

and objections. His own father-in-law joined in the objections to the way the improvement was made. But Mr. Speckhart went steadily ahead and carried out his own ideas. Not long afterward another influential neighbor said that Mr. Speckhart had done the work primarily to please his father-in-law, and after this unjustified criticism he became so disgusted that he resigned the office and never consented to serve in another public place. He has been an officer in the Bluff Hall Congregational Church since early manhood. For the past twelve years Mr. Speckhart has lived retired, spending much of his time with his brother Adam. They are mutually fond of angling for fish in the Mississippi River, and fishing is the best recreation of their advancing years.

John Speckhart married Hannah Schaeffer, who was born in Lippe, Germany, October 7, 1851, and two years later came to America with her parents, William and Florentine (Kruger) Schaeffer. She was educated in the German school at Quincy, and was married to Mr. Speckhart April 15, 1869. A brief record of their children is as follows: Elizabeth, born October 7, 1871, married John Echtencamp; John, born June 28, 1875, married Annie Westholdt; Emma, born January 25, 1878; died March 8, 1882; William, born February 7, 1880, married Letta Albsmeyer; Maggie, born August 25, 1882, married John Hulcher; Charles, born May 21, 1886; Daniel, twin brother of Charles, died when one day old; August, born March 1, 1889, died May 8th of the same year; and Ella, born June 3, 1894. The daughter Elizabeth is now deceased. Charles married Lillian Uebner and is at the old home. Ella is the wife of George Spencer, of Payson Township.

JAMES EDWARD LOHR, of Paloma, has for twenty years been engaged in the hay and grain business. In that time he has had dealings with nearly every farmer in Gilmer and Honey Creek Township, and in an experience covering such a long period of years and involving so many transactions the people have come to have a high appreciation of Mr. Lohr's commercial integrity and the importance of the service which he renders. For a number of years Mr. Lohr has handled between 100,000 and 150,000 bushels of grain and 150 carloads of hay annually. In recent years he has also been a lumber merchant, being manager of the Paloma Lumber Company since it was established three years ago by the Moller-Vanden Boom Company of Quincy. In the local yards at Paloma are carried a stock valued at \$20,000, including everything needed in building. Mr. Lohr is alone in the hay and grain business, but had as his partner and associate until two years ago, J. H. Lummis.

Mr. Lohr was born in Morgan County, Illinois, November 27, 1871, but his parents had lived in Adams County and soon returned here. He is a son of the late William L. and Sarah (Booth) Lohr. William L. Lohr was born in Morgan County December 27, 1843, and died at his late home two miles east of Fowler on the Cannon Ball Trail in Gilmer Township October 10, 1914. He was a son of Peter and Susannah (Davis) Lohr. He was a small boy when his mother died, and Peter Lohr lived to a good old age, past eighty-five, dying at Columbus as a retired farmer. William Lohr came to Adams County when about twenty-one years of age and for a time was employed by D. L. Hair, then superintendent of the County Poor Farm. While here William L. Lohr met Miss Sarah Booth, member of the old and prominent family of that name. She was born in Adams County September 7, 1847, and was just twenty years of age when she married on January 31, 1867. After their marriage they lived in Morgan County on his father's farm four years, and then came to the place in Gilmer Township where William L. Lohr spent the rest of his days. He found that farm with only a small frame house, and he was responsible for placing there the substantial buildings which adorn it today. William L. Lohr was a republican in politics, and his family have long been identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church at Paloma. For a number of years William L. Lohr had a special distinction of service in the community as a grower of cane and operator of a mill producing a high grade of sorghum molasses, a

being the greatest loss, as it was impossible to replace tools which he had brought from Germany. Joseph Brockschmidt had learned his trade in Osnabrueck, Germany, and made as masterpiece a clock with its complete works in the pendulum. This clock for fifty-seven years was exhibited in the show-window of his shop. For thirty years he had the care of the first city clock in the tower of St. Boniface Church, never asking nor accepting any compensation for his trouble. He was one of the founders of St. Aloysius Orphan Society, and for more than fifty-seven years a member of St. Boniface Church. In February, 1840, Joseph Brockschmidt and Marie Busch were married in St. Paul's Church, Cincinnati. He died December 17, 1897, his wife having preceded him in death January 6, 1876. Joseph J. Brockschmidt, a son, died February 20, 1904. Daughters were: Louise, wife of H. B. Menke, died February 29, 1916; Frances Brockschmidt; Agnes Brockschmidt, died February, 1917; Mary, wife of Frank Hoeckelmann. One daughter, Ida, member of the Order of Notre Dame, died in 1868.

