

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stolp Island Historic District

and or common

2. Location

street & number Stolp Island not for publication

city, town Aurora vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Kane code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership with more than 30 owners (see continuation sheets)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kane County Courthouse

street & number 719 S. Batavia Ave.

city, town Geneva state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972 (certain properties) federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stolp Island Historic District lies in the heart of Aurora's central business district and includes approximately six blocks, thirty-three structures, and four bridges.

Its boundaries are those of Stolp Island, which lies in the Fox River and was originally more irregular in shape. A mill race, built sometime between 1834 and 1866, bisected the island from north to south. This race was filled in the early 1900s, and both the north and south ends of the Island were formed from landfill throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The northern end of the island was especially low lying, and prone to flooding prior to the landfill. Both the north and south tips of the island currently are vacant and devoted to parking.

Although not part of the original town plat of Aurora, which extended only as far west as the east bank of the Fox River, Stolp Island was the site of some of Aurora's earliest buildings. These structures were primarily industrial in use, and the island was accessible by only one road, the present Downer Place. Only two properties survive from this early industrial period: the Stolp Woolen Mill Dye House and the Stolp Woolen Mill Store (a National Register listed property). In addition, portions of a slightly later industrial complex, the Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Company, are extant. All are used for commercial or office purposes today.

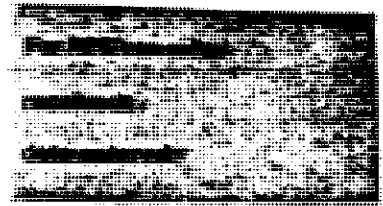
Because the town was beset by the eastside-westside rivalries, the island's next uses were public. One building survives from this period: the G.A.R. Memorial Building (a National Register listed property). Currently, there are five other public purpose buildings on the island.

The final uses to occupy the island were commercial. As water power became obsolete, the industrial users vacated the island, the mill race was filled, and additional bridges at Benton Avenue, Galena Boulevard and New York Street were constructed to connect both sides of the rapidly expanding city. Commercial uses have since become predominant on the island.

Stolp Island contains the city's tallest structures: the 22 story Leland Tower, the 8 story Aurora Hotel and the 8 story Graham Building. Of any place in Aurora, the stretch of Stolp Avenue between Downer Place and Galena Boulevard best conveys an urban context. It is a block with no gaps or vacant lots and with some of downtown's tallest buildings. The slight angle in the street is followed by the facade of the Keystone Building (a National Register listed property). Looking north from Downer, the vista is toward the Aurora Hotel (a National Register listed property) and the Fox River.

With the exception of one wood-faced building, all of Stolp Island's structures are of masonry, either glazed terracotta, glazed brick, cast stone, limestone or unglazed brick. Most are flat-roofed and two to three stories in height. All roads are two lane and one way, with the exception of Stolp Avenue, which is two way.

Some of the commercial buildings have been altered on the first floor. Otherwise, most of the buildings are relatively intact and represent building styles ranging from Italianate to Mayan Revival.

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While the earliest structure dates from circa 1858, most of the buildings are from the early 20th century.

Landfill and damming of the Fox River have left Stolp Island much less vulnerable to flooding than it was originally. Most of the island is approximately 15 feet above the high water level of the Fox River. Retaining walls have been built around the embankment. The east bank wall from just north of Downer Place south to the end of the island is of regularly coursed rock faced limestone, probably dating from circa 1880. One exception is the riverbank near the Stolp Woolen Mill Dye House. This section is approximately 8 feet above high water level and features a cobblestone retaining wall.

A few buildings overhang the river, including the Aurora Hotel, Leland Tower and the Fox Theatre Building. Despite this, few of the buildings relate to the river in their use or design. This presentation of blank, unadorned facades to the river is especially pronounced on the west bank river elevations. Dams at the north end of the island in both channels near North Island Center and the Aurora Hotel create the strongest sense of the river's presence, especially on a hot summer day when one can hear the sound of water rushing over the dam and splashing below.

One of the most interesting spaces on the island is the alley between Stolp Avenue and the river between Galena Boulevard and Downer Place. The irregular rear walls of the Keystone Building and portions of the Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Company Building give a sense of the island's early mill architecture.

Of the 34 structures in the Stolp Island Historic District, 15 have been evaluated as architecturally and/or historically significant; 13 have been identified as contributing to the historic and/or architectural character of the district; and 6 have been deemed to be intrusions and non-contributing. Despite the location of parking lots and non-contributory structures at either end of the island, the district's boundaries have been drawn to include all of Stolp Island and its bridges since it is a logical, cohesive collection of properties.

A descriptive list of the properties being nominated follows. Numbering corresponds to the sketch map. The criteria for ranking of the structures was as follows:

SIGNIFICANT: a building with historic and/or architectural significance which has maintained its basic architectural integrity. Architectural significance was evaluated in terms of the quality of design, craftsmanship and integrity of the structure. Historical significance was evaluated in terms of the structure's associations with the early developmental history of Stolp Island, or with outstanding Aurorans.

CONTRIBUTING: a building with some historic and/or architectural significance which adds to the district's sense of time, place and development. These structures have frequently been altered, but still retain some historic architectural features.

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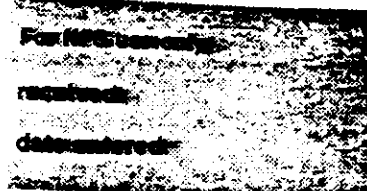
INTRUSIONS: a building is non-contributory, or an intrusion, if it is of recent construction, lacks architectural significance, or has been so drastically altered to totally obscure its historic architectural characteristics.

1. 1 E. Benton St. Aurora Public Library
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1904; completely remodeled - 1969
 ARCHITECT: Otis/Holden/Malmer (1904); O. Kleb & Associates (1969)
INTRUSION
 This 3 1/2-story structure was originally a Carnegie library dating from 1904. A 1969 remodeling enlarged the building and resheathed it in dark tinted glass and limestone.

2. 1 W. Benton St. Downtown Auto Service Station
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1920
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)
 Downtown Auto is a small, one-story stucco garage structure. The structure, consists of two garage service bays and one storefront bay facing Benton Street. These bays are demarked by the pier structures only and glass or garage doors act as the enclosing wall. The west two bays have a flat roof, the eastern bay is capped by a cross roof. This structure is a relatively typical example of early gas and service station design with few modifications.

3. 16-18 W. Benton St. United States Post Office, Aurora Station
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1931-1933
 ARCHITECT: James Wetmore, Supervising Architect
SIGNIFICANT (architectural)
 In plan, the Post Office building is a rectangular structure relieved by repeating arched window openings set in arcades. The exterior reflects a simple, neo-classic attention to symmetry and decorative restraint. Decorative terracotta detailing, including gargyle water spouts and a central frieze, adorn the facade. Copper is used for the structure's large palladian windows. Veined green marble panels are used under the windows and as decorative piers at the door openings. Much of the original interior and the original floor plan remains intact.

4. 6 E. Downer Pl., Aurora Silver Plate Mfg. Company Building
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1871; addition- 1892.
 ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/BUILDER: A.H. Ellwood, Architect; Clark B. Colwell, builder; L.H. Waterhouse & Son, masons; J.E. Minott, architect of 1892 addition.
SIGNIFICANT (historical/architectural)
 The three-story structures remaining from the store, office and factory complex which made up the Aurora Silver Plate Mfg. Co., represent a shadow of their original design and extent. The office, shopfront building facing Downer Place, now retains only some of the brick and limestone facing materials and stone foundation of its

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original design. All the original Downer Place window openings have been modified, the original parapet and cornice line, and the original storefront, are no longer extant.

Certain window openings reflect their original location and the original limestone quoins at the corners of the Downer Place elevation (laid in a common pattern with alternately large and small faces) also still exist. The factory area portion which remains is relatively unchanged except for some closing of window openings and the introduction of aluminum sash in most of the remaining windows. The structure's design is basically a, New England masonry, manufacturing structural design, with oak post and beam interior supports and repeating rows of simple, shallow arched window openings at each floor. The plan of the entire structure reflects its original alignment with the mill race (providing the power source) which ran roughly parallel to and west of what is now Stolp Avenue.

5. 10-14 E. Downer Pl., Stolp Building and Linden & Lake Plumbers Bldg
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1884 (Stolp Building)
between 1868 and 1872 (Linden & Lake Bldg.)

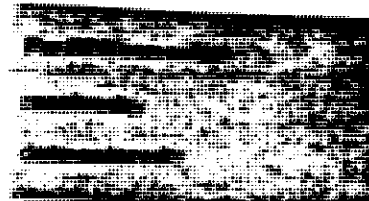
INTRUSION

The facade of this three story structure covers two earlier structures. The Stolp Building was at 8-10 E. Downer Pl.; the structure to the east, at 14 E. Downer Place, was the Linden & Lake Plumbers Building. During the 1940s or 1950s the facades of the two structures were combined into one, and completely covered with "stonecrete", a concrete stone-look veneer. The parapet and cornice area were clad with a flat, grid-patterned concrete. The storefronts may have some original materials behind the sheet metal cladding also added, though it is difficult to determine. Windows and doors on the main facade are all non-original. The structures were Italianate, masonry commercial structures, typical of the 1880s, built with a sheetmetal cornice and simple, repeating rows of narrow windows on the upper floors and two storefront bays at the first floor with a central entry into the upper office floors.

6. 20 E. Downer Pl.; Aurora Herald/Freemasons Building/Ginsberg Store
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1866
SIGNIFICANT (historical/architectural)

When built, this three-story, Italianate commercial structure overwhelmed the scale of the one- and two-story wood frame buildings that made up most of the downtown at that time. The structure's facade was the width of three typical storefront bays at the time of its construction. The main, Downer Place facade's upper two floors are faced with a limestone referred to locally as Athenian marble although it was not from Athens, but from Lemont, south of Aurora, an important source of limestone for construction in the Chicago region.

The brick, segmental hooded arches above the windows are no longer extant. The original sheet metal cornice was removed in the mid-1940s and a brick parapet was added above the top of the limestone wall. Visible on the west side, facing the alley, are original

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features of the building. Most notable are the paired wooden brackets supporting the eaves. The side and rear walls are brick and the building has a slightly pitched gable roof not visible behind the front brick parapet. The Masonic "eye" symbol is carved into the middle of the main limestone facade at the top of the limestone wall. Later stories would tell that this represented the "eye" of the press, which watched the goings-on at the "Court House/City Hall" across the street.

7. 22 E. Downer Pl.; Aurora Coin & Stamp Building
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1870
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

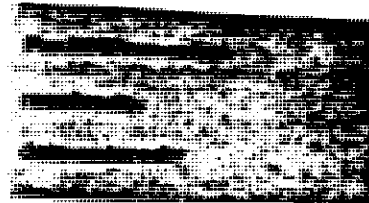
This three-story Italianate style commercial structure features round arched windows with limestone hoods and bracketed sills. The original sheet metal cornice has been removed, and a modern storefront installed.

8. 23 E. Downer Pl. Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1877
ARCHITECT: Joseph Mulvey
SIGNIFICANT (historical/architectural)

The Gothic Revival style GAR Memorial Hall structure is executed in locally-quarried limestone with a foursquare original plan capped with an octagonal hipped roof and projecting gable wings. The original cast iron roof ridge cresting has been removed. The roof top is marked by an octagonal drum which originally featured trefoil patterned panels; it now has foliate-cross panels. The drum serves as the base for a statue of a Civil War soldier. The gable wings are enframed by clasping buttresses and pierced by a rectangular basement window, a triangular gable window and a pointed arched sash window. The latter were originally diamond-paned and approximately one foot shorter until a 1903 remodeling.

The non-gabled sides have the same fenestration, excluding the gable window. The north gable has an additional smaller projecting gable which contains the main entrance. Six dressed stone steps lead to the paired wooden doors which are topped by a pointed arched stained glass transom. The pointed arched entrance is adorned with a dressed stone architrave, next to which is inscribed "Erected 1877". Flanking the entrance are two brass guns from the Rock Island Arsenal which were made in Mississippi for the Confederate forces. Above is a carved shield inscribed "Memorial Building" while a bulls-eye window pierces the gable above.

