

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Tyler Hill Residential Historic District

Address: Leighton - 622, 528, 529; E. 7th Street - 318, 326; E. 6th Street - 301, 305, 309-11, 325, 331, 312, 330, 402, 412, 428, 411, 419, 501, 505, 519

Acreage: Approximately 12.5

UTM: A. 16/609340/3723940 E. 16/608920/3724004
B. 16/609340/3723910 F. 16/608930/3724005
C. 16/609200/3723840 G. 16/609120/3724006
D. 16/608920/3723910

Verbal Boundary: See red line on attached scale map B.

Boundary Justification: The lines were drawn for Tyler Hill to include the greatest concentration of intact housing with the least amount of non-contributing intrusions.

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Tyler Hill Historic District is significant as the largest concentration of elaborate Victorian houses remaining in Anniston. The houses in the district display both the similarities of form, materials, decorative details and stylistic variety typical of Victorian residential architecture. The variety of houses found within the district range from the grand Chateausque house built for the developer of the district to simpler two-story clapboard houses enlivened by porches and decorative gable ends.

Description:

The Tyler Hill District is located on a smoothy rising elevated area in the southeastern part of the original town of Anniston. The district's focal point, Tyler Square Park, is surrounded by a relatively intact neighborhood of seventeen spacious two-story, late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century houses. All but two of these contributing homes fall into the Victorian category. Some are of simpler form with few embellishments, while others have highly developed Queen Anne, Eastlake, Richardsonian and Chateausque elements. The 1905 and 1909 houses, physically and visually part of the district, exemplify the change in architectural styles that occurred within sixteen years of the first house: a shift from asymmetrical forms with irregular profiles and vertical emphasis to more horizontal cube-like house forms based on classical symmetry. Broad lawns, tall trees, informal landscaping, and sidewalks characterize this quiet neighborhood that was the elite new area of Anniston's boom years in the late 1880s and early 1890s.

Most of the houses that are owner-occupied have been maintained and are in excellent condition while others show the need for cosmetic repairs. Several of the original houses have been torn down in recent years as a result of the city's rezoning of the area. Non-contributing structures include three one-story brick 1950's houses.

Visually and spatially the district is distinct from the surrounding area because of the size, setting, and age of the houses. Though at one time Tyler Hill was greatly endangered, it is presently attempting to make a comeback as a residential neighborhood.

Historical Summary:

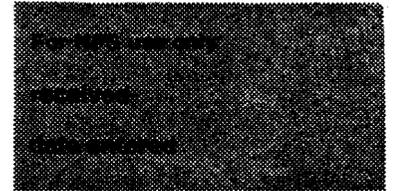
The reorganization of the Woodstock Iron Company brought a new group of business and industrial leaders to Anniston who needed and wanted housing commensurate with their means and station in the city. To answer this need, part of the original Tyler estate was deeded in 1888 to Duncan T. Parker and James W. Lapsley who in turn organized the Tyler Hill Company and proceeded to subdivide the area and sell lots (see attached plat map). The entire platted area was not fully occupied until later, but almost immediately those lots nearest Tyler Square Park were developed by Parker and members of his family. Parker himself erected the most outstanding house in the city on several lots in block 4 to the southwest of the square; his daughter Susie Parker Stringfellow built on the south side of the square, while Parker's sister, Mary A. Frye, constructed her house on the east. To the north of the square (excluded from the present district) were two large homes, both destroyed by fire shortly after completion and not rebuilt. Modern houses now occupy that area.

The streets on Tyler Hill were all named for prominent citizens. Leighton Avenue, to the west, had originally been named Rome Street (the Nobles had moved to Anniston from Rome, Georgia). Leighton was the middle name of Tyler's son Edmund. Lapsley was in honor of Judge Lapsley, president of the Tyler Hill Company. James B. Goodwin was an early Anniston settler and secretary of the Anniston Manufacturing Company. John B. Knox, who soon purchased one of the largest houses on Sixth Street adjacent to the square, was an outstanding attorney, later president of the 1901 Constitutional Convention.

Aside from the razing and replacement of some of the structures, the district looks today much the same as it did in the 1890s and early 1900s, with no major renovations or additions to any of the remaining houses. Tyler Hill remains a symbol of the flush industrializing era of the 1890s.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



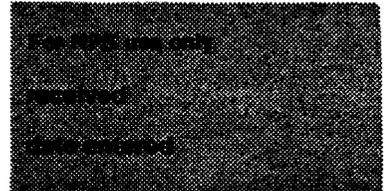
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TYLER HILL RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

