

# The History of Bloomingdale



Prepared by Prologue DC *for the*  
Bloomingdale Historic Designation Coalition

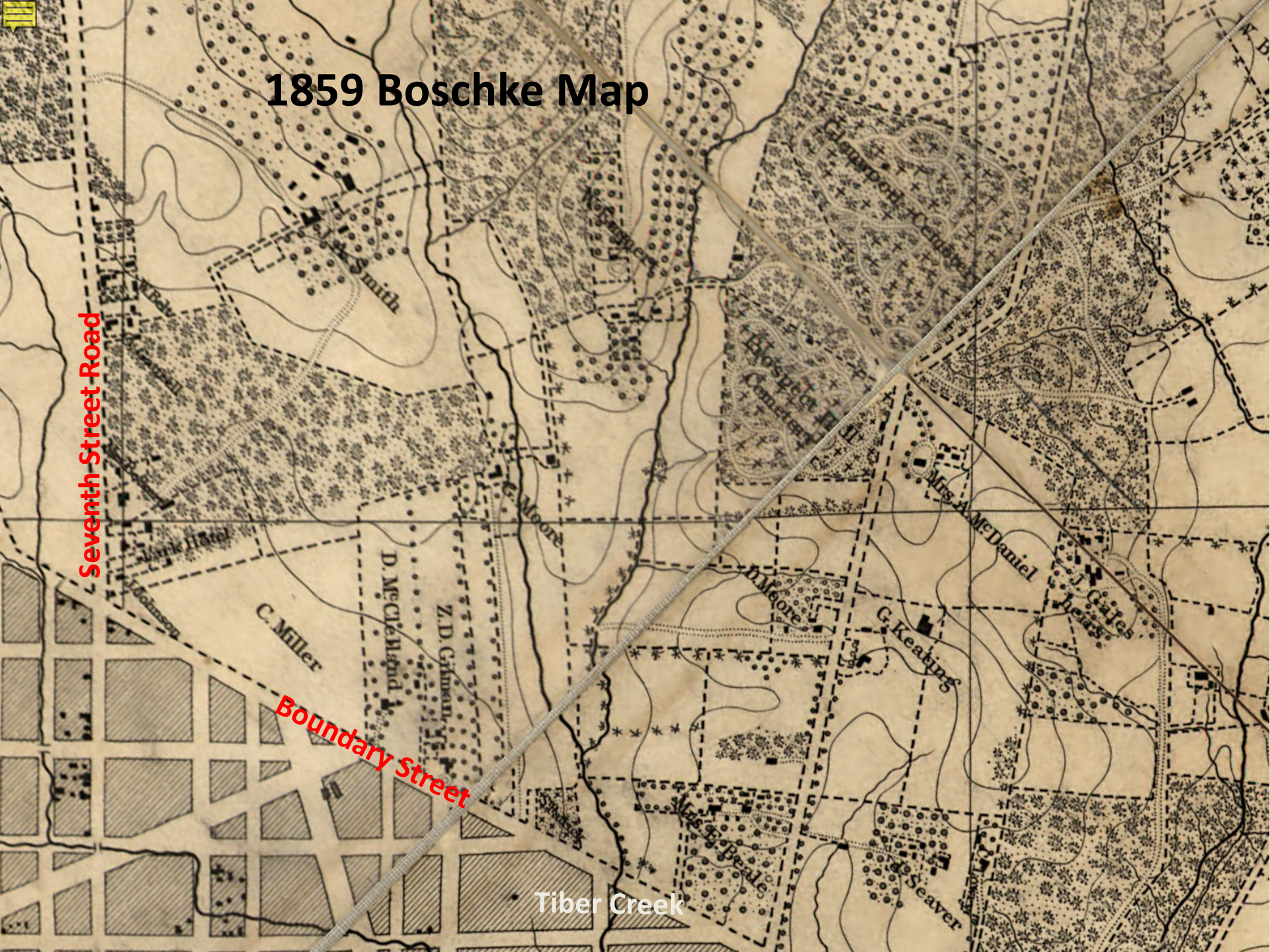


# 1859 Boschke Map

Seventh Street Road

Boundary Street

Tiber Creek





# Beale estate in 1859





# 1880 Landowners

**Emily Beale**

**David Moore**

**Prospect Hill Cemetery (est. 1854)**

**Glenwood Cemetery (est. 1858)**

**Howard University  
(former John A. Smith land)**

**William Emmert**

**George Moore**

**St. Patrick's Cemetery  
(no burials after 1874)**





SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in the District of Columbia in the County of Washington State  
of \_\_\_\_\_, enumerated by me, on the 19 day of July, 1860. Alfred Ray, Asst Marshal.

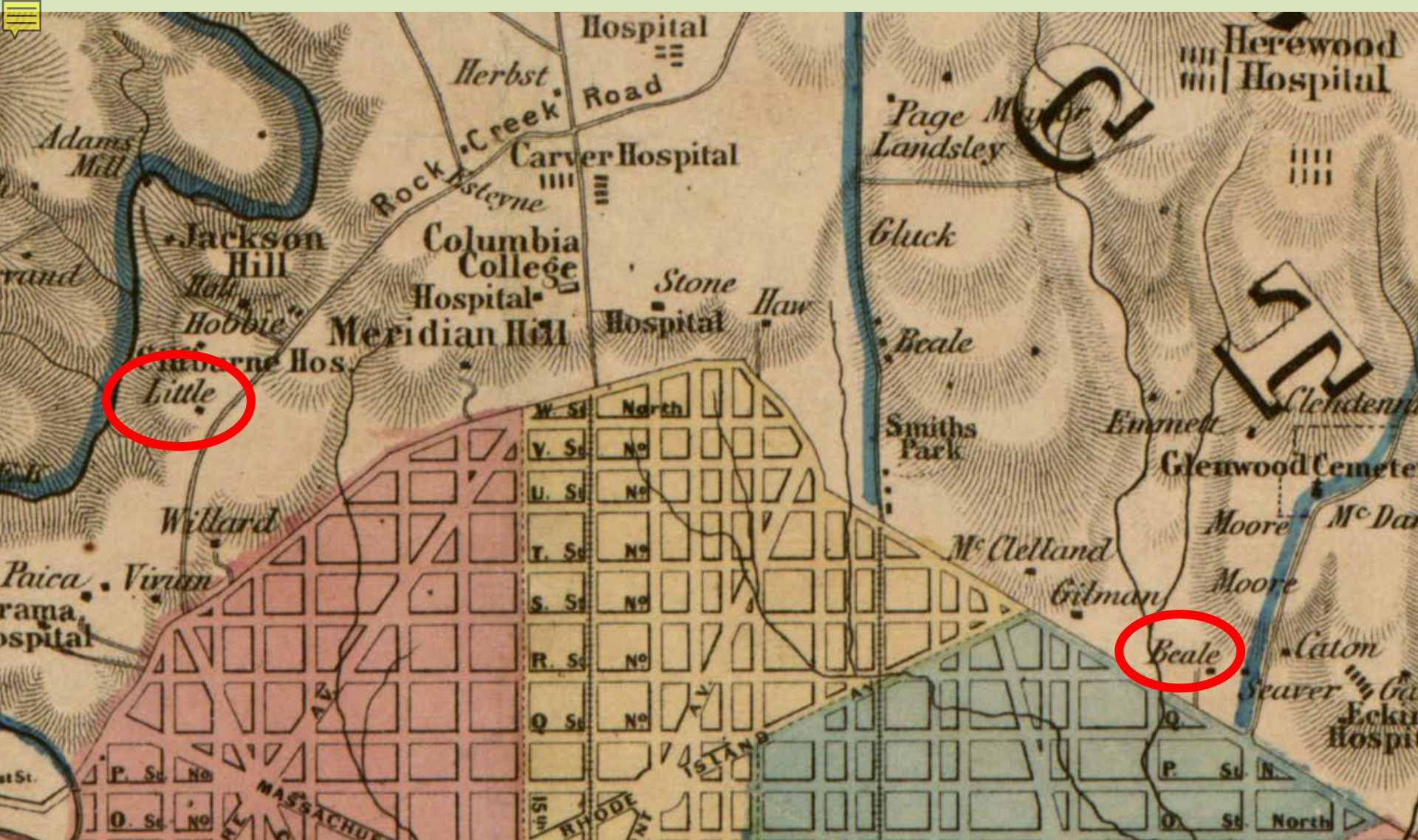
1	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.				7	8	9	1	DESCRIPTION.				7	8	9
		Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.	Color.					Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.	Color.			
1	Marjory King, Queen	1	5	m	B					1	28	f	ch			1
2		1	3	f	B					1	23	f	ch			2
3		1	2	f	B					1	19	f	ch			3
4		1	1	f	B					1	17	f	ch			4
5		1	22	m	ch					1	26	m	B			5
6		1	17	m	ch					1	23	m	B			6
7		1	14	m	ch					1	33	m	B			7
8		1	16	f	ch					1	20	m	B			8
9		1	14	f	ch					1	15	m	ch			9
10		1	30	m	B					1	13	m	ch			10
11		1	40	f	m					1	12	m	ch			11
12		1	18	m	m					1	11	m	ch			12
13		1	16	f	ch					1	10	m	ch			13
14		1	14	f	ch					1	8	f	ch			14
15		1	12	f	ch					1	6	f	B			15
16		1	10	ch	ch					1	10	f	ch			16
17		1	8	m	ch					1	5	f	ch			17
18		1	6	m	ch					1	2	m	ch			18
19		1	2	m	ch					1	1	m	ch			19
20	Co J. Middleton	1	30	f	B					1	28	f	B			20
21		1	24	m	B					1	70	m	B			21
22		1	20	f	ch					1	53	m	B			22
23		1	18	m	B					1	60	f	ch			23
24		1	16	m	B					1	32	f	ch			24
25		1	5	f	B					1	30	f	B			25
26		1	3	m	B					1	25	f	B			26
27		1	1	m	B					1	18	f	B			27
28		1	26	m	B					1	12	f	B			28
29	Abraham Root	1	35	m	B					1	15	m	ch			29
30	Daniel B. Majors	1	16	m	B					1	12	m	ch			30
31	Eli Majors	1	14	m	B					1	16	f	B			31
32	George Lumsley	1	35	f	B					1	9	f	B			32
33		1	18	m	B					1	72	f	B			33
34		1	16	f	B					1	72	m	B			34
35		1	11	m	B					1	70	f	B			35
36	Lutherus Pearson	1	50	m	B					1	25	m	ch			36
37	Wm Gaston Pearson	1	60	f	ch					1	54	f	ch			37
38		1	43	f	B					1	33	m	B			38
39		1	35	f	ch					1	62	f	B			39
40		1	30	f	B					1	60	m	B			40

No. of owners, \_\_\_\_\_ No. of male slaves, 41 No. fugitives, \_\_\_\_\_ No. deaf and dumb, \_\_\_\_\_ No. insane, \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of female slaves, 39 No. manumitted, \_\_\_\_\_ No. blind, \_\_\_\_\_ No. idiotic, \_\_\_\_\_  
Total slaves, 80









SPRING 1861: 20-year-old Hortense Prout escapes from John Little's farm to hide out among Ohio troops encamped on Mrs. Beale's farm, "Bloomingdale."



Your Petitioner, Emily Beale ... held a claim to service or labor against ...

Delilah Johnston; woman servant, black; aged 56.

Smith Ingram, man servant, black; aged 75.

Phillis Ingram, woman servant, light colored, aged 56.

Martha Gains, woman servant, light colored, aged 35. Her children are Ann, aged 6; Phillis aged 4; Evelina 2 years; & an infant 3 weeks old not named.

Rachel Ross, woman, dark; aged 31. Her children are Smith, boy 3 years old, & Anna Maria, girl aged 1 year

Susan Chase, woman, dark, aged 30. Her child, Robert Chase, a boy aged 10 months.

William Ingram, boy, light colored; aged 15.

Isaac Jones, man servant, dark; aged 60.

## P E T I T I O N .

To the Commissioners under the act of Congress approved the 16th of April, 1862, entitled "An act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia."

