

# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION NOTICE OF DENIAL

City of Detroit - Planning & Development Department 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808 Detroit, Michigan 48226

Notification Date: 6/20/2025 Application Number: HDC2025-00183

# APPLICANT & PROPERTY INFORMATION

NAME: Garrity Guenther Langs COMPANY NAME: 700 Seward Detroit LLC

ADDRESS: 700 Seward CITY: Detroit STATE: MI ZIP: 48202

PROJECT ADDRESS: 709 and 719 Seward

**HISTORIC DISTRICT:** New Center Area

#### SCOPE:

- · Demolish the house located at 709 Seward
- Establish a new concrete parking lot at 709-729 Seward, to include the addition of a new curbcut at 711 Seward.
- Enclose the new parking lot with a 6'-0" metal gate

At the Regular Meeting that was held on 06/11/25 , the Detroit Historic District Commission ("DHDC") reviewed the above-referenced application. Pursuant to Section 5(1) and 9(1) of the Michigan Local Historic District Act, as amended, being MCL 399.205 (1), MCL 399.209 (9) and Sections 21-2-78 and 21-2-80 of the 2019 Detroit City Code; the DHDC hereby issues a Denial for the following work, effective on 6/17/2025 , as it will be inappropriate according to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the district's Elements of Design:

#### **REASON FOR DENIAL:**

- The contributing historic building proposed for demolition retains its historic integrity is not deteriorated beyond repair.
- The replacement of a building for new paved parking is not in keeping with the district's general environmental character.

#### **FAILURE TO MEET STANDARDS:**

The Standards for Rehabilitation (codified in 36 CFR 67 for use in the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program) address the most prevalent treatment. "Rehabilitation" is defined as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values."

As stated in the definition, the treatment "rehabilitation" assumes that at least some repair or alteration of the historic building will be needed in order to provide for an efficient contemporary use; however, these repairs and alterations must not damage or destroy materials, features or finishes that are important in defining the building's historic character.

The Standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

Failure to meet standards: 2,5,6,9,10
Corresponding Standard numbered below:

- 1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment
- 2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
- Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
- 4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- 5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
- 6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
- 7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
- 8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
- 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- 10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

# FAILURE TO MEET ELEMENTS OF DESIGN: Failure to meet Elements of Design: 22

Corresponding design element numbered below:

corresponding design element numbered below.				
1. Height.	12. Walls of continuity.			
2. Proportion of building's front façades.	13. Relationship of significant landscape features and surface treatments.			
3. Proportion of openings within the façade.	14. Relationship of open space to structures.			
4. Rhythm of solids to voids in front façade.	15. Scale of façade and façade elements.			
5. Rhythm of spacing of buildings on streets.	16. Directional expression of front elevations.			
6. Rhythm of entrance and/or porch projections.	17. Rhythm of building setbacks.			
7. Relationship of materials.	18. Relationship of lot coverages.			
8. Relationship of textures.	19. Degree of complexity within the façade.			
9. Relationship of colors.	20. Orientation, vistas, overviews.			
10. Relationship of architectural details.	21. Symmetric or asymmetric appearance.			
11. Relationship of roof shapes.	22. General environmental character.			

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact staff at 313-224-1762 or hdc@detroitmi.gov.

For the Commission:

Garrick Landsberg

Director of Staff, Historic District Commission

PSR:Jennifer

250620JR

#### **APPEALS PROCESS**

The application may be resubmitted for the Historic District Commission's review when suggested changes have been made that address the cited reasons for denial, if applicable. Please be advised that, in accordance with MCL 399. 211 and Section 21-2-81 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, an applicant aggrieved by a decision of the DHDC may file an appeal with the State Historic Preservation Review Board. Within sixty (60) days of your receipt of this notice, an appeal may be filed with:

Jon Stuckey, Michigan Department of Attorney General

2nd Floor, G. Mennen Williams Building

525 West Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 30754, Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-335-0665 E-mail: stuckeyj@michigan.gov



# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUEST

City of Detroit - Planning & Development Department 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808 Detroit, Michigan 48226

Date: 04/17/2025 Application Number: HDC2025-00183

# APPLICANT & PROPERTY INFORMATION NAME: Garrity Guenther Langs COMPANY NAME: 700 Seward Detroit LLC ADDRESS: 700 Seward CITY: Detroit STATE: MI ZIP: 48202 PROJECT ADDRESS: 709 and 719 Seward HISTORIC DISTRICT: New Center Area

#### REQUESTED INFORMATION

We have received your application, but it is not yet complete for review. Please provide additional details based on the comments and questions listed below. Should you need to attach additional files per this request, use the paperclip icons at the end of this form. You may attach up to (5) files per icon up to 25MB:

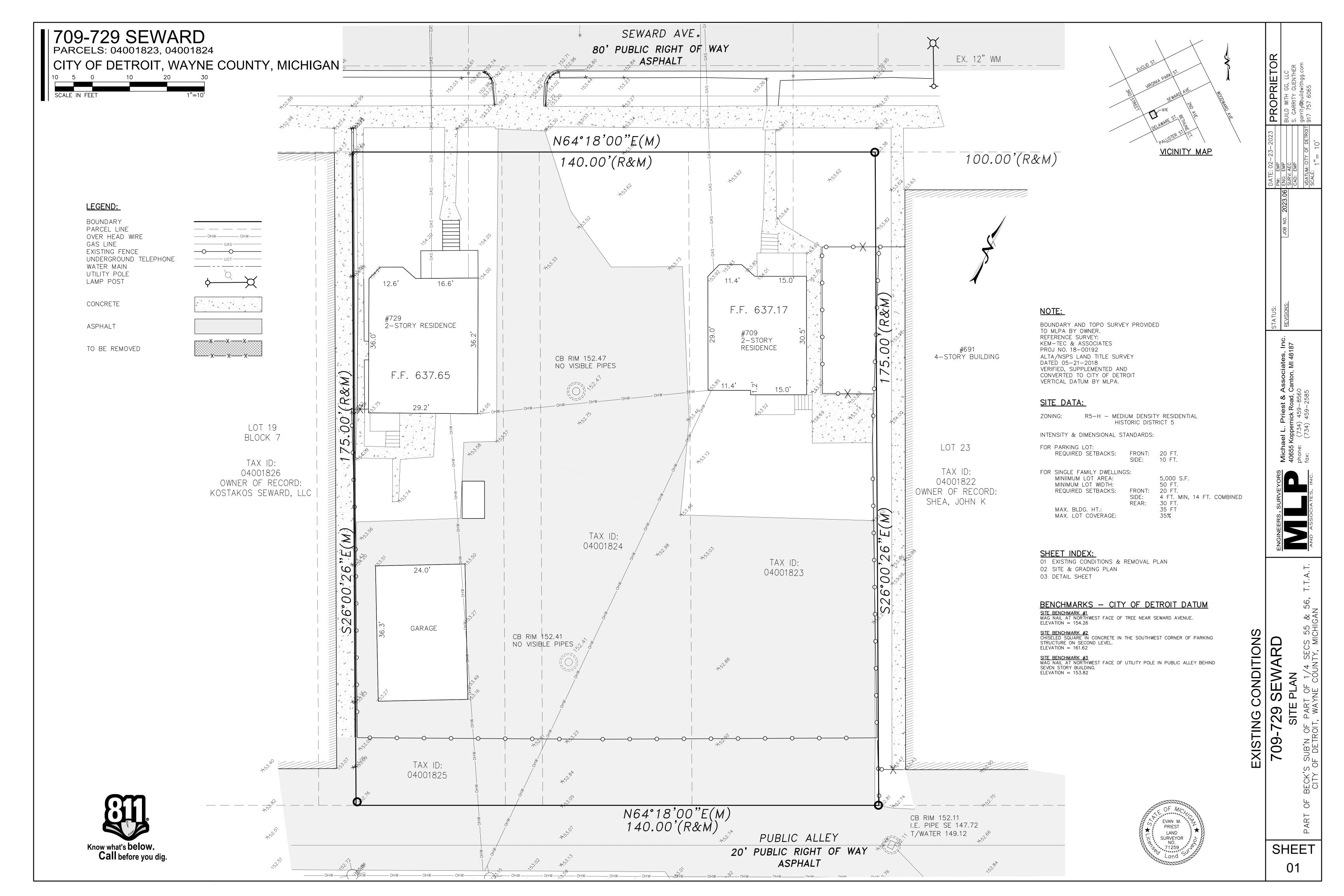
This application is not completed. Please provide the following:

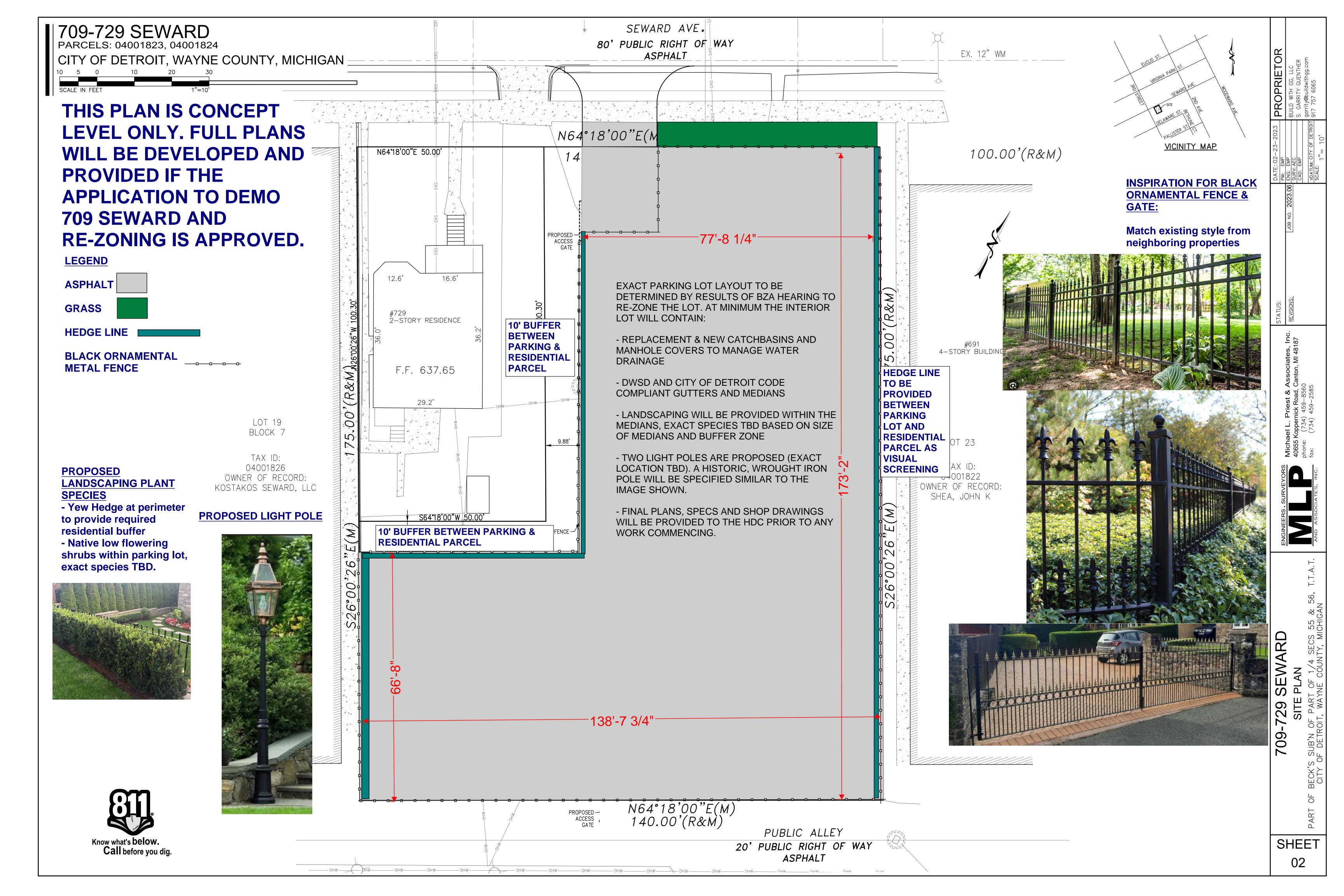
• A site plan with dimensions of proposed parking lot and landscape plan

Thank you!