- 2) Ledbetter House (318 East 7th Street): c. 1890; Queen Anne style with Eastlake trim; asymmetrical two-and-a-half-story wood frame with clapboards and ornate shingling in a prominent gable over the entry; gabled roof; wrap-around porch has handsome woodwork with paired turned posts framing the pedimented entry, balustrades, and Eastlake treatment, transomed doorway with frontispiece motif, squared off tower with bell-cast roof, ornate low-relief applied sawn woodwork on projecting second-floor facade that rises behind the porch gable.
- 3) Hobbs House (326 East 7th Street): c. 1889; Victorian forms with strong classical influence; symmetrical with clapboards, gable roof; distinctive symmetrical porch treatment with two projecting single-story porches on either side of the main entry, all doors at ground level special treatment with sidelights and transoms and decorative shingles in the pair of gables above the porches; a central dormer, brackets at the roof line, glassed-in east wing.
- 4) Fair House (528 Leighton Avenue): c. 1905; "Classical Box" incorporating Victorian combination of materials; two-story symmetrical with first floor faced with brick set in Flemish bond, upper floor faced in shingles, broad overhanging hipped roof with prominent central dormer also with a hipped roof; a one-story porch across front with two Ionic columns, trabeated front entry with transom and sidelights; visually a part of Tyler Hill because it terminates Sixth Street.
- 5) Harner House (301 East 6th Street): c. 1900; Queen Anne Style; asymmetrical two-story clapboard house with gable roof; distinguished by a two-story tower form with conical roof at the southeast corner of the house, well-integrated with the house and roof; prominent second-story dormer with shingle patterning and brackets supporting a large shingled pediment gable; decorative metal roof shingles and knobs, a spool frieze, front door has sidelights and transom; windows are one-over-one sash throughout.
- 6) Howell House (305 East 6th Street): c. 1895; Queen Anne Style; asymmetrical two-story clapboard with cross gables; the gable facing the street has a decorative half-timbered treatment with pebbles set in the plaster; the half-timbering is echoed in the porch gable marking the entry; decorative shingles on side gables, wrap-around porch with Eastlake style turned posts, sawn frieze and segmental arches. A wing has been added to the rear of the house.
- 8) Nininger-Knox-Stewart House (325 East 6th Street): c. 1889; Richardsonian Shingle Style influence; two-and-a-half-story complex but integrated form with clapboard on lower stories, shingles at third level and in projecting gables, shingles laid in random pattern. Distinguishing features are the low semi-circular arches defining the porch and the play of shingled pediment forms at the entry and the crossed gables at the third floor. The double front doors have transoms with sidelights. The interior of the house was damaged by fire in the 1890s and completely remodeled in the Italian Renaissance Style by John B. Knox, with Corinthian columns in the living room. The third floor features a ballroom, used by Carrie Knox as a music conservatory.

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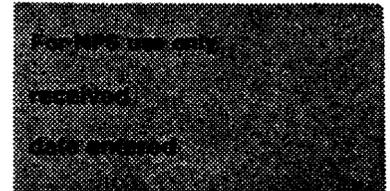
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- 9) Norwood-Arbery-Killian House (331 East 6th Street): c. 1898; Queen Anne style; asymmetrical two-and-a-half-story pyramidal roof with projecting cross gables, all brick with tile insets in the main gable facing the street. Distinguishing feature is the three-story polygonal turret at the southeast corner capped by a spire; dentil molding around the tower and above the porch, which wraps around and is articulated by a lattice-like frieze, more elaborate decorative turned supports, and balusters. The front door has a transom, window sash is double-hung one-over-one with stained-glass in the two narrow windows above the doorway.
- 10) Irvin House (529 Leighton Avenue): c. 1909; classical influences; two-and-a-half-story symmetrical stone and concrete block, overhanging flared hip roof with two projecting pedimented dormers; one-story porch with piers supporting cornice across front facade, trabeated central entry way with high transom and sidelights, echoed on the second floor and covered by a roof projection creating a double portico form. The distinguishing feature is the use of concrete block resembling stone (purportedly the first such use in Anniston) with stone quoining.
- 12) Parker-Reynolds House (330 East 6th Street): c. 1889; Chateausque Gothic, most outstanding house in the Tyler Hill District, already individually listed on the National Register, 1982.
- 13) Tyler Square Park; c. 1889; landscaped block which was developed as park when the district was first laid out; slightly raised area with plantings of trees and shrubs.
- 14) Stringfellow-Nichols House (402 East 6th Street): c. 1889; Queen Anne Style; irregular shape, two-and-a-half-story frame with surface application of molded shiplap, shingles, and tiles, irregular roof with subordinate crossgables; three-stage polygonal turret at the northwest corner, large one-story pedimented portico with slight Tudor-like arch and turned supports, decorative shingles and applied designs in the front gables, the uppermost with a spool frieze, predominantly sash windows one-over-one although a notable Queen Anne bay with case-ment windows on east side.
- 15) Sellers-Bradley House (412 East 6th Street): c. 1900; Victorian Style; two-and-a-half story irregular plan, clapboard, gable roof, with numerous projections; porch gable faced with fishscale shingles and the roof gables with butt-cut shingles; dormer window at roof level, the front porch has groups of rectangular columns with classical treatment on brick piers interspersed with balustrades; projecting two-story bay on east side, one-over-one sash except for a diamond-paned decorative window on porch.
- 16) Ayers-Suggs House (428 East 6th Street): c. 1892; Victorian; irregular two-story, clapboard, pyramidal roof with subordinate cross gables with decorative shingle treatment in the gables; Victorian chimney forms, simple turned posts on wrap-around porch, bay with three windows projects onto porch, one-over-one window sash, transomed front door. The house is built on a "T" frame with rough cut studs running the full height of the house.

