNS</b> Terrance Cafe—1411 Madison Ave.
<b>EAST ST. LOUIS</b> <b>HOTELS</b> Royal—1900 Missouri Ave. <b>TOURIST HOMES</b> Irene Yancy—1914 Bond Ave. P. B. Reeves—1803 Bond Ave. W. E. Officer—2200 Missouri Ave.	<b>ELKHART</b> <b>TOURIST HOMES</b> Miss E. Botts—336 St. Joe St.
<b>SPRINGFIELD</b> <b>HOTELS</b> Dudley—130 S. 11th St. <b>TOURIST HOMES</b> Mrs. B. Mosby—1614 E. Jackson St. Mrs. H. Robbins— 1616 E. Jackson St. Mrs. M. Rollins—1127 E. Mason St. Mrs. M. E. Rollins— 1123 E. Adams St. Mrs. N. Tate—400 N. Chenery St. Mrs. G. Bell—625 N. 2nd St. Mrs. J. Rogers— 1004 E. Washington St. Mrs. E. Brooks—705 N. 2nd St. Dr. Ware— 1520 E. Washington St.	<b>EVANSVILLE</b> <b>TOURIST HOMES</b> Mrs. B. Bell—672 Lincoln Ave. Mrs. A. W. Lauderdale— 605 Oak St. Miss F. Snow—719 Oak St. The Community Center— 618 Cherry St. Phyllis Wheatly Home— 410 8th St.
<b>OTTAWA</b>	<b>FORT WAYNE</b> <b>RESTAURANT</b> Leo Manuals—1329 Lafayette St.
	<b>GARY</b> <b>HOTELS</b> States—1700 Washington St.
	<b>FRENCH LICK</b> <b>HOTELS</b> Thurman—222 Indiana Ave.
	<b>INDIANAPOLIS</b> <b>TOURIST HOMES</b> Mrs. E. P. Waters— 914 N. California St.

The Hotel Dudley is obviously no longer extant. But how many of these *Tourist Homes* may still be present on the landscape today? Collectively, a total of 22 properties were listed in Springfield with the *Negro Motorist's Green Book*.

Of the 22 properties listed over the years in the *Negro Motorist's Green Book* for Springfield, at least 14 have been demolished (as of August 2014). The current project will assess the integrity of the remaining eight properties.

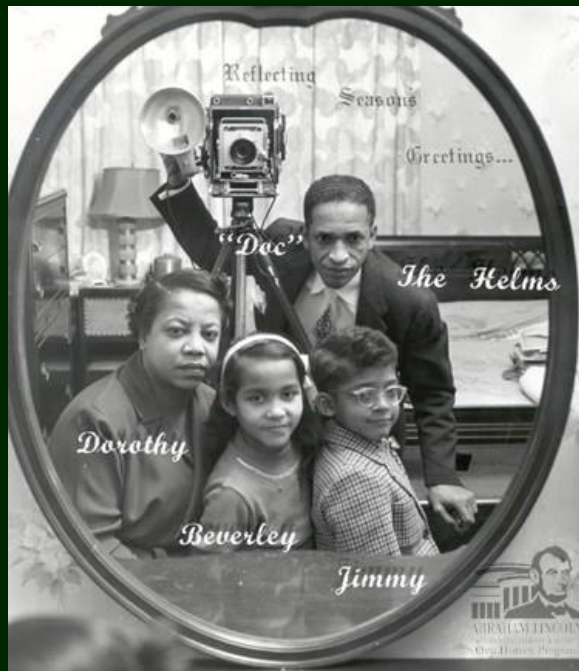
**Illinois/Springfield:**

Homestead/Dudley Hotel/T.H.	130 S. 11th St.	Hotel	1930-1959	Demolished
Hotel Williams	124 S. 11th St.	Hotel	1930	Demolished
Mrs. Mary Holman	1208 S. 14th St.	Rms/Meals	1930	Demolished
Mrs. Mary Rollins	1127 E. Mason St.	Rms/Meals	1930-1940	Demolished
Mrs. Mary E. Rollins	1123 E. Adams St.	Rms/Meals	1930-1940	Demolished
Mrs. M. Rollins T.H.	844 S. College St.	Rooms	1941-1958	Demolished
Mrs. Helen Robbins	1616 E. Jackson St.	Rms/Meals	1930-1948	Standing
Mrs. Nellie Tate	400 W. Chenery St.	Rms/Meals	1930-1939	Standing
Mrs. Julia F. Johnson	1144 N. 7th St.	Rms/Meals	1930	Standing
Mrs. Rufus Nelson	742 N. 2nd St.	Rms/Meals	1930	Unknown Status
Mrs. Jessie Rogers / Southern Kitchen	1004 E. Washington St.	Rms/Rest.	1930-1939, 1949	Demolished
Mrs. Bessie Mosby T.H.	1614 E. Jackson St.	Rooms	1930-1963	Standing
Mrs. Georgia Bell T.H.	625 N. 2nd St.	Rooms	1930-1963	Demolished
Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks T.H.	705 N. 2nd St.	Rooms	1930-1956	Demolished
Dr. S.A. Ware T.H.	1520 E. Washington St.	Rooms	1930-1963	Unknown Status
Madell Dudley T.H.	1211 E. Adams St.	Rooms	1953-1956	Unknown Status
Mrs. Lena Jones T.H.	1230 E. Jefferson St.	Rooms	1952-1963	Demolished
Mrs. Lula Stuart T.H.	1615 E. Jefferson St.	Rooms	1949-1960	Demolished
Hotel Ferguson	1007 E. Washington St.	Hotel	1949	Demolished
Mrs. Bernie Eskridge T.H.	1501 E. Jackson St.	Rooms	1952-1963	Standing
Mrs. Elizabeth Cohier	1125 E. Washington St.	Rms/Meals	1930	Demolished
Cansler's Lounge	807 E. Washington St.	Restaurant	1952-1961	Demolished



The Dudley Hotel—one of the earlier and more significant properties in Springfield catering to the “Negro Motorist,” was located on South 11<sup>th</sup> Street. It was opened in 1914; severely damaged by fire in 1957, and demolished in late 1960.

