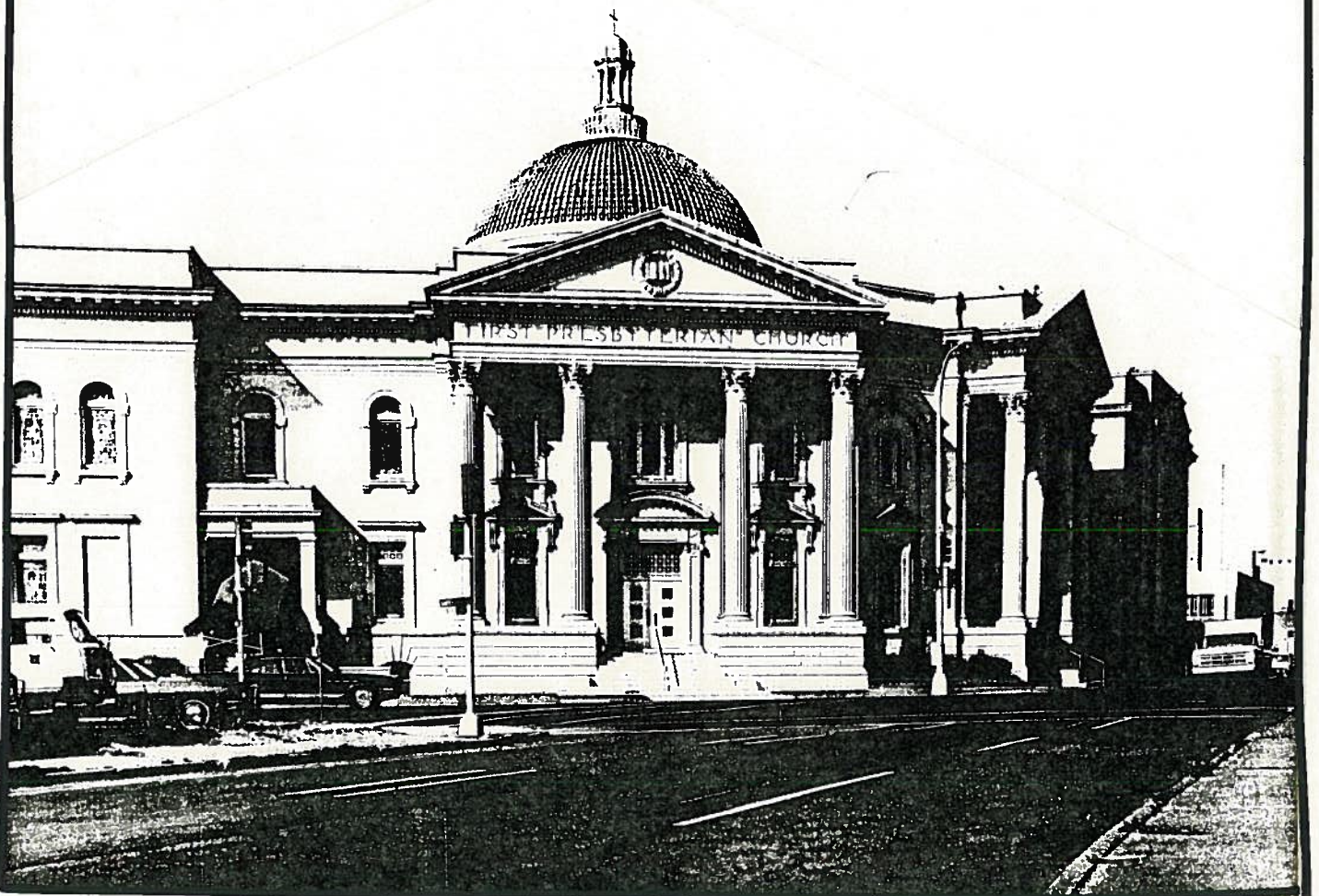


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NOMINATION REPORT  
CITY of DALLAS



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## Cultural Significance

The First Presbyterian Church dates its beginning from July 26, 1868. However, the church was initially begun on February 3, 1856, by Reverend Hamilton Byers, stated supply for the Presbyterian churches in Rush and Henderson. The church had a total of eleven members but with no minister, the congregation dwindled. In 1868, Reverend Samuel King of Waco reorganized the church with twelve members. These members included Colonel J. T. Cort and his family. Church meetings were held at the Courthouse until 1873.

