

The History of Theatre, Vaudeville and Movies in Hoboken

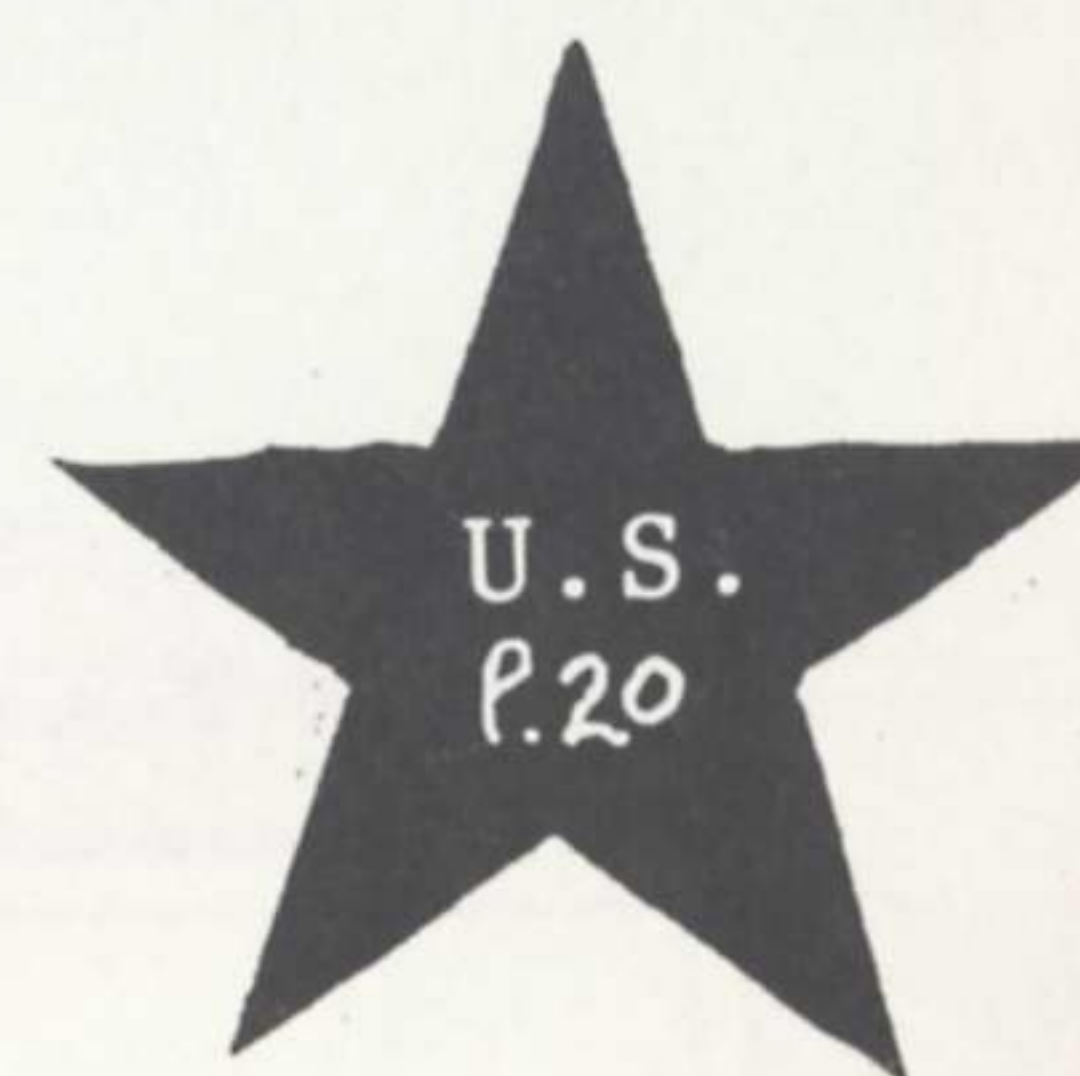
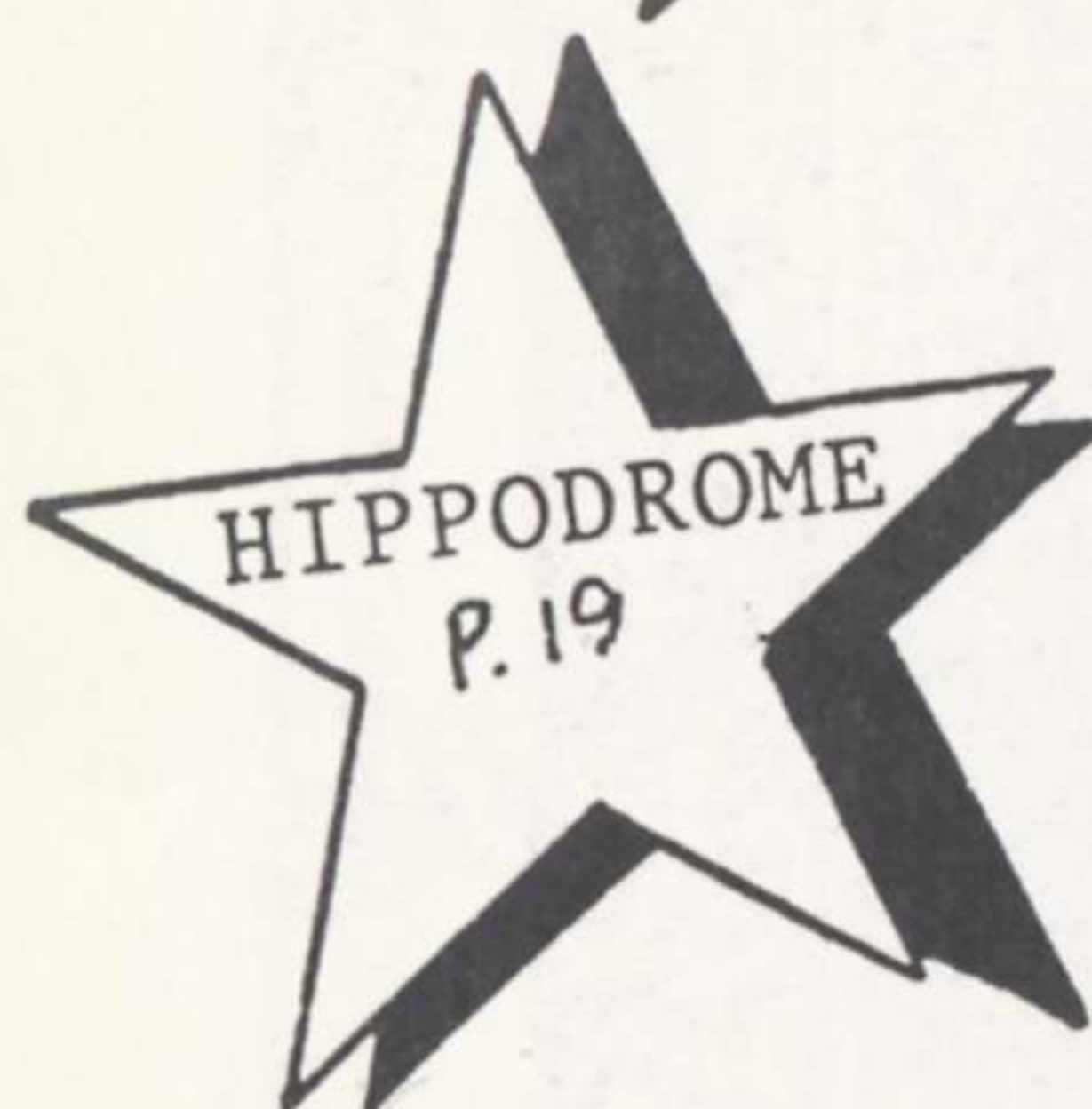
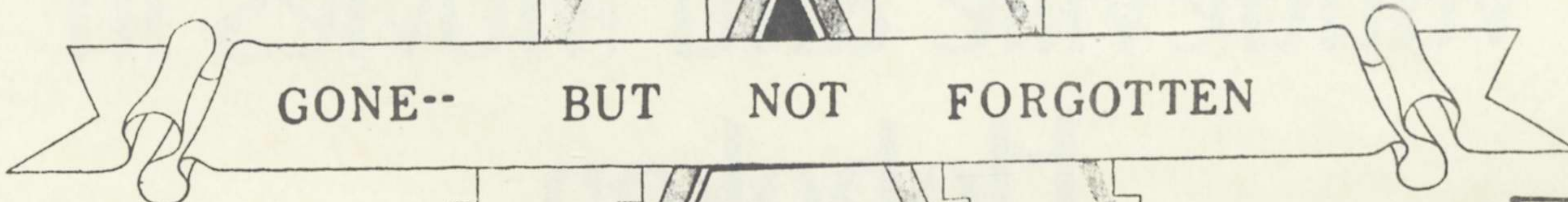
Gayety Theatre, Hoboken, N. J.



VOLUME ONE

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.



THIS PUBLICATION
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LOCATIONS

~(((of)))~

HOBOKEN THEATRES,

MOVIE HOUSES

~(((and)))~

CONCERT HALLS

(CABARETS, ETC.)

1863 - 1963



THE OLD FOUNDRY ON RIVER ST. BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND STS. THE BIRTHPLACE OF MANY YACHTS, STEAMBOATS AND FERRY BOATS.

From a Sketch of the Original Building by A. W. Hutas.

Theatrical clubhouse 1929



RIVER STREET LOOKING NORTH FROM NEWARK STREET

In this 1890's (?) photograph, showing the laying of trolley tracks near the main post office (right), can be seen the site of the Atlantic Garden Music Hall (the short building, middle of the block, at 90-92 River Street). Today the building still stands as part of the Clam Broth House. The large building on the next corner in the distance is the old iron foundry, which was purchased in 1929 by the nationally known literary figure Christopher Morley for a theatrical clubhouse.

INTRODUCTION

by Jim Hans

Having been fascinated for years with Hoboken theatrical history, I jumped at the opportunity to explore the subject in greater depth, in the form of an exhibit and written history, when it was suggested to me that others might share my interest and enthusiasm.

Although I realized this would be a tremendous undertaking, I considered it well worthwhile. I was particularly interested in making clear how Hoboken was involved in the early history of motion pictures, and how Hoboken's proximity to New York City had made it a vital theatrical location since the 1850's.

That even the press has not in recent years publicized these historical developments makes the present study even more essential.

For this is the first comprehensive overview we have to date of the part Hoboken has played in film and theatrical history.

The amount of material discovered was overwhelming, a veritable gold-mine of scattered information, long buried in attics and private archives. My task then became to sift through this material and make the connections that would eventually give us a total picture, or at the very least the beginnings of one.

And far from complete as it yet may be, the historical picture painted here is inarguably the most comprehensive ever of a tradition that continues to this very day, with the fine work being done by Hoboken's theatre groups and by John Sayles and other, lesser-known Hoboken filmmakers.

This volume shows the exact locations of the various theatres, and a few other entertainment venues around town. All known theatres have been listed. Any unknown to us and not included here will, of course, be added as their existence comes to light. Other types of venues omitted here will be included in future volumes.

By studying these locations (using a 1923 property map), one can get a real sense of the physical setting of Hoboken theatricality - how thoroughly entertainment was integrated into neighborhood life, the extent to which it was a very real part of the community itself.

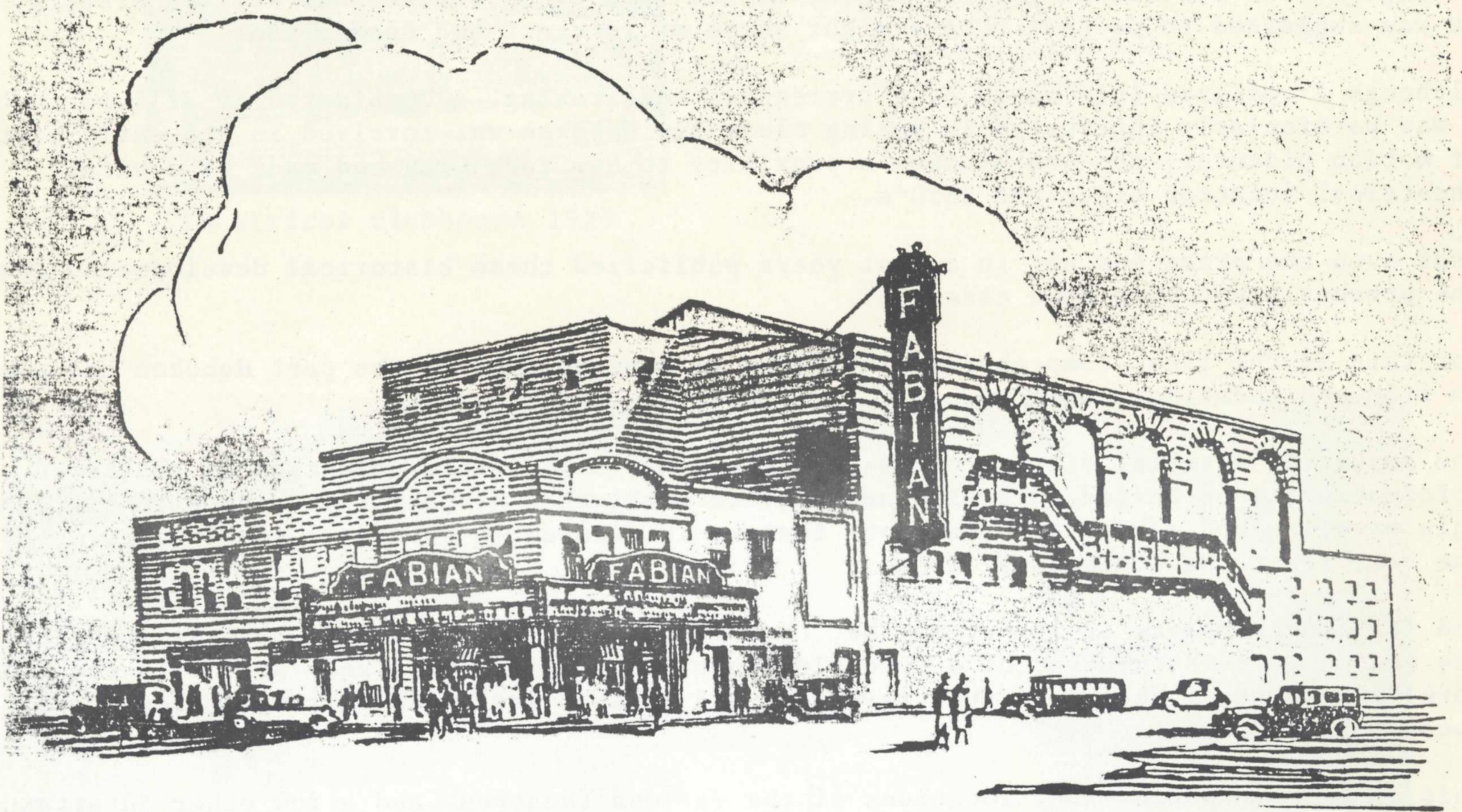
I hope that this booklet will whet your appetite for the theatrical history of Hoboken still to come.

GERMANIA GARDEN

Located at 118 Hudson Street (old No. 72), between First and Second Streets, this popular theatre was sometimes called the German Garden. The line drawing, (right) from an 1884 Stevens Institute publication "The Bolt", depicts the theatre, which operated between circa 1879 and 1886 under the management of Robert Wareing.



The Premier Vaudeville Theatre of Hudson County



FABIAN THEATRE

The Fabian Theatre opened August 2, 1928, the day after the above drawing appeared in the Jersey Observer. Beside first-run motion pictures, many local entertainers played here, including the young Frank Sinatra. James Cagney was said to have appeared on the Fabian stage as well, in his early days as a hooper.

Although the 3,500 seat theatre was built after the 1923 property map (right) was published, we entered the name here to show how the theatre, Hoboken's largest, took the place of 9 average-size lots (number 9 through 17). Properties on lot numbers 18, 19 and 20 (still shown here) were removed in 1928 to widen Newark Street. Notice also there was a stable or garage fronting Court Street, on lot number 73.

The Fabian was the last theatre in Hoboken to close, lasting until around 1964-65.

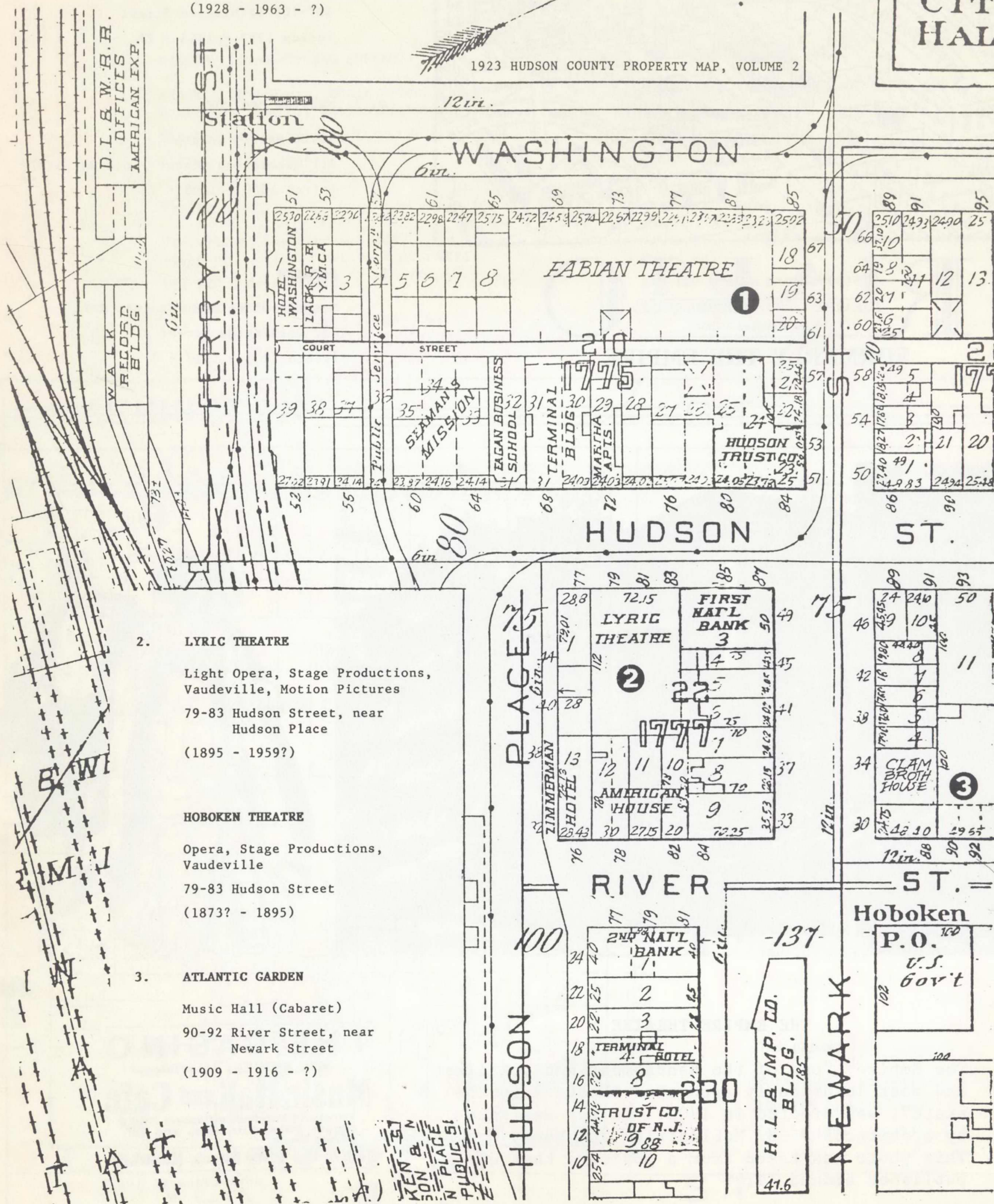
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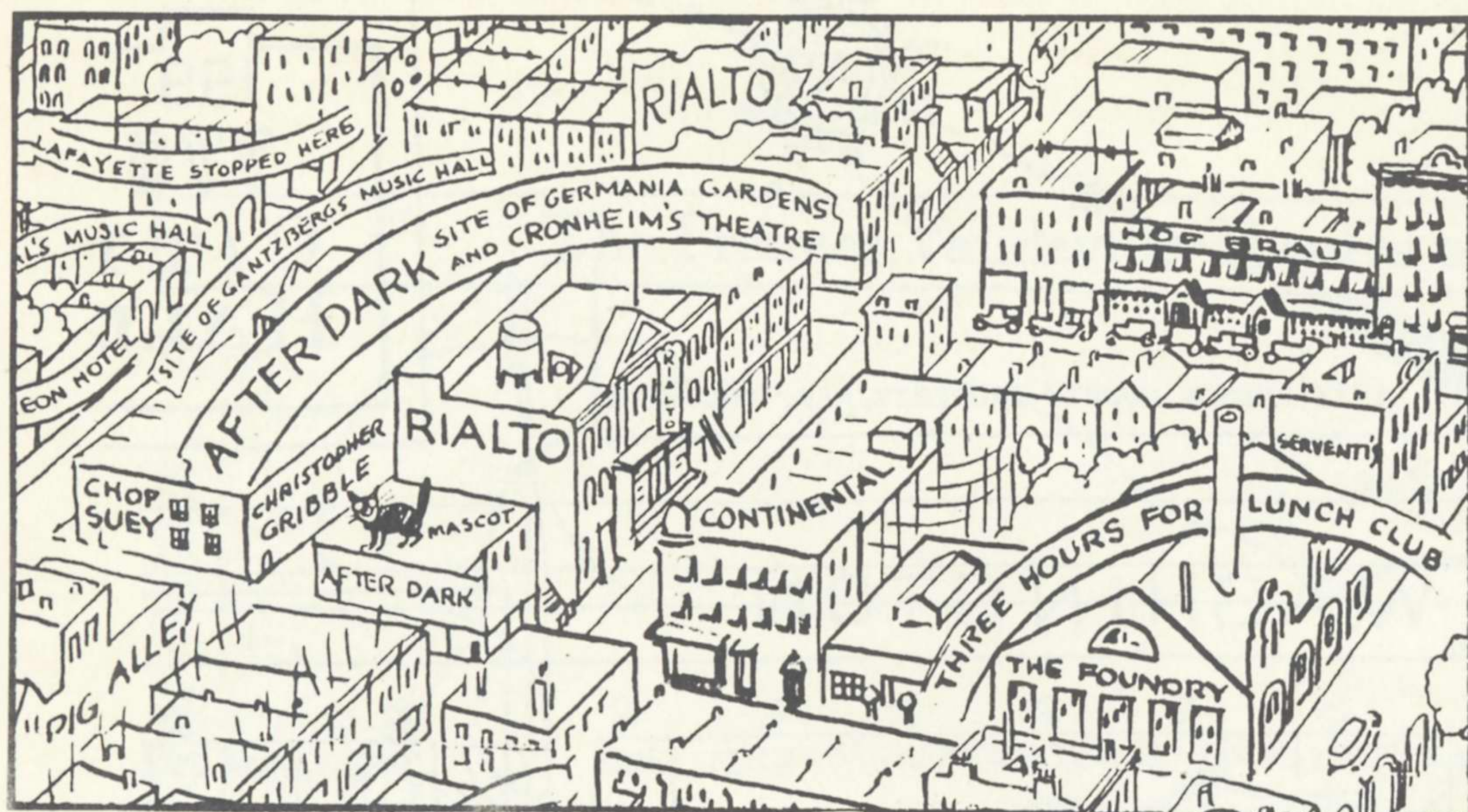
Motion Pictures, Vaudeville

69 Newark Street, corner of
Washington Street

(1928 - 1963 - ?)

1923 HUDSON COUNTY PROPERTY MAP, VOLUME 2

199
779
CITY
HALL



1929

RIALTO

THEATRE HOBOKEN, N. J.
Phone Hoboken 3-7854

FORMERLY THE EMPIRE

1. **RIVOLI THEATRE**
(formerly Bagelmann's Hall,
? - 1902 - 1909 - ?)

Motion Pictures
107-109 Washington Street
(circa 1913 - 1943 - ?)

2. **THEATRE COMIQUE**

Music Hall? Cabaret?
111 Washington Street (old No. 61?)
(circa 1880 - 1885 - ?)

3. **ORPHEUM**

Stage Productions, Concert Hall
127 Washington Street
(circa 1908 - 1913 - ?)



THE EMPIRE THEATRE

The Empire, "one of the handsomest and costliest and most luxuriously appointed theatres in the state", was erected in 1902. It was designed by architects J. B. McElfatrick and Sons, N.Y. This photo was taken from a postcard that was published around 1914.



THE CASINO

WM. GEIGER, Proprietor,
Music Hall and Cafe

Vocal and Vaudeville Concert Every
Night. Pabst Milwaukee and Im-
ported Beers.

100 to 106 River Street, HOBOKEN.

Advertisement 1904

3. GANTZBERG'S THEATRE (HALL)

Cabaret? Stage Productions
127 Washington Street
(circa 1879 - 1899 - 1902 (Hall) - ?)

STAR THEATRE

Vaudeville, Burlesque
118-120 Hudson Street
(circa December 1895 - circa 1901)

4. RIALTO (formerly THE EMPIRE)

Stock, Light Opera, Stage Productions,
Burlesque, Revues, Motion Pictures
118-120 Hudson Street
(1928 - circa 1959)

THE BIJOU THEATRE

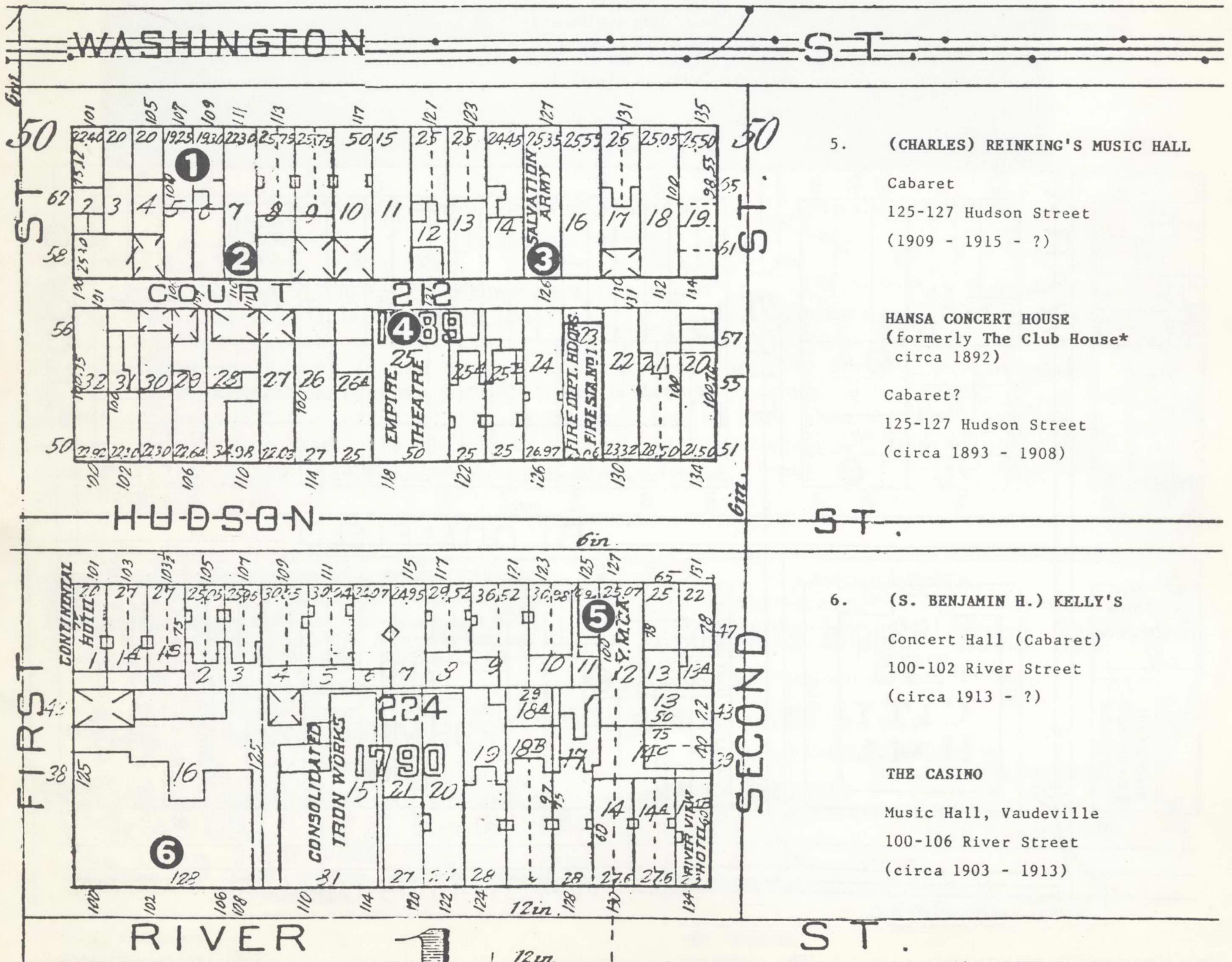
Vaudeville, Burlesque (?), Stock (?)
118 Hudson Street
(February 1895 - May 1895?)