**Historic Photographic collections** of families, work, and buildings. Many of the photographs used in this presentation are from the Sangamon Valley Collection at the Lincoln Library. Additionally, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has a substantial photographic collection of Springfield images. Eddie “Doc” “One Shot” Helm was the chief photographer for the Illinois Secretary of State, and he recorded many images of African American life in Springfield from the 1940s through the 1990s (some of which are in the ALPLM; others currently on display at the AAHM).



Early 1950s Christmas Card from the Helms



Helm Residence, 1128 S. Pasfield St.



**Extant buildings** also give us insights into the lifeways of the early inhabitants of a neighborhood. We look closely at the types of buildings in a project area, and what they can tell us about the past history of that neighborhood. Of particular interest is the variety of vernacular housing present.



Early Upright and Wing House (1144 North Sixth Street) adjacent to a small Shotgun House (1140 North Sixth Street) within the Enos Park neighborhood. Both are traditional house forms associated with nineteenth century working-class households. Historically, the Shotgun House form has been associated with urban African American families.

National Register Criteria emphasizes the people, places, and events significant in the African American experience in Springfield. The following discussion presents a few examples of the properties associated with these criteria, and we invite the audience to help us identify lesser known examples in our community—and tangible connections to these people and events.

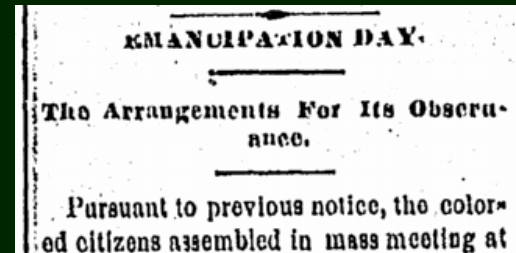
1) People



2) Places



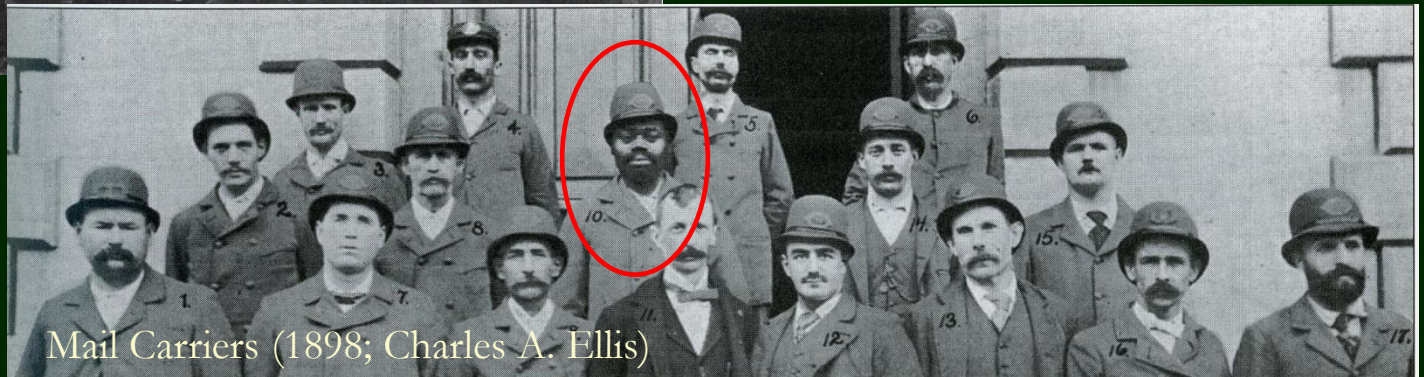
3) Events



*People:* Early black policemen, mail carriers, and firemen who made significant advances in employment opportunities during the nineteenth century. Can we identify who these individuals are, and where they lived?



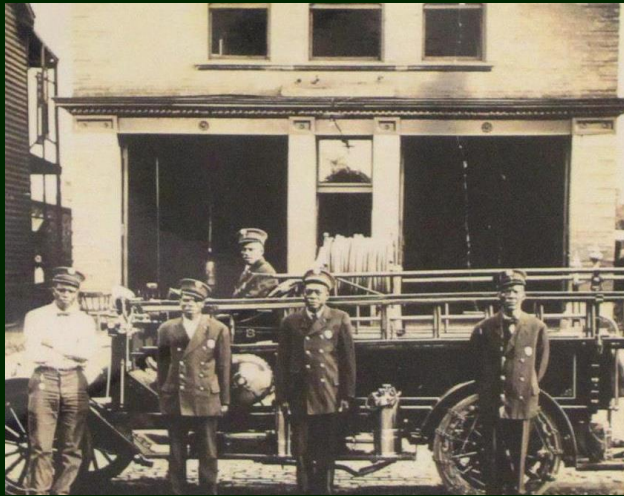
Policemen (1892)



Mail Carriers (1898; Charles A. Ellis)



Casey's *A History of the Negro in Sangamon County* (ca. 1926) presented the portraits of the black firemen who operated Engine House No. 5 (1310 East Adams St.) and noted that "the people of Springfield are justly proud of their colored fire department whose record for efficiency and faithful service has been amply attested. Their services have been of great value to the city, and moreover, by their lives and conduct they have reflected credit on the people whom they so worthily represent."



Lawrence Brandon, 707 South 18<sup>th</sup> St.  
John Foreman, 1308 E. Carpenter St.  
Harry Neal, 916 E. Cass St.  
John Allen, 1417½ E. Capitol Ave.  
Henry Alexander, 1609 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
John Farmer, not listed in the directory



Captain Foreman's house, in circa 1926, was located at 1308 East Carpenter Street. Unfortunately, today the property is a vacant lot sandwiched between two contemporary vernacular working-men's houses. The status of the residences of the other five black firemen is unknown (at least for now).

