

**PHASE III DATA RECOVERY PLAN (DRP)  
FOR NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES  
LOCATED WITHIN  
THE CARPENTER STREET UNDERPASS PROJECT AREA,  
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The following document presents a program of scientific data recovery that will be implemented to mitigate the adverse effects of the construction of the Carpenter Street Underpass (located between Ninth and Eleventh Streets) on the subsurface archaeological resources determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Carpenter Street Underpass project area is identified as the western side of the existing Tenth Street rail right-of-way beginning a half block north of Carpenter Street and proceeding south to Madison Street (Figures 1-2). The proposed new right-of-way is approximately 130' wide on the north end of the project area (near Carpenter Street) and 75' wide on the south end of the project area (at Madison Street). Additionally, approximately 50' of new right-of-way along the north side of Madison Street (from Ninth to Tenth Street) and 40-45' along both the north and south sides of Carpenter Street (from Ninth to Tenth Street) are required for development of the underpass. The majority of the project area currently is a paved surface parking lot.

The Carpenter Street Underpass project area consists of four discreet areas located along the west side of the Tenth Street rail corridor (see Figure 2). From north to south, these consist of: 1) an area north of Carpenter Street (in Block 6, Wells and Peck's Addition), 2) an area bounded by Carpenter and Reynolds Street (in Block 11, Wells and Pecks Addition), 3) an area bounded by Reynolds and Mason Street (in Block 14 Wells and Pecks Addition), and 4) an area bounded by Mason and Madison Streets. The later parcel, located on the far southern end of the project area, is comprised of two parcels of land from two separate additions to the City, which together form the typical city block. The eastern third of this block—and that portion which comprises the majority of the project area in this block—was platted as Block 3 of the Jonas Whitney Addition. The western two-thirds of this block—only a small portion of which, fronting Madison Street, is located within the project area—was platted as Block 17 of Wells and Pecks Addition.

The sites to be investigated were initially documented by Fever River Research in the Phase I archaeological report entitled *A Cultural and Historical Resources Study for the Proposed Carpenter Street Underpass, Springfield Rail Improvements Project, Springfield, Illinois* (Mansberger and Stratton 2014a). Whereas, the project area is in an urban environment, the majority of which is a paved surface parking lot, Phase II archaeological testing (and National Register of Historic Places determination of the archaeological sites) was impractical to conduct prior to completion of the property acquisition (and the removal of the surface parking lot), and as such a *Memorandum of Agreement* (MOA) was entered into between the City of Springfield, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer outlining the commitment by the City of Springfield and the FRA to conduct Phase II investigations within the High Probability (“A”) and Moderate Probability (“B”) areas identified in the Phase I report, after completion of land acquisition (and during the early stages of the Carpenter Street Underpass project construction activity, as outlined in the attached *Plan And Schedule For Phase II Archaeological Investigations For The Carpenter Street Underpass, Springfield Rail Improvements Project, Springfield, Illinois* Mansberger and Stratton 2014b). The consulting parties also agreed, should any archaeological sites be determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and these sites could not be avoided by the proposed construction activity, that the accepted treatment plan for mitigation would be the implementation of this Data Recovery Plan. As of the writing of this data recovery plan, Phase II archaeological testing has not been conducted and no sites have, as yet, been identified as being eligible for listing on the National Register.

The Phase III cultural resource mitigation plan proposed here will be conducted by Fever River Research (Springfield) under contract with the Hanson Professional Services, Inc. (and the City of Springfield). All work will be conducted under the guidance of Floyd Mansberger, principal of Fever River Research. Mansberger meets, and exceeds, the *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards* in the fields of archaeology and architectural history, as published in 36 CFR Part 61. All work conducted by Fever River Research, under the guidance of Mansberger, will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44716), and “The Treatment of Archaeological Properties” published in 1980 by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

This Data Recovery Plan will be implemented only if the City of Springfield, Federal Railroad Administration, and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer have jointly agreed that the historic sites determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (as per Criterion D), and that these resources cannot be avoided.

This Data Recovery Plan (DRP) is divided into the following sub-tasks: Pre-Field Investigations, Coordination and Literature Review, Archaeological Field and Laboratory Methods, and Cultural Resources Evaluation Report.