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- 17) Frye-Jones House (411 East 6th Street): c. 1889; Victorian Style; L-shaped two-and-a-half-story clapboard, gable roof with cross gables, simple front porch, more elaborate back porch with turned posts and balusters, three little arched windows set in under a roof form with brackets at ground-floor level on west (apparently a modification), transomed front door, double-hung windows.
- 18) Scott House (501 East 6th Street): c. 1895; Victorian with Queen Anne influences; irregular form, two-and-a-half-story clapboard with decorative fishscale and butt-cut shingles on upper floor projections and in the gables, active roof line with a pyramidal form and subordinate cross gables; one-story projecting porch with classical treatment, including paired Tuscan columns supporting an entablature topped by a balustrade; transomed front door, bowed projection with paired windows rising to a gable at second level on front, one-over-one sash windows.
- 20) Sohn House (505 East 6th Street): c. 1895; Queen Anne style influences; irregular form, two-and-a-half story, clapboard with fishscale shingles in the gables, cross-gabled roof, battered rectangular porch posts set on brick piers, Victorian chimney, one-over-one window sash except for a glassed-in porch area on the east, transomed front door.
- 21) Robison House (519 East 6th Street): c. 1895; Queen Anne style influences; irregular form, clapboard siding, pyramidal roof with subordinate cross gables; fishscale shingles, decorative applied woodwork, and arcuated louvered vent in the front gable; decorative turned porch supports, transomed door, two-over-two window sash.

TYLER HILL RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT - CONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

- 1) Ragan-Laird House (622 Leighton Avenue): c. 1891; Queen Anne Style with Eastlakan trim; asymmetrical two-story wood frame with siding covering original clapboards, gabled roof with a projecting front wing breaking into a dormer, with applied wooden decoration in the gable; two chimneys; wraparound porch with turned posts and balusters, spool frieze with brackets in the Eastlake style, stained-glass in the transom and the upper panes of the window sash on the facade, one-over-one sash elsewhere.

TYLER HILL RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT - NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

- 7) Duplex (309-311 East 6th Street): c. 1950; Ranch Style; one-story brick and composition siding, gable roofs.
- 11) House (312 East 6th Street): c. 1950; Ranch Style; one-story brick, hip roof.
- 19) House (419 East 6th Street): c. 1950; Ranch Style; one-story brick with hip roof.