PSR: 250417LS

Response Date: 05/06/2025	
A concept plan has been provided.	







# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR WORK APPROVAL

City of Detroit - Planning & Development Department 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808 Detroit, Michigan 48226

**APPLICATION ID** 

HDC2025-00183

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PROPERTY INFORMATION								
ADDRESS(ES): 709 and 719 Seward								
HIST	HISTORIC DISTRICT: New Center Area							
SCOPE OF WORK: (Check ALL that apply)								
	Windows/ Doors	Walls/ Siding	Painting	Roof/Gutters/ Chimney	☐ P	orch/Deck/Balcony		Other
X	Demolition	Signage	New Building	Addition	(la	ite Improvements andscape, trees, fence atios, etc.)	S,	
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:  Demolition of existing single family home and re-zone for a parking lot to benefit existing tenants in a high density area of the district.								
APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION  TYPE OF APPLICANT: Property Owner/Homeowner								
NAME: Garrity Guenther Langs			COMPANY NA	<b>ME:</b> 700 Sew	ard Detroit LLC			
ADDRESS: 700 Seward			CITY: Detroit		STATE: MI	<b>ZIP:</b> 48	202	
PHONE: +1 (313) 378-5506			EMAIL: garrity@buildwithgg.com					
IAC	GREE TO ANI	D AFFIRM TH	IE FOLLOW	ING:				
x		t the failure to uplo denied application		documentation ma	ay result in e	extended review	times fo	r my
I understand that the review of this application by the Historic District Commission does not waive my responsibility to comply with any other applicable ordinances including obtaining appropriate permits (building, sign, etc.) or other department approvals prior to beginning the work.								
x	I hereby certify that true and correct.	at I am the legal owr	ner and occupant o	of the subject prope	rty and that th	e information on t	his applic	cation is
	—Signed by:	rrity Guenther Lang	s	700	Seward Detro	it LLC		
		ur langs		4/16/2	2025			
SIG	— D00960D307C94D3 NATURE 700 S6	eward		DATE	Do	etroit	MI	40202
+1 (313) 378-5506				garrity@buildv		IVII	48202	

NOTE: Based on the scope of work, additional documentation may be required. See www/detroitmi.gov/hdc

for scope-specific requirements.

#### PROJECT DETAILS - TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Instructions: Add project details using the text box in each section. If your details exceed the space provided, attach the details via the attachment icon for that section.

#### **ePLANS PERMIT NUMBER:**

(only applicable if you've already applied for permits through ePLANS)

N/A

#### **GENERAL**

#### 1. DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITION

Please tell us about the current appearance and conditions of the areas you want to change. You may use a few sentences or attach a separate prepared document on the right. (For example, "existing roof on my garage is covered in gray asphalt shingles in poor condition.")

Please refer to attached addenda for a full description, aerial photos and sanborn maps.



#### 2. PHOTOGRAPHS

Help us understand your project. Please attach photographs of all areas where work is proposed.



#### 3. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

In this box, tell us about what you want to do at the areas described above in box #1. (For example, Install new asphalt shingle roofing at garage.)

Requesting permission to demolish existing single family home and re-zone the parcel for parking. The adjacent parcel is a old parking lot. We are seeking to combine the two and provide new, safe, well landscaped parking for the residents of the area. Rehabilitating the existing structure is very costly and would not make economic sense given the property values in the area. The PO is requesting demolition due to economic hardship not structural failure.

#### 4. DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK

In this box, please describe all steps necessary to complete the work described in box #3. (For example, "remove existing shingles, replace wood deck as necessary, replace wood eaves, install roof vents, replace rotted fascia boards, paint, clean worksite.")

This application would only include the demolition and approval to re-zone. The future scope of work for the construction of the parking lot would be submitted to HDC for review and approval. The parking lot would comply with all siteline, landscaping, green space and drainage requirements of the City of Detroit and the local HDC.

#### 5. BROCHURES/CUT SHEETS

Please provide information on the products or materials you are proposing to install. For example, a brochure on the brand and color of the shingles proposed.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS	
7. DEMOLITION If demolition is proposed for reasons of structural failure or catastrophic damage, please provide illustrated report from structural engineer or licensed architect.	

#### 700 Seward Detroit LLC

700 Seward, attn Building Management Detroit, MI 48202

3/31/2025

#### **City of Detroit Historic District Commission**

2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808 Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Demolition of 709 Seward & Construction of New Parking Lot

Dear Historic District Commissioners,

700 Seward Detroit LLC, the owner of 700 Seward, 709 Seward, 719 Seward and 729 Seward, is seeking to demolish the existing single family residential house located at 719 Seward in order to combine 709 & 719 Seward and create a larger parking lot with historic district appropriate landscaping, fencing and lighting. 700 Seward Detroit LLC has owned these parcels since 2018 and has recently completed rehabilitation of 700 Seward (132 units) and 729 Seward (single occupancy).

It is estimated that the rehabilitation of 709 Seward would cost \$250,000 - \$325,000 based on the total cost-at-completion of the rehabilitation of 729 Seward, a property of the same size and original era of construction. 700 Seward Detroit LLC is seeking approval to demolish the structure at 709 Seward due to the overwhelming cost of construction compared to the economic value of the property at completion.

Through the operation of 700 Seward, we have discovered a dire need for safe and secure parking for residents of the various high occupancy buildings along this section of Seward. Tenants of the various buildings on this section of Seward have reported a high volume of car thefts and violent attempted car thefts for tenants and visitors that park on the street. The other parking lots in the area are secured with rolling gates, fences, cameras and lighting and do not experience the same volume of thefts/attempted thefts.