EMPIRE

Vaudeville, Burlesque, Stock,
Stage Productions, Motion Pictures
118-120 Hudson Street
(1902 - 1921 - ?)

GERMANIA GARDEN

Vaudeville, Stage Productions,
Music Hall
118-120 Hudson Street (Old No. 68-74)
(circa 1863 - 1895)



5. (CHARLES) REINKING'S MUSIC HALL

Cabaret
125-127 Hudson Street
(1909 - 1915 - ?)

HANSA CONCERT HOUSE
(formerly The Club House*
circa 1892)

Cabaret?
125-127 Hudson Street
(circa 1893 - 1908)

6. (S. BENJAMIN H.) KELLY'S

Concert Hall (Cabaret)
100-102 River Street
(circa 1913 - ?)

THE CASINO

Music Hall, Vaudeville
100-106 River Street
(circa 1903 - 1913)

THE FLORA

German Variety Concert Hall (Cabaret)
118 Washington Street
(circa 1907 - 1913?)

**IMPERIAL MUSIC HALL
(COLLIGAN'S CABARET)**

Vaudeville
118 Washington Street
(circa 1895 - 1907?)

2. THE PALACE

Motion Pictures
116 Washington Street
(1913 - circa 1936)

IDEAL MUSIC HALL

Cabaret?
116 Washington Street
(circa 1903 - 1913?)

'Flora'**Deutsches Variete**

118 Washington St.,

Hoboken, N. J.

Edward I. Reich, Prop.

A. F. Gerken, Manager

Ernst Naumann, Stage Mgr.

Jede Woche Neues Programm

Eintritt frei

Advertisement 1907

3. BISHOP THEATRE

Motion Pictures
106 First Street
(1912 - circa 1934)

EUROPA THEATRE

Motion Pictures
106 First Street
(circa 1935 - circa 1940)

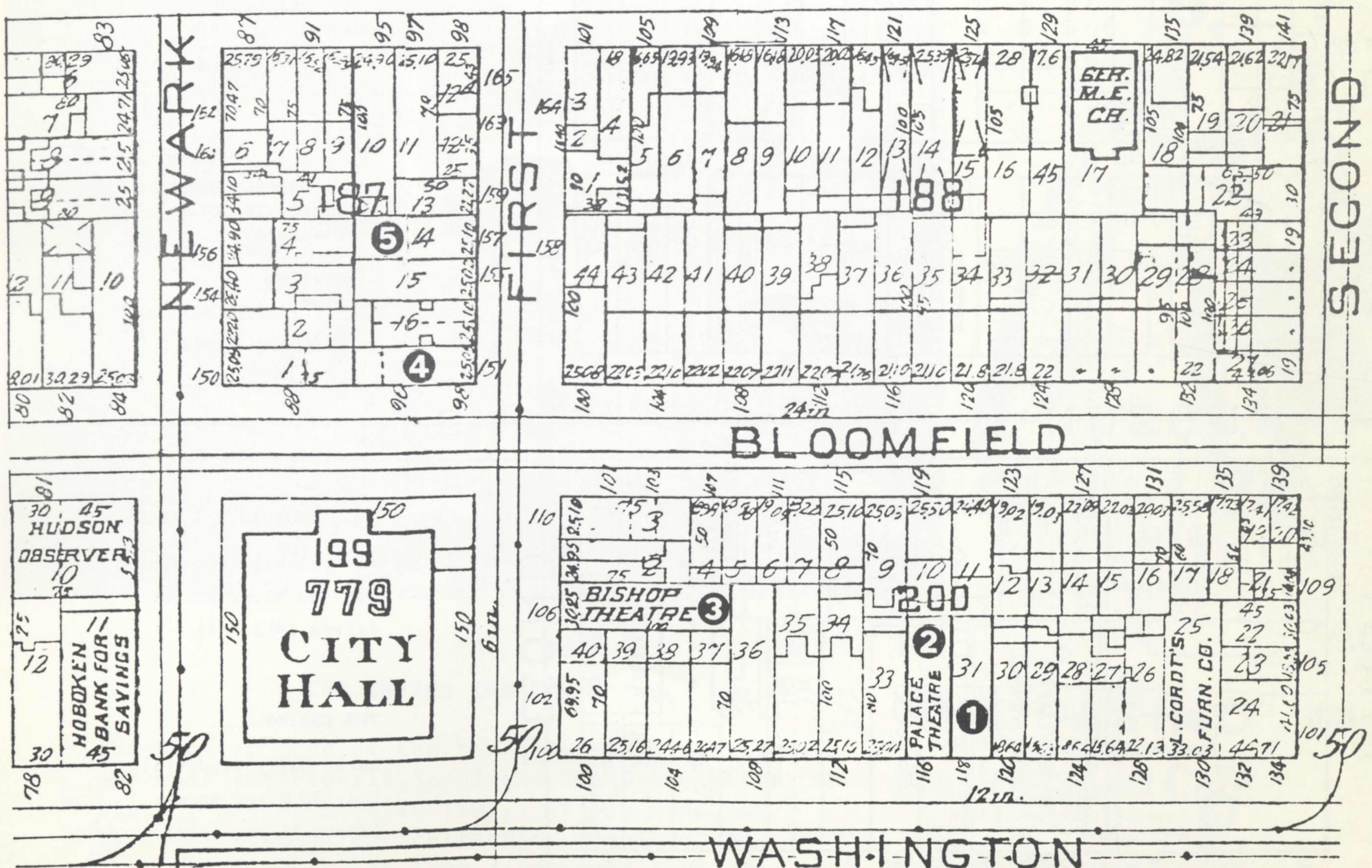
4. ROYAL MUSIC HALL

Cabaret?
151 First Street
(circa 1899 - 1902?)

5. STAR NICOLETTE

Motion Pictures
157 First Street
(circa 1909 - ?)

Translation:
German Variety Theatre
Each Week New Program
Admission Free
("Flora" has the sense of a
"bevy of girls".)





BISHOP THEATRE

Henry Bishop opened his moving picture theatre around 1912 opposite City Hall. The attractive, substantial building at 106 First Street, although somewhat altered, still stands. It has been the site of the Shannon Bar for many years. In this photograph, taken in 1933 (evidently in the summer) looking west on First Street, we can see a portion of a marquee that reads "photoplays". Notice also that the picture "King Kong", released that year, was playing! It is interesting to note that in the original screenplay of "King Kong" the ship that figures in the classic adventure leaves from Hoboken. The Bishop Theatre closed about 1935. Photo, courtesy of United Decorating Co., Hoboken.

BISHOP'S THEATRE HOBOKEN

First St. nr. Washington St., Hoboken.

TO-DAY—KALEM CO. PRESENTS

Myrtle Tannehill

in the Broadway Star Production

"THE BARNSTORMERS"

in four parts.

REGULAR PROGRAM IN ADDITION
TO-MORROW—Universal Co. Presents

"SCANDAL" in 5 Reels

A Drama You'll Never Forget.

Written by Lois Weber, author of
"Hypocrites."

AMUSEMENTS.

Colligan's Imperial Music Hall

118 Washington Street, Hoboken.

MADELINE MARSH

TILLIE AUSTIN

DOLLY SHANNON

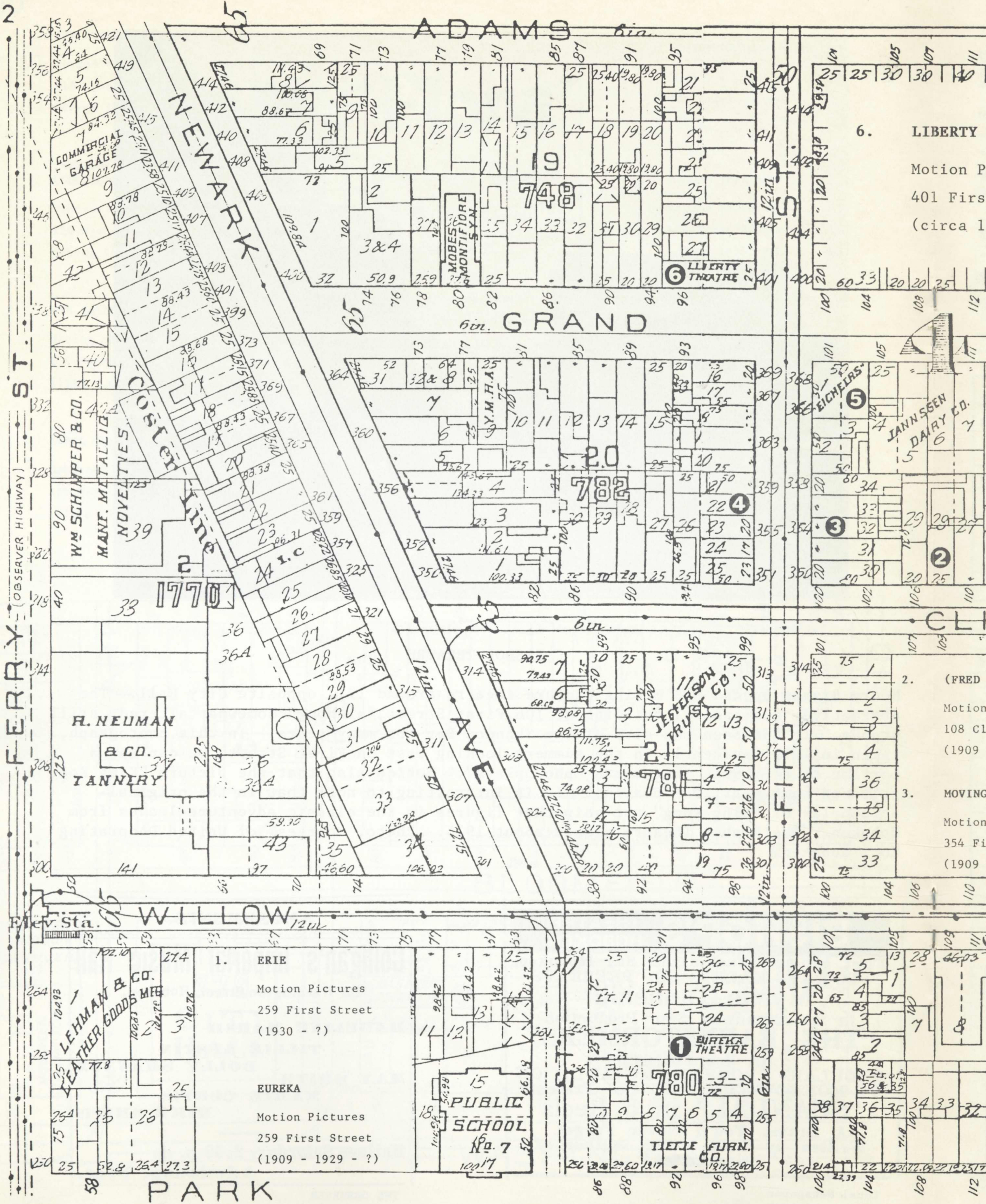
MAY SMITH

MAMIE CURTIS

MIKE SMITH

Matinee Saturday, 2.30 p. m.

Admission. Free.



