

Reading the Past:

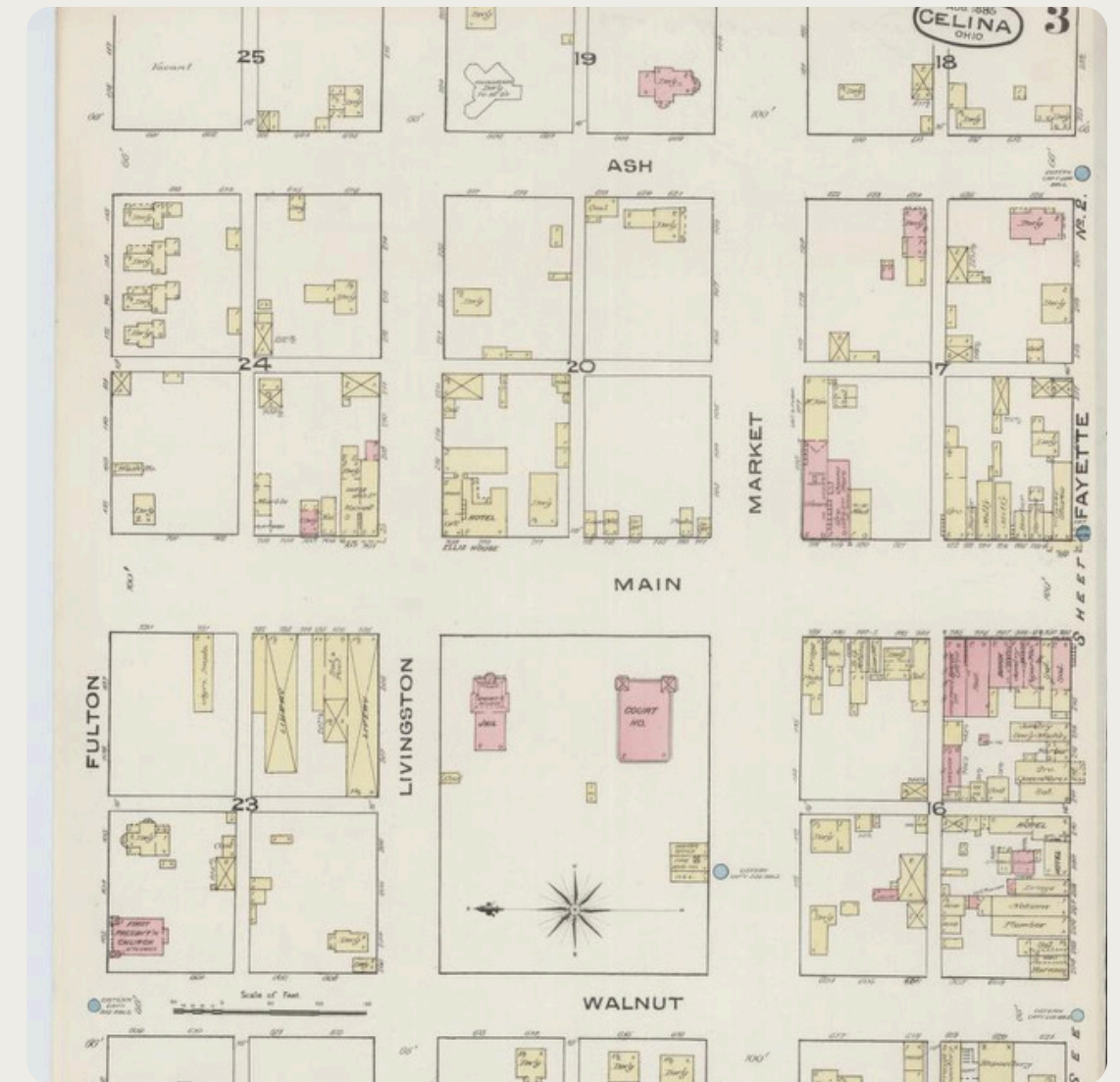
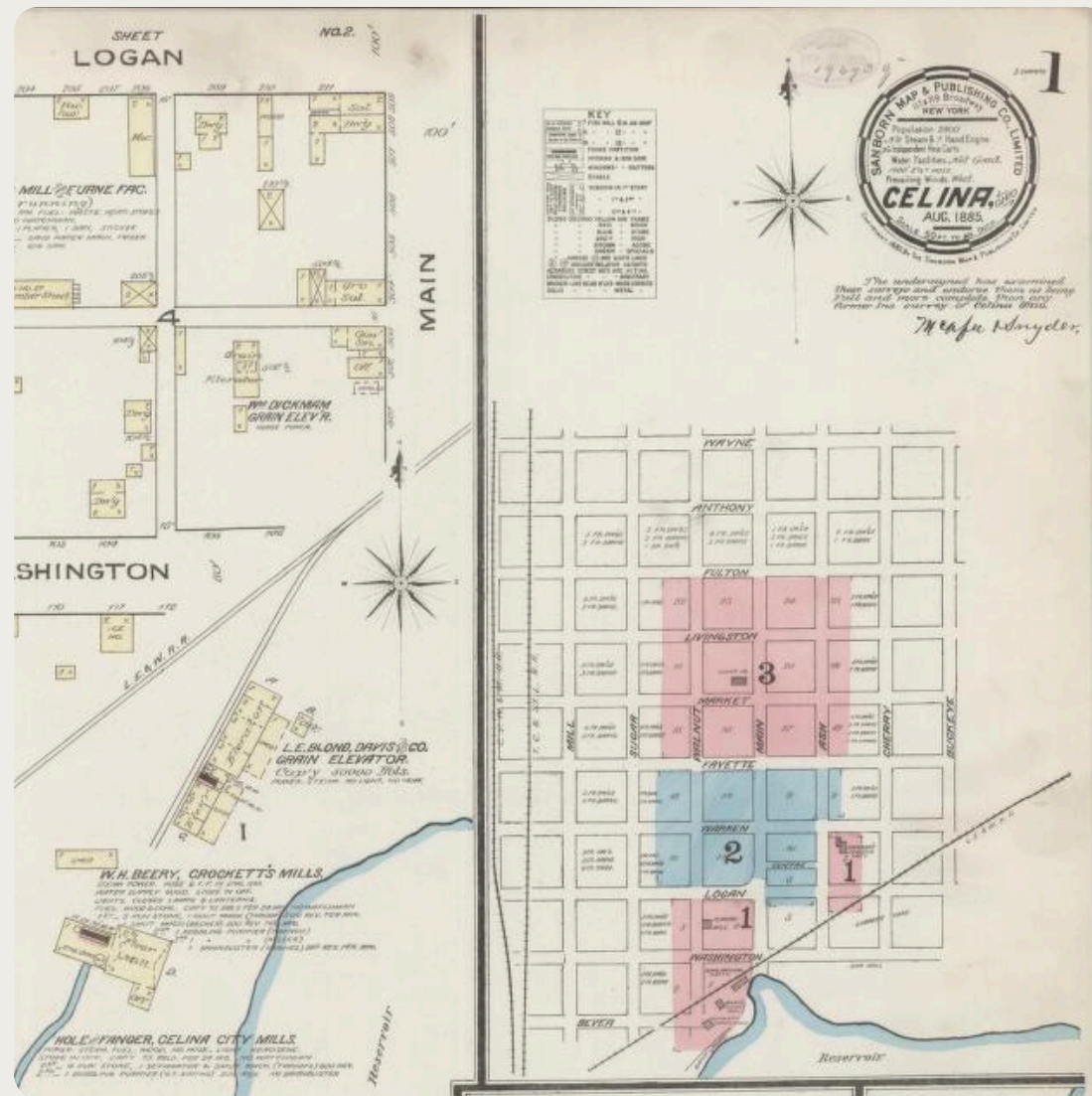
A Beginner's Guide to Sanborn Maps

Sanborn Maps

Sanborn maps are scaled maps depicting roads, individual buildings, and construction details. They were originally created for the fire insurance industry by the Sanborn Map Company beginning in the mid-1800s. Sanborn Maps exist for approximately 12,000 municipalities across the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

They contain information on street layout, building size and location, construction type, building height & area, wall thickness, building details such as stairs, elevators, windows, doors, parapets, awnings, etc., and utility locations.

Sanborn Maps should be consulted early in a project for information about historic site conditions, including existing buildings and previous buildings on the site. They are particularly useful for the historic tax credit application process.



When were they created?

Sanborn Maps



Dates differ by municipality, and there are often multiple editions. Specific editions can be further divided into volumes, but not all editions contain all volumes. Most editions are also “corrected” with paste-on slips as cities evolved. Editions with a range of years indicate that the edition has several corrections from different years. Corrections are also usually visible on the maps.

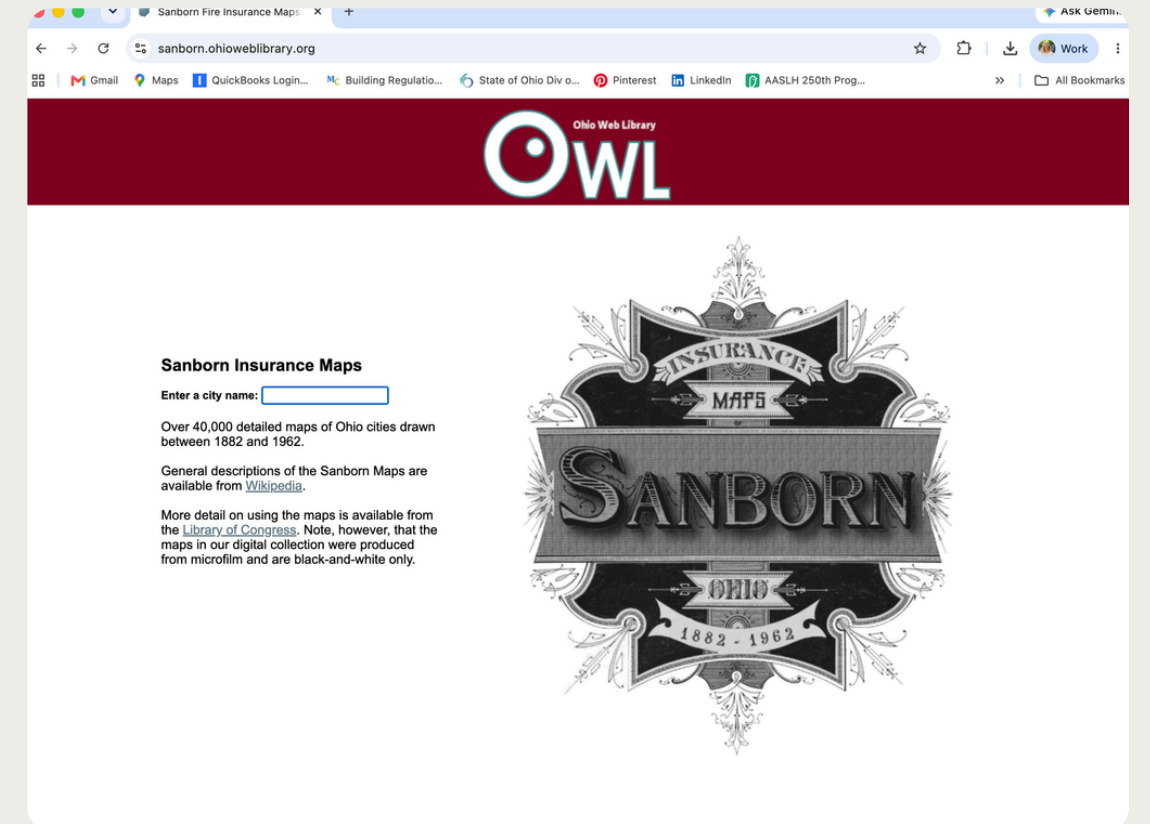
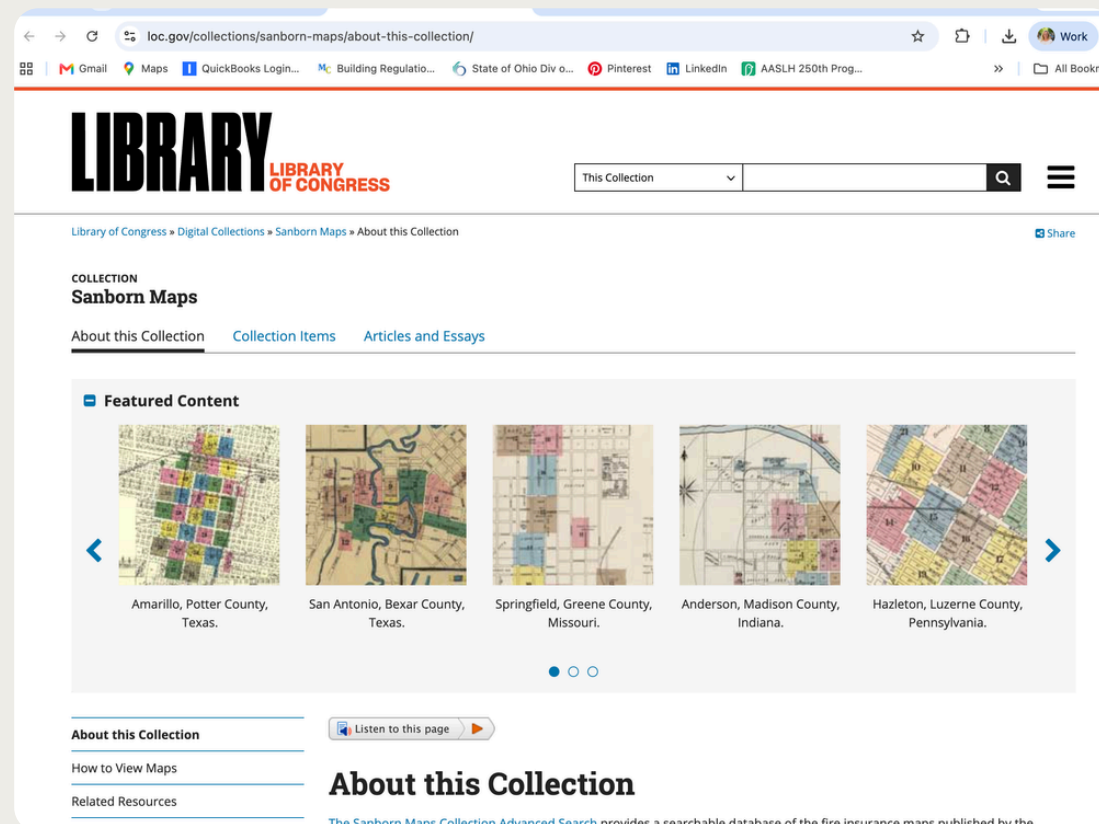


How do we access them?

Sanborn Maps

Physical copies of Sanborn Maps are kept at libraries and universities throughout the United States. Some editions are available online. A full list of available maps, in color, can be found on the Library of Congress Digital Collections website.

Ohio Sanborn Maps are also available online through OWL (Ohio Web Library): <https://sanborn.ohioweblibrary.org/>. Note that these maps are typically lower quality and can therefore be more difficult to read. They can be searched by address/intersection. Keep in mind that street names and/or address numbers may have changed over the years.



Sanborn Maps

EDITIONS

Sanborn Maps were released in editions loosely corresponding to the year they were completed. Typically, multiple editions exist for a given city. Each edition has a general index that lists the neighborhoods covered and includes a master street index. It may also contain a key map showing the areas covered in each volume.

VOLUMES

Larger cities were broken down into volumes corresponding to geographical area. In Cincinnati, for example, there are a total of eleven volumes throughout all of the editions. Each volume contains its own street index and key map, which breaks the volume down into sections.

SECTIONS

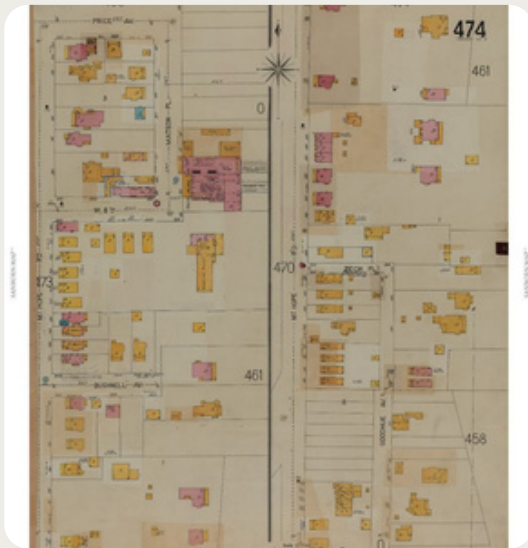
Each section has its own sheet, where the information about each individual building is located.