John Speckhardt, born June 14, 1910, in Krumbach, Grandduchy of Hessen, married Elizabeth Vornoff, born 1815 in Keinsbach, the same state. They emigrated in the fall of 1839, coming by way of New Orleans, arriving in Quincy in 1840, but soon settled in Fall Creek Township. Although wheat had to be cradled in those days, and at times brought only 35 cents per bushel, yet farmers were successful. John Speckhardt in the course of time became one of the most extensive land owners in the township. He died in 1894, his wife preceding him in death ten years before. Children were: Frederick, born May 24, 1847, successful as a farmer. He was married three times, his first wife being Lena Schaefer, and their children were, John, Fred and George. After the death of his first wife he married Anna Frederick, and they also had three children, Henry, Frank, and Hannah, wife of Philip Appel. The third wife was Lena Harms. In 1895 Frederick Speckhardt left his farm and moved to Riverside Township. John Speckhardt, Jr., second son of John and Elizabeth (Vornoff) Speckhardt, born July 4, 1848, chose farming and married Hannah Schaefer. Sons were: John, Jr., who married Anna Westholt; William, who married Lena Albsmeyer; and Charles, who married Lily Uebner. Daughters were: Elizabeth, wife of John Echterkamp; Margaret, wife of John Hoelscher; and Ella, wife of George Spencer. Adam Speckhardt, third son of John and Elizabeth (Vornoff) Speckhardt, born October 1, 1849, engaged in farming and married Mary E. Bock. Sons were: Frederick and Karl; daughters: Katie, wife of Wm. F. Albsmeyer; Elizabeth, wife of Nicholas Kaltenbach; Anna, wife of Fred Schnellbacher, and Minnie, wife of Christ Kaiser. William Speckhardt, youngest son of John and Elizabeth (Vornoff) Speckhardt, also follows farming. He married Margaret Reich, and they have two sons, William and John, and two daughters, Mrs. William Loos and Mrs. Fred W. Hoelscher. Of the five daugh-

ters of John and Elizabeth (Vornoff) Speckhardt only one, Lena, survives, and lives with her brother, Adam Speckhardt, on the old home farm.

THE RICKER FAMILY

Among the many immigrants of German blood, who came to Quincy since the first settlement was established here, the life, career and success of Henry Francis Joseph Ricker certainly is one of the most remarkable, deserving special mention in the annals of history of the German element in this community. Born August 31, 1822, in Lotten, Hanover, he with his parents emigrated to America in 1839. His father, Joseph Ricker, was born 1790, in Lotten, Hanover, while his mother, Euphemia Adelheid, nee Peters, was born 1795 in Bawinkel, Hanover. October 1, 1839, they started on their voyage in a sailing vessel across the Atlantic ocean, arriving in New Orleans December 10th of the same year. Coming up the Mississippi on board of a steamboat, they celebrated Christmas in Cairo. Then they continued their trip to St. Louis, where they remained for two months, when they went aboard of the steamboat Aerial, bound for Quincy, where they arrived on March 4, 1840, after a trip of three days.

