

Summary and Conclusions

Ultimately, the objectives of this cultural and historical resources study were to identify historic properties potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places in the Carpenter Street Underpass project area. As above-ground historical architectural resources had previously been evaluated, and determined non-significant (see Figure 26), this literature search focused on the potential below-ground, archaeological resources within the project area. Due to the urban nature of the project area, and the inability to identify historic resources in an urban setting using traditional archaeological survey techniques, a two-phase approach to the Phase I archaeological survey was proposed. The existing report, consisting of a detailed archival and/or literature search to identify potential archaeological resources in the project area, represents the first phase (Phase IA) of this two-phased archaeological survey.

By looking at the available historic documents for this area, a predictive model outlining the probability of intact historic archaeological resources in the project area has been prepared. The modeling is based on two primary factors: 1) the probability of early archaeological resources with good integrity being present; and 2) on whether the suspected resources have a significant research potential (i.e. can provide significant data to address relevant research questions). A greater emphasis was placed on early archaeological resources, with 1870 serving as the benchmark date. Later archaeological components do exist within the project area but are considered to have less significance—one exception being those specifically related to the 1908 Race Riot, as will be discussed further below.

Figure 52 summarizes the archaeological potential of the project area based on the literature search. Areas identified as ***Very Low Potential*** on the map indicates that no early (pre-1870) resources were identified for this area. The only areas falling into this category are Lots 1 and 15-16 of Block 11, which were developed between 1873 and 1896.

Areas identified as ***Low Potential*** on Figure 52 indicates 1) that historic resources associated with a pre-1870 component were identified for this area but 2) that these resources have a low research potential. Low research potential may be due to loss of integrity, caused by the subsequent building construction (particularly in the case of buildings with deep basements) or other disturbance. Such is the case with Lots 1-2 of Block 14, which is the site of an early house pre-dating 1854 and destroyed prior to 1867, but which also witnessed multiple later building episodes involving multiple dwellings and (later on) a wholesale grocery store. Lot 2 of Block 11 also was developed prior to 1870, but the early house here was replaced by a second-generation dwelling later in the century, which likely impacted the earlier resources. The accessibility of archaeological resources (and/or the presence of the resource within the project area) also impacts research potential. The project area includes narrow easements along both sides of Carpenter Street (impacting Lots 9-14 of Block 6 and Lots 3-8 of Block 11) and along the north side of Madison Street (impacting Lots 9-12 of Block 17). Most of the lots in question were developed prior to 1870; indeed several of those on Block 17 had been built up by 1854. Even so, the easements will encroach upon only what historically were the front yards of these properties and possibly clip the front edge of whatever building remains may still be present as

well. The rear yards of these properties—typically the most fertile area of archaeological investigation—generally will not be impacted. One exception to this is that portion of the easement along Madison Street through Block 3, which represented the rear yard of the South 80' of Lots 12-16 historically (and associated with the Westenberger family early on). This segment of the easement has a higher probability of archaeological resources being present.

Areas identified as *Moderate Potential* on Figure 52 indicates that 1) historic resources associated with a pre-1870 component were documented for this area and 2) that subsequent disturbances associated with the construction of later buildings have occurred but the extent of its impact to the early archaeological component remains undetermined. One area considered to have moderate potential is Lots 15-16 of Block 6. Both lots were developed in the late 1850s or early 1860s but have seen later building activity. A small commercial building was erected on the rear of Lot 16 early in the twentieth century, and a modern commercial structure has since been erected on the two lots. While this later construction activity likely impacted the early domestic component to some degree, the extent of damage remains to be determined. The use of a slab foundation for the modern commercial building may have had a minimal impact on the subsurface archaeological resources in this area. Another area of moderate potential is the northern three-quarters of Lots 1-4 of Block 3. This area was fully developed by 1867, with some parcels having houses on them by 1854. By the late nineteenth century, this area had become a black enclave, which would be targeted in the 1908 Race Riot. As such, it represents a prime area of research potential. Yet, the construction of a large building here by the Barker Lubin Company in the middle twentieth century raises questions as to integrity of the subsurface archaeological resources. However, if this building had a slab foundation (as we suspect it did) its construction and subsequent demolition may have had minimal impact on these resources.

Areas identified as *High Potential* on Figure 52 indicate that 1) historic resources associated with an early component (pre-1870s) were documented for this area and 2) subsequent disturbances associated with later construction are suspected as being light. These areas also have a direct association with several significant research themes, including the early period of settlement in Springfield, the city's Portuguese community (one of the earliest in the Midwest), and the 1908 Race Riot. Two of these themes overlap on Block 3, which contained early-settlement-period housing that later was occupied by black residents and destroyed during the race riot. The south 40' of Lots 1-4 and Lots 13-16 of Block 3 appear to have been exposed to limited construction activity after 1908, being left vacant initially, later incorporated into the Barker Lubin lumber yard, and finally used as a surface parking lot. Similarly, mid-nineteenth-century buildings on Block 14 persisted post-1950 and were later replaced by a parking lot. Springfield's early Portuguese community on the Near North Side extended onto Block 14, and two lots here within the project area were developed by and occupied by Portuguese immigrants in the late 1850s—specifically Lot 15, which had a residence, and Lot 16, with a grocery store. These buildings persisted post-1950 and were later replaced by a parking lot. Should subsurface resources (such as privy pits, carriage houses, cisterns, and rear yard middens) remain intact on Blocks 3 and 14 they would have the potential to contribute significantly to our understanding of early lifeways in Springfield, including those related to several immigrant groups—the Portuguese, of course, but also Germans as represented by the Westenberger family on Block 3. The archaeological resources on Block 3 also offer the potential to illuminate the material culture of blacks in Springfield at the turn of the twentieth century. Indeed, the fact that this block was

cleared of housing in one devastating event and never reoccupied, presents a unique opportunity to examine one enclave of black residents at one pivotal point in time. The archaeological resources may represent a significant alternative source of information on a community that often was neglected or painted in an unfavorable light by contemporary written sources.