Tyler Hill Residential Historic District

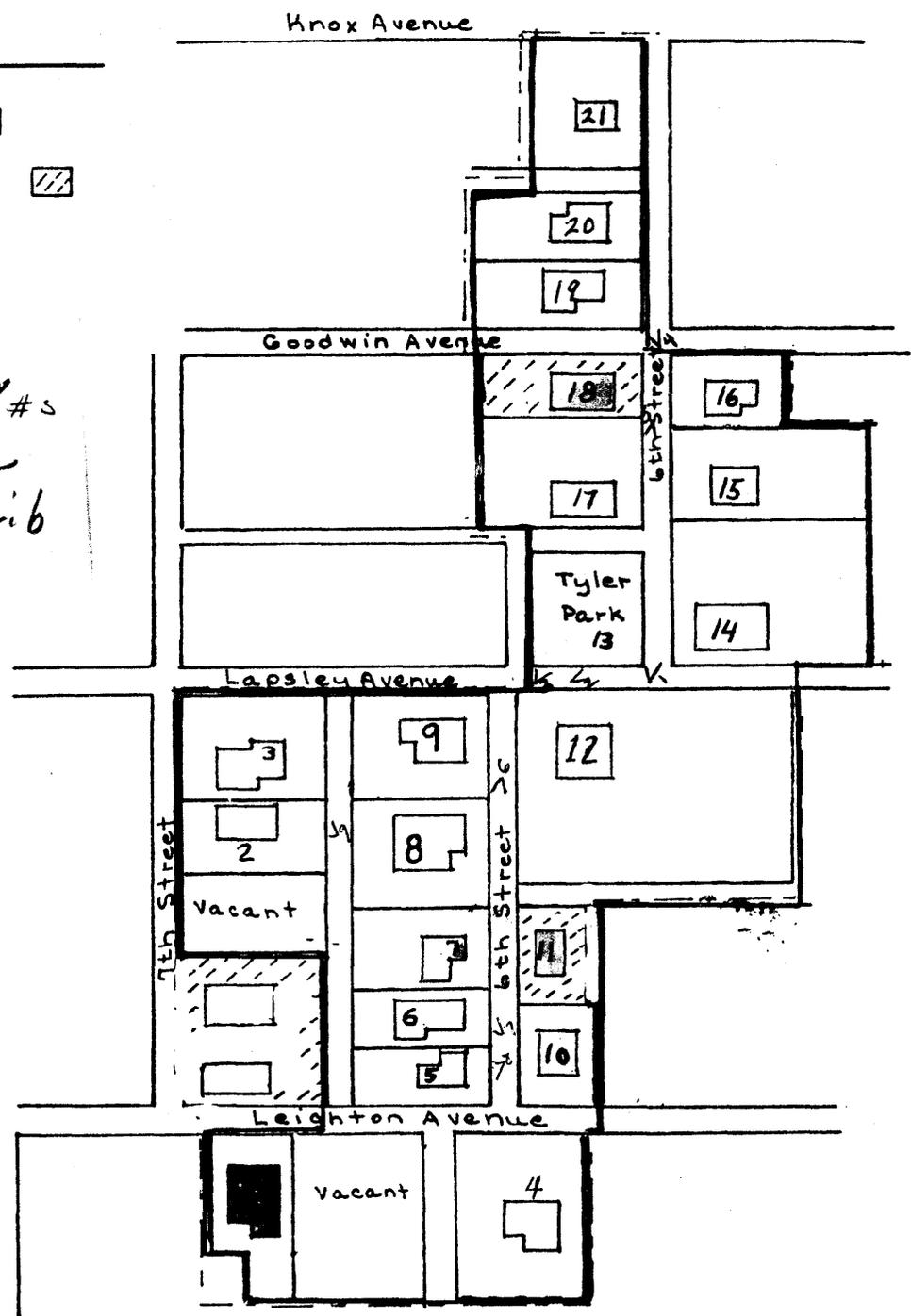
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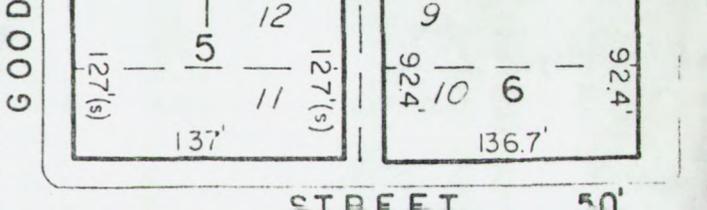
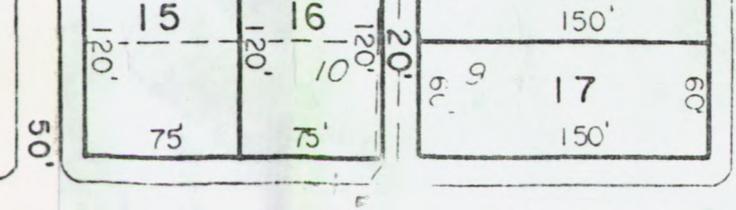