Your Petitioner, *Emily Beale* of *District of Columbia, near*  
by this *her* petition in writing, represents and states, that *she* is a person loyal to the United States, who, at the time of the passage of the said act of Congress, held a claim to service or labor against  
person of African descent of the name of

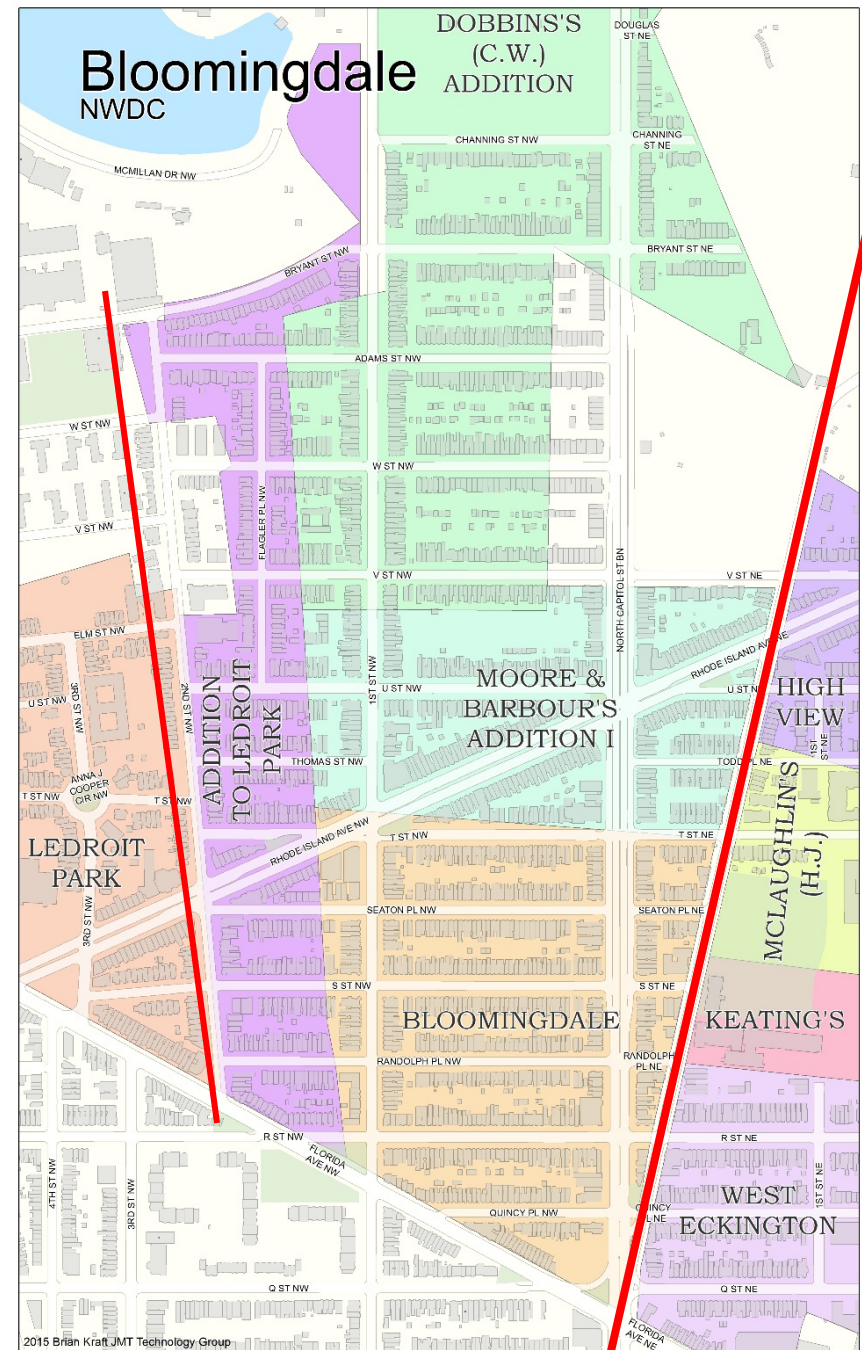
for and during the life of said  
and that by said act of Congress said was discharged and  
freed of and from all claim of your petitioner to such service or labor; that at the time of said discharge said was of the age of  
and of the personal description following: <sup>(1)</sup>

*Delilah Johnston; woman servant. Black; aged 56.*  
*Smith Ingram, man servant, Black; aged 75.*  
*Phillis Ingram, woman servant. light colored, aged 56.*  
*Martha Gains, woman servant. light colored; aged 35.*  
*Her children are Ann, aged 6; Phillis aged 4;*  
*Evelina 2 years; & an infant 3 weeks old not named.*  
*Rachel Ross, woman. dark; aged 31.*  
*Her children are*  
*Smith, boy 3 years old, & Anna Maria, girl aged 1 year.*  
*Susan Chase, woman. dark; aged 30.*  
*Her child, Robert Chase, a boy aged 10 months.*  
*William Ingram, boy. light colored; aged 15.*  
*Isaac Jones. man servant. dark; aged 60.*

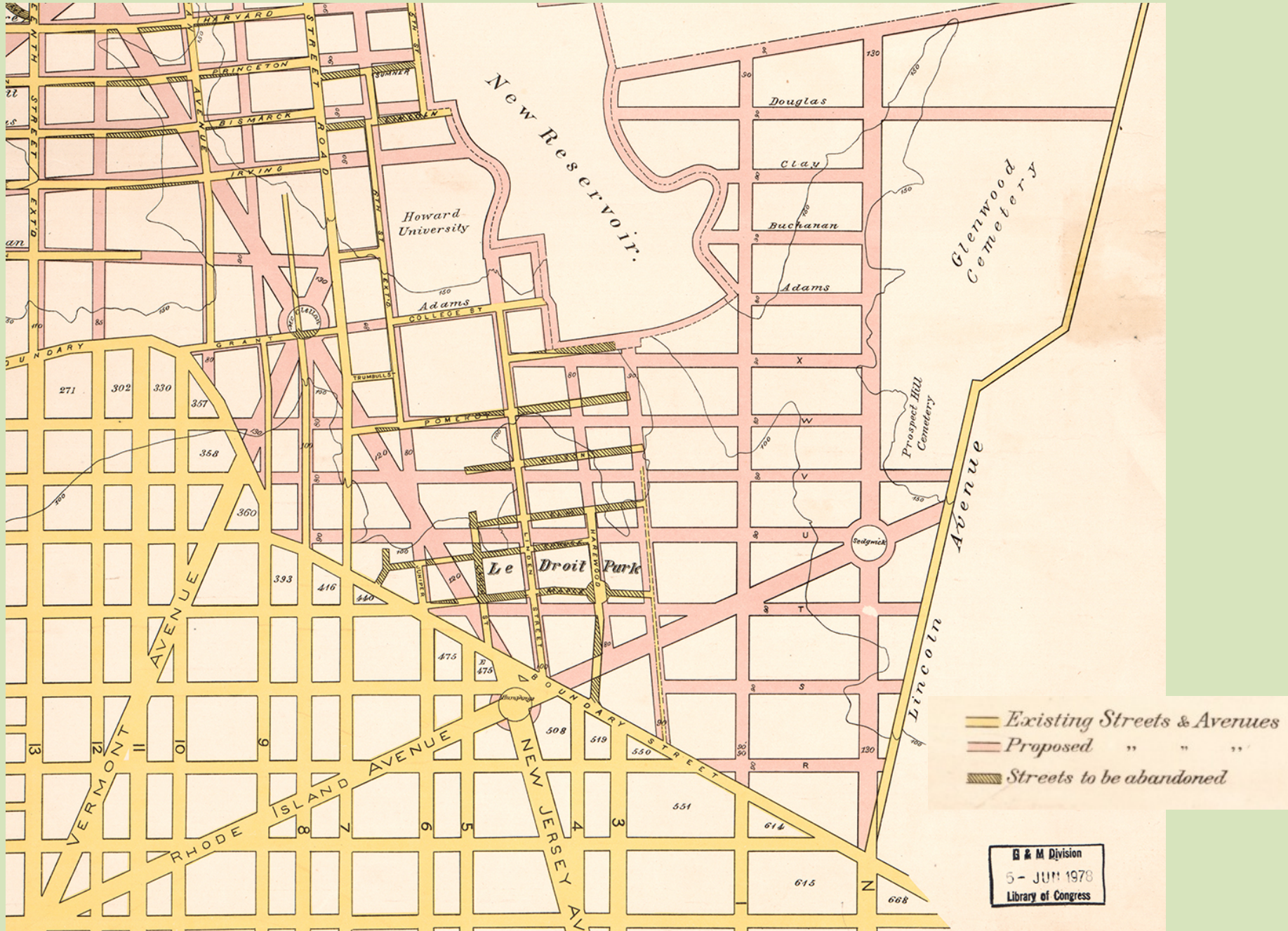


# Subdivisions

[1873]	[LeDroit Park]
[1887]	Eckington
1887	Dobbins' Addition
1889	Bloomington
1891	Addition to LeDroit Park
1899-1901	Moore & Barbour's