The construction of a secure and attractive surface parking lot would benefit residents and visitors of 700 Seward as well as 741 Seward (the Deborah), 691 Seward (New Center Court Apartments). If this application to demolish 709 Seward is accepted, 700 Seward Detroit LLC will seek re-zoning and combination of the two parcels prior to filing a follow-up

application for the construction of the new parking lot. It is the intent of 700 Seward Detroit LLC to work closely with the HDC to ensure all plantings, fencing and layouts are compliant with the standards of the HDC. No work will proceed to any of the subject parcels without the express permission and approval of the Historic District Commission, City of Detroit PDD and BSEED.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for information. We can be reached via email at <a href="mailto:garrity@buildwithgg.com">garrity@buildwithgg.com</a> or phone at 313-378-5506.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Digitally signed by Sarah Garrity
Guenther
DN: C-US,
E-Fagriny's buildwirthigs com,
Guenther O-Plaula with GS, LLC.,
OUL-Plaula with GS, LLC.,
OUL-Plaula with GS, LLC.,
Guenther
Reason: garrity
Jane: 20250.4.16 1822-20-04000

Garrity Guenther
Agent of 700 Seward Detroit LLC

#### **Parcel Information & Historic Use**

Parcel 04001823 – 709 Seward – Existing vacant residential house – Prior use as housing by Pan-African Orthodox Christian Church from 1960s-2018 when the property sold to 700 Seward Detroit LLC. There is evidence that several homes were built on the same parcels in 1906, three homes appear on aerial photographs through 1956.

Parcel 04001824 – 719 Seward – Existing parking lot (date of creation unknown, possibly in the 1950s as the house no longer appears on aerial photos and Sanborn maps).

#### **Description of Existing Conditions**

Parcel 040001823 - The existing house has been vacant for an undetermined period of time. It was vacant in 2018 when the property was purchased by this owner. The home has incurred two main sources of damage. The roof structure has been damaged and requires replacement of the roof trusses as well as the roof itself. There are signs of a sewer backup in the basement as well as resulting water and mold damage. The foundation is cracked in multiple places and requires new waterproofing. It appear the original wood windows are intact. The original kitchen and flooring appears to have been replaced by the prior owner. A VCT flooring is in place potentially containing asbestos materials.

Parcel 040001824 – The existing parking lot is in poor condition with little to no grading or proper drainage. The existing catch basins are set at too high of an elevation to be effective. There is little to no landscaping.

#### **Description of Project**

Demolish existing single family home at 709 Seward. Procure approval of the HDC to seek rezoning of parcel 040001823 to allow for a parking lot. Once zoning is established, submit a new application to HDC that covers the construction of the larger parking lot pursuant to all City of Detroit rules, codes and regulations.

Docusign Envelope ID: 599697CF-344A-45AE-A22B-9FB47BD15128

Historic Photographs & Aerial Maps

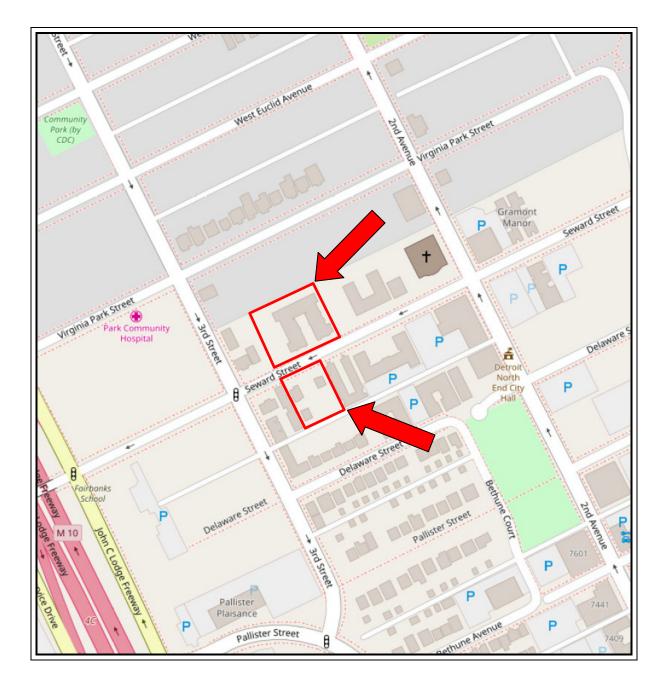


Figure 1
Site Location Map



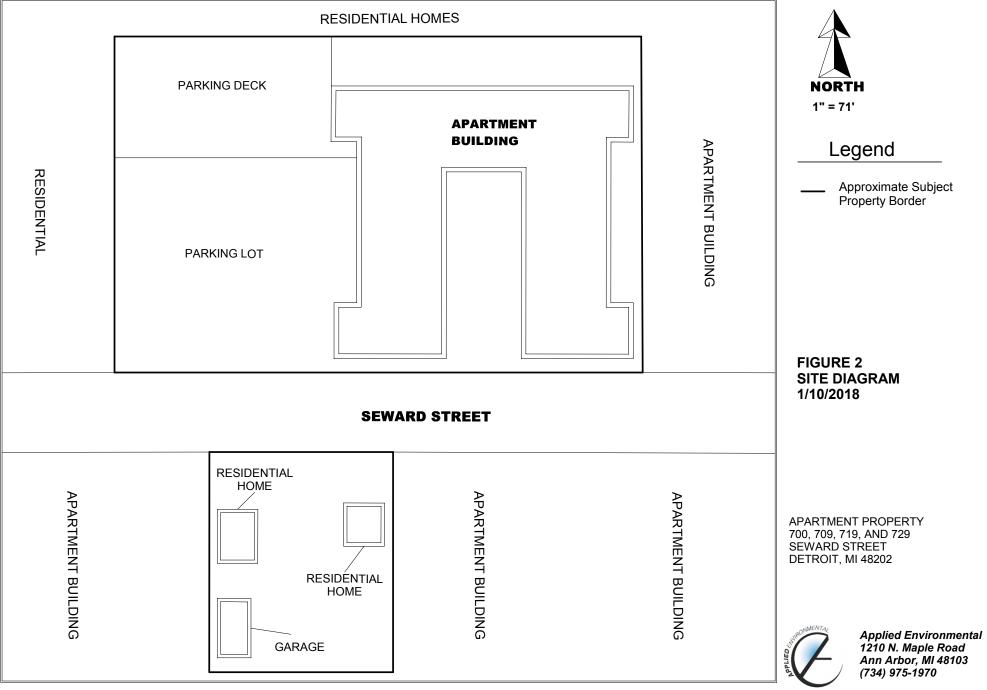
Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Unknown