In 1884, a two-story stone and brick addition was attached to the south wing and southwest side, (demolished). A two-story limestone stair tower was built in 1903, attached to the 1884 addition and west wing of the original structure. This tower features a crenelated pediment and a corner oriel bay and a set of five, narrow verticle pointed arched windows in the upper section. The tower's south elevation is parged where it was attached to the addition. The tower's north facade is set back from the main building's plane, and

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contains another pointed arched entrance with stained glass transom and dressed stone architrave. Inside the main entrance are two glass paneled doors etched with the U.S. Coat of Arms and "Memorial Building." A central chandelier has been removed and portions of the wall murals and woodwork have been painted. Otherwise, the interior is largely intact.

9. 24 - 28 E. Downer Pl. Fox Theatre Building & Promenade

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1936

SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The Fox Theatre Building and Promenade, is a three-story brick and terracotta structure. The Downer Place facade is divided into three bays, with a prominent center bay incorporating a terracotta arch embedded into the upper floor level where the theatre marquee originally hung, and including a round terracotta plaque with a projecting fox head. The two side bays are identical in design with an upper floor row of connected, rectangular windows all retaining their original sash. The three bays are demarked by terracotta piers from ground to parapet level. The first floor storefront bays have all been altered, and the brick facing of the westernmost bay appears to have been painted.

10. 1 W. Downer Pl.; Aurora Greenhouse

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928

INTRUSION

This yellow brick, one-story structure has a projecting cedar shingled canopy and rustic wood storefront. City building permit records suggest that this structure dates to 1928, but that extensive remodeling was done in 1936 and 1940.

11. 3-5 W. Downer Pl. VIP Realty

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1915

CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

This two-story brown brick building features paired flat arched windows set in blind arcades with cast stone keystones and impost blocks. A modillioned sheet metal cornice is supported by brick pilasters with stone bases and capitals. The original storefront framing and windows have been modified; the Maico Hearing Aid Center bay has been bricked in. Entrances to the upper floors are through entryways at the west and east sides within the west and east storefront bays, respectively.

12. 9 - 15 W. Downer Pl. - Sherer Building

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1910

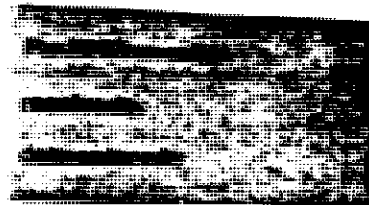
ARCHITECT: Eugene Italiter

SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The triangle-shaped Sherer Building is a two story structure at the intersection of W. Downer Place and the west branch of the Fox River. The building's plan and design make use of its siting, particularly with the 3/4 corner bay at the point of the triangle.

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The structure is clad in white glazed brick and trimmed in architectural terracotta. The upper level window openings in the point bay are decorated with glazed, green terracotta festoons and colored terracotta shields encribed with an "S" punctuate the topmost, center point of the corner bay and between the storefront bays at the line of the terracotta window band.

Windows on the upper floor of the W. Downer Place elevation are grouped together for an appearance of a wider, horizontal "Chicago-style" opening. The river, back, elevation windows are placed separately in the wall. The fenestration appears to be intact, with relatively minor additions, closing in the upper lights and the addition of aluminum storm windows on the upper floor. Otherwise the original structure remains intact. Three projecting bays look out over the Fox River, two bays at the second floor and one on the first floor.

13. 2 W. Downer Pl.; Stolp Woolen Mill Store
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1860-61; 1889 addition.
SIGNIFICANT (historical/architectural)

The Stolp Woolen Mill Store building is a two story 80' by 25' brick structure. The southern facade's segmental arched windows, two on each floor, are unadorned. The W. Downer Place (northern) facade dates from 1889, when Joseph Stolp had E.D. Briggs build a front extension. A modern wood and glass version has replaced the 1889 storefront, but most of the second story's detailing is intact. Two flat arched windows with rock faced limestone sills and lintels flank a central projecting oriel bay. The three sided bay has scallop and knob ornamentation and shallow cornice brackets above the windows. A floral-patterned pressed metal tympanum fills the bay's central pediment. Above, the end gable features an edged brick panel, while a stylized anthemion tops the apex. Slightly projecting corbelled brick corner piers are detailed with fluting and a flower medallion. The spherical ornaments which once capped the pier are gone.

On the Stolp Avenue (eastern) facade, the southerly three windows were removed when the modern glass storefronts were added. An exterior iron stair originally ran from the center second floor opening toward the north. While the northernmost window, dating from the 1889 addition, has a rock faced limestone sill and lintel, the other irregularly spaced openings have decorative brick window hoods. Paired brackets support the broad roof overhang. The building is currently painted yellow. Little remains of the original interior trim, except a pressed tin ceiling exposed in the southernmost storefront. The same ceilings may exist under the drop-ceiling tiles throughout the rest of the ground floor.

14. 8 - 16 W. Downer Pl.; Metropolitan Business College
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1910
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

The two story Metropolitan Business College building features a second story horizontal band of sash windows, grouped in threes with

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terracotta enframingent. The building's glazed brick facade stretches along most of the block on Downer between Stolp Avenue and the west branch of the Fox River, giving the structure a very horizontal appearance. The building extends to the south with two different wings on the eastern side of the property, all clad in common brick. The first floor store fronts have been covered with plywood panelling though the original may still be extant underneath.

15. 20 W. Downer Pl.; Stolp Woolen Mill Dye House

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1858

SIGNIFICANT (historical/architectural)

Situated along the banks of the west branch of the Fox River, the Dye House is a simple two-story building, rectangular in plan. The first floor is essentially a one story limestone basement, and the second story is brick. The building has a simple gable roof. The brick used on the structure is very soft and was painted red at one time. Many repairs have been made to the structure over time. Only one of the original six over six wood windows exists in their shallow arched openings, the remaining having been replaced with aluminum at various times, probably between the 1940s and 1960s. Window and door openings in the north elevation were the result of an alteration to create a new "front" when the structure changed into office uses, probably around the turn of the century.

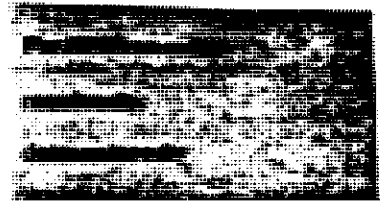
16. 5 E. Galena Bl. Block & Kuhl/Carson Pirie Scott/Waubonsee
Community College Extension Center

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928

SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

Architectural terracotta cladding is used over structural steel framing in this Chicago-style commercial retail structure. Large, horizontally oriented rectangular windows and minimal wall area on the exterior are typical of this genre. The mottled, cream colored terracotta is simply ornamented with fluted piers rising through the first two floors ending with corinthian capitols. The second floor is capped with a simple entablature including dentil detailing, with raised pier sections carrying through the line of the lower piers. The piers between the third floor window openings are, again, aligned with the lower piers and are decorated with bas-relief panels of stylized fountains or urns spouting foliage.

The original parapet balustrade and pier extension has been removed and the original materials, apparently granite, panels above the window transoms were replaced with tile, probably when the entryway aluminum frames were installed. The original upper floor wood window sash and framing is intact. The prism lights in the first floor window clearstory are relatively intact, having suffered some damage from installation of louvered metal vents. Some portions of the original first floor metal window framing remains although, that remaining has been damaged particularly with the addition of mullions, found to be required since the original, large single panes of glass in each of the ground floor bays were not able to withstand

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winds at this corner site. Both north and west entrvways and the framing in several windowbays on the west elevation were replaced with aluminum. All the interior features, with the exception of simple, oak stair railings, have been completely altered or removed.

17. 8 E. Galena Bl. North Island Center

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1982

ARCHITECT: Prisco, Duffy & Associates

INTRUSION

North Island Center is a 1982 brick faced office structure designed in two blocks, one block four-stories and the second block three-stories, with a glass "atrium"/auditorium connection in between the two larger office blocks.

18. 11 - 19 E. Galena Bl.; Aurora Civic Center Authority Offices

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1945

INTRUSION

The ACCA Office structure is a single story commercial structure probably built in the 1930s. The exterior facade has been somewhat altered, though the original storefront bays appear relatively intact. Ornamentation is limited to tile plaques, with art-deco floral designs, placed above pseudo-fluted "piers" between the window bays.

19. 23 E. Galena Bl. - Paramount Arts Centre

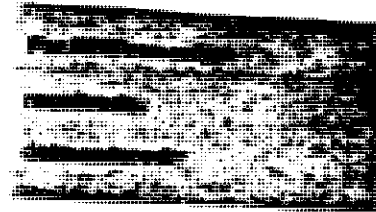
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1931; renovation 1978

ARCHITECT: Rapp & Rapp

SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The Paramount Arts Centre is a structural terracotta, concrete and steel structure with exterior covering of face brick. The most significant portion of the exterior is the octagonal tower marking the entry which is elaborately detailed in brick and colored, glazed terracotta bas-relief panels and capped by an orange tile roofcap offset with terracotta urns. This tower provides the base for a flamboyantly lit marquee and the archtypal, projecting "PARAMOUNT" sign detailed with individual light bulbs. The exterior brick walls along the riverside promenade and facing Galena Blvd are detailed with darker brick arranged in large arches and, an ornamented terracotta coping at the top of the walls.

The theatre auditorium seats 1885 people; (reduced in 1977 from 2125 seats due to an aisle re-arrangement for contemporary fire code conformity). The stage area contains dressing rooms, storage, orchestra pit and fly loft above the stage floor area. The theatre's functional design was based on the requirements of the then new entertainment medium of "talking film", construction with a large projection booth and minimal live performance accommodations. The auditorium is a stylized abstract in two planes, of an outdoor gilded, colonnaded performance space. The painted fabric murals imply vistas in the distance beyond, the painted plaster medallion

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and its central frosted-glass, petal chandelier are set in a deep blue sky accented with stylized silver rays extending from the center. The style of the columns, capital lighting, lobby columns, ceiling medallion and chandelier are drawn from art-deco designs.

20. 2 N. Stolp Av.; Aurora Hotel
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1917
ARCHITECT: H. Ziegler Dietz
SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The Aurora Hotel is an eight-story, plus basement, reinforced concrete structure sheathed in face brick and Indiana limestone. Basically rectangular in plan, there is a light court creating an indentation in the upper levels of its west facade, articulated to follow the angle of the Fox River which forms the west property line. The Georgian design, with a limestone, rusticated pier base and limestone "balconies" over the main entryways, were a popular style for multi-story residential and hotel structures of its time.

Approximately 70' by 100' in plan, the building has four major vertical divisions - a rusticated limestone piano nobile, a second story terminating in a string course of stone at the window sill level of the third story, five stories of rather plain masonry with shallow brick pilasters articulating the structural bays (five in the east-west direction and seven in the north-south direction) and a final, eighth story starting with a string course punctuated with ornamental medallions or shields and crowned by a deep and overhanging combination stone and pressed sheet metal cornice with alternating large and small brackets and coffers between. The coffers originally were equipped with multi-colored lights illuminating the crown of the building. The west, river facade features a two-story "porch" cantilevered over the river at the first and second floors - an exterior expression of the two-story height of the main lobby space within. The original entrances and some sections of the store fronts have been replaced with modern aluminum sections.

21. 7 S. Stolp Av.; Leland Tower
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928
ARCHITECT: Graven & Mayger
SIGNIFICANT (architectural/historical)

The Leland Tower building is a twenty-two-story, steel reinforced structure with its upper stories sheathed in brick, laid in a stretcher bond pattern, while the lower two stories are faced with architectural terracotta to mimic plain cut limestone. The structure's exterior has three vertical divisions. The walls of the lower floors are of plain, stone-look terracotta which contrasts with the hand-carved look of the decorated corbels and capitals and the whimsical, animal plaques set above the window openings on the fourth floor level. The second and third stories are pierced by grouped, two-story high window openings enclosed with round arches and engaged, Tuscan columns.