Proposed Street Extensions, 1887



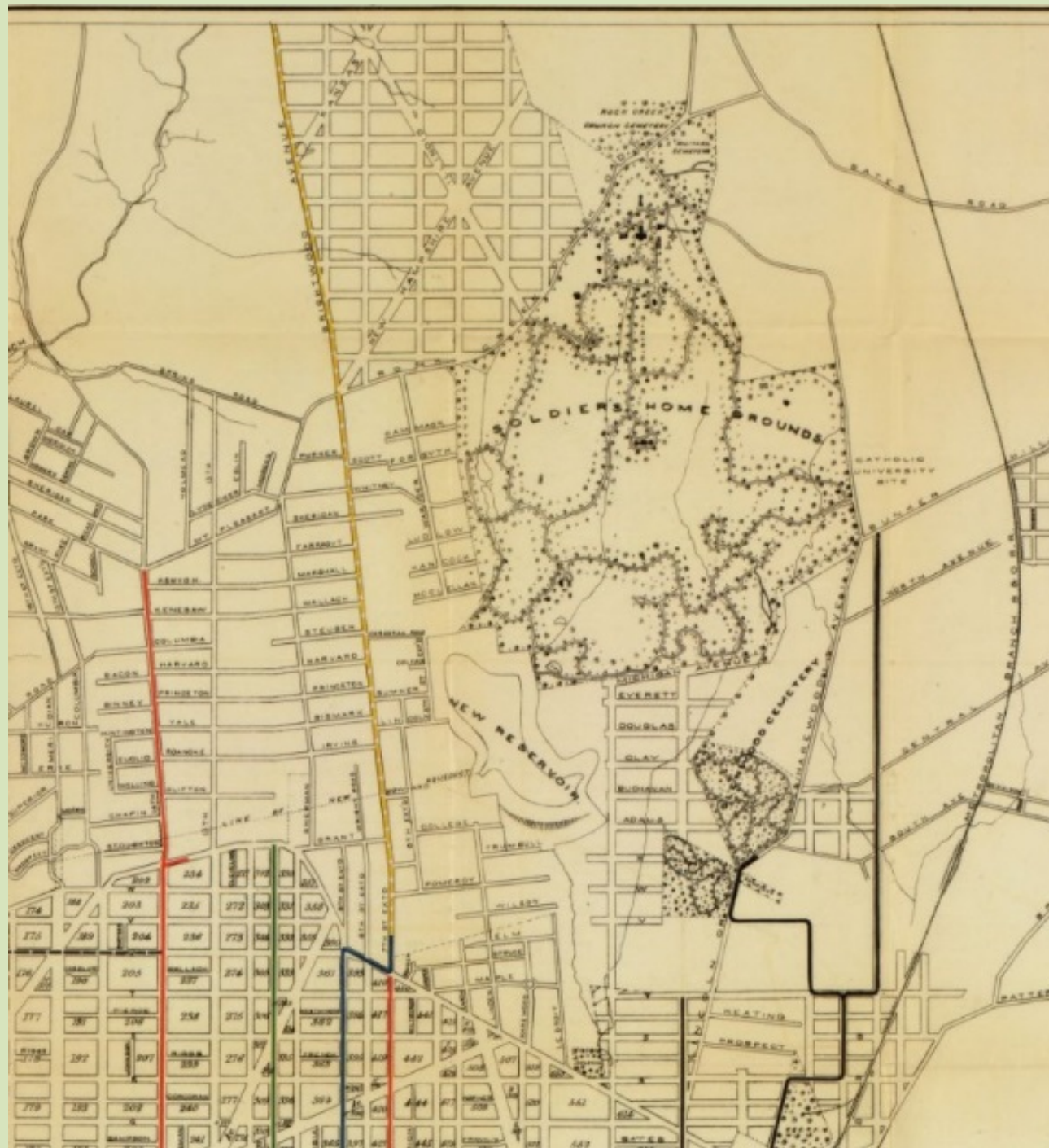


# Streetcar Lines

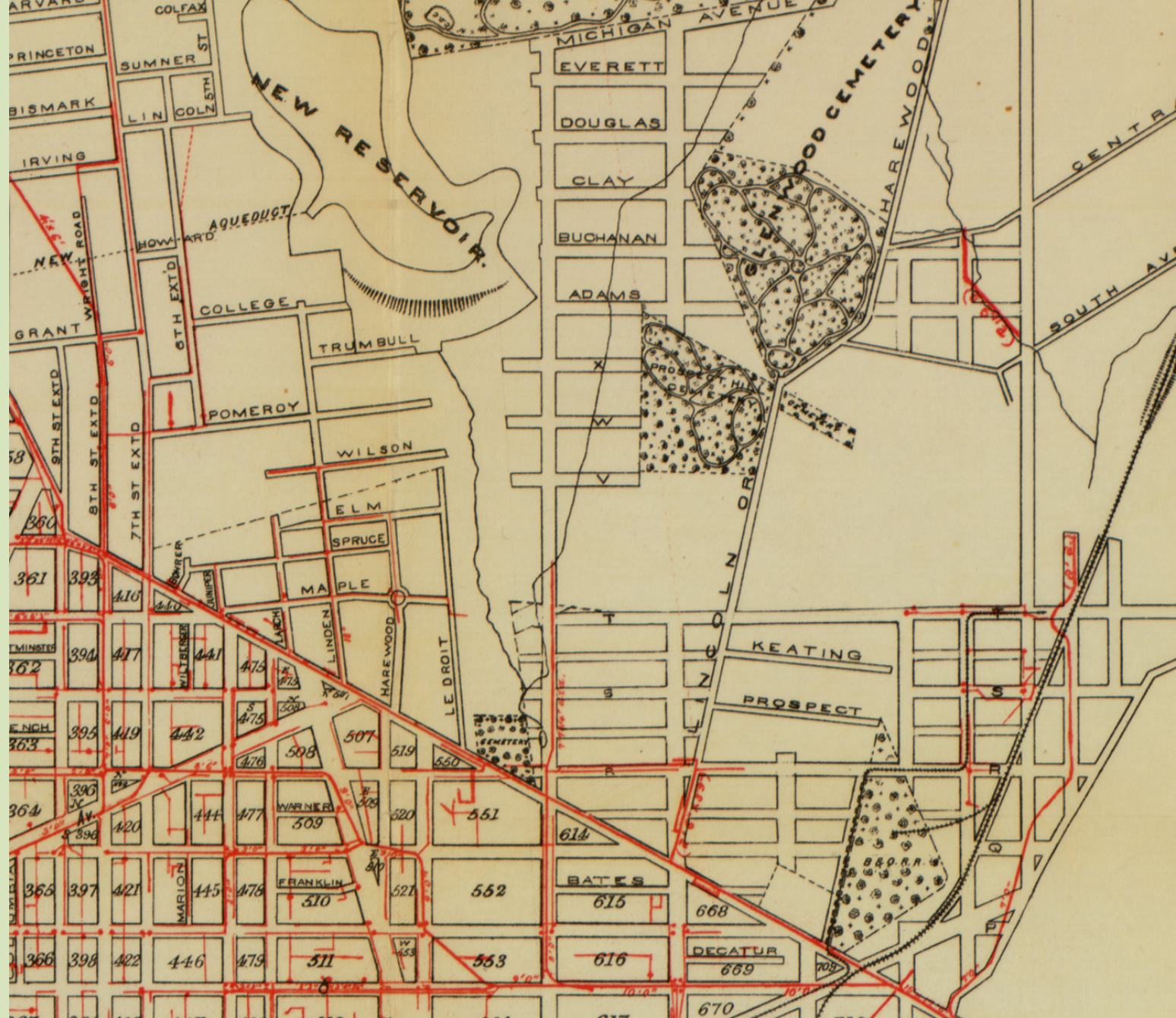
**1888:**

Seventh Street Line  
extended from Boundary  
Street to Brightwood.

Eckington & Soldiers Home  
Railway becomes first  
mechanized line. Terminus  
at Mt. Vernon Square.







Sewer Extensions as of 1891





9. (41) - 7<sup>64</sup>' Dia. Main Sewer - First St., N.W. North from Boundary St. - Oct. 11, 1888

Laying the First Street sewer, 1888





Water Mains as of 1891 (in dark blue-gray)





Bloomington area in 1891 (Hopkins real estate map)



# Bloomingdale Residential Rowhouses

First houses built on southernmost blocks by George Beale



1700-1712 First Street, 1891



61-65 R Street, 1892





# Early Rowhouses



64-68 R Street, 1894-1895

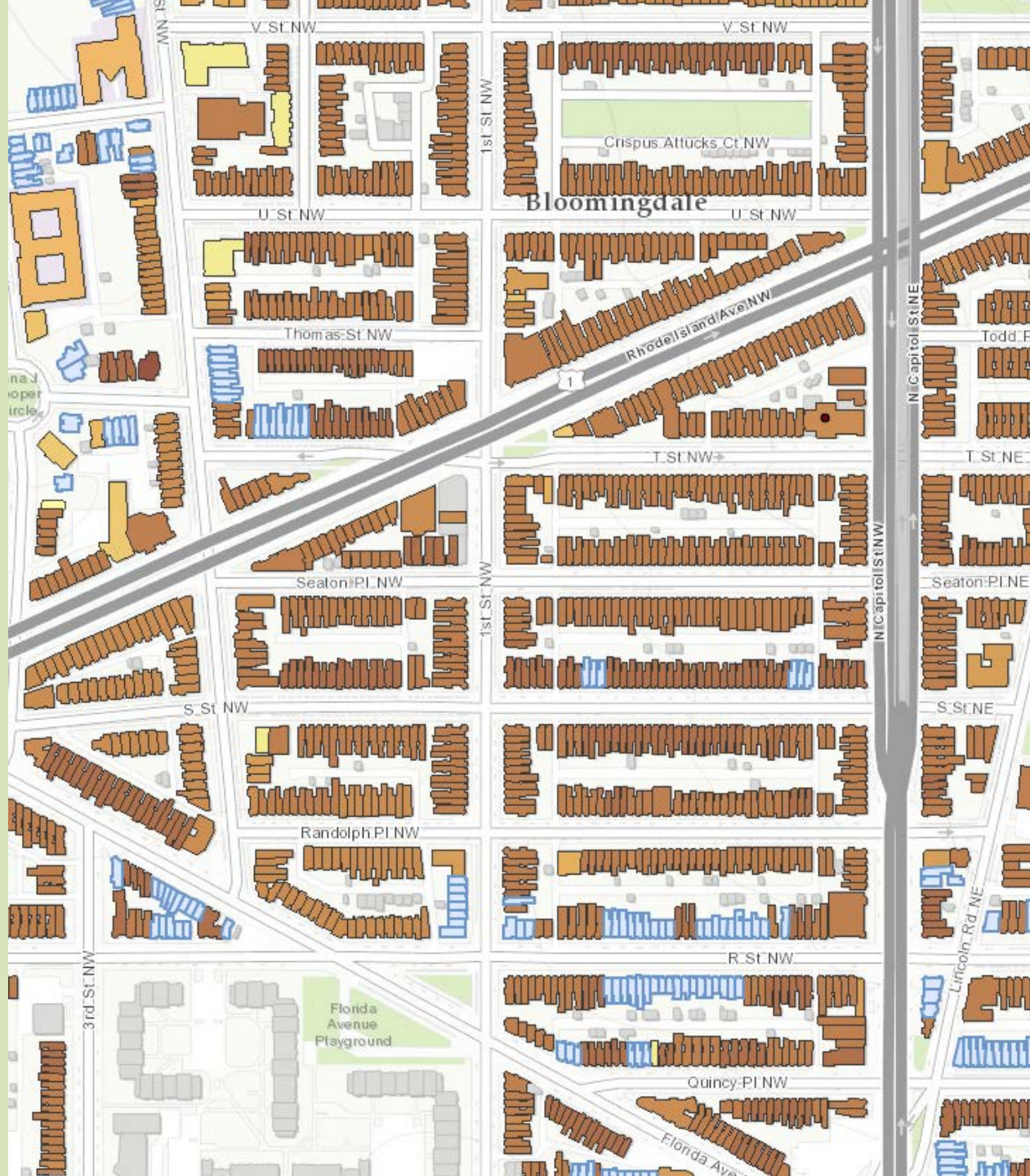


1921 Second Street, 1893





Blue =  
Built 1891-1895







**2200 block First Street (W to Adams, west side), 1899  
Developer Ray Middaugh; Architect B. Stanley Simmons**





2220 First Street, 1899

2222 First Street, 1899



## Nos. 2301 to 2333 First Street, Northwest.



(From photograph looking south from park.)

**IT IS HERE THAT  
VALUES GROW.**

One of the finest  
residential streets of  
the city.

---

---

A most popular  
thoroughfare.

---

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Highest elevation  
within the lettered  
streets of the northwest.

# MIDDAUGH & SHANNON, OWNERS.

**NO PLACE LIKE HOME—NO HOMES LIKE OURS.**



"NO PLACE LIKE HOME;  
NO HOMES LIKE OURS."

WE OWN ALL OF THE GROUND ON TOP OF THE HILL FACING FIRST STREET TO THE GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS, AND ARE SPENDING MORE MONEY IN THE BUILDING OF HANDSOME HOUSES ON THIS STREET THAN 'IS BEING SPENT IN ANY ONE SECTION OF THE CITY.

THIS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FACT THAT THESE PROPERTIES ADJOIN THE THIRTY-FIVE ACRES OF GROUND SURROUNDING THE NEW RESERVOIR RECENTLY PURCHASED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, UPON WHICH CONGRESS HAS AUTHORIZED AN EXPENDITURE OF \$4,700,000 FOR PARKS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, WILL MAKE THIS ONE OF THE FINEST RESIDENTIAL SECTIONS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

IMPROVEMENTS OF THIS CHARACTER MAKE VALUES GROW.

Open for Your Inspection.

No. 2304 First st. nw.

THESE PROPERTIES ARE BUILT WITH A CONSCIENTIOUS REGARD FOR THE FACT THAT HOME BUYING IS A PERMANENT INVESTMENT, AND SHOULD BE OF SUCH CHARACTER AS TO GIVE A LIFETIME OF PERFECT SERVICE.

MIDDAUGH & SHANNON,  
OWNERS.



Washington Post, October 12, 1902  
2304 First Street



# **We Are Now Building Some Three-Story Houses**

Across the street from the new reservoir and what will be within a year one of Washington's largest and finest parks. It is safe to say no other houses in the city are so favorably located.

These houses have nine big, old-fashioned rooms, with a lot of closet room. The interior arrangement is different from any house you ever saw, and will contain "all modern helps to comfortable living."

Price, \$6,250.

2407 to 2419 FIRST st. northwest.  
The leading driveway to Soldiers' Home.

Take N. Cap. st. cars to Baltimore st.

**MIDDAUGH & SHANNON,**

Owners,

First and Baltimore sts. n.w.