## **RESEARCH POTENTIAL**

Mansberger, Stratton and Lowry (2000) present a detailed historical context for early Springfield. As this report indicates, although much has been written about the early history and architecture of the community, much of this work is based on very limited primary source material and has failed to focus on detailed, site-specific research. For a community of its size and historic significance, Springfield has had comparatively little archaeology done within it, though intensive investigations have been conducted over an extended period within the Lincoln Home neighborhood by the National Park Service (in an area initially settled during the middle 1830s and outside of the Original Town Plat). Another notable exception is the archaeological investigations conducted prior to the construction of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The latter project, conducted in several phases, involved the excavation of portions of three city blocks located within the Original Town Plat, in close proximity to the Public Square. These excavations revealed a wealth of information regarding the early formative years of the community and subsequent development. They also illustrated the high probability of early archaeological features surviving intact, with good integrity, in an urban mature environment, even after subsequent episodes of redevelopment.

The identification of cultural deposits within the Carpenter Street Underpass project area has the potential to contribute dramatically to our understanding of lifeways in Springfield during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The project area is located within the Springfield's Near North Side, an area that was platted in the middle 1830s and was well developed by the Civil War. Interposed as it was between the Central Business District and the fashionable Enos Park Neighborhood to the north of it, the Near North Side was a mixed area in respect to its structural composition and resident population during the nineteenth century. Though predominately residential in character initially, the Near North Side also featured scattered businesses, particularly on its southern edge close to the Central Business District. Commercial activity within the neighborhood would expand during the twentieth century. The resident population in the middle nineteenth century included native-born Americans, as well as immigrants from Germany, Ireland, and the Portuguese-controlled Madeira Islands. The latter group was especially noteworthy, as it represented one of the earliest and largest Portuguese settlements in the Midwest. A significant Jewish population resided in the neighborhood during this period as well.

The Near North Side, in a sense, served as a "gateway" neighborhood, where newcomers of divergent backgrounds and lower-to-middle-income status first laid down roots in Springfield. It offered affordable housing and was in close proximity to the Central Business District. These same features attracted Springfield's growing black population to the neighborhood during the late nineteenth century. By the early twentieth century, the current project area represented the western extension of the so-called "Badlands," where a large number of blacks resided. The Badlands was the scene of widespread destruction and violence during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. The Race Riot was a seminal event in the history of Springfield, as well as that of the current project area, as it was point where the white assault on the Badlands began and multiple black-occupied residences within it were destroyed.

The archaeological resources within the current project area have the potential to provide



significant information for the period 1840-1910, a timeframe during which Springfield developed from raw frontier community of several thousand to a mature urban, industrial center. These resources may provide important site-specific data, and may also compliment data previously yielded from the investigation at the Lincoln Home neighborhood and the Abraham of the Presidential Library and Museum (particularly for comparative purposes). Although several research questions can be addressed by the mitigation of the current project area, this data recovery plan focuses on the recovery of information relevant to four research issues, which are discussed below.

- 1) Changing Structure of the Urban Landscape. Little is known about the structure of the urban house lot during the initial years of settlement within Springfield. Spatial requirements (both within the dwelling as well as the surrounding yardscape) vary between ethnic, regional, and/or racial groups (German versus Irish; Southern versus Northern; white versus black), and between socio-economic strata (the working class versus merchant class). Similarly, changing technologies and cultural values affect the layout of the urban house lot. Documentary research found great diversity among the residents within the current project area between 1840 and 1910.

Research questions to be addressed by the data include: “What are the domestic and commercial requirements of the early pioneer family during the nineteenth century?”; “How did these conditions differ from that of their neighbors?”; and “How did changing technologies (particularly associated with new sanitary, food preparation, and heating improvements) affect the domestic needs of these families through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?”.

Our research will focus predominately on defining the structure of the house lot and how it changed through the years. The changing structure of the site as determined from the mapping of structural features, subsurface pits, and activity areas within the greater yard will be used to address these questions. Besides more traditional feature types (such as wells, cisterns, cellars, and structural foundations), the variation in midden content will be sought in an effort to characterize various activity areas associated with the early components.