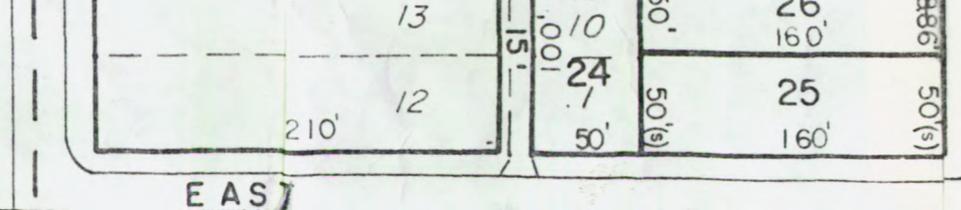
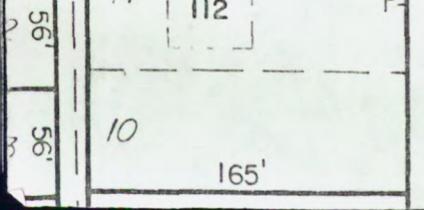
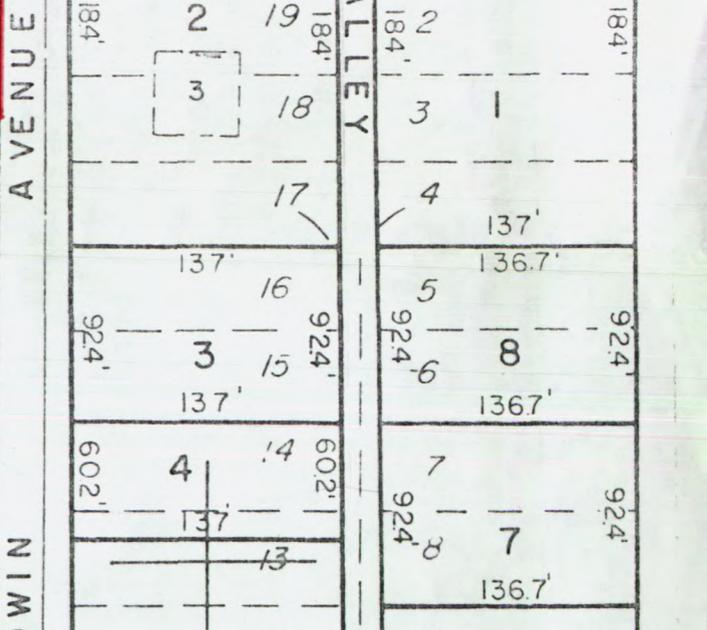
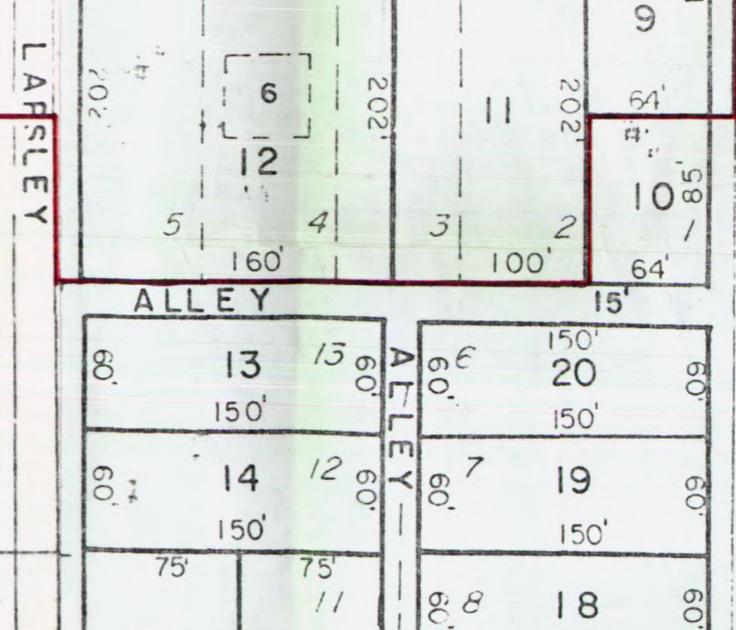
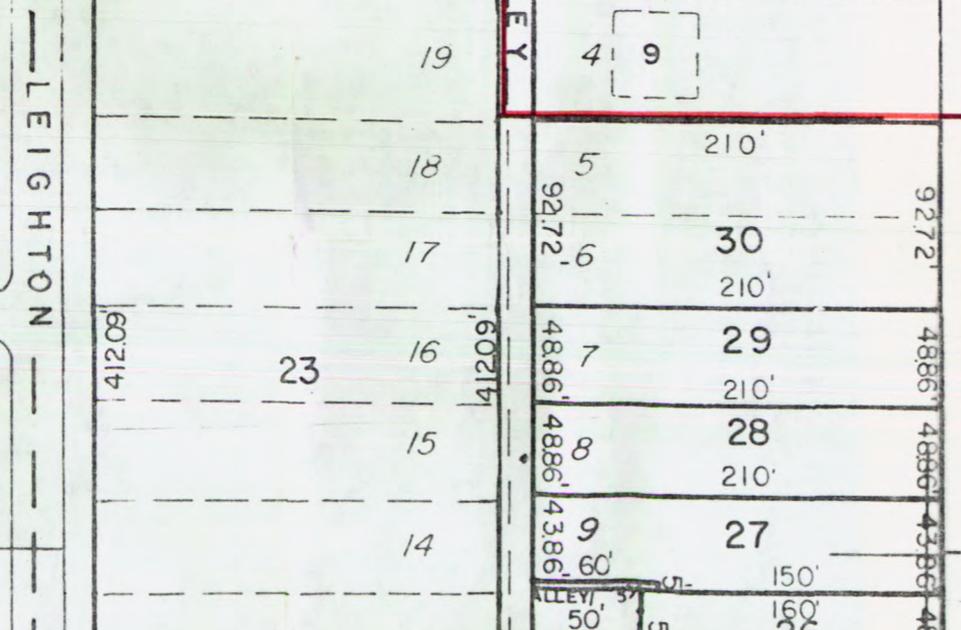
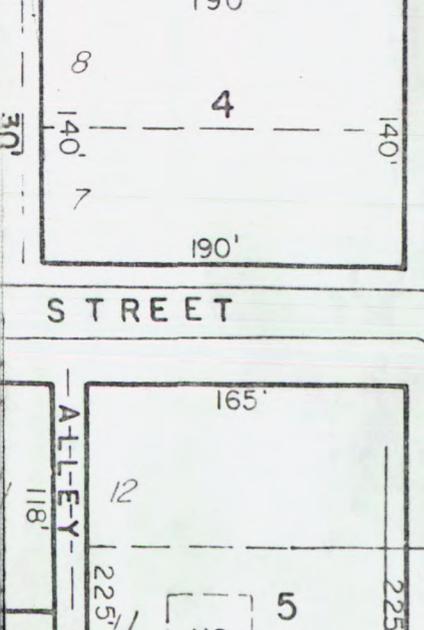