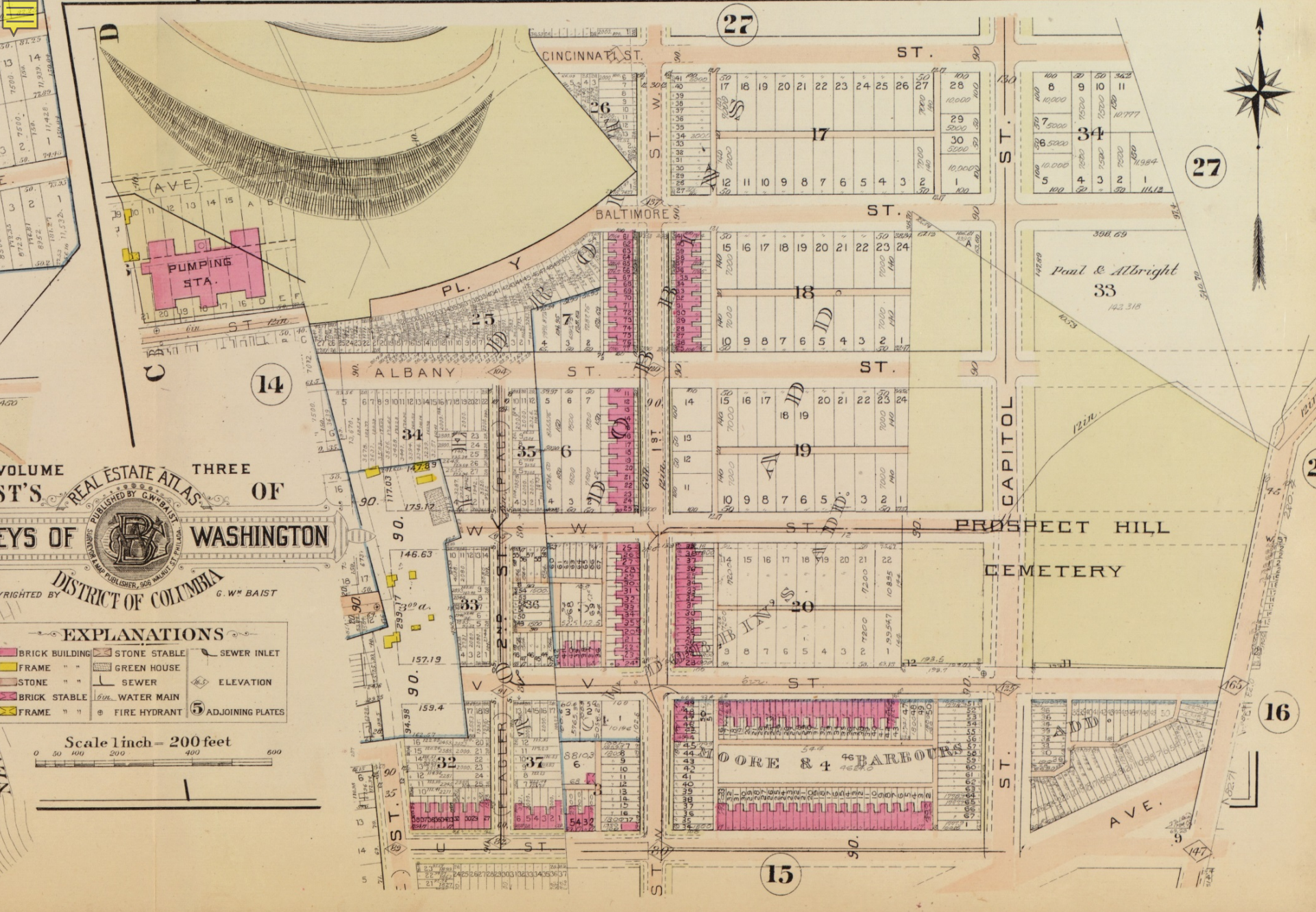
"No place like home; no homes like ours."

se28-42d









North end of Bloomingdale, 1903





2100 block First Street (east side), 1901  
Architect Thomas Haislip



87 V Street, 1901  
Thomas Haislip's own house





**100 W Street, 1901  
Francis Blundon**

**2112-2120 First Street,  
1901, Francis Blundon**





100 W Street,  
home of architect  
Francis Blundon,  
ca. 1902



MR. BLUNDON'S RESIDENCE.





Interior of new  
Blundon house,  
117 V Street,  
ca. 1900



The interior of 117 V St.  
was decorated in Victorian  
style by Navy Department  
draftsman Frank R. Wheater  
and his wife Alice, around  
1900.







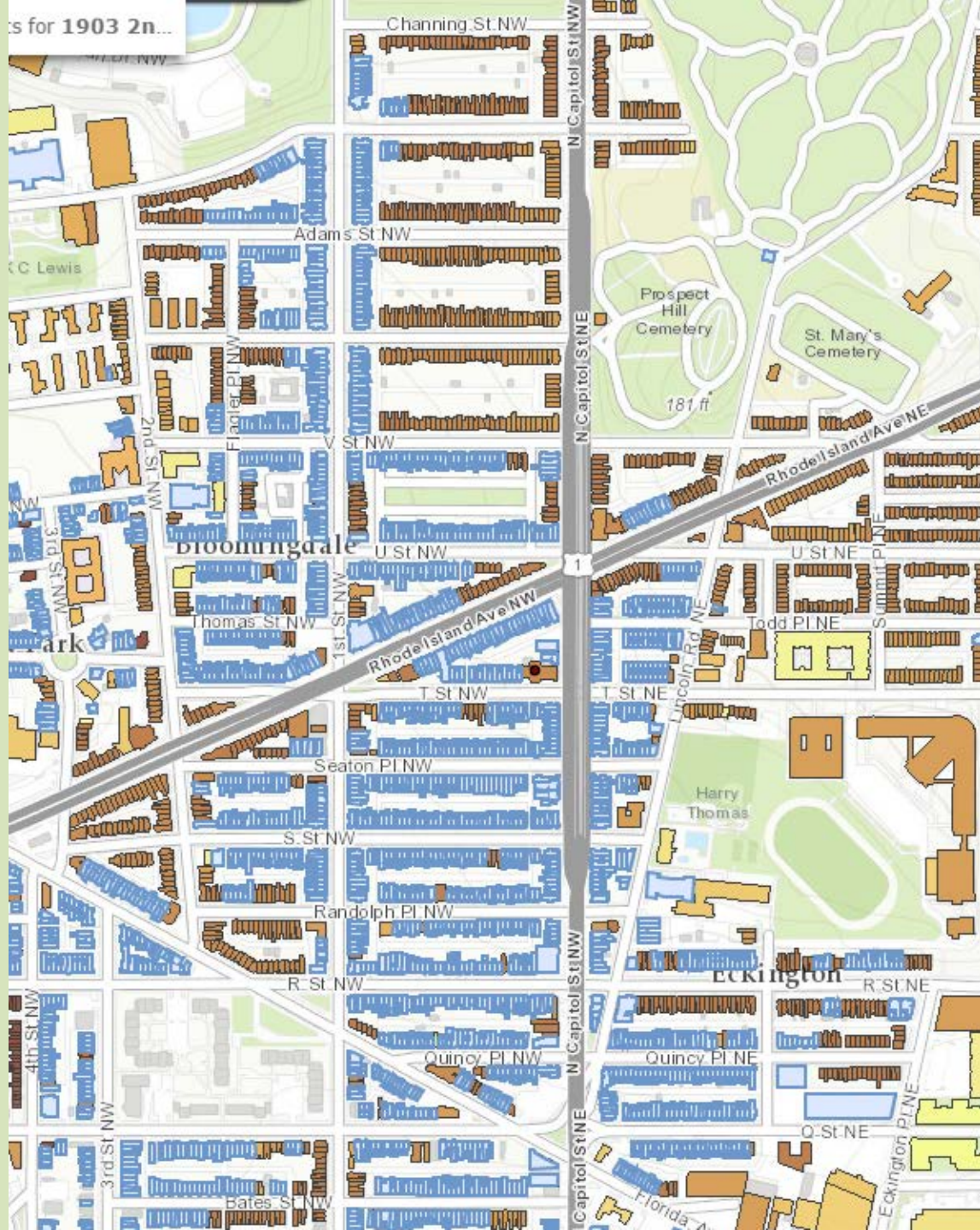
2201-2235 First Street, 1904

Developer Harry Wardman; Architect Nicholas Grimm



# Development in Bloomington

Blue = built 1891-1905







CHANNING ST., N.W., WASH., D.C. - #1733.

**Unit block of Channing Street, 1908  
Developer Harry Wardman; Architect Albert Beers**





RHODE ISLAND AVE, N. W., WASH., D. C. - #653

Unit block of Rhode Island Ave NW, ca. 1911-1912





**143 Rhode Island Avenue, 1910**  
**Architect Nicholas Haller**





## Unit block W Street (north side)







**Unit block W Street (north side)**



**27 W Street**





**Unit block W Street (north side)**



**27 W Street**



**16-24 Adams Street**





Bloomingdale Firehouse (Old Engine Co. 12), built 1897



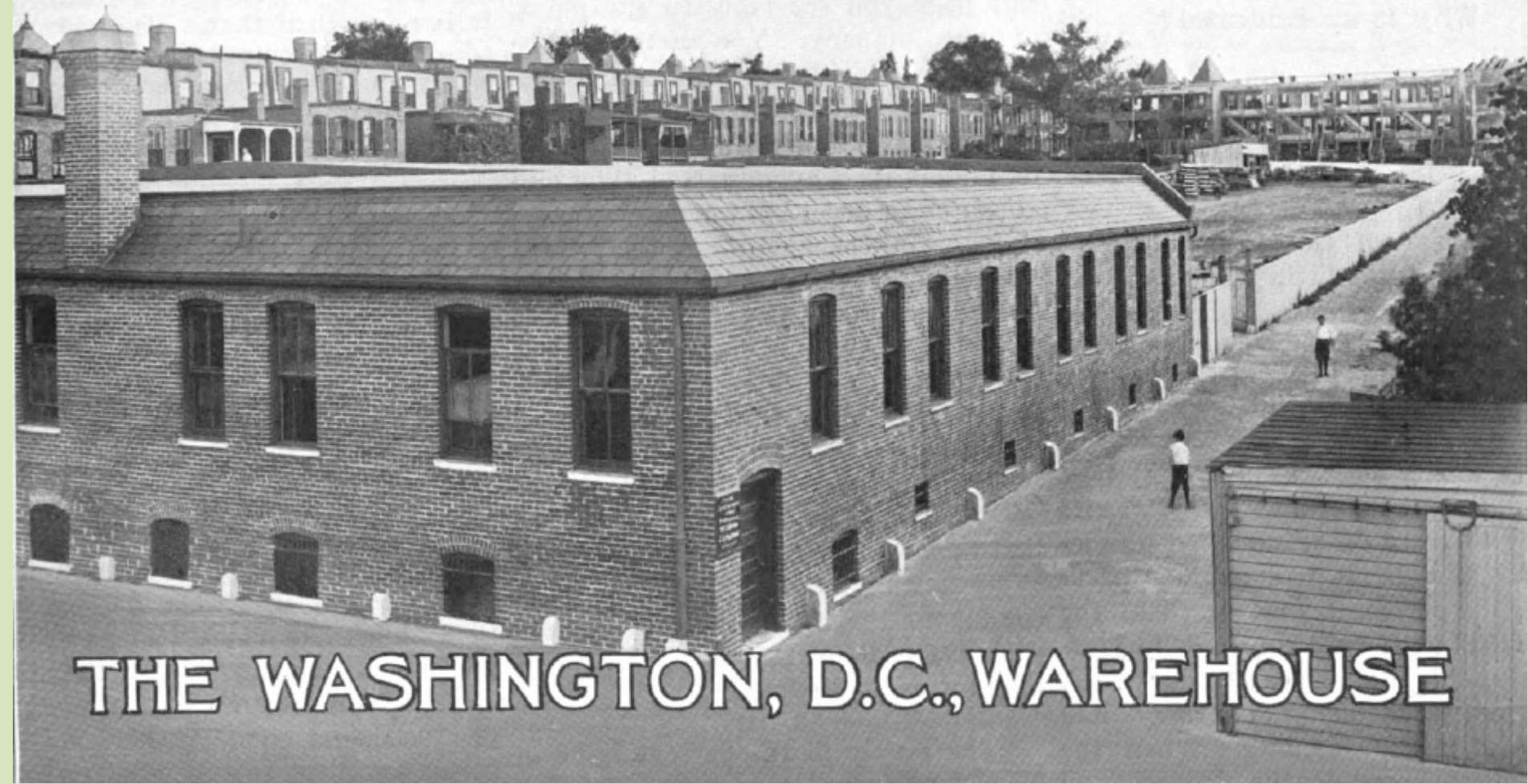


# Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



Gage School, built 1904





C&P Telephone Co. Facility, ca.1912





Crispus Attucks Park





Sylvan Theater, est. 1914





United Brethren Church, est. 1883





St. Martin's Catholic Church, est. 1901





St. Martin's Catholic Church, est. 1901





2122 First Street, home of Samuel Gompers, 1902-1917





McMillan Park, developed 1902-1913





McMillan Park, developed 1902-1913





McMillan Park (First and Channing Sts.) circa 1920s

McMillan Park, ca. 1920s





## McMillan Park 1930s







McMillan Field House, 1938



*A Bargain for a*  
**Colored Home Seeker!**  
**Modern 6-Room House**



*\$1,000 to \$2,500  
Less Than Prices  
in Neighborhood*

**\$9,450**  
**Easy Terms!**

Here's a modern six room and bath home in a high-class colored section of Washington. Can be bought on EASY TERMS. Suitable for Dentist, Doctor or other professional man.