**Source: Bing Maps** 



18-3007PI - SITE DIAGRAM



Figure 3 2016 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 4 1973 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 5 1956 Aerial Photograph



APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL

1210 North Maple Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 975-1970 Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 6 1937 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'

#### **Certified Sanborn® Map Report**

01/03/18

Site Name: Client Name:

700 Seward Street Applied Env., Inc.
700 Seward Street 1210 North Maple Road
Detroit, MI 48202 Ann Arbor, MI 48103-0000
EDR Inquiry # 5149320.1 Contact: Allison Wysocki



The Sanborn Library has been searched by EDR and maps covering the target property location as provided by Applied Env., Inc. were identified for the years listed below. The Sanborn Library is the largest, most complete collection of fire insurance maps. The collection includes maps from Sanborn, Bromley, Perris & Browne, Hopkins, Barlow, and others. Only Environmental Data Resources Inc. (EDR) is authorized to grant rights for commercial reproduction of maps by the Sanborn Library LLC, the copyright holder for the collection. Results can be authenticated by visiting www.edrnet.com/sanborn.

The Sanborn Library is continually enhanced with newly identified map archives. This report accesses all maps in the collection as of the day this report was generated.

#### Certified Sanborn Results:

Certification # 4DCE-402E-B9B3

**PO #** 18-3007PI

Project 700 Seward Street

#### Maps Provided:

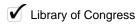
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1996	1925
1991	1915
1989	1910
1977	
1961	
1957	
1952	



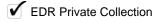
Sanborn® Library search results

Certification #: 4DCE-402E-B9B3

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page 2

#### Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 2002 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 2002



Volume 9, Sheet 82 2002



Volume 9, Sheet 83 2002

#### 1996 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1996



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1996



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1996

#### 1991 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1991



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1991



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1991

#### 1989 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1989



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1989



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1989

#### Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 1977 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 84 1977



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1977

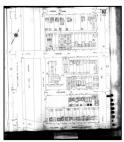


Volume 9, Sheet 82 1977

#### 1961 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1961



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1961



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1961

#### 1957 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1957



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1957



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1957

#### 1952 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1952



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1952



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1952

#### Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 1950 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1950