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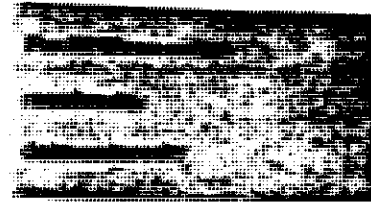
Rather than have a dramatic break in texture and color of material, the transition between the building's lower floors' base of terracotta and its main, mid-section of brick is softened by the gradual infiltration of the stone into the brick. The northern portion of the building's main shaft is set back from the three-story base at the east and west elevations. The entire structure cantilevers over the river at the west elevation with a repeating, arched arcade vaulting. The tower is clad in a light golden brown brick and soars from the cut stone lower floors to the penthouse levels. The original windows have been replaced with windows that replicate the original double-hung, one-over-one, albeit with aluminum frames. The brick facades are simple and adorned with spandrels between the windows. These spandrels rise to the penthouse where they are molded into round arched, two story high window openings. The parapet of the building is decorated with a projecting, elaborately corbeled cornice and capped with red roofing tile.

22. 11- 31 S. Stolp Ave.; Moose Building/Isle Theatre
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1914; 1919 addition
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

The Moose Building is a two-story commercial structure faced entirely in white terracotta with terracotta details, including a large, terracotta moosehead over the second story window opening above the main entry. The structure's exterior walls are broken with large "Chicago Style" window openings in that each opening contains three window frames banded together. The main entry to the upper floor office spaces, was centered on the main, eastern facade of the original portion of the structure; with the later addition to the south, this entry is now off centered. A relieving arch at the second floor level string course line contains the projecting moosehead. A cast iron balcony is supported at the second story floor level by an engaged architrave itself supported by engaged pilasters.

23. 14 - 20 S. Stolp Av.; Stanley's Furniture
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1925
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

The former Stanley Furniture store building is a three-story commercial structure. Its west, main facade design is divided symmetrically into two halves with each half of the same design, except for the location of the storefront entry way which is located on the southern half, first floor. The facade is clad in white terracotta with the exterior principally delineated with window and storefront openings. The flat roof is hidden by a slightly angled parapet, peaked in the center of both halves with a flat, elevated portion at the highest point of the peak. A plaque is set under this center point, though no building name is marked. Four terracotta lion heads are placed between the window openings at the second story level.

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24. 30 S. Stolp Av. - Keystone Building

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1923

ARCHITECT: George Grant Elmslie

SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The four-story Keystone Building is faced, on its principle, western facade with glazed brown brick and terracotta. Because the site is irregular, the building is 115' deep at the north end and only 25' deep at the south end. The northeastern quadrant incorporates part of the older Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Co. Building, evident from the east alley. The ground floor, devoted to small individual shops which all have separate street-level entryways, is divided by massive brick piers into six major bays, three on each side of the central principle entry, defined by a perforated terracotta screen with an arched top.

Large shields adorn each of the six piers and connect with an unglazed terracotta, decorative belt course running the entire length of the facade at the top of the storefront openings. The facade is additionally ornamented with high relief, stylized terracotta panels and shields, including belt courses at the sill and head of the windows and belt courses which demark the upper and lower edges of the window area on the upper floors. An elaborate terracotta cornice cap is found at the parapet, punctuated with nine, evenly spaced, repeating shields which project from the facade and parapet line and which are highly decorated. The terracotta is minimally glazed in brown, green, and blue. Eight handsome bronze and glass "key" light fixtures are mounted above each of the first floor brick piers. The upper three floors are divided into small office suites with a central lobby on each floor. The halls and most offices still have the original quarter sawn oak trim and doors. The floors are polished terrazzo. The top floor lobby has an original skylight which provides a good deal of daytime lighting.

25. 33-35 S. Stolp Av. Graham Building

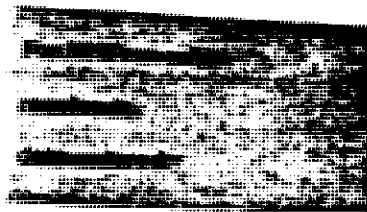
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1926

ARCHITECT: George Grant Elmslie

SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The Graham Building is an eight-story tan brick and pink granite, Prairie School style building of steel-reinforced concrete construction, built in 1926 for offices and commercial use and is now used for a senior citizen center and housing. The building is one of the few in Aurora which acknowledges its riverfront location. It has identical face brick and horizontal terracotta and brick string-coursing on both the street and riverfront facades. The string-coursing is used at the cornice line and below the second-story windows. Each row of windows on the two facades also has smaller-scale terracotta ornamental detail on the edge of the line of connected sills.

The street and riverfront facades are divided into vertical segments by pilasters. Both facades have slightly recessed wood-frame, double-casement transomed windows set in seven rows in groups

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of one, four and one. Pink granite is used on the main facade at the ground level. The only exterior changes have been on the first floor, where light fixtures have been removed and aluminum replacements have been substituted for the original woodframe entrance doors and windows.

26. 37 S. Stolp Av.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1915

CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

The eastern facade of this simple, two story commercial structure is clad with white, glazed face brick and is minimally decorated with white, architectural terracotta. The upper floor is broken with a pair of window openings each containing a pair of double hung windows. The ground floor is comprised of one large storefront opening now filled with glass tile and aluminum window and door frames.

27. 41 S. Stolp Av. Assell's Photo Shop

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1917

CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

The building is a simple, two-story commercial structure which, on its primary, east facade is faced with architectural terracotta and some glazed face brick. The flat roof is hidden by a slightly peaking, notched parapet line. A terracotta plaque with the numerals "1917" is set into the facade directly under the parapet's center peak above a molded terracotta beltcourse extending the entire width of the facade wall. Two rectangular window openings contain "Chicago style" grouped windows. The opening is framed with molded terracotta, including a stylized, decorated corner square element. The first floor's single storefront/entryway opening is surrounded with a low-relief, stylized version of piers and an architrave, including a capitol or bracket-like design at the top of the "piers". The ground floor's original window and door framing have been replaced with aluminum.

28. 65 S. Stolp Av. - Barefoot Charley's Diner

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1925

INTRUSION

The old Barefoot Charley's diner structure is a one-story frame, plywood sided, rectangular building, with its width to the main facade, diner-fashion. The structure has undergone many alterations over the years.

29. 75 S. Stolp Av. - Columbia Conservatory of Music

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1907

CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

The Conservatory Building is a two-story office structure with what is most likely a terracotta clad facade made to imitate stone work with vaguely-Classical design. The structure's facade exhibits a strong horizontal demarkation between the first and second levels;

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the first floor composed of piers, imitating dressed stone work, between the doorway and storefront bay opening. This first floor base supports the second floor facade with window openings enframed with a stylized, asymmetrical version of a classical order, including engaged piers and a plain entablature with a strong, projecting cornice.

30. 77 S. Stolp Av. - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
Lodge #705

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1926
ARCHITECT: Zimmerman, Saxe & Zimmerman
SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The four-story Elks Lodge building is one of the few examples of Mayan-style, "Prairie School" architecture in the United States. The four-story building is constructed of reinforced concrete with a clinker brick and terracotta exterior. The ornamentation, both exterior and interior, is taken from the Late Classic and Early Post-Classic periods of the Mayan civilization in Meso-America. The facade features two horizontal frieze bands of highly-textured brick and terracotta with stylized Mayan glyphs, one found just below the parapet and another banding the second floor window openings.

The openings for the doors and the broadly linteled windows are slightly recessed, emphasizing the horizontal, Prairie School style lines. The east and south facades are decorated with relief plaques of terracotta abstracts of masks and other symbols of Mayan religion. The terracotta lintels over the large third floor window openings and the lintel over the main entry opening all exhibit Mayan design elements. The parapet is emphasized with stepped back, stylized pyramid brickwork.

31. 70 - 82 S. Stolp Av. - Illinois Bell

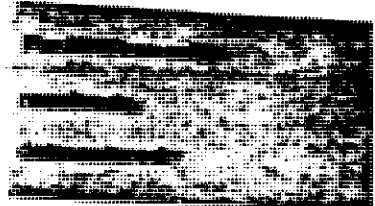
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1930
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

This 1930's style commercial building has seen an additional two floors erected over its original three. The rectangular plan structure is clad with a stone skin of granite at the first floor and limestone on the upper floors. The second and third floor level limestone is decorated in very low relief floral and chevron designed panels, located vertically between the window openings.

Between the windows, horizontally, the sandstone is carved into low relief fluting extending two stories. This fluting is also found at the first floor level, carved into the granite surrounding the main corner entryway to evoke a stylized pier and architrave element. A stylized keystone is carved above the single window opening at the corners of the second floor and that keystone motif is found decorating the metal first floor window framing.

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DOWNER PLACE BRIDGES
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1925
CONTRIBUTORY (historical)

The present bridges are constructed of reinforced concrete with three segmental arched spans resting on two piers in each channel. Each pier is rounded and projects from the roadway path to form semicircular niches. These bridges date from circa 1925, with new railings and lampposts installed in 1977.

GALENA BOULEVARD BRIDGES
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1925
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

The present bridges are also of reinforced concrete with two segmental arched spans resting on one central pier in each channel. New handrails and lampposts were installed in 1977.

BENTON STREET BRIDGES
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1925
CONTRIBUTORY (architectural)

Three segmental arched spans rest on two piers in each channel. These bridges are similar in design to the Galena Boulevard Bridges, except that the roadbed cantilevers over the bridge supports. Metal handrails date from the 1970s.

New York Street Memorial Bridge
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1931
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ENGINEER: Emory Seidel & Karl Miller/
Walter E. Deuchler

SIGNIFICANT (architectural)

The New York Street Memorial Bridge is a road bridge constructed of reinforced concrete supported by repeating, shallow arches. At both ends of the bridge structure, solid piers located well into the bridge deck area support four, poured concrete kneeling figures of "Memory", two pairs of figures are found at each end, one on each side of the bridge deck. The remaining, internal piers are divided into two supports which extend above the bridge deck and railing to be incorporated into twin concrete light posts with decorative bronze strapping.

A decorative, pierced concrete railing extends the length of the bridge. The central focus of the structure are two mid-bridge niches which include the bronze memorials and the overscaled, bronze standing figure of "Victory" raised above the railing by a concrete pedestal, decorated in low relief and flanked with bronze eagles. The other memorial niche is found on the opposite side of the bridge deck and it includes a bronze plaque.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1936	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1858-1936 **Builder/Architect** See Section 7

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stolp Island Historic District's period of significance runs from 1858 to 1936 and is based upon its architectural, commercial and exploration/settlement significance. It includes good examples of the works of nationally known architects, in addition to some structures whose architectural significance is based on their representativeness of a particular style. In terms of commerce, Stolp Island became the commercial heart of Aurora in the 1880s and remained so until recently when regional shopping malls superceded it as a commercial center. Finally, it was the earliest settlement areas in Aurora and its resources are the reason Aurora was founded and grew.

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Stolp Island is located in the Fox River, at a site where the river drops steeply. This drop is what gave the McCarty brothers, Joseph Stolp and Zaphna Lake the waterpower source they desired for their milling businesses. However, those characteristics which made the river a good power source also made the river a source of the city's earliest problems and rivalries. The river which brought people to the area, also kept them apart.

Rivalries developed between the early pioneers on the "east side" and the "west side" of the Fox River due to the river's disruptive influence on commerce and development. Aurora's early history is plagued by the Fox River's many floods and ice flows which washed out bridges and buildings.