House is in first-class condition, with modern plumbing. NEAR 1st AND RHODE ISLAND AVE. N.W.

**1817 First Street N.W.**

See this at once or you will miss an opportunity!

**Open for Inspection**  
**Sundays from 10 A.M.**  
**to 8 P.M.**

**Michigan Park Manor Co.**  
**59 Rust Bldg. Franklin 513**

1927 ad for 1817 First Street NW





Billy Taylor with cousins at 2216 Flagler Place, ca. 1930





Racial covenants in Bloomingdale



Ex  
\$1.00 Kiddaugh & Shannon Recorded April 18<sup>th</sup> 1902 1<sup>30</sup> p.m.  
To

(33)

nt. Rv. Fletcher S. Page et ux. This Indenture made this fourteenth day  
of April in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred  
fixed and Two, by and between Ray E. Middaugh and William E.  
Shannon as joint tenants both of the City of Washington Dis-

and assigns forever the following described land and prem-  
ises situate lying and being in the County of Washington  
District of Columbia and distinguished as and being lot  
numbered sixty five (65) in Ray E. Middaugh & William E.  
Shannon's Subdivision in Square numbered Seven (7) in  
Bloomingdale as per plat in County Book 14 page 35 in the

said lot numbered sixty three (63); Subject also to the Covenant  
that said lot shall never be rented, leased sold transferred  
or conveyed unto any negro or colored person under a penalty  
of Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) which shall be a lien against  
said lot, together with all and singular the improvements  
rights privileges and appurtenances to the same



1st Street, N.W. between ) PROPERTY HOLDER'S  
W & Adams Streets ) AGREEMENT

at 11-09 A.M

THIS INDENTURE, Made this First day of September, 1925, by and between and among the undersigned, all being residents of the County of Washington, District of Columbia, and owner of real estate situate therein; witnesseth that

WHEREAS the said parties hereto are all owners of real estate situate in the District of Columbia, and located on First Street, between W and Adams streets, northwest, both on the East and West sides of said street, said property being parts of Squares 3122 and 3123, as recorded in the Surveyor's Office of the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS the said parties hereto desire, for their mutual benefit, as well as for the best interest of the said community and neighborhood, to improve in any legitimate way and further the interests of said community and neighborhood:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the sum of five dollars each to the other in hand paid, the parties hereto do hereby mutually agree, promise and covenant, each with the other and for their respective heirs and assigns, that no part of the land now owned by the parties hereto, a more definite description of said property being given after the respective signatures hereto, shall ever be used or occupied by, or sold, conveyed, leased, rented or given to Negroes or any person or persons of the Negro race or blood. This covenant shall run with the land and bind the respective parties hereto, their heirs and assigns, for the period of twenty-one years from and after the date of these presents.

NAME AND SEAL	DESCRIPTION OF LAND
Francis H. Melick (Seal)	Lot 31- Square 3123
Hedges & Middleton, By Jesse H. Hedges (Seal)	Lot 18- Square 3122
Almerico P. Zappone (Seal)	Lot 14- Square 3122
Annie T. Zappone (Seal)	" " " "
O. M. Ballant (Seal)	Lot 40- Square 3122





# Legal challenges to racial covenants





# Challenges to Racial Covenants

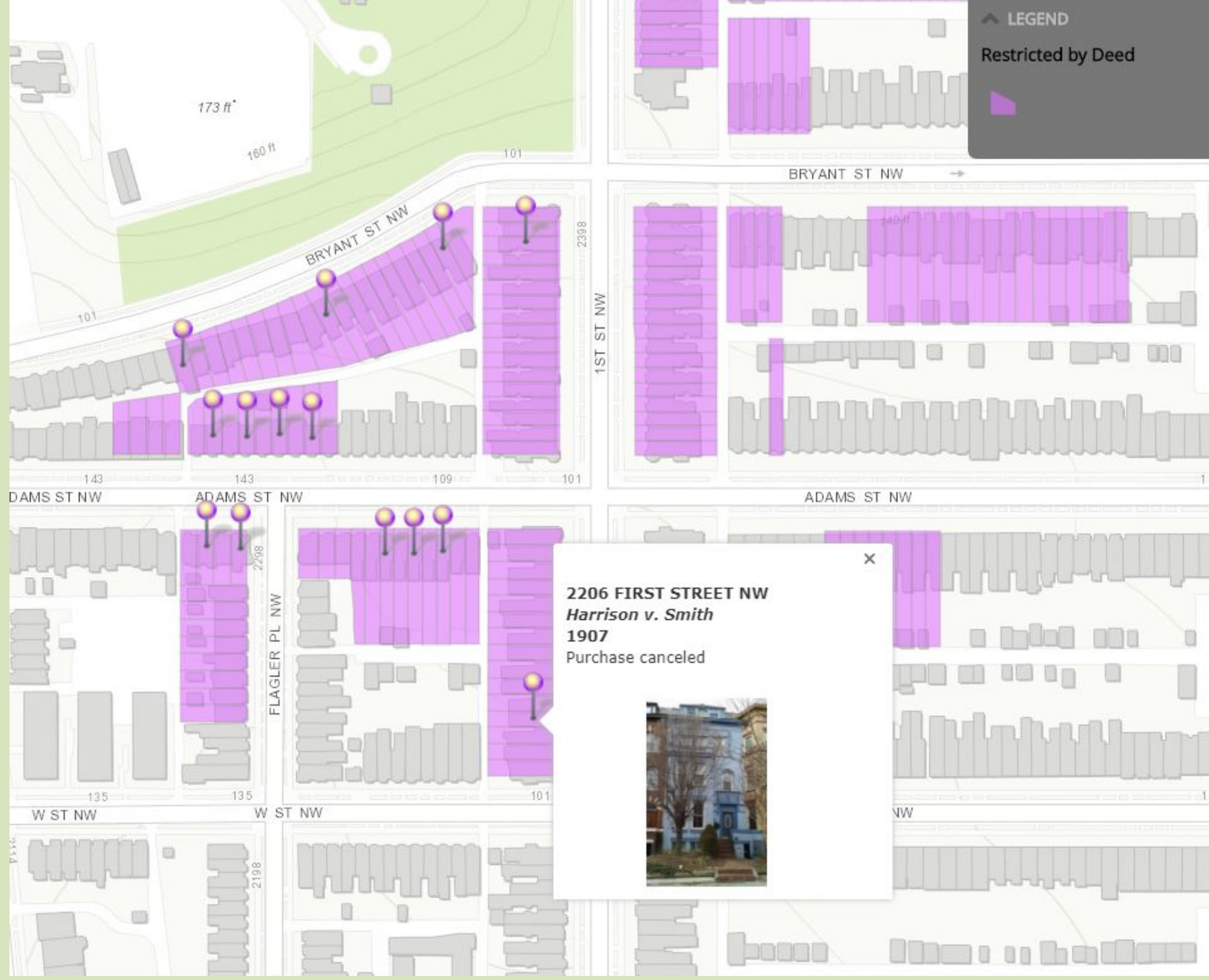
1907:        *Harrison v. Smith*, 2206 First Street

1925:        *Torrey v. Wolfes*, 40 Randolph Place

1937:        *Grady v. Garland*, 1737-1747 First  
Street & 80-82 S Street

1948:        *Hurd v. Hodge*, 116 Bryant Street





LEGEND

Restricted by Deed



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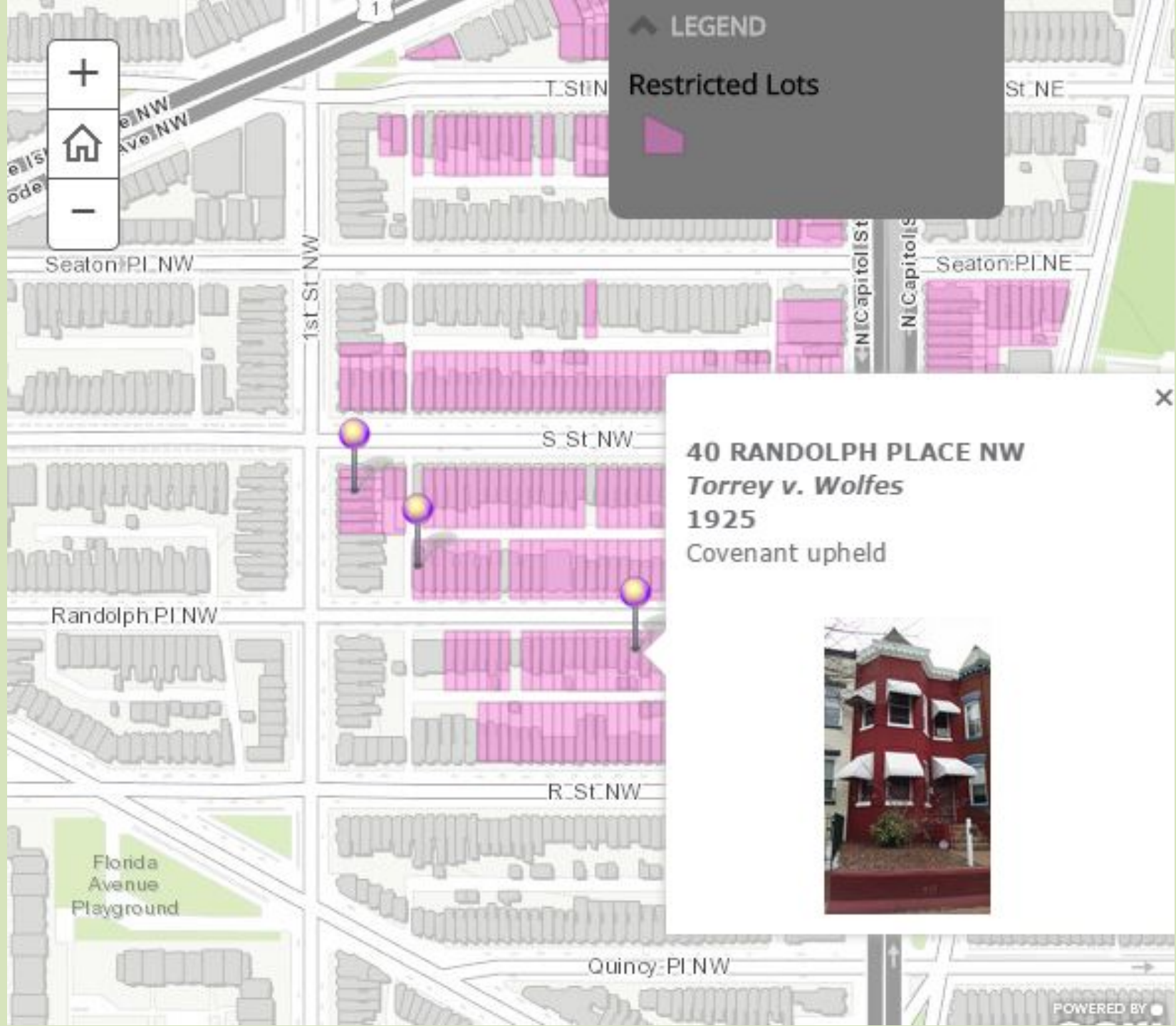
**2206 FIRST STREET NW**  
*Harrison v. Smith*  
**1907**  
Purchase canceled