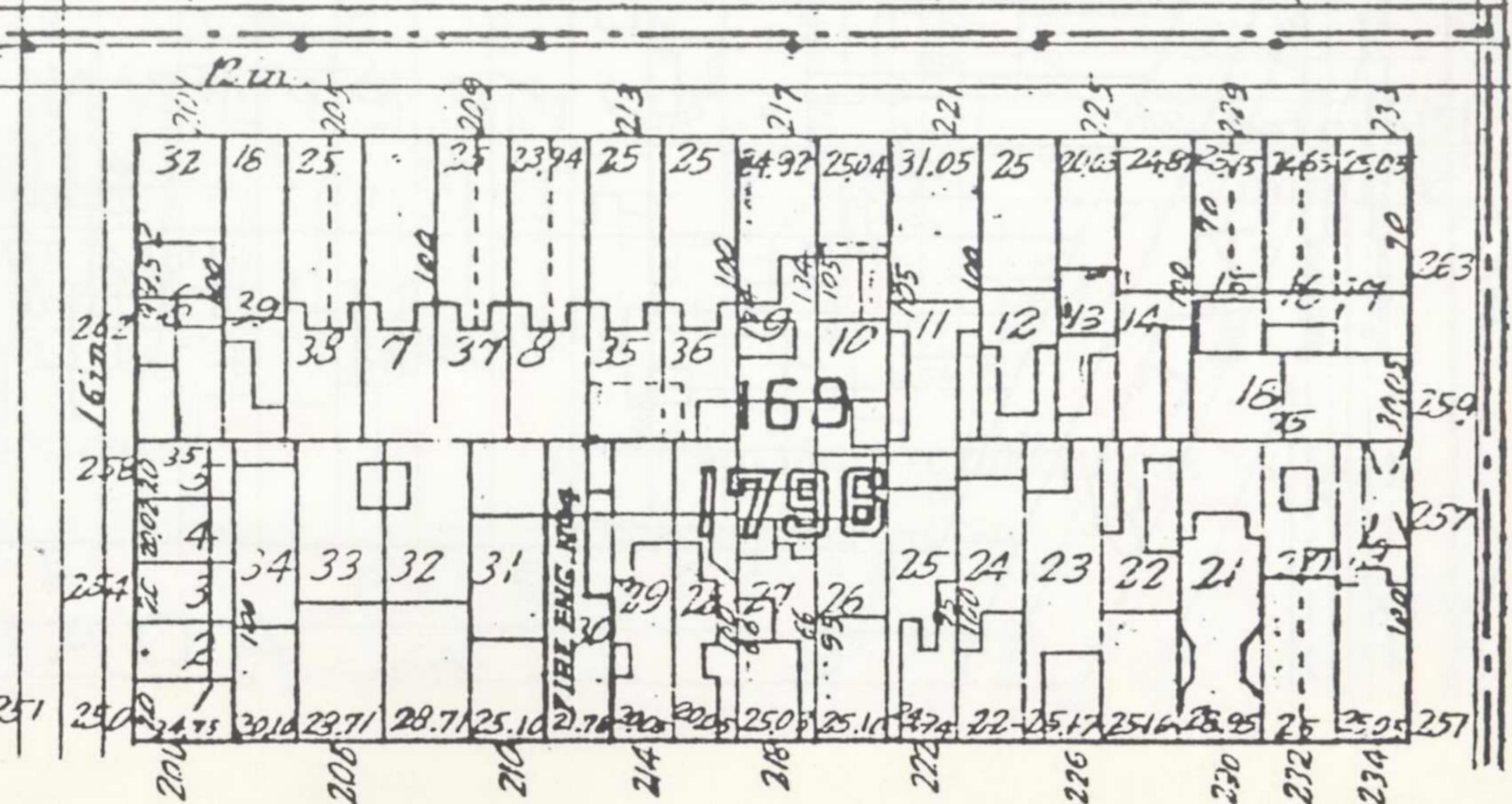
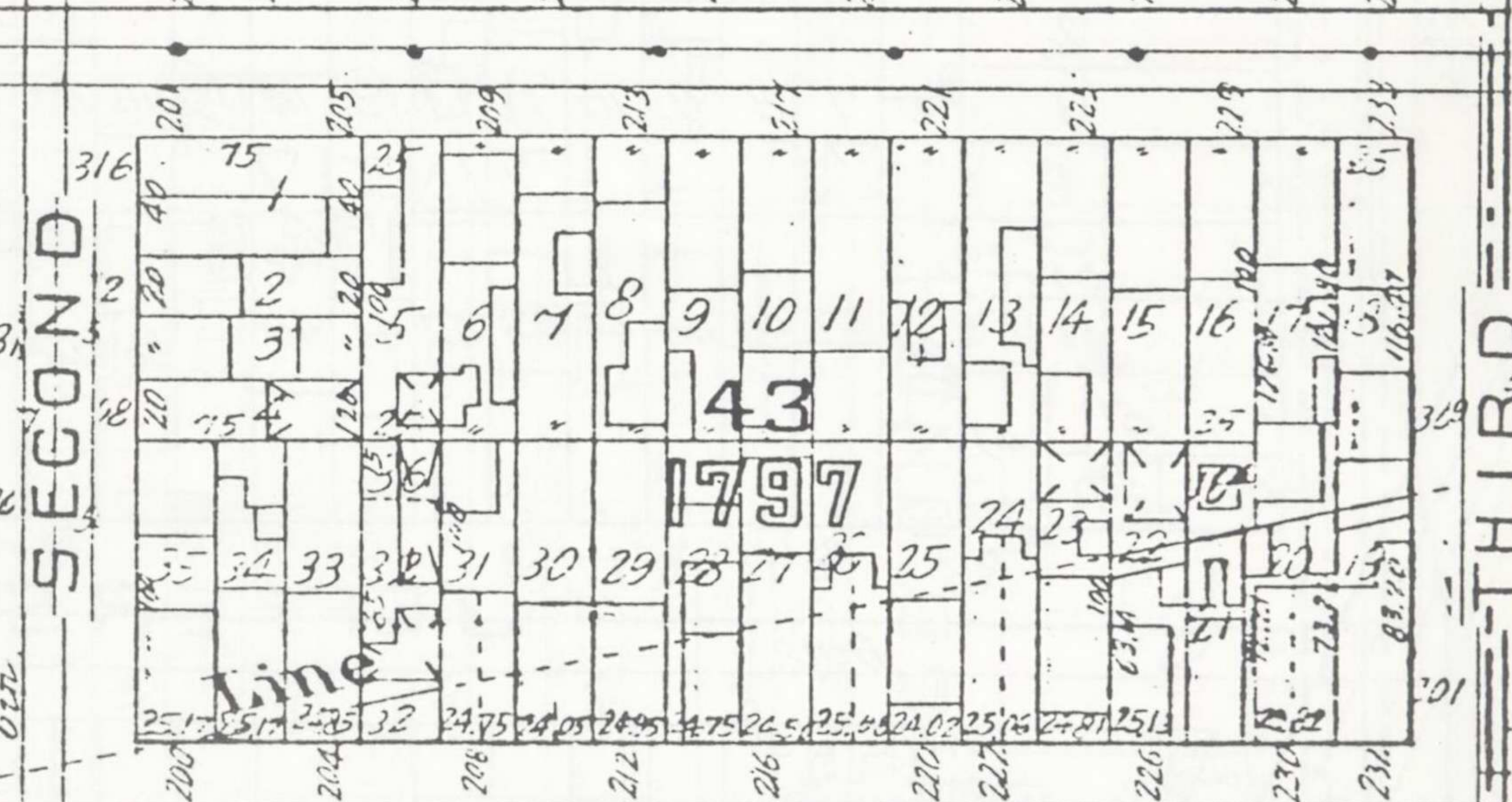
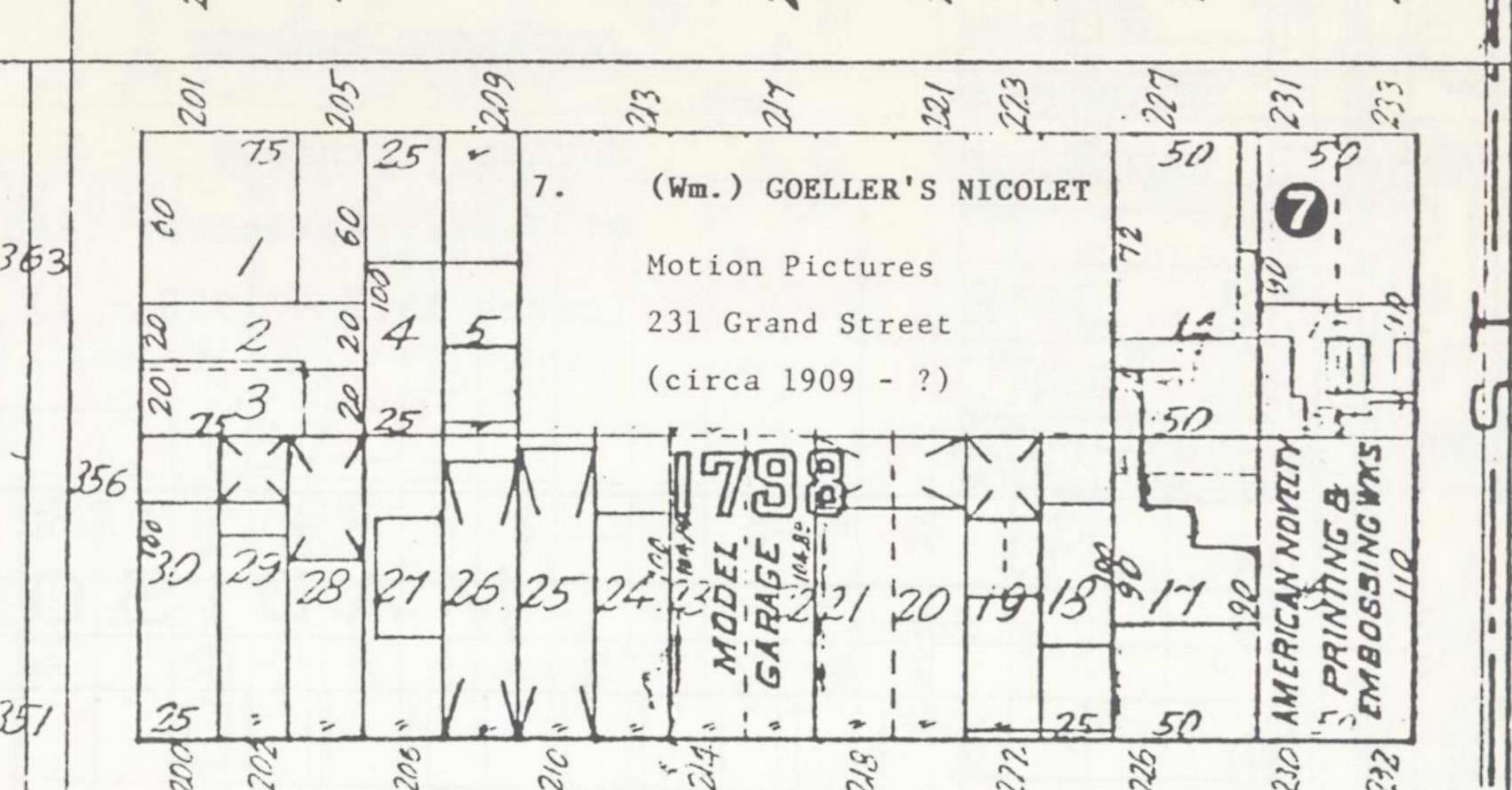
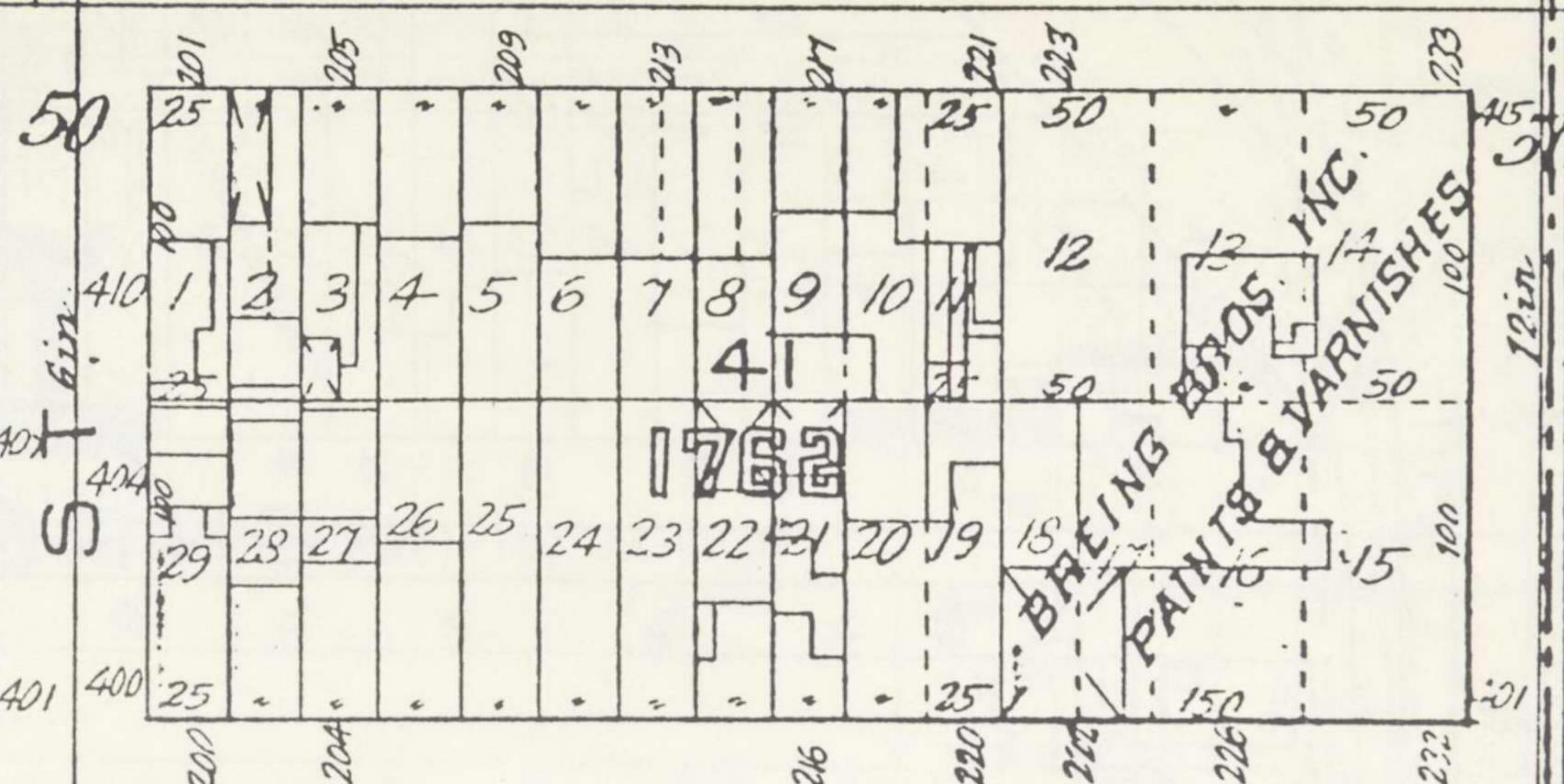
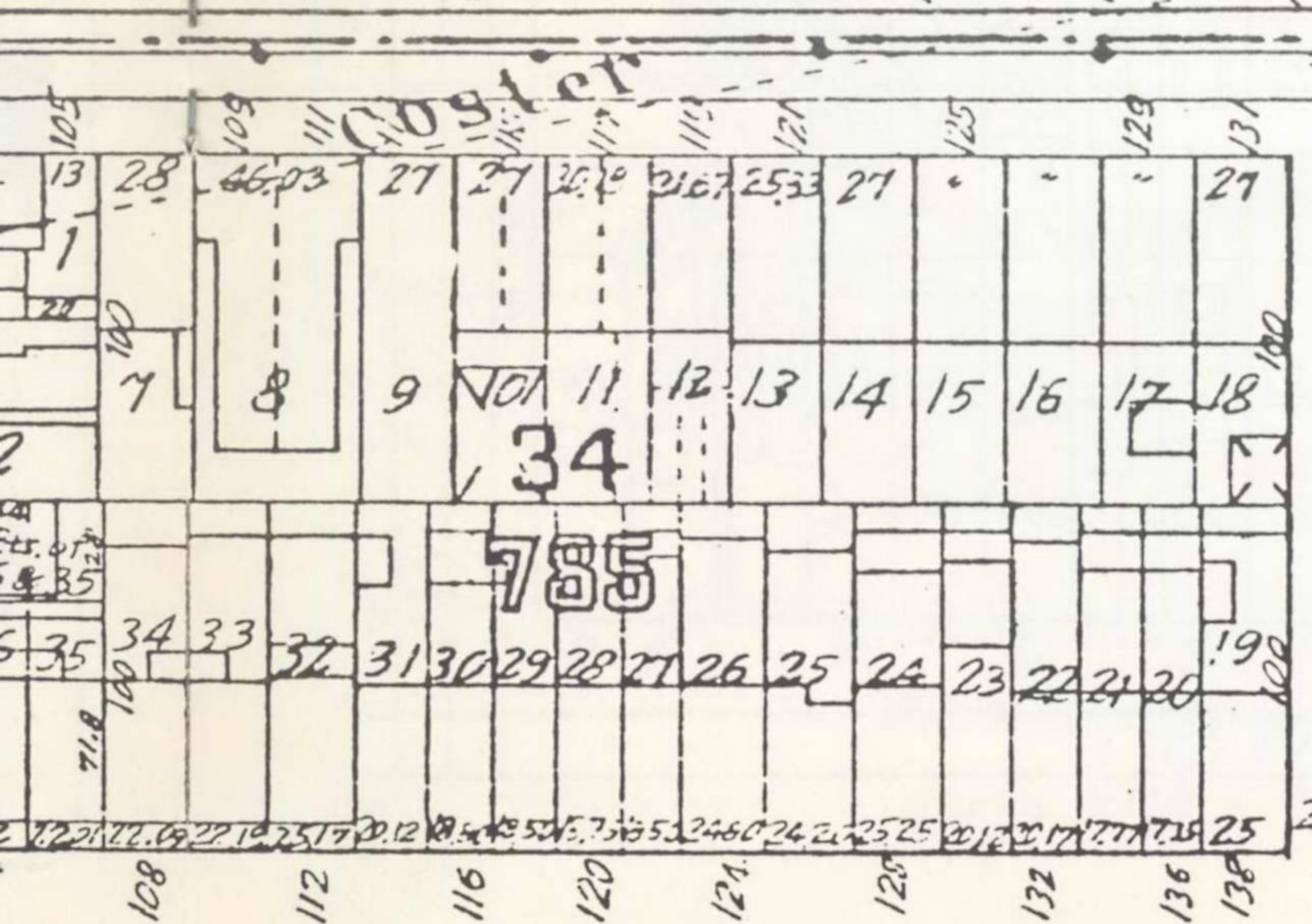
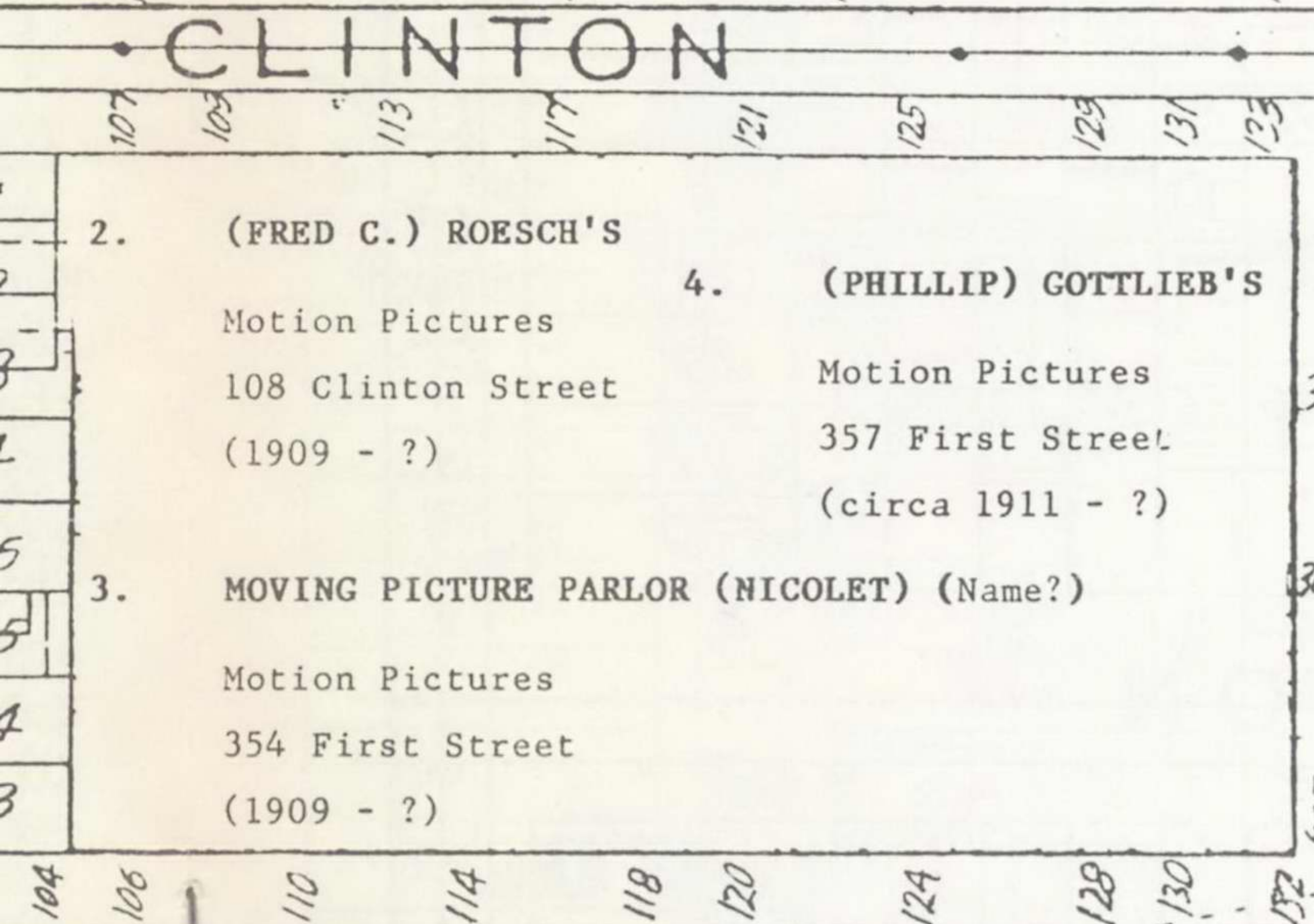
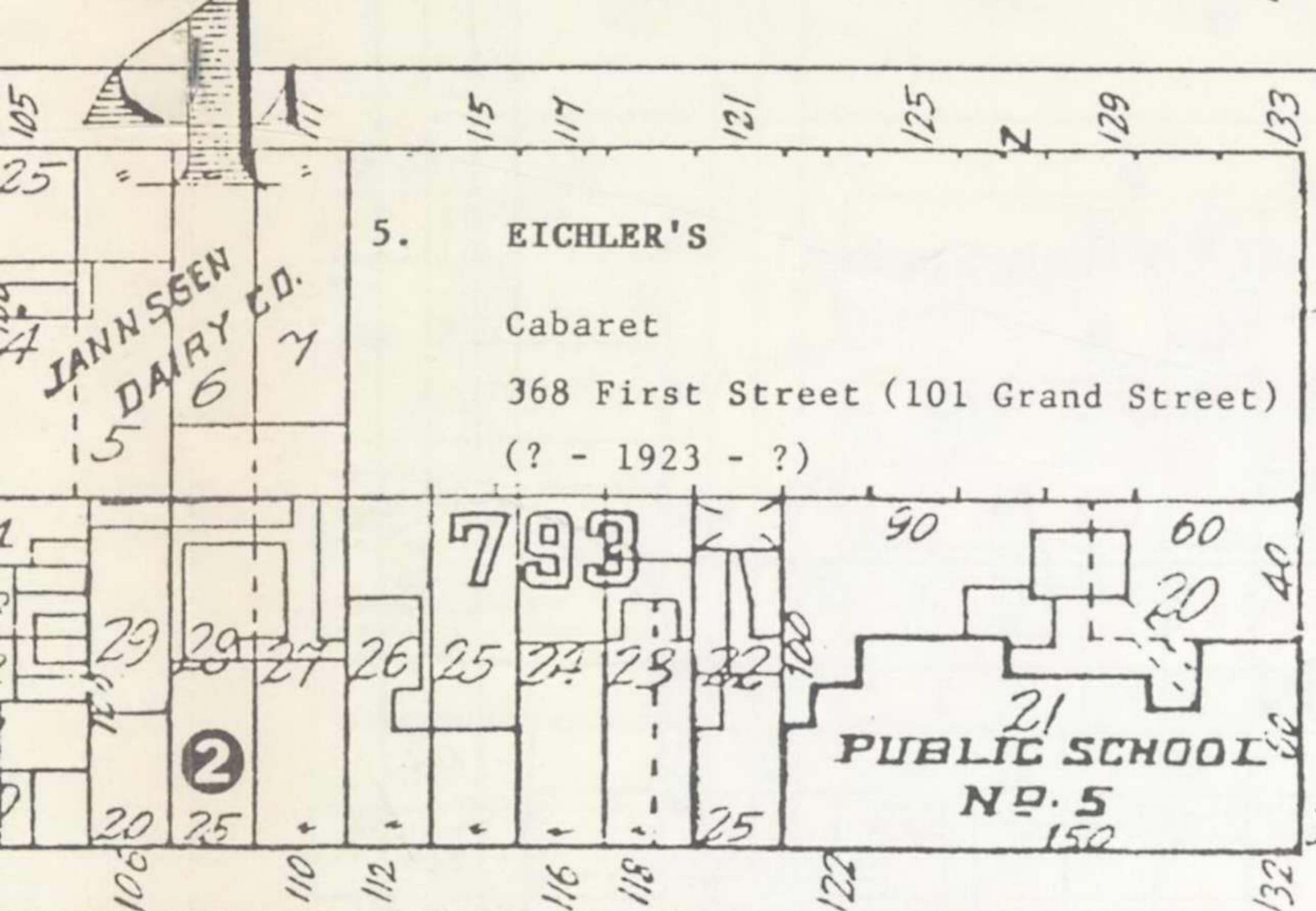
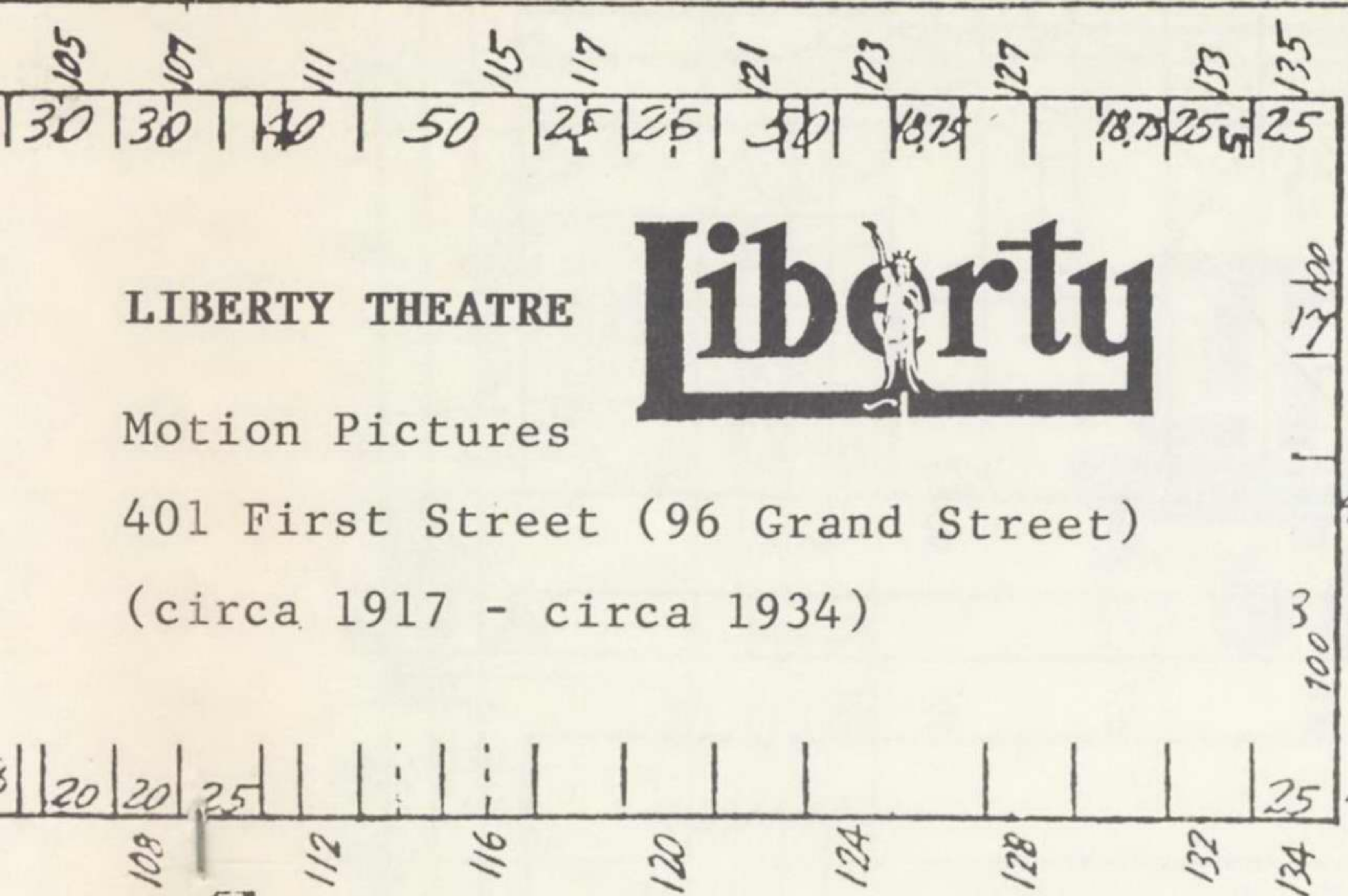
LIBERTY THEATRE

Liberty

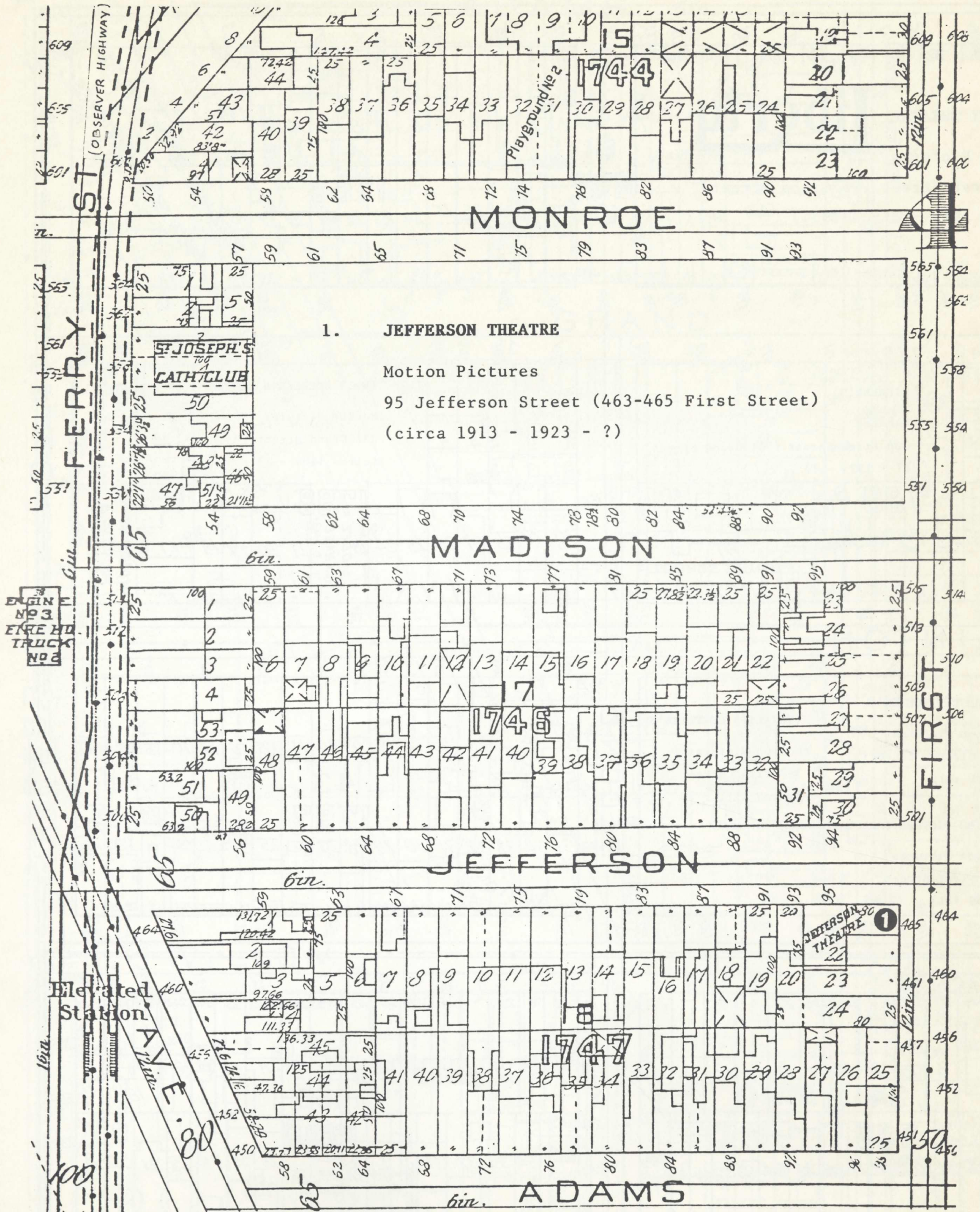
Motion Pictures

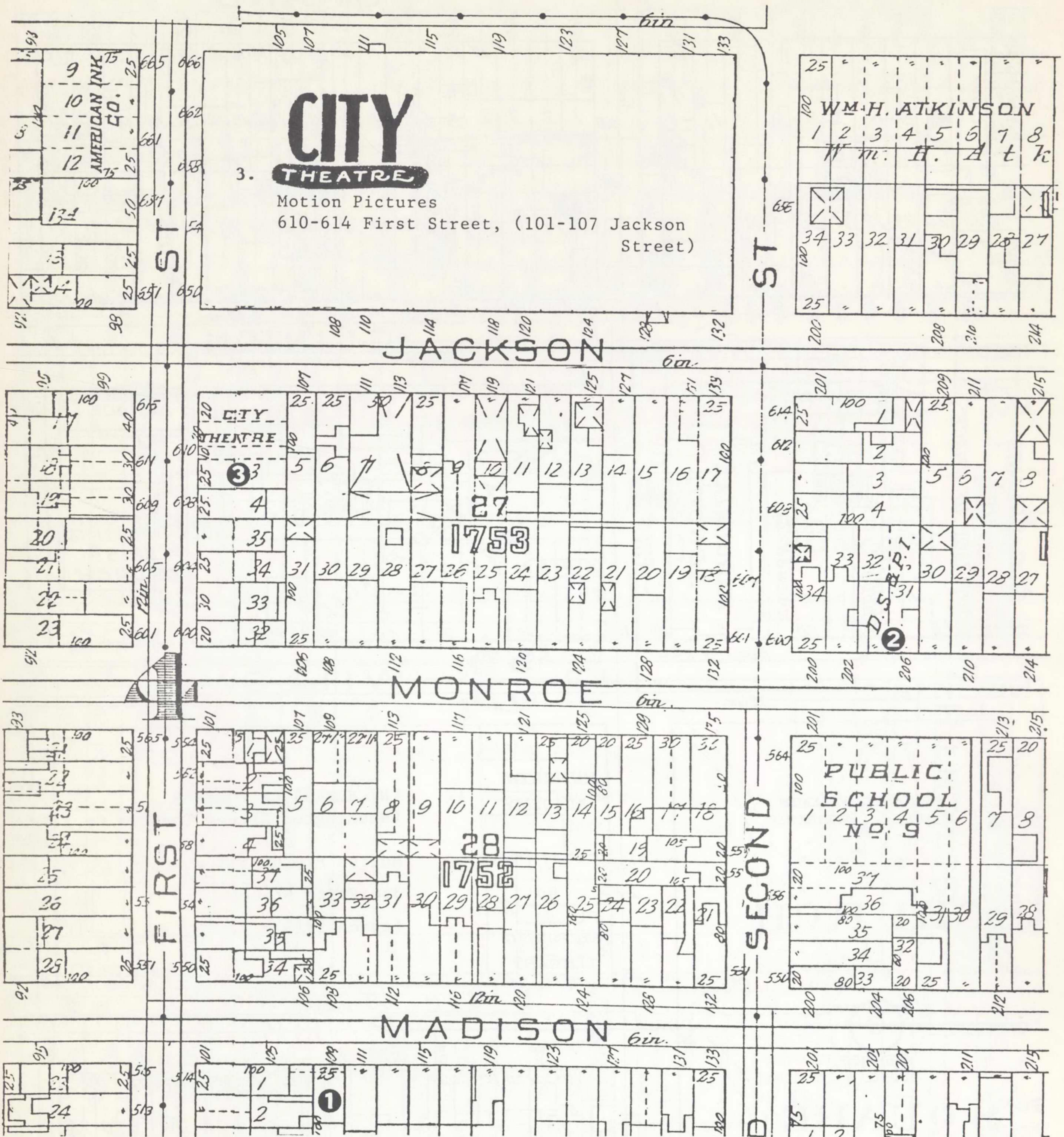
401 First Street (96 Grand Street)

(circa 1917 - circa 1934)