- 2) Consumer Choices and/or Quality of Life Standards. Tied closely to the above discussion of the structure of the urban landscape, is the discussion of the socio-economic well-being of the occupants of the site. Any discussion of the various components must also attempt to address such questions as: “What was the quality of life of the household that occupied this site?”; “Do the divergent data sets (architectural remains, ceramic and glass tablewares, and dietary remains) from this site reflect similar quality of life assessments of the site occupants?”; “If not, what does the divergent data sets tell us about the character of the early lifeways?”; “Does the quantity and quality of material goods and dietary remains found at this site bespeak of a working class or merchant class family?”; “Does the material goods consumed and dietary remains recovered from this site reflect various ethnic, racial, or socio-economic characteristics of the site’s occupants?” Answers to these questions can be sought from the material culture remains from the subsurface features (such as filled cellars, cisterns) and middens at this site. The physical remains of the glass and ceramic tablewares, teawares, and crockery, as well as the faunal and floral remains recovered from the features

will lend themselves to addressing these questions.

- 3) Early Portuguese Community in Springfield: Several Portuguese families are known to have resided within the current project area. They were part of a colony Portuguese who settled in Springfield, en masse in 1849, after fleeing the Madeira Islands due to persecution by authorities for their adherence to the Presbyterian faith. The community established itself on the Near North Side and long remained a presence in the neighborhood. As noted above, this one of the earliest and largest Portuguese settlements in the Midwest. The Portuguese-owned properties within the project areas included a residence and a grocery store (possibly with living quarters above), both of which had been constructed by the late 1850s. Research questions related to the Portuguese primarily revolve around ethnic identity and rate of assimilation. Ethnic identity can be expressed in a number of ways, including language, religion, clothing, customs, and foodways. Although archaeology can not address all of these points of expression (language for instance), it can address others to varying degrees (depending on the material recovered)—particularly foodways. Research questions to be addressed by the data include: “Does the cultural material convey a Portuguese identity?”; “What was the standard living of the immigrants, a decade after their arrival in Springfield?”; “How do these Portuguese-occupied properties compare/contrast to those of their neighbors, in respect to site structure and material goods?”; and “Does the material recovered from the store indicate an orientation towards a Portuguese clientele, or general population?”
- 4) 1908 Springfield Race Riot: By circa 1900, Block 3 on the southern end of the project area largely was occupied by lower-income black families, many of whom experienced the horror of the race riots of 1908 personally. At least four houses facing Tenth Street on this block were torched during the riot, with another two dwellings fronting Madison Street also destroyed. The archaeological resources located within the immediate project area potentially would represent the physical remains of these houses—with the rear yard activity areas being located just outside of the project area. Nonetheless, the houses still have the potential to contribute to our understanding of the dynamics of urban life in Springfield during the nineteenth and early twentieth century years. Post-riot, early-twentieth-century improvements to the project area were limited and not substantial enough to have significantly impacted the earlier archaeological resources. 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. Research questions to be addressed by the data include: “What were the living standards of the occupants at the time of the riot?”; “Do the houses deserve the characterization as ‘shanties’ or ‘huts’, as so labeled by contemporary sources?”; and “To what degree do the material remains challenge or support contemporary accounts of black living standards in the Badlands?”

## **METHODS AND TASKS OF THE DATA RECOVERY PLAN**

The archeological work outlined for the Lincoln Presidential Library Site will consist of several individual tasks, each of which is discussed below.

### **Task 1: Pre-Field Investigations, Coordination and Literature Review**

The field investigations and reporting requirements will be coordinated with appropriate regulatory agencies including the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The goal of the early coordination is to receive concurrence with the regulatory agencies in regards to field methods, laboratory methods, and data analysis prior to the implementation of field studies. In addition, a literature review of previous research (archaeological, historical and architectural) conducted within or near the project area will be made prior to beginning the fieldwork. These pre-field investigations will have three objectives: 1) to summarize the culture history of the region as they pertain to the evaluation of the historic resources, 2) to summarize previous archaeological investigations within the region, and 3) to provide a National Register of Historic Places context within which the historic resources can be evaluated.