Edition Key Map



Volume Key Map



Section Map

BROOKLYN,-----	2200-2224	4	*328
"-----	2201-2223	4	*328
Brooks Ave.,-----	3628-3665	8	916
" " at Wyoming,-----	700-799	11	1130
Brookside Ave.,-----	4200-4264	6	*609
" "-----	4201-4265	6	*608
Brotherton Road,-----	3200-3254	7	*802
" "-----	3201-3265	7	*806
" "-----	3300-3423	7	803
" "-----	3424-3527	7	804
" "-----	4700-5317	7	822
Brough,-----	890-949	5	1302
Broughton,-----		7	777
Brown,-----	210-272	7	*765
"-----	211-273	7	*764
" at Lockland,-----		11	1112
" "-----		11	1113
" "-----		11	1134
" " Reading,-----	1400-1435	11	1233
Browne Alley,-----		3	226
" "-----		3	227
" "-----		3	237
Brownfield,-----		7	846
Browning Ave.,-----	3300-3353	7	791
Brownway Ave.,-----	4401-4439	7	*795
" "-----	4200-4438	7	*801
" "-----	4201-4339	7	*800
Broxterman Ave., at St. Bernard,-----		10	1037
Bruce Ave.,-----	1500-1518	6	*638
" "-----	1501-1507	6	*613
" "-----	1509-1519	6	*614
" "-----	1560-1675	6	638
" "-----	1700-1898	6	*636
" "-----	1701-1821	6	*616
" "-----	1823-1899	6	*615

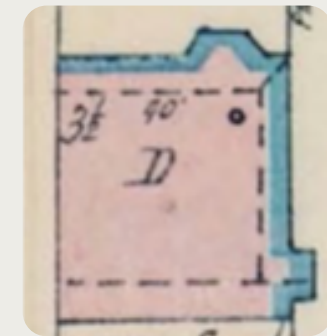
* Indicates only one side of Street shown

Reading the maps

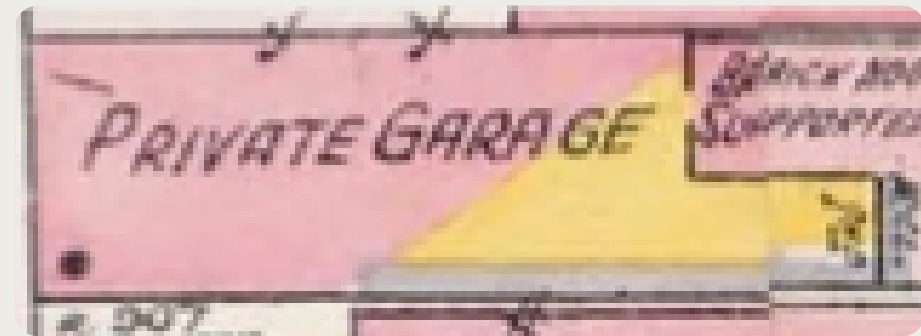
Sanborn Maps

(TILE)	Tile building.	SHINGLE ROOF X	Brick building with frame side. (DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)
NUMBER OF STORIES 4	Brick building with frame cornice.	(VEND)	Brick veneered building.
TWO STORIES AND BSMT 28 COMPOSITION ROOF	" " " stone front. " " " frame side. (DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)	BRICK 1ST	" and frame building.
SHINGLE ROOF X	Brick veneered building.	FRAME, BRICK LINED	Frame building, brick lined.
(VEND)	Brick veneered building.	F=FLAT S=STORE	" " metal clad.
BRICK 1ST	" and frame building.	D=DWELLING	Frame building.
FRAME, BRICK LINED	Frame building, brick lined.	(ASB. CL.)	Frame building covered with asbestos
NON COMBUSTIBLE ROOF COVERING OF METAL, SLATE, TILE OR ASBESTOS SHINGLES	Brick building with brick or metal cornice.		

TILE 1ST BRICK 1ST PYROBAR 1ST	Fire proof construction. (OR FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTN)
ADDBE	Adobe building.
HEIGHT OF BUILDING IN FEET FROM GROUND TO ROOF LINE	Stone building.
(C. BR)	Concrete, lime, cinder or cement brick
(C. B)	Hollow concrete or cement block constn
(CONC)	Concrete or reinforced concrete constn
F=FLAT S=STORE	Frame building, metal clad.
AinB AUTO IN BSMT	Iron building. Tenant building occupied by various manufacturing or occupancies
LOFT	



Veneer



Mixed Construction

Sanborn Maps are distinctive for their highly specific set of symbols, which allows complex information to be conveyed clearly. Knowledge of the keys and colors is essential to proper interpretation of the information.

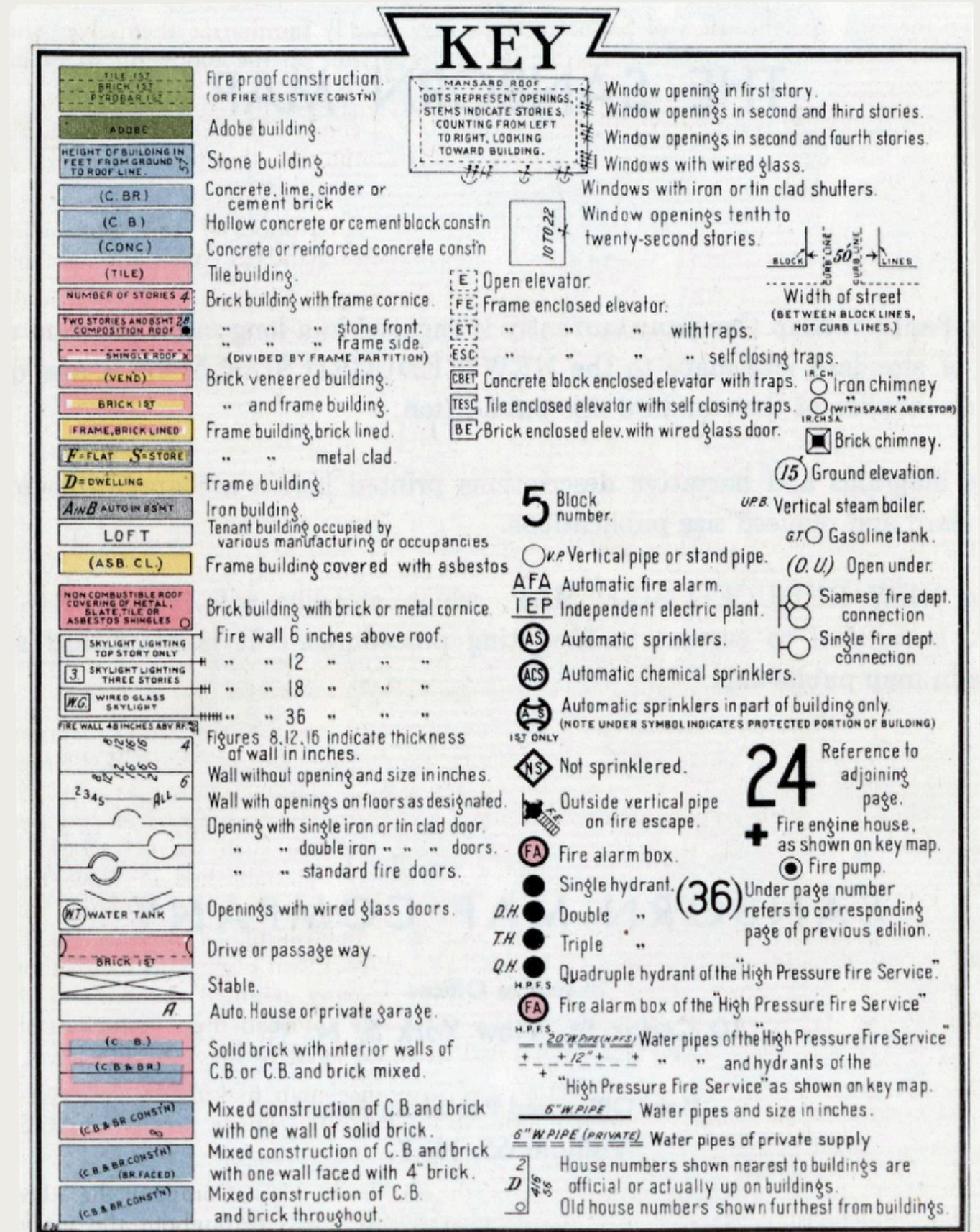
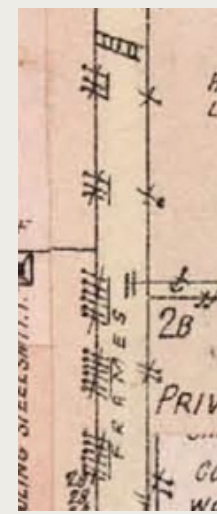
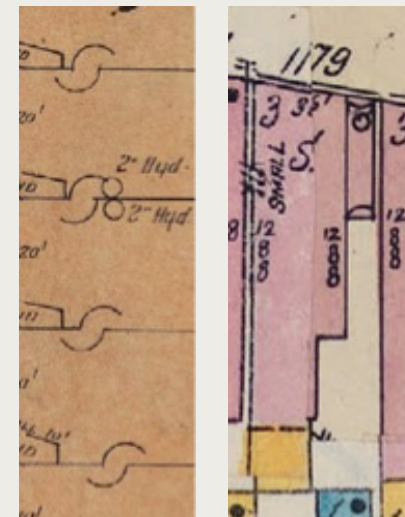
COLOR

- Yellow indicates wood frame structures.
- Red indicates brick construction.
- Olive green and/or brown indicates fire-resistive construction.
- Gray indicates adobe construction. Gray is also used to indicate metal or iron building materials.
- Blue indicates stone, concrete, and/or cinder block construction.

KEY	
TILE 1ST BRICK 1ST PYROBAR 1ST	Fire proof construction. (OR FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTN)
ADDBE	Adobe building.
HEIGHT OF BUILDING IN FEET FROM GROUND TO ROOF LINE	Stone building.
(C. BR)	Concrete, lime, cinder or cement brick
(C. B)	Hollow concrete or cement block constn
(CONC)	Concrete or reinforced concrete constn
(TILE)	Tile building.
NUMBER OF STORIES 4	Brick building with frame cornice.
TWO STORIES AND BSMT 28 COMPOSITION ROOF	" " " stone front. " " " frame side. (DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)
SHINGLE ROOF X	Brick veneered building.
(VEND)	" and frame building.
BRICK 1ST	Frame building, brick lined.
FRAME, BRICK LINED	" " metal clad
F=FLAT S=STORE	Frame building.
AinB AUTO IN BSMT	Iron building. Tenant building occupied by various manufacturing or occupancies
LOFT	
(ASB. CL.)	Frame building covered with asbestos
NON COMBUSTIBLE ROOF COVERING OF METAL, SLATE, TILE OR ASBESTOS SHINGLES	Brick building with brick or metal cornice.
SKYLIGHT LIGHTING TOP STORY ONLY	Fire wall 6 inches above roof.
3 SKYLIGHT LIGHTING THREE STORIES	" " " 12 " " "
W.G. WIRED GLASS SKYLIGHT	" " " 18 " " "
FIGURES 8, 12, 16	Indicate thickness of wall in inches.
2345 ALL	Wall without opening and size in inches.
WATER TANK	Opening with single iron or tin clad door.
BRICK 1ST	" " double iron " " " doors.
A	" " standard fire doors.
(C. B)	Openings with wired glass doors.
(C. B & BR CONSTN)	Drive or passage way.
(C. B & BR CONSTN) (BR FACED)	Stable.
(C. B & BR CONSTN)	Auto. House or private garage.
(C. B & BR CONSTN)	Solid brick with interior walls of C. B. or C. B. and brick mixed.
(C. B & BR CONSTN)	Mixed construction of C. B. and brick with one wall of solid brick.
(C. B & BR CONSTN)	Mixed construction of C. B. and brick with one wall faced with 4" brick.
(C. B & BR CONSTN)	Mixed construction of C. B. and brick throughout.
MANSAARD ROOF DOTS REPRESENT OPENINGS. STEMS INDICATE STORIES, COUNTING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, LOOKING TOWARD BUILDING.	Window opening in first story. Window openings in second and third stories. Window openings in second and fourth stories. Windows with wired glass. Windows with iron or tin clad shutters. Window openings tenth to twenty-second stories.
107022	Open elevator. Frame enclosed elevator. " " " with traps. " " " self closing traps.
CBET	Concrete block enclosed elevator with traps.
TESC	Tile enclosed elevator with self closing traps.
BE	Brick enclosed elev. with wired glass door.
15	Ground elevation.
5	Block number.
UPB	Vertical steam boiler.
GR	Gasoline tank.
0. U	Open under.
AFA	Automatic fire alarm.
IEP	Independent electric plant.
AS	Automatic sprinklers.
ACS	Automatic chemical sprinklers.
AS	Automatic sprinklers in part of building only. (NOTE UNDER SYMBOL INDICATES PROTECTED PORTION OF BUILDING)
NS	Not sprinklered.
Outside vertical pipe on fire escape.	Reference to adjoining page.
FA	Fire alarm box.
Single hydrant.	Fire engine house, as shown on key map.
DH	Double " (36) Under page number refers to corresponding page of previous edition.
TH	Triple ".
QH	Quadruple hydrant of the "High Pressure Fire Service".
H.P.F.S.	Fire alarm box of the "High Pressure Fire Service".
20" W PIPE (H.P.F.S.)	Water pipes of the "High Pressure Fire Service" and hydrants of the "High Pressure Fire Service" as shown on key map.
6" W PIPE	Water pipes and size in inches.
6" W PIPE (PRIVATE)	Water pipes of private supply
2	House numbers shown nearest to buildings are official or actually up on buildings.
4/5	Old house numbers shown furthest from buildings.

Sanborn Maps

Extending solid lines beyond the edge of a building was a technique for indicating how high above the roof fire walls were built.



Sanborn Maps

CENTRAL LETTER: ACTIVITY

“A” indicates automobile (usually designates the location of a garage)

“Conf’y” indicates a confectionary (candy store)

“D” or “Dwg” indicates a dwelling

“DG” indicates a dry goods store

“F” indicates a flat or apartment

“Gro” indicates a grocery

“PO” indicates a post office

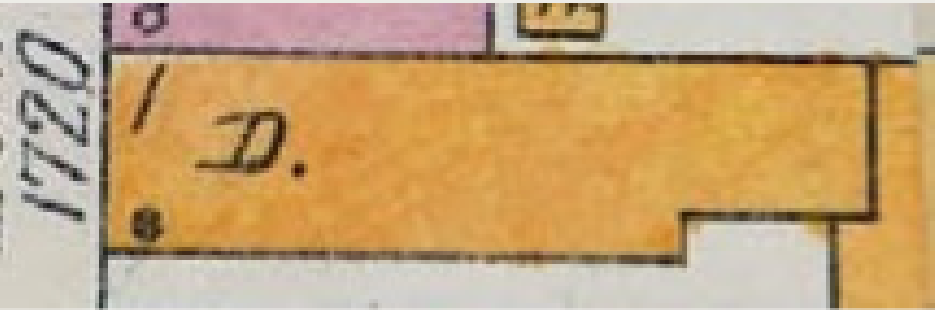
“S” indicates a store

“Sal” indicates a saloon

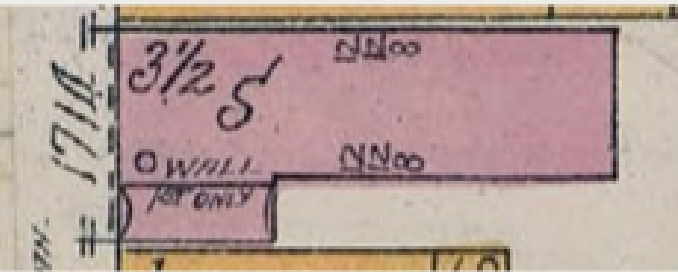
“Vac” indicates the space is vacant

“W Ho” indicates a warehouse

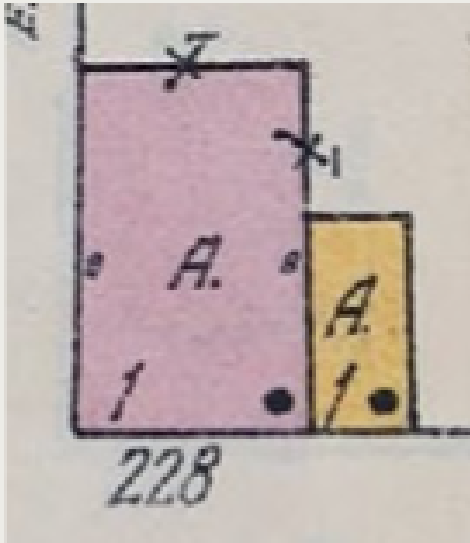
The letter “B” indicates the presence of a basement
A large X drawn over the building indicates a stable