ST



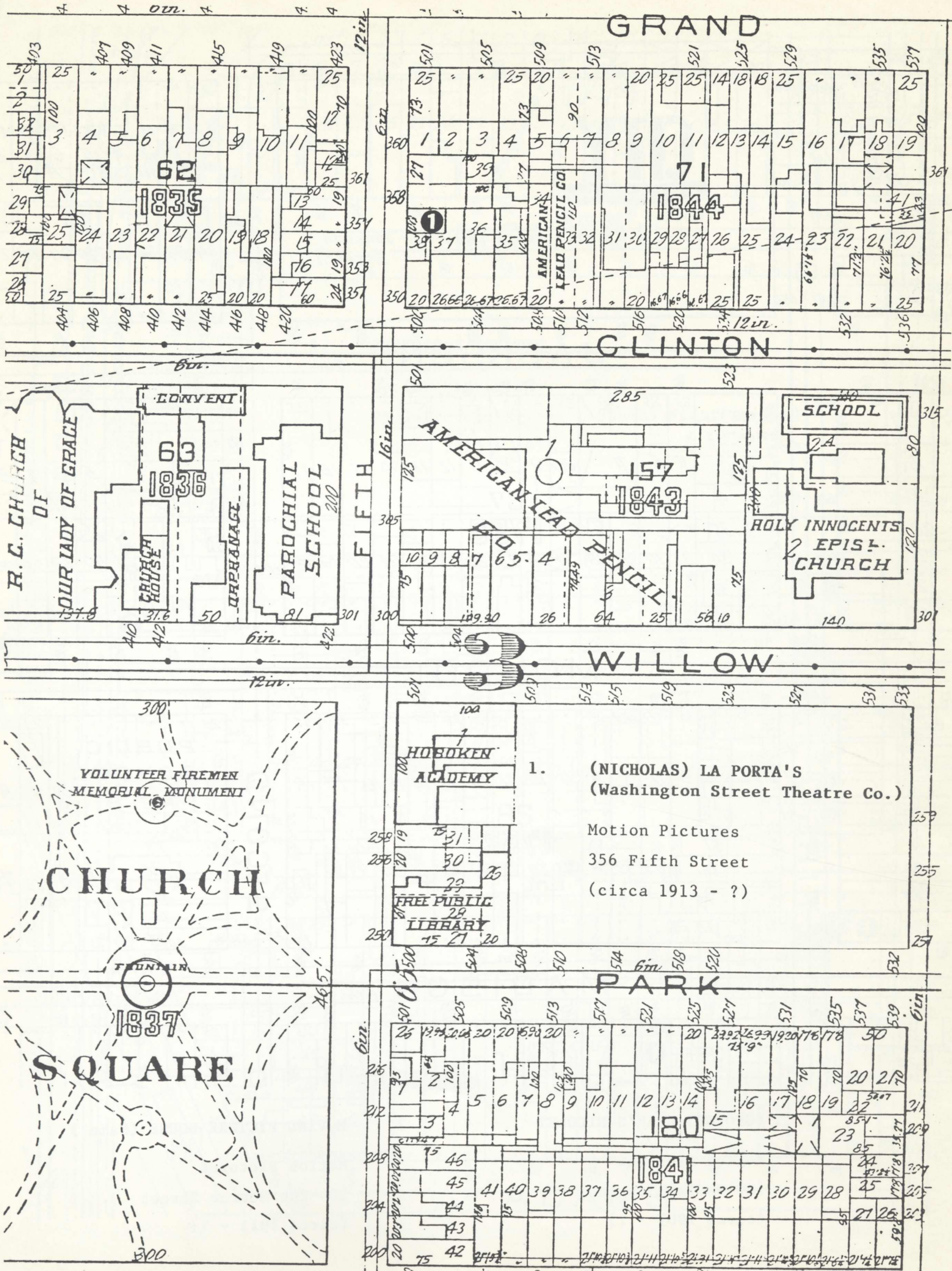


1. (GEORGE) GRAF'S NICOLET

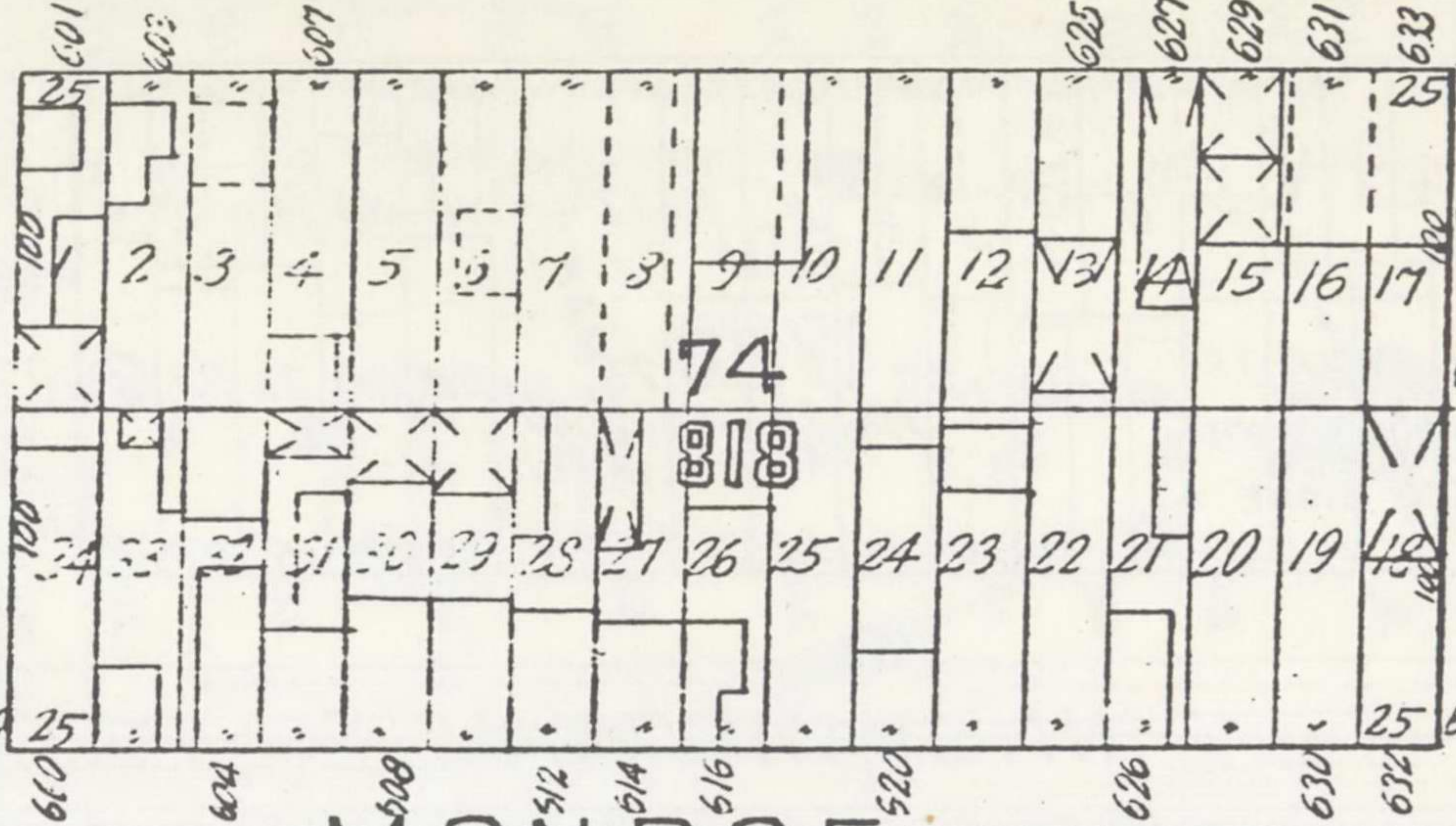
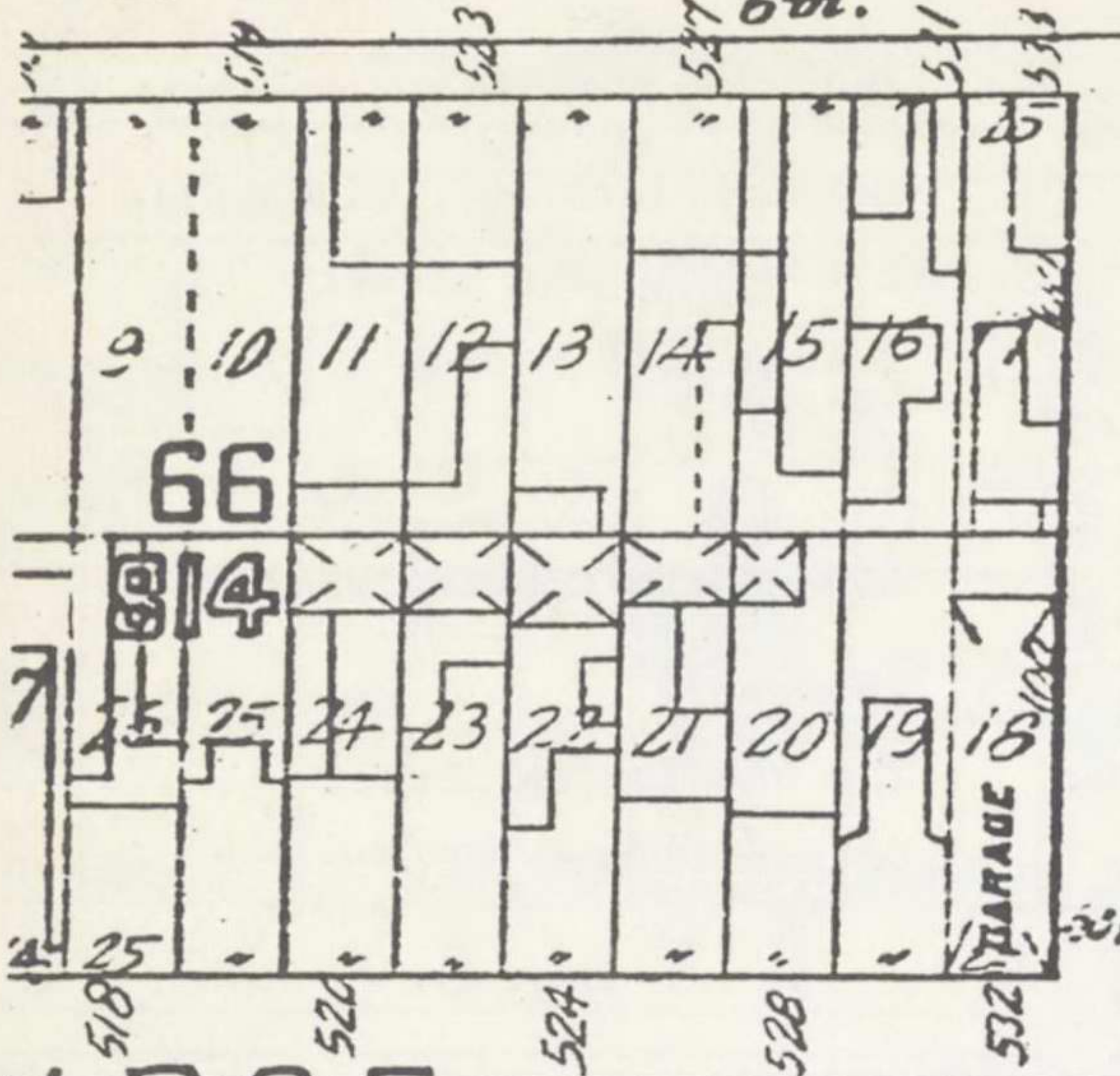
Motion Pictures
109 Madison Street
(circa 1909 - ?)

2. MOVING PICTURE HOUSE (Name?)

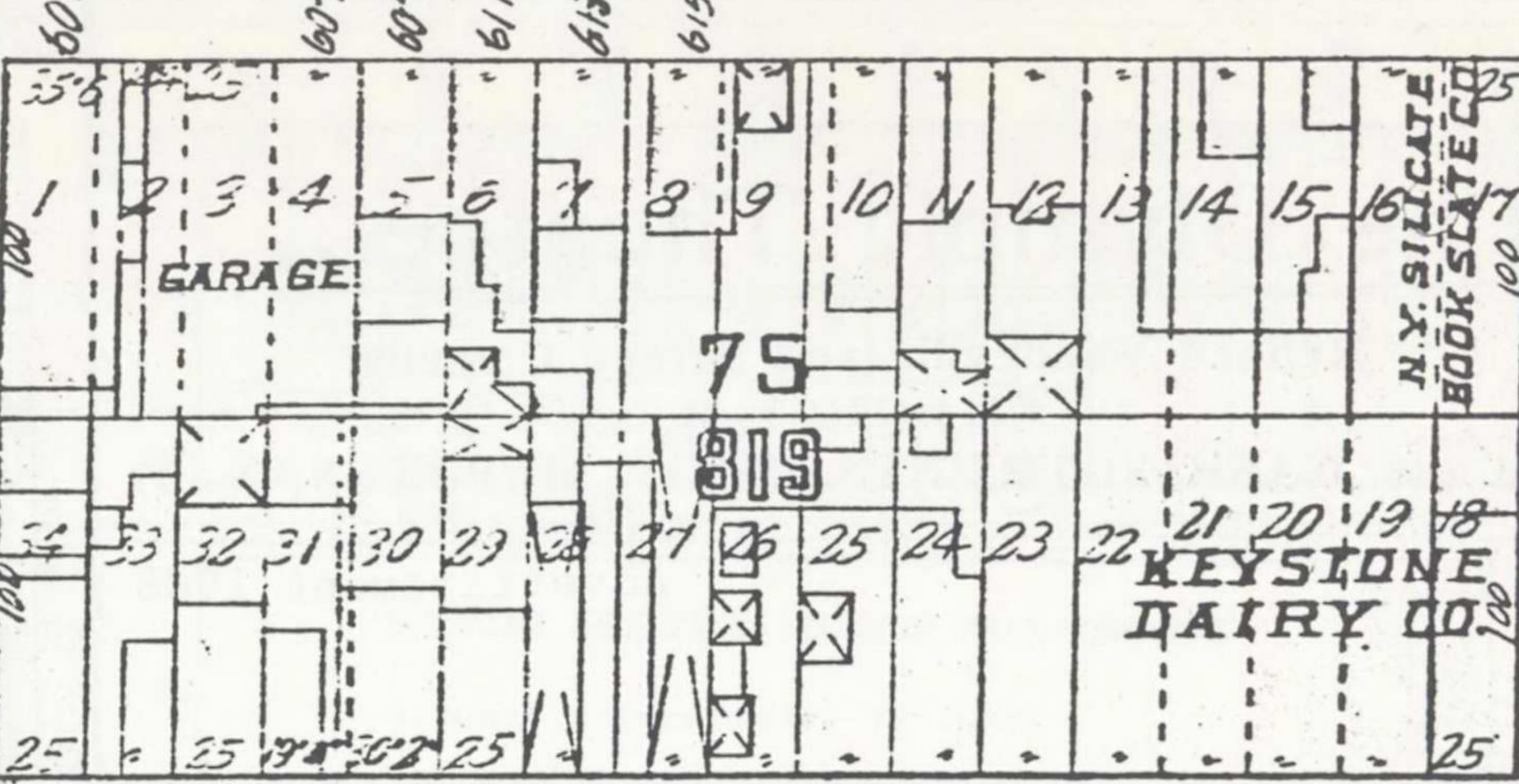
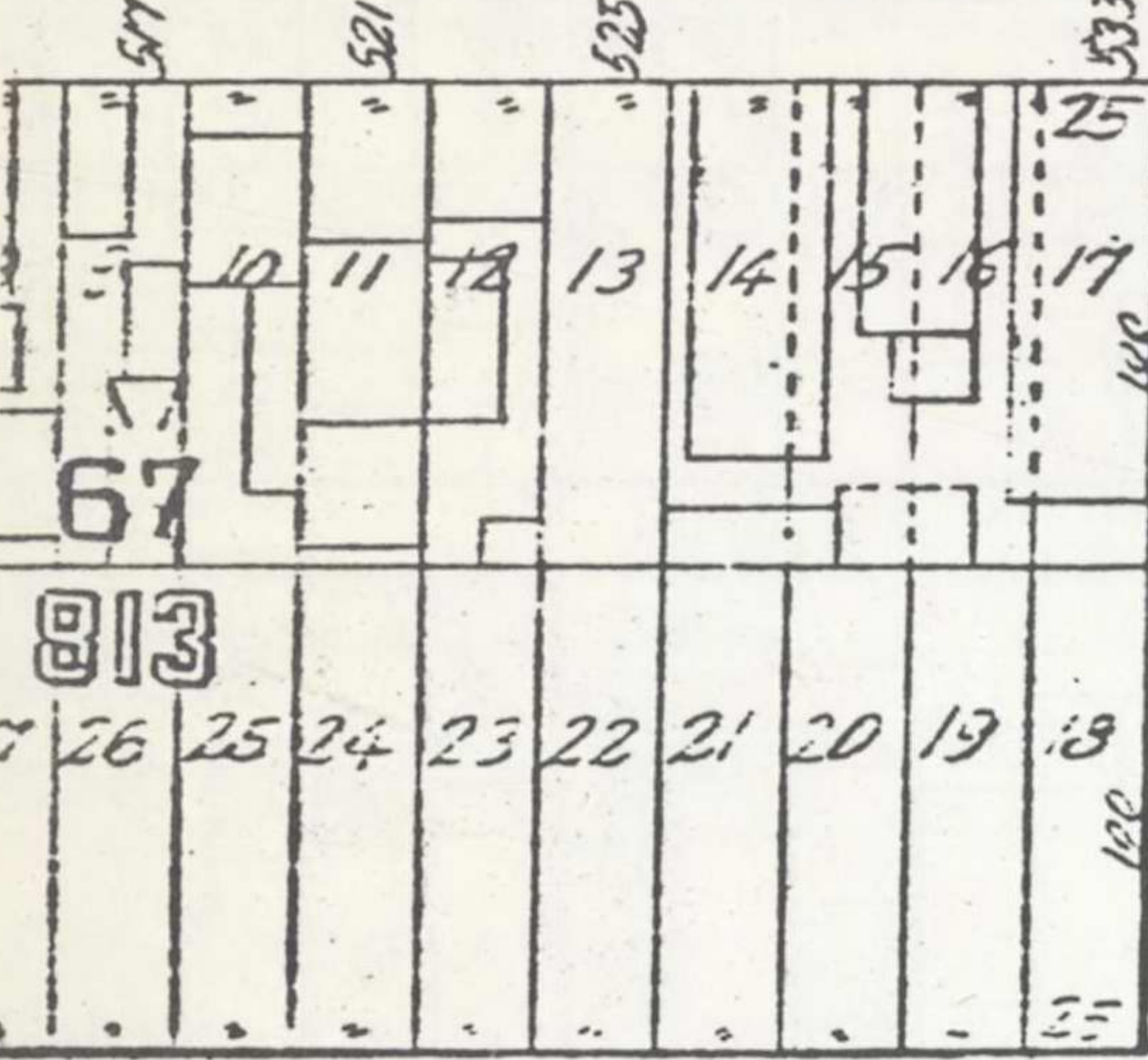
Motion Pictures
204-206 Monroe Street
(circa 1911 - ?)



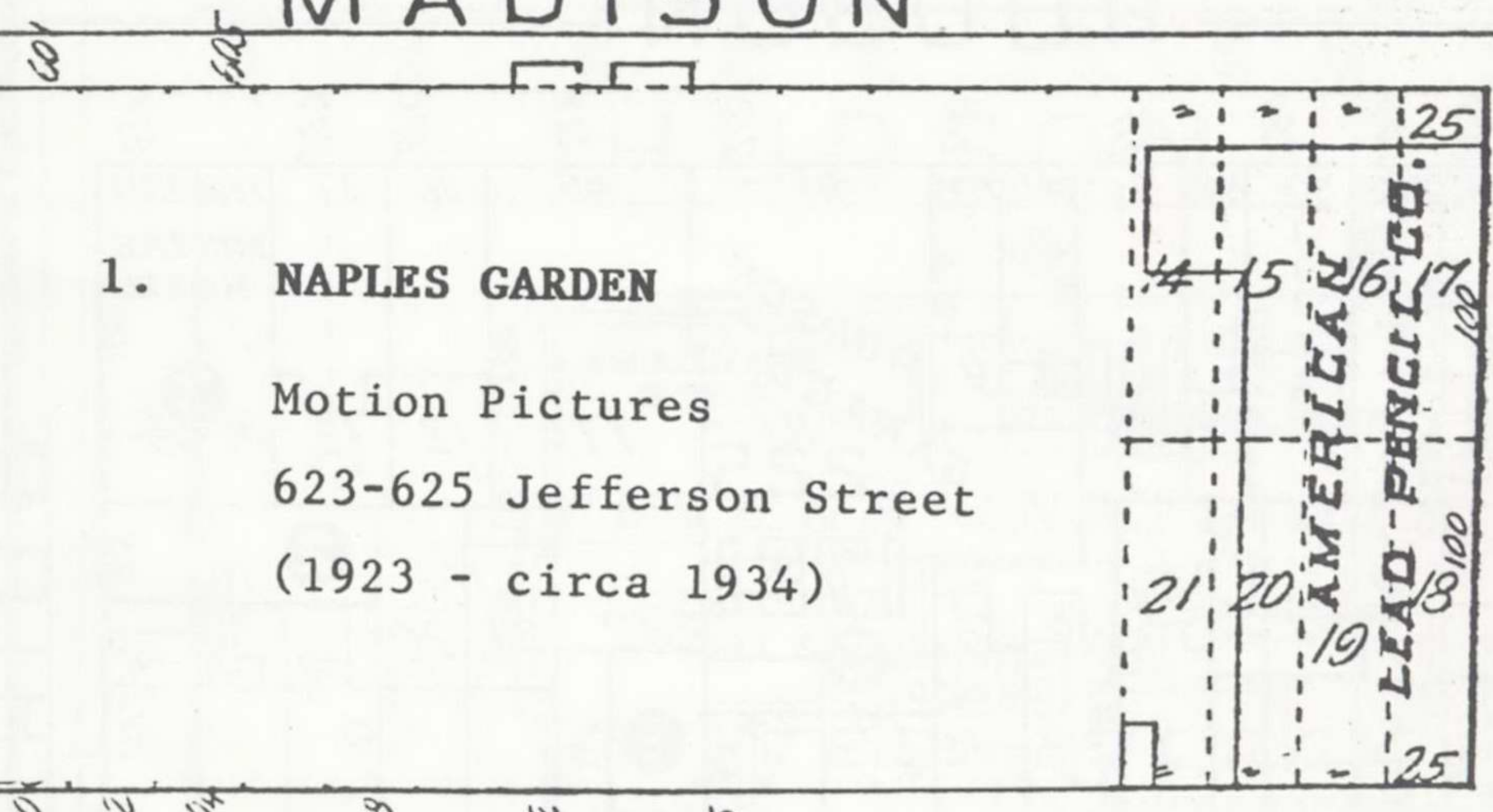
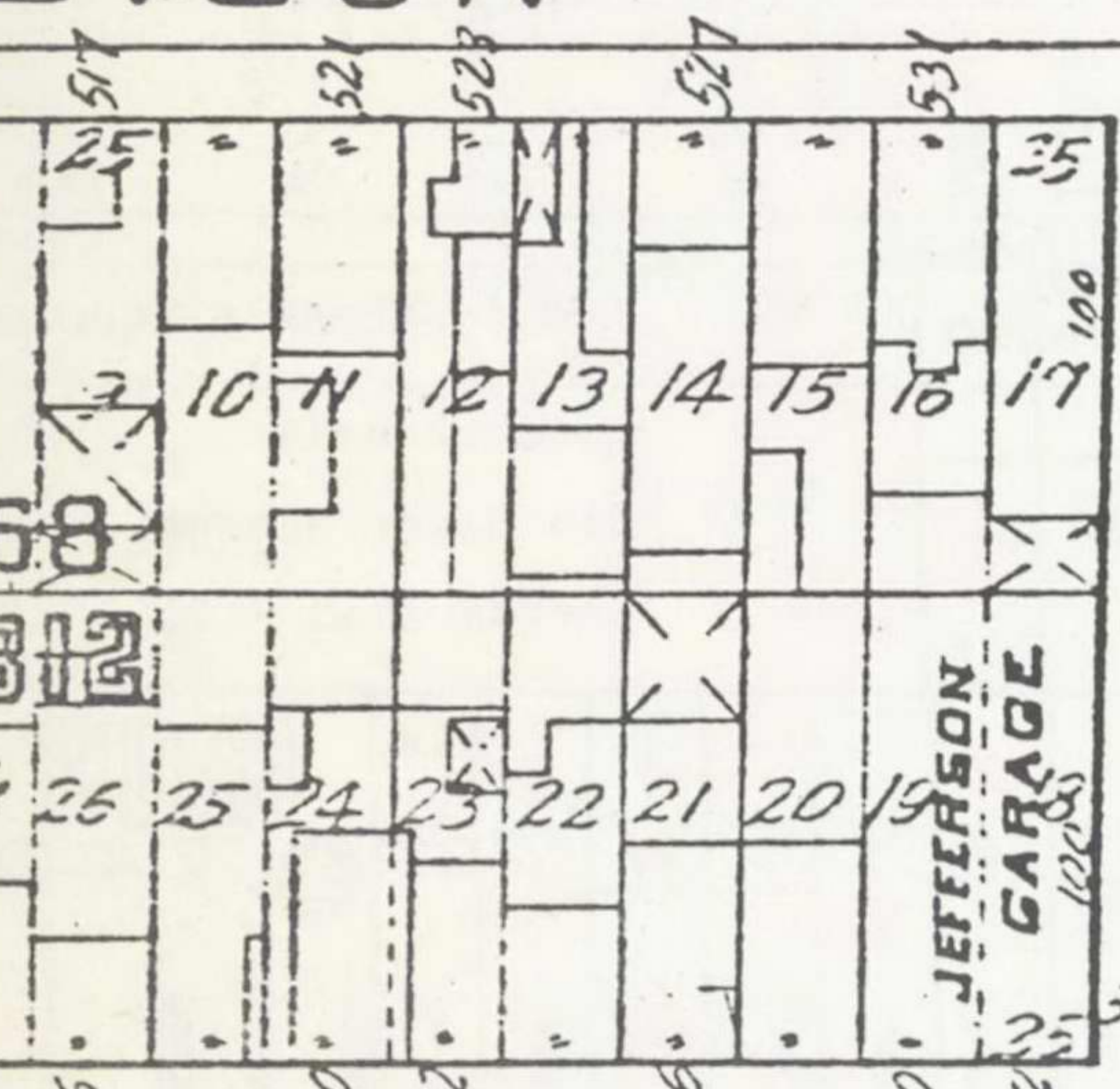
SON



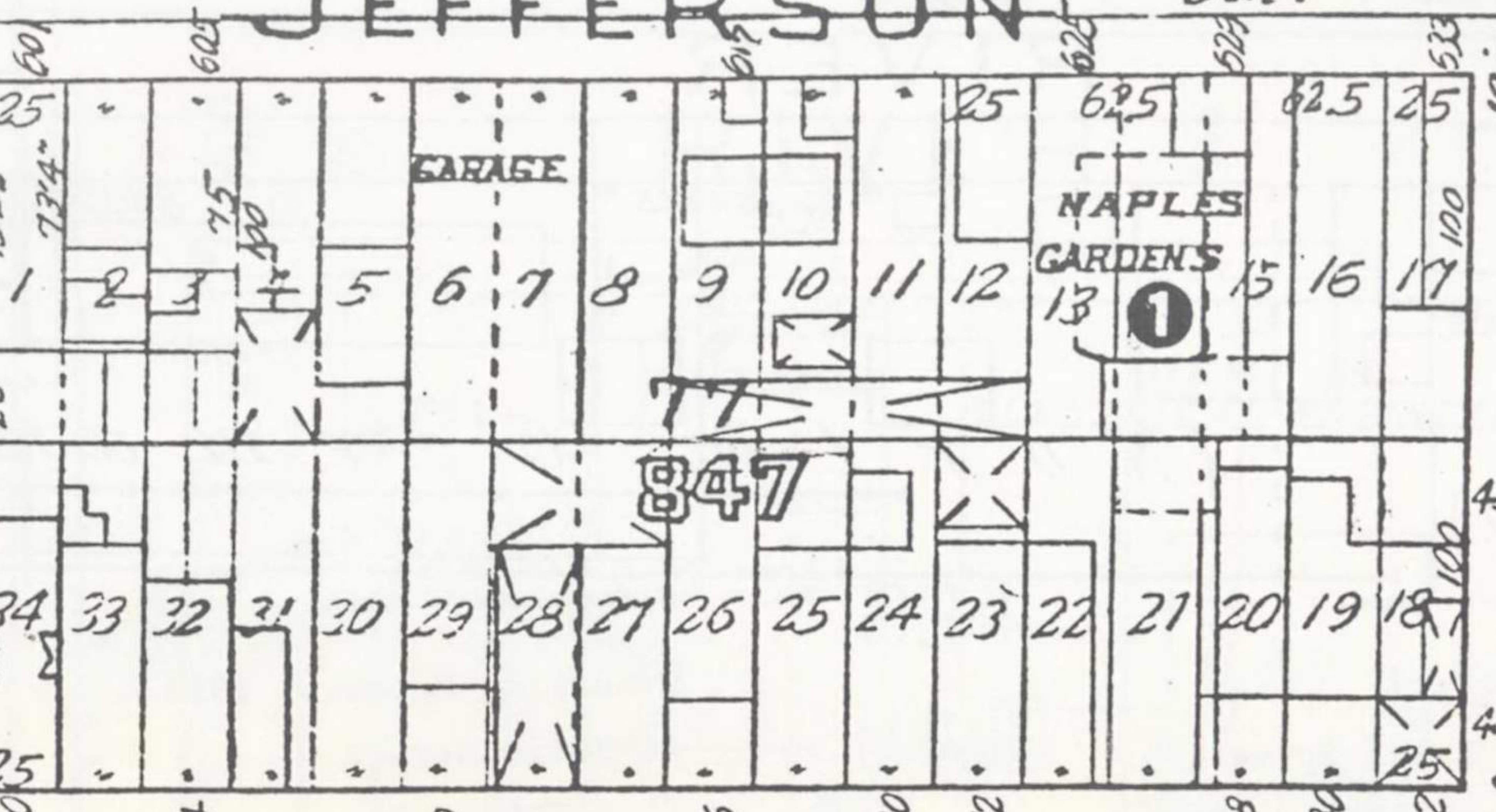
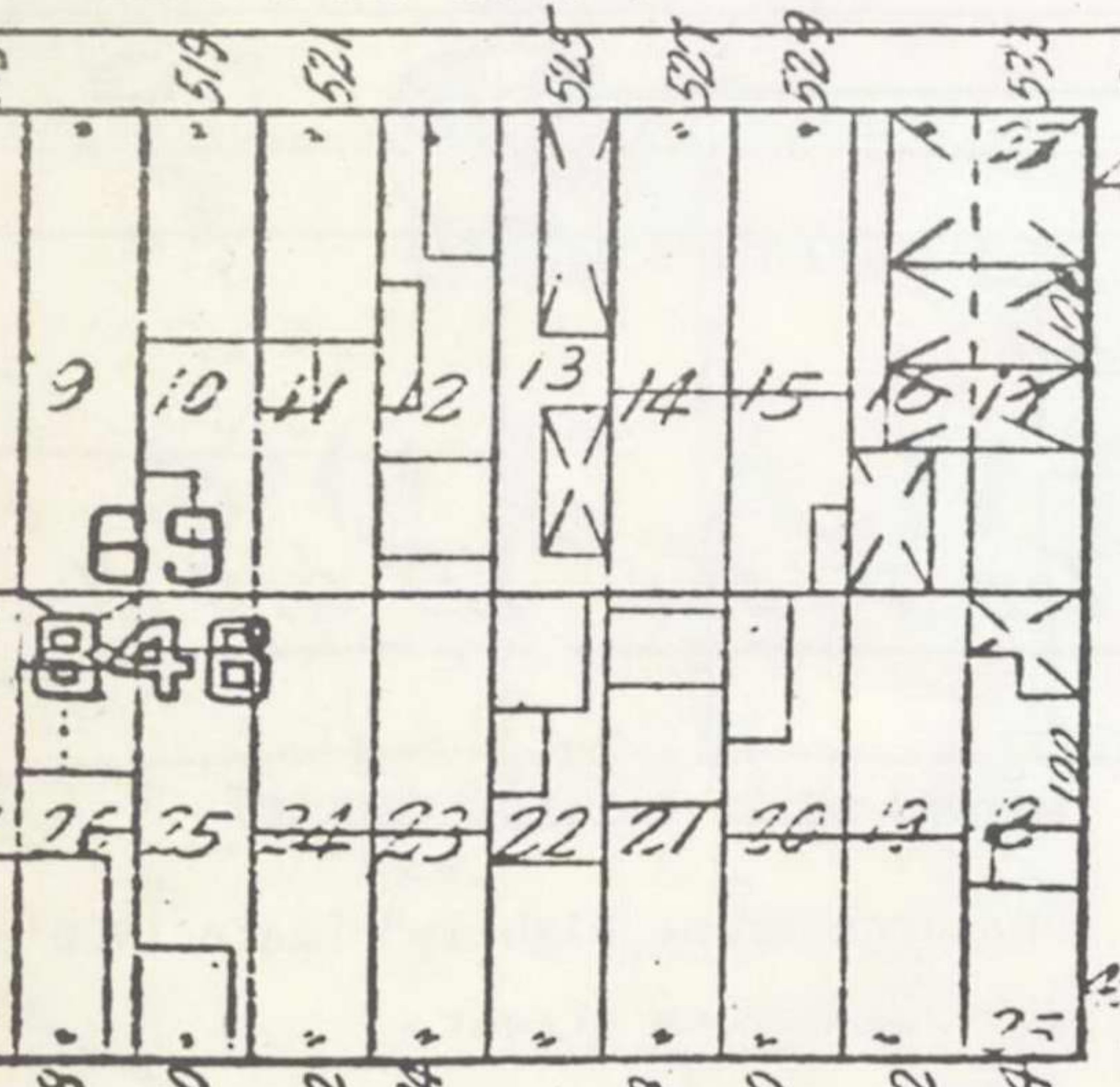
ROE