When the Ricker family arrived here there still was considerable timber in the town, trunks of trees were lying in many places, just as they had fallen, either felled by the woodman's axe, or during a destructive storm. At that time only one street, Hampshire, was open to the river, and the newcomers were compelled to walk in the middle of the street, when they came up from the river, there being no sidewalks. Joseph Ricker rented a room from John Bernard Schwindeler, Eleventh and Broadway, upstairs. During the first four years father and son worked for John Wood, the "Father of Quincy." Henry Francis Joseph Ricker, in relating the history of his life to the writer of this narrative, sixteen years ago, gave special prominence to those days, when he with his father, began life in this community with hard work. While working before the old Quincy House one day, where the father was sawing cordwood, and the son did the splitting and piling up, T. S. F. Hunt, proprietor of a grocery store, came out from the store and asked Mr. Ricker to allow the son to work in his store, he needing a young man who was not afraid of work. The father consented, and this was the beginning of the career of Henry Francis Joseph Ricker in the mercantile business. Then he became a clerk in Charles Holmes' dry goods store, and went to St. Louis with Holmes when the latter removed his business to that city. But in accordance with the wish of his parents, he soon returned to Quincy and entered the employ of Sylvester Thayer, dealer in dry goods, and in 1846 he accepted a position with Albert Dannecke, proprietor of a general store, with whom he remained for three years. In 1849 Henry Francis Joseph Ricker and Leopold Arntzen formed a copartnership, opening a gen-

and several other members of his relationship are referred to on other pages of this publication. Mr. Loos was born on the old Loos farm in this county August 8, 1870, and he is a son of Frederick Loos. He grew up on a farm, gained his education in the local schools, and at the age of twenty-four started independent farming as a renter. Then in 1896 he bought eighty acres of the William Wand farm of 200 acres. He had only \$2,500 in capital and went in debt heavily for the balance. He has made money through horses and cattle and general farming, and long since paid off his obligations upon it. He also has additional land formerly owned by his wife's father, William Speckhart. Mr. Loos remodeled the house and has continued many other improvements from the condition in which they were left by the former owner.

At the age of twenty-four Mr. Loos married Miss Mollie K. Speckhart, a daughter of William Speckhart, now a retired resident of Quincy elsewhere referred to in these pages. Mr. and Mrs. Loos have a happy family of children named Fred, Anna, Edna, Viola, Wilbert, Ida, Carl, Mollie, Edgar, William, Irene and Hilda. Mr. Loos is a democrat, has served as road commissioner, and is a member and trustee of the Bluff Hall Congregational Church.

WILLIAM SPECKHART, now living retired in a comfortable home at 520 South Twelfth Street in Quincy, is a member of that numerous and prominent Speckhart family whose activities and citizenship have been prominently sketched at various points in this history.

Mr. William Speckhart was born in Fall Creek Township February 24, 1851, the youngest son of John and Eva Speckhart. He was reared and educated there and since reaching his majority has been one of the successful farmers. He settled on part of the old homestead and still owns 154 acres. He has used his judgment to assist him in selecting farms in the most fertile district of the county, and has assisted several of their children in securing fine farms of their own. Mr. Speckhart was an active farmer until 1916, having spent forty-three years as an Adams County agriculturist. He has never sought public office but is a trustee of Bluff Hall Congregational Church.

At the age of twenty-two he married Miss Margaret Reich, daughter of John Reich. Mrs. John Reich is still living on a farm adjoining that of William Speckhart. Margaret Reich was born there June 20, 1851, and she and her husband grew up from childhood in the same locality. Mr. and Mrs. Speckhart lost four children in infancy and childhood and have five living: Mollie is the wife of William Loos, of Melrose Township, and they have twelve children. William Speckhart lives in Fall Creek Township, two miles east of Marblehead, married Laura Loos, a sister of William Loos, above mentioned, and their three sons are Edwin, Herbert and Fred. John Speckhart lives on the old farm in Fall Creek Township, and by his marriage to Nellie Ruby, of Payson Township, has a daughter, Wilma. Sadie is at home with her parents. Margaret married Fred Heelcher, a stove salesman at Quincy, and they have two children, Merle and Marian.

WILBER L. MYERS. The old Myers homestead in Gilmer Township is now owned and occupied by Wilber L. Myers, who was born there and has spent nearly all his life from childhood to the present in that environment. It is unnecessary to repeat here what has been told on other pages concerning his parentage, his brothers and sisters, but it should be noted that Mr. Myers is well worthy of membership in such an old and splendid family, and has contributed his share of the activities by which this family name is so well known in eastern Adams County.