Flake, Harry, miner, 1012 E. Mason  
Florville, Ooakland, painter, 1131 E. Reynolds  
Florville, W. J., 2128 E Clear Lake Ave.  
Floyd, Frank, I. T. S., 1917 E. Brown  
Floyd, Lewis, miner, 1016 S. 18th.  
Flynn, Geo., lab., 1106 E. Mason  
~~Ford, Mrs. Malena, 1320 E. Carpenter~~  
Foreman, John, Capt. Engine House No. 5, 1308 E. Carp.  
Fort, Grace, 909 E. Madison  
Foster, Sam, lab., 1123 E. Adams  
Fountain, John, lab., Shade Bluffs  
Franklin, Arthur, janitor, 8218 E. S. G. Ave.





## Early twentieth century Springfield residents at home, work, and play...

Circa 1910 image  
of Amanda  
Anderson,  
widow of miner  
Peter Anderson  
who was killed in  
a mining accident  
in 1899.



Unidentified  
construction  
workers paving  
Lawrence Street,  
post 1905.

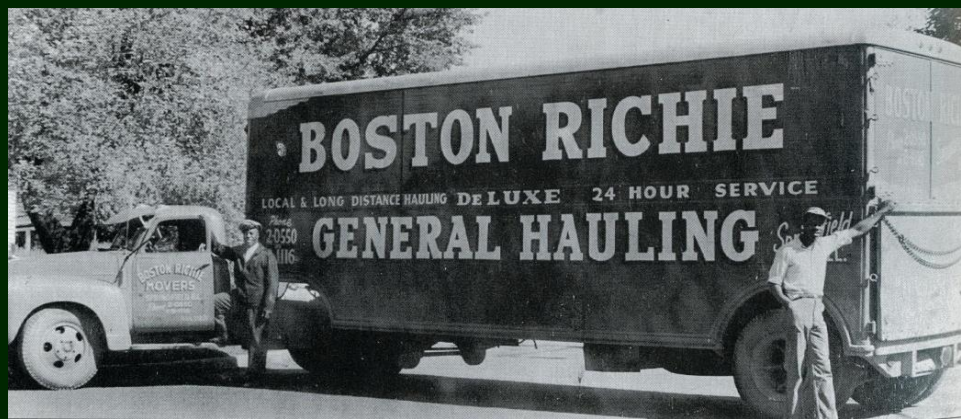
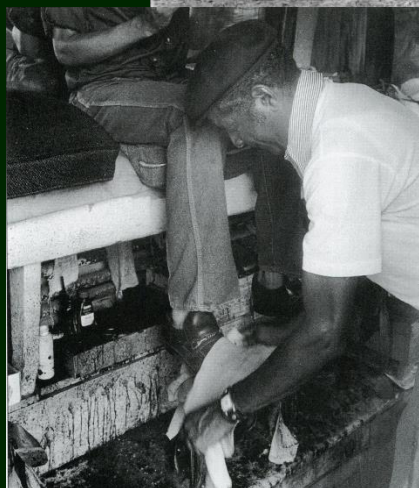


Two ladies enjoying  
Washington Park, 1903



Northwest  
Springfield  
residents Omer  
Donaldson  
(left) and Albert  
Harris (right)  
pose for a  
picture during  
early years of  
twentieth  
century.





*Places:* One of the most cited examples of significant buildings associated with the African American experience in Springfield is the former Engine House No. 5 at 1310 East Adams Street. An all-black crew manned this station, and a Masonic lodge was located on the upper floors of the building.





Another example of a significant place for this theme is the *Lincoln Colored Home*, which is located at 427 South Street. It currently is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. The home was established by Eva Monroe in 1898, with the existing structure being constructed in 1904. An outgrowth of Monroe's work was the establishment of the Springfield Colored Women's Club—an organization of black women dedicated to social reform.



The Monroe Sisters. Eva C. Monroe is circled in red.



Another early view  
of the *Lincoln Colored  
Home*, with residents  
standing out front for  
a picture.





The Judge Wycliff Taylor House at the corner of Twelfth and Cass Streets is also one of the more cited examples for Springfield. Built in 1857 as a private residence, the home later housed the Ambidexter Industrial and Normal Institute, a school for black youth that taught arts and sciences, domestic skills, and period trades.





*Churches* are places of special note that have played a significant role in the African American community. This is a directory of the churches serving the community in circa 1926 (Casey).

#### CHURCH DIRECTORY

##### ST. PAUL A. M. E. CHURCH

622 E. Mason St., W. E. Geey, Pastor, Residence 624 E. Mason St.

SERVICES: Sunday 10:45 a. m., Sunday School, 2:45 p. m., League, 6:30 p. m., Evening Service, 7:45 p. m. Prayer Meeting, Wednesday evening.

##### LUTHERAN CHURCH

15th and Jefferson St., Rev. Claus, Pastor

Morning Services: Sunday School, 10:30 a. m., Bible Class, Sunday 10:30; Sunday Services, 8 p. m.

##### NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner 8th and Miller Street, J. H. Beckham, Pastor

Sunday School at 10:00 a. m., Morning Service at 11 a. m., B. Y. P. U. 7 p. m., Evening Services at 8 p. m. Officers Meeting, Monday evening. Prayer meeting and Teacher's Meeting, Wednesday evening. Sewing Circle Thursday evening. Missionary Society, Friday evening.

##### Grace M. E. Church

Corner 14th and Brown Street

Rev. Sims, Pastor, Residence, parsonage 14th and Brown

SUNDAY SERVICES: Sunday School, 9:30 a. m., Services 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Epworth League at 7 p. m. Sunday evening. Prayer Meeting, Wednesday. General Class, First Sunday in each month at 11 a. m.

##### PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Luke's Church, East So. Grand and Loveland

Rev. D. E. Johnson, Rector

HOURS OF SERVICE: Sundays: Holy Communion, First Sunday, 11 a. m.

All other Sundays, 7:30 a. m., June to September, 7 a. m. Morning Prayer and Sermon, June to September Vespers, 5 p. m., Hold Days and Saint's Days: Holy Communion, 7:30 a. m. (June to September) 7 a. m. Wednesdays, Litany and Instruction, 8 p. m., Sunday School, 12:30 p. m. (June to September,) 9:45 a. m.

##### UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner 12th and Mason Street

Dr. S. C. Manuel, Pastor, Residence, 903 So. 14th St. Phone 5594

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m., Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening. Business Meeting, Friday evening before the first Sunday in January, April, July and October. Every three months. Communion every First Sunday evening. Speaking meeting every First Sunday at 11 a. m. for all its members.