ISON

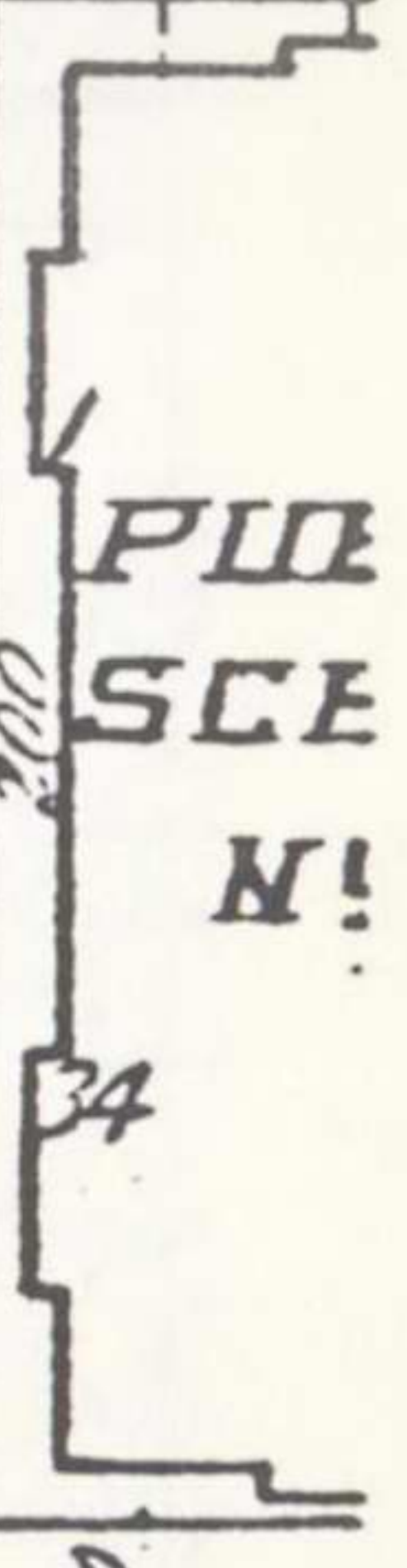
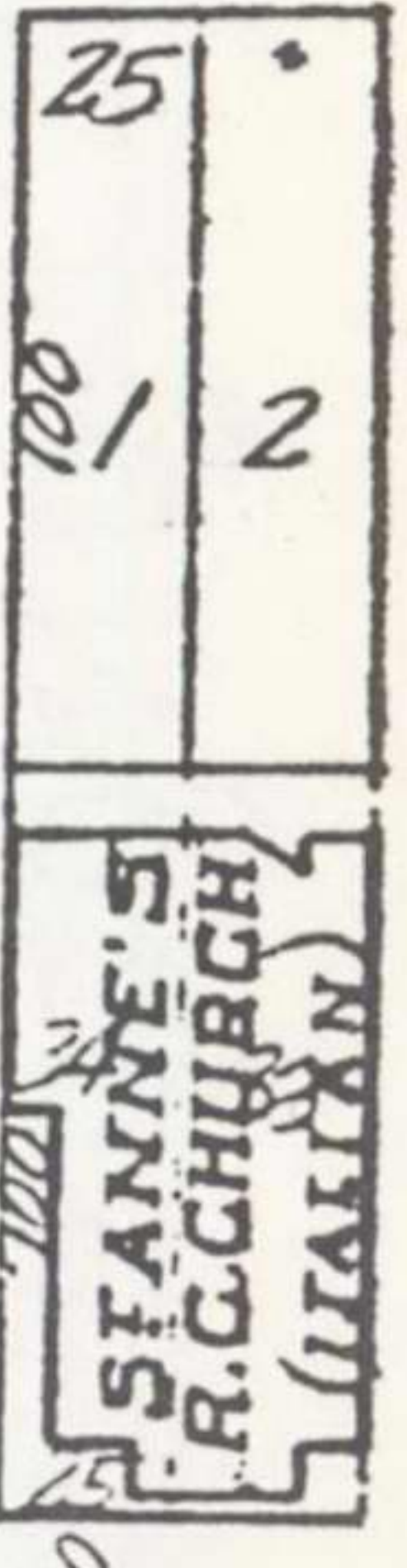


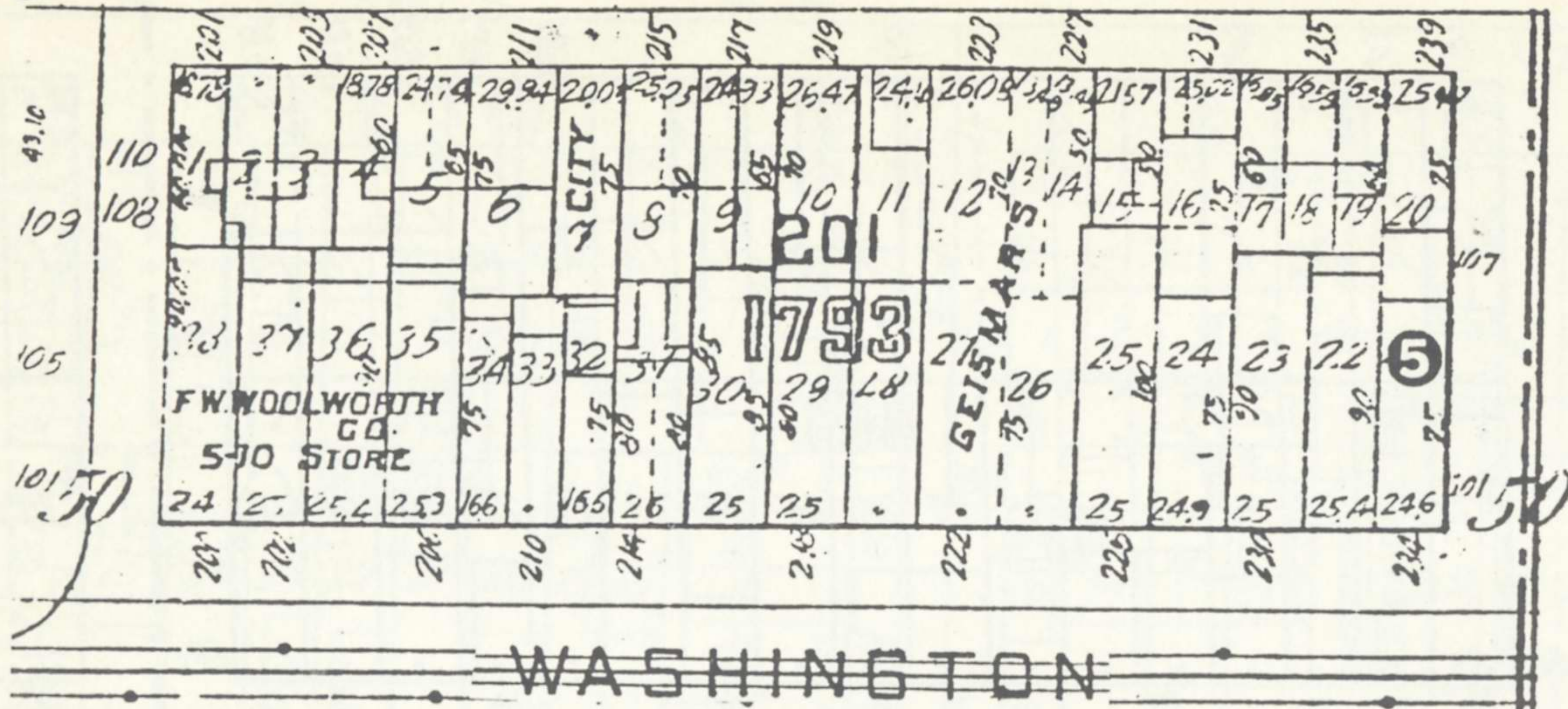
PERSON



DAMS

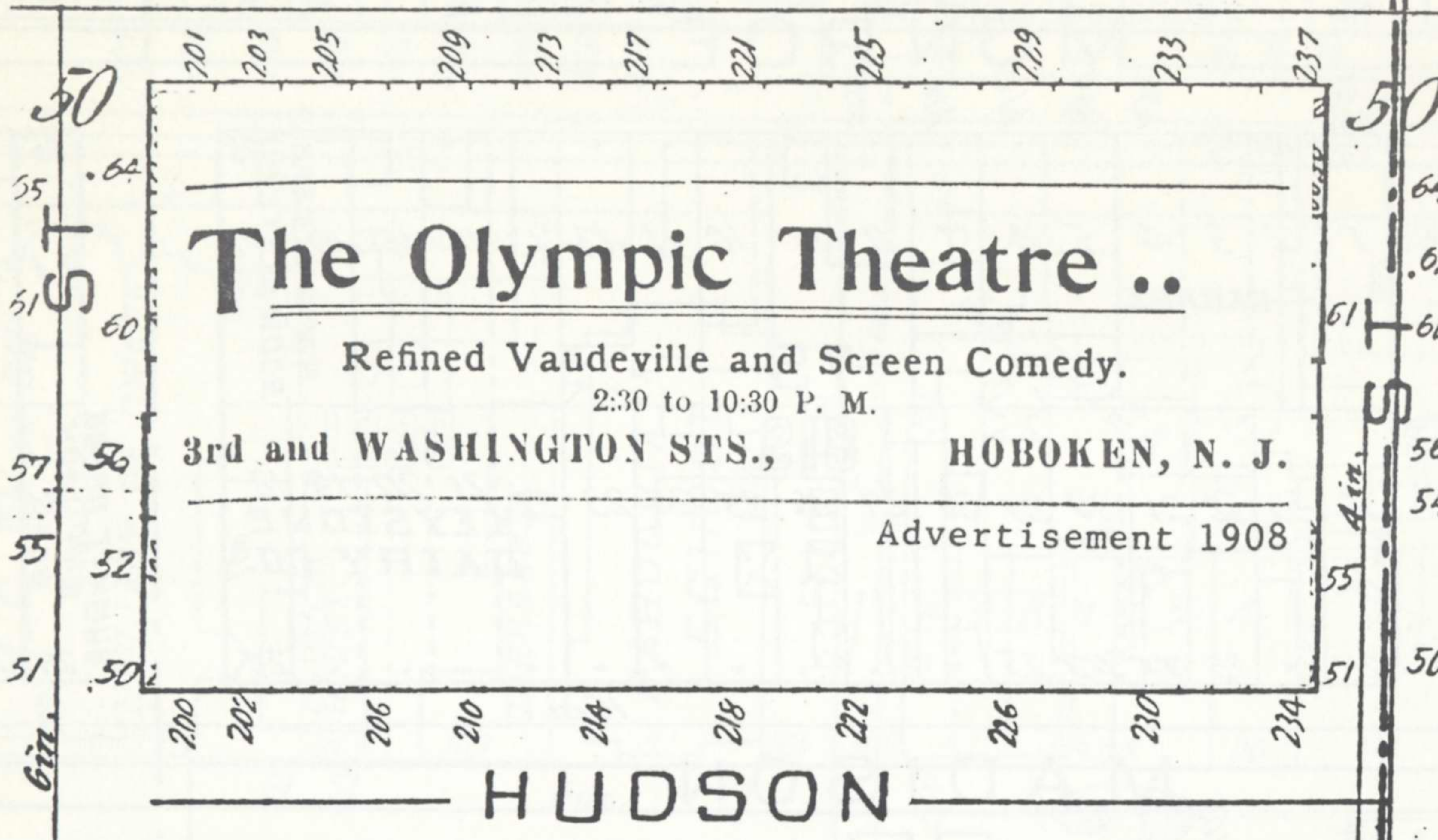
SEVENTH





5. OLYMPIC THEATRE
Motion Pictures , Vaudeville
234 Washington Street
(circa 1908 - 1909 - ?)

WASHINGTON GARDEN THEATRE
Cabaret?
234 Washington Street
(circa 1896 - 1897)

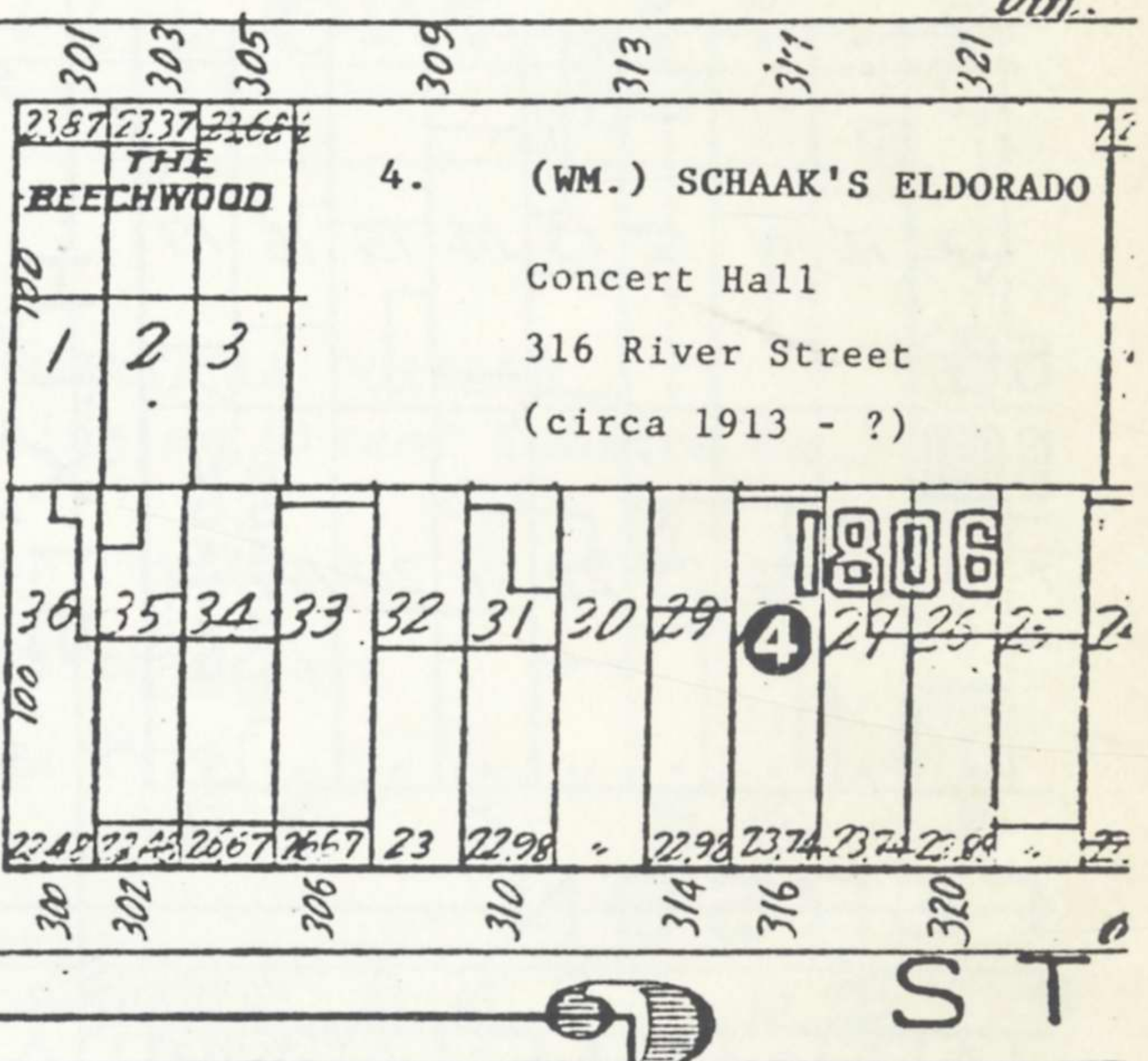
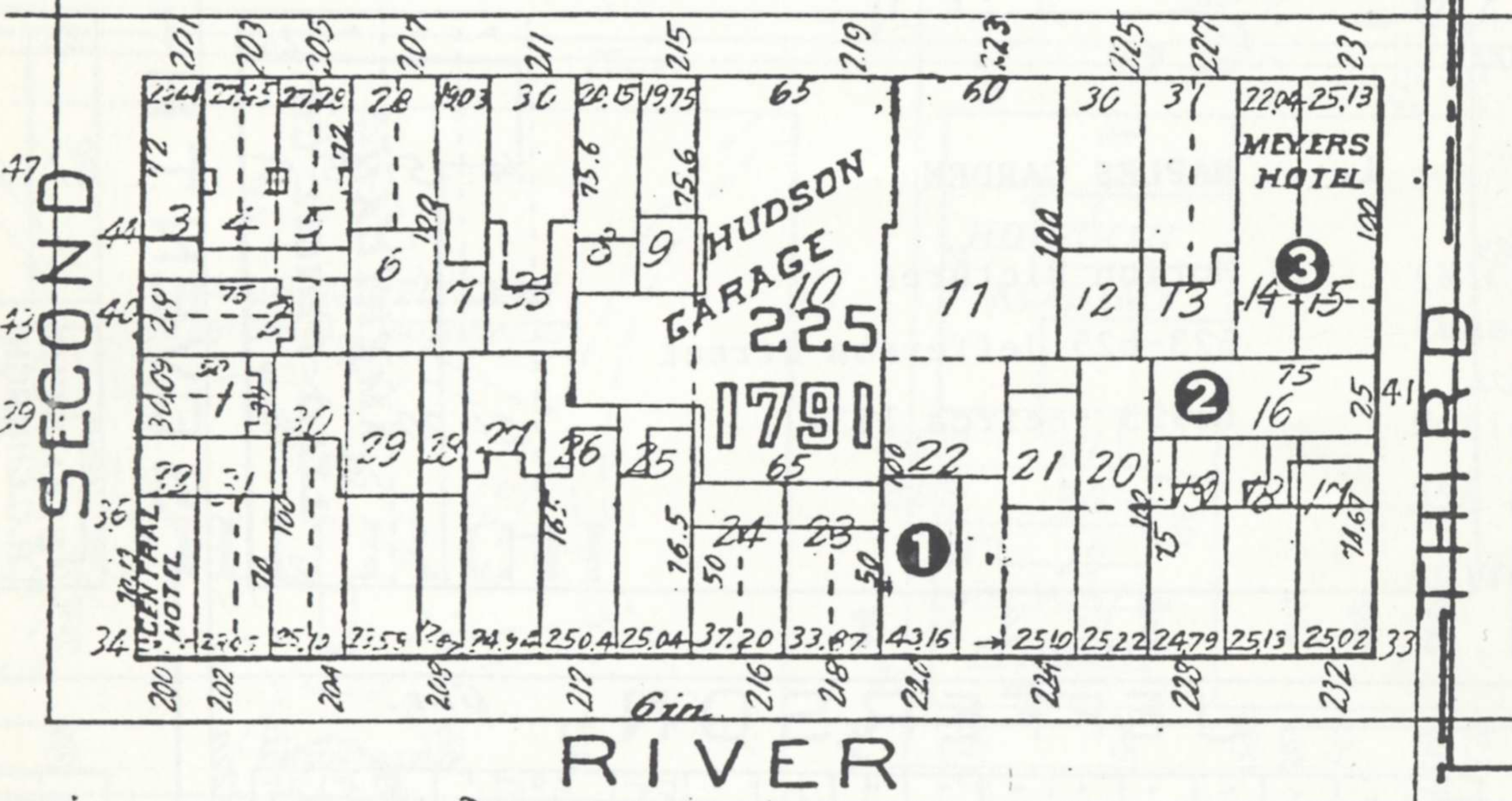
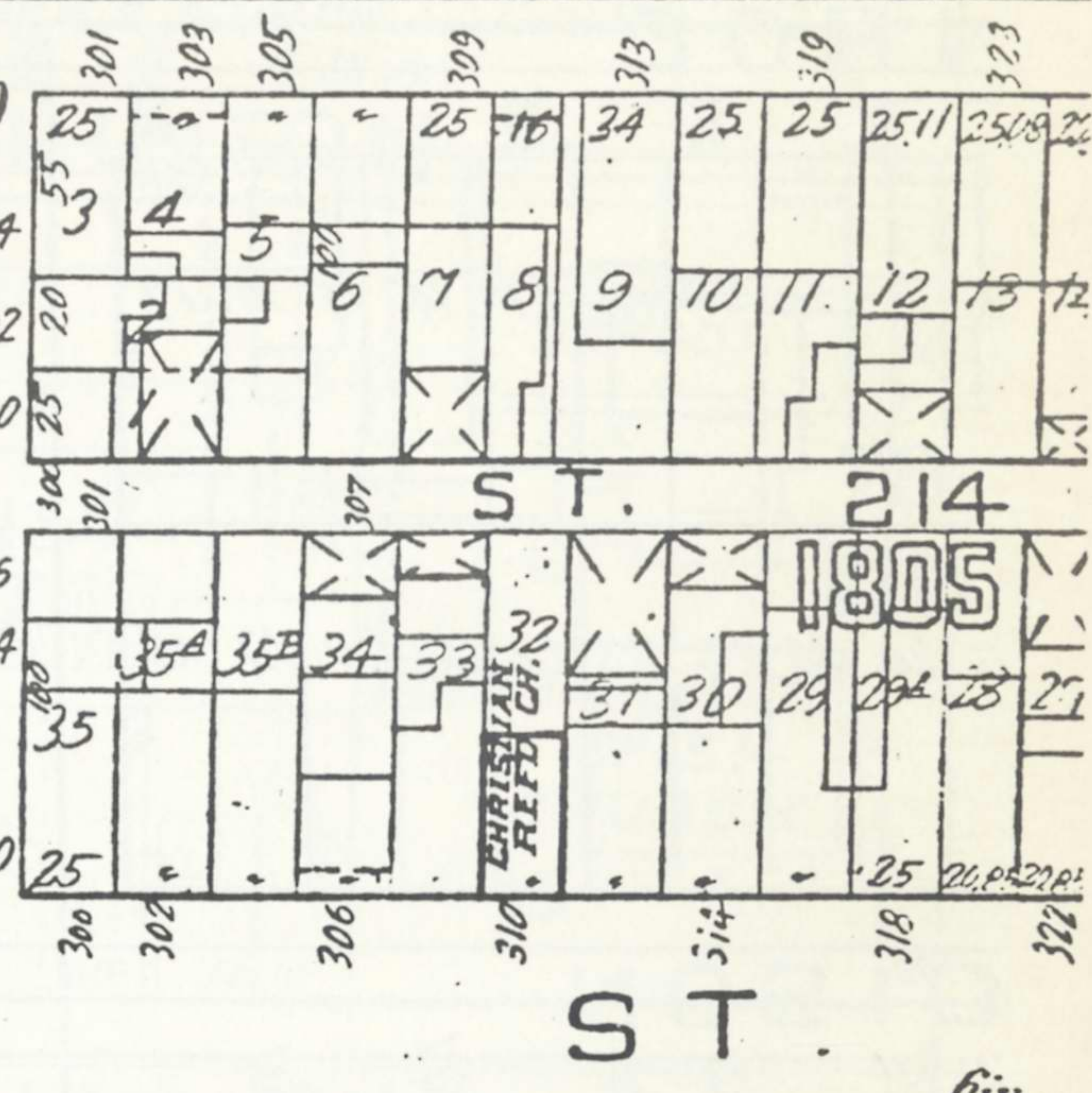


The Olympic Theatre ..

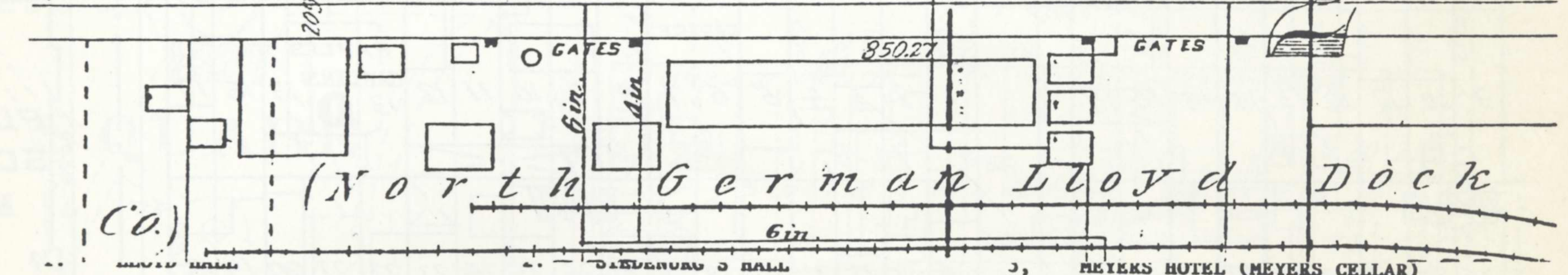
Refined Vaudeville and Screen Comedy.
2:30 to 10:30 P. M.

3rd and WASHINGTON STS., HOBOKEN, N. J.