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1950



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1950

#### 1925 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1925



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1925



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1925

#### 1915 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 33 1915



Volume 9, Sheet 34 1915



Volume 9, Sheet 39 1915

#### 1910 Source Sheets



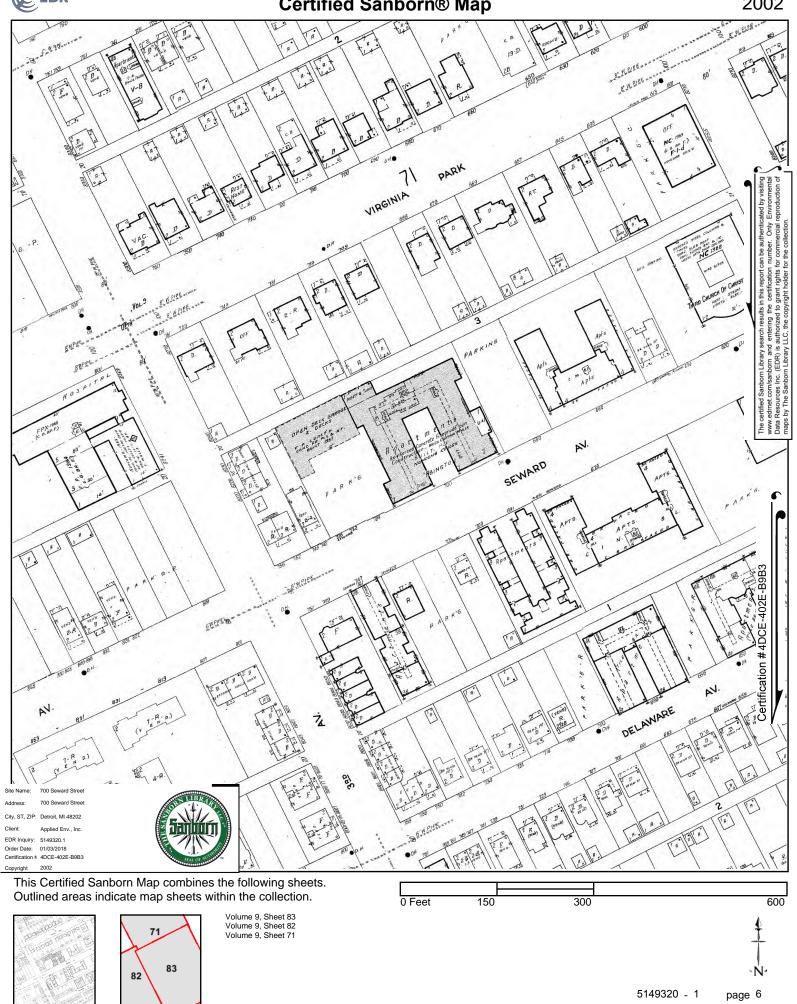
Volume 6, Sheet 2 1910



Volume 6, Sheet 7 1910



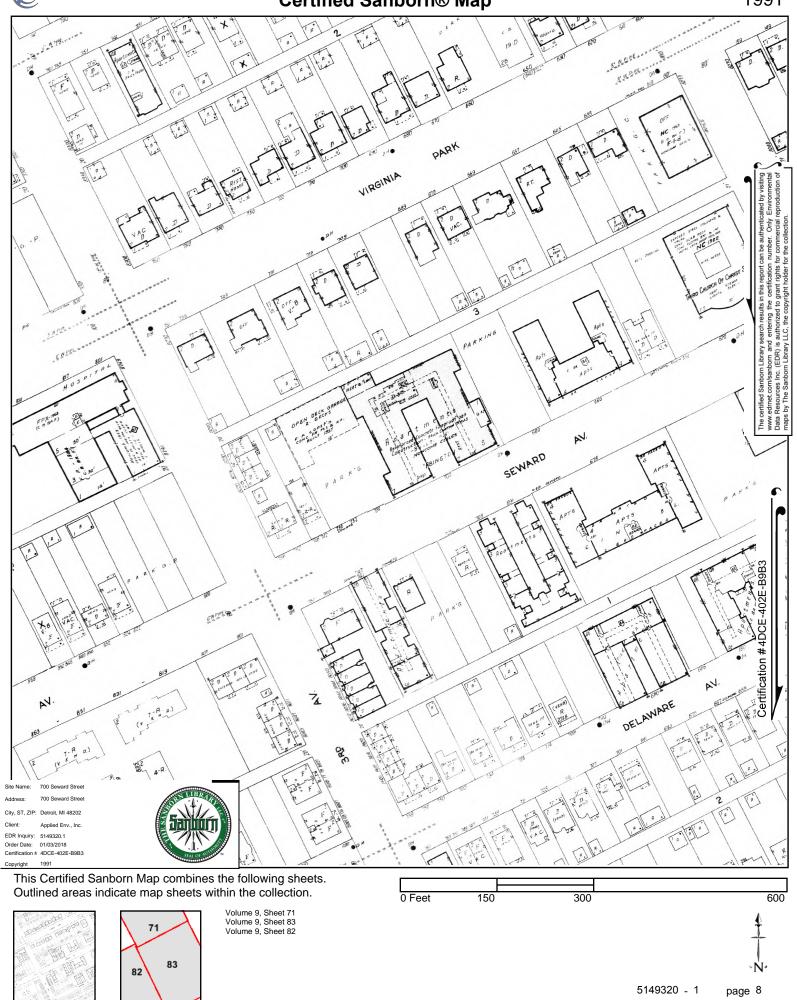
Volume 6, Sheet 9 1910

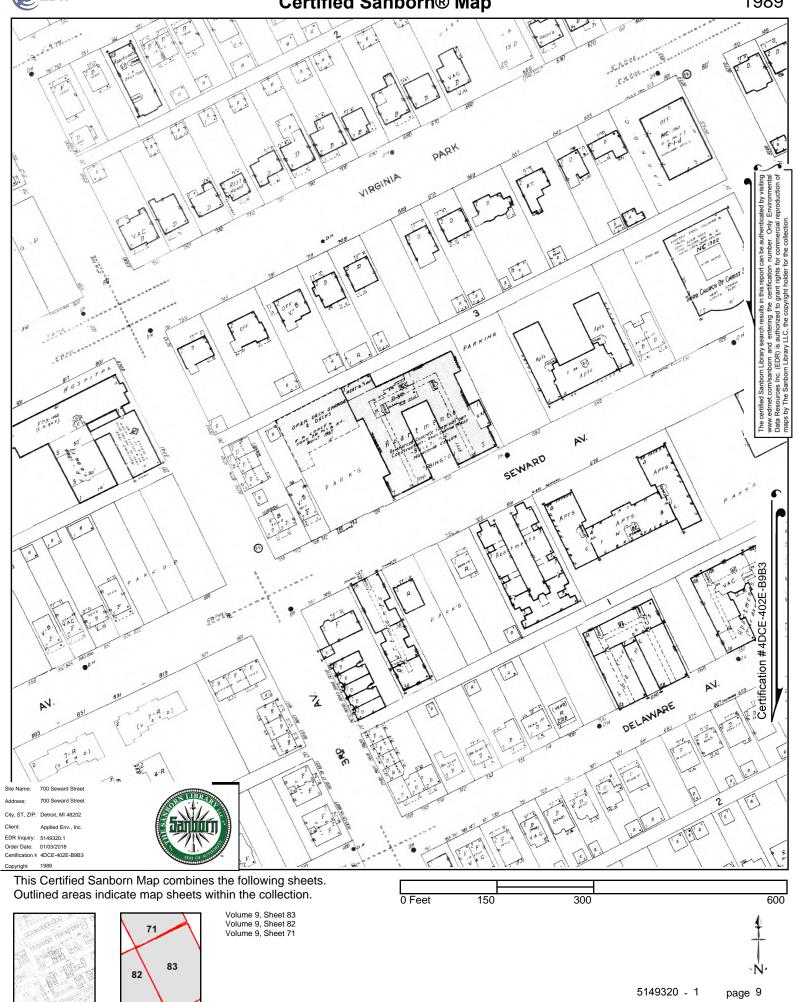


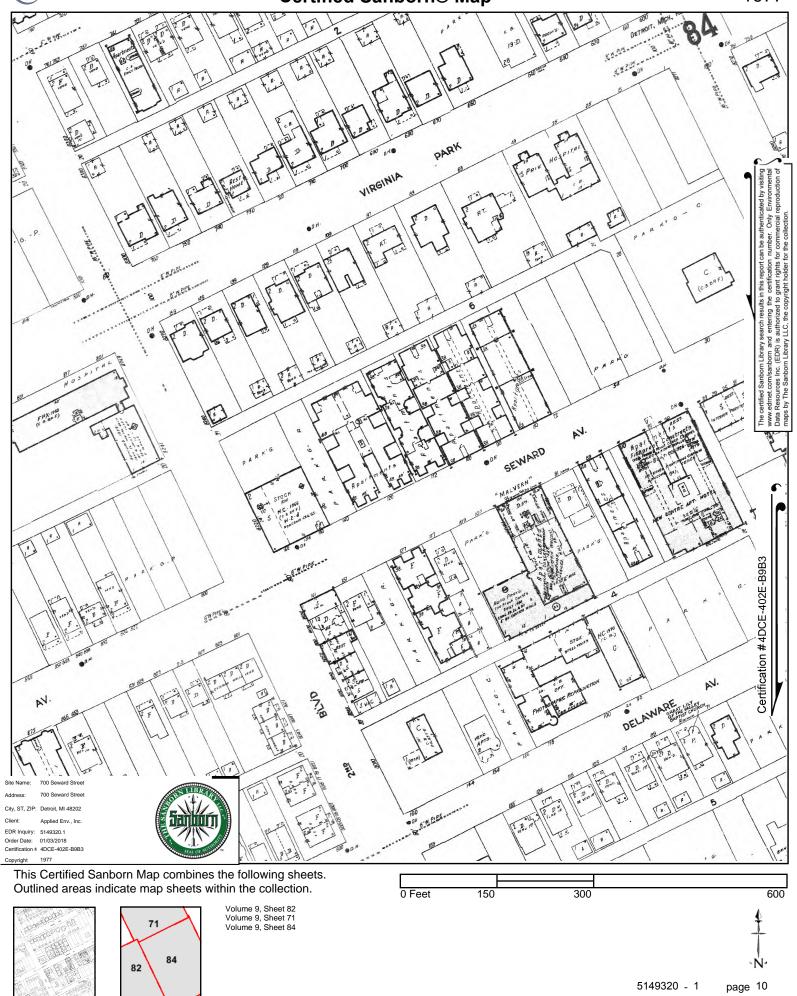
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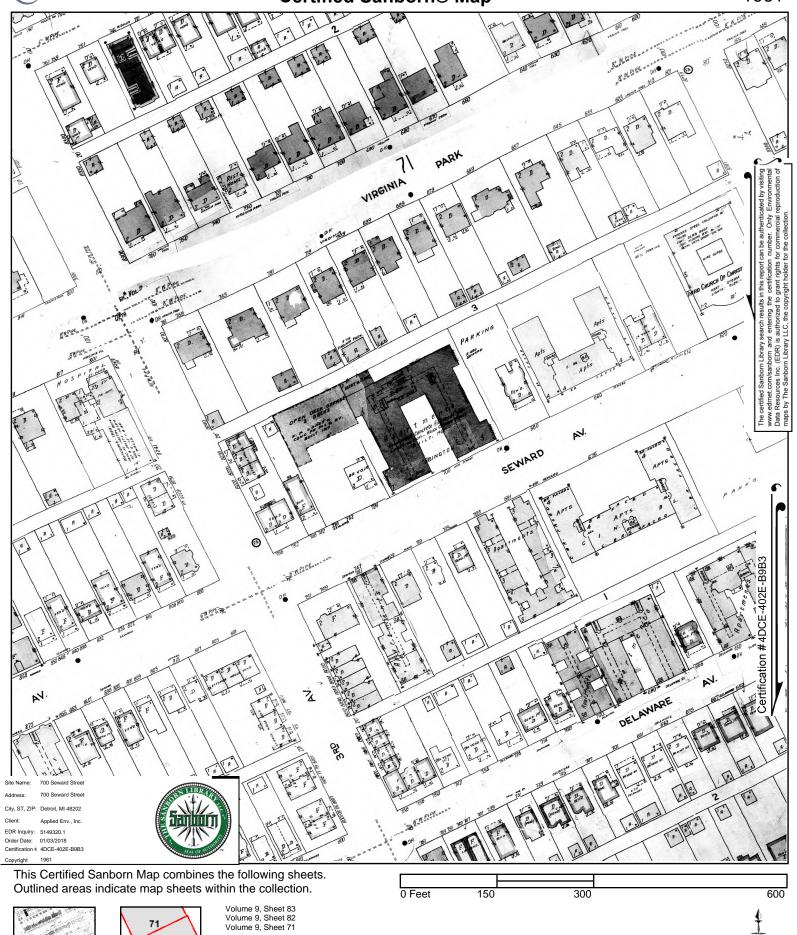
page 7