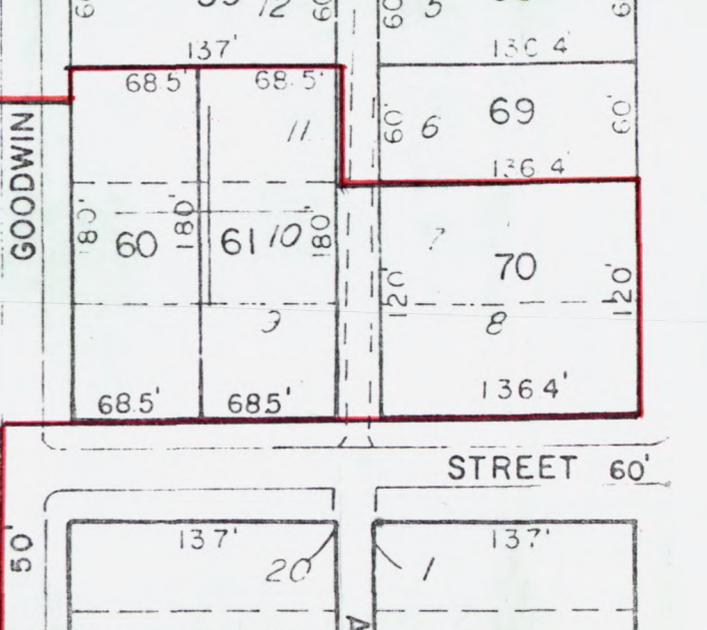
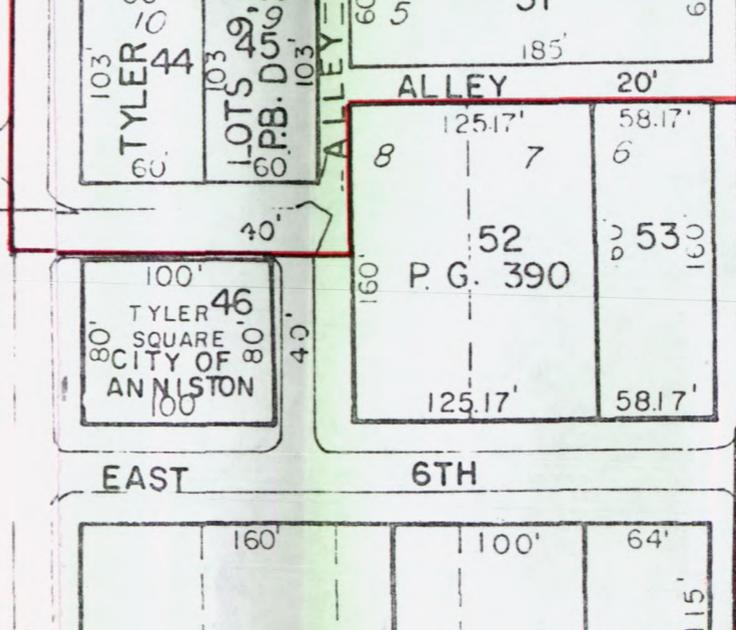
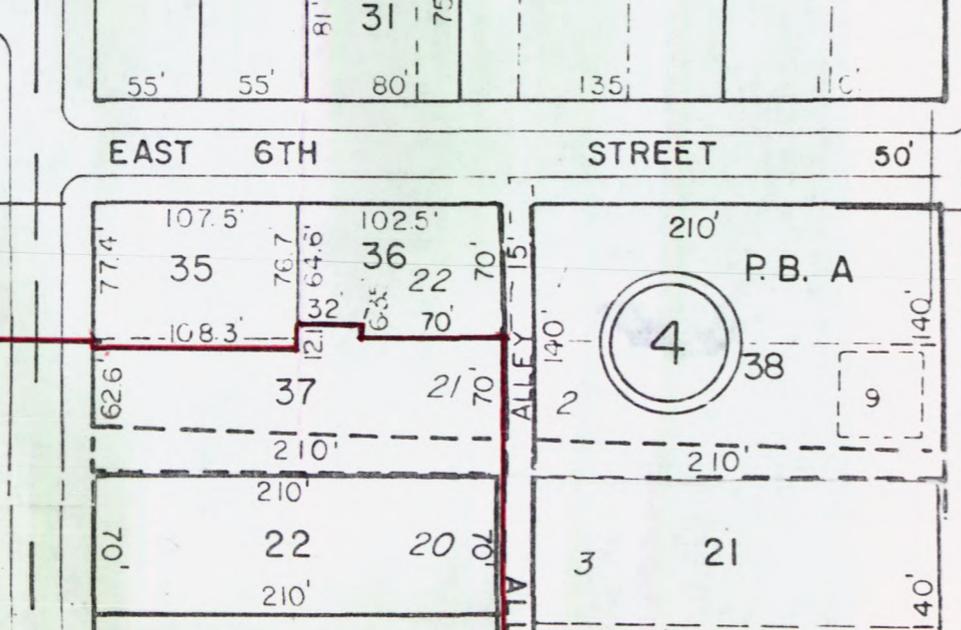
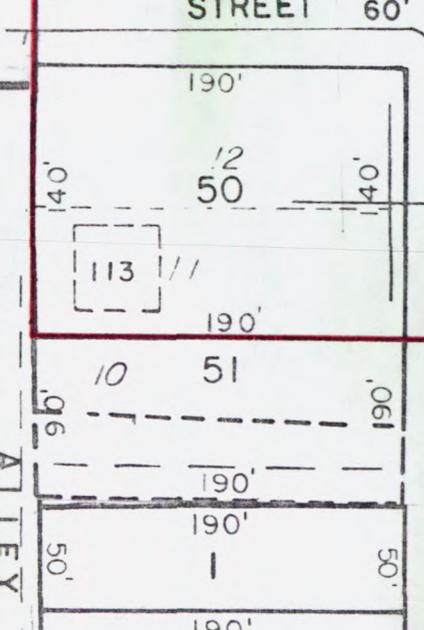
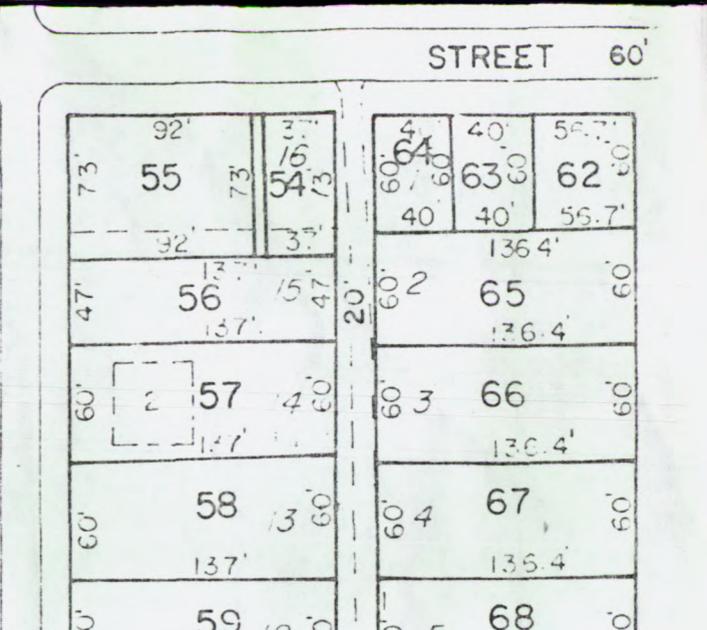
