

**Historical Land Use Investigation of  
626 W. North Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**File: 323-05**

**Prepared by:**

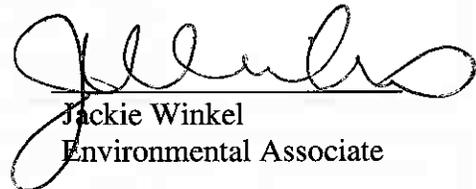


**Department of City Development**

**April 20, 2010**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen C. Dettmer".

**Karen C. Dettmer, P.E.  
Senior Environmental Project Coordinator**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Winkel".

**Jackie Winkel  
Environmental Associate**

### A. Purpose

This Historical Land Use Investigation (HLUI) of 626 W. North Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was requested by Deshea Agee, Urban Development, Department of City Development, City of Milwaukee. The purpose of this HLUI is to identify potential environmental conditions associated with the property. For the sake of brevity and convenience, this property will be referred to as the “project site,” unless noted otherwise.

### B. Brief Description

The project site is located on a block bound by W. Meinecke Avenue to the north, W. North Avenue to the south, N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the east, and N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the west. The project site is occupied by vacant, grassy land. The general area including the project site is shown on Figure 1, and project site dimensions are presented on Figure 2. An aerial photograph of the site is shown on Figure 3.

The following table presents relevant information regarding the project site:

Address	Tax Key #	Bldg. Size	Lot Size	Zoning*	Owner
626 W. North Avenue	323-0655-000	N/A	2,414 sq. ft.	LB2	Redevelopment Authority

\*LB2= Local Business District

### C. Historical References

1. The Wright’s City Directories (1935-1975; 1985-1990) and the Polk’s City Directories (1993-2009), reviewed in approximately five year increments indicate the following information for the project site and select surrounding properties:

Address	Date	Occupancy
626 W. North Avenue	1935	Vacant store
	1940	Locksmith
	1945-1950	Laundry
	1955	Construction Co.
	1960-1965	Restaurant
	1970	Vacant
	1975-2009	Not listed

Address	Date	Occupancy
616 W. North Avenue	1935	Werner Company (artists)
	1940-1960	Residential
	1965	Vacant
	1970-1975	Residential
	1985	Vacant
	1990	Residential
	1993	Not verified
	2000-2009	Not listed

Historic Land Use Investigation  
 626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI

Address	Date	Occupancy
622 W. North Avenue	1935	Red Arrow Express
	1940-1950	Irving Press Printers
	1955	Not listed
	1960-1970	Physician
	1975-1993	Church
	2000-2009	Not listed

Address	Date	Occupancy
628 W. North Avenue	1935	Vacant store
	1940	Steam fitters union
	1945	Midwest Manufacturing Co.
	1950	WI Sound Equipment Co. Inc.
	1955	Fluorescent Manufacturing Co.
	1960-1975	Physician
	1985-1993	Salon
	2000-2009	Not listed

Address	Date	Occupancy
634 W. North Avenue	1935	Vacant
	1940	Residential
	1945	Tavern
	1950-1955	Residential
	1960-1970	Tavern
	1975	Vacant
	1985-1993	Tavern
	2000	Residential
	2009	Not listed

Address	Date	Occupancy
642 W. North Avenue	1935-1945	Fire Dept. Engineering Co.
	1950	Vacant
	1955-1970	Library
	1975	Vacant
	1985-2000	Milwaukee Inner City Arts Council
	2009	Not listed

Address	Date	Occupancy
2307 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	1935-1940	Residential
	1945	Refrigerator repair
	1950-2000	Residential
	2009	Not listed

Address	Date	Occupancy
2317 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	1935-1975	Residential
	1985	Vacant
	1990-2009	Not listed

Address	Date	Occupancy
2316 N. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	1935	Grocery
	1940-1970	Residential
	1975-2009	Not listed

2. Select Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) records indicate the following information regarding the project site and select surrounding properties:

Address	Date(s)	Comment
626 W. North Avenue	6/17/2002	Certificate of Appropriateness for 626 W. North Ave (Kilbourn-Reservoir Historic Site)

Address	Date(s)	Comment
616 W. North Avenue	3/28/1989	Store and dwelling
	6/25/1934	Tavern- no dance floor
	4/10/1985	Raze dwelling
	1/5/1987	Tavern
	6/7/1993	Certificate of Occupancy: tavern

Address	Date(s)	Comment
622 W. North Avenue	5/27/1930	Application for Permit to Occupy: furniture repair/upholstering
	3/8/1935	Office
	12/15/1938	Printing shop
	1/22/1973	Application for Occupancy Permit: church; former occupancy: doctors office

