



THE SHEC SAMPLER

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Springfield Heritage
Education Center
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1600 block on
the west side of
Silver Street
looking south
ca 1927

The same
1600 Block of
Silver Street
looking south
2012



It is rather sad that the 1927 photograph was taken when the trees were in full bloom, without leaves we would have been able to see the house fronts more clearly. It is so fortunate that the block has stayed intact. The house in the foreground was number 1839, today it is 1641. The numbers are then 1633, 1631, 1627, 1623 and 1617. The house facades appear to be barely unchanged except 1633, which previously had round columns. This change took place prior to 1985. No. 1631 was also visited by Truman Capote as a very small child when his grandmother lived there prior to getting remarried.

Silver Street, formerly Hogan Street, formerly Spring Street



Above is a section from the 1893 Koch Map. The street in the foreground is 2nd West. Main Street starts at four o'clock and does a dog's leg at 10th. Note the little mule pulling the street car down from 8th, the tracks were not electrified until later, at the time of the map they were electrified only as far as the waterworks. The old stables are at the SW corner of 8th and Main. You will see that Laura Street is named Oak, then where it does a dog's leg at 10th it was the Old Panama Road. The street now named Silver was at this time Spring, and shortly thereafter, for a brief few years it was known as Hogan. Houses as seen in this map tended to just have an address of "Springfield" or known by the names of their nearest cross streets. By 1897 Oak had already become Laura and Spring was known as an extension of Hogan. Some houses still standing in Springfield have "lost" their age and identity due to the ever changing names. Below is the story of such a house. Others have gained the identity of a house which preceded them.

As a side note you will see that the first street east of Main is marked as Hubbard and yet at this time the street was named Adaline and houses in the directories have an address as such. Also note the vegetation each side of the creek, this represents the marshy areas. Boulevard meandered to stay with firmer ground. If you check what is now 3rd and Pearl, (was 3rd and Magnolia later Cedar), it will probably tell us why the Drew started to have subsidence problems shortly after being built.

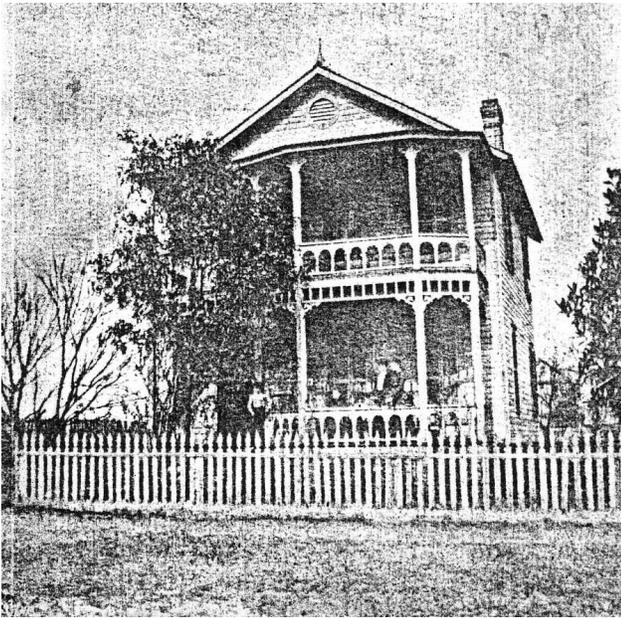
The house shown at the right, 220 4th West is such a case as is mentioned above. The 1897 directory shows Mr. Arthur McDaniels, a shoe store owner, living at 4th and Laura. That is possibly the building you see at that spot in the above Koch map. Material for the 1897 book would be collected in 1896. At the same time McDaniels was having a new house built at the corner of, then, Hogan and 4th one of the first on the southern side of that block. In 1897 he was definitely living in the newly built property. Later the house was given a Silver Street address.

The house has been given various dates, in the 1985 survey it is shown as 1914 which is the date on which the more modern house which now stands at the corner of 4th and Silver was built on what had been the McDaniels' side yard. That said house has been given the earlier date. The Wood's book is a little kinder and dates #220 as 1904. It is actually ca. 1895/6 the same as the Gould house which stands across the street from it.

See next page.



The Gould House, 223 4th Street West



Twin sisters, Lena and Kate Gould, were born in 1868 in Thomasville, Georgia. Their father, Dr. James F. Gould, practiced medicine under contract with the army and privately in various venues, eventually settling down in Jacksonville in 1882. It was said that Dr. Gould was a valuable man to have around during the Yellow Fever epidemic. Sadly, he succumbed to the disease in September 1888.