The old Myers homestead is fourteen miles east of Quincy, two miles north of Broadway and three miles southwest of Columbus. On that farm Wilber L. Myers was born November 3, 1871. It has been his home continuously except for the twelve years from 1894 to 1905, during which time he rented other farms in Gilmer and Burton Township, and also spent one season in Colorado. - In

a general stock and grain farm, and besides much other good livestock breeds and raises Poland China hogs. He is a democrat in politics, and while living in Columbus Township served as township clerk and has been assessor of Clayton Township two terms. He is affiliated with Camp Point Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Clayton.

December 25, Christmas Day, 1888, Mr. Sparks married Miss Flora E. DeMoss, member of a well known family of that name in Columbus Township, and a daughter of W. D. and Mary E. DeMoss. She died March 19, 1892, mother of one child, Ethel M. Ethel was born November 16, 1890, is a graduate of the Clayton High School, and is now the wife of Albert G. Beckman, of Concord Township. Mr. and Mrs. Beckman have two children: Ruth M. and Ralph Harold. On October 10, 1895, Mr. Sparks married Lillie M. DeMoss, sister of his first wife. They have one son, Orrin D., who was born October 9, 1897, and is a graduate of both the Maplewood High School and the Gem City Business College, and is now assisting his father in the management of their farm.

ADAM SPECKHART is another son of the prominent pioneer of Fall Creek Township, John Speckhart, Sr., whose career is sketched on other pages. Adam Speckhart now owns the old homestead, nine miles southeast of Quincy, and was born there October 1, 1849. He inherited the old farm, and with that as a basis has extended his holdings until he now has six farms, three near the old homestead, one on the bottom lands, and still another in Kansas. Much of this land is rented and altogether it comprises about 1,000 acres. He has substantially improved several of the farms with buildings. His farming has been along the line of stock raising.

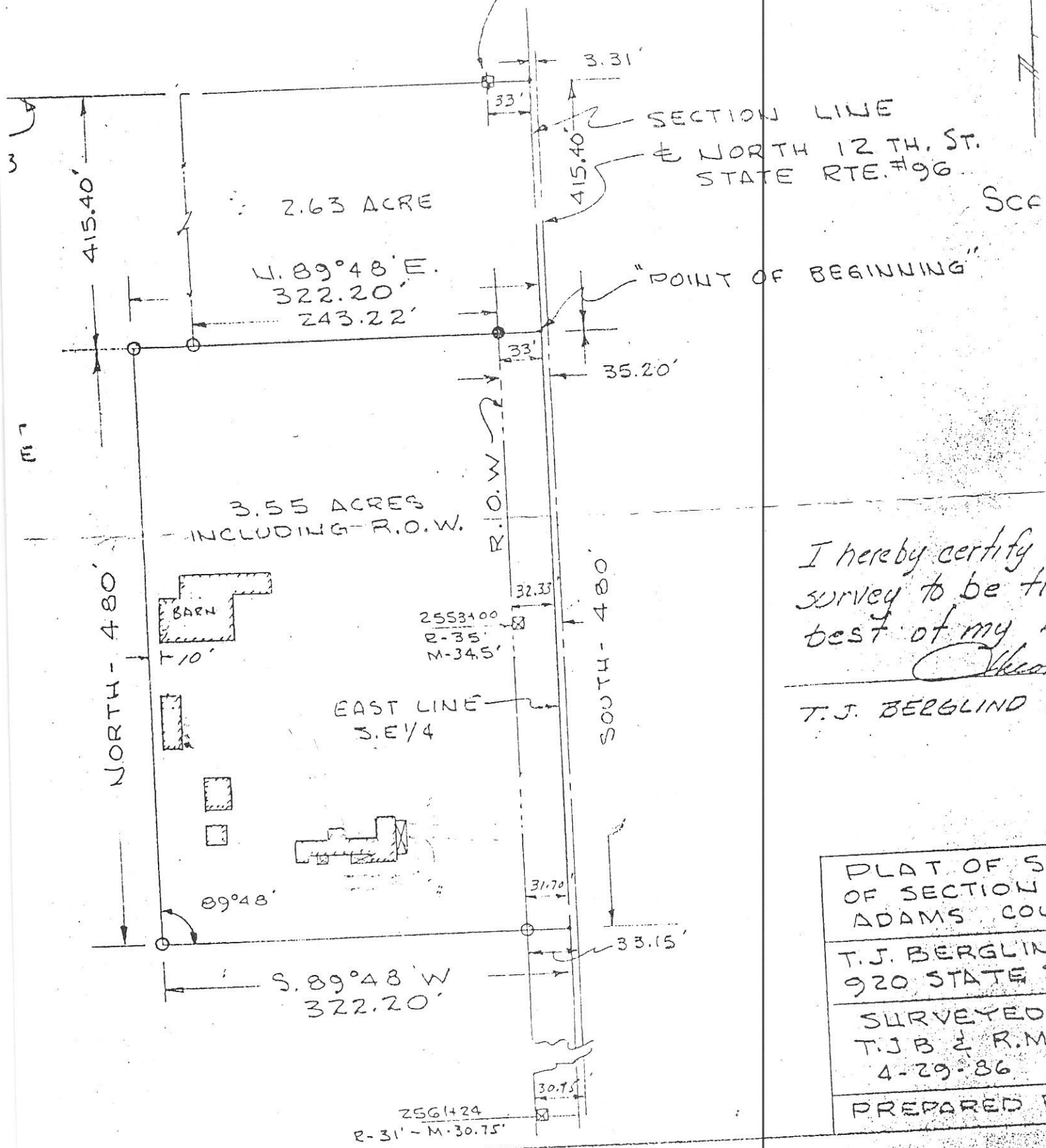
Mr. Speckhart spent his early life on the old farm and attended school at Craigtown. He has never sought public office and in voting has usually been an independent democrat. He is a deacon in the Bluff Hall Congregational Church.