##### ST. JOHN A. M. E. CHURCH

14th Street between Mason and Reynolds Streets

Rev. J. B. Higgins, Residence, 415 N. 14th. Phone M. 2920

Preaching at 10:45 a. m. and 8 p. m., Sunday School at 2:30 p. m.

Weekly Services: Prayer Meeting, Wednesday evenings. Choir Practice, Thursday Evenings at 8 p. m. Trustee Board Meeting, Monday after the first Sunday in each month at 8 p. m. Stewards Meeting, Monday after the first and fourth Sunday in each month at 8 p. m. Stewardess Board, 2nd and fourth Friday afternoon at 4 p. m. Trustee Helpers, 2nd and fourth Friday evenings at 8 p. m.

##### PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

18th Street between Cass and Clay: Rev. Scharp, Pastor

Sunday School at 9 a. m. Morning Services at 11 a. m. B. Y. P. U. at 6 p. m. Evening Services at 8 p. m. Prayer Meeting, Wednesday evening. Teachers Training Corps, Thursday evenings.

##### ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner 9th and Carpenter St. Rev. John C. Roberts, Pas.

Preaching at 11 a. m., Sunday School at 2:30 p. m., Evening Services at 8 p. m. Prayer Meeting every Wednesday evening.



One of the more prominent churches associated with the African American community in Springfield was the Zion Baptist Church (1601 E Laurel St.). Historic images are from Casey's circa 1926 *Directory*.

**Rev. J. C. Roberts**  
*Pastor of*  
**ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. J. C. Roberts is one of our most enlightened and progressive pastors. Before assuming the pastorate at Zion Brother Roberts was pastor of one of the leading churches in New York.



He came to Zion in 1916 and since his advent many notable improvements have been made in the church, the membership has been substantially increased, and the breadth and scope of the influence of church in race uplift materially broadened.

Rev. Roberts is doing a grand work for the Master.

In addition to his pastoral duties he operates an industrial school designed to train our youth along lines of skillful industry and to fit them to become self-supporting members of the community. He also is interested in every movement having for its aim the advancement of the race.

An able pulpit orator, honest and upright in all his dealings, full of compassion for the unfortunate, Rev. Roberts reflects credit upon his chosen profession. He is also noted as a fearless champion of the rights of humanity.

Most important of all Zion is noted for the genuine Christian spirit prevailing there. One feels always welcome at Zion and that is in itself a testimonial of the spirit of God and of brotherly love.

In these and many other respects Bro. Roberts work and influence is redounding to the glory of God.



**ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Rev. J. C. ROBERTS, Pastor**



Zion is one of Springfield's pioneer churches, if not the oldest in the city.

It is a monument to the ardent devotion of the early preachers, Rev. Geo. Brent being its founder and pastor in the late 60's. It is rich in its associations and memories of the past, many of the older families still worshipping here.

Under the leadership of its present pastor many improvements have been made until now Zion ranks as one of the most substantial church edifice in the city.

Left: A 1940s view of the St. Paul African Methodist Church once located at 620-622 East Mason Street. A 1930s Sunday School class out in front of the church on a cold day (bottom right). The church is now located at 1116 South Sixteenth Street (top right).





St. John's AME Church at 1529 East Capitol Avenue. This congregation was founded in 1876. The existing church building was constructed in 1940.





Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was established in 1895 when the congregation split from the Zion Baptist Church, in order to establish a place of worship closer to their neighborhood of “Goose Prairie.” Their new church was constructed at 916 South 18<sup>th</sup> St (now Martin Luther King Jr. Drive).



Circa 1920s

Other **institutional and commercial buildings** are of note, and include the Boy's and Girls Club of Central Illinois is located at 300 South Fifteenth Street. This facility was constructed in 1960. The club itself was organized in 1956.

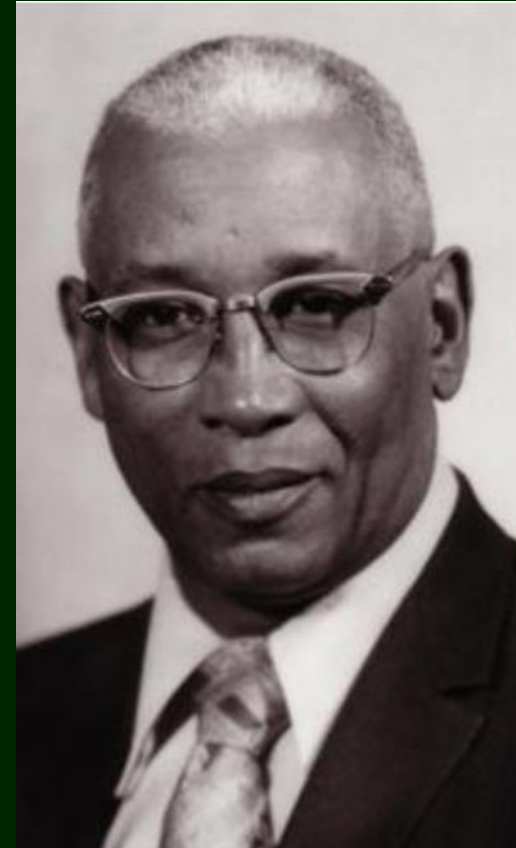




Dr. Ewin Lee and the Lee Medical Building. Dr. Lee was admitted to the Sangamon County Medical Society in 1949 and practiced medicine in Springfield until within months of his death 1993. His office at the corner of Jackson and Thirteen Streets, built in 1958, was the first medical office building in Springfield owned by black physicians.



Lee Medical Building



Dr. Edwin Lee



Dr. Edwin Lee Residence at 920 S. Wheeler Avenue. Although located several blocks east of the project area, this home provides an example of a residence associated with a locally significant individual from the later years of the period of significance.



Lodges played an important social role in the black community, as illustrated by this 1926 directory. Identifying buildings associated with these lodges would be of interest to the thematic study.

#### LODGE DIRECTORY

##### Secret Societies

Meet in the Masonic Temple, 117- 19th North 8th Street, Springfield, Illinois.