### **Task 2: Archaeological Field and Laboratory Methods**

The proposed Phase III archaeological mitigation will be initiated by mechanically excavating a series of block excavation units down to the base of the topsoil and/or a level in which subsurface features become apparent. This will be conducted in an effort to expose potential subsurface features that might be present (such as refuse pits, wells, cellars, etc.). The size and location of these block excavations will be coordinated with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency after completion of the Phase II testing, and prior to the initiation of the mitigation.

All features encountered will be assigned a consecutive number, mapped in plan view, and plotted on the site base map. All early to middle nineteenth century features will be excavated using standard archaeological procedures (similar to those conducted during the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum mitigation projects). Small features will be excavated in two sections (cross-sectioned). After excavating the first half of each feature (in arbitrary levels), the profile will be drawn and photographed. If determined in the field that the second half of the feature can contribute significant additional information above that which was recovered from the first half, then the second half will also be excavated (in natural stratigraphic levels). Large features (such as cellars) will be excavated in a similar fashion, albeit excavating opposing quarters to create two profile walls. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century features (such as, privies, cisterns and building foundations) will be evaluated as to their potential for addressing the above-referenced research questions. In consultation with the IHPA chief archaeologist, should these late features be determined to not contribute significantly to our understanding of the past, then they will not be further explored (or excavated).

Features will be excavated by a combination of shovel scraping and trowel excavations. Selective contexts will be screened using ¼" hardware cloth. Artifacts recovered from the features will be bagged and issued a separate catalog (or lot) number. Bags will be labeled with the project name, site number, feature number, catalog number, date, and name of the excavator.



A profile of the feature will be drawn and recorded. If deemed appropriate, a soil (or flotation) sample will be retained and processed to detect the presence of floral and faunal remains. A site base map will be prepared. This map will illustrate the location of hand excavated units, the mechanical excavation blocks, and the exposed features.

Deep shaft features such as wells and cisterns present a special problem of excavation. The upper fills of these features will be excavated by hand. These excavations will proceed to a depth that is determined unsafe, or impractical to excavate by hand. At that point, in consultation with the IHPA Preservation Services Division, an excavation strategy for each feature will be determined. Options include 1) complete hand excavation to base requiring shoring, 2) mechanical excavation with a backhoe, or 3) non-excavation. This decision will be based on the type and volume of artifacts being recovered from the specific feature.

The open trenches and excavation units present a safety concern, and looting of exposed features (by bottle collectors) is a realistic possibility. As such, it is recommended that a fence be placed around the project excavations by the contractor.

Upon completion of the fieldwork, the project area will be backfilled and leveled in a professional manner. Backfill will consist of the same matrix as that which was removed from the excavation units.

All cultural material recovered during the investigations and greater than 50 years in age, will be washed, inventoried, and rebagged in archival plastic bags for curation. The objectives of the cultural material analysis will be to 1) provide a tabulation and description of the artifacts; 2) interpret these materials as indicators of activities conducted at the site by the historic inhabitants, and 3) provide a general chronological framework for site occupation. The emphasis on artifact analysis will focus on the nineteenth century deposits, and to a lesser extent to the early twentieth century deposits associated with the 1908 Race Riot. All cultural material collected during the cultural resource investigations will be curated at the Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections Center in Springfield, Illinois.

### Task 3: Archival Research and Context Development

Upon completion of the fieldwork, the archival research and context development will be initiated. One of the first aspects of this task will be the completion of the Chain-of-Title research for the project area. Additionally, several contexts will be developed during the course of these investigations, as outlined in the above-referenced section (Research Potential).

### Task 3: Cultural Resources Investigation Report Preparation

The results of the Phase III cultural resources investigations will be submitted in a format acceptable to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The report will address the research questions discussed earlier using data gained from these investigations, as well as comparative data acquired from a range of sites recently investigated by Fever River Research.

## **SCHEDULE AND WORK EFFORT**

The Phase III field investigations (mitigation) will be initiated after completion of the Phase II testing, and coordination with the IHPA. The cultural resource evaluation report will be completed within 12 months following the completion of the field investigations.

## **REFERENCES CITED**

Mansberger, Floyd and Christopher Stratton

2014a *A Cultural and Historical Resources Study for the Proposed Carpenter Street Underpass, Springfield Rail Improvements Project, Springfield, Illinois.* Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois.

2014b *Plan and Schedule For Phase II Archaeological Investigations For The Carpenter Street Underpass, Springfield Rail Improvements Project, Springfield, Illinois.* Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois.