March 3, 1878, Mr. Speckhart married Miss Mary E. Bock, daughter of Daniel and Fredericka Bock. Mrs. Speckhart was born in Melrose Township and was nineteen years of age at the time of her marriage. Her father was a native of Waldeck and her mother of Baden, Germany. Mrs. Speckhart, who died February 4, 1916, became the mother of eight children. Catherine, born December 5, 1878, is now the wife of William Albsmeyer, of Melrose Township, and has one daughter, Marie Charlotte. Mary Elizabeth, born in November, 1880, is the wife of Nicholas Kaltenbach, of Fall Creek Township. Fred William, born January 29, 1883, is a bachelor still at home. Anna Margaret, born May 22, 1885, is the wife of Fred Schnellbacher, and they live on an adjoining farm to her father. Wilhelmina, born November 7, 1887, is the wife of Christian Kaiser, and they live with her father and operate one of the farms. Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser have four children, Harold Russell, Marion Adolph Frederick, Mary Louise and Doris Anna Amelia. Henry, born in 1890, and Emma, born in 1892, died in infancy. Carl, born January 25, 1894, married Mary Jane Spencer, lives on one of his father's farms, and has one child, Harlow Adam.

AMOS SHARP. In the intervals of his farm activities in Concord Township Amos Sharp has found time to serve the interests of his fellow citizens in the office of supervisor. He has been active since early manhood as a democrat. He was first elected supervisor when twenty-six years of age, and after a lapse of time he was elected for another period of eight years. His good service in that position is well remembered, and is the basis of much of the esteem paid him.

Mr. Sharp's farm is in section 16 of Concord Township, and in that one locality he has had his home since he was six months old. He was born in