It is our recommendation that multiple backhoe trenches within the areas of high and moderate archaeological potential (as defined above) be excavated within the project area to determine the presence or absence of such features. Although the Phase IB investigations should concentrate in areas identified as having *High Potential*, investigations in some areas identified as having *Moderate Potential* may also be warranted. The number, size, and location of backhoe trenches excavated in this area should be determined in consultation with the SHPO's Chief Archaeologist (Preservation Services Division, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency). During the course of these Phase IB investigations (should they be required), additional site-specific documentary research, particularly early chain-of-title research and a more thorough understanding of the early city directories, should be conducted.

It should be kept in mind that this predictive model is based on our current understanding of 1) the archival record, as well as 2) nineteenth century urban sites. With this in mind, one needs to be aware of the potential of undocumented early historic and even prehistoric components that might be present within the project area. Although some of the late-nineteenth and twentieth-century commercial buildings constructed in the project area may have had deep and/or full basements, it is possible that others did not. As such, early historic components may actually have been preserved by the construction of these later buildings. With this in mind, it is always possible that significant, early historic and/or prehistoric components may be discovered during the course of construction even after the completion of the Phase IB investigations.

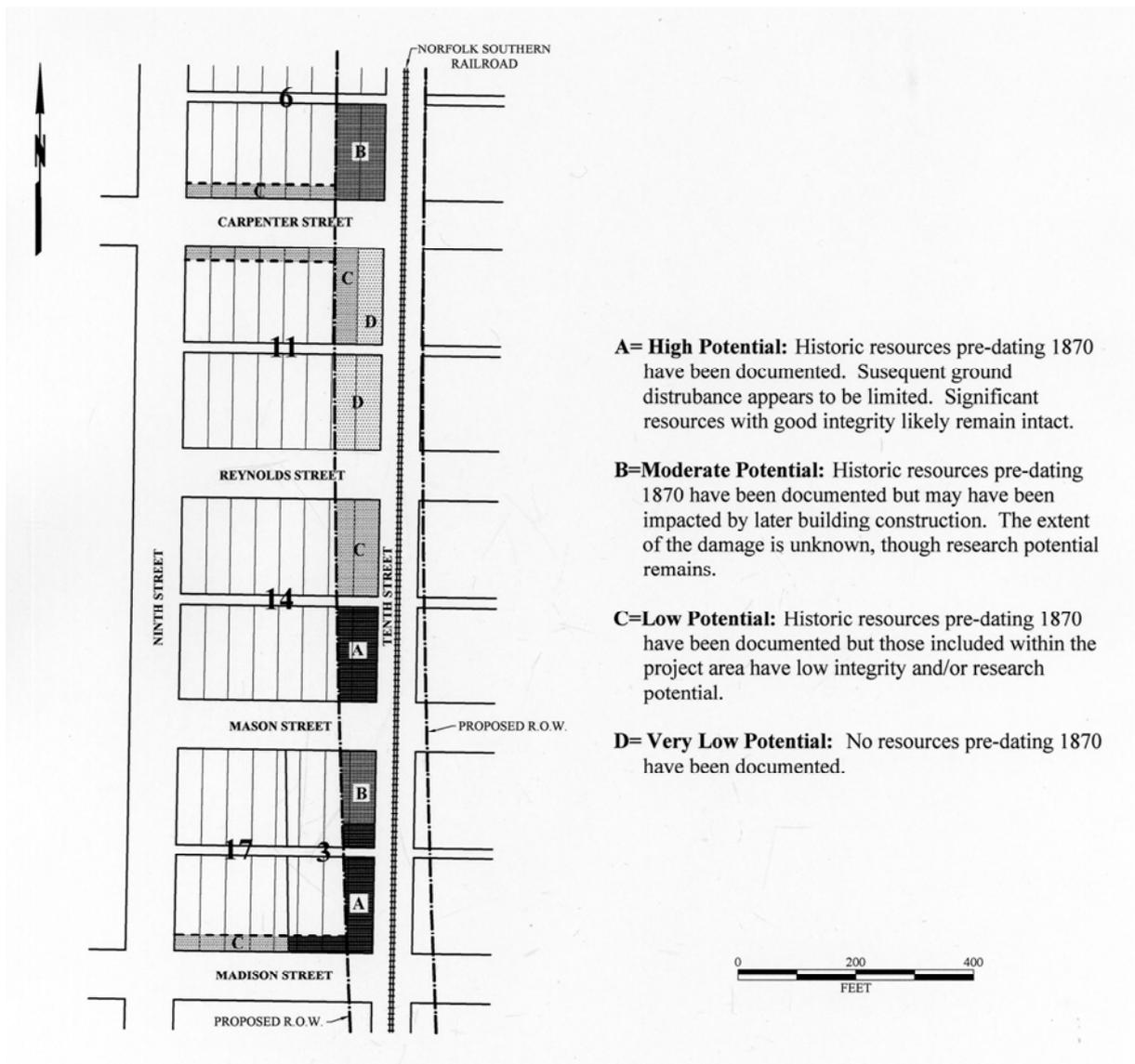


Figure 52. View of the Carpenter Street Underpass project area illustrating the archaeological probability areas.

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