D: Dwelling



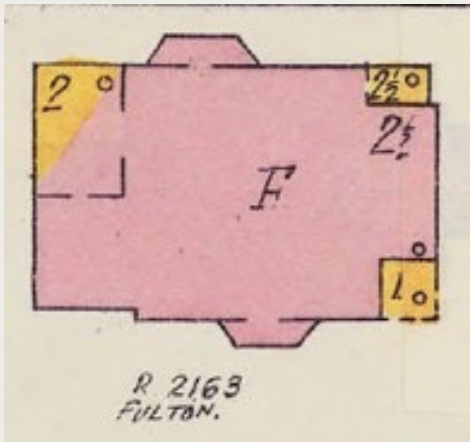
S: Store



A: Auto Garage



Stable



F: Flat/Apartment

Sanborn Map Abbreviations			
“Linking technology with tradition”®			
Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
A	Automobile (usually designates the location of a garage)	HPFS	High pressure fire service
A in B	Automobile located in basement	H'dw	Hardware
A S	Automatic sprinkler	Hack	Hackney or delivery service
Abv	Above	Hardw	Hardware
ACS	Automatic chemical sprinkler	Ho	Hotel or house (as used to designate a warehouse)
AFA	Automatic fire alarm	Htr	Heater
Ag	Agricultural	Hyd	Hydrant
Appts	Apparatus	ICRR	Illinois Central Railroad
Apts	Apartments	Imp	Implements
Asb Cl	Asbestos clad	Ins	Insurance
Att'd	Attended	Insts	Instruments
AudItm	Auditorium	Ir Cl	Iron clad
Auto Ho	Automobile house, or garage	K of C	Knights of Columbus
B	Basement, boiler or occasionally brick	Lab	Laboratory
B&S	Boots and shoes	Lodg	Lodging
BPOE	Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks	Luth	Lutheran
B Sm	Blacksmith	Luthn	Lutheran
Bld'g	Building	ME	Methodist Episcopal
B'tr	Boiler	Mach'y	Machinery
B'st	Basement	Makr	Maker
Bak'y	Bakery	Man'f'y	Manufactory or factory
Balc	Balcony	Merch	Merchandise
Bap	Baptist	Mfy	Manufactory or factory
Bld	Barrel	Mil'ry	Military
Bld's	Barrels	Mkg	Making
BE	Brick enclosed elevator	Mo	Motor
Bill'ds	Billiards	NS	Not sprinklered
Bl Sm	Blacksmith	OU	Open under
Blk Sm	Blacksmith	Off	Office
Bst	Basement	PO	Post office
C B	Cement brick or concrete block construction	Paint'g	Painting
C Br	Concrete brick or cement block construction	Pat Med	Patent medicines
Cap'cy	Capacity	Plumb'g	Plumbing
Captr	Carpenter	Print'g	Printing
CBET	Concrete enclosed elevator with traps	QH	Quadruple (fire) hydrant
Chem	Chemical	RC	Roman Catholic
Chinaw	China ware or porcelain	Rf	Roof
Chine	Chinese	Rm	Room
Cl	Clad	Rep	Repair
Clo	Clothing	Rep'g	Repairing
Co	Company	Repos'tory	Repository
Comp	Composition construction (i.e. stucco) or compressor	Rest'r	Restaurant
Conc	Concrete	Rf	Roof
Conf'y	Confectionary (candy store)	Rm	Room
Conf'cy	Confectionary (candy store)	S	Store
Constr'n	Construction	SA	Spark arrester
Corp'n	Corporation	S Vac	Store portion of building is vacant
D	Dwelling	Sal	Saloon
DH	Double (fire) hydrant	Skylts	Skylights
DG	Dry goods	Sm	Smith, as in gunsmith or blacksmith
Drs	Doctor's office	Sm Ho	Smokehouse
Dwg	Dwelling	Spk'trs	Sprinklers
E	Open elevator	Stge	Storage
E Fl	Each Floor	Stry	Story
EI	Electric	Sta	Station
Elec	Electrician	Stat'y	Stationary
Eng	Engine	TH	Triple (fire) hydrant
Ent	Entertainment	Td	Telephone
Episc'l	Episcopal	Tenem'ts	Tenements
ESC	Elevator with self-closing traps	TESC	Tile enclosed elevator with self-closing traps
ET	Elevator with traps	Tinw	Tinware
Exch	Telephone exchange	Trim'mg	Trimming
Expr	Express (as used to designate a delivery service)	U	Upright
F	Flat (as used to designate a delivery service)	Up	Upright
FA	Fire alarm	VP	Vertical pipe
FE	Fire escape	Vac	Vacant
F Pump	Fire pump	Var'd	Veneered
Fll'g Sta	Filling station, or gas station	Ven'd	Veneered
Fl	Floor	W	Ware, as in warehouse or wareroom
Fr Attic	Frame constructed attic	WC	Water closet or toilet
Frat	Fraternity	WG	Wire glass skylights
Fur	Furnishings	W Ho	Warehouse
Furn'g	Furnishings	WPA	Works Progress Administration
Fune	Furniture	W's	Works
GAR	Grand Army of the Republic	Whol	Wholesale
GT	Gasoline tank	Wkg	Working
Gal	Galley	Woodwkg	Woodworking
Gall	Galley		
Gall'y	Galley		
Gen'l	General (as used to designate a general store)		
Gents	Gentlemen's		
Greas'g	Greasing		
Gro	Grocery or groceries		

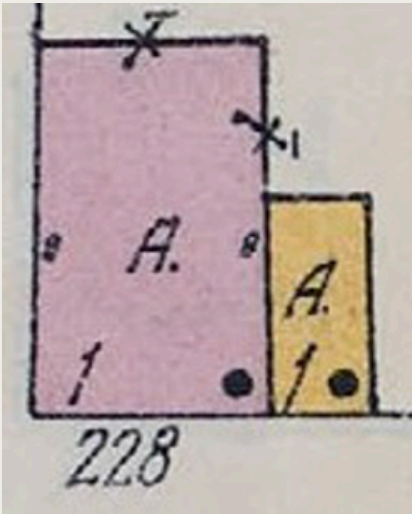
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Reading the maps

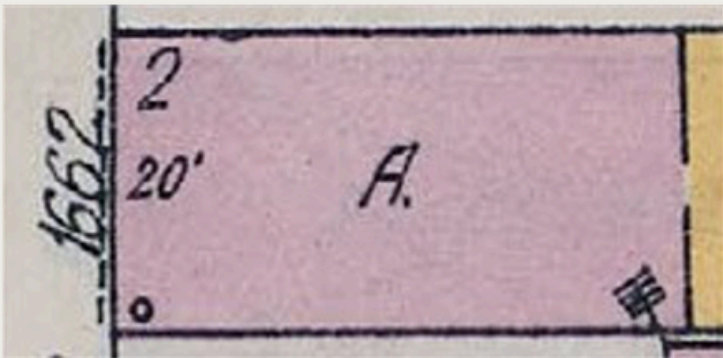
Sanborn Maps

CORNER SYMBOL: ROOF CONSTRUCTION

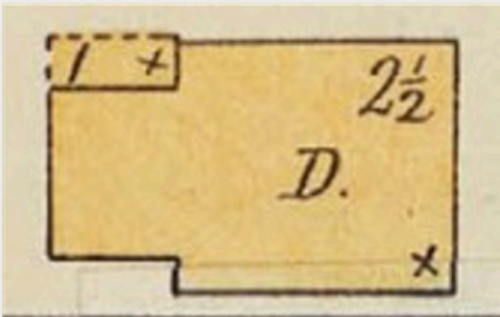
- A filled dot indicates a composition roof
- An open dot indicates a noncombustible roof (metal, slate, tile, etc.)
- An 'X' symbol indicates a shingle roof



Composition Roof



Noncombustible Roof



Shingle Roof

TILE 1ST
BRICK 1ST
PYROBR 1ST

ADBR

HEIGHT OF BUILDING IN
FEET FROM GROUND
TO ROOF LINE

(C. BR)

(C. B)

(CONC)

(TILE)

NUMBER OF STORIES 4

TWO STORIES AND SHUT 2A
COMPOSITION ROOF

SHINGLE ROOF X

(VEND)

BRICK 1ST

FRAME, BRICK LINED

F=FLAT S=STORE

D=DWELLING

A=IN B=OUT IN SHUT

LOFT

(ASB. CL.)

NON COMBUSTIBLE ROOF
COVERING OF METAL,
SLATE, TILE OR
ASBESTOS SHINGLES

SKYLIGHT LIGHTING
TOP STORY ONLY

3 SKYLIGHT LIGHTING
THREE STORIES

W.G. WIRED GLASS
SKYLIGHT

FIRE WALL 48 INCHES ASB. R.P.

4

6

ALL

WATER TANK

BRICK 1ST

A

(C. B.)

(C. B. & BR)

(C. B. & BR CONSTN)

(C. B. & BR CONSTN)
(BR FACED)

(C. B. & BR CONSTN)

Fire proof construction.
(OR FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTN)

Adobe building.

Stone building

Concrete, lime, cinder or
cement brick

Hollow concrete or cement block constn

Concrete or reinforced concrete constn

Tile building.

Brick building with frame cornice.

" " " stone front.
" " " frame side.
(DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)

Brick veneered building.

" and frame building.

Frame building, brick lined.

" " metal clad

Frame building.

Iron building.

Tenant building occupied by
various manufacturing or occupancies

Frame building covered with asbestos

Brick building with brick or metal cornice.

Fire wall 6 inches above roof.

" " " 12 " " "

" " " 18 " " "

" " " 36 " " "

Figures 8, 12, 16 indicate thickness
of wall in inches.

Wall without opening and size in inches.

Wall with openings on floors as designated.

Opening with single iron or tin clad door.

" " double iron " " " doors.

" " standard fire doors.

Openings with wired glass doors.

Drive or passage way.

Stable.

Auto. House or private garage.

Solid brick with interior walls of
C. B. or C. B. and brick mixed.

Mixed construction of C. B. and brick
with one wall of solid brick.

Mixed construction of C. B. and brick
with one wall faced with 4" brick.

Mixed construction of C. B.
and brick throughout.

KEY

MANHOLE ROOF
DOTS REPRESENT OPENINGS.
STEMS INDICATE STORIES,
COUNTING FROM LEFT
TO RIGHT, LOOKING
TOWARD BUILDING.

Window opening in first story.

Window openings in second and third stories.

Window openings in second and fourth stories.

Windows with wired glass.

Windows with iron or tin clad shutters.

Window openings tenth to
twenty-second stories.

Open elevator.

Frame enclosed elevator.

" " " with traps.

" " " self closing traps.

Concrete block enclosed elevator with traps.

Tile enclosed elevator with self closing traps.

Brick enclosed elev. with wired glass door.

Iron chimney
(WITH SPARK ARRESTOR)
IRCHSA

Brick chimney.

Ground elevation.

Vertical steam boiler.

Gasoline tank.

Open under.

Siamese fire dept.
connection

Single fire dept.
connection

Automatic fire alarm.

Independent electric plant.

Automatic sprinklers.

Automatic chemical sprinklers.

Automatic sprinklers in part of building only.
(NOTE UNDER SYMBOL INDICATES PROTECTED PORTION OF BUILDING)

Not sprinklered.

Outside vertical pipe
on fire escape.

Fire alarm box.

Single hydrant.

Double ".

Triple ".

Quadruple hydrant of the "High Pressure Fire Service".

Fire alarm box of the "High Pressure Fire Service"

Water pipes of the "High Pressure Fire Service"
and hydrants of the
"High Pressure Fire Service" as shown on key map.

Water pipes and size in inches.

Water pipes of private supply

House numbers shown nearest to buildings are
official or actually up on buildings.

Old house numbers shown furthest from buildings.

Sanborn Maps

NUMBERS

A large number with a circle in the street indicates the base elevation

A large number in the street indicates street width

A large number near the front of the building indicates the number of stories

A small number adjacent to a wall indicates wall thickness

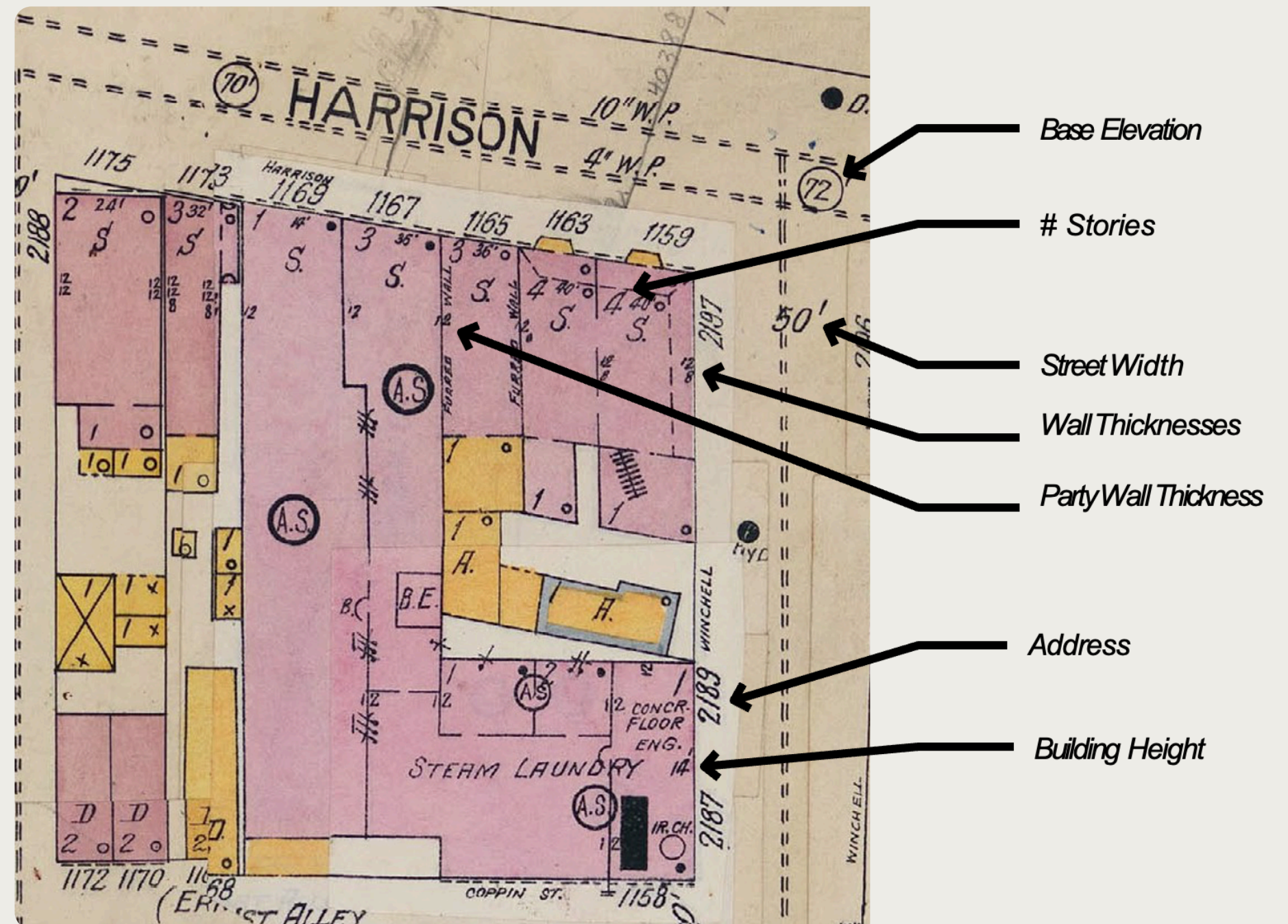
A small number straddling a wall indicates a party wall thickness

A large number outside of the front of a building indicates address

A small number with a “feet” symbol near an exterior wall indicates building height

Symbols and abbreviations are often combined; for example, “S in B” represents “store in basement.” “2B” indicates two stories and a basement.

Keys or legends changed over time; reference the legends published in the atlases within the editions.



Reading the maps

Sanborn Maps

SYMBOLS

A solid line just outside of the exterior wall indicates a brick or metal cornice.

A dashed line just outside of the exterior wall indicates a framed cornice.

Solid lines extended beyond the building perimeter with hash marks indicate a parapet wall.

Each hash mark indicates 6" of height.

A dashed or solid box with the letter 'E' indicates a specific style of elevator.

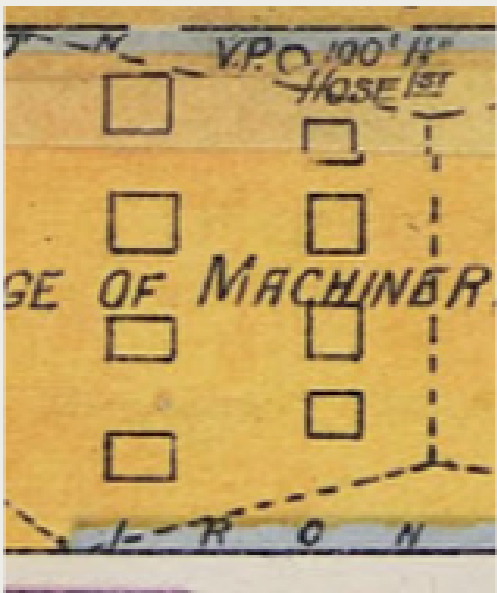
E	Open elevator.
FE	Frame enclosed elevator.
ET	Frame enclosed elevator with traps.
ESC	Frame enclosed elevator with self closing traps.
CBET	Concrete block enclosed elevator with traps.
TESC	Tile enclosed elevator with self closing traps.
BE	Brick enclosed elevator with wired glass door.