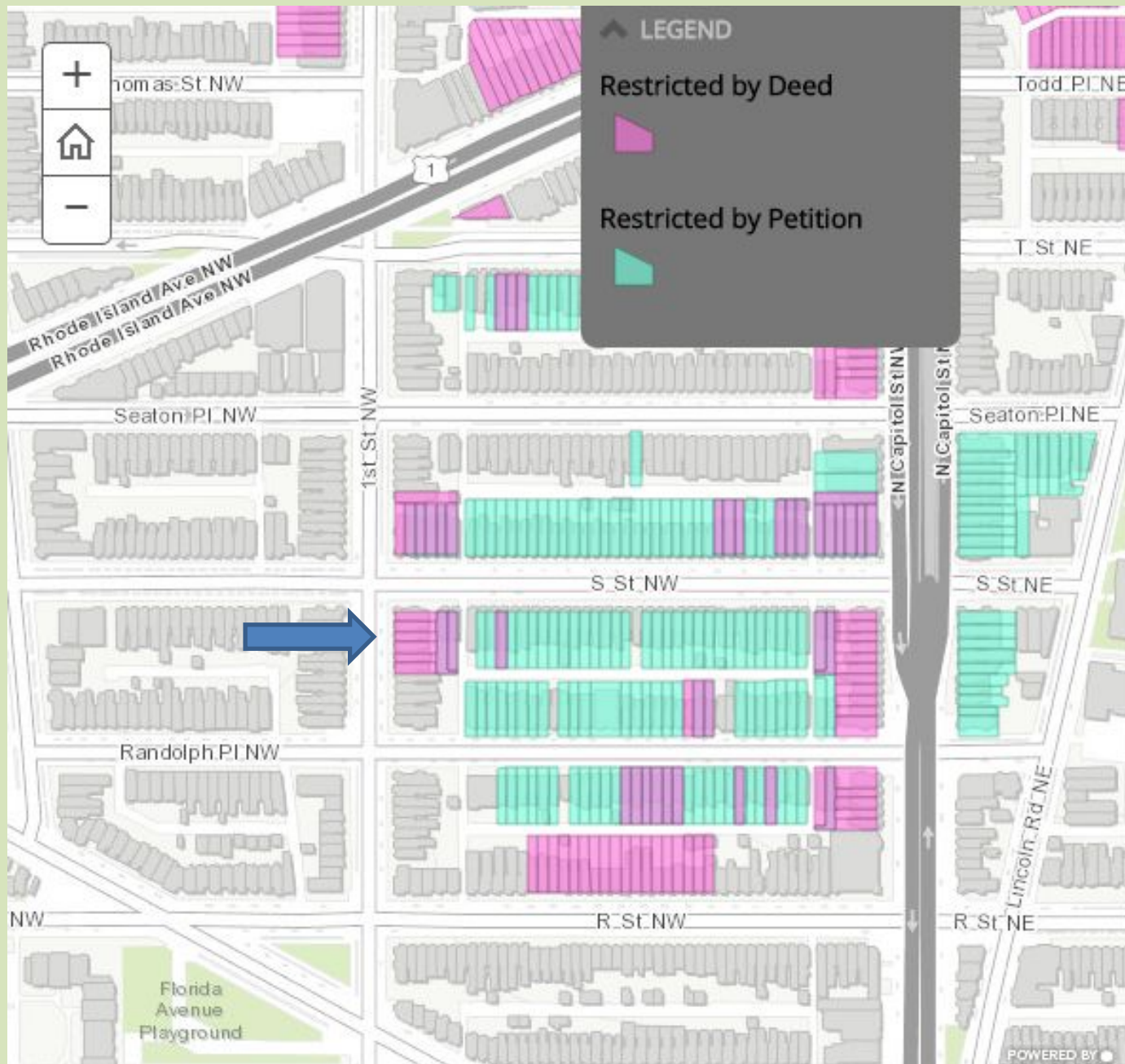
LEGEND

Restricted Lots



**40 RANDOLPH PLACE NW**  
*Torrey v. Wolfes*  
**1925**  
Covenant upheld

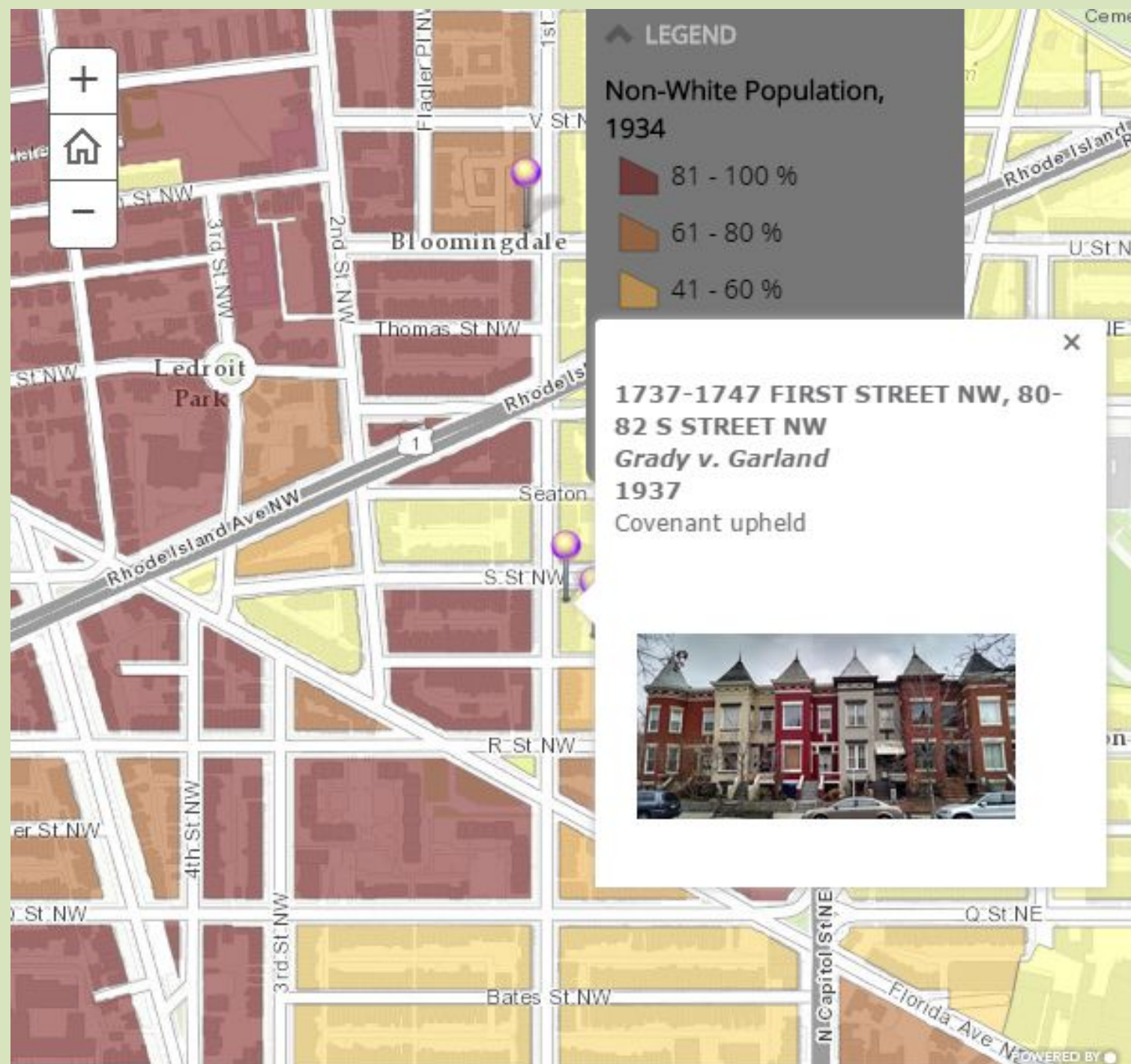




***Grady v. Garland, 1937***

**1737-47 First Street & 80-82 Street NW**









**Senator Edward Brooke**  
**1730 First Street**



**Judge Alice Gail Pollard Clark**  
**139 Randolph Place**



# Ambassador Will Mercer Cook, 127 W Street







Barnett Aden Gallery  
127 Randolph Place, est. 1943



Flagler P.M. 11

2134	317	A	50	Anderson, Sally	Head	F	Neg 62	WD.	No 9	7	North
				Del. River, Katharine	Daughter	F	Neg 35	WD.	No 14	30	Del. River
				—, Carmen	Granddaughter	F	Neg 16	S	No 12	10	Del. River
				—, Julio	Grandson	M	Neg 11	S	No 5	5	Del. River
				—, Del. River	Granddaughter	F	Neg 7	S	No 1	1	Del. River
				—, Armando	Grandson	M	Neg 5	S	No 0		Del. River
				—, Lolita	Granddaughter	F	Neg 1	S	No 0		Del. River
				Carvosa, Lillie	Daughter	F	Neg 45	WD.	No 4-2	10	North
				Newby, Roman	Grandson	M	Neg 23	S	No 4-4	30	Del. River
				—, Robert	Grandson	M	Neg 21	S	No 4-4	30	Del. River
2132	319	D	1000	Green, William H.	Head	M	Neg 50	M	No 4-1	9	Virgin
				—, Cora	Wife	F	Neg 51	M	No 8	8	Virgin
				—, William L.	Son	M	Neg 14	S	No 8	8	Del. River
				Beth, Elsie	Daughter	F	Neg 4	S	No 0		Ohio
				Johnson, Elva	Sister in law	F	Neg 66	S	No 0		Virginia
				Pittsford, Joe, Kinch	Cousin	M	Neg 22	M	No 4-1	9	North