Mansberger, Floyd, Christopher Stratton and Christina Lowry

2000 *A Cultural and Historical Resources Study for the Proposed Site of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois.* Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois.



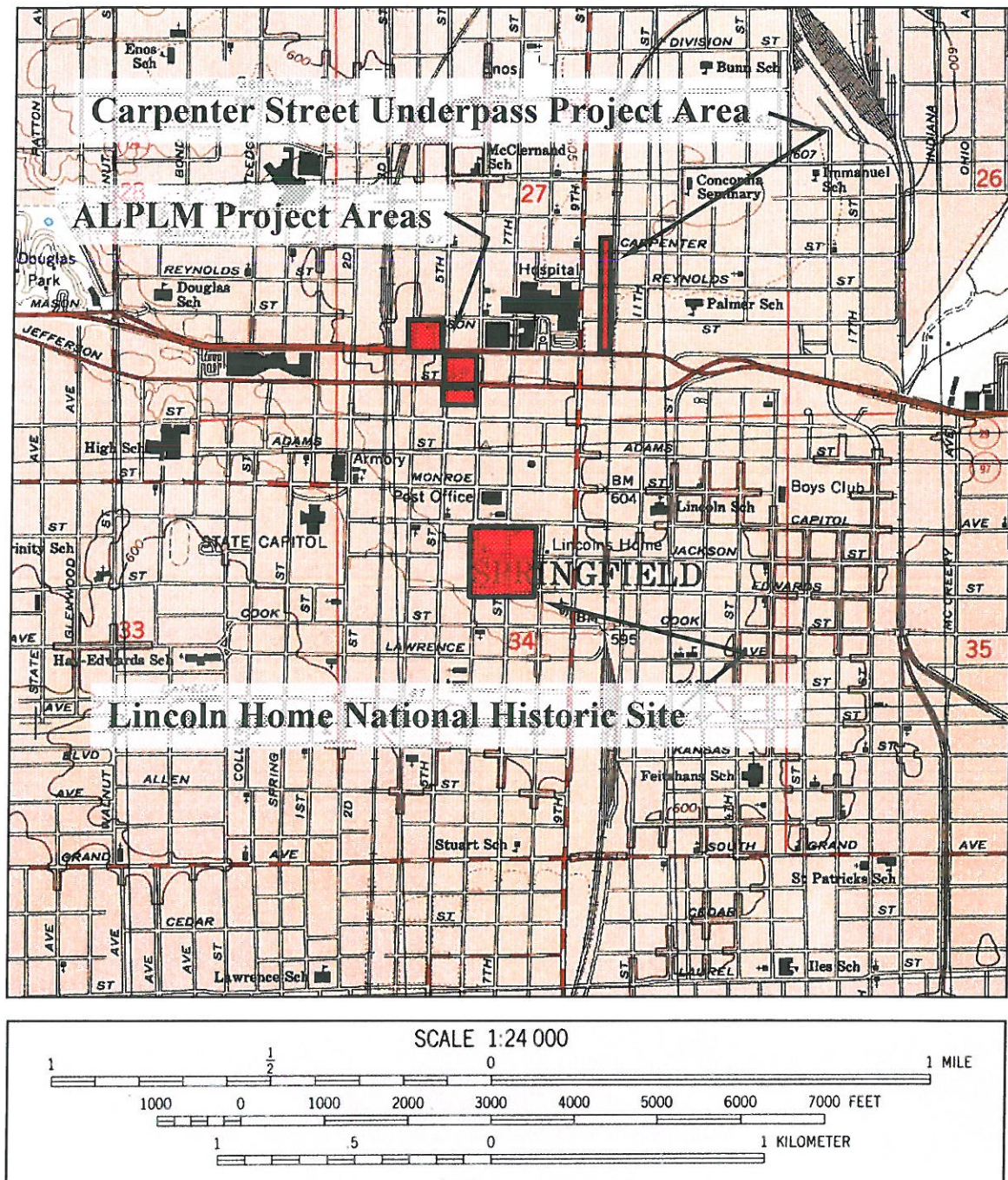


Figure 1. Location of the proposed Carpenter Street Underpass in Springfield, Illinois (*Springfield West, IL 7.5-minute U.S.G.S. topographic map, 1998*). The location of both the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) project area also are indicated. Significant subsurface archaeological resources have been identified in both urban areas.