SKYLIGHT LIGHTING TOP STORY ONLY	H	"	"	12	"	"	"
3 SKYLIGHT LIGHTING THREE STORIES	H	"	"	18	"	"	"
W.G. WIRED GLASS SKYLIGHT	HHH	"	"	36	"	"	"

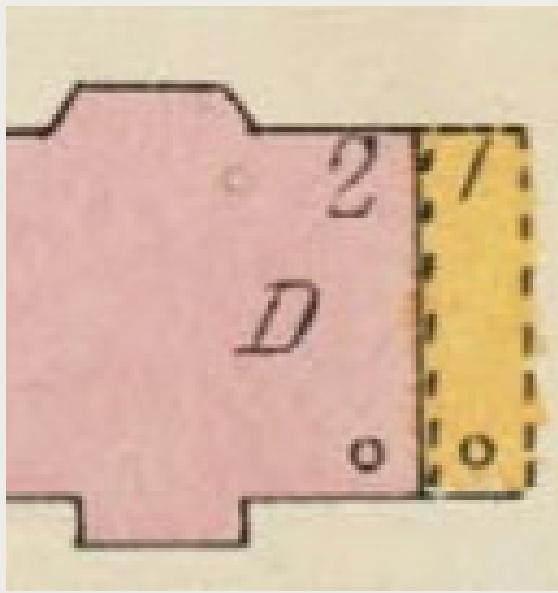
FIRE WALL 48 INCHES ABV RF.