2134 Flagler Place,  
Chita Rivera's  
childhood home

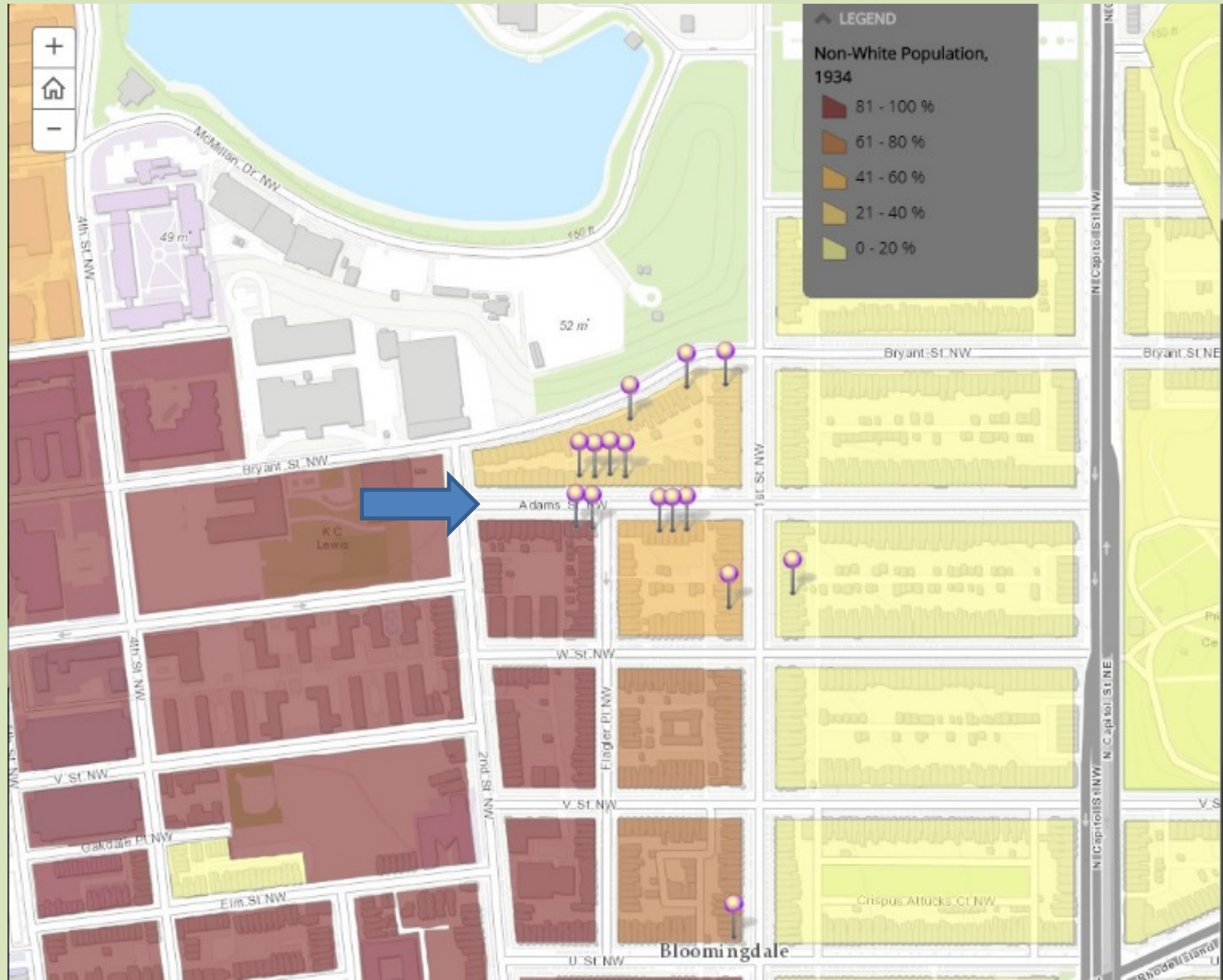




# Chita Rivera, ca. 2005

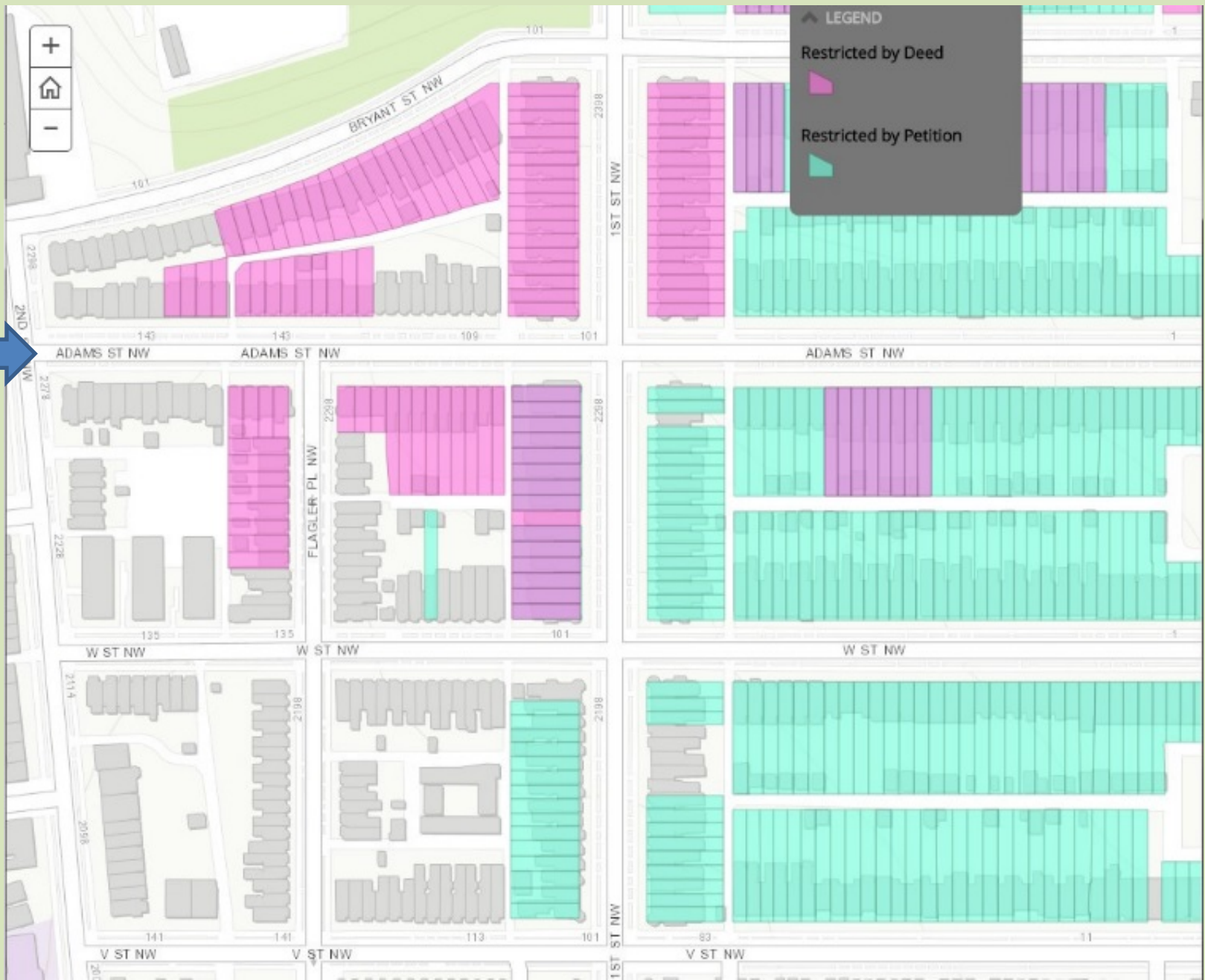


# Racial Divide in Bloomingdale, 1934





# Restrictive covenants: 100 block of Adams Street

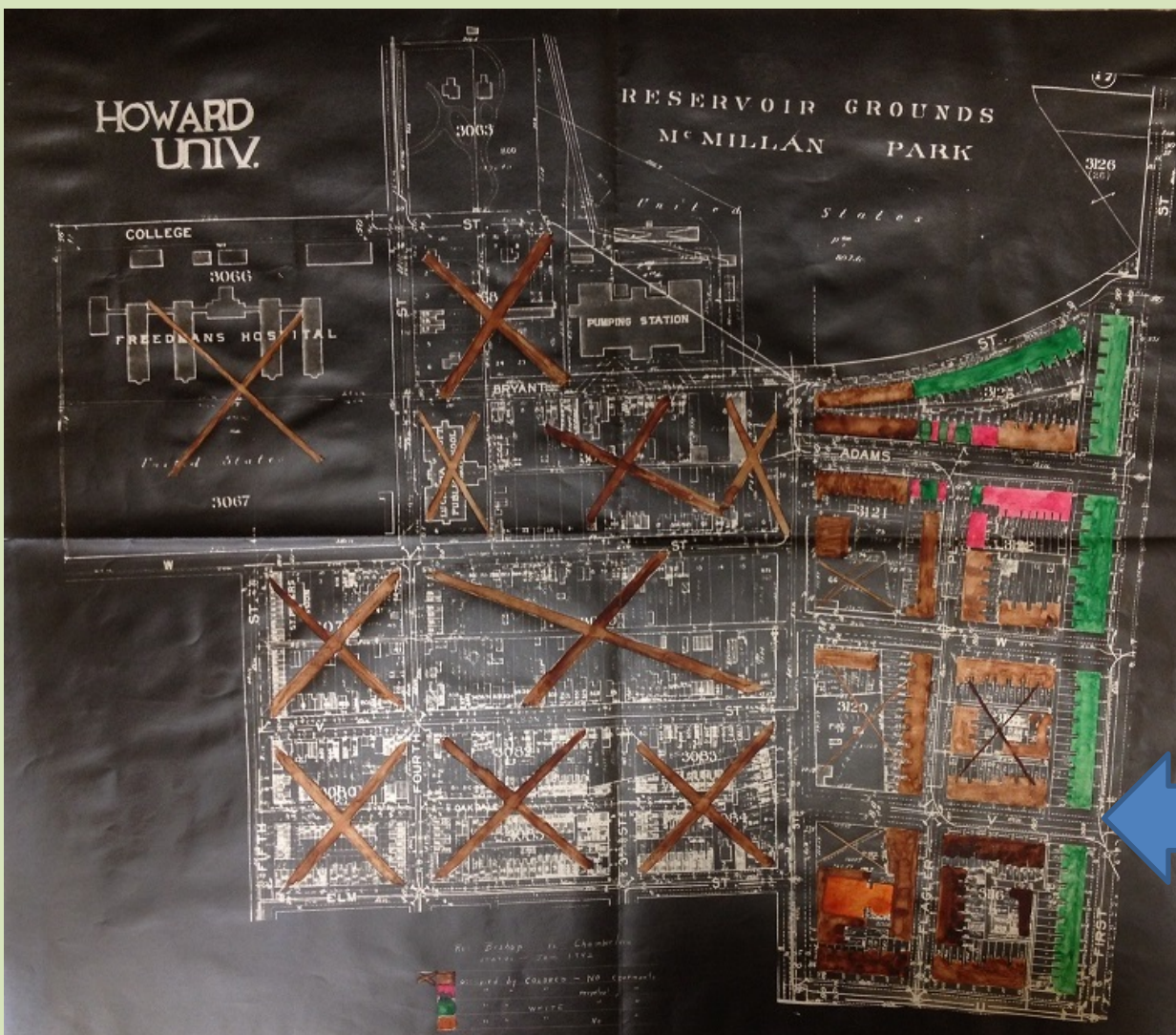


Map created by attorney Charles Hamilton Houston during battle against restrictive covenants in Bloomingdale

Green = White-occupied  
(covenant)

Pink = Black-occupied  
(covenant)

Brown = Black-occupied  
(no covenant)



First Street  
NW



purchasers of property affected by the covenant, according to recent sales:

Premises	112	Adams	Street	sold	for	\$5,000.
"	114	"	"	"	"	4,750.
"	116	"	"	"	"	4,000.
"	118	"	"	"	"	4,500.
"	122	"	"	"	"	4,950.
"	124	"	"	"	"	4,750.
"	126	"	"	"	"	5,000.
"	128	"	"	"	"	5,000.
"	130	"	"	"	"	4,275.
"	132	"	"	"	"	4,600.
"	136	"	"	"	"	4,775.
"	138	"	"	"	"	5,000.
"	137	"	"	"	"	4,050.
"	149	"	"	"	"	4,750.

On the other hand the following properties owned by colored people and occupied by them, which are free of any restrictive covenant, brought the following prices:

Premises	153	Adams	Street	sold	for	\$8,500.
"	157	"	"	"	"	7,750.
"	161	"	"	"	"	6,950.
"	163	"	"	"	"	6,900.
"	165	"	"	"	"	7,000.
"	167	"	"	"	"	6,950.
"	169	"	"	"	"	7,800.
"	171	"	"	"	"	6,750.
"	173	"	"	"	"	8,450.
"	175	"	"	"	"	8,500.