On July 25th 1894, Mrs. Kate (Gould) Crook purchased a parcel of land on 4th Street West, for the consideration of \$450.00, from the Springfield Company. On the 26th of February 1897, Mrs. Crook signed a Mortgage Deed for \$950.00 to cover the cost of having her home built. This document provides support for a ca. 1897-98 house construction date. The house originally stood in the center of a large lot; but around 1910, it was moved to the east side of the property and a duplex was built on the west side. This was apparently done to provide additional family income. The original house still stands at 223 4th Street West, but the duplex at 229 no longer exists.

In December of 1958 the Florida Times-Union carried an article about the sisters celebrating their 90th birthday:

“When Lena Gould was a school child she wrote a composition beginning “Jacksonville is a city of 17000 and I love it.” Not many years later Miss Gould’s twin sister Mrs. Kate Gould Crook bought “a house in the country” near Jacksonville because the sisters were pretty sure by then there wasn’t a better place to live.”

The sisters lived together at 223 4th Street West for almost 65 years. During this time they watched the 1901 fire from the upstairs balcony and saw Springfield no longer being considered out “in the country.” What is also interesting is that they saw their street go from dirt, to shell, to brick. Most Springfield residents will know that this brick street survives today.

Obviously there is much more to this story, and we hope it will be told. One very interesting point is that current records indicate that this house was built in 1903. This error, also noted for many other Springfield houses, would not have been discovered without the careful, in-depth research possible with records compiled by SHEC. We hope that researchers will take advantage of this resource in the future.



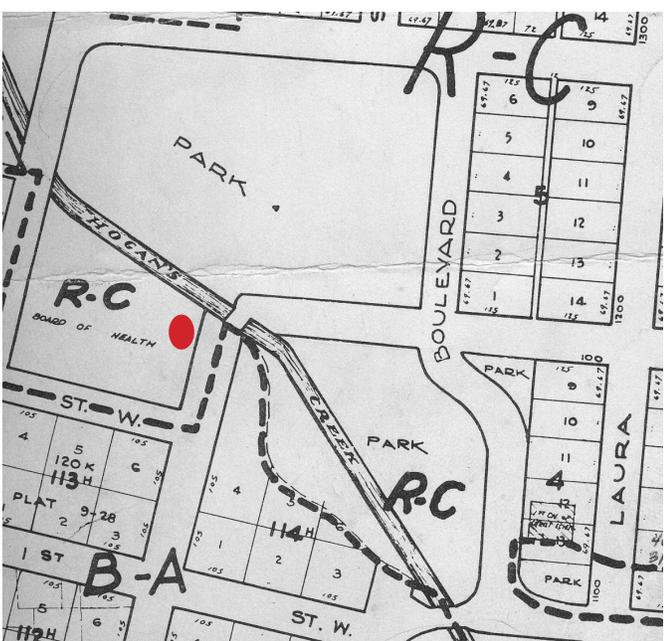
The State Health Building (ca 1911)

This postcard shows the Health building, ca 1911, which stands just south of Hogans Creek at Klutho Park. It originally faced a short section of Julia Street, now closed, and was accessed by crossing the Klutho Bridge on Second Street West (shown below). The building was later named in honor of Dr. William T. Sowder.

The Times-Union, Jessie-Lynne Kerr. February 21, 2007

Wilson T. Sowder of Jacksonville, considered one of the nation's leading public health figures and the physician who looked out for Floridians' health for more than three decades, died Friday at age 96. When he retired in 1974, Dr. Sowder said he was proudest of helping develop a statewide health system under which each of Florida's counties established health departments. During Dr. Sowder's tenure under 11 governors, the state established public health programs for such things as cancer control, industrial hygiene, diabetes control, mental health and nutrition. He also instituted programs for air and stream pollution control and mosquito control. Florida was able to attract talented physicians in the field of public health because of Dr. Sowder's reputation, said Russell Jackson of Tallahassee, director of policy management and special assistant to the president of the Florida Medical Association. The old State Health Department Building in Springfield was rescued from demolition, thanks to Dr. Sowder's effort, and is being restored to become the Florida Museum of Medicine and Public Health. The restored building has been named for Dr. Sowder. The building was restored by Peter Brown Construction.

Map section below is part of the Subdivision Atlas of Jacksonville Florida 1954



William T. Sowder Health Building



(Above) The Health Building as it is today, beautifully restored. The Klutho Bridge in the foreground appears to go nowhere. Please see the map to the left. The bridge once connected Second Street West and Julia Street. Today Second Street only partially cuts into the park.