When Captain John M. McCoy, a lawyer, came to Dallas in 1870, the church again had dwindled to a few members. The church resumed activities in 1871, with the inclusion of two new members, Dr. George Ewell, a prominent real estate man, and John C. Greer, a city alderman. Dr. George Ewell deeded a lot to the church in 1872, at the southwest corner of Elm and Ervay Streets where the Wilson building now stands. A frame church was built and entered for worship on June 22, 1873. The building of the church and the acquisition of the first permanent pastor, Reverend Andrew P. Smith and coming of the railroads to Dallas meant steady growth for the congregation. One of the new members to the church at this time, J. E. Henderson, was owner of the Dallas Pacific and Southeastern Railroad Company. Another prominent new member was Charles Bolanz of Murphy and Bolanz Land and Loan Company which was the most substantial corporation of its kind in the Southwest. The Mayor and Mrs. John Brown were also members of the church.

In 1881, the lot at Elm and Ervay was exchanged for a lot at the northeast corner of Harwood and Main. The church building was moved across the street to Live Oak where services were held pending construction of a new building at Main and Harwood. The new church that was built was the first brick church in Dallas. New members at this time were lawyer E. M. Browder and Colonel Robert Lawther, an Alderman and feed store owner.

In 1892, Dr. A. P. Smith was chosen to represent the Southern Presbyterian churches at the Pan Presbyterian Council in Toronto, Canada. The First Presbyterian Church was the site of the Southern Presbyterian Church General Assembly in 1895. Over two thousand churches were represented at this conference.

Dr. Smith died suddenly in 1895 after twenty-two years as pastor. Reverend William Anderson from Tennessee came to Dallas in 1895 to become pastor of the church. One of his first actions was to call for the expansion of the church building. The church was so extensively remodeled that it constituted essentially a new building. During Dr. Anderson's pastorate from 1895 to 1901, church membership increased from 338 to 700. Also during this time, the Ladies Missionary Society opened a mission in East Dallas which would become the East Dallas Presbyterian Church.

Reverend James O. Reavis took over as pastor from 1902 to 1905. It was during this time that the foreign missionary work of the church was begun. He was followed by Reverend Thornton Whaling. During the five years that Dr. Whaling served the church, the Presbyterian Orphans Home was opened and the church was moved to its current location at Wood and Harwood Streets. The church was moved because of the noise from the street cars and the fire station which was across the street. The church sold its old lot to Sam P. Cochran for \$100,000.00 and bought the current lot at Wood and Harwood.

Dr. William Anderson returned as pastor in 1910, on the condition that the church would construct a new building. By 1913, the fourth and current church building was completed. This beautiful building was designed by C. D. Hill, a prominent Dallas architect whose other works include the Municipal Building, Oak Lawn Methodist Church, the second Dallas Country Club and the Tenison House. Roger McIntosh, one of the best stained glass craftsmen in the Southwest, designed the stained glass memorial windows in the structure. The church experienced a rapid increase in membership during this period.

During the preceding pastorates of William Anderson and his son, William Anderson, Jr. until present day, the First Presbyterian Church has been involved in a great deal of missionary work in the City of Dallas and all over the world. In 1921, a free clinic was established in the basement of the church for the underprivileged children of Dallas. This was the Freeman Clinic. It is now the current Children's Medical Center. During the 1950's and 1960's, the church was concerned with the Civil Rights Movement, the problems of inner city blight and alienation of young people in Dallas. They established the Harwood Street Center in 1965, in South Dallas. Along with this Center two others, Washington Street and Hope Community, were established. In 1966, the church founded the Young Adult Institute to help young people in Dallas. The Sartori House on Oak Lawn was an attempt to minister to drug involved youth. As the 1970's began the church changed its programs to fit the changing needs of the community. Current work involves the Park Place Ministry which deals with the destitute of the inner city. Women in the church contribute their time by distributing items to hospitals, retirement homes and mental institutions as well as distributing the Meals-on-Wheels program.