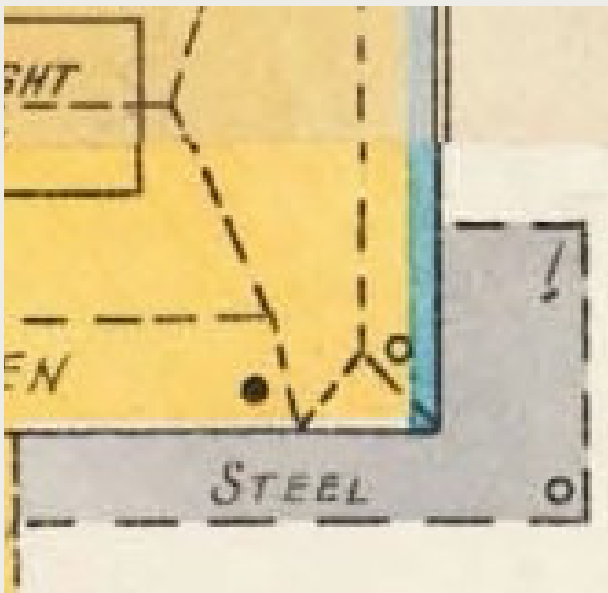
Elevators/Stairs



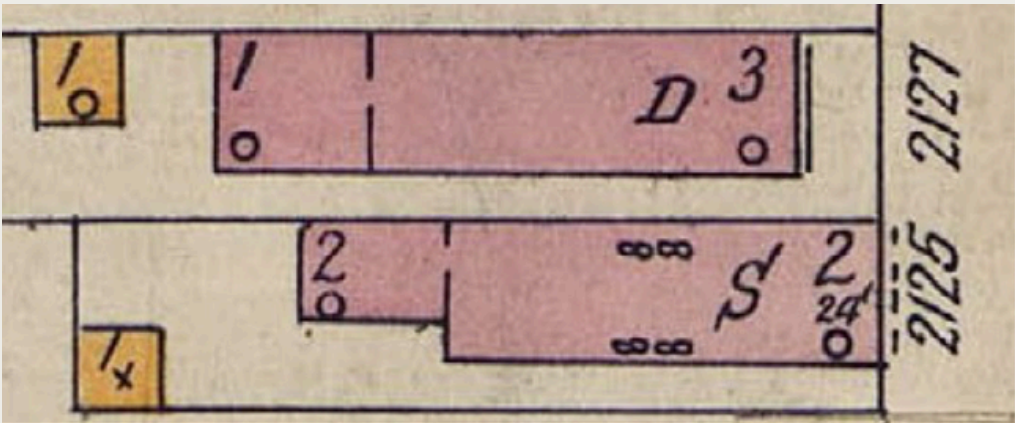
Skylights



Open Wood Porch

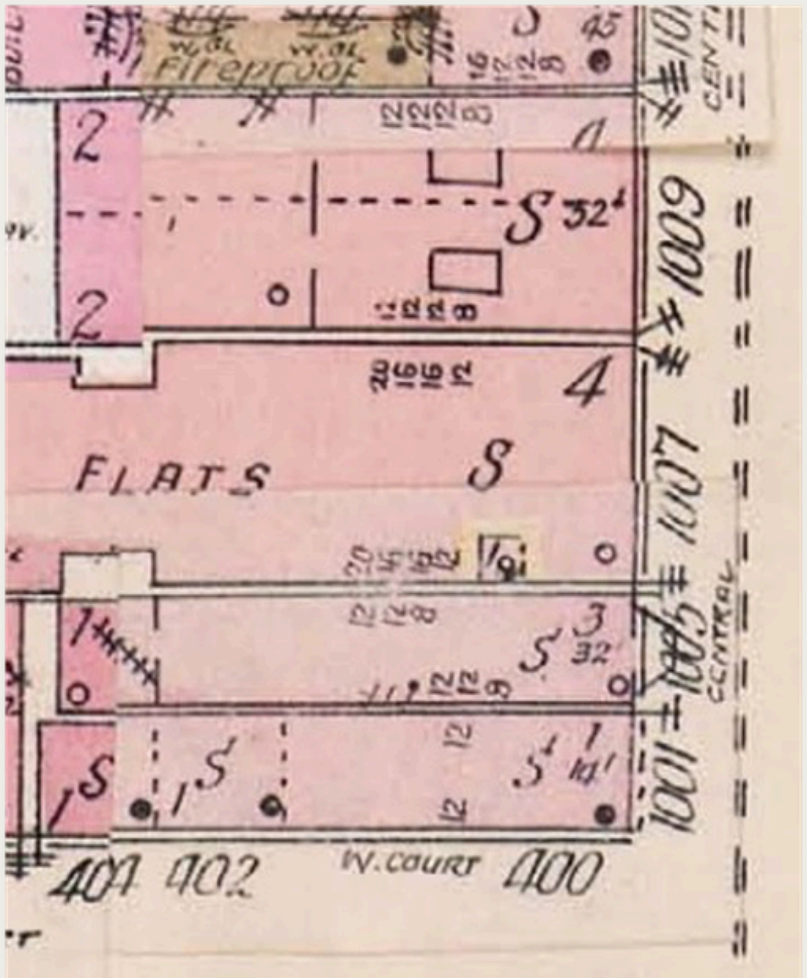


Steel Awning



Solid line: Brick/Metal Cornice

Dashed line: Framed Cornice



18" Parapet
12" Parapet

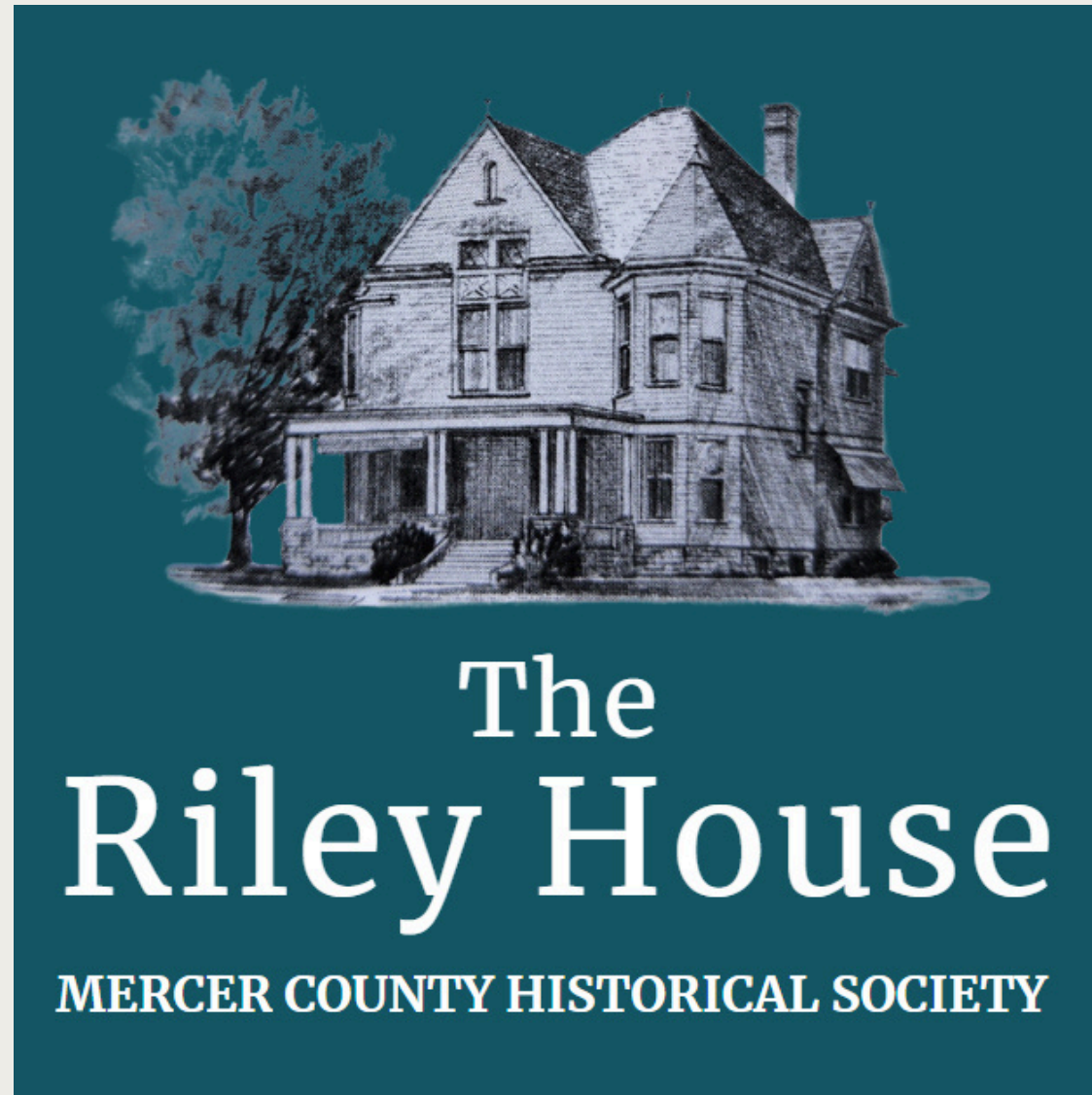
12" Parapet
18" Parapet

18" Parapet
6" Parapet

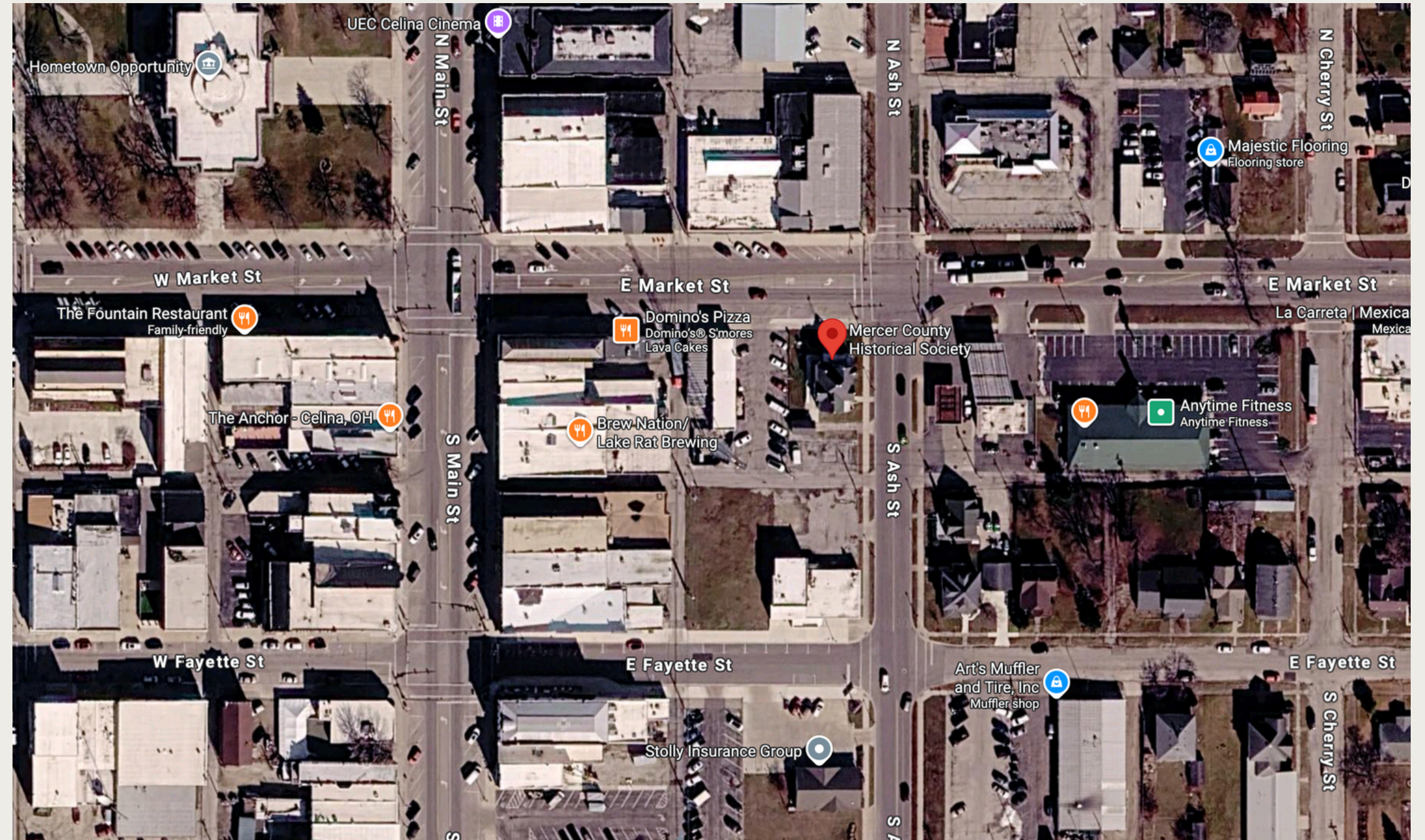
No Parapet
12" Parapet

The Riley House

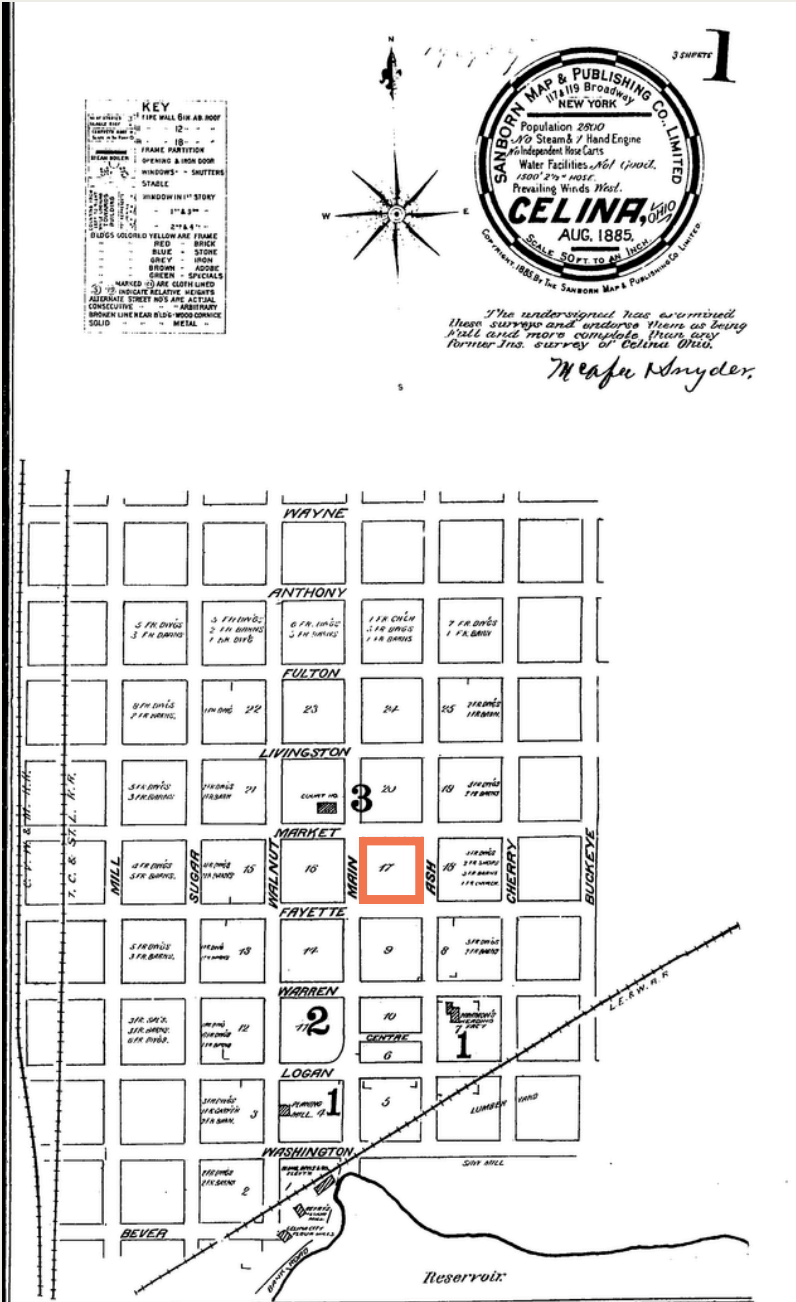
Sanborn Maps



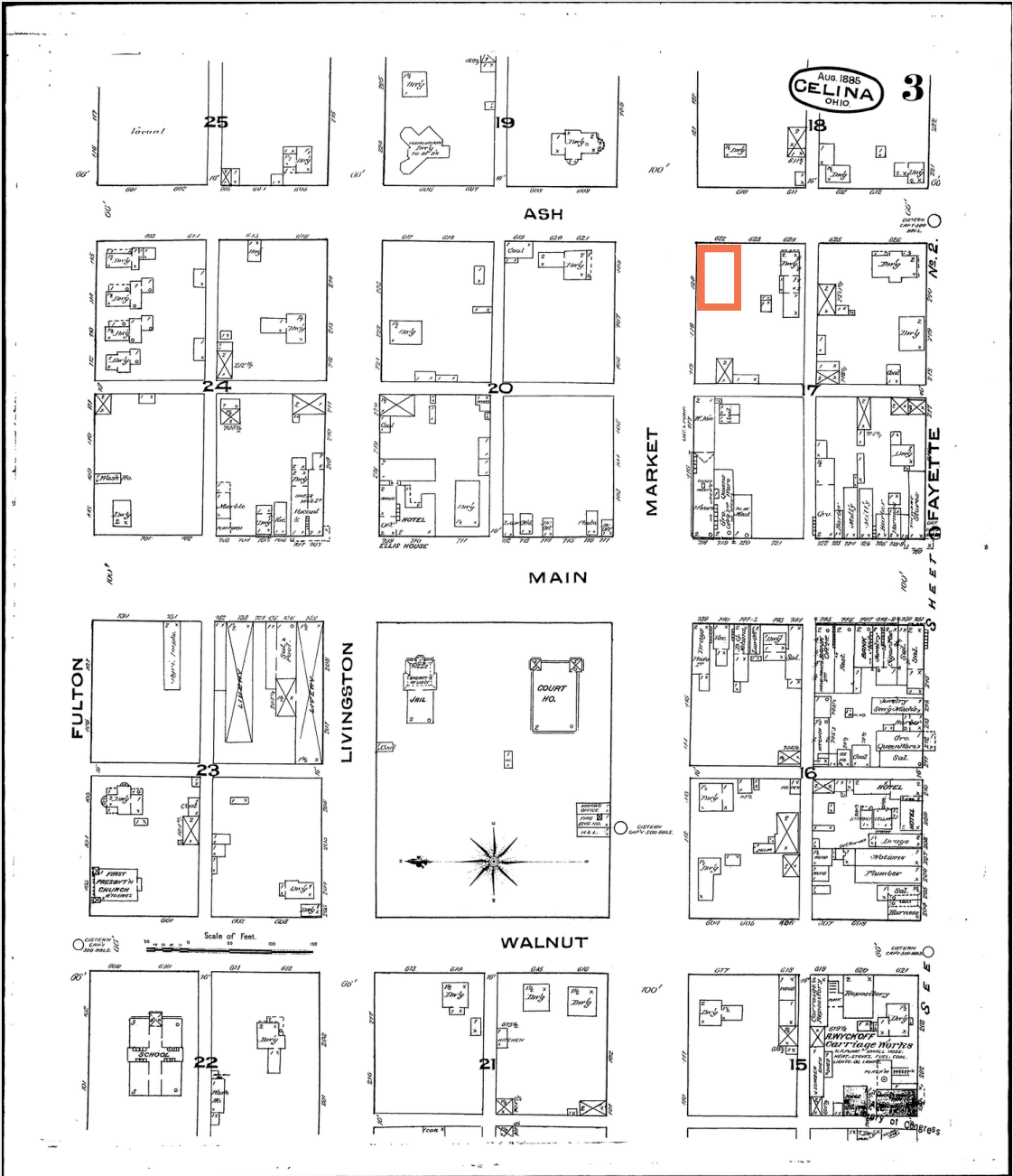
Let's examine the Sanborn Maps of the Riley House (Mercer County Historical Society) property located at 130 E Market Street in Celina, Ohio.



Sanborn Maps



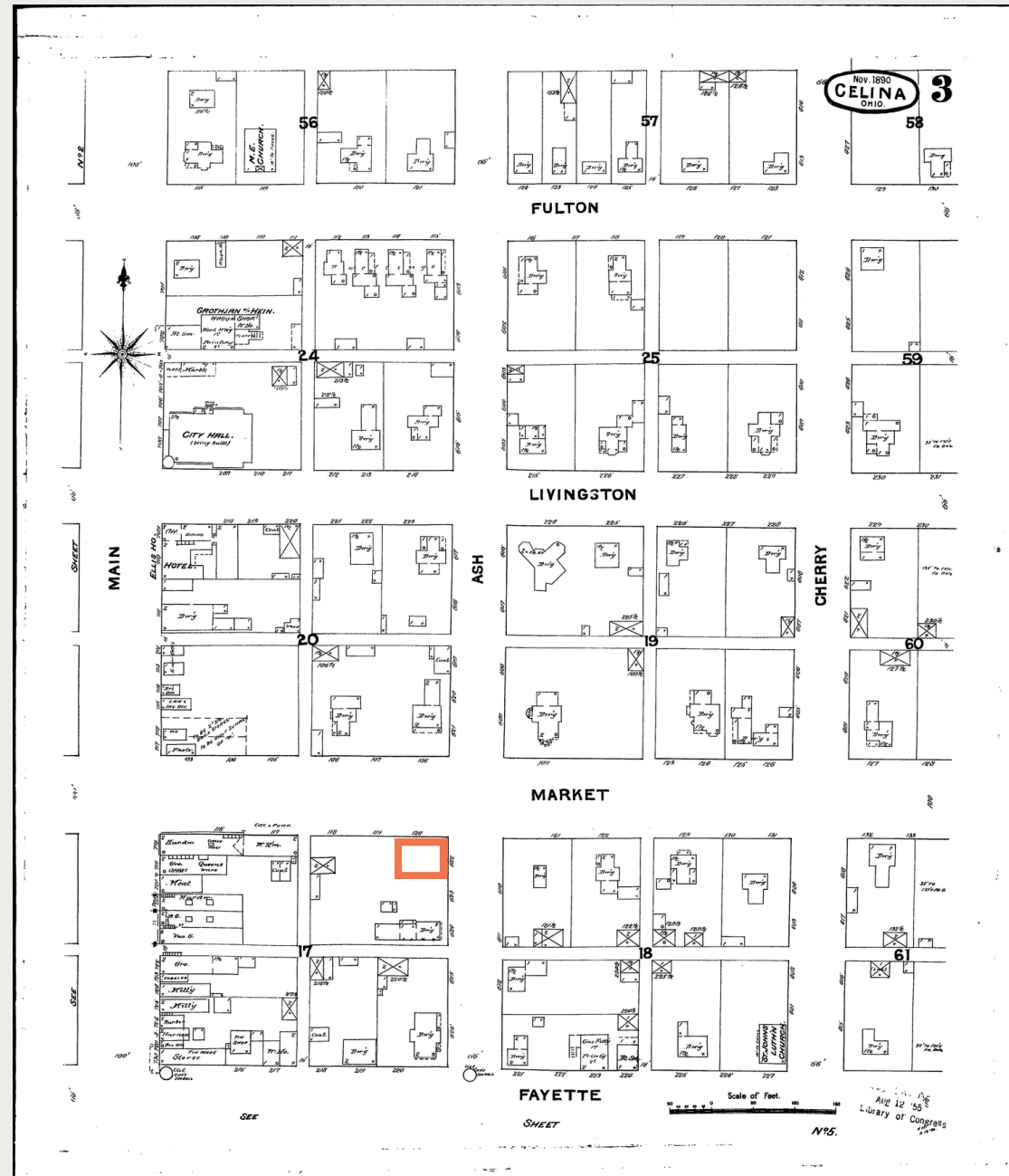
1885 edition key map



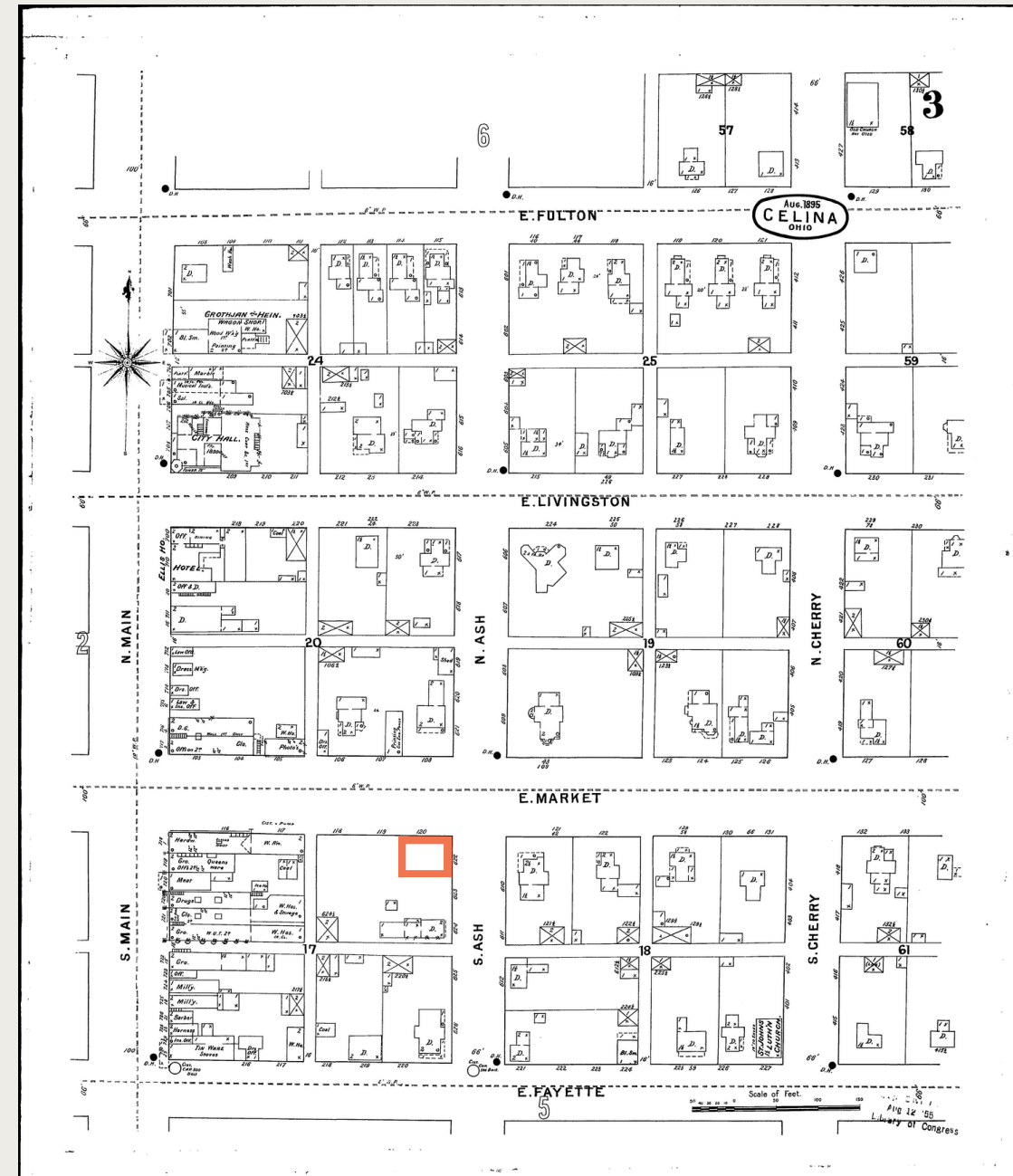
1885 map indicates the site is vacant

A quick search for Celina on OWL yields seven Sanborn Map editions: August 1885, November 1890, August 1895, July 1907, March 1914, October 1926, and October 1926-March 1940. The index of each edition indicates that the southwest corner of Market and Ash is shown within section 17.