"Whenever a stream passes through a village or small city there is generally a rivalry of some sort between the inhabitants of the two sides of the stream. This rivalry, for some reason, was particularly intense at an early day in Aurora." (Kane Co. History, Joslyn's, 1908, p. 573)

The rivalries between the two "sides" of Aurora made Stolp Island the "neutral" territory for Aurora's public buildings and other private organizations. The first skirmish was fought over the post office, which changed its location with every presidential election.

By an appointment of the Naperville postmaster, Samuel McCarty acted as postmaster for "McCarty Mills" (as the east siders called it) from 1834-37. When Aurora's first postmaster, Burr Winton was appointed in 1837, a name for the locale had to be found to which all could agree - the neutral "Aurora," suggested by a recent emigre from

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Aurora, New York, struck everyone right. But the location of the post office still was unsettled, changing at every presidential election (postmasters were then appointed by the President.) Postmaster Russell Mix is to be credited with building a small frame post office building on Stolp Island on land belonging to Joseph Stolp.

One important step to reducing these rivalries was the construction of bridges. The first bridge crossing the Fox River along what is now Downer Place was built in 1845. It washed out in 1857. Then, in 1863 a covered wooden bridge was built; it was moved to Montgomery in 1868 (where it lasted until 1915.) Yet another bridge, of unknown structure or materials was apparently constructed, as noted in the 1890 edition of Aurora Illustrated, "The Fox Street Bridge ... is in two sections, in fact, two complete bridges, spanning the east and west channels of the Fox River, with Stolp's Island intervening. Each bridge, or section, consists of a single span of 180 feet, and forms the principal thoroughfare between the two divisions of the city, familiarly known as the 'East and West Sides.'" A steel bridge was apparently constructed over the river branches in 1908-09.

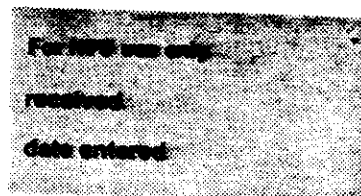
Apparently a wooden bridge was constructed by Samuel McCartv in 1936 along what is now E. Galena Boulevard since it has been reported that when the old Main Street (E. Galena Boulevard) bridges washed out in the spring floods of 1837, Theodore Lake, creator of West Aurora, established a ferry to transport man and beast to his side of the Fox River. A wooden bridge was erected in 1840 which lasted until the flood of 1857. The only other known information relative to bridges crossing at this point is a reference to Carl De Lamatter Concrete Products providing the lamp post used on the "New Main Street Bridge" in 1914. There is also a reference citing that the 1926 structure crossing the Fox River along what is now W. Galena Boulevard is the only structure to have been built at that location.

When Aurora's new city hall was to be built in the late 1850s, arrangements were made to incorporate a post office in a part of the first floor of that building. The post office moved into the new city hall in 1865 where it remained until this new, larger post office facility was completed in 1933, again on Stolp Island, built at a cost of over \$328,000.

Even the city's 1857 charter, combining the east and west side settlements, included in it a provision that the city hall should be built on the island, between the two sides of the river. In 1845 the village of East Aurora was incorporated and in 1854 West Aurora was incorporated. Later, in a move that was agreeable to the two corporations, the Hon. William Parker, then Representative in the Legislature, procured the passage of an act incorporating the two separate entities as one city, by the name "City of Aurora." The charter contained the provision that, in time the city hall should be built on Stolp Island.

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"In pursuance of that proviso, a portion of land was donated for the purpose by Joseph G. Stolp, and in July, 1859, the ground was broken for the foundation...During the summer the Building Committee made arrangements with the Postmaster General, for the leasing of a portion of the first story of the building for Post Office purposes, and arrangements were then made in the plan for the construction of Post Office accommodations...the Post Office was moved into it in October, 1865.....In October, 1863, the City Council accepted from Joseph G. Stolp a proposition by which he gave the city all that portion of the Island east of the City Hall to the river, upon condition that the city should fill in to the bridge, and build a substantial wall from the bridge to the race-way in the rear of the Court House, within a specified time; the conditions of which contract the Council is now proceeding to fulfill." (Aurora City Gazetteer, Oct.1, 1868.)

Stolp Island remained neutral land for other uses, including the first YMCA building, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Hall and the Carnegie Library.

The GAR Memorial Hall dates from 1877 and is one of Aurora's most widely recognized historic landmarks. After the Civil War, in 1869, a Soldier's Memorial Association was formed to raise money for a traditional monument, such as a statue, to commemorate Civil War veterans. But local businessman Fred White had a better idea. He had seen a memorial building in Foxboro, Massachusetts and proposed that Aurora build just such a structure, which he argued would be more useful than an ordinary monument. The Foxboro building, like Aurora's, was also designed to be used as a library and meeting place. This earlier "twin" of the Aurora GAR Memorial was built in 1868 and is still standing.

The land for the Aurora GAR Memorial Hall building and most all of the materials and labor which went into the building were donated by Aurora's citizenry. Although bookcases were supplied in the GAR Memorial Hall building, the public library was not formerly established in Aurora until 1881. In 1884 an addition was built, providing more space for both the veteran's association and the City's library. The GAR building served as the City's public library until 1903 when a Carnegie Library was built on the south end of Stolp Island. In the early 1960s, the City planned to demolish the GAR building to make room for additional parking, but public outcry saved the original portion of the building and the 1903 tower.

The Library Board decided to locate on the island after over a year's effort to find an acceptable site on either side of the river. The history of the various structures which have housed Aurora's Public Library facilities is reflective of the city's development history. After the Library Board searched for over a year for an acceptable site on either the east or the west side of the Fox

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River, a Stolp Island site was finally agreed upon. The first Public Library opened in 1882 in the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall building which, with the rapid expansion of the library, soon had to be enlarged. An addition to house the growing number of volumes was built onto the GAR Hall in 1884. With the construction of the new City Hall, new post office and library facilities were included in that structure.

In 1900, a request was submitted to Andrew Carnegie for funds to construct a separate library building. Carnegie agreed to grant Aurora \$50,000 for a library building if the city would furnish the site and would earn \$5,000 a year in library taxes. The site for this Carnegie Library, again on Stolp Island, was donated by the Stolp heirs. Architects, W.A. Otis of Chicago and Ben Holden of Aurora were chosen to build the library. Eugene Malmer, who worked with Otis in Chicago, was, apparently, the project architect. The new library building was completed in August, 1904 and cost \$50,176.78. By 1914 it was reported that the library had over 33,000 books on file.

In the 1960's, faced with a need for further expansion, the Aurora Public Library Board made an early commitment to Aurora's downtown and decided to stay and expand on the site; this during a time when many retail businesses were leaving the central business district for outlying locations. A plan for additions and complete remodeling began with construction taking place between 1966-69 at a cost of \$953,184, tripling library space from 15,000 square feet to 42,000, involving two three-story wings and a completely new facade. In 1980, an additional 1000 square feet were built to house the Young People's Department. Both expansion/remodeling projects were designed by O.Kleb Assoc., of Aurora.

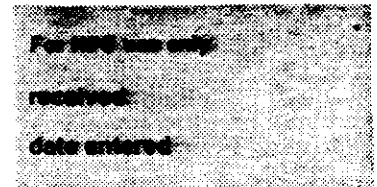
COMMERCE

In 1834 Joseph McCarty arrived in the area looking for a good water power source, and was soon followed by his brother Samuel, both millwrights from Elmyra, New York. Upon their arrival they proceeded to build log cabins, a dam across the east branch of the Fox River and a sawmill. The dam was completed in 1835. During the winter of 1835-36, the McCarty brothers laid out the original plat of the village, referred to as McCarty's Mills. The original plat extended from Benton to Flagg Street, and from Plum to the Fox River. The first year saw the village grow to thirty five or forty people. By 1848, Aurora had a population of over 1,000 people.

The growth of Aurora can be followed, visually, through the layout of its streets. The early street pattern related to the alignment of the Fox River and other geographic features. The first streets were generally parallel to the river and the valley, while the cross streets ran at right angles to them. As the city expanded through its various stages of growth, and as railroads and commerce

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became the focus of business and industry, the streets began to be aligned toward north and south, east and west.

AURORA'S DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

Nearly all manufacturing plants during the first stages in the history of Aurora were located on the valley floor along the Fox River where they could use water power developed from the river. Aurora's initial businesses, from 1834 to the 1850s, included simple sawmills, grist mills, carding mills and wagon and carriage works. Zaphna Lake bought the water-power that went with McCarty's claim on the west side, for \$500, and by 1837 had built two saw-mills, the last of which was removed to make room for the Black Hawk Mills, a flouring mill, erected in 1842 by Charles Hoyt, who had purchased Zaphna Lake's interest in "West Aurora." At the north end of the island between the two sides of the river, Joseph Stolp started his wool carding and dressing business in a small frame building in 1837. In 1849 he built a brick woolen mill on West Downer Place (then known as Mill Street), also on the island.

During Aurora's initial three decades of growth, to 1850, retail development was minimal. There were just a few stores located, on the east, on Broadway and Main (now Galena Boulevard,) and on the west, on River Street.

One of the most significant developments affecting Aurora's growth was the selection of Aurora for the location of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Rail Road shops in 1855. This brought rapid development to the town, and a surge in growth in manufacturing enterprises from the 1850s to 1880. Manufacturing products of this stage included brick and tile, silver plate ware, wood working machinery and machine and foundry products. In 1855, Carter & Reeves Reaper Co. built the westernmost section of what was purchased in 1869 by Charles Hoyt for his new business venture. Hoyt sold his flour mill and began to build a very large plant to produce woodwork-ing machinery. The Hoyt and Brothers Co. complex of buildings still stands today along the west bank of the Fox River.

This era also saw the beginnings of a true commercial center, with two principle sections, one on the east with Broadway as the major commercial street, and with River Street taking that position on the west side. Fox Street (now Downer Place) and Main Street also saw some commercial development. There was still very little such development on Stolp Island at this time.

On the north side of Fox Street the only store building in 1867 was the one opposite the city hall, built out of stone by Joseph Stolp in 1866, for the extravagant cost of \$25,000, according to the 1867 edition of the Kane County Gazetteer. The first or main floor was occupied by F.B. Rice's Hardware and Crockery store. F.B. Rice was the original retail outlet for Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing

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Company goods. The Ginsberg store opened here in 1885 and it later became known as the Fair Store.

In 1867, the second floor was the home of the Aurora Herald; one of the earliest newspapers in Aurora and the forerunner of Aurora's present daily paper, the Beacon News, founded in 1846. In 1866 the Aurora Herald was begun as a weekly by Thomas E Hill, later to become Mayor. Publisher in 1867 was listed as Pierce Burton with James Shaw partner. In 1871 the paper was purchased by Pierce Burton, who became one of the community's journalistic leaders, publishing the "daily express", so named because he received "boilerplate" news on the morning express train from Chicago, rushing it into print in the noon edition. The Aurora Herald subsequently became the Herald-Express, and was absorbed into the Aurora Daily News in 1874.

The third floor of the building, in 1867, was used as lodge rooms by the Masonic fraternities. In 1867, two Lodges are listed in Aurora, including one chapter of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, "...owning a spacious and elegant new hall in Stolp's Block, on the Island." (1937, Beacon-News). The Aurora Masonic Jerusalem Temple Lodge was granted its charter in 1850. Its early meeting places varied and, according to a 1962 Beacon-News article, rented the third floor of the Stolp Building with the Aurora Lodge. In 1905 the Masonic groups moved to the Sencenbaugh Block at 22 S Broadway.

The 1880s and 1890s saw diversification in manufacturing, including such products as stoves, machinery, pumps, textile products, watches and creameries. Also, commercial areas became more widespread and Stolp Island began to assume some commercial importance with stores being built along almost the entire north side of Fox Street (now Downer Place.)

From the 1890s to the 1920s, Aurora saw further diversification in manufacturing businesses, with emphasis on steel production. This era also saw further development of commercial businesses within the central business district, including development of Stolp Island as a commercial center. The north end of the island, formerly too low for building purposes, was filled in and several significant commercial buildings were constructed in that area. Some of these buildings were built by a group of business partners which included Joseph Stolp's grandson, Joseph Stolp Sherer.