The First Presbyterian Church in downtown Dallas serves not only as a visual landmark but as a community landmark as well. Ever since the inception of the church in 1856, the congregation has worked with and for the City of Dallas. Many of the elders of the church have names that are familiar in Dallas history: Ewell, Coit, McCoy, Bolanz, Browder and Caruth to name just a few. The foreign ministry branched out in 1902, and has served in Japan, China, Korea, Mexico and many other countries. The church has served the community well especially in the founding of the "Stewpot", a program which provides one meal a day, Monday through Friday, to the underprivileged of the inner city. The First Presbyterian Church whose building stands at the intersection of Harwood and Wood Streets has played a large role in the growth of Dallas through the prominent members of the church and their positions in the community as well as the community service which the church has been involved in for over one hundred years.

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## Architectural Significance

The First Presbyterian Church which stands at the southwest corner of Harwood and Wood Streets is the fourth building that the congregation has been housed in to date. The current site was chosen due to the noise from fire engines and street cars at the preceding location. On this lot in 1912, construction was begun on a Neo-Classical Revival church which had been designed by C. D. Hill, a prominent Dallas architect. Constructed at a cost of \$150,000, the First Presbyterian Church has long been an architectural landmark in downtown Dallas. ✓ by

Architect C. D. Hill came to Texas in 1903 from Chicago where he had studied at the Chicago Art Institute. He worked in Ft. Worth as a draftsman for the prominent firm of Sanquinet and Staats until 1907. At this time Hill formed his own firm, C. D. Hill and Company, in Dallas. His firm quickly rose to prominence in Dallas. His other works include such buildings as the Municipal Building, the second Dallas Country Club, the home of Edward Tennison, Edgar Flippen's Mt. Vernon, and Austin College, a Presbyterian school in Sherman, Texas. ✓ C

As an example of Neo-Classical Revival, First Presbyterian Church is larger, grander and more elaborate than earlier nineteenth-century style revivals. It tends to be stately rather than exciting and "correct" rather than daring. First Presbyterian Church exemplifies the characteristics of the Neo-Classical Revival as seen in the arched openings, rusticated masonry laid with deep joints to give the appearance of massiveness, and strong horizontal lines. The cornices are finely detailed, the moldings are crisply drawn, and the Corinthian portico is classically embellished. The facade is enlivened by planes that advance and recede and a variety of corners at multiple angles. The building's domed central section climaxes the composition.

The building is situated at an obtuse angle on the lot that faces one hundred feet on Harwood. The general form of the building is that of a widespread fan. The church is constructed of white terra cotta with stone trim. The building is topped with a bronze dome which at one time had an ornate lantern on it. There are two main entrances, one from Harwood Street and one from Wood Street. The two Corinthian columns at the side of each door supporting the portico are of Bedford stone and stand twenty-three and a half feet tall with beautifully carved capitals. These columns weigh twenty-three and a third tons each.

The stained glass windows which adorn the church were each donated by members of the congregation as memorials to outstanding members and elders. This was done because the church lacked the funds to pay for the windows. These windows and the stained glass panels on the interior of the dome were done by Roger McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh was the premier glass craftsman in Dallas and much of Texas for many years. His other works in Dallas include Highland Park Methodist Church, the Adolphus Hotel, Ross Avenue Baptist Church, the King Mansion and the homes of many prominent Dallasites.

The architrave is plain bearing the words "First Presbyterian Church" across the entire space above the posts. In the center of the frieze is a large wreath with an open Bible. The wide cornice is adorned with modillions at the architrave and the roof. Immediately above the doors is the lintel spanned by the archivolt supported by stately pilasters, relieving the angled lines over the windows on the first floor. In the architrave of the door on Harwood are the words "God is Love." Over the Wood Street entrance are the words "God is Light." Wide stone steps with an easy slope lead from the sidewalk to the portico, a height of about six feet. ✓ about

The doors are heavy oak with ornate light panels and mountings of brass. Each door is four feet wide and eight feet high. They open outward from the foyer, extending entirely across the outer edge of the fan shaped auditorium. The doors opening both ways between the vestibule and the auditorium are of heavy oak and are leather mounted. The foyer has a tile floor, paneled walls and a fretted ceiling that is twelve feet high. The current organ, made in Germany especially for the church, is at the focus of the fan. Below the choir loft, the pulpit is situated. Behind the pulpit is a bench of three seats that are brass armed and leather mounted. Before the pulpit, following the circle of the wall are oaken pews with four full aisles and a half aisle in each of the three sections. There are twenty rows of pews on the main floor. The balcony covers the foyer and part of the auditorium. It is sloped conveniently and has ten tiers in six sections. Above the auditorium, the vaulted ceiling under the dome lets light sift through sixteen sections of art glass supported by bronze ribs. This glass, as mentioned before, was designed by Roger McIntosh.