Paul Lowrence Dunbar Lodge, No. 49 A. and A. S. R. of T. M. meet first Sunday of each month.

Shilr Court No. 3 meets second Tuesday in each month. Napthaia Chapter No. 49 A. and A. S. R. of F. M.

St. John Chapter No. H. R. A. meets the third Wednesday in each month.

Ivanhoe Commandary No. 3 K. T. meets the fourth Friday in each month.

St. John Chapter No. 2 H. R. A. M. meets the third Wednesday in each month.

Lincoln Lodge, No. 1823, I. O. and O. F. meets first and third Thursday in each month.

Household of Ruth No. 190 meets second and fourth Tuesday in each month.

Household of Ruth, No. 4781, meets second and fourth Monday.

Capitol City Lodge, K. of P. meets first and third Monday in each month.

Charles Young Lodge, No. 103, I. B. P. O. E. of W. meets first and third Tuesday in each month.

Fred Douglas Lodge, No. 48 U. B. F. meets second and Fourth Tuesday in each month.

Golden Gate Temple No. 2 K. of P. meets fourth Monday in each month.

Good Shepardess Temple No. 63 S. M. T. meets second and fourth Tuesday in each month.

St. Martha Temple, No. 32 S. M. T. meets second and fourth Friday in each month.

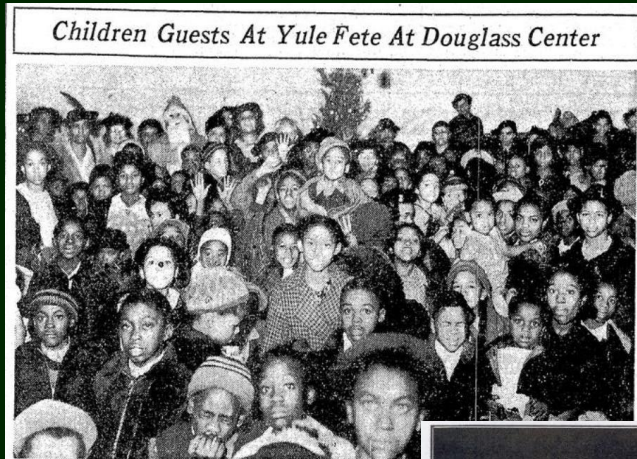
Pride of Springfield Tabernacle No. 12 meets second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

Marian Tabernacle No. 22 meets second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

Patriach No. 5 meets second and fourth Wednesday in each month.

Esther Chapter No. 2 meets second and fourth Tuesday in each month.

In 1899, Eva Monroe (founder of the Lincoln Colored Home) established the *Springfield Colored Women's Club*, which crusaded for a variety of philanthropic causes in Springfield.



Children Guests At Yule Fete At Douglass Center

Two hundred seventy-five colored children were guests yesterday at a Christmas party at the Douglass community club, distributed gifts, candy and oranges. Mayor Kapp was a visitor.

ISJ 24 December 1938



Eva Monroe, ca. 1900



**Mrs. CHARLES S. GIBBS**  
President of the Springfield Colored Women's Club

Mrs. Gibbs is the wife of Attorney Chas. S. Gibbs. She is a native of Maui, Mo., but before coming to Springfield, spent most of her life in Quincy where she was educated. Studied music at Quincy Conservatory of Music and took a course in elocution under private tutors.

Casey Directory,  
ca. 1926



—State Journal Photo.

**URBAN LEAGUE HOLDS ART EXHIBIT**—The above group is looking at an art and literary exhibit sponsored by the Springfield Colored Women's club, the James Weldon Johnson Study guild and the Urban league, which yesterday was held in the Urban league. The exhibit included works of colored people in history, biography, folk lore, fiction, music and art, and was furnished by the Lincoln library. Readings of books were given at the exhibit and tea was served. Art works of Hiram Jackson were also placed in the show, and colored spirituals were sung.

ISJ 24 April 1939



In the late 1930s, a group of black teen girls formed a social group named the *Sepian Celebs*. This group continued as a black women's service organization for many decades thereafter, holding a variety of social venues and raising funds for many worthy causes.



In April 1953, a group of prominent black citizens met at the Springfield Urban League headquarters and organized a local chapter of the *Frontiers of America*—a “Negro Service Club” dedicated to “improving the business and economic status of the Negro in Springfield.”

### Service Club Holds Conference



Frontiers of America, a Negro service club, held its first economic conference of the year at 7:30 p. m. Friday at the Springfield Urban league building. The club, now in its

third year, is composed of business and professional men. The conference was concerned with what could be done to improve the business and economic status of

the Negro in Springfield. Shown, left to right, are Rev. G. B. Winston, Louis Quonn, Sylvester Carter and Dr. Edwin A. Lee.

—Winifred Helm Photo.

ISJ January 29, 1956

### A New Chapter Is Born In Springfield, Ill.



SPRINGFIELD, ILL.--Initial group that met at the Springfield Urban League, April 18, 1953, to form a chapter of the Frontiers of America, Inc. Reading left to right: Alvin Roundtree - Illinois State Archives Dept.; Emmett W. Robinson - Auditor, Internal Revenue Office; Edgar Bish - Photographing Dept. of State of Illinois; Albert Harris - Business man; Nimrod Allen - National Executive Secretary, Frontiers of America; Raymond Davis - Mid-Eastern Organizer; Dr. E. A. Lee - Physician & Surgeon; Sylvester Carter - Attorney; T. E. Finley - Contractor; Dr. Charles Young - Chiropractist; Winifred Helm - State Photographer, (inset).

Oral History Program

ALPLM



**EVENTS:** No single event is probably more significant in Springfield's racial history than that of the August 1908 Race Riot.

**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  
Gnawed by Men Who Took  
Suspect Away.

PLACE TOTALLY BURNED

FURNITURE, CHAIRS, TABLES AND  
OTHER VALUABLES BURNED  
IN THE STREET.

**AUTHORITIES HELPLESS**

Mayor, Police and Aldermen Allegedly  
Incapable of Controlling Mob.

### VICTIM OF NEGRO ASSAULT.



MRS. J. L. SULLIVAN.