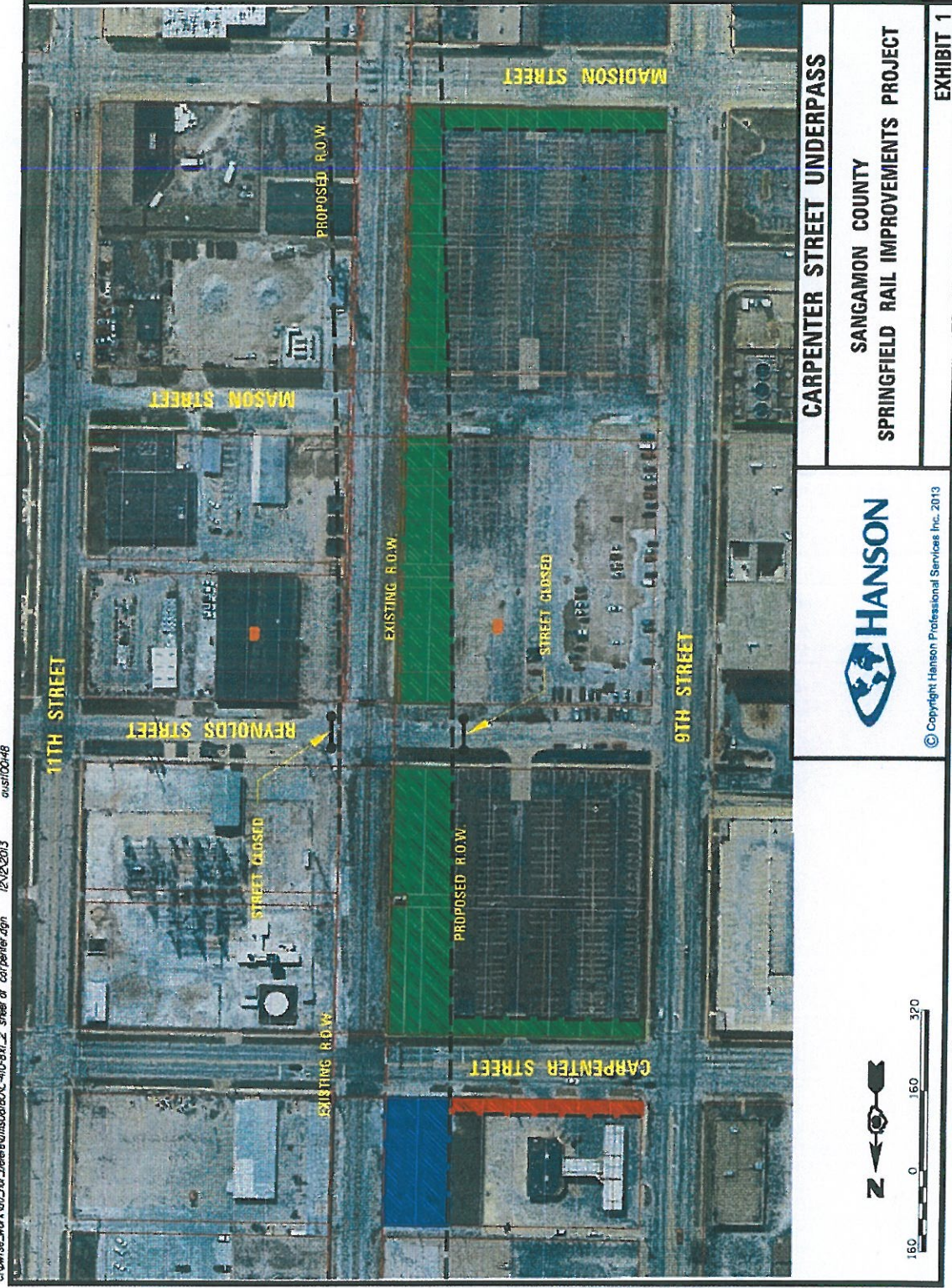


Figure 2. Location of the proposed Carpenter Street Underpass in Springfield, Illinois (Hanson Professional Services, Inc. 2013). The areas of new right-of-way are color coded (red, green, and blue) by existing property owner.