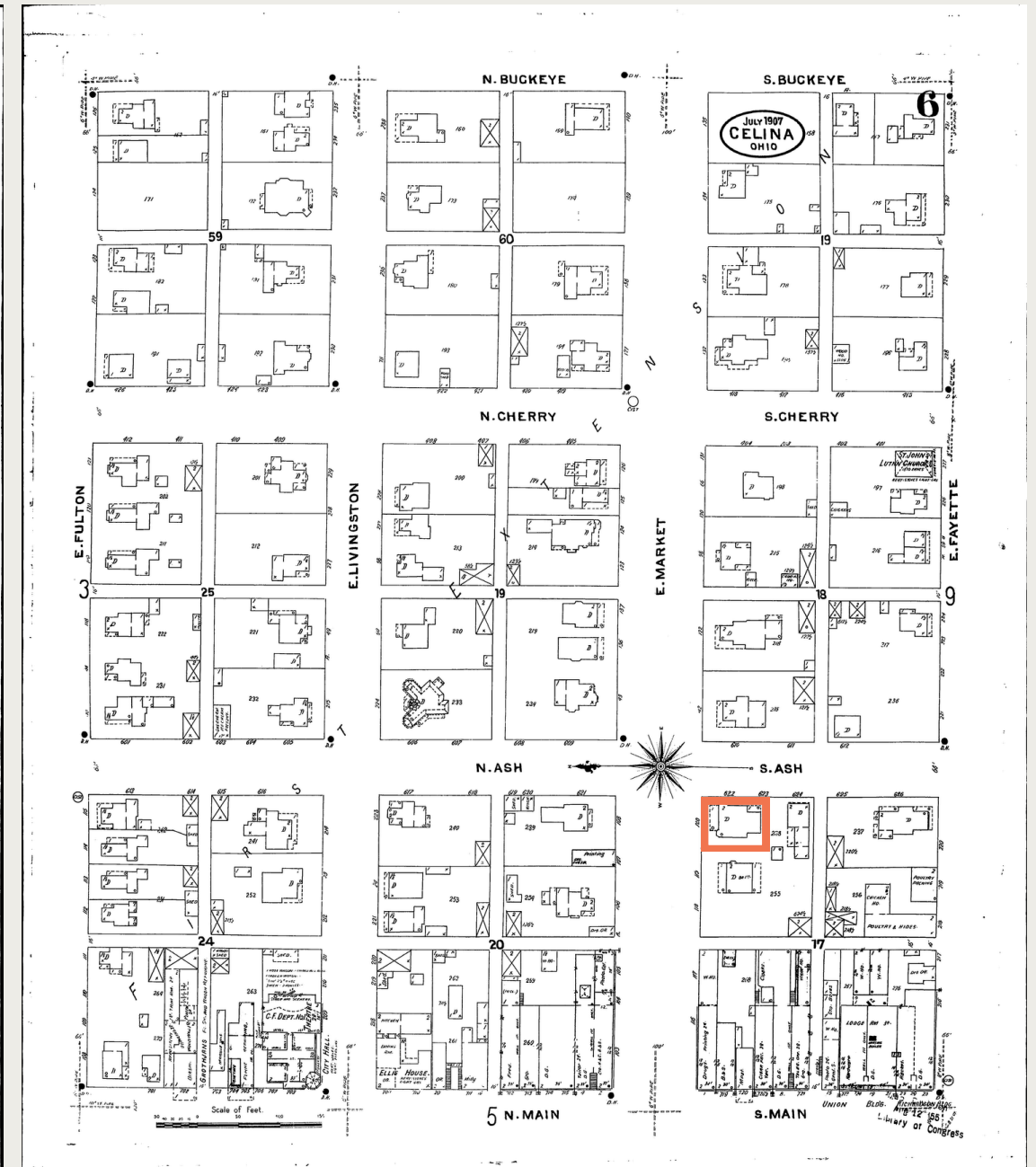
Sanborn Maps



1890 map indicates the site is vacant

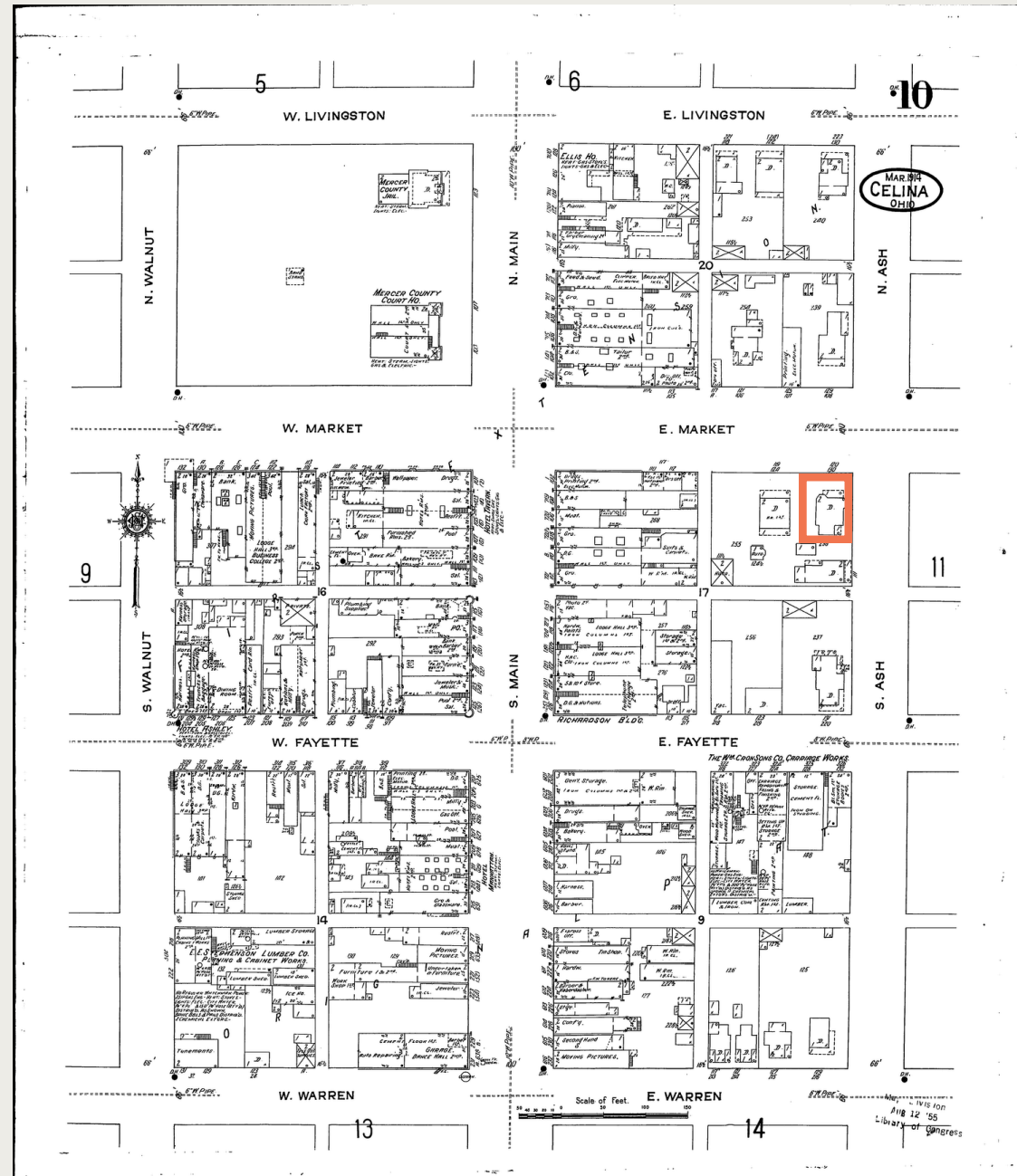


1895 map indicates the site is vacant

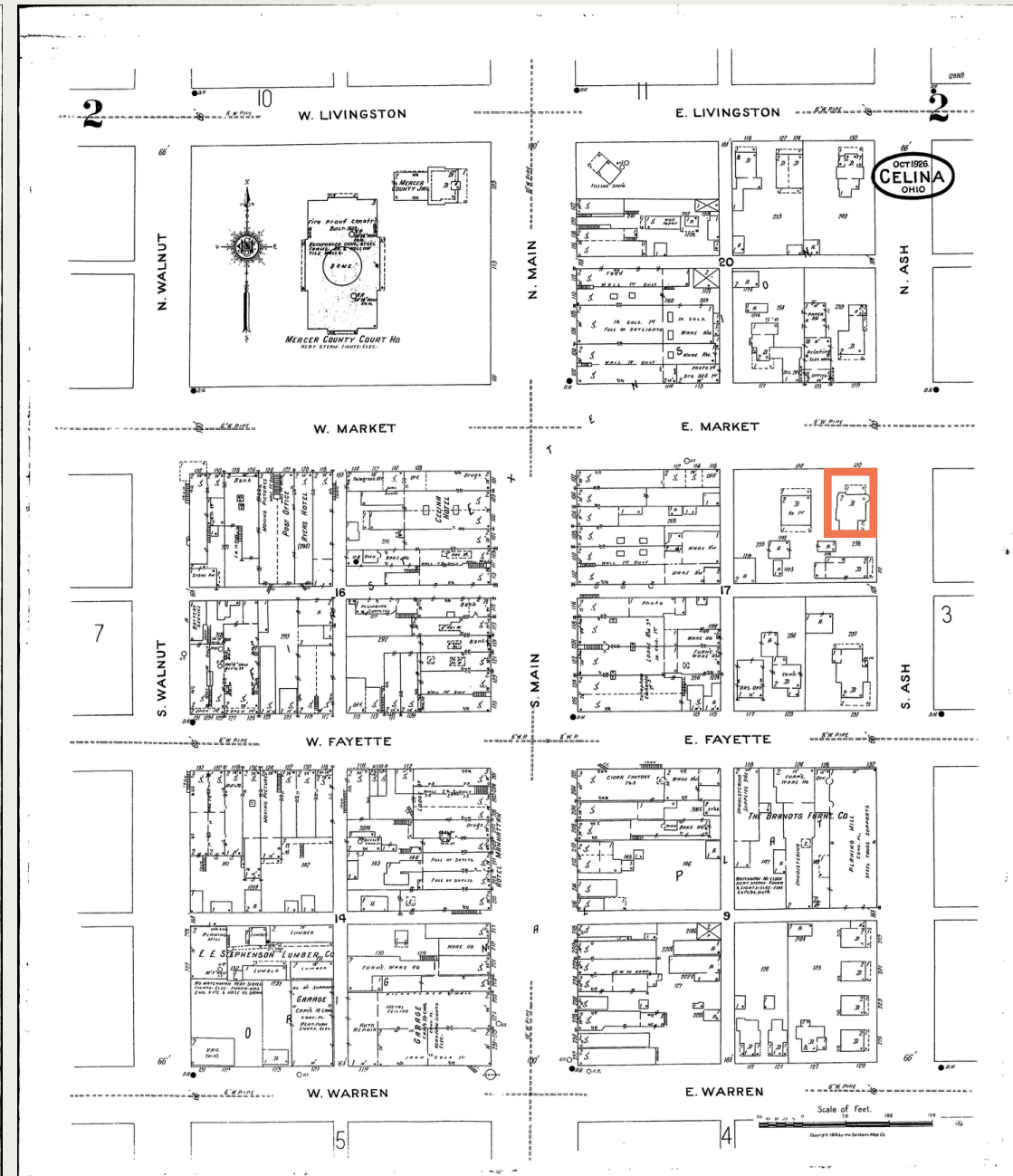


1907 map indicates a structure on the site

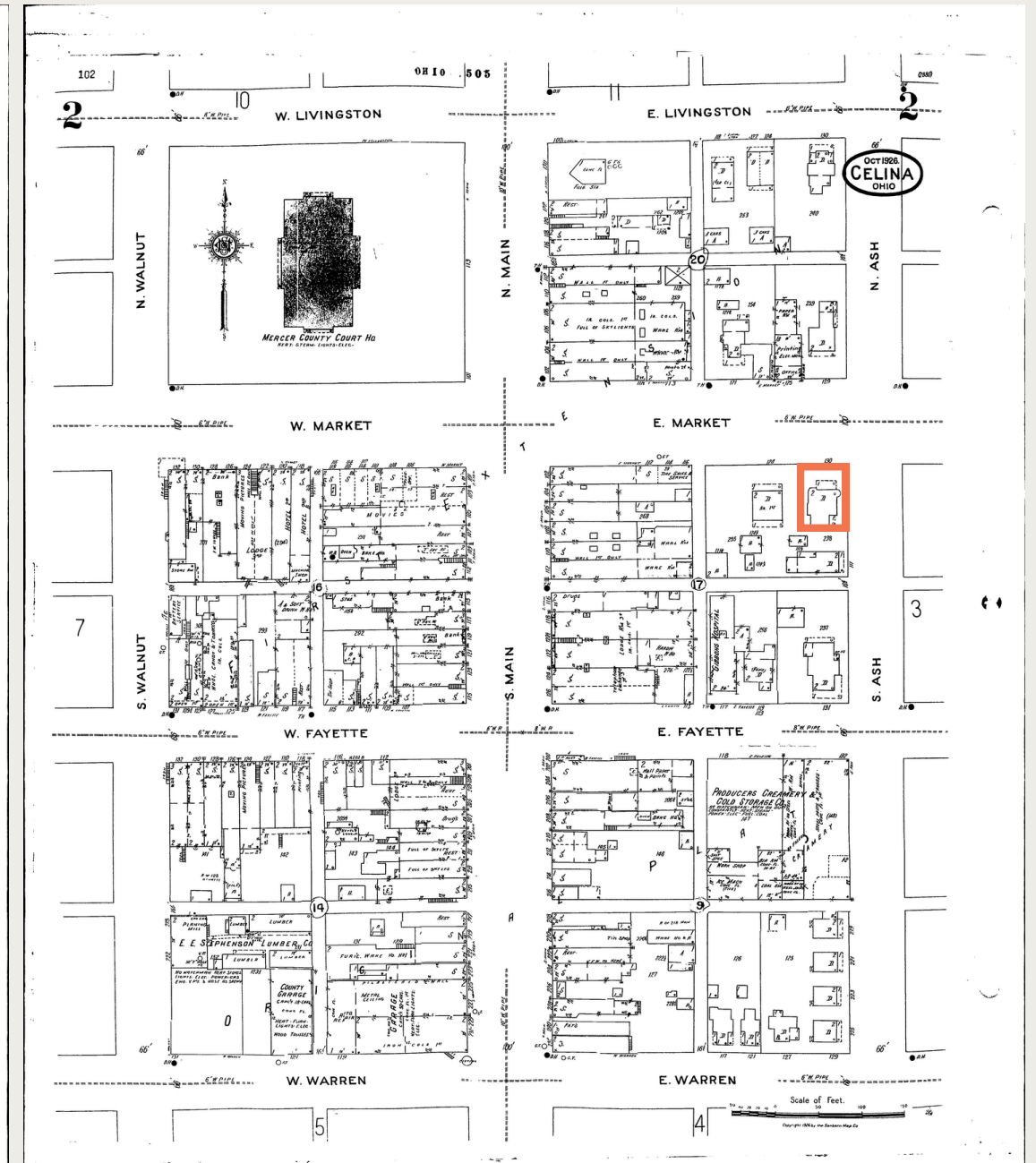
Sanborn Maps



1914 map indicates the same structure on the site
*note the address change

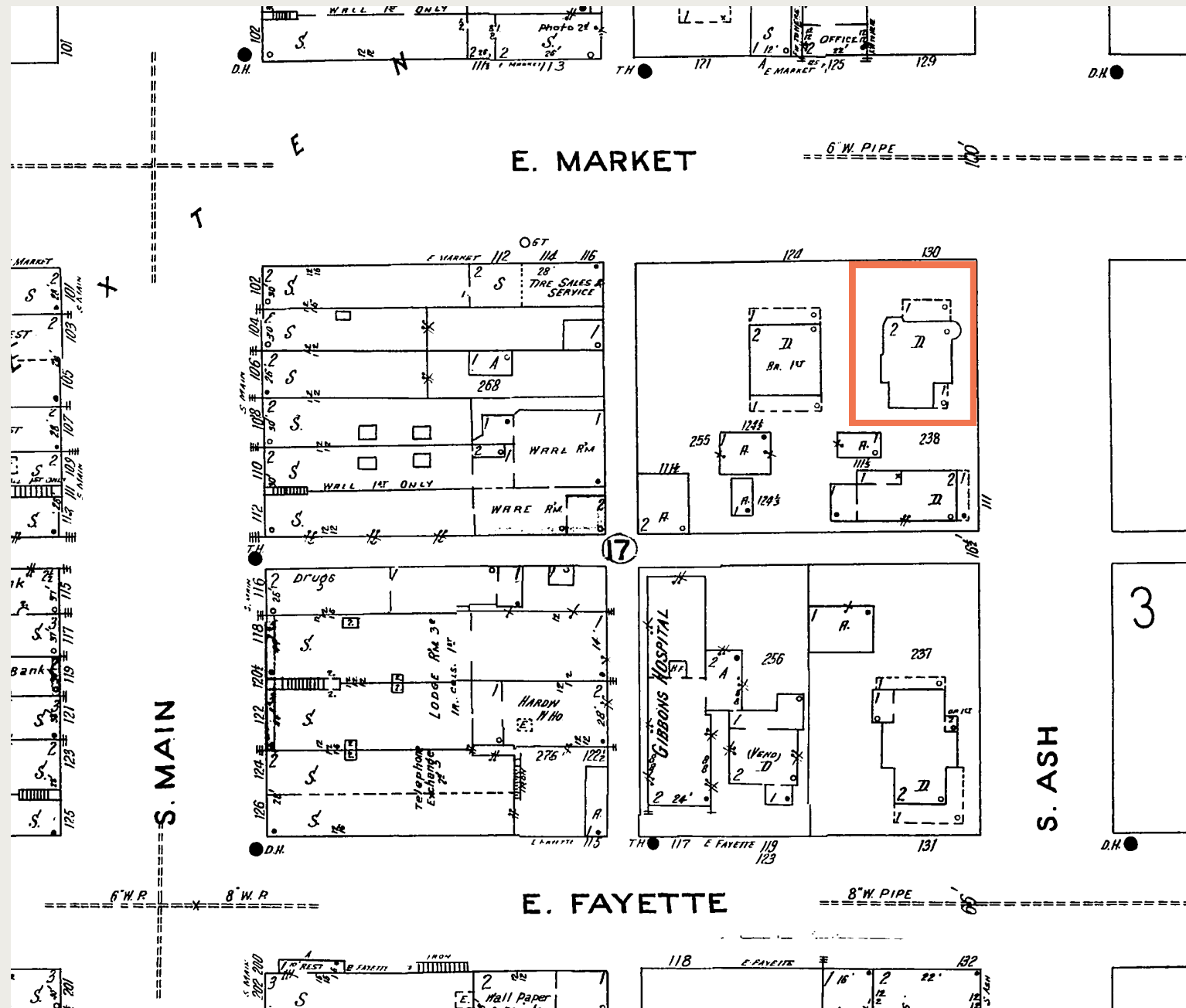


1926 map indicates the same structure on the site

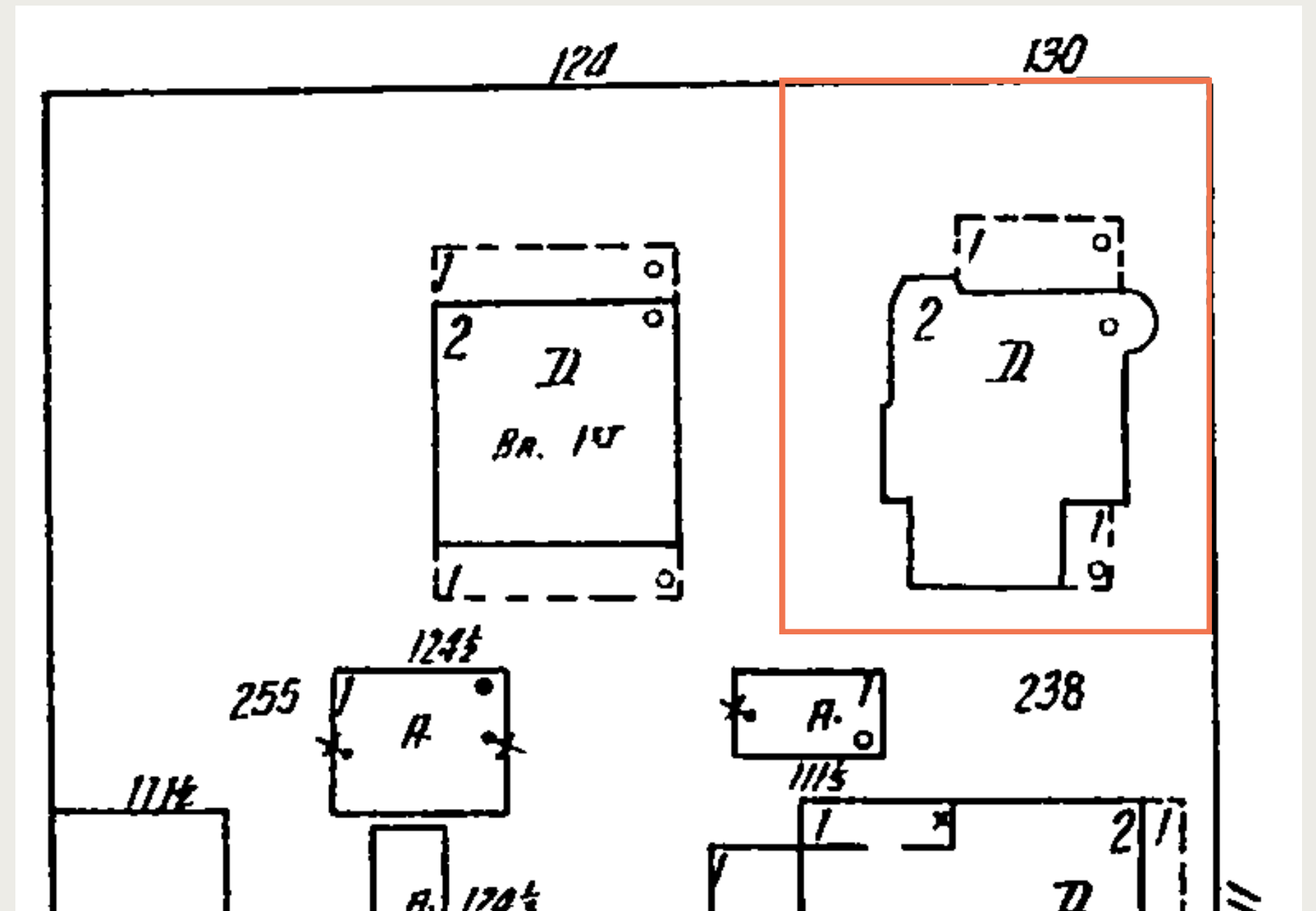


1926-1940 map indicates the same structure on the site

Sanborn Maps



1926-1940 map - zoomed into section 17. We can see a 16-1/2' wide alley connecting Main and Ash, waterlines, hydrants, and that Market is 100' wide.