### NEGROES REMOVED TO BLOOMINGTON

OFFICERS FEAR VIOLENCE AND  
SPRIT PRISONERS AWAY.

Group Abducted From County Jail By  
Frenzied Mob of Five White Men.

Several Negroes Were Taken Into  
Automobile and Taken City-Wide.

At 10:30 p.m. an armed mob of  
five white men, who had been  
waiting for some time, entered  
the county jail and took away  
a group of negroes. They were  
taken to a house in the city and  
held there for some time.

The taking away of the negroes  
was accomplished without any  
difficulty.

Early in the morning, when the  
mob of five white men, who had  
been waiting for some time, entered  
the county jail and took away  
a group of negroes. They were  
taken to a house in the city and  
held there for some time.

### THE CASUALTIES.

DEAD.

E. J. AGOSTO, shot by mob; killed.  
GEORGE STUBBS, shot by mob; killed.

INJURED.

ALBERT BRYANLINE, shot by mob; killed.  
GEORGE STUBBS, shot by mob; killed.  
ALBERT BRYANLINE, shot by mob; killed.  
GEORGE STUBBS, shot by mob; killed.

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

Springfield Helpless as  
Hands of Thousands of  
Frenzied Citizens.

ASSAULT INCITED BY  
Bain War Follows the Act  
Made by Negro Cyren  
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 the residential Badlands. The violence was subdued through the efforts of the Illinois National Guard.



Images of scrapbook from Cultheritage.com.

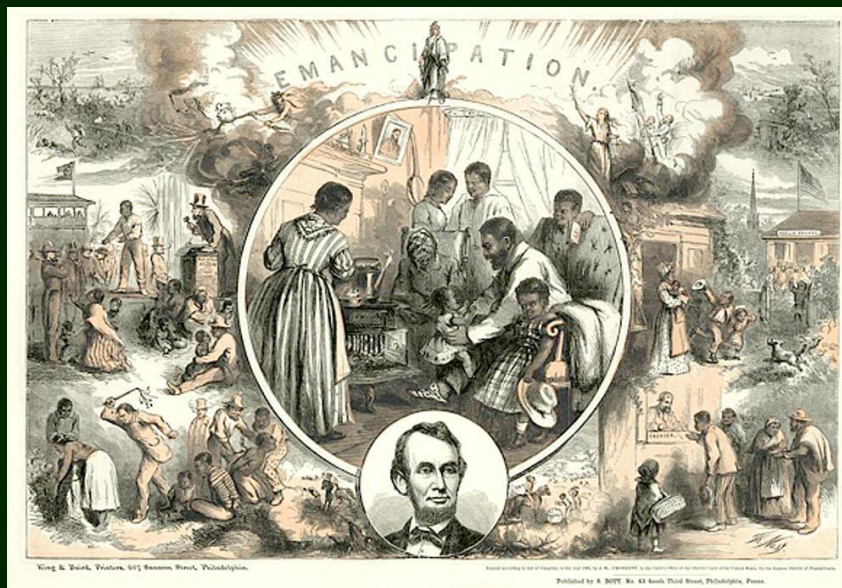


Photographs of East Madison  
Street, and National Guard in  
Springfield (August 1908).

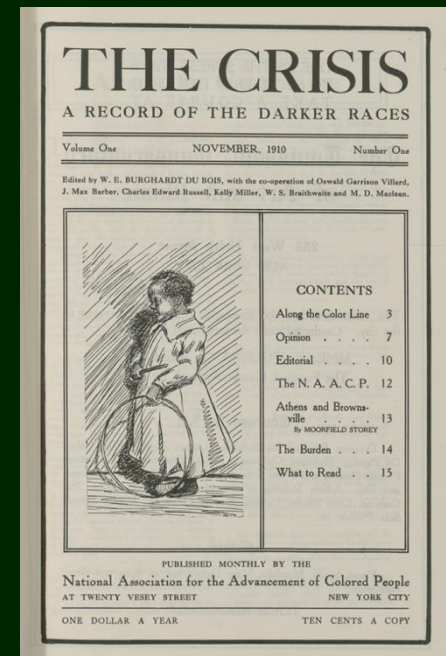




The Springfield Race Riot of August 1908 was one of the catalysts that resulted in the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1909 (in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth), the organization was 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."