**130 Adams  
Street, 1941**





# 136 Adams Street NW being sold at auction, 1941





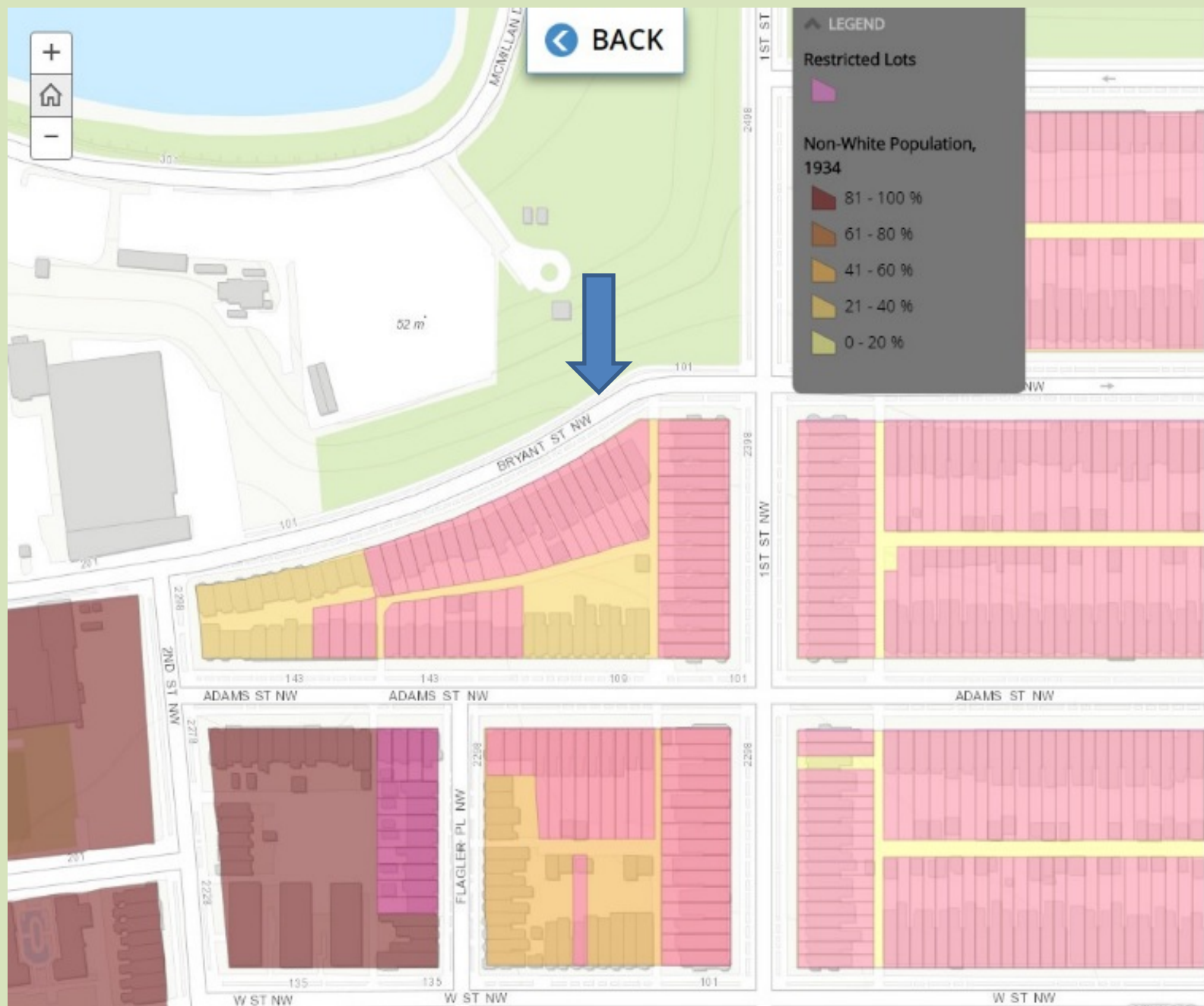


Raphael Urciolo (left),  
ca. 1951





# Restrictive covenants: 100 block of Bryant Street





Charles Hamilton Houston, center, ca. 1940



Judge Henry  
White Edgerton



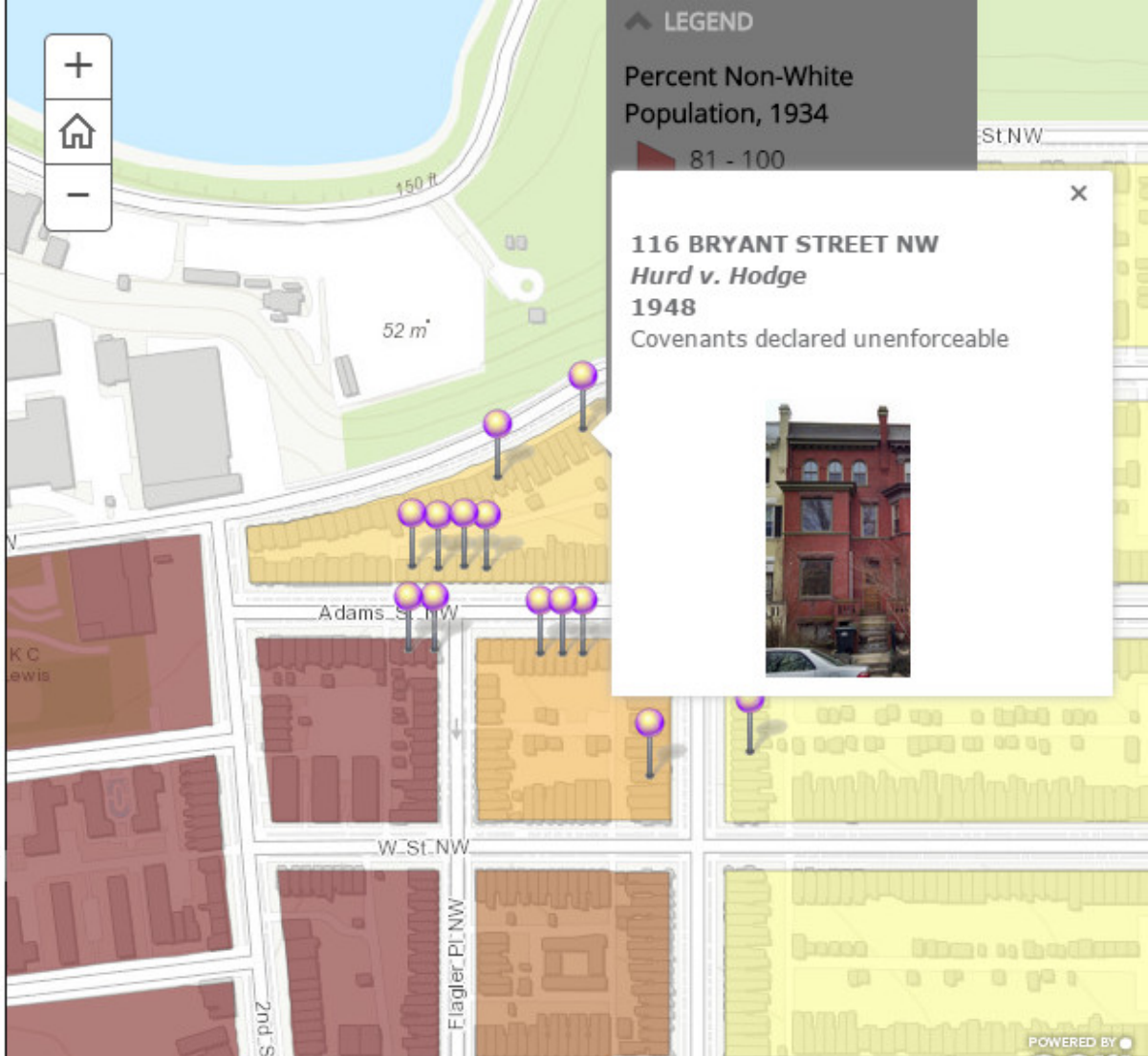
## Mapping Segregation in Washington DC

### Legal Challenges to Racially Restrictive Covenants

#### *Hurd v. Hodge*, 1948



NAACP attorney Charles Hamilton Houston argued *Hurd v. Hodge* before the U.S. Supreme Court. (Scurlock Studio Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution)



The Bloomingdale case that reached the Supreme Court



*The Washington Post,*  
May 4, 1948, page 1

# High Court Voids Racial Ban in Realty Transactions

Decision Knocks  
Props From Under  
'Restricted' Area  
System in Nation

By Dillard Stokes  
*Post Reporter*

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled 6 to 0 that court orders against Negroes living in white neighborhoods violate the Constitution and the public policy.

# Proposed Historic District

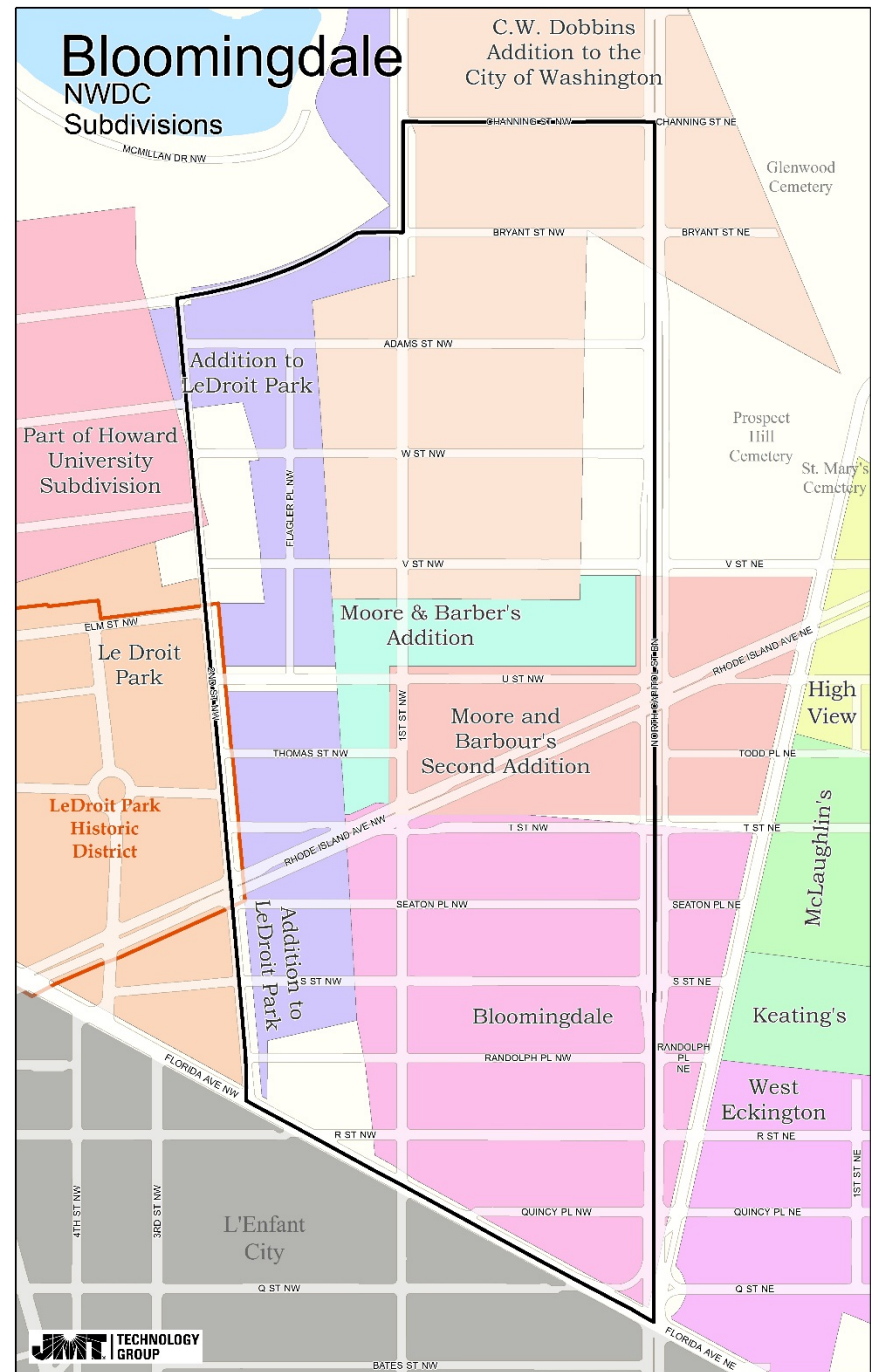
East of North Capitol Street now considered Eckington.

Option 1:

Original subdivisions (outlined in black)

Option 2:

Inclusion of partial blocks west of Second Street bounded by Rhode Island and Florida avenues.







# DC Inventory of Historic Sites: Relevant Evaluation Criteria

The site must possess **historical integrity**, and must also:

- Be the site of **significant events**; or
- Be associated with **significant historical periods**; or
- Be associated with **significant persons**; or
- Represent **urban planning** or **design** that is significant to the appearance and development of DC; or
- Possess **high artistic or aesthetic values** that contribute significantly to the heritage and appearance of DC



# How Bloomingdale Meets Historic District Criteria

- Site of nationally important challenges to racial deed covenants; associated with implementation of planned development beyond the boundaries of original L'Enfant Plan
- Associated with individuals who played a significant role in the history of DC or the nation (Charles Hamilton Houston, Henry White Edgerton, Raphael Urciolo, Samuel Gompers, Edward Brooke)
- Site of extraordinarily cohesive and intact collection of rowhouses built within a short period of time by many of DC's most well-known developers and architects. These rowhouses, independently and together, embody the distinctive characteristics of their building type, possess high artistic value, and illustrate the changing aesthetics of the type in terms of form and style.





Questions?  
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