Address	Date(s)	Comment
628 W. North Avenue	1/2/1936	Inspection: Sheet Metal Works
	2/11/1936	Inspection: Former occupancy: printing shop
	3/13/1939	Inspection: ice cream store; former occupancy: retail sales of household appliances
	12/20/1944	Inspection: offices and storage of chemicals
	12/20/1956	Permit to Occupy: pick up station for dry cleaning and pressing
	4/8/1954	Application for Permit to Occupy: Offices for newspaper employment; former occupancy: tailor shop
	12/22/1959	Application for Permit to Occupy: offices/storage
	1/27/1978	Inspection: oil tank in NE corner of basement leaking oil
	1/27/1978	Order to repair/replace leaking oil tank
	1/27/1978	Inspection: oil leaking from copper fittings where they are connected to oil burner
	10/16/1995	Occupancy: Church

Address	Date(s)	Comment
634 W. North Avenue	2/4/1931	Application for permit: tailor shop
	10/26/196	Occupancy: tavern
	5/22/1973	Occupancy: tavern
	5/17/1977	Occupancy: tavern

Address	Date(s)	Comment
642 W. North Avenue	6/25/1952	Public library; former occupancy: fire station
	7/30/1997	Milwaukee Inner City Arts Council, Inc.

3. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate the following information regarding the project site:
  - a. A 1910 (*with updates through 1937*) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the project site occupied by a two-story dwelling fronting W. North Avenue, and a detached, smaller building located at the rear. Land uses north, south (not shown) and east include single family dwellings and limited commercial uses. Land uses to the west include a building labeled “Fire Dept. Station No. 8”, a building labeled “Wagon Shed” as well as single family dwellings and stores (Figure 4).
  - b. A 1910 (*with updates through 1951*) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the project site occupied by a two-story store fronting W. North Avenue. Land uses north include residential dwellings. Land uses south include residential and commercial uses (not shown). Land uses east are primarily commercial establishments, including a building labeled “Printing”, as well as a parcel labeled “Filling Station” occupied by 3 gasoline tanks and a building labeled “Garage, Auto Repairing”. Land uses west are residential and commercial uses, including buildings labeled “Pyro Bar”, “Filled”, “City Warehouse”, and “Upholstering” (Figure 5).
  - c. A 1969 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the project site occupied by a building labeled “Church”. The map shows the same general features as the 1910 (*with updates through 1951*). The filling station located east of the project site is depicted with one gasoline tank. A building labeled “Public Library” and Interstate 43 are shown to the west. A filling station is shown south of the project site, across W. North Avenue (Figure 6).

#### **D. Environmental Records**

1. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) does not include listings for the project site. BRRTS includes the following listings for properties surrounding the project site:
  - 2307 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street (5/23/2008-9/17/2008): Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) resulting in groundwater and soil contamination from petroleum, VOC and PAH substances reported to the WDNR. The site status is currently OPEN.
2. The Department of Commerce (DCOMM) does not include listings for the project site. DCOMM includes the following listings for properties surrounding the project site:
  - 2307 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street: Four 1,000-gallon waste/used motor oil and two 2,000-gallon leaded gasoline Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), all CLOSED/REMOVED as of 6/20/2008.
3. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Panel 91, the project site is not located in a floodplain.
4. According to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission’s (SEWRPC) Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory, wetlands are not identified within the project site. In addition, according to SEWRPC, the project site is not located within an environmental corridor.

#### **E. Project Site Inspection**

Historic Land Use Investigation  
626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI

On December 4, 2009, City staff conducted an inspection of the project site. A photographic log of the inspection is included as Attachment A. The project site was vacant, grassy land. Light snow covered the surface. The area surrounding the project site included commercial uses to the south, east and west along W. North Avenue. The area adjacent to the west was vacant, grassy land. Residential uses were located to the north of the project site.

#### **F. Findings and Conclusion**

This HLUI did not reveal environmental conditions associated with the project site.

Historical land uses of surrounding properties including a printing press, refrigerator repair, fluorescent and sound equipment manufacturing and a furniture and upholstery shop, may have adversely affected the project site. Additionally, the known presence of hazardous and petroleum substances at surrounding properties may have adversely affected the project site.