Found Limestone 33' West
of N.E. Corner, S.E. 1/4 of
Section 23



I hereby certify
survey to be to
best of my
T.J. Berglin

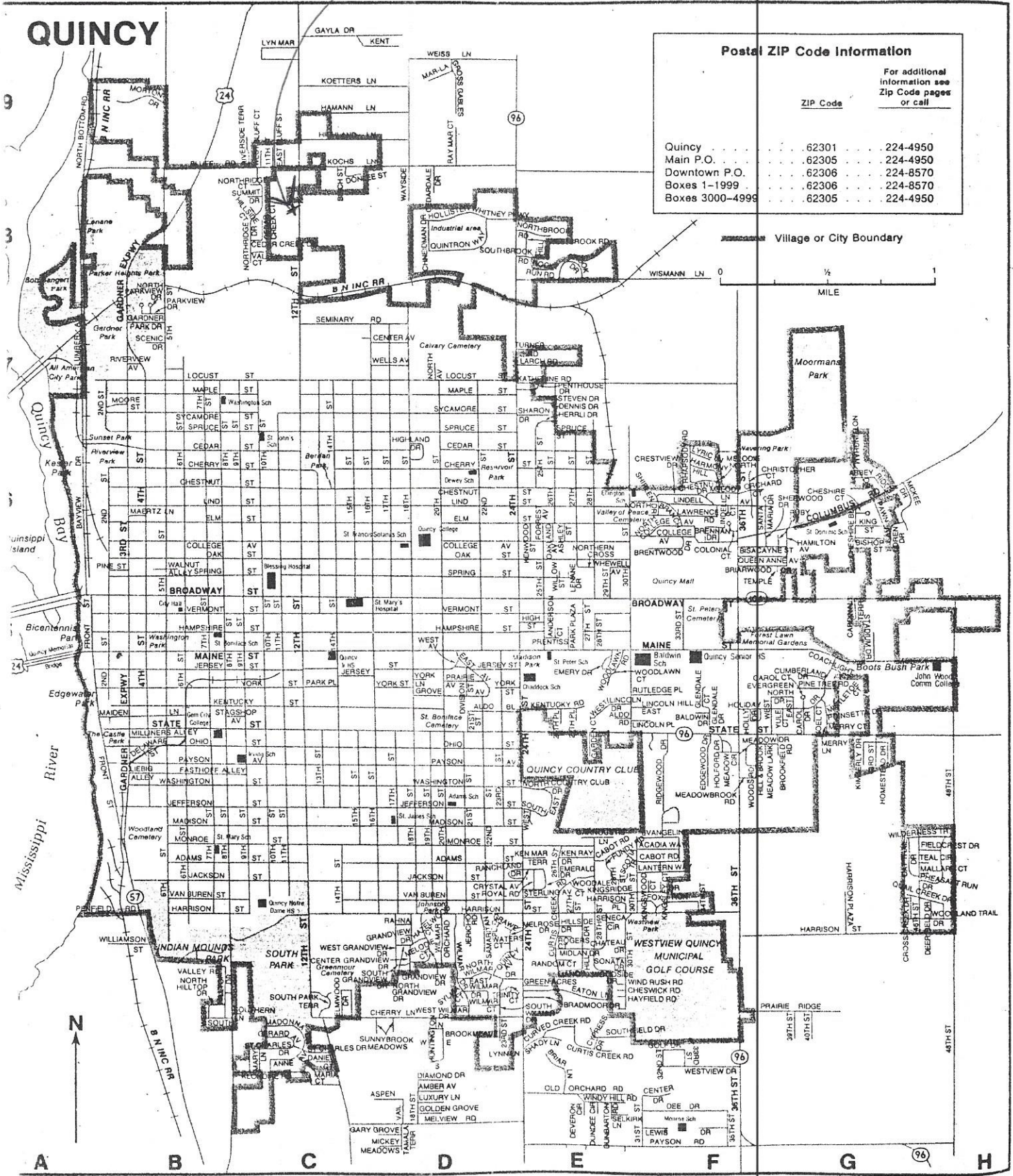
T.J. BERGLIN

PLAT OF S1 OF SECTION ADAMS CO.
T.J. BERGLIN 920 STATE
SURVEYED T.J.B. & R.M. 4-29-86
PREPARED F

Forrest Ramsey Home

QUINCY

Postal ZIP Code Information			
For additional information see Zip Code pages or call			
		ZIP Code	
Quincy	62301	224-4950	
Main P.O.	62305	224-4950	
Downtown P.O.	62306	224-8570	
Boxes 1-1999	62306	224-8570	
Boxes 3000-4999	62305	224-4950	



Village or City Boundary

MILE