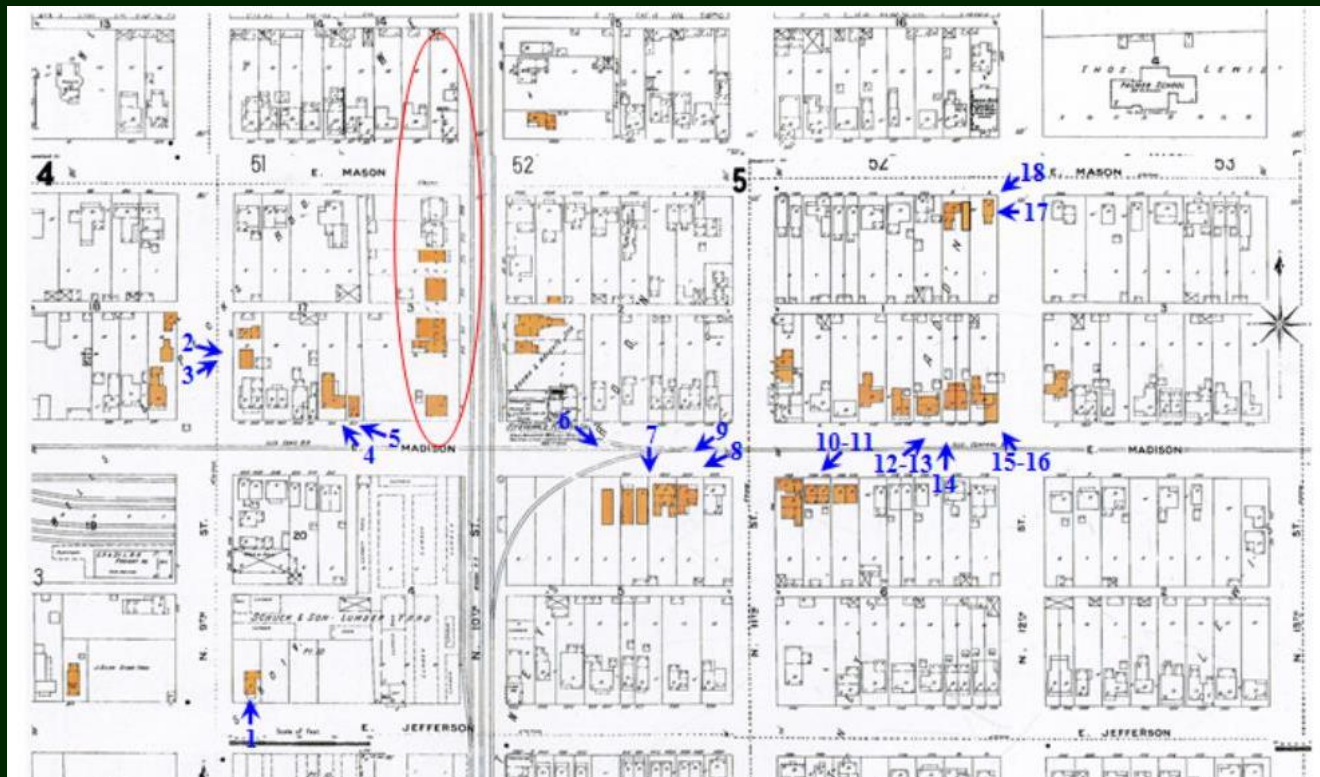


"Emancipation." A wood engraving by illustrator Thomas Nast from 1865, celebrating the emancipation of Southern slaves at the end of the Civil War. (Library of Congress)

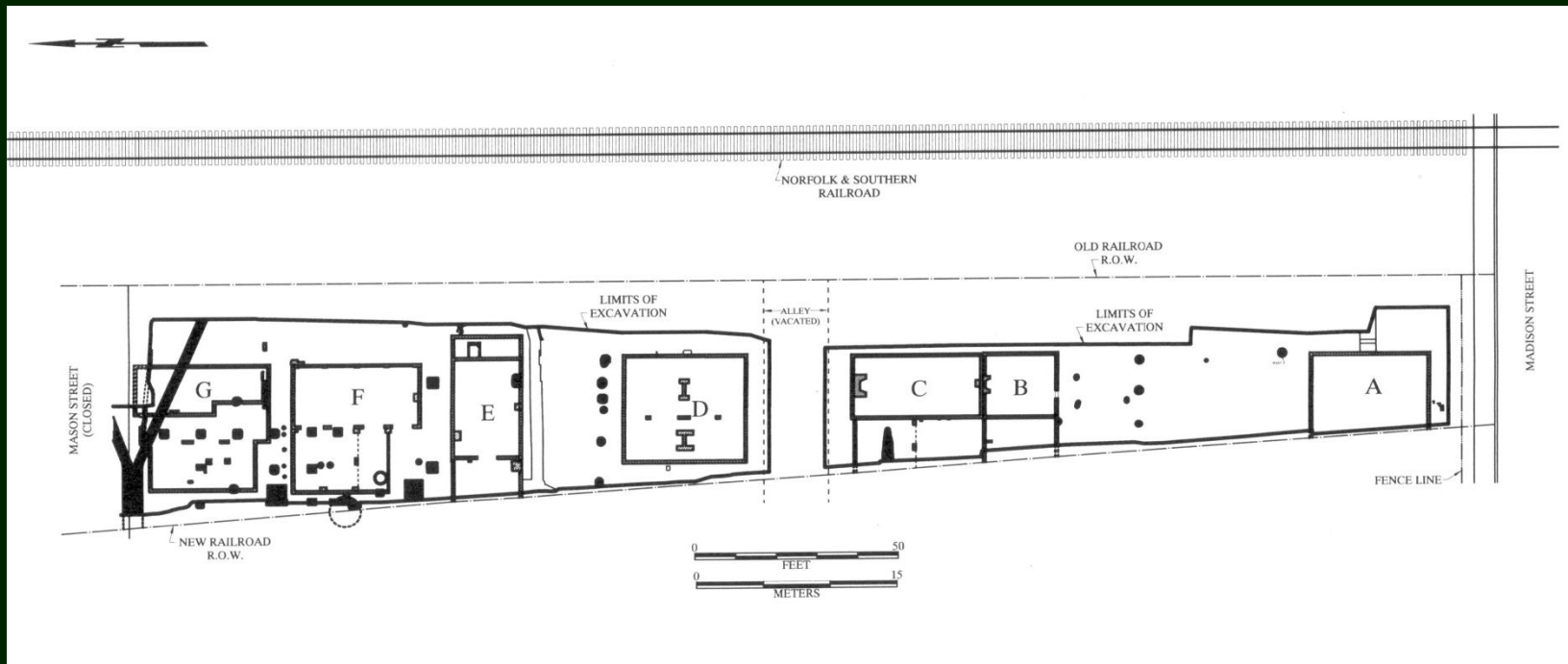




Over 40 houses and business were destroyed in the Badlands during the August 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 1908 riot in Springfield. This map depicts the location of the houses and businesses destroyed by fire during the riots (as depicted on the 1896 Sanborn fire insurance map). The current project area is circled in red. The blue arrows indicate the location of perspective view historic photographs.