Between the 1920s and the mid-1930s, Aurora experienced additional growth from the expansion of steel products plants and development of some textile products and railroad equipment businesses. In that time commercial growth in the downtown was extensive. Stolp Island was used almost entirely for commercial purposes, with the exception of the public buildings and those dedicated for charitable organizations.

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DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAND

From the earliest times, Stolp Island served as the connecting link between the two sides of town. However, until bridge construction and river control projects were successfully completed, development of the island itself was precarious, though Joseph Stolp was willing to spend a little over \$12 to buy the island and to start building his woolen mill on the north east end of the island.

Joseph Stolp's second mill complex on the island was constructed in 1849 along Mill Street, now West Downer Place. An 1866 map shows a mill race already completed on the island, leading to this mill complex. The race ran the length of the island between today's Stolp Avenue and the west river channel, under Downer Place and the mill buildings. A branch of the race turned east to empty into the river behind the G.A.R. Memorial Building. Both north and south of Fox Street, now West Downer Place, this raceway was in the open and it ran under Fox Street in a large stone arched conduit, which still exists today.

One of Aurora's earliest businesses, the "Stolp Carding & Fulling Mill" began in 1837, three years after Aurora's founding by Joseph McCarty. That mill was built at the north end of Stolp's Island near the west end of the east dam. In 1849 that mill was abandoned for a larger one located near the lower end of the island, getting power from a mill race leading from the mill pond at the upper end of the island. The "new" mill stood beside the west channel of the river just south of Fox Street, now Downer Place. The flood of 1857 all but destroyed the mill, the foundation of the Dye House may predate this flood. J.D. Stolp rebuilt his woolen mills in 1858. The new brick, woolen mill structures included two five-story factories and the dye house at the edge of the river. The dye house was attached to the rear of the mill to keep the dyes separate from the raw woolen goods. The business ceased in 1887 and all but the dye house was destroyed by fire in 1906.

The Stolp Woolen Mill store was built between 1860-1861 by Joseph G. Stolp. When the woolen mill shut down in 1887, the mill store was occupied by C.C. Hinkley & Co a producer of watchmaker's tools, and J. D. Rice & Sons, a decorating and painting firm. Stolp had a front extension added (clearly visible on the eastern elevation) and completely rearranged the interior. E. D. Briggs was the builder and L.H. Waterhouse the contracting mason for the work. Rice was the decorator for many of the most prestigious commercial and residential buildings in the area.

As commercial and governmental uses came to occupy the island, the mill race was filled in and the mills demolished. The Stolp Woolen Mill store building is a physical reminder of the island's early industrial development and Joseph Stolp's part in that development. Its 1889 extension reflects the island's shift from industrial to commercial and governmental uses.

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The site of the North Island Civic Center is historically significant as the site of Joseph Stolp's first wool carding and cloth dressing mill structure, built in 1837; the structure later became the Eagle Mills which was destroyed in the flood of 1857. The site, 24 E. Galena Blvd., later was the site of the Leath Furniture Store, until it was demolished in 1980. To the west of the Leath Furniture Store site were the structures which housed the Beacon News from 1921 through 1960 and the Aurora Armory.

Other early island industries included the Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Company, started in 1869. Generally, the development of manufacturing on the island, as in the rest of Aurora, came about largely because of the establishment of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shops in Aurora in 1856.

The Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Co. was chartered 23 June 1869 to operate both in Chicago and in the building on Stolp's Island then used by the Grunberg Foundry, once part of the Stolp Woolen Mills. Soliciting subscriptions for the new company, were prominent businessmen Samuel McCarty, E.R. Allen and Joseph Denny. Arrangements were made with Joseph Stolp to lease the Foundry building and the water power for a three year term. At the first meeting of the stockholders, Daniel Volintine was elected President and George Quereau, Secretary. The local retail outlet for the company was the F.B. Rice Hardware Store, located just east of the factory. A 1946 Beacon-News article states that, in 1867, the silver plate factory occupied a flimsy frame building, back some distance from the street on ground much lower than the street, and was reached by a boardwalk set high on trestle work. "The factory's machinery was turned by water power, the water being conducted from the north end of the island by an open raceway and leaving the factory in a stream which ran under the street to the south. It came into the open at the south line of the street, about where the driveway to the old post office is now located, circled around the city hall and emptied into the east branch of the river where the police ambulance building is now." (Beacon News, 9-15-46)

Fire destroyed the factory in 1871. A.H. Ellwood was commissioned to design plans for the new building to front on Fox St. (now Downer Place) on two lots purchased from Joseph Stolp for \$5,000. J.E. Minott designed a four-story addition in 1892. The Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Company was one of the city's most prosperous industries for more than 40 years and became a nationally-known producer of silver-plated dishes, ornaments and tableware, also producing brass and nickel plating for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Rail Road Shops, and plating in copper and aluminum. The design of the structures housing the various functions of the complex were typical of the era.

According to a 1946 article in the Beacon News, the whole south end of the island (south of Fox Street), with exception of space occupied by the woolen mill and city hall, was used as a cow pasture

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by Joseph Stolp and also as a show ground by the circuses which visited Aurora. In 1876, cows were ordered off the streets.

Commercial and retail development on Stolp Island was impeded by access problems, streets were not laid out and the only street on the island was Fox Street. Up until the 1880s, there were only three or four stores on the island along Fox Street. However, by 1890 the entire north side of Fox Street was built up, with most of the buildings used for shops.

Prior to the construction of the Scherer Building, the site had housed the Underwood Watch and Clock Shop, in 1874, reportedly featuring the world's first street clock built by Frank Hall, Andrew Welch's Carriage Repository in 1890, and People's Drug Store in 1895.

Further commercial expansion occurred during the 1890s and through the 1920s. Participating in this effort was Joseph Stolp Sherer, Joseph Stolp's grandson. The originally low-lying northern portion of the island, from the Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Co. buildings north, was filled and Stolp Island grew in importance as a commercial center with major new hotels, retail stores and theatres being built. Touted as the cornerstone of the development of this new area along Island Avenue, now Stolp Avenue, was the construction of the Aurora Hotel in 1916.

One such structure was the Block & Kuhl structure. Built in 1928 by the Aurora Development Co., this structure housed both Block & Kuhl and Montgomery Ward stores. Block & Kuhl began in Peoria, Illinois, as Schipper & Block in 1879. Carson Pirie & Scott merged with Block & Kuhl in 1959; Carsons being founded in Amboy, Illinois, in 1854 and moved its headquarters to Chicago in 1864. Carson Pirie Scott & Co took over the building in 1961, completely remodeling the interior and making certain exterior alterations. Carson Pirie Scott vacated the structure in 1983. In 1985 the City of Aurora, the Aurora Civic Center Authority and Waubensee Community College entered into an intergovernmental agreement to purchase and renovate the former Carson Pirie Scott store into a new downtown campus for Waubensee Community College. The Extension Center is scheduled to open in the Fall of 1986.

The 135 room Hotel Aurora was erected in 1917 by the Aurora Island Hotel Corporation, an outgrowth of the Island Development Co. The Island Development Co. was established in 1915 by local business leaders and was responsible for much of Stolp Island's business development. The president of the corporation was Edwin C. Faber, then general manager of the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railway. Albert M. Hirsch was vice-president, Attorney B.P. Alschuler was secretary, S.S. Sencenbaugh was treasurer, while these four together with H.H. Alschuler, Earl Schoeberlein and Joseph Sherer served as directors. The eight story Aurora Hotel was, until construction of Leland Hotel, the tallest building downtown. It was also the city's first large hotel and represented an effort by the citizens who developed it to elevate Aurora's position as a regional center of

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commerce. Erected adjacent to the west branch of the Fox River, the hotel was built on the portion of Stolp Island which had been a swimming hole and part of the mill race. In its development the Aurora Hotel represented the cornerstone of the future to be secured with the 1920s land fill project at the north end of Stolp Island. The local businessmen who built this Second Renaissance Revival Style structure spared no expense in their effort to construct something out of the ordinary.

The hotel was operated by Caldwell and Marshall, hotel contractors who had built large hotels in Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Missouri and West Virginia. Clinton B. Marshall retired as manager in 1919 to be succeeded by Harry H Dunbar. Dunbar sold his interest to Mr. William O. Gosselin shortly before the erection of the Leland Hotel, across the street in 1927-28. Mr. Gosselin later took over the operation of the Leland and continued to operate both hotels until his death after which the management passed into the hands of his wife. The three sons of Mr. & Mrs. Gosselin, John, Wm and Ward were all actively connected with the management of both hotels. In 1944 ownership of the hotel was purchased by the Gosselin family.

If one big downtown hotel, the Aurora Hotel, was a good idea, then two hotels would be even better. So reasoned the ambitious businessmen who built the 22-story Aurora-Leland Hotel (now commonly known as Leland Towers) in 1928. It is a testimony to the spirit of the community and the decade that a town such as Aurora would dare build two hotels. The Leland Hotel was designed by Anker Sveere Graven and Arthur Guy Mayger, of Chicago: When built, it was the tallest building in Illinois outside of Chicago; it was, and still is, the tallest building in Aurora. The Leland Hotel was erected by a syndicate headed by Herbert P. Heiss, with stock sold throughout the midwest. A significant financial outlay was required for the purchase of the land and adjoining Moose Building, construction and furnishings of \$1,300,000, one of the largest single undertakings in the history of the city. The first operators of the Leland were associated with Continental Leland Corp.

Anker Sveere Graven and Arthur Guy Mayger operated an architectural firm in the Chicago area during the first three decades of this century. The two architects began their practice together and soon became known for their revivalist theatre designs. Two of their more important commissions include the Minnesota Theatre in Minneapolis, which, when constructed, was one of the seven largest theatres in the world, and the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. The Fisher is one of the true architectural wonders of the Mavan Revival period. The design of the auditorium was featured in the American Architect of February 10, 1929. The architects were particularly interested in adaptations of earlier architectural styles to contemporary structural requirements and their use of the forms and details found in Romanesque, Italian hill town towers was particularly suited to the hotel skyscraper form.

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In addition to providing another first-class hotel, the Leland also became an important entertainment center for the Chicago region as well as Aurora. When Aurora radio station WMRO was started, it broadcast from the top of the Leland, which also hosted the Sky Club, a penthouse restaurant. Unfortunately, with the coming of the Great Depression in the 1930s, the Leland went through a series of foreclosures. The Sky Club, however, remained a center of local social life for many years after, though it is now closed. Due, in part, to changing economic conditions, then owner, Ward Gosselin, realized the operation of the hotel to be a losing operation and in 1965 he sold the Leland to the Teamsters who planned to use the hotel as a retirement home for their members, but financial difficulties precluded the finishing of their half-completed renovation. The Hotel's ownership once again passed through several owners until the present owner bought the building several years ago. The building has been converted into a 97 unit apartment complex.

A final major commercial building on the island was the telephone company's building on Stolp Avenue. This structure represents the telephone company's decision to erect a combined exchange and office building on Stolp's Island; up to the 1920s, the telephone companies had maintained exchanges on the second and third floors of the commercial buildings. The original, lower floors of the structure also represent a typical, though relatively plain, expression of Art-Moderne era architecture with smooth finishes and stylized, bas-relief detailing in selected portions of the exterior.

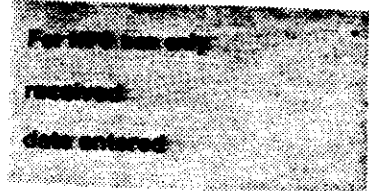
During the 1920s and 1930s, commercial development was intensified throughout Aurora's central business district and Stolp Island became almost solely a commercial center, with the exception of the buildings dedicated to official public and private charitable organization uses.¹

One of these, the Aurora Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose was founded in 1910 and was originally located in the Grand Opera house building on the northwest corner of Benton Street and Broadway. The Lodge moved twice again until they moved into the new "Moose" Building on Island Avenue, now Stolp Avenue, in 1914. In 1919 an addition to the south was built and the owner was listed as the Loyal Order of Moose; William Graham, contractor. In 1929 the Moose purchased the Hartz Building on LaSalle Street and moved there in 1930. The Isle Theatre opened in 1937.