KCD/JMW  
City of Milwaukee  
4/20/10

Historic Land Use Investigation  
626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI

**Attachment A**  
**626 W. North Avenue**  
Photographs taken 12/4/2009

Historic Land Use Investigation  
626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI

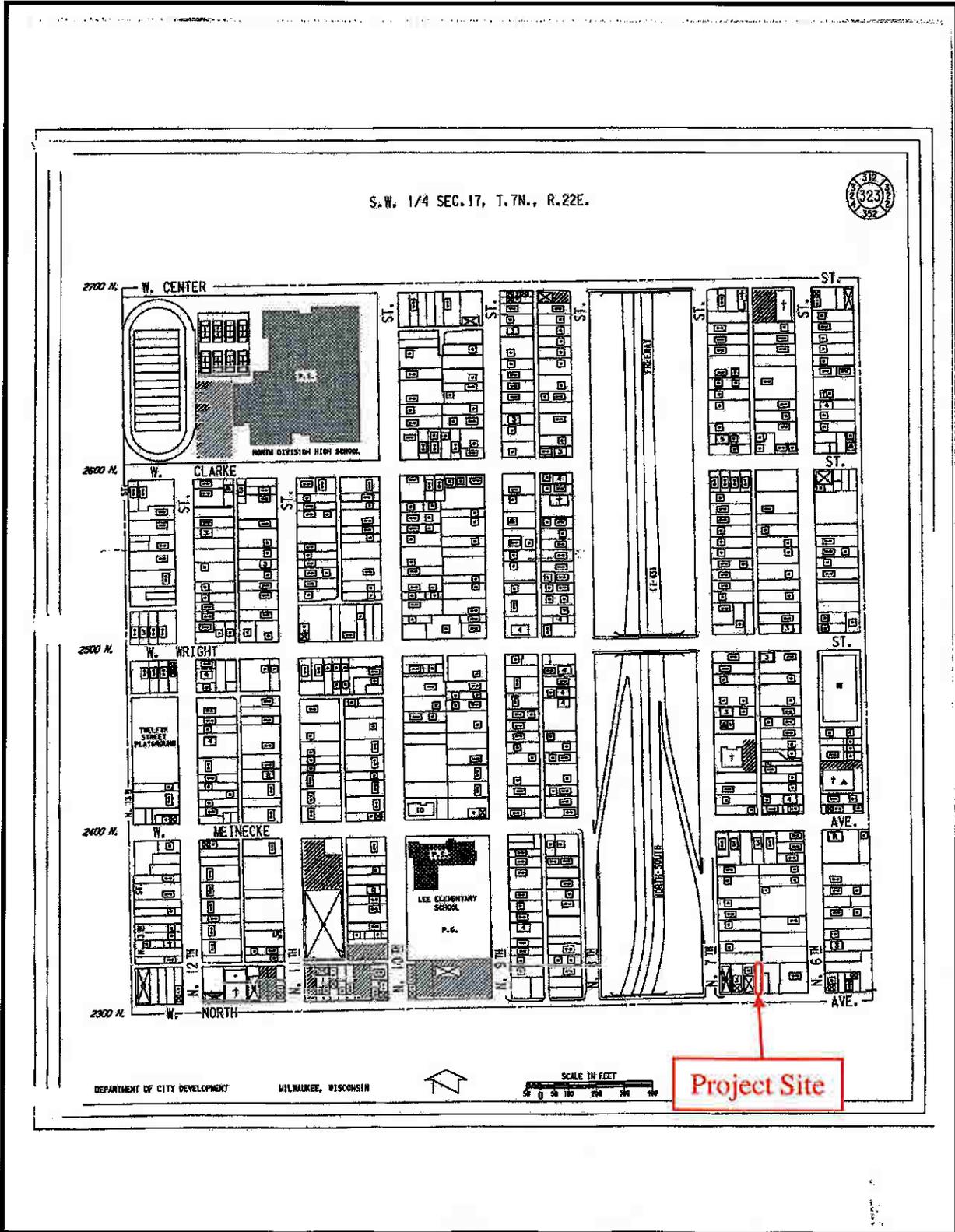


View of the project site facing north.



View of the project site facing north.

**FIGURE 1**  
**QUARTER SECTION LAND USE MAP**  
 626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI



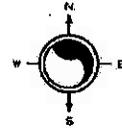
**FIGURE 2**  
**PLAT MAP**  
626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI

SW 17-7-22  
ATLAS P. 323

323

323-05  
SCALE 1"=80'