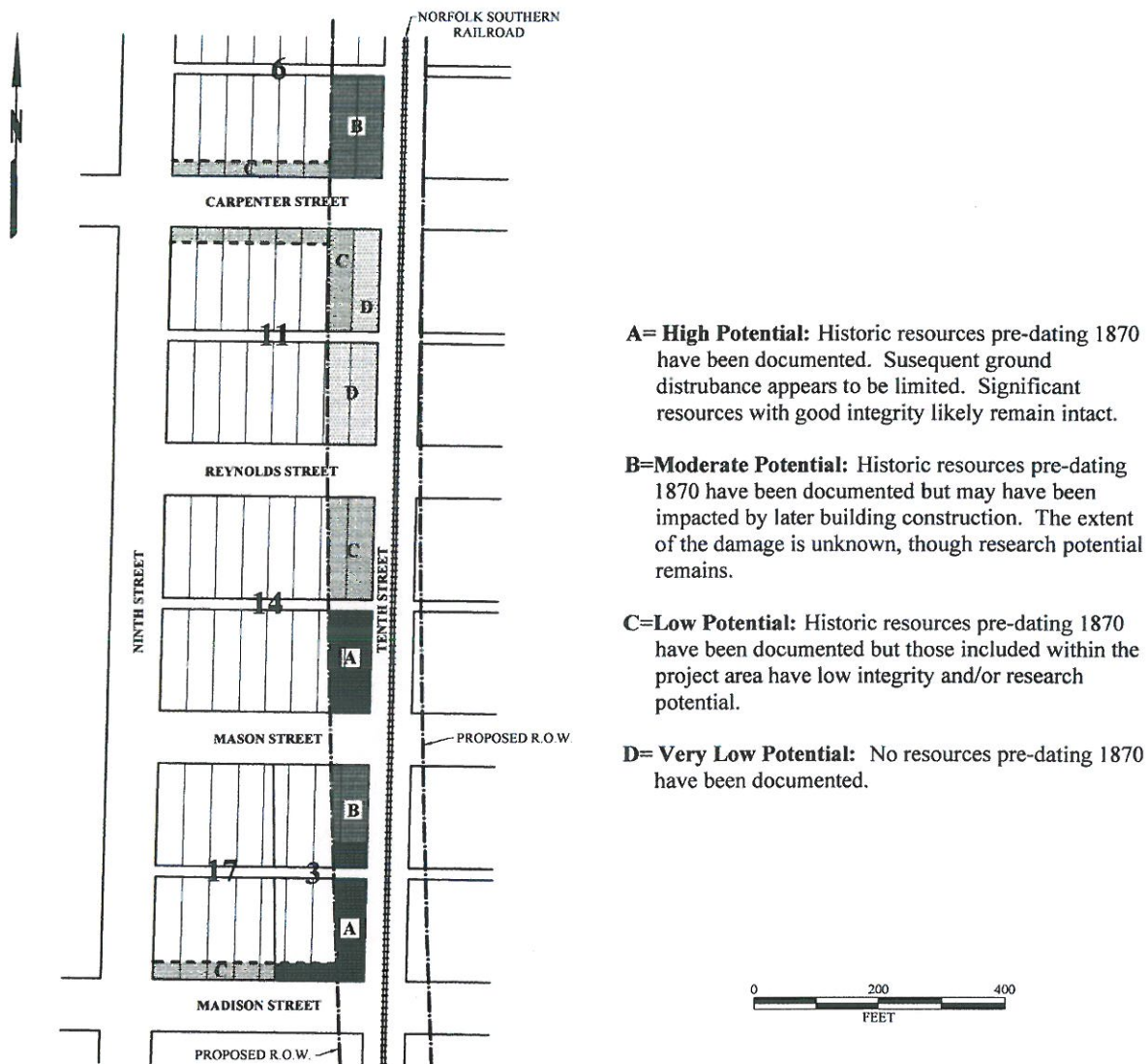


Figure 3. View of the Carpenter Street Underpass project area illustrating the archaeological probability areas, as discussed in the Phase I archaeological report (Mansberger and Stratton 2014a).