Another was the Paramount Arts Centre, the pride of Aurora. It is important in the history of both the community and the film industry. Architecturally, its opulent interior matches the cream of the nation's movie palaces. The Paramount Theatre was designed by George and C. W. Rapp, who also designed the Chicago Theater and the Rialto in Joliet. The design of the Paramount Theatre is significant not only in its decorative opulence, but in its place in the architectural development of theatre design. Theaters built in the early part of the 20th Century were designed with deep stages for

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vaudeville and other live entertainment. When silent movies came on the scene, the vaudeville acts frequently preceded the movie and the deep stages were retained. With the advent of talking pictures, however, the movie industry moved to narrow the stages and started to develop flashy, exotic interiors. Then, Paramount Pictures proceeded to build theatres just for showing movies and developed ever-more dramatic interior spaces.

One of these movie theatres was the Paramount in Aurora, built in 1931, at the peak of this trend toward the opulent movie palace. When it was completed, the Paramount Theater, representing an investment of nearly \$1,500,000, was opened to a theater hungry public, filling a need since the destruction of the Rialto and Strand Theaters by fire and the closing of the "Old" Fox Theatre.

From the opening in 1931 to 1976 the Paramount went basically unchanged except for gradual deterioration due to lack of maintenance and attempts to "modernize" the lobbies, the sign and the marquee. The theatre was purchased by the not-for-profit, Aurora Civic Center Authority in 1976 and renovation began in January of 1977. The renovation was funded with City of Aurora Bond funds and grant funds from the Illinois Bureau of Business and Economic Development (which were also used in the development of the North Island Center structure.) The Paramount renovation project was completed in 1978 at a cost of \$2.5 million. The theatre's renovation has also been the cornerstone of Aurora's downtown revitalization and development efforts and has served as a cultural center drawing audiences from throughout the region.

Previously on the site where the Paramount Theatre now stands was the Rialto Theater which opened in 1920 in the Sylvandell building. The Rialto burned in 1928.

The Columbia Conservatory of Music was also located on Stolp Island. The Conservatory ceased operation in 1937. Dr. Detweiler retired as the Conservatory's last director after serving twenty-eight years in that position. The Columbia Conservatory was accredited by the State and conceded to be the best equipped school in Illinois and included schools of dancing, languages, art, music, dramatic art, and kindergarten.

With its unique location in the growing community, Stolp Island early on became both a functional transportation link as well as an emotional link between Aurora's east and west developments. In this regard, it symbolizes all of Aurora.

ARCHITECTURE ON STOLP ISLAND

Stolp Island's buildings reflect a microcosm of Aurora's manufacturing, business and cultural development history. These range from the earliest manufacturing structures associated with water power, designed to satisfy only the most functional of needs, such as

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the Stolp Woolen Mill Dye House; to Victorian commercial structures with elaborately decorated storefronts, relative to their more pedestrian back sides; to the highrise hotel structures proclaiming the stature of Aurora at the time; to the contemporary designs of Elmslie's Keystone and Graham Buildings; to the lavish, structures used for public entertainment, including the Paramount Theatre and the Elks Lodge, designed to inspire fantasy of other worlds and times.

The Stolp Woolen Mill Dye House, c. 1858, Stolp Woolen Mill Store, 1860-61 & 1889, and the Aurora Herald/Freemason's Building, 1866, are significant as the earliest remaining examples of commercial and industrial development on the island. They represent their periods of construction, through their design and ornamentation. As such, they are a key element in visually portraying Stolp Island's developmental history. The Aurora Silver Plate Company, while originally constructed in 1871, was enlarged in 1892. It is this latter addition which contributes to the district architecturally. In plan, however, the entire structure reflects its original alignment with the mill race. Additionally, this factory portion of the structure, visible from the alley way, remains virtually unchanged.

Joseph Mulvey, who designed the GAR Memorial Hall clearly modeled his design on the Foxboro building. Mulvey also designed the graceful and harmonious 1884 addition and was the architect for Aurora's Municipal Building (both demolished.). Although Mulvey is listed as an architect in city directories from 1880 through 1900, no other Mulvey-designed structures have been identified to date except for an 1878 reference to his design for a courthouse in Saline County, Nebraska.

If one thinks of Stolp Island as an outdoor museum of architecture, one of the finest exhibits is on the use of architectural terracotta. Terracotta is essentially a fired clay product, often used with glazes of various colors and textures. Architectural terracotta is primarily used as an exterior, non-structural, surface material on buildings, made possible through the development of interior iron and steel structural systems for buildings.

Terracotta had its heyday throughout the country and in Aurora during the early part of the 1900s. The terracotta buildings on Stolp Island also reflect terracotta's appeal, its ease of use and a versatility of design. The Mayan-motif friezes on the Elks Club and its foundation made to imitate rough stone, the entire exterior of the Waubensee Community College building, the "stones" incorporated into the base of the Leland Tower building, the highly-stylized decorative elements used selectively throughout the exterior of the Keystone Building, the Paramount Arts Centre's rich, multi-colored decorative relief panels and urns, all are made out of architectural terracotta applied to the exterior of these buildings purely for decoration.

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The Scherer Building is an interesting transition between the earlier material known as glazed brick and the often more colorful and sculpted architectural terracotta. The Sherer Building is clad in glazed brick, but detailed with green swags of architectural terracotta. Glazed brick was produced by applying a ceramic finish to standard brick. This structure was built by Joseph Stolp Sherer, grandson of Joseph Stolp for whom the island is named. Joseph Stolp Sherer was involved in the development of several buildings on the island, individually and in a partnership known as the Island Development Co. Developments included the Metropolitan Business College building across the street from the Sherer Building, the Montgomery Ward store, and the Block & Kuhl building, among others. It is possible that the architect, Eugene Italiter, also designed some of these buildings, among others. The Sherer Building represents an exquisitely executed design incorporating glazed brick for exterior walls and architectural terracotta for moldings and details. It is particularly well designed for its small, odd-shaped site along the river edge. The ground floor shops appeared to initially have been millinery, jewelry, and dress shops at various times. Another example of its use can be found on the Metropolitan Business College Building and on other structures throughout Aurora's central business district. This material was used primarily in the 1910s, but was also used as a "face-brick," having no structural function.

The Metropolitan Business College building represents the development of the island in the early portion of the twentieth century, with this structure probably dating from the twenties. It is one of the several Stolp Island structures built by Joseph Stolp Sherer, grandson to the island's original owner, Joseph Stolp. It also represents, albeit simple, a good example of commercial, terracotta buildings built in the twenties. The parapet detail design and the window detailing appear to be from the same architect, Eugene Italiter, who designed the earlier Sherer Building across the street.

The post office is architecturally significant as a Depression era structure which skillfully combines an eclectic use of materials and Neo-Classical design motifs, into a structure with a strong, yet simple, design statement. Typical of the era is the use of smooth bas-relief detailing and rich materials as a skin over a relatively flat surface; atypical are the references to earlier architectural styles and details. James Wetmore is also credited for other post office designs during this era, including the post office building still operating in Morris, Illinois, and which exhibits certain trademark design elements similar to the Aurora Post Office's details.

A 1901 Fox Theatre was demolished in 1935, to make way for the "new and modern" Fox Theater. The construction of the new theatre building was completed in 1936 and was occupied by the Publix Great States Theatres the following year. The building was leased by the

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theater company from the Margaretta Scheets Estate until 1946. It was then sold to the Publix Great States Theatres, Inc. The building is located on the banks of the river and a promenade runs alongside of the building, cantilevered over the water. The building is architecturally significant for its brick facade which is richly embellished with terracotta ornamentation. A reclining terracotta fox is the center piece of a circular medallion on the Second Story. The first story of the building has been sheathed in aluminum siding.

The Keystone Building is the largest private office building built from plans prepared by George Grant Elmslie. It is strongly reminiscent of the early modern architectural philosophy of Elmslie's mentor, Louis H. Sullivan. The exterior of the building is a classic example of early modern architectural philosophy (i.e. Sullivan) of having a base, a shaft, and a crown or cornice at the top. It has all of the elements demanded of the 'tall office building' while remaining essentially a horizontal structure scaled to existing older buildings on a street devoted to ground floor retail business and upper level professional offices. The Keystone (which began as the Joseph George and Newhall Building) was George Elmslie's first commission following his separation from his friend and partner, William G. Purcell. I.A. Fournier, listed as Associate Architect on the project, was employed by Purcell and Elmslie from 1910 until the end of the partnership. Fournier is also listed as Associate Architect (with Elmslie) for the Healy Chapel and the Graham Building both located in Aurora.

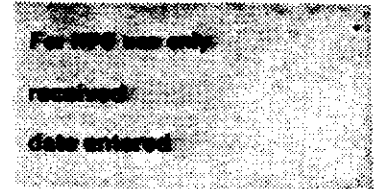
The Graham Building is one of Stolp Island's two buildings designed by George Grant Elmslie, a protege of Louis Sullivan. Although not as elaborately detailed as Elmslie's earlier Stolp Island building, the Keystone Building, the 1926 Graham Building is one of the few downtown buildings which acknowledges its riverfront location. It has identical decorative face brick and horizontal terracotta and brick string-coursing on both the street and riverfront facades. At eight stories, the Graham Building is the tallest of Elmslie's five Aurora structures and the most subdued in detailing and ornamentation. Built as an office building for William Graham, the building's upper floors have housed a variety of office tenants, many of whom were doctors. The building has recently been renovated into senior citizen housing with a senior center on the first floor.

The Aurora Elks Lodge Building is constructed in the Mayan-Revival style. It features the use of highly-textured materials divided into horizontal bands and friezes, typical to Mayan and Revival Style architecture. Since 1978 the Lodge has been working on a complete renovation and maintenance program for the structure.

Of all the concrete spans crossing the Fox River in downtown Aurora, the New York Street Memorial Bridge is the only bridge that retains its original design. Built in an Art Moderne "Depression Era" motif, the bridge was dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1931, as a memorial to World War I veterans. The bridge was built to

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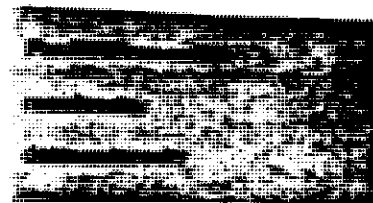
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replace an iron trestle bridge. Fundraising for the new bridge as a memorial began with the Roosevelt-Aurora Post #84 of the American Legion and continued through the efforts of a Citizens Memorial Bridge Committee and City of Aurora public officials. The original bridge design was prepared by City Engineer Walter E. Deuchler. When residents proposed that the bridge incorporate a veteran's memorial, the city hired Emory Seidel and Karl Miller, of Seidel Studios of Chicago were retained to design and sculpt a suitable memorial. Seidel redesigned the entire bridge as a memorial, rather than merely designing a statue or plaque. Notice the bronze statue of "Victory" in the center of the span, and the two cast concrete pairs of kneeling statues representing "Memory" at both ends of the bridge. The bridge also features specially designed balusters and ornamental lighting standards. The genius behind the bridge's design, Emory Seidel, was sculptor for the General Bronze Corporation and Tiffany's of New York. He was awarded the Schaeffer Prize by the Art Institute of Chicago, and was vice-president of the Pallet & Chisel Club of Chicago. The Chicago Architectural Bronze Company manufactured the bronze tablets and light fixtures. Roman Bronze Works of New York City cast the bridge's crowning central figure of "Victory."