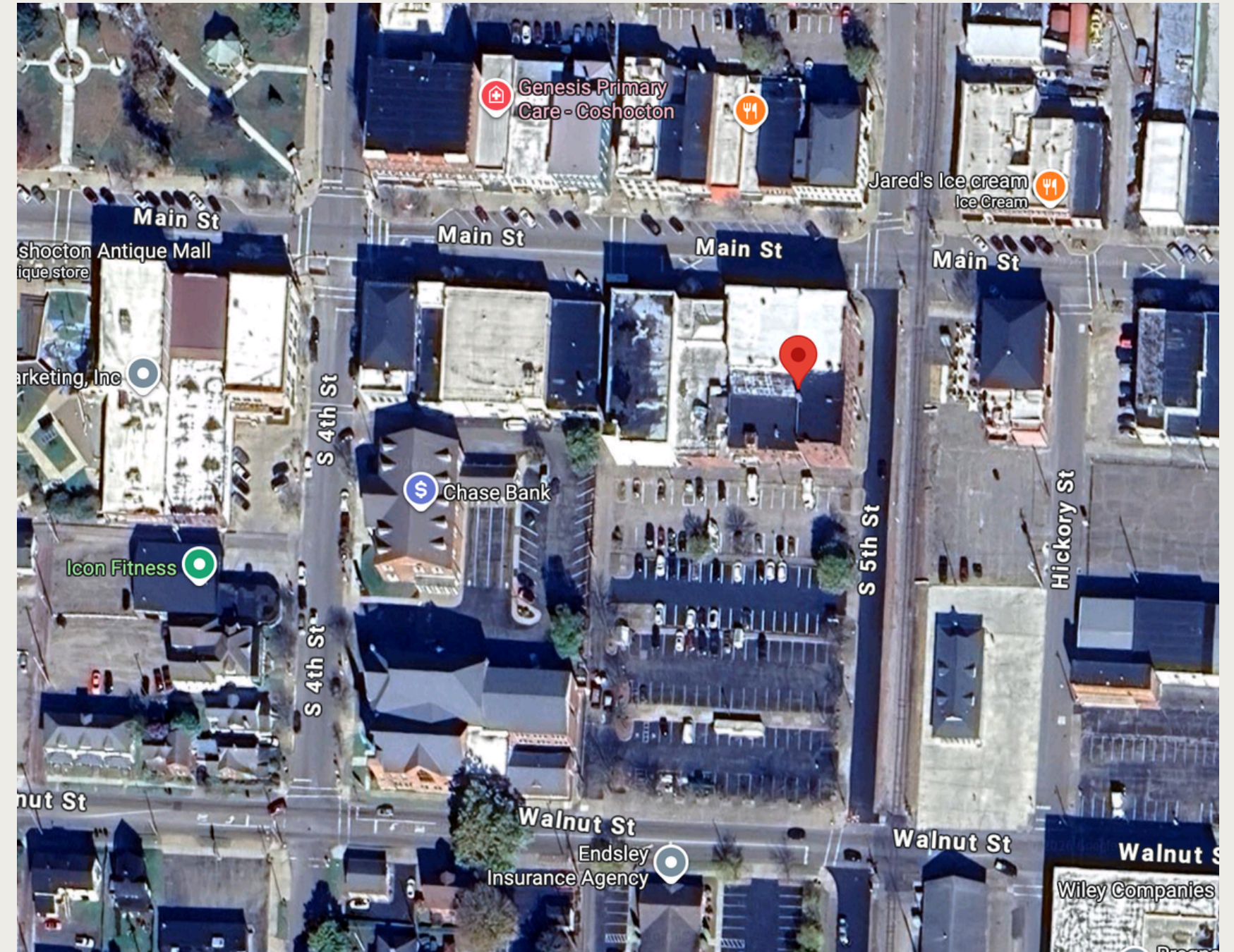
1926-1940 map - zoomed into the Riley House property. "D" indicates a dwelling. "2" indicates two stories in height. Unhatched circles indicate noncombustible roofs. Dashed lines indicate porches.

The Selby Building

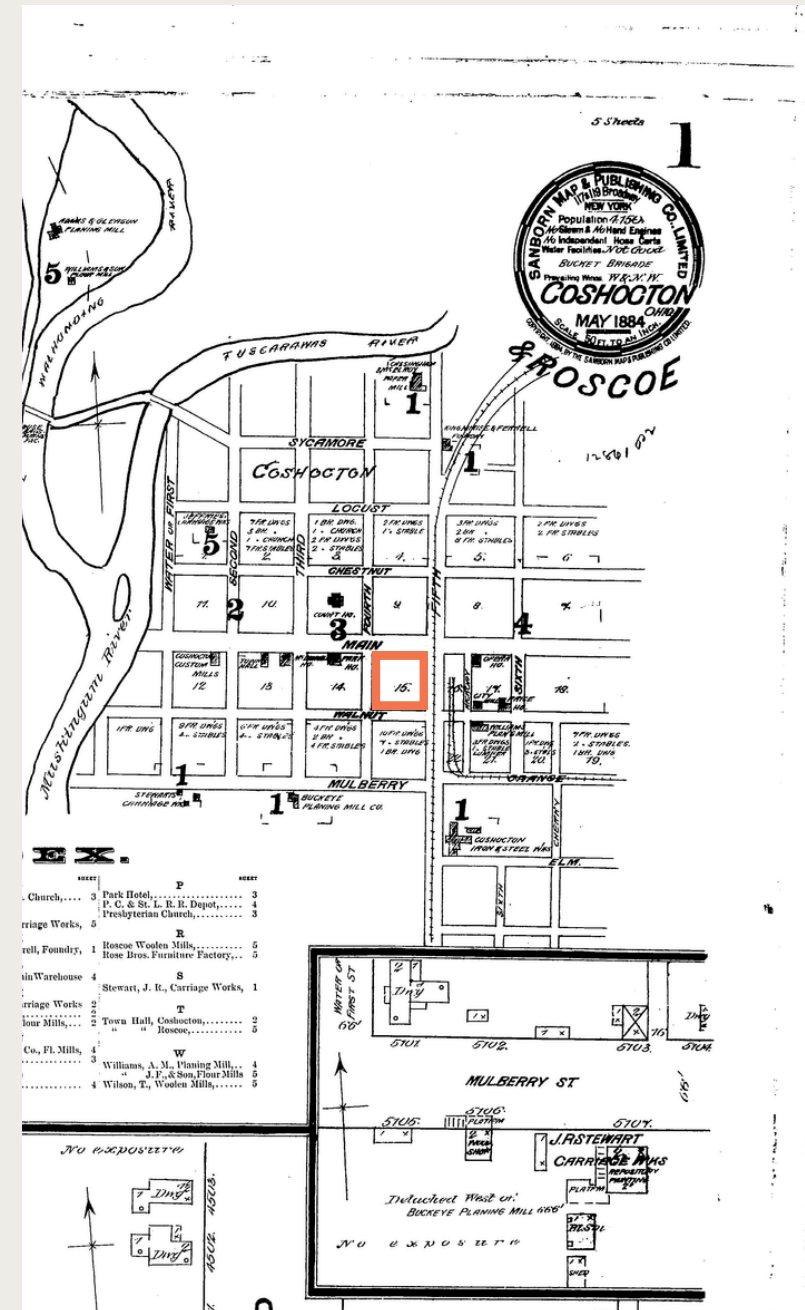
Sanborn Maps



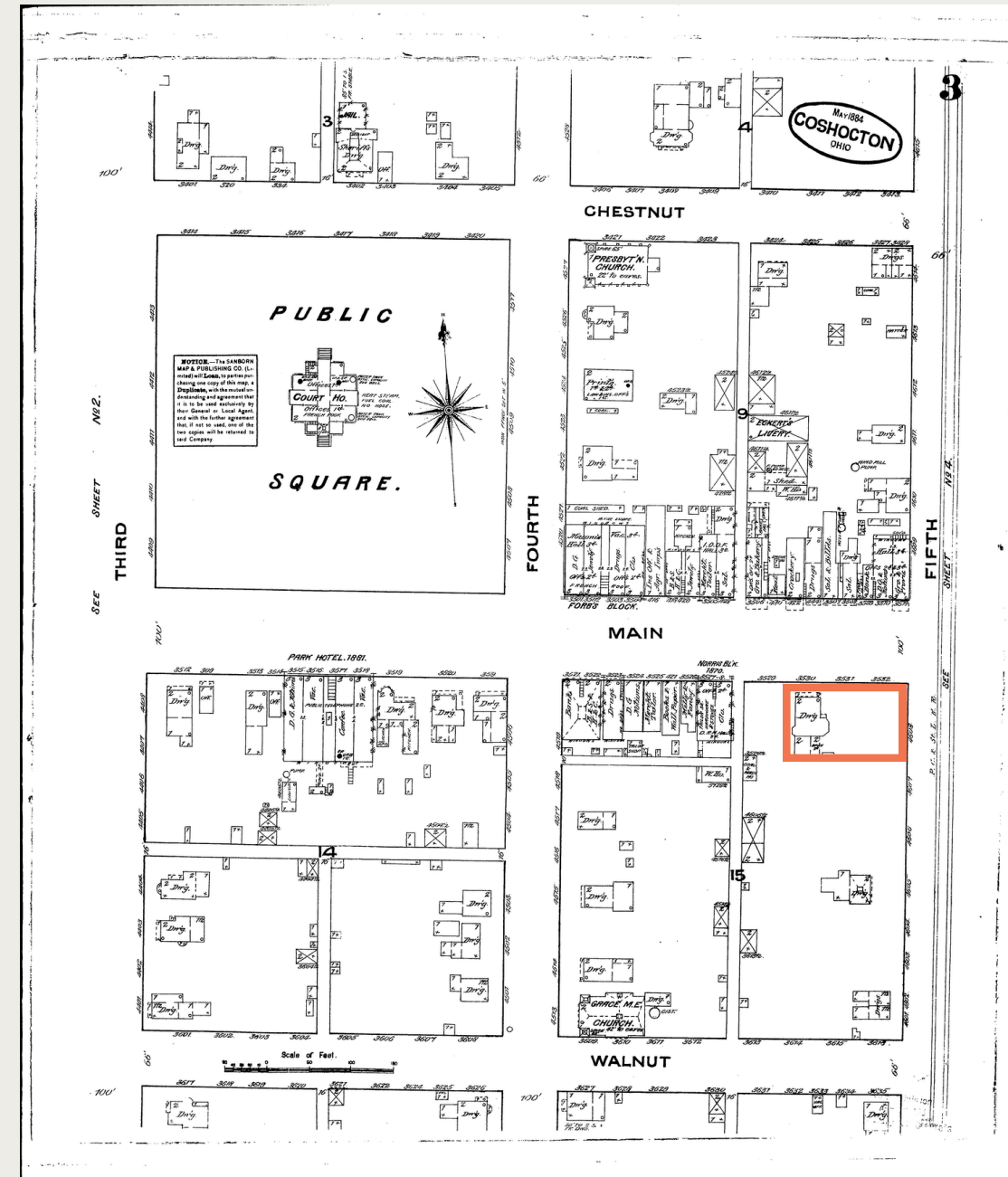
Let's examine the Sanborn Maps of the Selby Building property located at 441 Main Street in Coshocton, Ohio.