Advertisement 1908



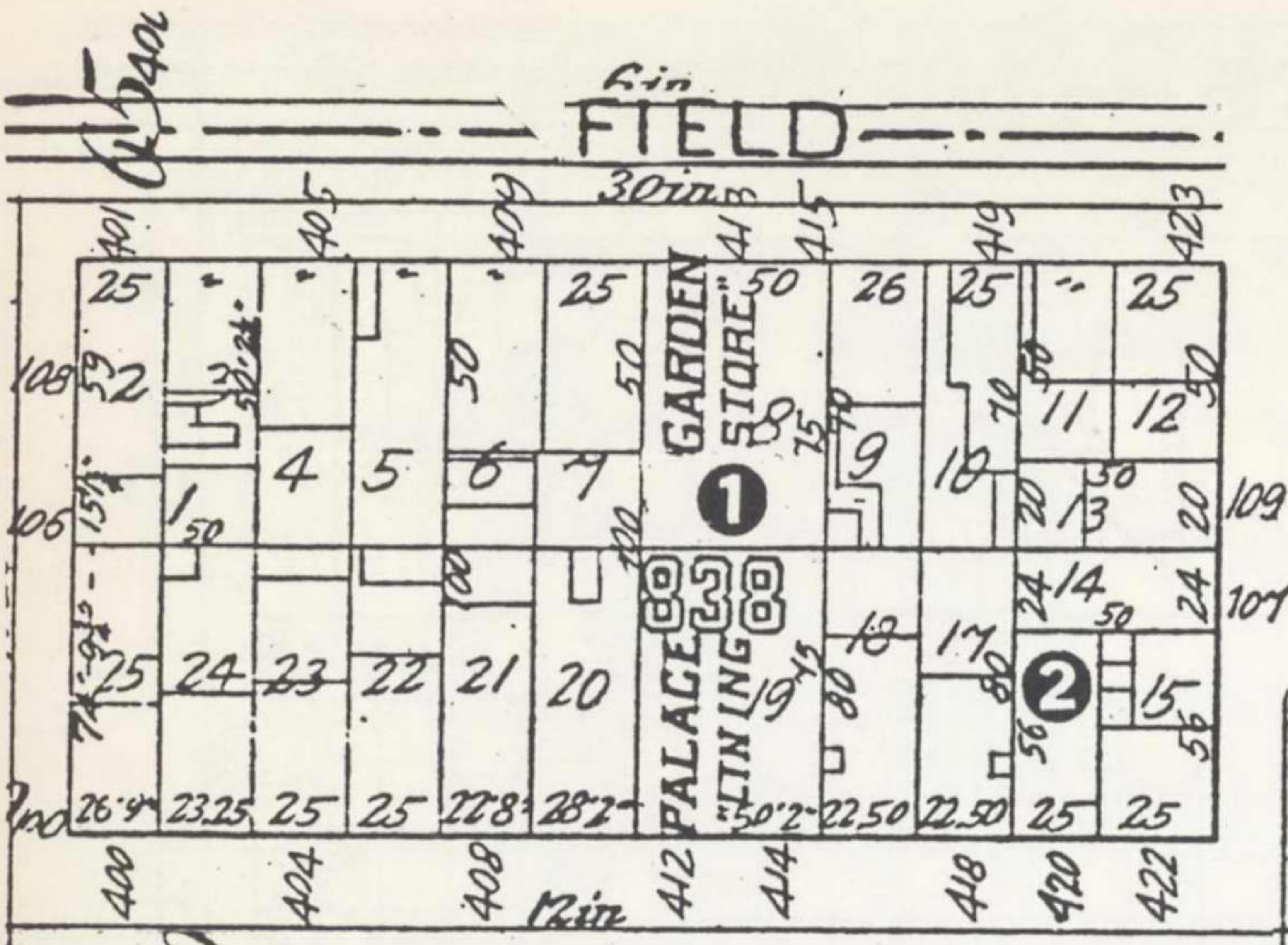
4. (WM.) SCHAAK'S ELDORADO
Concert Hall
316 River Street
(circa 1913 - ?)



Cabaret?
220 River Street
(circa 1899 - 1910?)

Wrestling Matches, 1913
41 Third Street
(? - 1913 - ?)

"Entertainment Nightly" (Late 1920's)
229-231 Hudson Street
(1880's - 1960's)

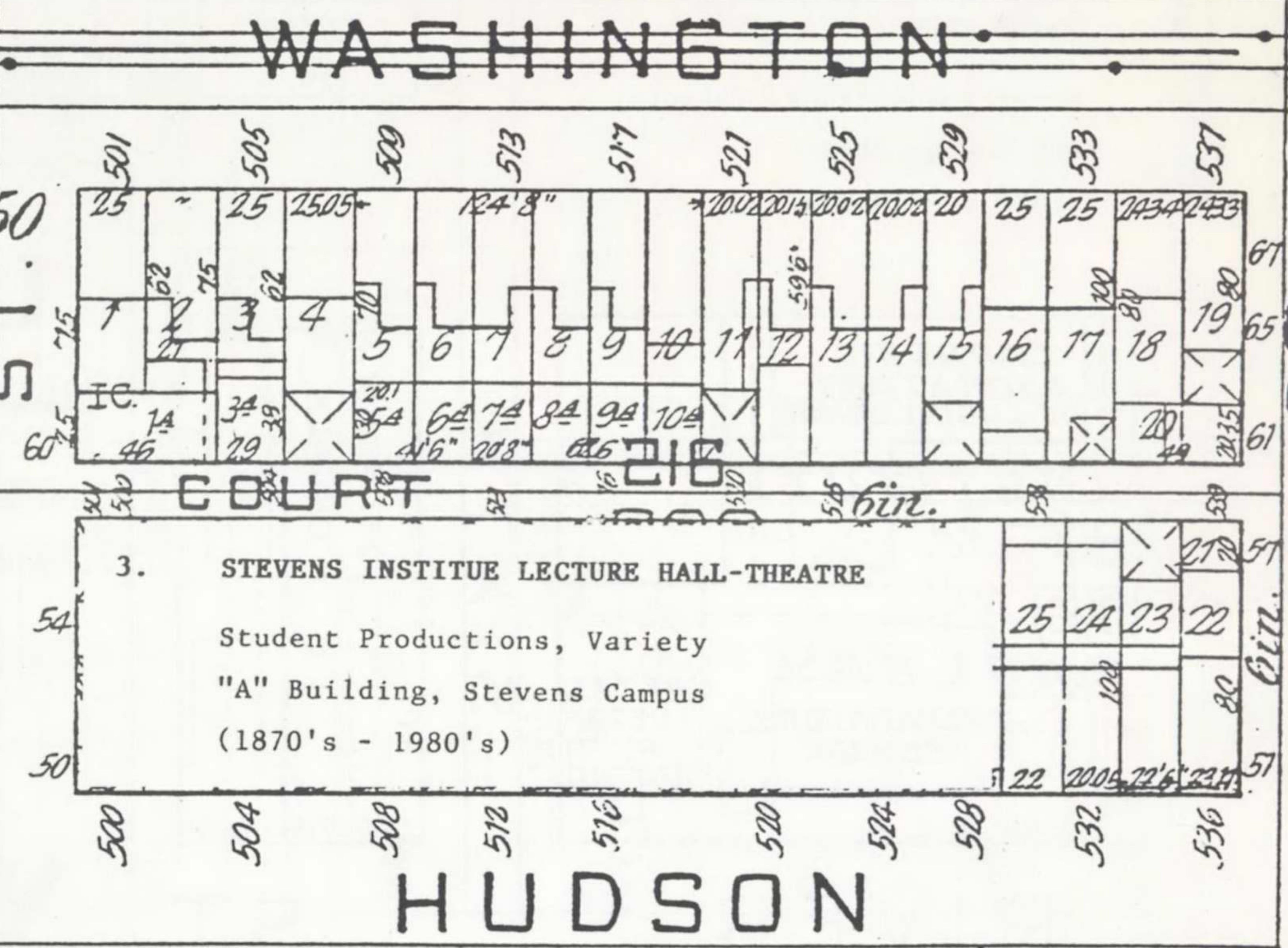
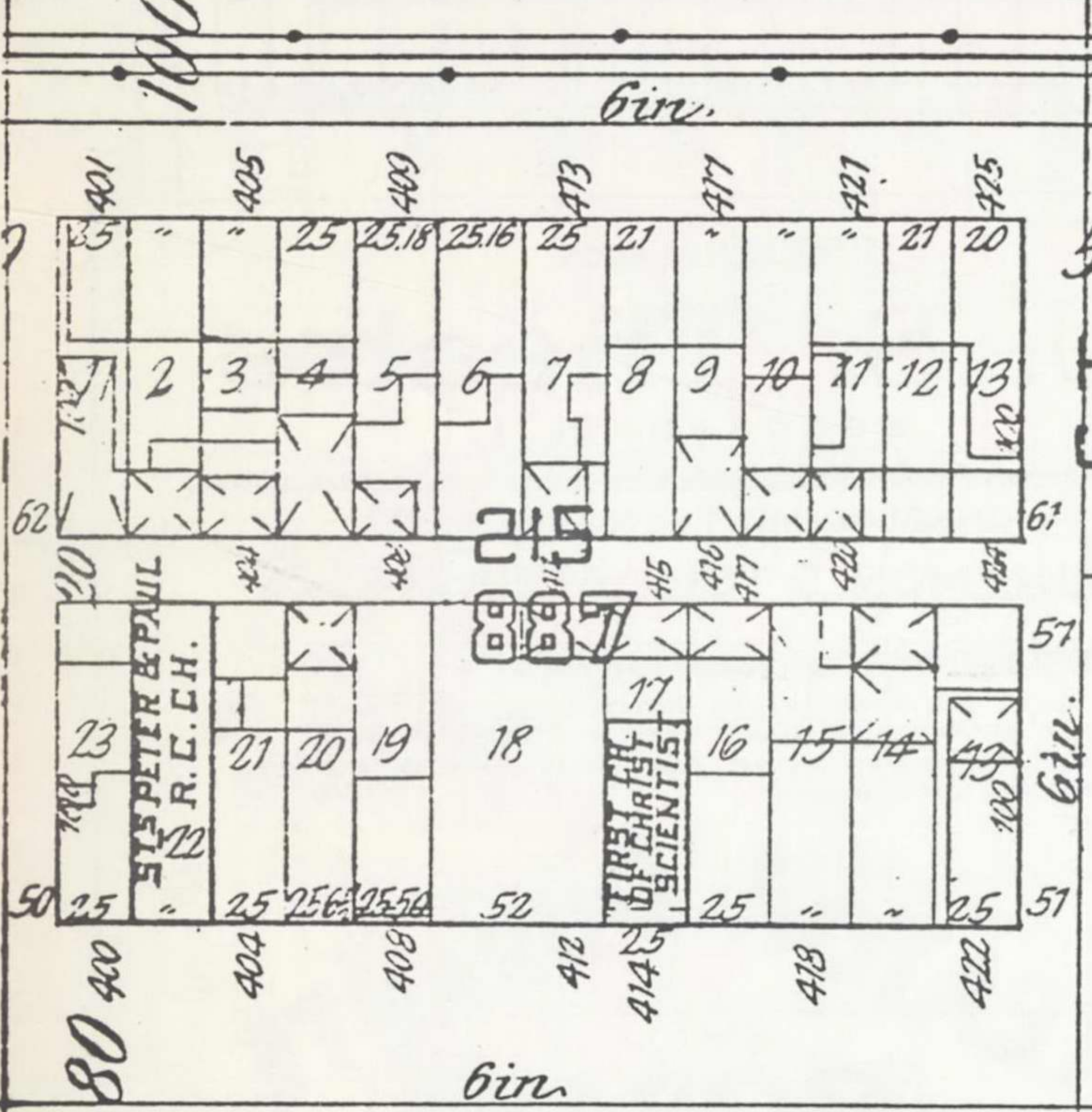
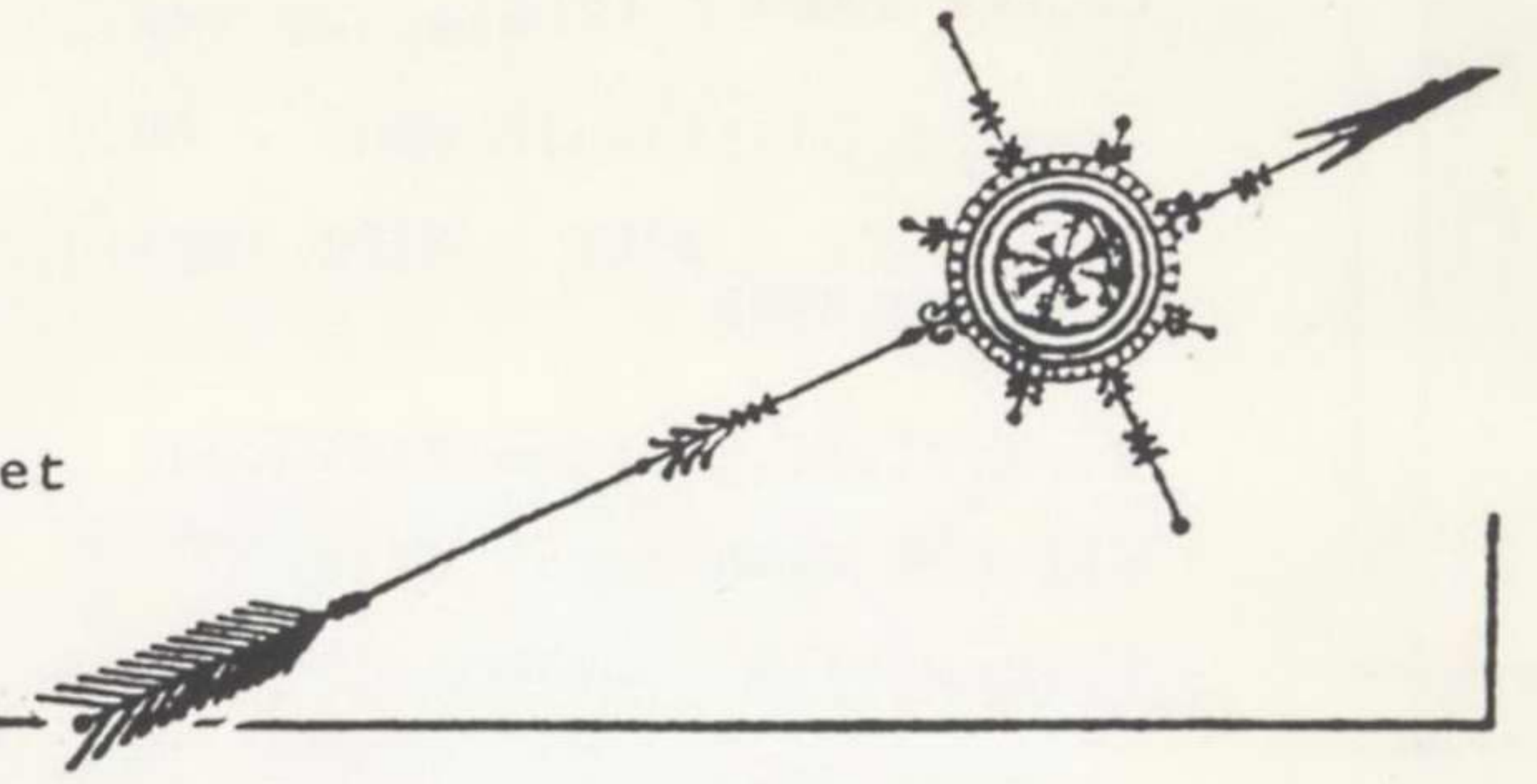


1. PALACE GARDEN

Motion Pictures and Hall
412-414 Washington Street
(circa 1914 - 1931 - ?)

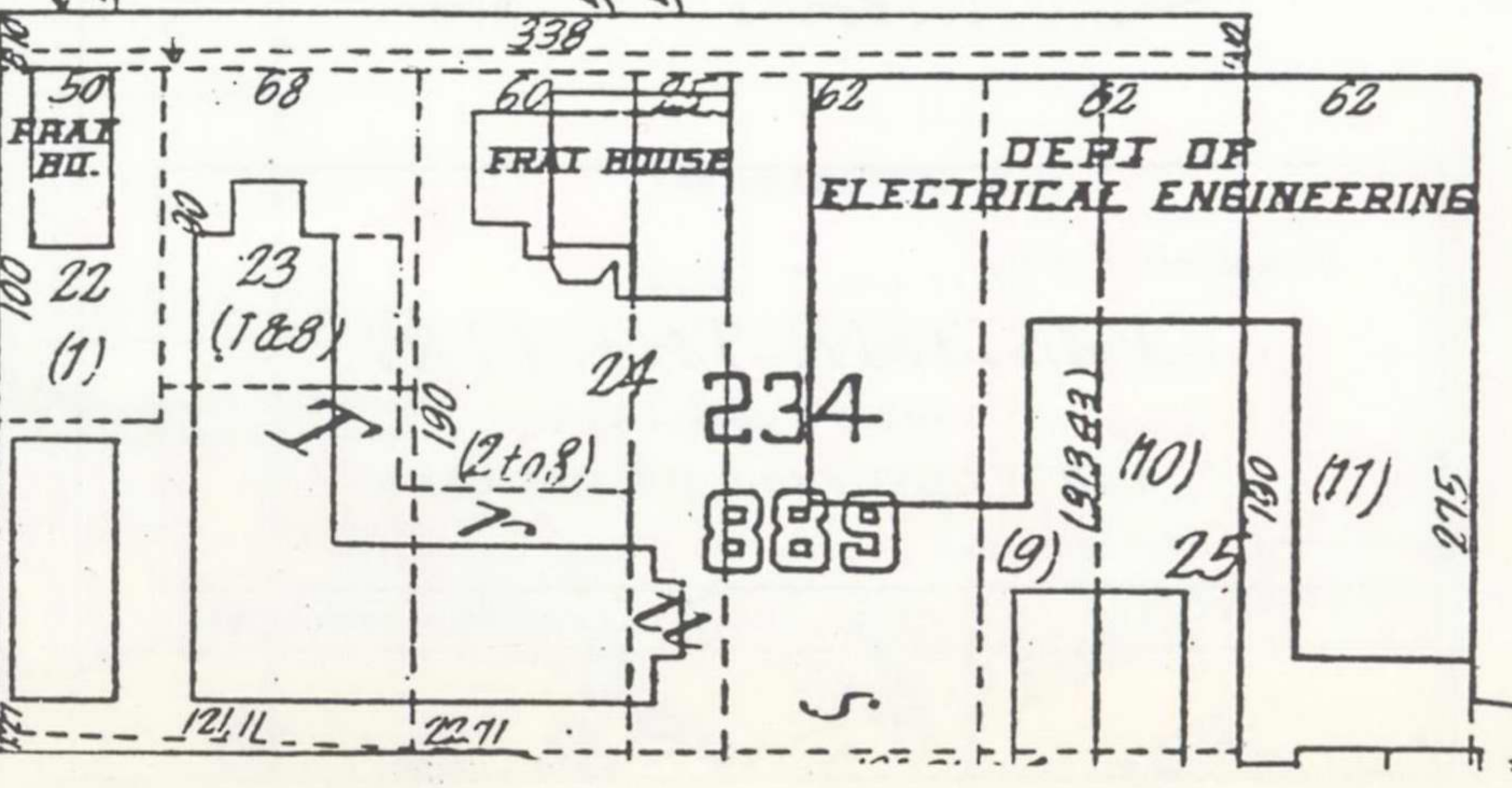
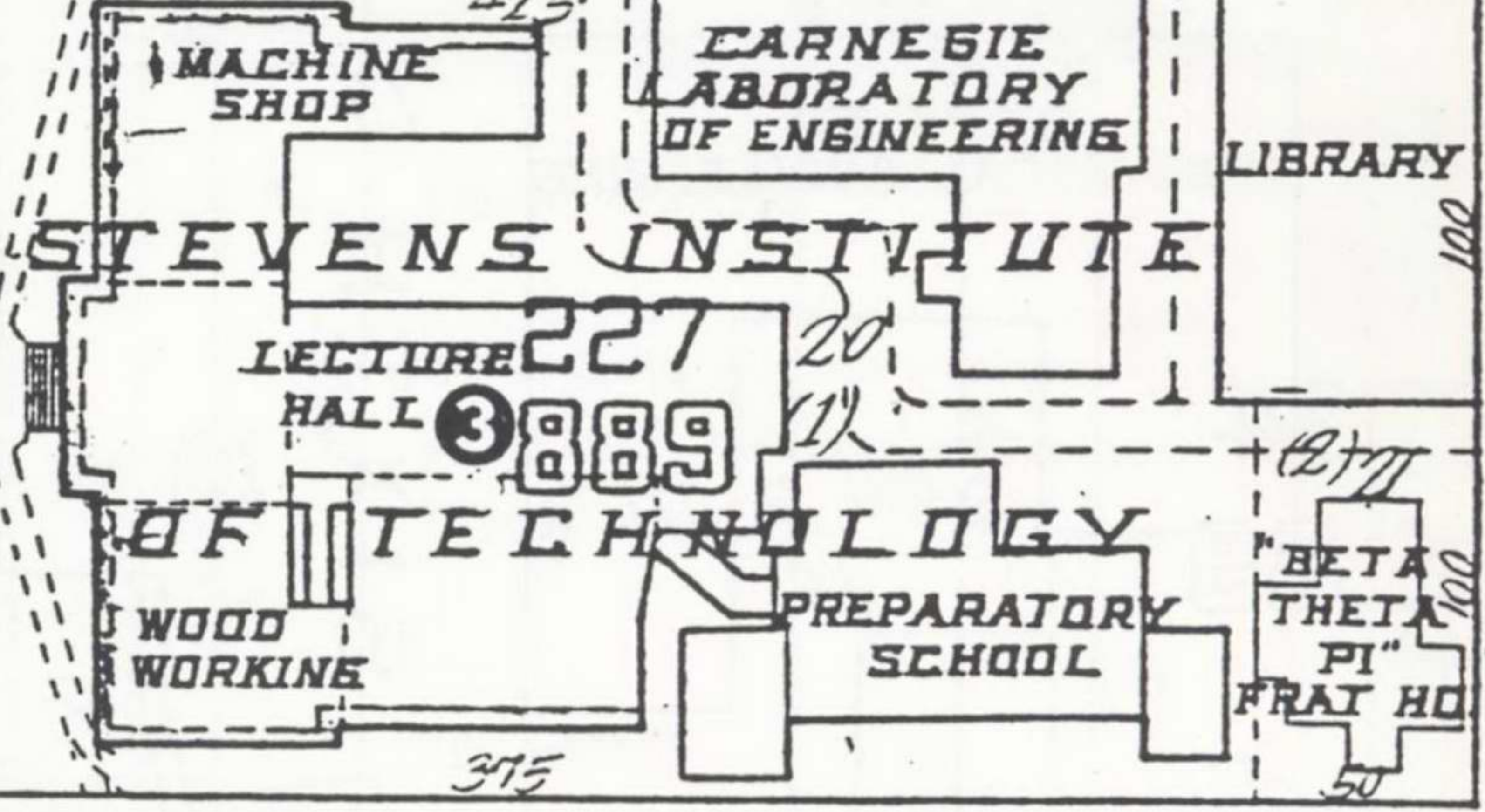
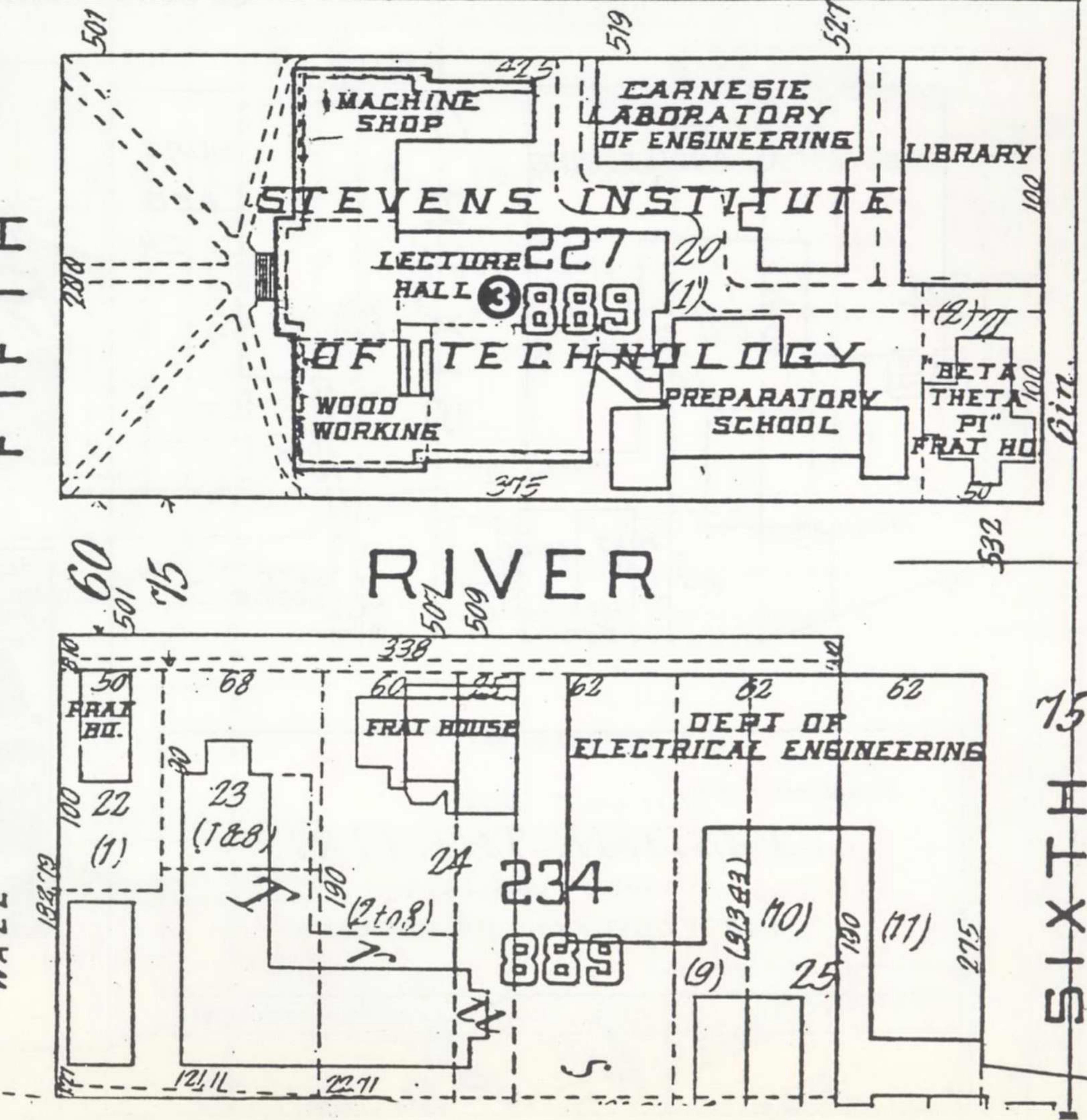
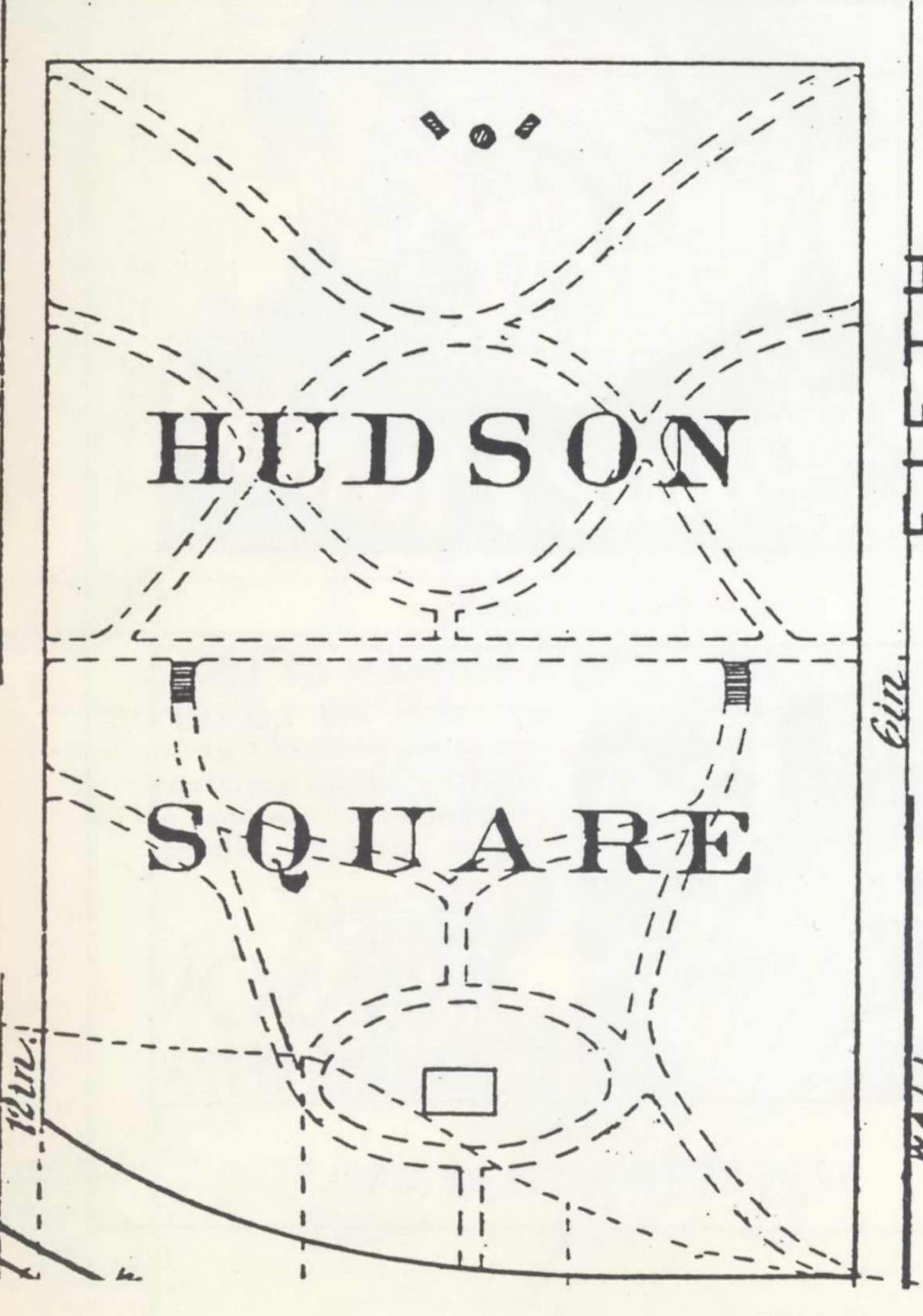
2. HIPPODROME

Motion Pictures
420 Washington Street
(1903 - ?)