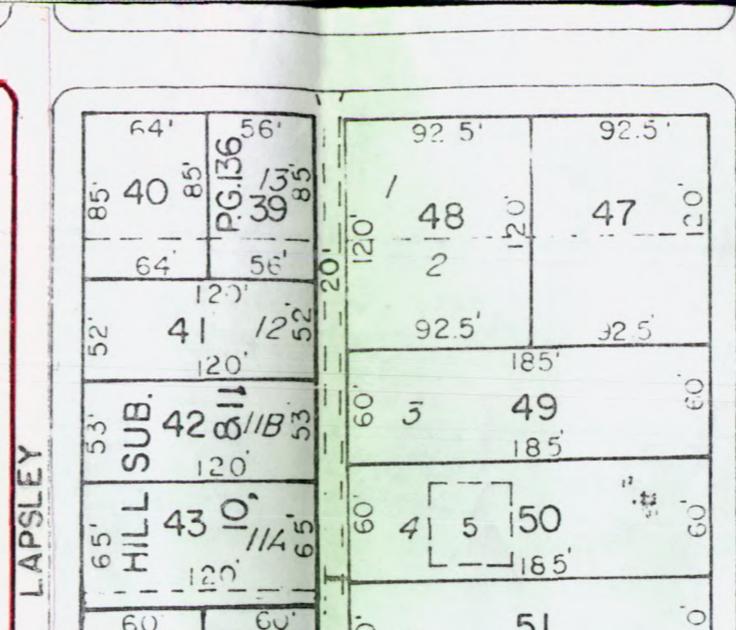
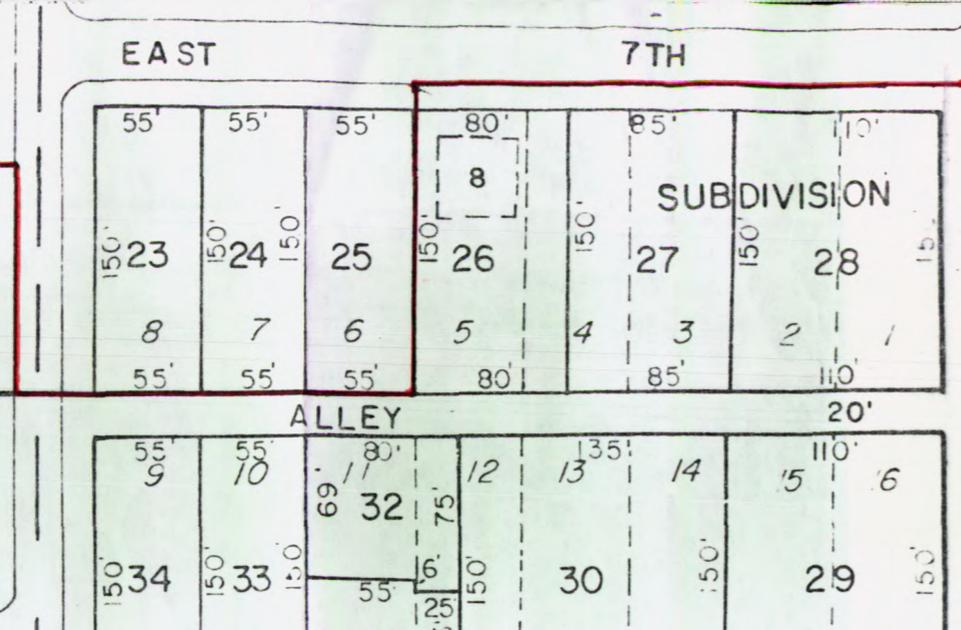
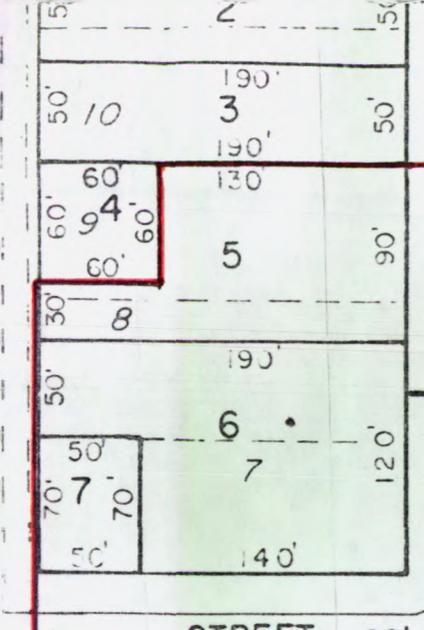
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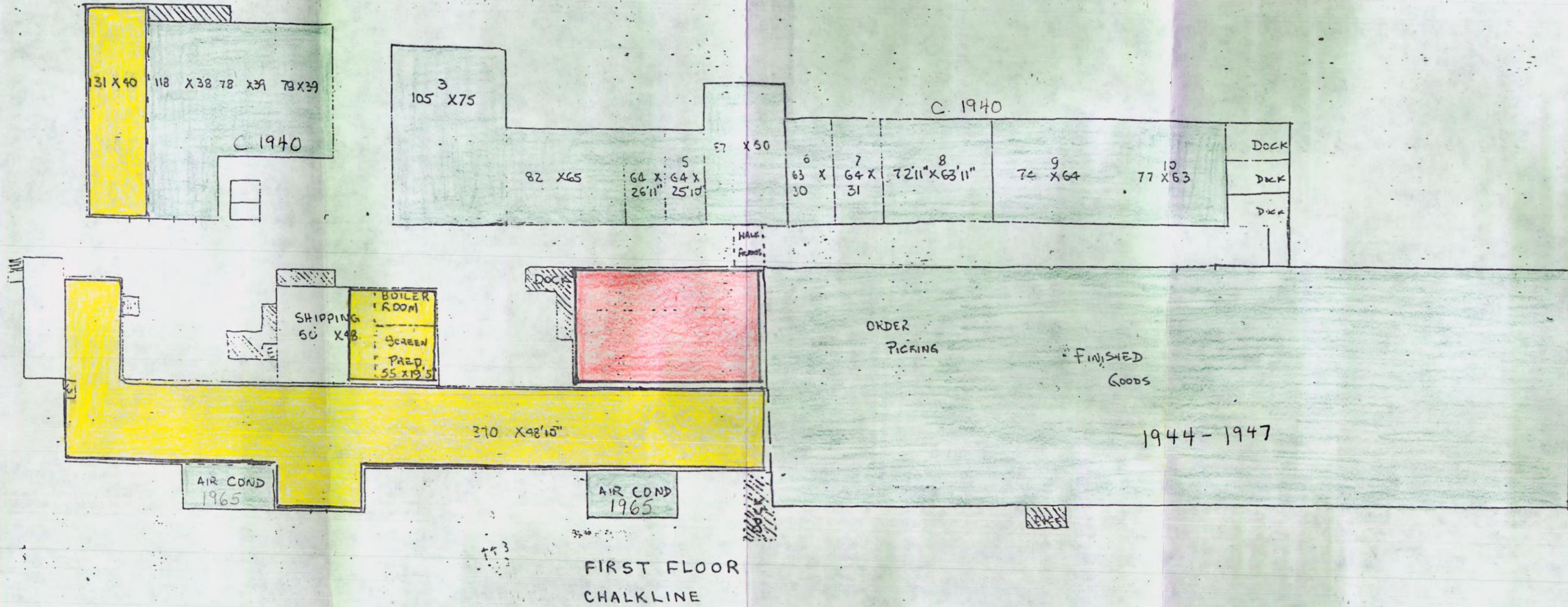