Sanborn Maps



1884 edition key map

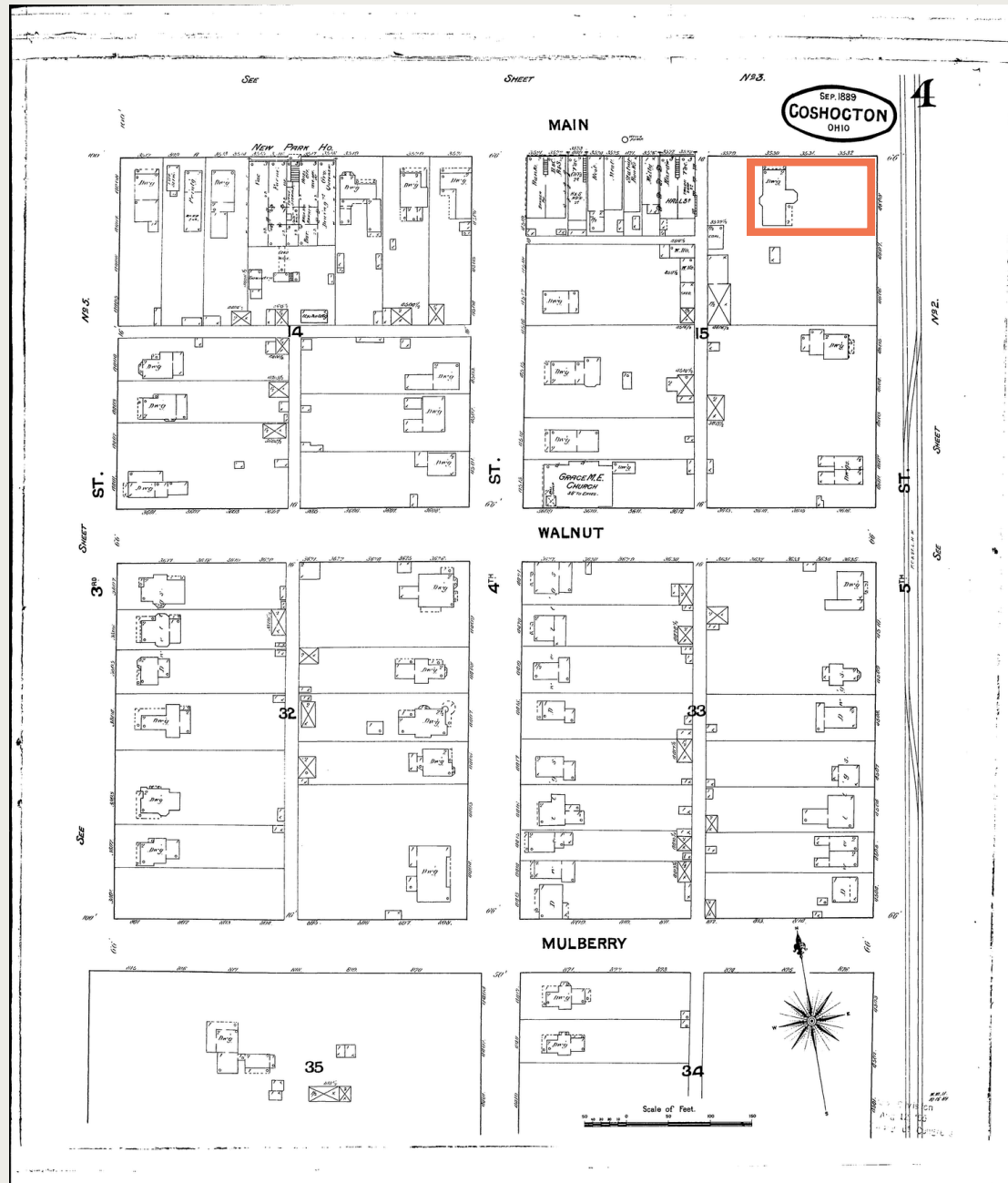


1885 map indicates the site has one dwelling

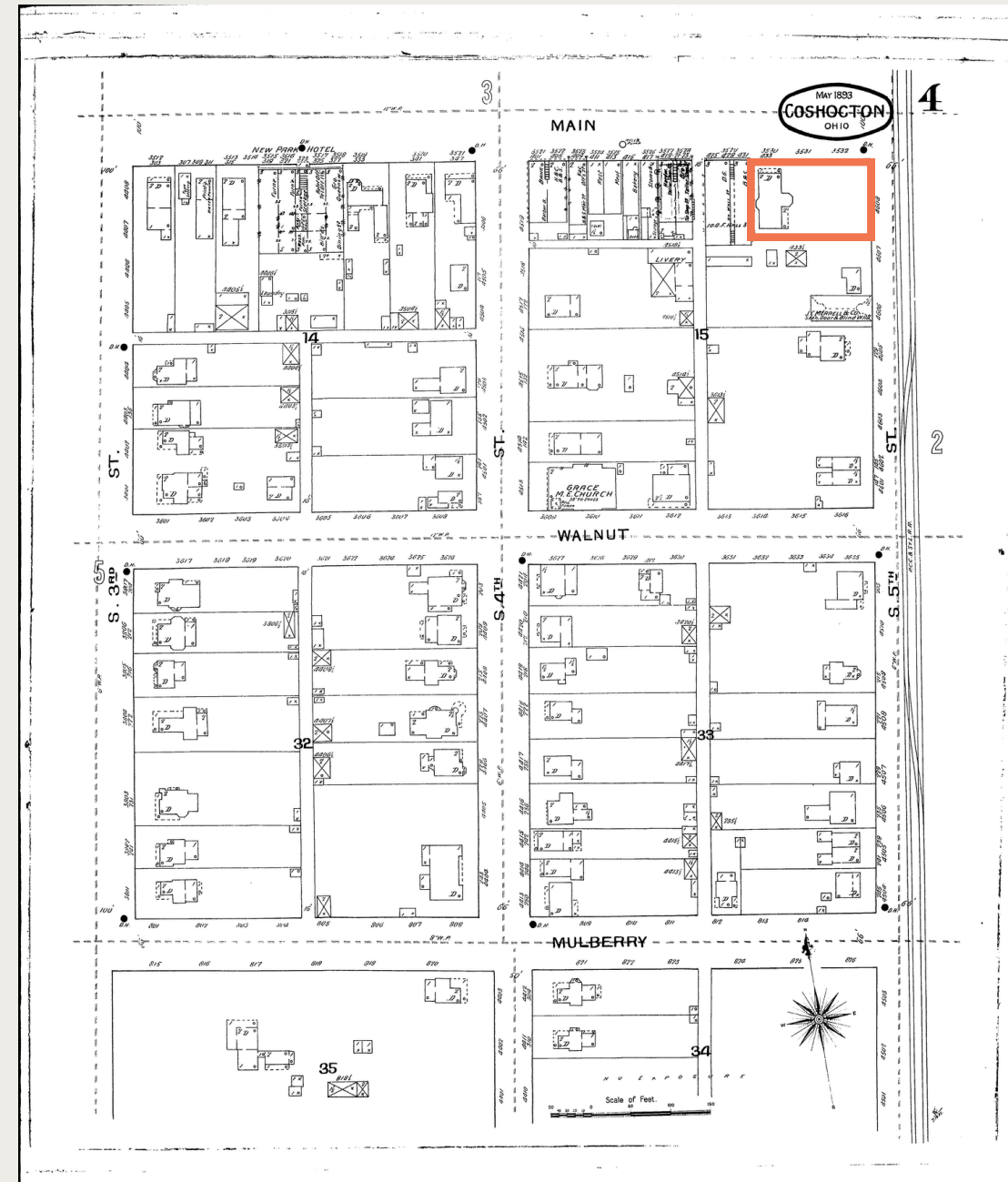
A quick search for Coshocton on OWL yields nine Sanborn Map editions: May 1884, September 1889, May 1893, May 1899, March 1905, February 1912, August 1925, May 1931, and May 1931-April 1962. The index of each edition indicates that the southwest corner of Main and 5th is shown within section 15.

The Selby Building

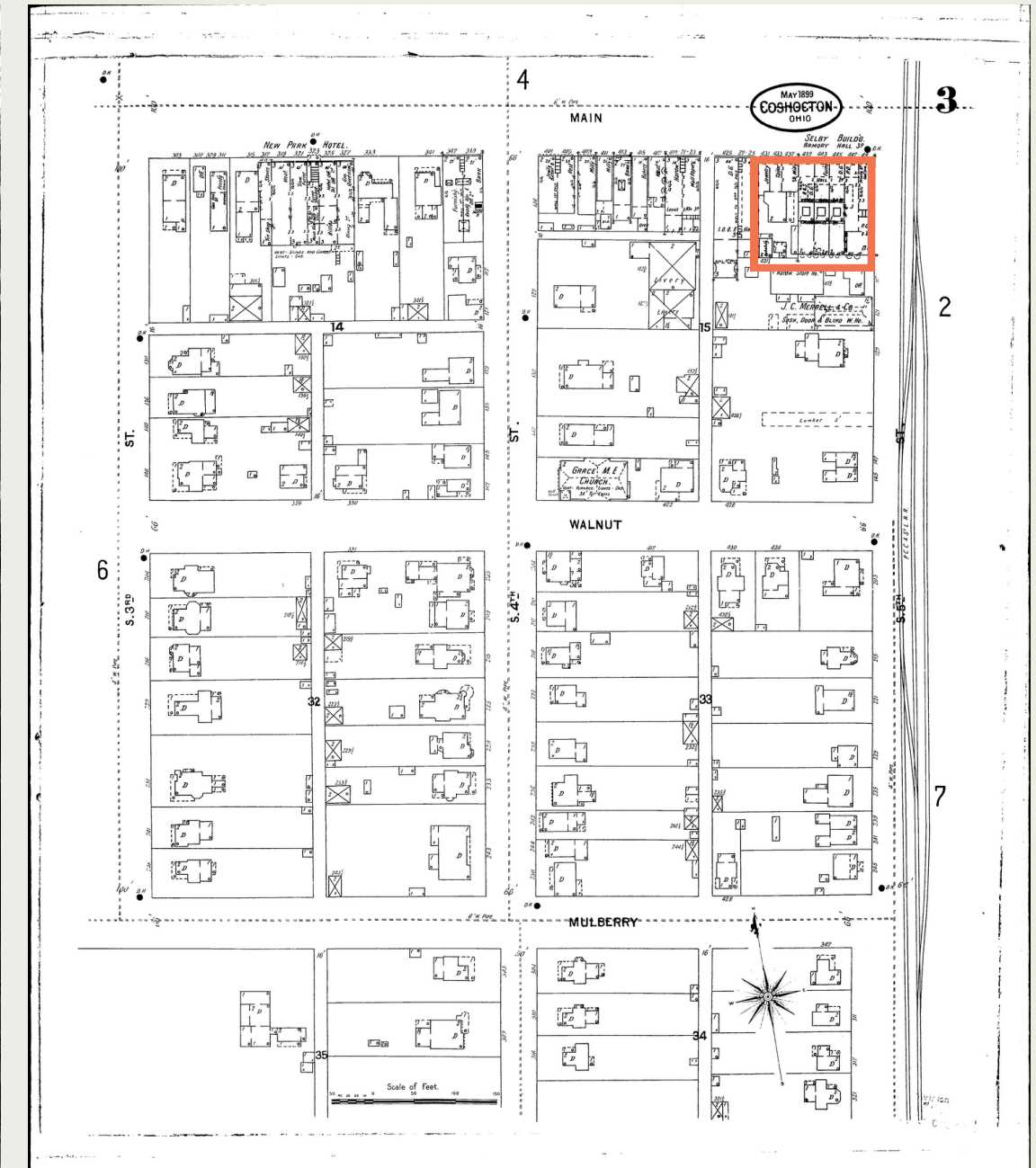
Sanborn Maps



1889 map indicates the site has one dwelling

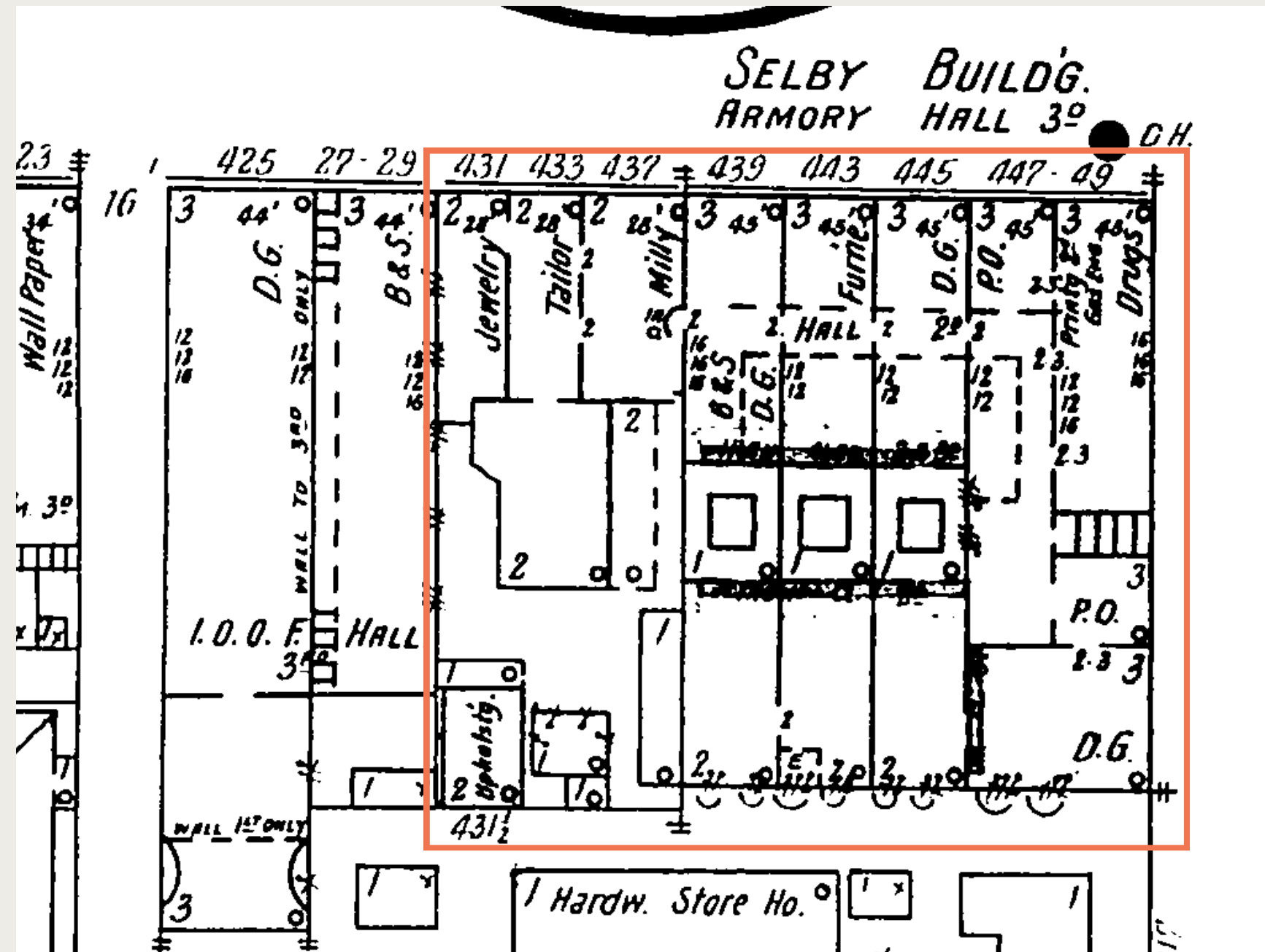


1893 map indicates the site has one dwelling



1899 map indicates a commercial building on the site

Sanborn Maps



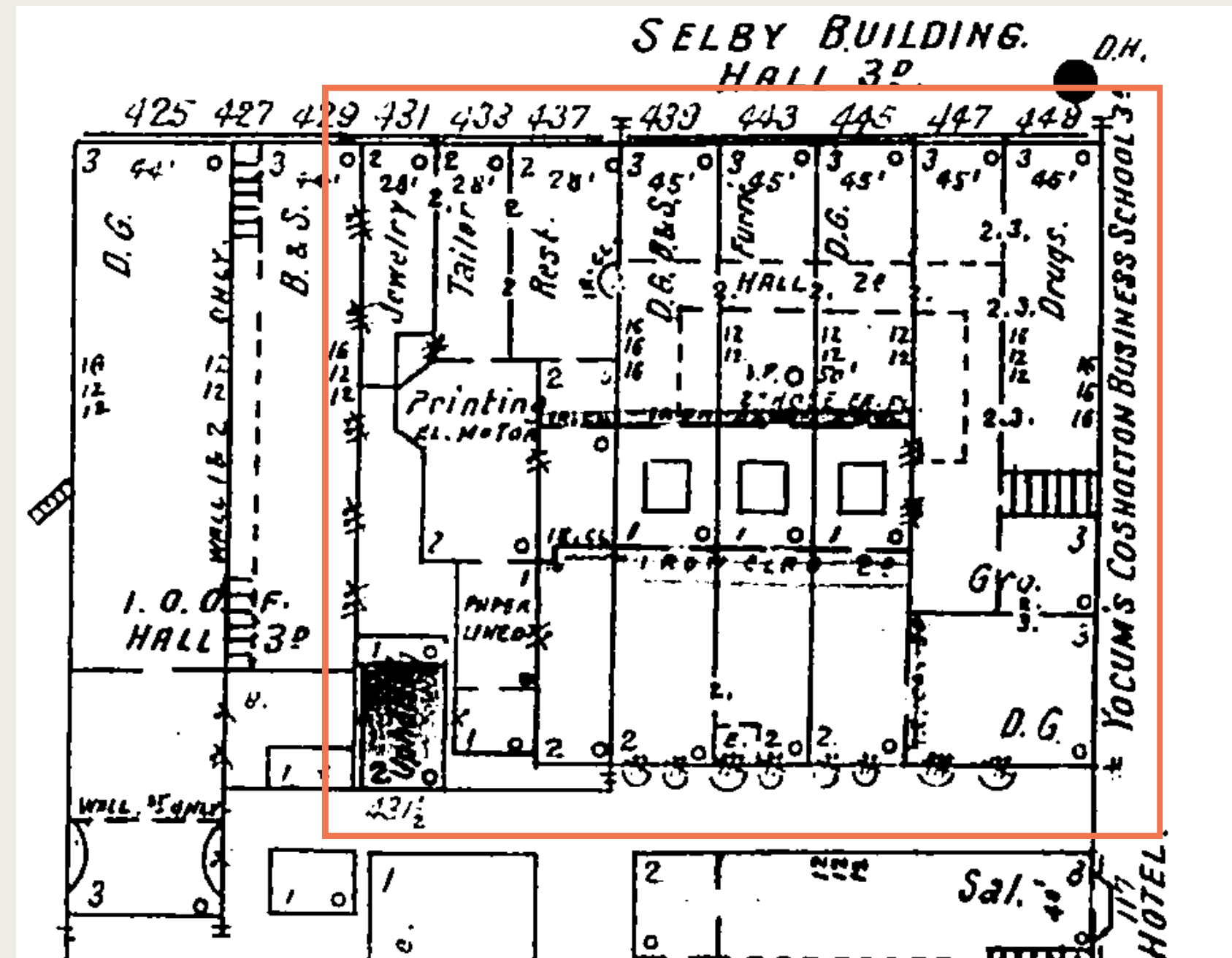
1889 map - zoomed in

Information we can gather:

431-437 was a two-story, 28' high building with a two-story porch or canopy on the rear right side. The interior was divided into three storefronts housing a jeweler, tailor, and millinery (hats). A brick cornice spanned the Main Street facade. The roof was noncombustible. There were openings in the interior walls on the second floor. There was a fire door on the first and second floors connecting this building to 439. A 12" high parapet wall separated 437 and 439. No parapet wall separated 431 from 429. The wall between 437 and 439 was 16" thick on the first and second floors. The wall between 431 and 429 was 12" thick on the first and second floors.

439-449 was a three-story, 45' high building fronting Main and 5th with a two-story section at the rear and a one-story section with three skylights in the center. The interior was divided into six storefronts housing a boots & shoes and dry goods store, a furniture store, a second dry goods store, a post office, a drug store, and a third dry goods store. The second floor had a wraparound hallway and housed printing. The third floor housed an armory hall. There was an open elevator at the rear of the building. A brick cornice spanned the Main Street facade. The roof was noncombustible. The 5th Street exterior wall had a 12" high parapet wall that wrapped around the southwest corner of the three-story part of the building. A large interior stair was indicated off 5th Street.

Sanborn Maps



1905 map - zoomed in

What changed between the 1889 map and this 1905 map:

The millinery in 437 became a restaurant.

431-437 had several areas added to the east and south (rear) of the building.

The first-floor post office in 447 became a grocer.

Yocum's Coshocton Business School occupied the 5th Street side of the third floor.

Additional significant changes to the Selby Building are visible throughout the edition years of the Coshocton, Ohio, Sanborn Maps, which we will not review in detail here, but I encourage you to dive into your own investigation!

Have an old building you're trying to understand?

Revival helps communities, developers, and building owners navigate adaptive reuse—from understanding what they have to unlocking what it can become.

Cally Lange, AIA, NCARB