Unlike Stolp Island's other bridges, the 1931 New York St. bridge structure spans the entire channel of the Fox River. The bridges of Benton Street, Downer Place, and Galena Boulevard were all designed with separate spans to cross the east and west branches of the Fox River connecting to Stolp Island. When the New York Street Bridge was constructed, Stolp Island did not extend as far north. The New York Street Bridge now crosses the northern most portion of Stolp Island, over the North Point parking area, the product of a 1960s land fill project.

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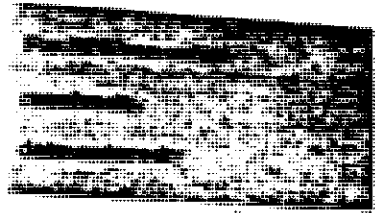
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The following verbal boundary description refers to the enclosed sketch map of the Aurora Stolp Island Historic District.

Beginning at the Southernmost point of Stolp Island and proceeding North along the east bank of Stolp Island to the South Side of the East Benton Street Bridge, proceed East to the East bank of the Fox River; thence proceed North along the bank of the Fox River to the North side of East Benton; thence proceed west to the East side of Stolp Island;

thence proceed North along the bank of Stolp Island to the South Side of the East Downer Bridge; thence proceed East to the East bank of the Fox River; thence proceed North along the bank of the Fox River to the North Side of East Downer; thence proceed West to the East Side of Stolp Island;

thence proceed North along the bank of Stolp Island to the South Side of the East Galena Street Bridge; thence proceed East to the East bank of the Fox River; thence proceed North along the bank of the Fox River to the North side of East Galena; thence proceed West to the East bank of Stolp Island;

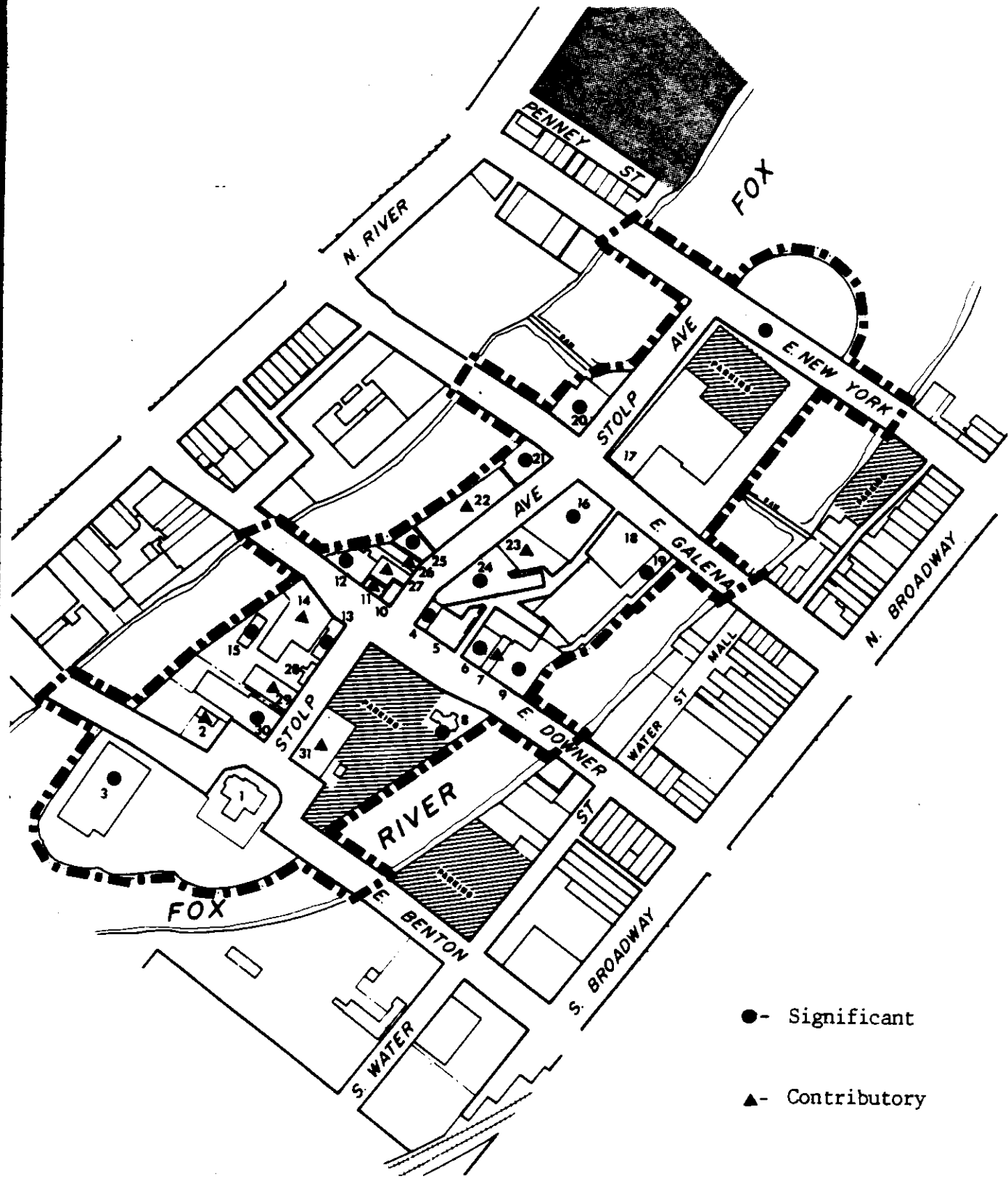
thence proceed North along the bank of Stolp Island to the South side of East New York Street bridge; thence proceed east to the East bank of the Fox River; thence proceed North along the bank of the Fox River to the North Side of East New York Street; thence proceed west to the East bank of Stolp Island;

thence proceed North and West along the bank of Stolp Island to the Northernmost tip of Stolp Island; thence proceed South and west along the bank of Stolp Island to the North Side of the West New York street bridge; thence proceed West to the West Bank of the Fox River; thence proceed South along the bank of the Fox River to the South Side of the West New York street bridge; thence proceed east to the West bank of Stolp Island;

thence proceed South along the bank of Stolp Island to the North Side of the West Galena street bridge; thence proceed west to the West bank of the Fox River; thence proceed South along the bank of the Fox River to the South Side of the West Galena Bridge; thence proceed east to the west bank of Stolp Island;

thence proceed South along the bank of Stolp Island to the North Side of the West Downer Bridge; thence proceed west to the west bank of the Fox River; thence proceed South along the bank of the Fox River to the South Side of the West Downer Bridge; thence proceed east to the West Bank of Stolp Island;

thence proceed South along the bank of Stolp Island to the North side of the West Benton Bridge; thence proceed West to the West Bank of the Fox River; thence proceed South along the bank of the Fox River to the South side of the West Benton Bridge; thence proceed east to the West bank of Stolp Island; thence proceed South along the bank of Stolp Island to the Southernmost point of Stolp Island to the point of origin.



STOLP ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

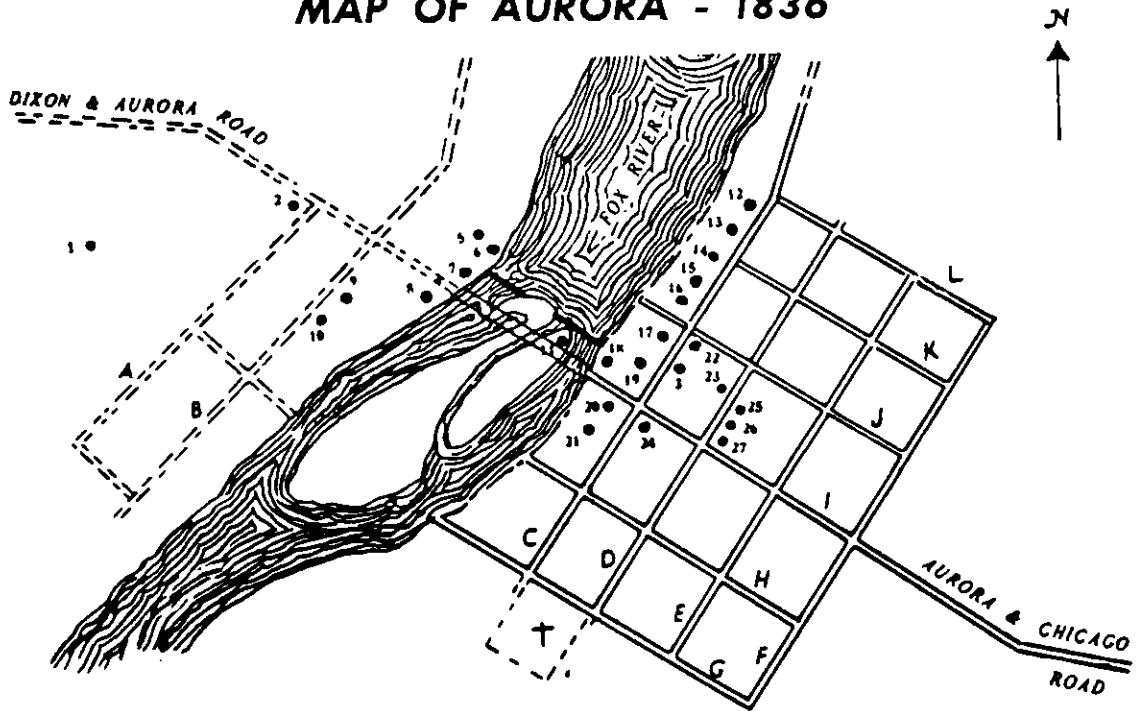
Community Development Department
Division of City Planning
 Aurora, Illinois

DRAWN BY
 W. Spaeth

DATE
 1-22-86

Scale: 0 150' 300' 600'

MAP OF AURORA - 1836



On the West Side there were no laid out streets, but that marked "A" became Lake street, and that marked "B" River Street. On the East Side, the first village plat was laid in 1836, and the streets were