This church, which has a commanding position at the turn of Harwood Street, is a monument to the people and City of Dallas. Designed by one of the leading architects of Dallas, C. D. Hill, it stands as a complement to the Municipal Building at Main and Harwood Streets which he also designed. By obtaining the services of Roger McIntosh to design the stained glass in the building, the elders of the church, many of whom were early Dallas leaders, knew they were choosing one of the best craftsmen in the Southwest. This church, from which all of the area Presbyterian churches have stemmed, has survived the move of many congregations to the suburbs. The survival of this church must, in part, be credited to the beauty and the partiality of the building it is housed in. With only minor changes to the building in 1928, and the addition of the Wood Street building parking garage in 1954, the church building has remained essentially the same since it was first entered for worship in March 2, 1913.

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## Designation Merit

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| <p>A. Character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Dallas, State of Texas, or the United States. _____</p> <p>B. Location as the site of a significant historical event. _____</p> <p>C. Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city. <u> X </u></p> <p>D. Exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historical heritage of the city. _____</p> <p>E. Portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style. _____</p> <p>F. Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen. <u> X </u></p> <p>G. Identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city. <u> X </u></p> | <p>H. Embodiments of elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural innovation. _____</p> <p>I. Relationship to other distinctive buildings, sites, or areas which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on historic, cultural, or architectural motif. <u> X </u></p> <p>J. Unique location of singular physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the city. <u> X </u></p> <p>K. Archeological value in that it has produced or can be expected to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric value. _____</p> <p>L. Value as an aspect of community sentiment or public pride. <u> X </u></p> |
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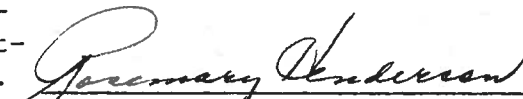
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## Recommendation

The Landmark Survey Task Force requests the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee to deem this proposed landmark meritorious of historic recognition as outlined in city ordinance 19-A.

Date:

Further, this task force endorses the preservation criteria, policy recommendations, and landmark boundary as presented by the Dept. of Urban Planning staff.

  
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 Chairman, Landmark Survey Task Force

Urban Design Program Manager  
 Department of Urban Planning

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## Preservation Analysis

### STRUCTURE

- 1. Surface Materials
- 2. Fenestration and Portals
  - a. style, type
  - b. o/w ratio
  - c. rhythms
  - d. placement
- 3. Trim and Detailing
  - a. style
  - b. unique trim or detailing
  - c. structural members
- 4. Roof
  - a. style, form
  - b. slope
  - c. materials
- 5. Design Concepts
  - a. stylistic demands
  - b. functional concepts
- 6. Utilities
  - a. design
  - b. placement
- 7. Signs
  - a. style, design
  - b. placement
- 8. Exterior Connections
  - a. design
  - b. penetration points

### SITE

- X 1. Prohibited Structure Areas
  - a. approach
  - b. view corridors
  - c. site feature protection
  - d. vertical additions
- X 2. Access/Egress
- X 3. Adjacent R.O.W.'s
  - a. existing treatment
  - b. proposed changes
- X 4. Landscaping
  - a. existing plant removal
  - b. new plant selection
  - c. site design
- X 5. Site Fixtures
  - a. furniture
  - b. sculpture, art
  - c. paths
  - d. utility units
  - e. signs
- X 6. Lighting
  - a. exteriors
  - b. grounds

### COLOR

- X 1. Surface Materials
- X 2. Trim and Details
- X 3. Roof
- 4. Utilities
- 5. Signs
- 6. Site Fixtures
- X 7. Accent Color

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## Land Use Analysis

Proposed zoning change:

from: CA-1 - 1  
 to: No Change

Recommended use variances:

None  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## EXHIBIT A

## PRESERVATION CRITERIA

1. Surface Materials

Reconstruction, renovation or repair of the opaque elements of each facade shall employ only terra cotta and stone of equal texture, grain, color and module size of the existing main structure as practicable. The eight columns, composed of Bedford stone, shall be preserved and maintained as is; any repair or replacement of these elements shall employ only Bedford stone of equal texture, grain, color, and module size of the existing columns as practicable.