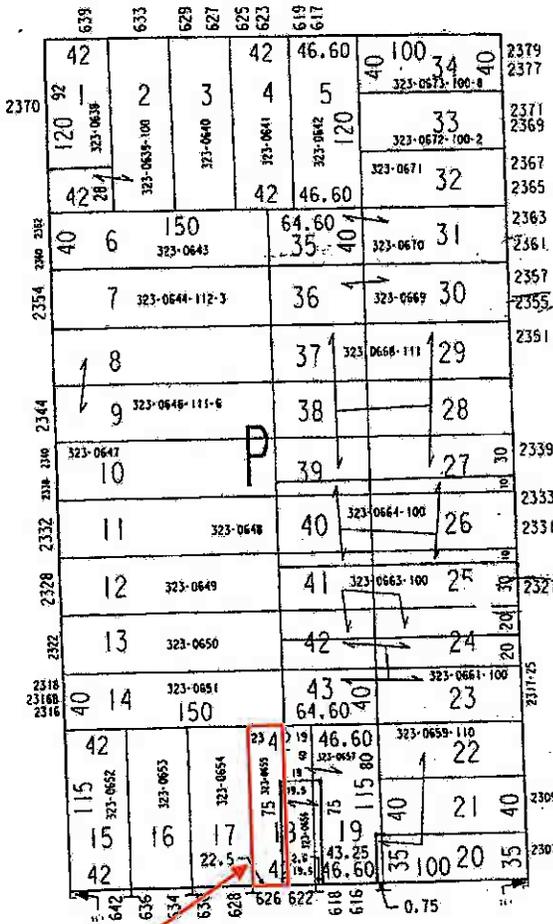
SUBDIVISION INTO CITY LOTS



W MEINECKE AV

N 7TH ST

N 6TH ST



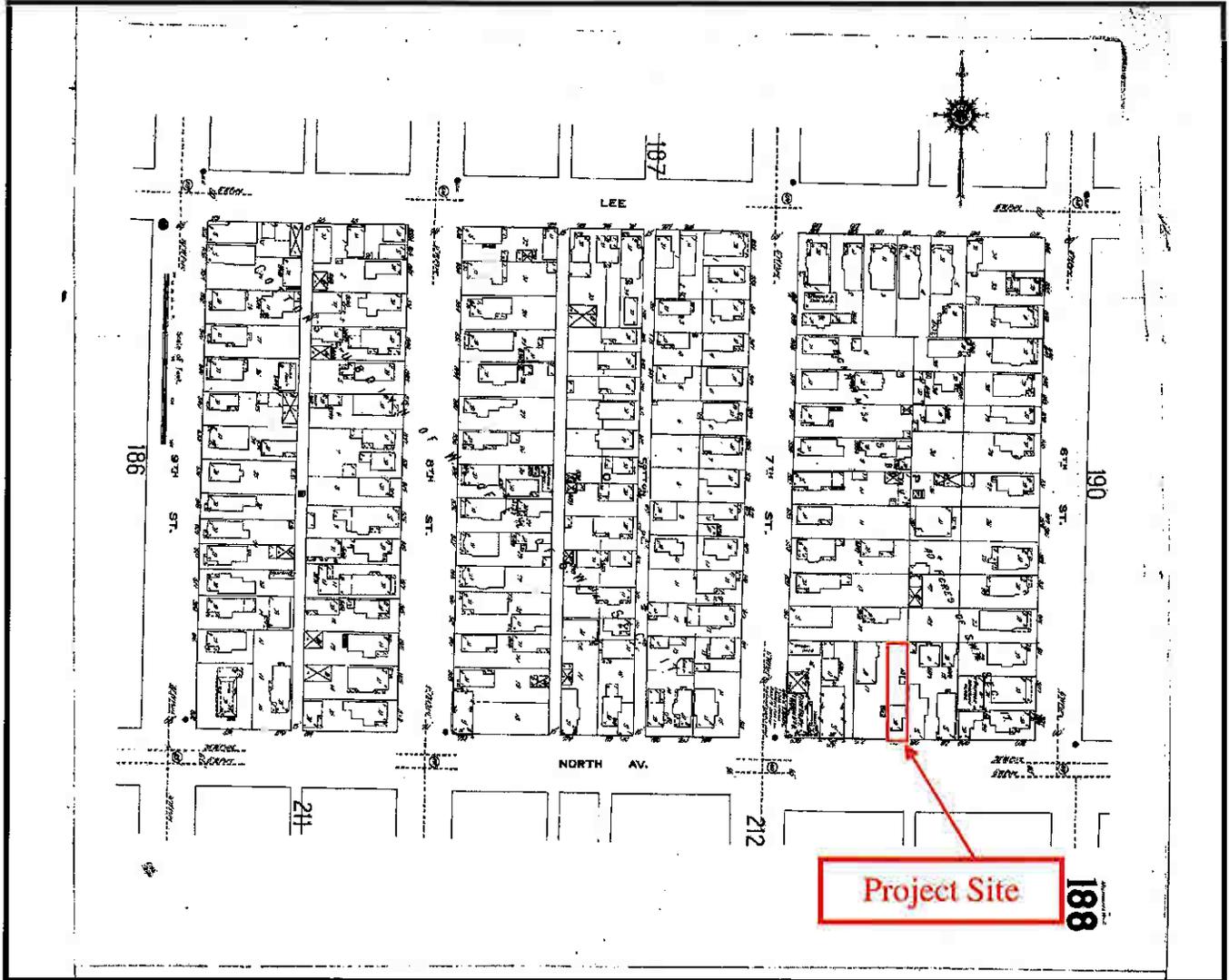
**Project Site**

W NORTH AV

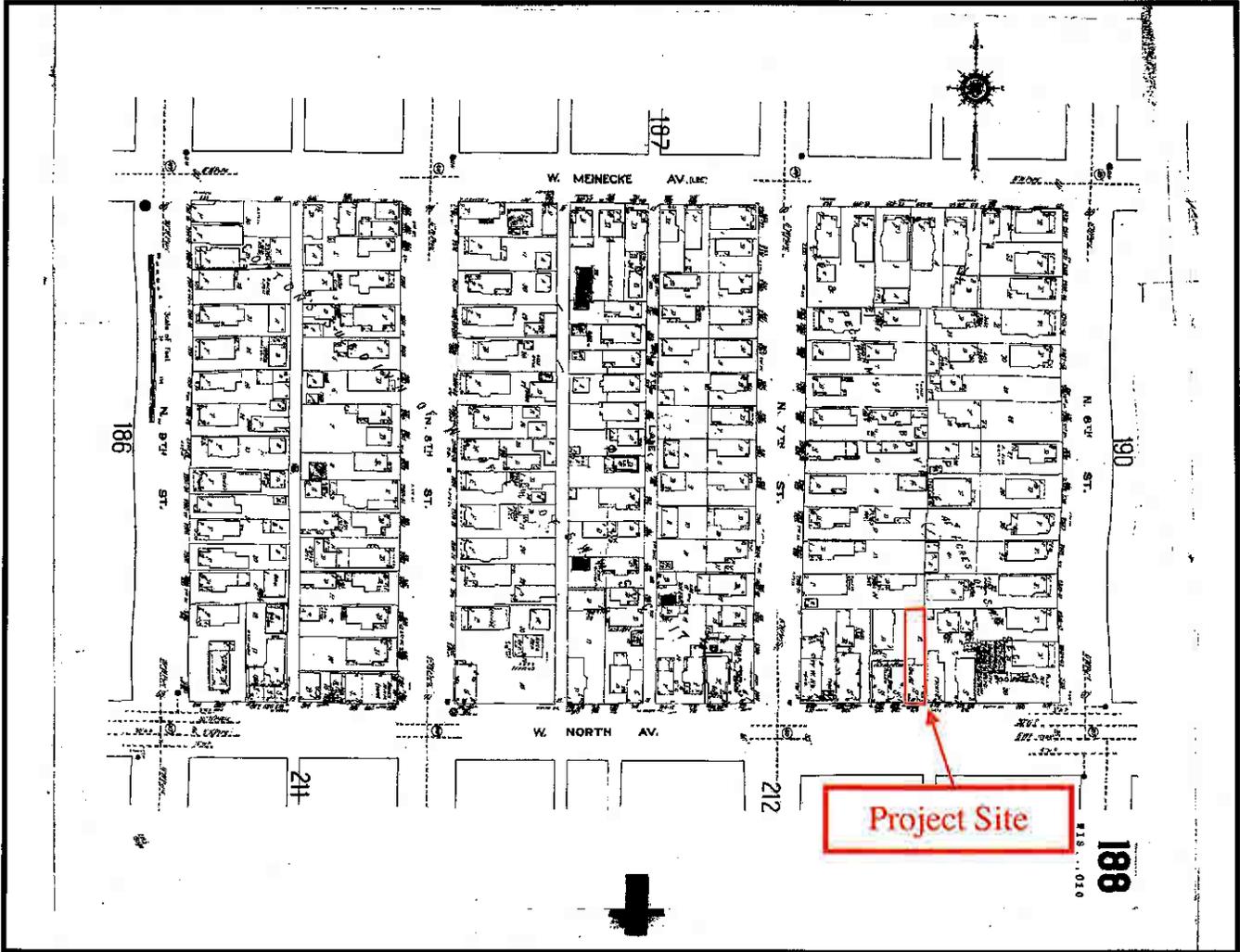
FIGURE 3  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH  
626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI



**FIGURE 4**  
1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map  
(with updates through 1937)  
626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI



**FIGURE 5**  
**1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map**  
*(with updates through 1951)*  
**626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI**



**FIGURE 6**  
1969 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map  
626 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI