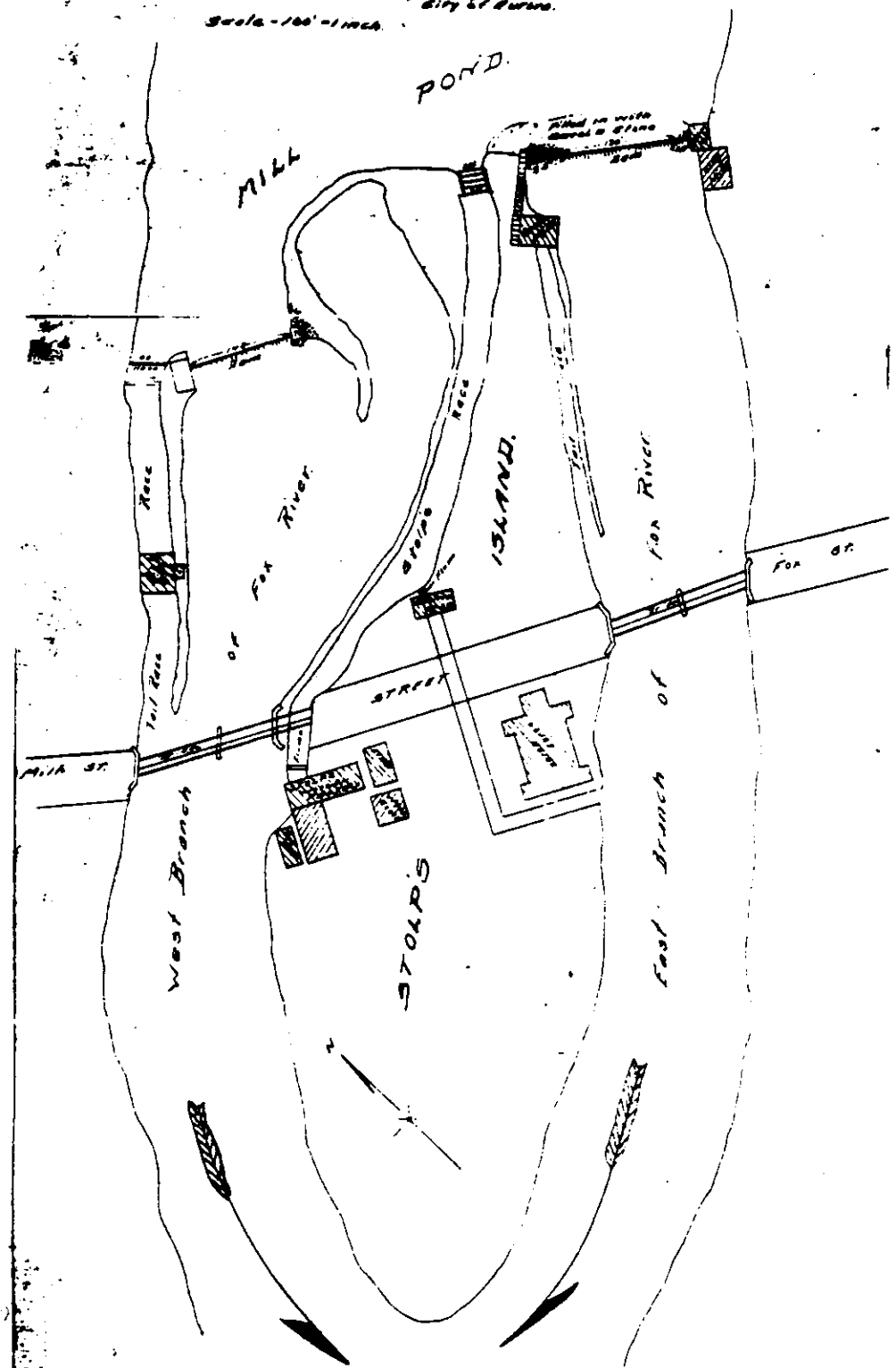
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| C - Broadway | 4 - Seth Reed's farm home | 16 - The Thomas home |
| D - LaSalle street | 5 - Sawtelle (Wilder) Hotel | 17 - The Corbett home |
| E - Seneca street (now Lincoln Ave.) | 6 - John King's Blacksmith shop | 18 - The McCarty Mills |
| F - Fourth street | 7 - Lake's saw mill | 19 - Joseph McCarty's home |
| G - Benton street | 8 - Lake's log house | 20 - J. L. Adams' Store |
| H - Fox street (E. Downer) | 9 - Palmer's house | 21 - R. C. Morr's house |
| I - Chicago road (East Galena) | 10 - Livingston's store | 22 - Wendell King's home |
| J - New York street | 11 - B. F. Phillips' shop | 23 - Lawrence's store |
| K - Spring street | 12 - The house of the Pease family | 24 - Wallace, Campbell & Plum store |
| L - Flagg street | 13 - Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Stolp | 25 - Winslow Higgins' house |
| The numerals represent the following: | | |
| 1 - Lake farm house | 14 - Home of B. F. Phillips | 26 - W. B. Plata's Shop |
| 2 - McCallum shop | 15 - John Campbell's house, later occupied by Rev. Cook and family | 27 - Marlett's Hotel |
| 3 - Samuel McCarty's home | | † Cemetery |

MAP OF STOLP'S ISLAND

IN THE SOUTH WEST QUARTER OF
SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 28 NORTH
RANGE 9 EAST OF 3D. RANGE, MERIDIAN
LAND IN THE CITY OF AURORA

Surveyed and Bound by George Walker
March 27 1866 City Surveyor of the
City of Aurora.

Scale - 100' = 1 inch.

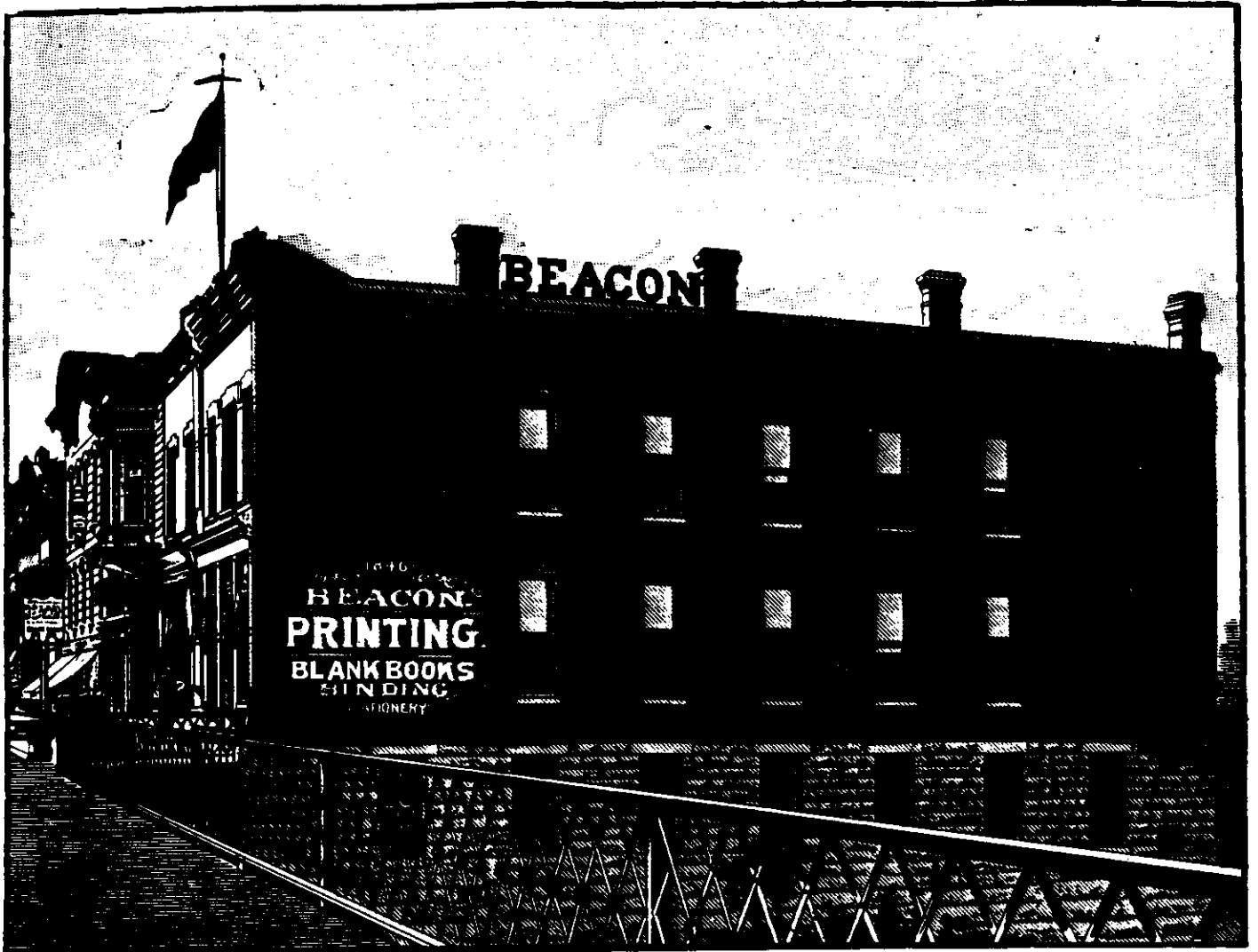


STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF)

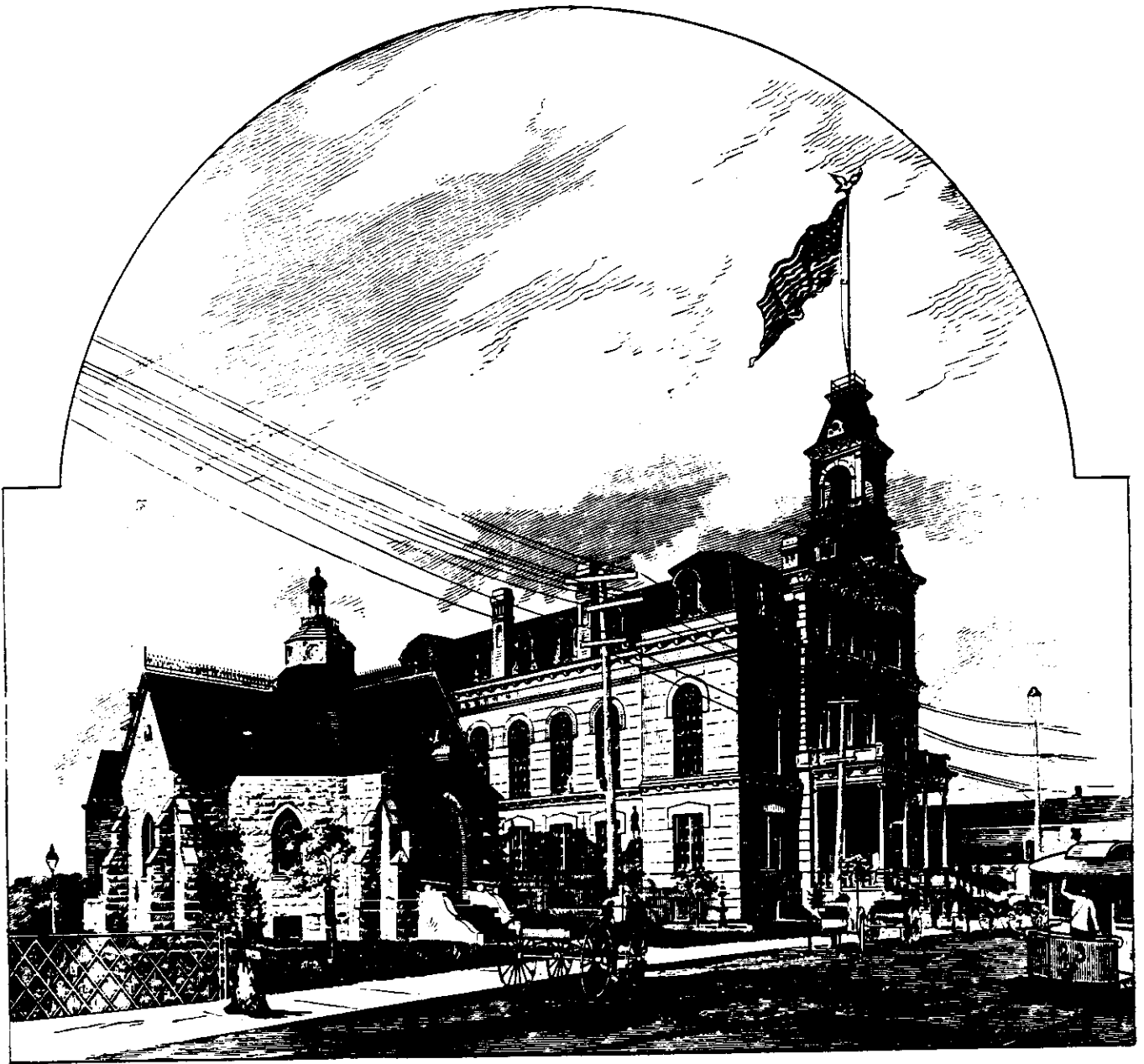
I, George Walker, County Surveyor, do hereby certify that the above drawn is a correct copy of a plat as made, published, and recorded as required by law, and that the same was filed in my office on the 27th day of March, 1866, and that the same was duly published and recorded in my office on the 27th day of March, 1866.

George Walker

Assessor's Map of Stolp's Island, Aurora, IL
1866



AURORA BEACON BUILDING, 50 Fox Street, on the Island.



MEMORIAL HALL.
[PUBLIC LIBRARY.]

CITY HALL.

MEMORIAL HALL

Built in honor of Aurora's patriotic dead, serves the double purpose of commemorating the heroism of her citizen soldiery, and furnishing the public with a commodious and pleasantly located free Library and Reading Room. On either side of the hall, upon tablets of marble, are engraven in gilded letters the names of Aurora's fallen heroes.

Aurora Illustrated, 1890, p.3



VIEW ON STOLP'S ISLAND.

Aurora Illustrated, 1890, p.52