**Archaeology:** 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.



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





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

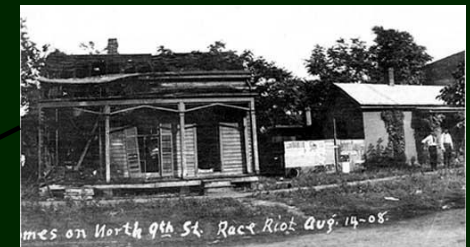
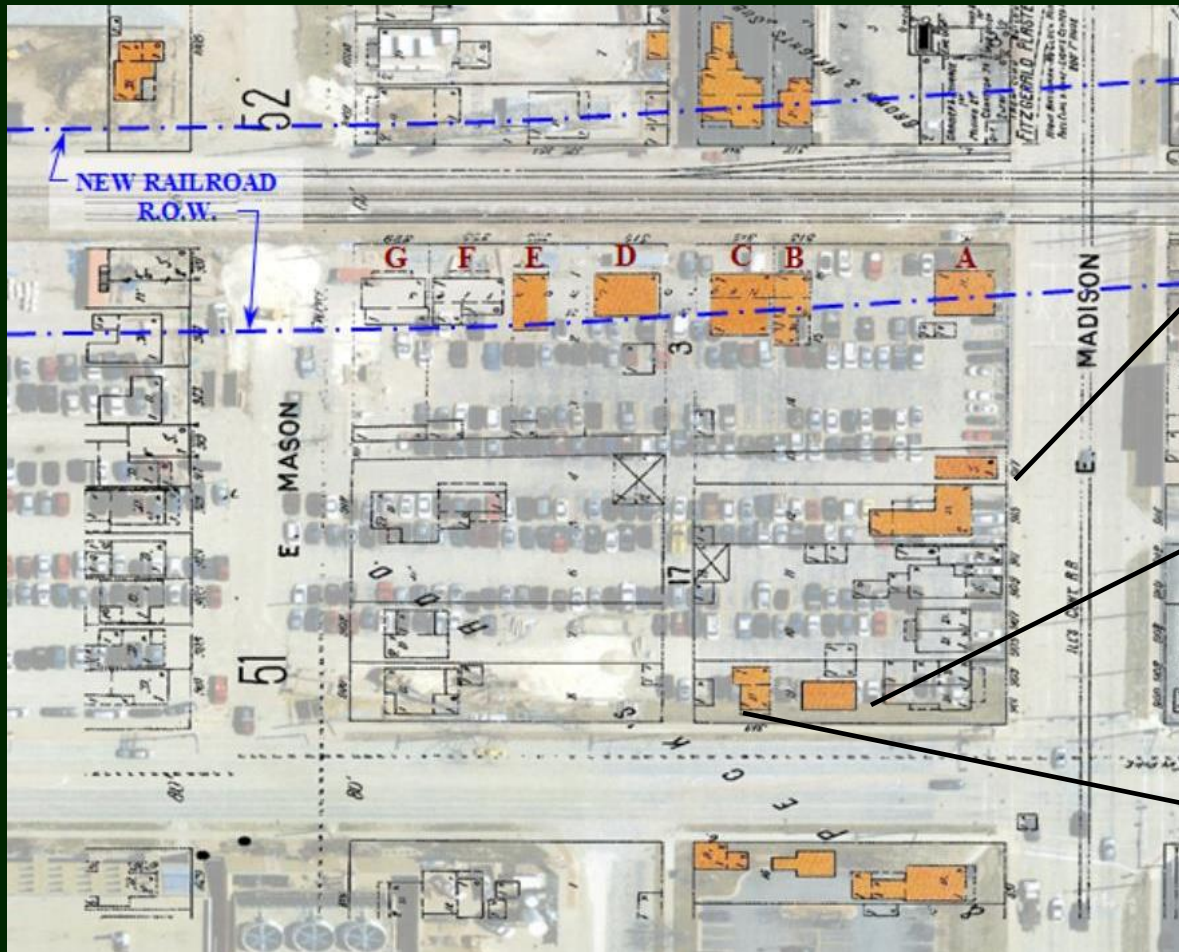




Unlike House A (which had a shallow crawlspace beneath it), House B has a substantial basement cellar beneath it. The cellar contains a wide range of artifacts directly associated with the 1908 occupants of that dwelling (including cups, saucers, bowls, plates, and platters). This is a fairly intact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

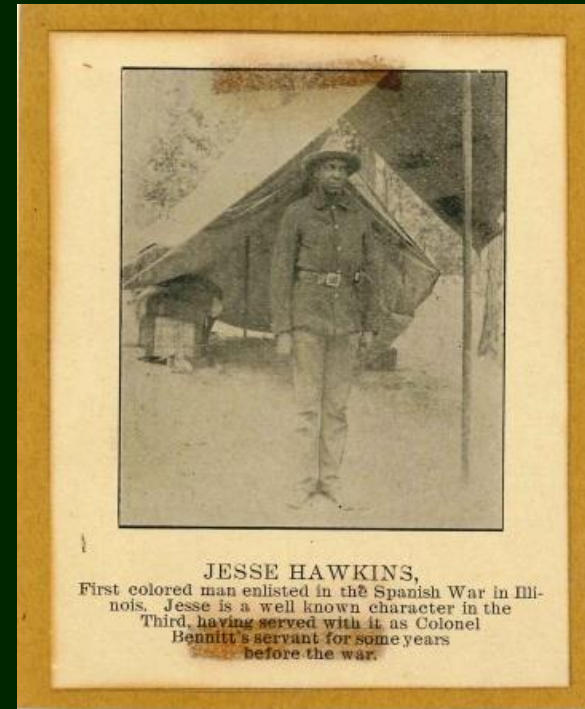


Location of burned (A-E) and unburned (F and G) houses in the Tenth Street Corridor, overlain on existing aerial view. Buildings highlighted in orange were destroyed by fire in the August 1908 Springfield riot.



By no means is the 1908 Race Riot the only significant *event* associated with the African American experience in Springfield. Others that come to mind are:

- 1) Desegregation of the City Schools
- 2) The 1911 Change in City Government (to Commission form of government)
- 3) The 1987 Change in City Government (to an Aldermanic form of government)
- 4) The World Wars, Korean War, and Vietnam War
- 5) The Civil Rights Movement and the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- 6) The Implementation of Jim Crow
- 7) Emancipation and Voting Rights
- 8) Development of Public Housing Programs





And what other *events* might come to mind?



As one of the goals of this project is to identify tangible or physical connections to the significant events in the African American experience, can we identify any landscape features once affiliated with any of these events?

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# Questions or Comments?

We encourage you to take a few minutes to think about the *people, places, and events* that have been significant in your life experiences in Springfield, and to complete one of the survey forms.

Floyd can be reached by phone (217-341-8138) or email ([fmansberger@comcast.net](mailto:fmansberger@comcast.net)).

Thank You.

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