3. STEVENS INSTITUTE LECTURE HALL-THEATRE

Student Productions, Variety
"A" Building, Stevens Campus
(1870's - 1980's)



1. DALY'S PASTIME THEATRE

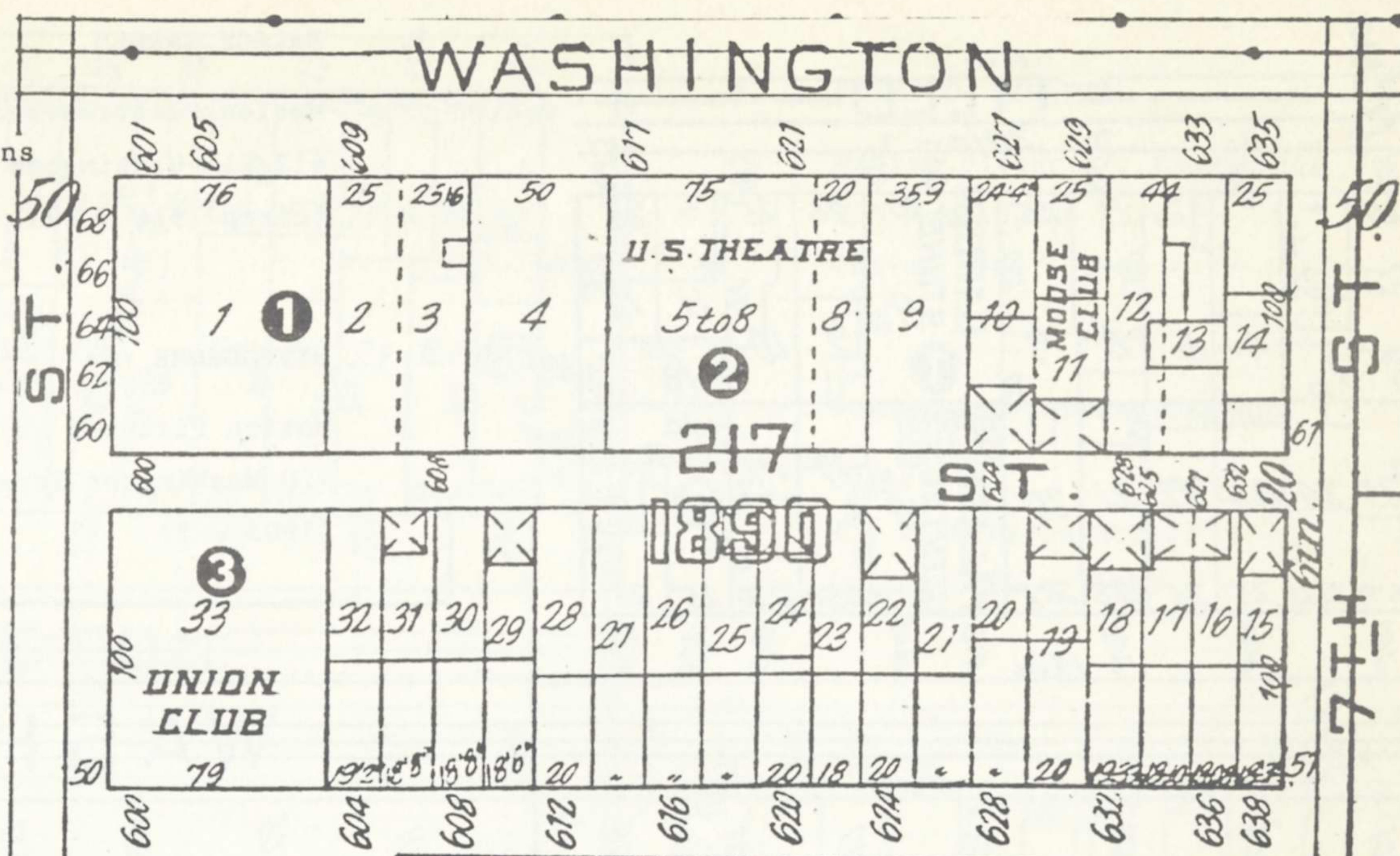
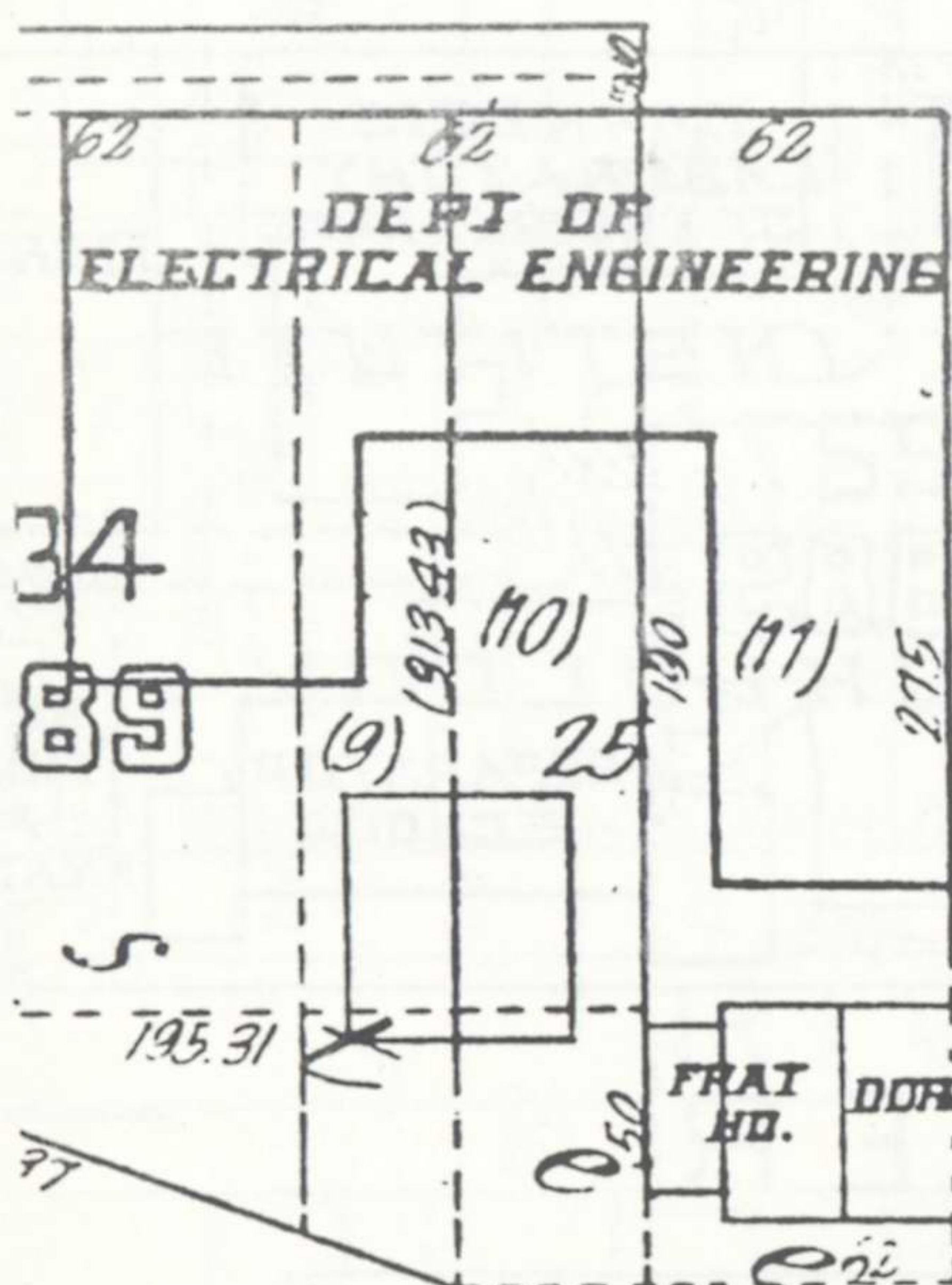
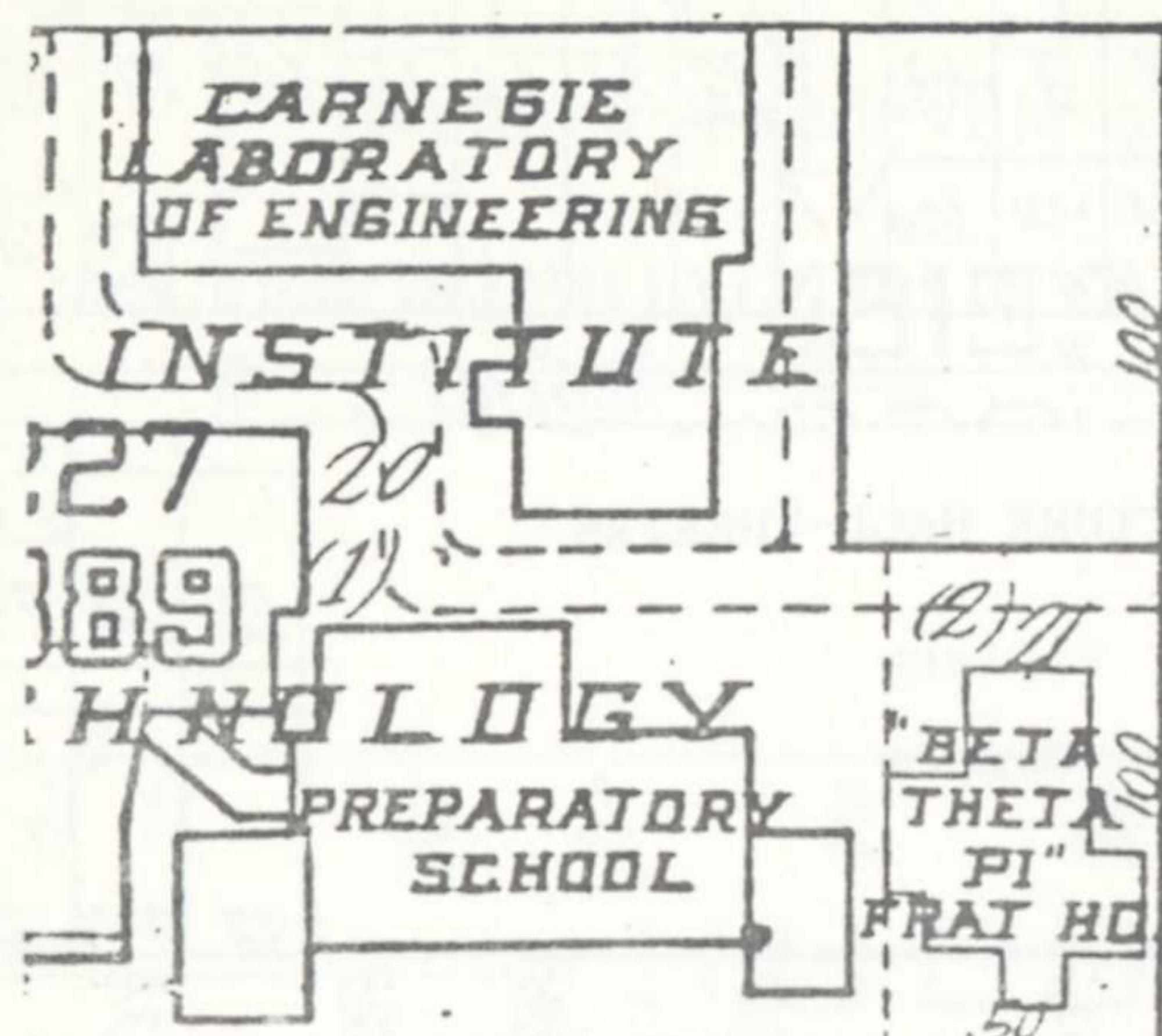
Motion Pictures, Stage Productions
607 Washington Street
(circa 1910 - 1915?)

2. U.S. THEATRE

Vaudeville, Motion Pictures
617-623 Washington Street
(circa 1913 - 1950 - ?)

3. UNION CLUB

Stage Productions, Variety
600 Hudson Street
(1860's - 1960's)



WARNER BROS.
U. S. Theatre
HOBOKEN, N. J.

ANNOUNCEMENT EXTRAORDINARY!
SUN., MON. & TUES., APRIL 24-25-26

A MESSAGE from "Schnozzle" Durante:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, this picture is the nuts! Ha-cha! Has that guy Keaton sex appeal? And am I Jimmy the Sheik? And wait till you lamp my gal, Polly Moran! It's pandemonium, I tell you, pandemonium!"
"SCHNOZZLE."



— Associate Feature —



A WOMAN OF ICE-MELTED BY LOVE!
... she was cool, cold, frigid in the face of life... But face to face with love her soul shouldered in rapture... and burned its brand

GLORIA SWANSON
TONIGHT OR NEVER

— ALSO —

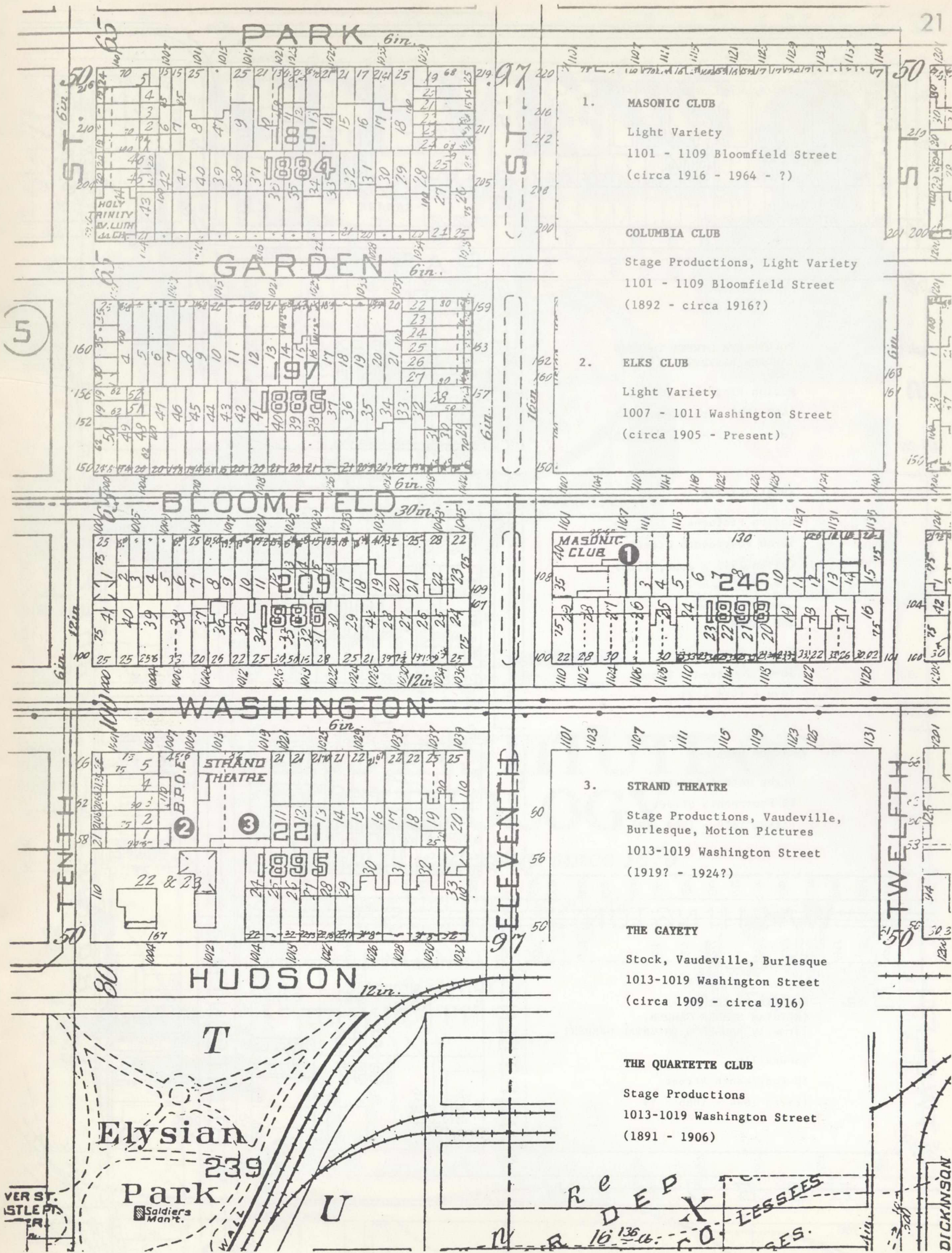
BABE RUTH in "PLAY BALL"

Compliments of the

PASTIME THEATRE

Sixth and Washington Streets

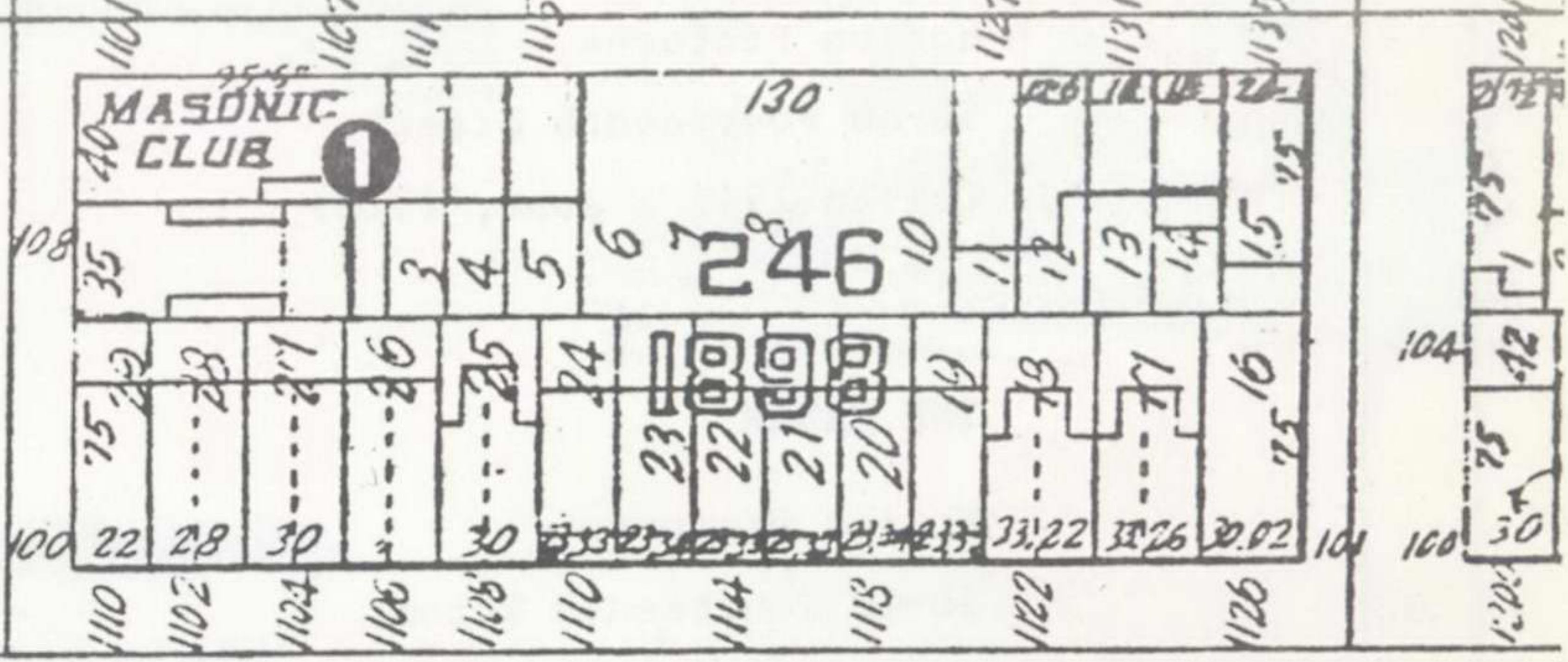
A FIFTY CENT SHOW FOR FIVE CENTS



1. **MASONIC CLUB**
Light Variety
1101 - 1109 Bloomfield Street
(circa 1916 - 1964 - ?)

COLUMBIA CLUB
Stage Productions, Light Variety
1101 - 1109 Bloomfield Street
(1892 - circa 1916?)

2. **ELKS CLUB**
Light Variety
1007 - 1011 Washington Street
(circa 1905 - Present)



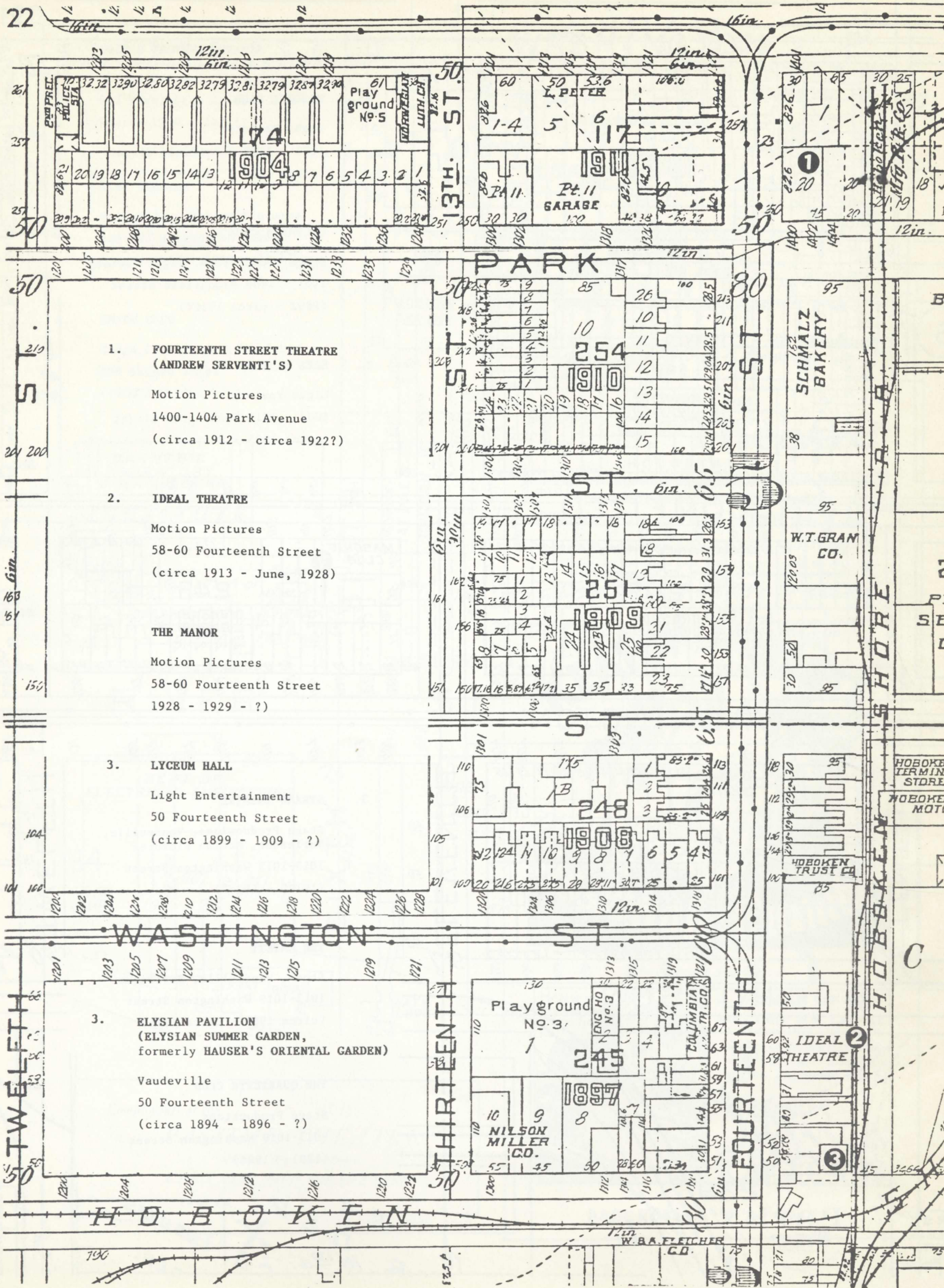
3. **STRAND THEATRE**
Stage Productions, Vaudeville,
Burlesque, Motion Pictures
1013-1019 Washington Street
(1919? - 1924?)