2. Fenestrations and Openings

Existing openings in the protected facades shall remain intact and new openings shall not be permitted. The relationship existing between the terra cotta, stone columns, porticos, arched windows and door openings shall be maintained. All stained glass windows which are visible from the exterior of the building shall remain in place and should be protected with plexiglass.

3. Roof and Dome

The slope, configuration and surface pattern of the existing roof shall be maintained. No new vertical or horizontal extensions shall be allowed and all existing extensions, gables, porticos and domes shall be preserved. The domed central section shall be preserved as is. All replacements or repairs to the roof and dome shall employ materials comparable with the existing roof and dome in texture, design and color.

4. Embellishments and Detailing

All ornamental detailing enumerated below shall remain intact and be preserved as is. Any reconstruction, renovation or replacement of the listed items shall be identical in composition, texture, color and size as practicable:

- A. Cornices and Molding: the cornice line and finely detailed molding under it and the porticos.
- B. Architrave and Decorative Frieze: the lettering in each architrave and the frieze consisting of a wreath and open Bible.
- C. Lintels and Arches: the lintels above first floor doors and windows and the semi-circular arches above second floor windows.
- D. Columns: the Bedford stone Corinthian columns with richly carved capitals.
- E. Dome: the existing materials (bronze) and finish, as well as the configuration of the dome.



5. Color

The coloring of the existing facade, including additions, extensions, alterations and repairs, shall comply with the hue, value and chroma content of the Munsell Color System as outlined in Munsell Book of Color, Neighboring Hues Collection, 1973:

- A. Predominate Facade Material: The existing natural color of the stone shall be preserved and remain unpainted. There will be no alterations with the exception of maintenance cleaning as necessary. The color of any additions or alterations to the church shall coincide as nearly as practicable to a color range defined by the Munsell Color System rating.
- B. Dome Material: The existing color of the bronze dome shall be preserved and remain unpainted. There will be no alterations with the exception of maintenance cleaning as necessary. The color of any repairs to the dome shall coincide as nearly as practicable to a color range defined by the Munsell Color System rating.
- C. Trim and Detailing: The existing colors of all window/door frames, molding, columns, embellished lettering, friezes and other trim shall be preserved and coincide as nearly as practicable to color ranges defined by the Munsell Color System rating.

6. Lighting and Landscaping

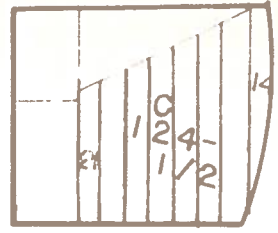
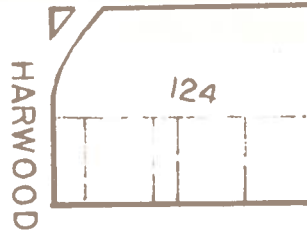
Exterior lighting and the placement and removal of trees and shrubs shall be approved by the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee prior to commencement of work.

7. Public Improvements

All proposed public improvements of streets and associated R.O.W. abutting the structure shall be approved by the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee prior to commencement of work.

8. Signs

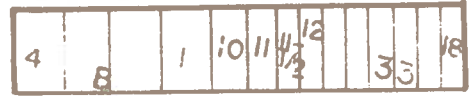
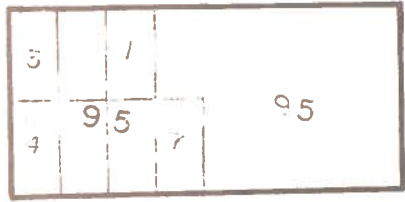
All new signs shall be designed to be compatible with the architectural qualities of the existing main structure. All new signs shall be approved by the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee prior to the issuance of a sign permit.