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Rough scale 1" = 200'



Hanniston Manufacturing Co. - Chalkline
 Floor Plan



- Original Construction, 1880-1881
- 1928 Addition

Tyler Hill Residential Historic District

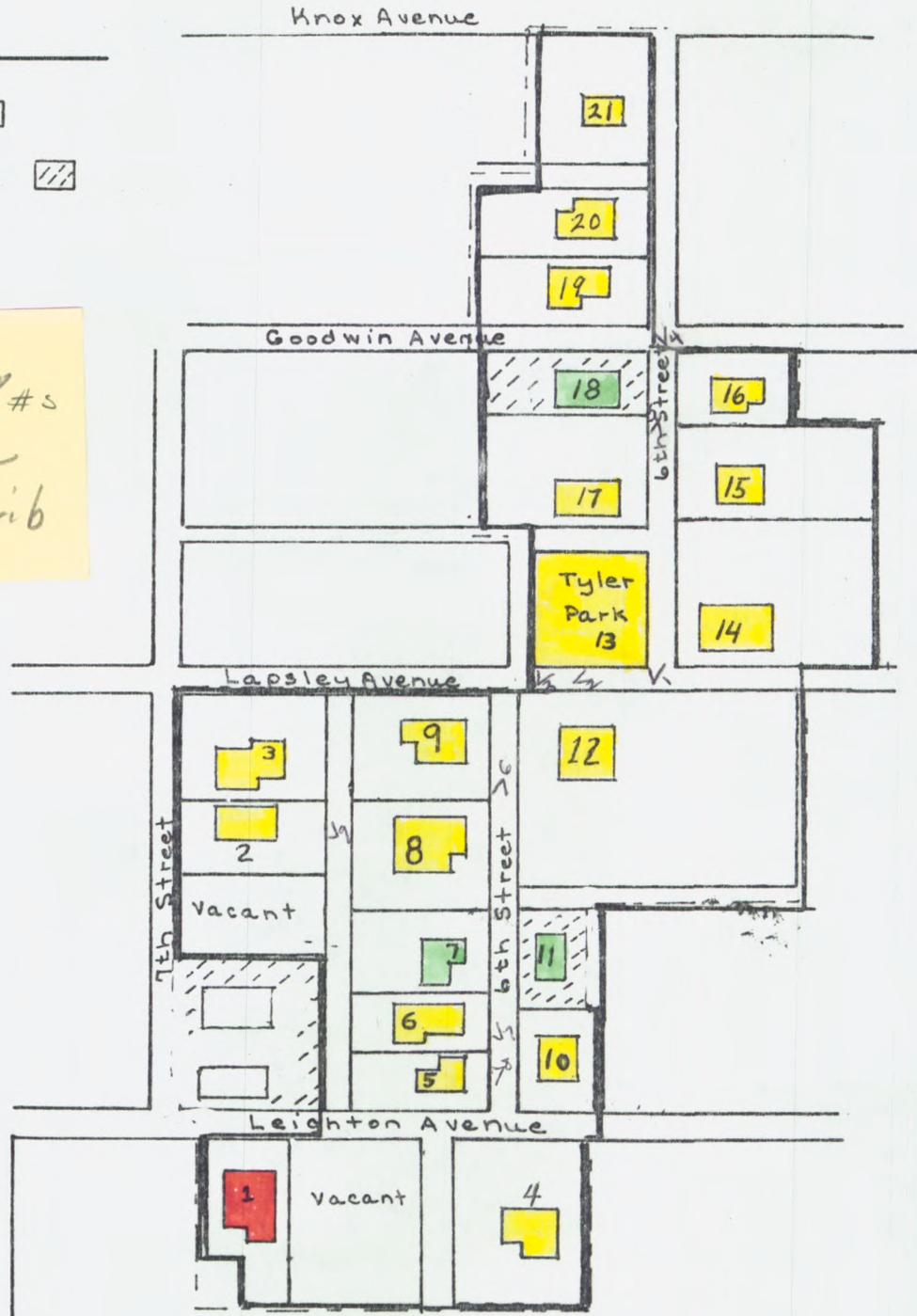
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