THE GAYETY
Stock, Vaudeville, Burlesque
1013-1019 Washington Street
(circa 1909 - circa 1916)

THE QUARTETTE CLUB
Stage Productions
1013-1019 Washington Street
(1891 - 1906)

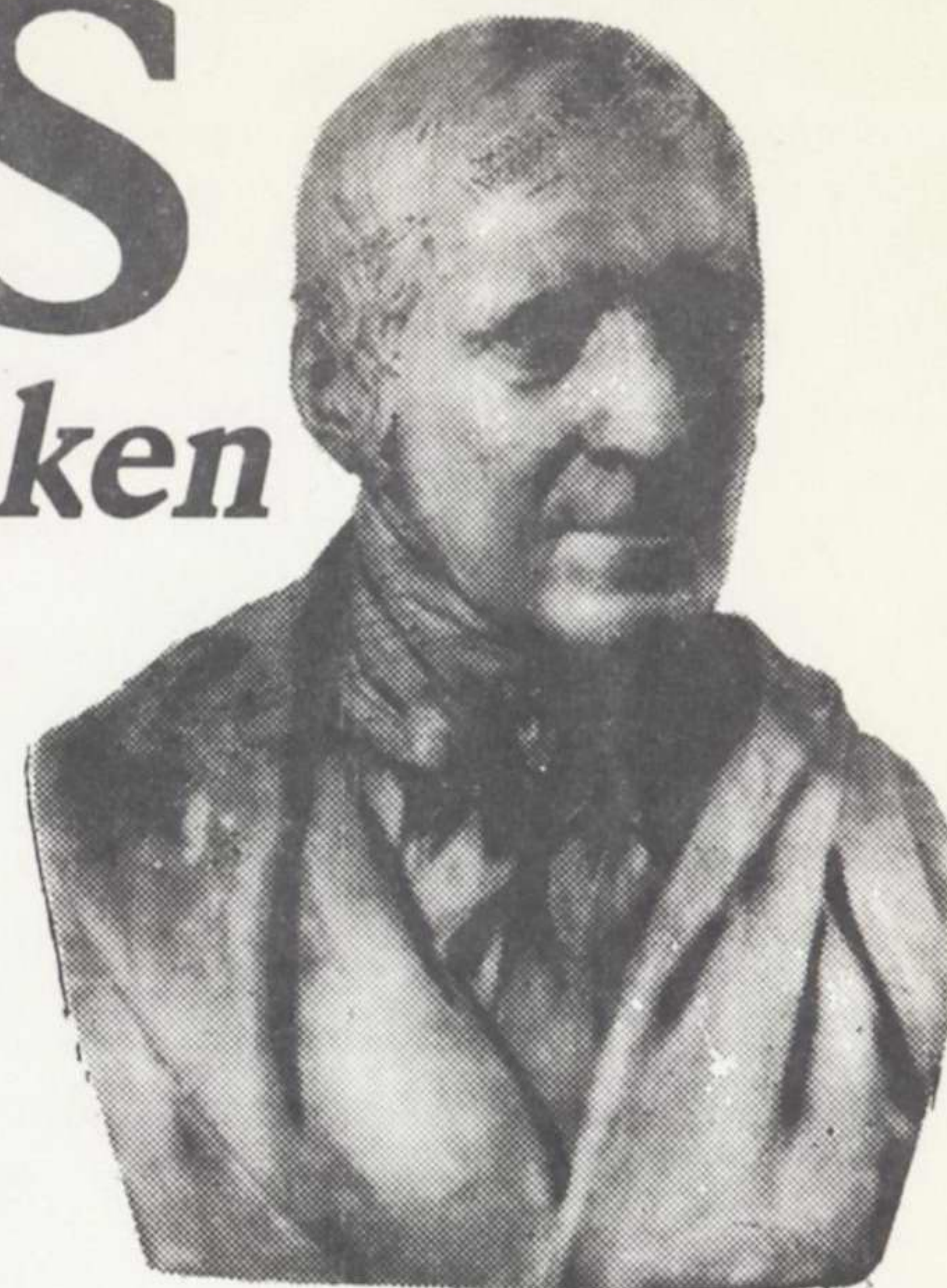
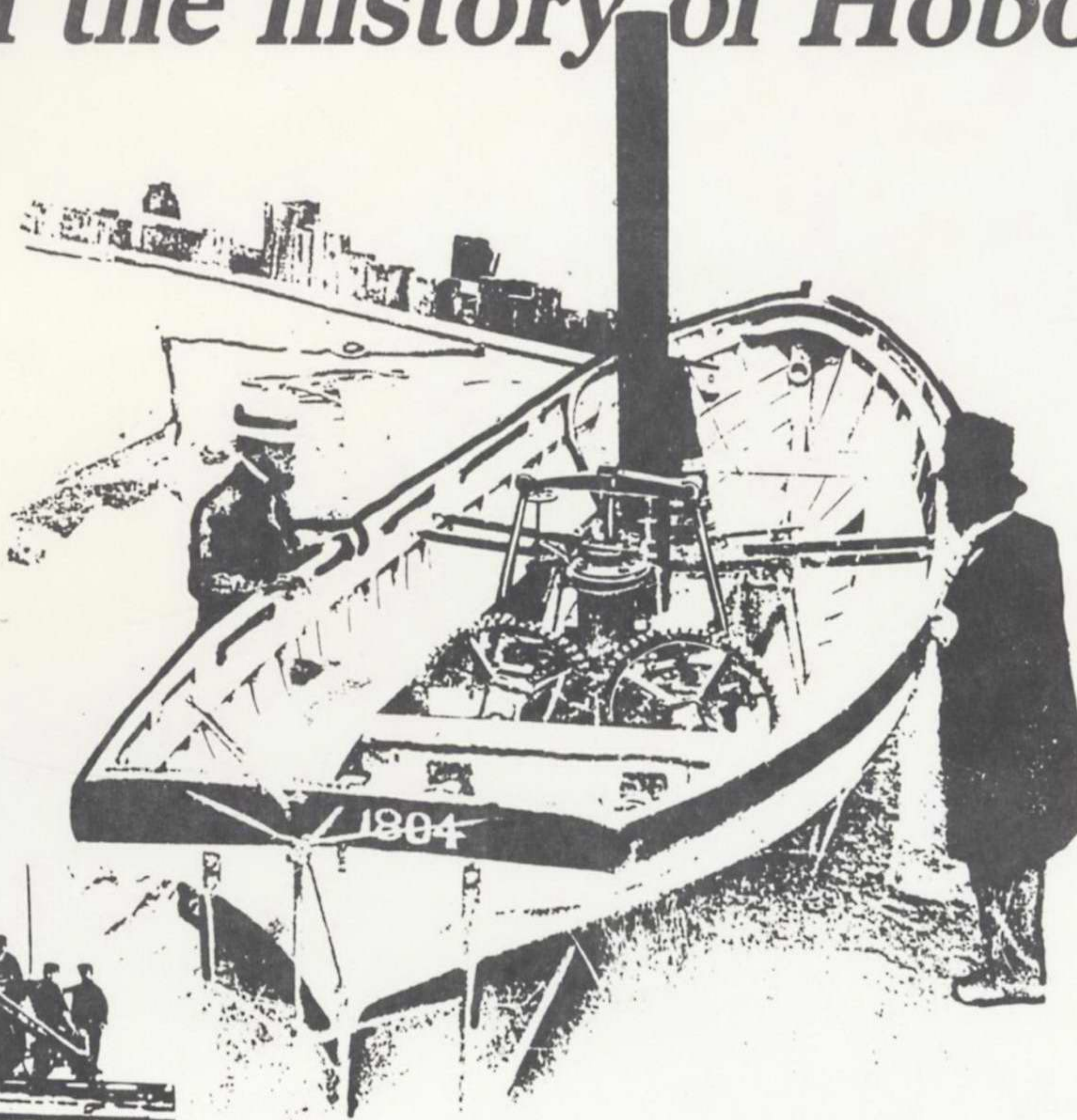
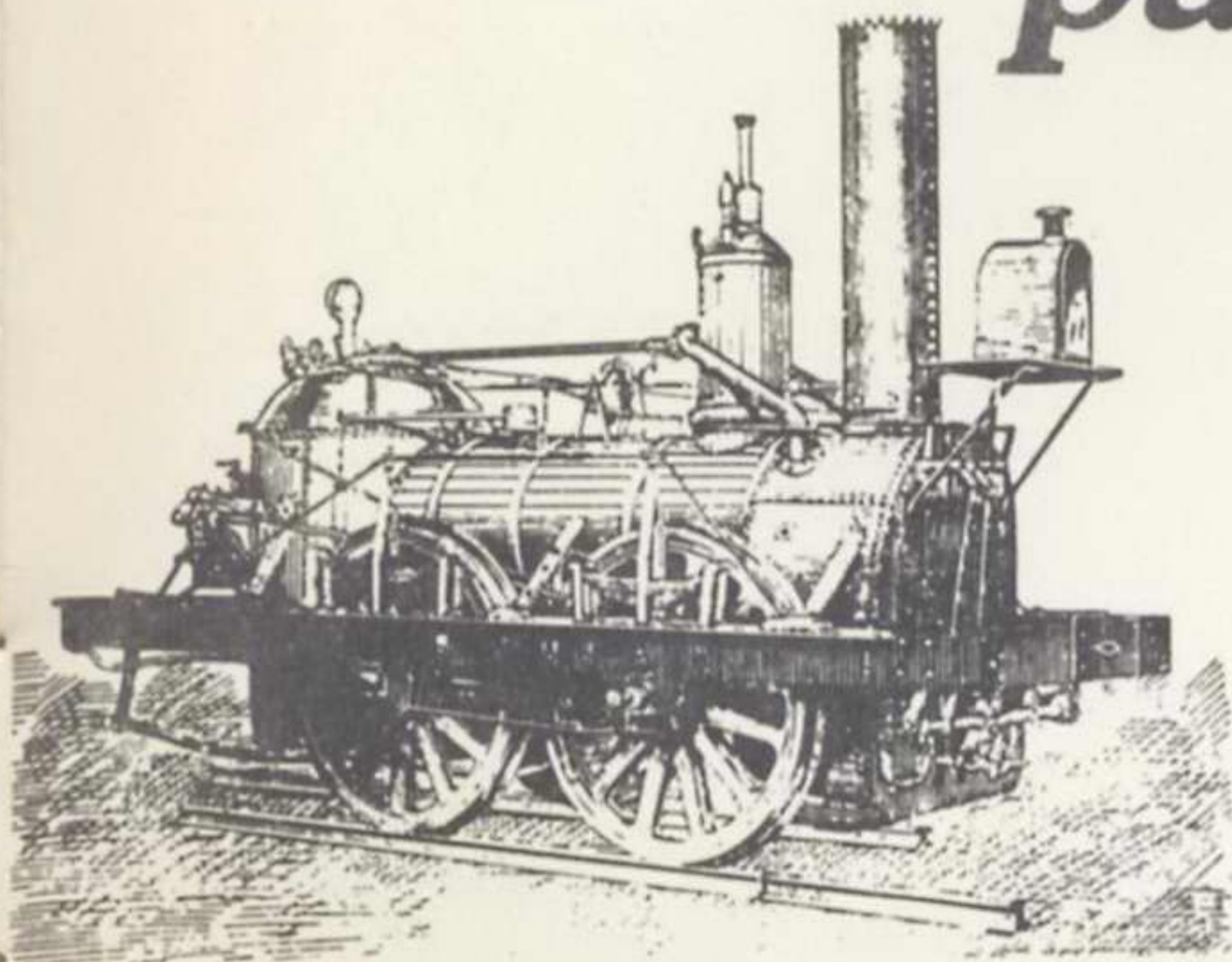
Elysian
Park
239
Soldiers
Man't.

DICKINSON

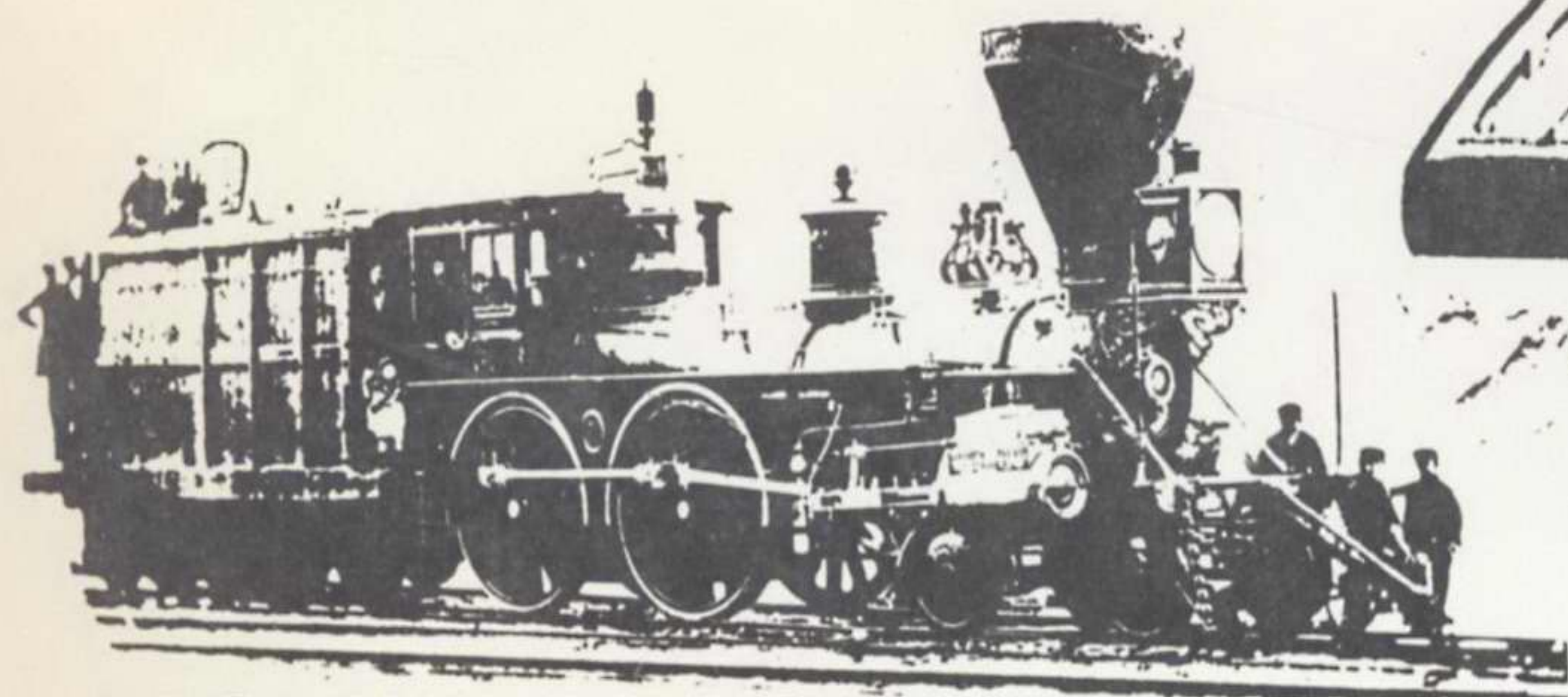


STEVENS

part of the history of Hoboken

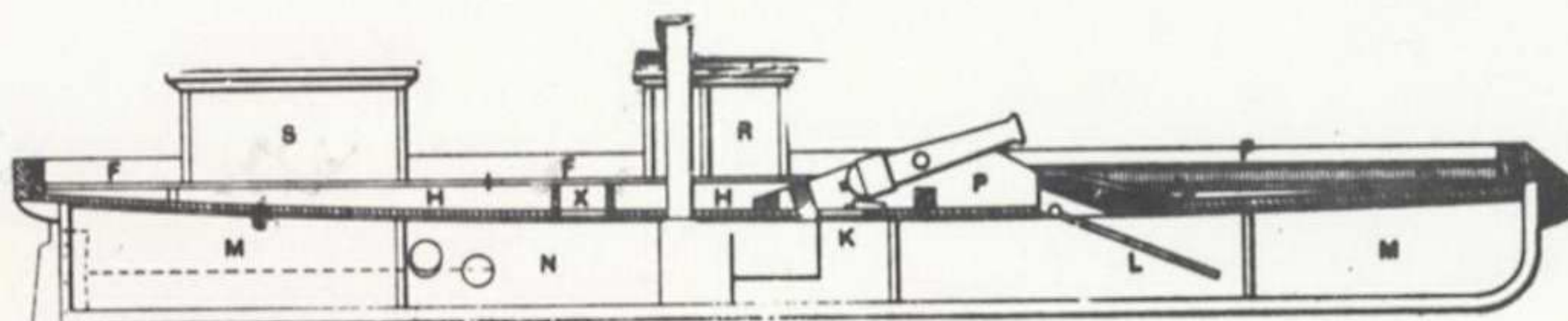
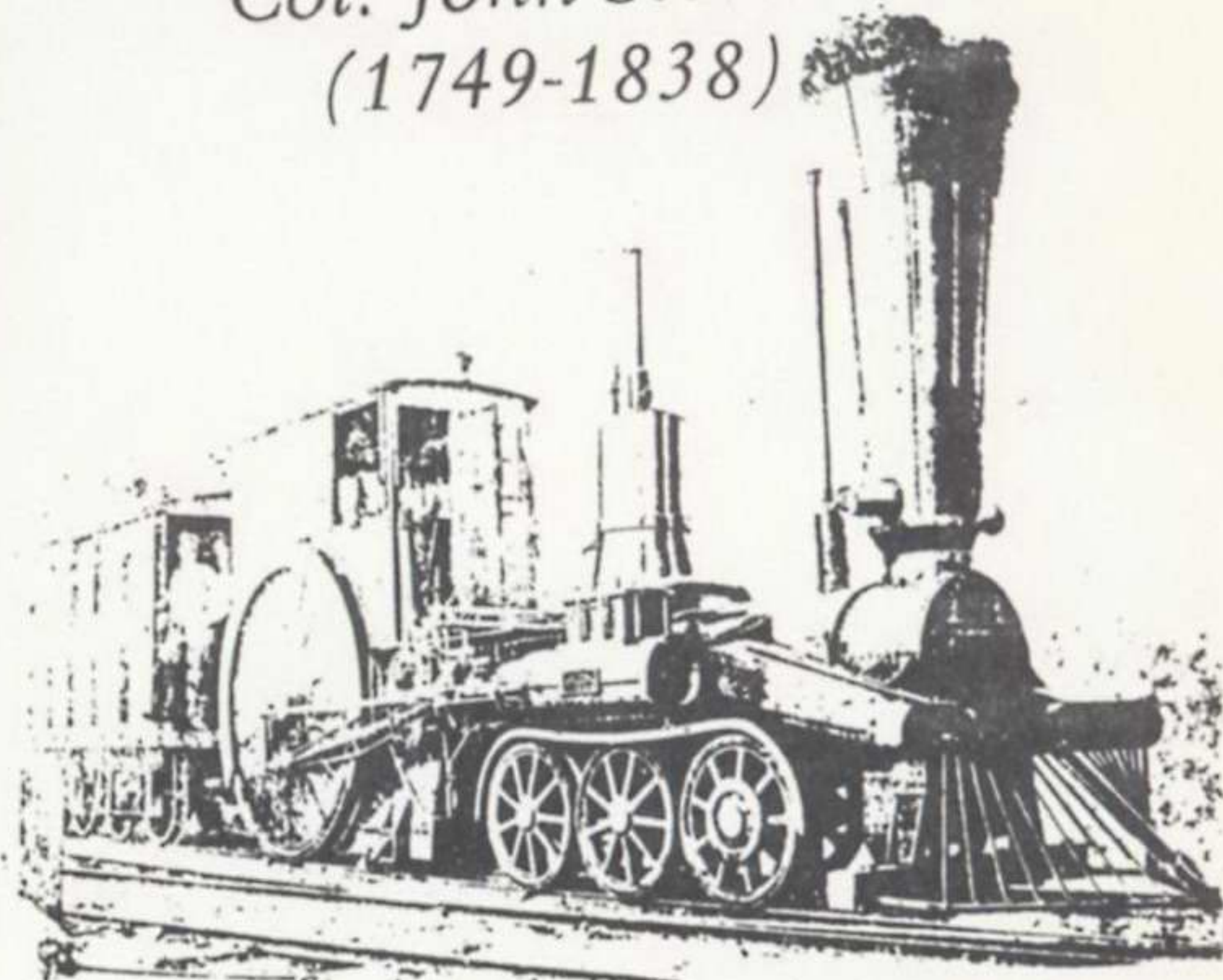


Col. John Stevens
(1749-1838)



"JOHN BULL,"

The Oldest Locomotive in the United States.

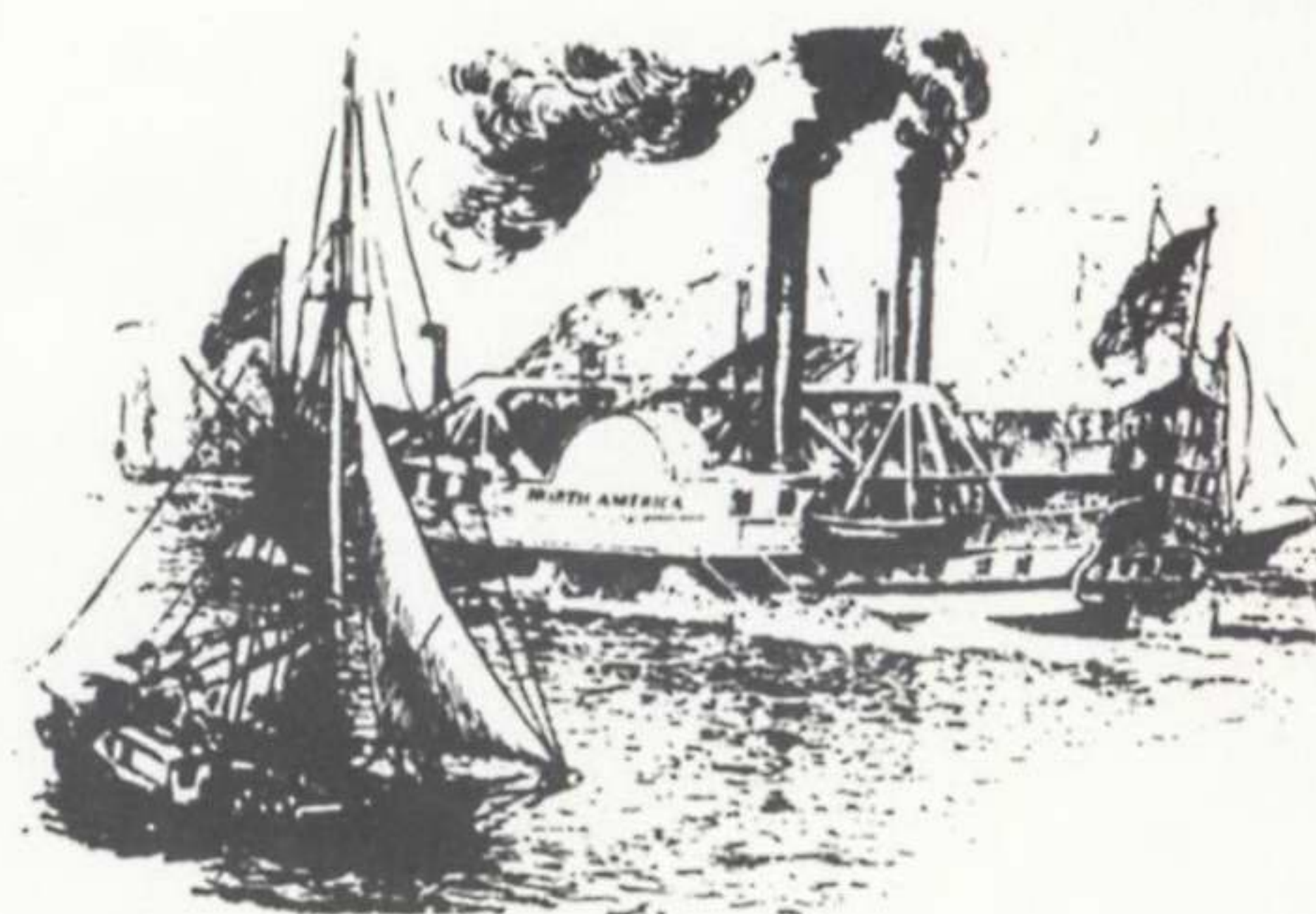
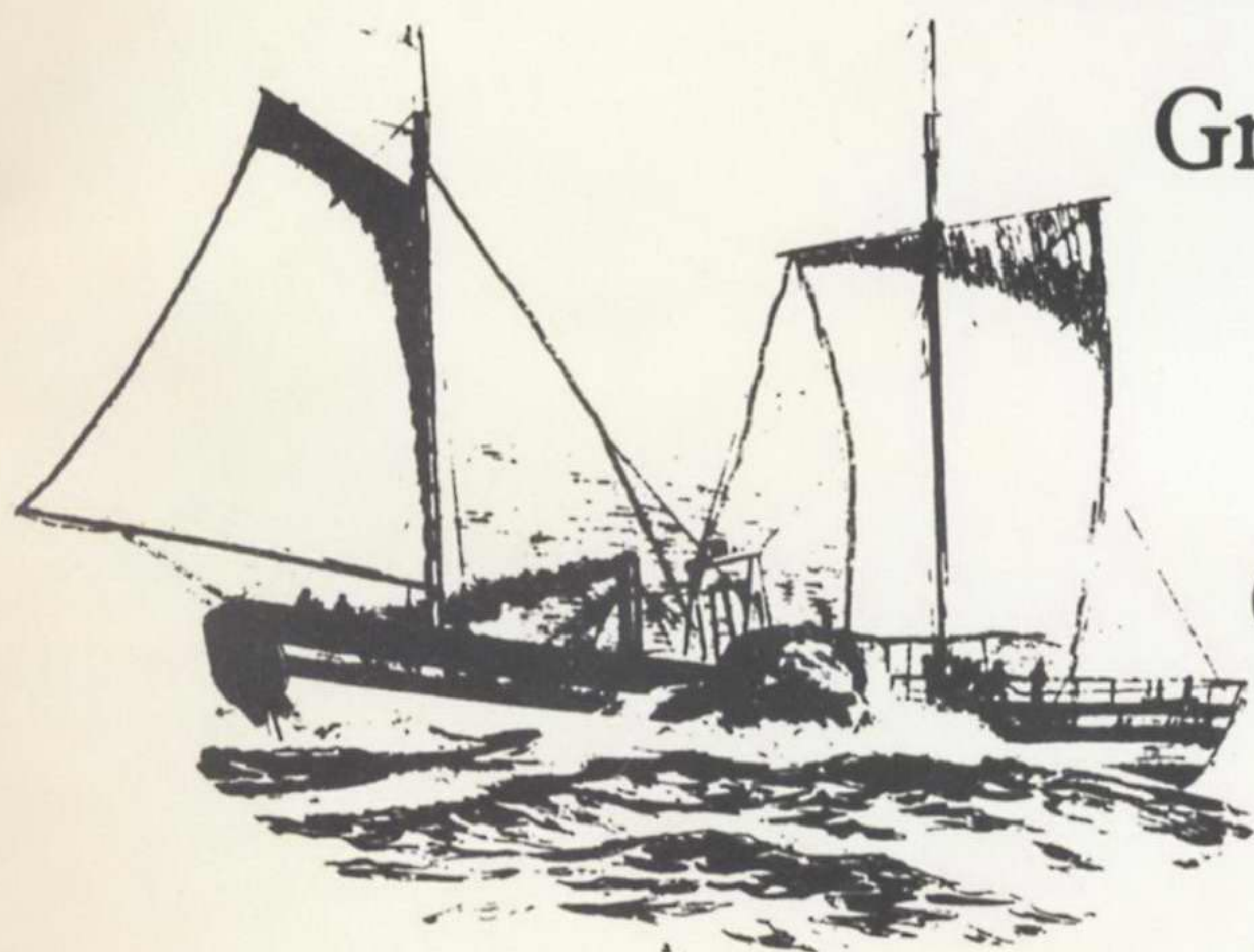


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