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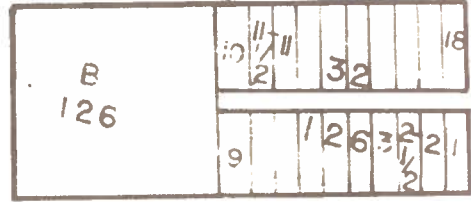
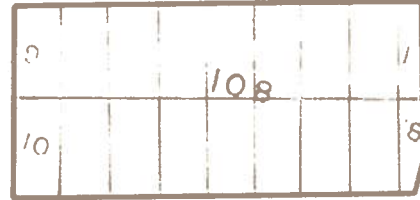
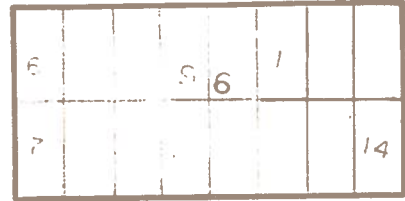
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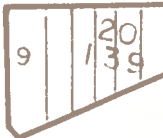
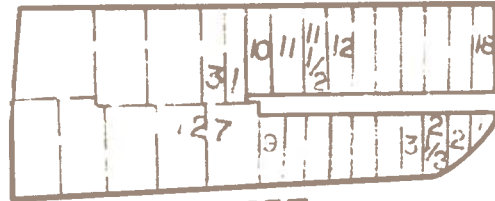
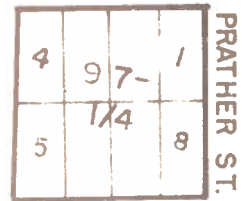
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COMMERCE

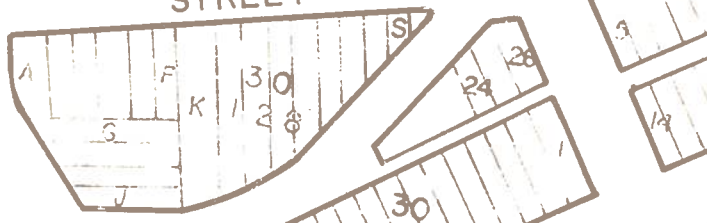
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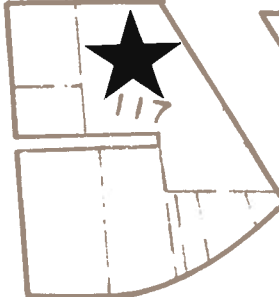
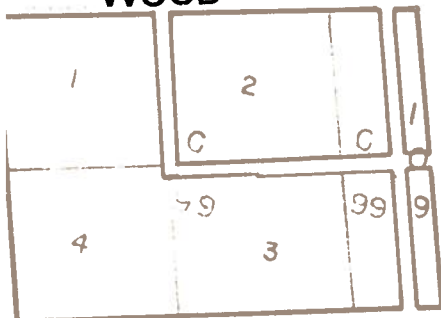
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STREET

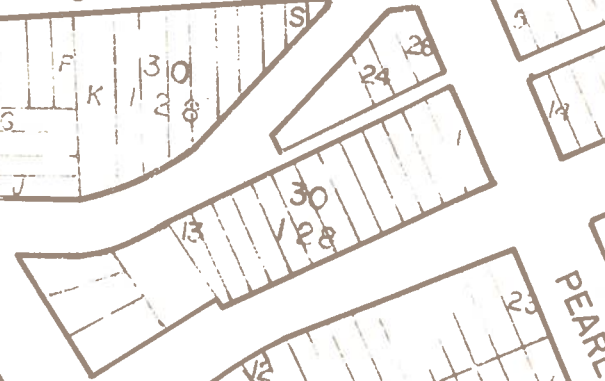


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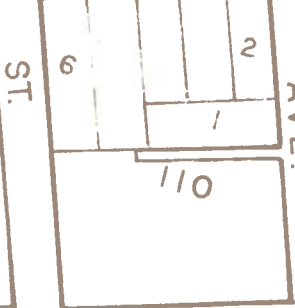
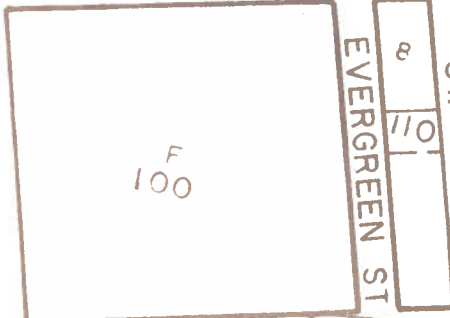


PARK



YOUNG

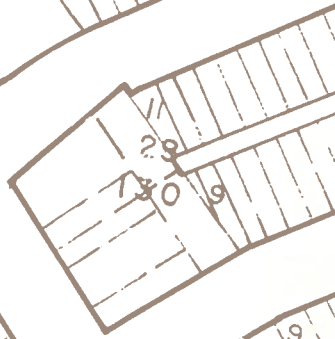
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AVE.



PEARL



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