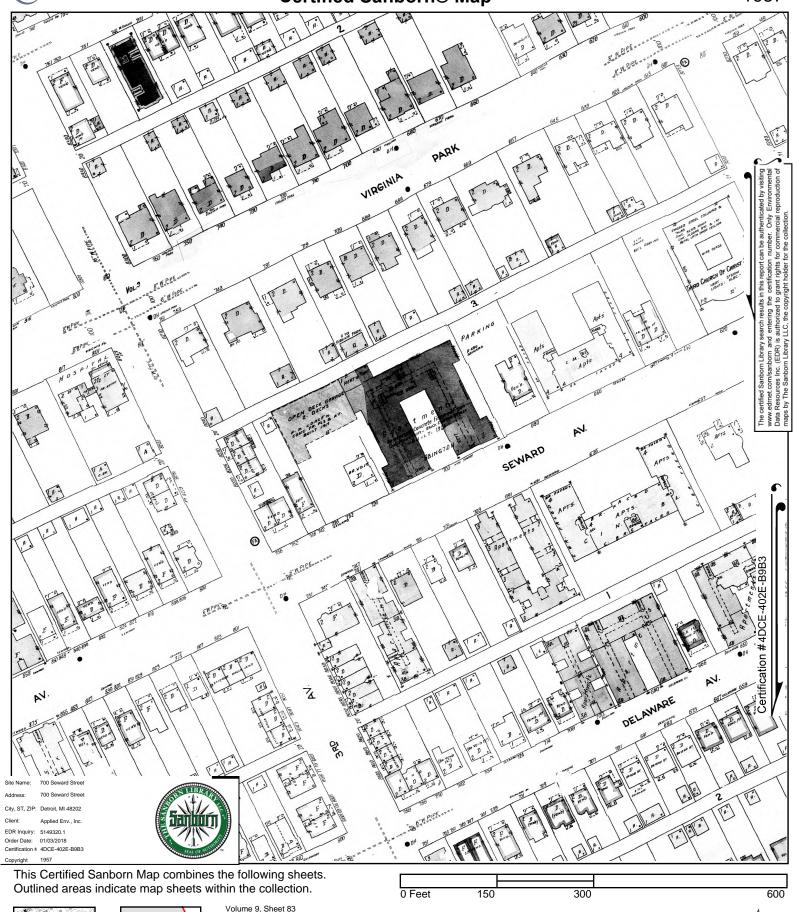








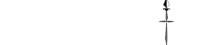






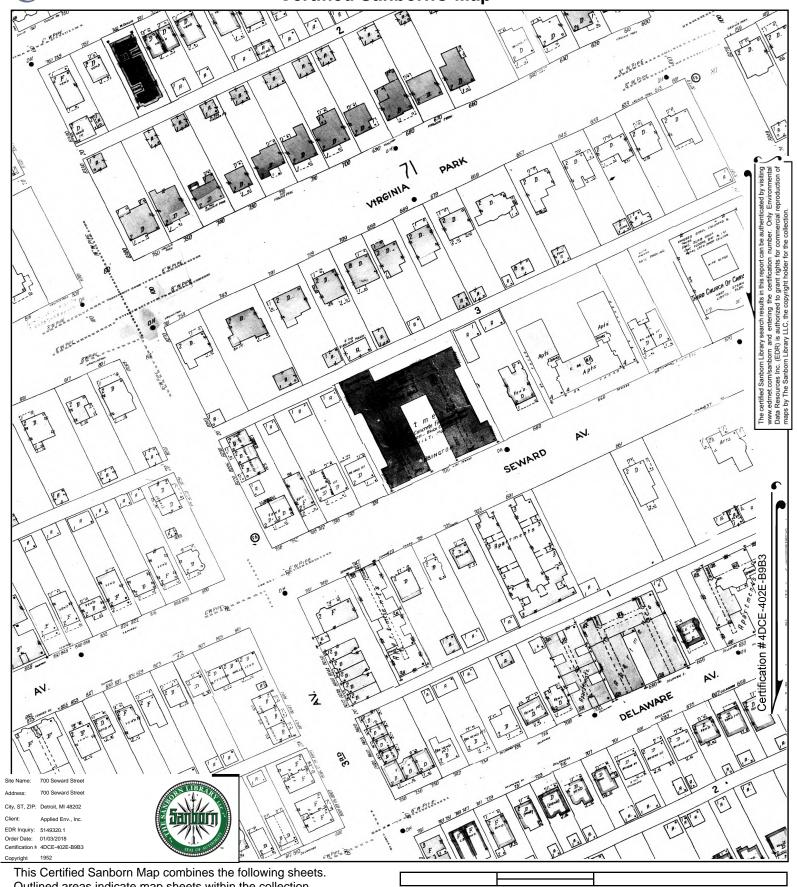


Volume 9, Sheet 83 Volume 9, Sheet 82 Volume 9, Sheet 71



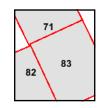
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page 12

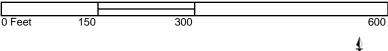


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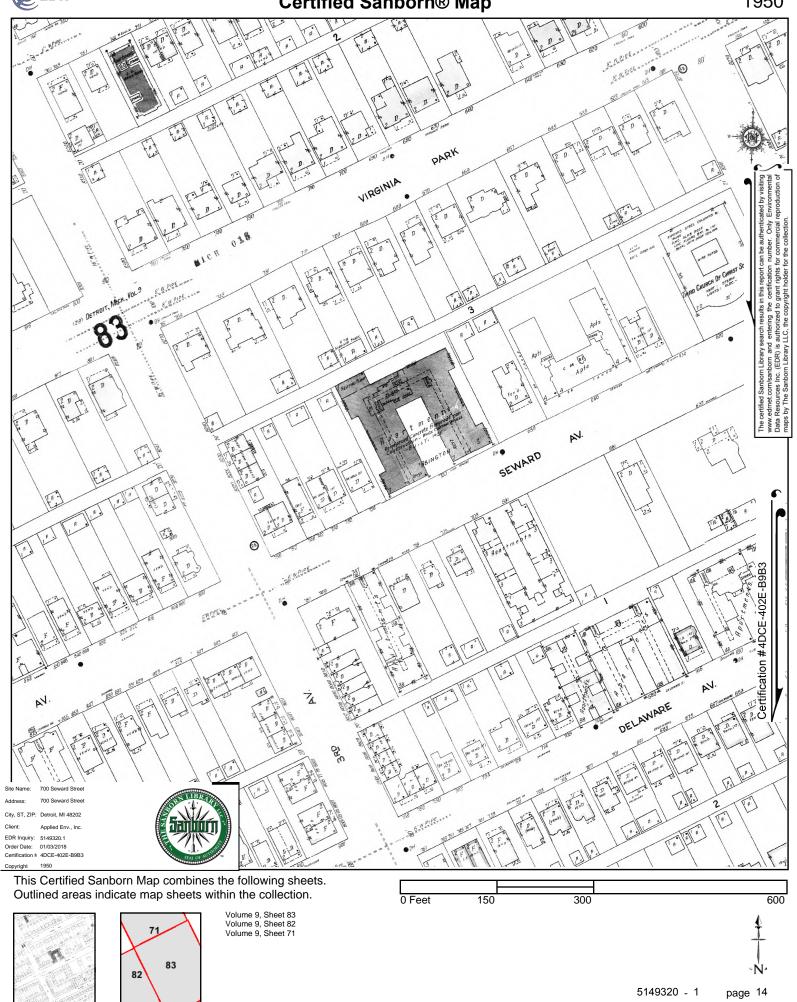


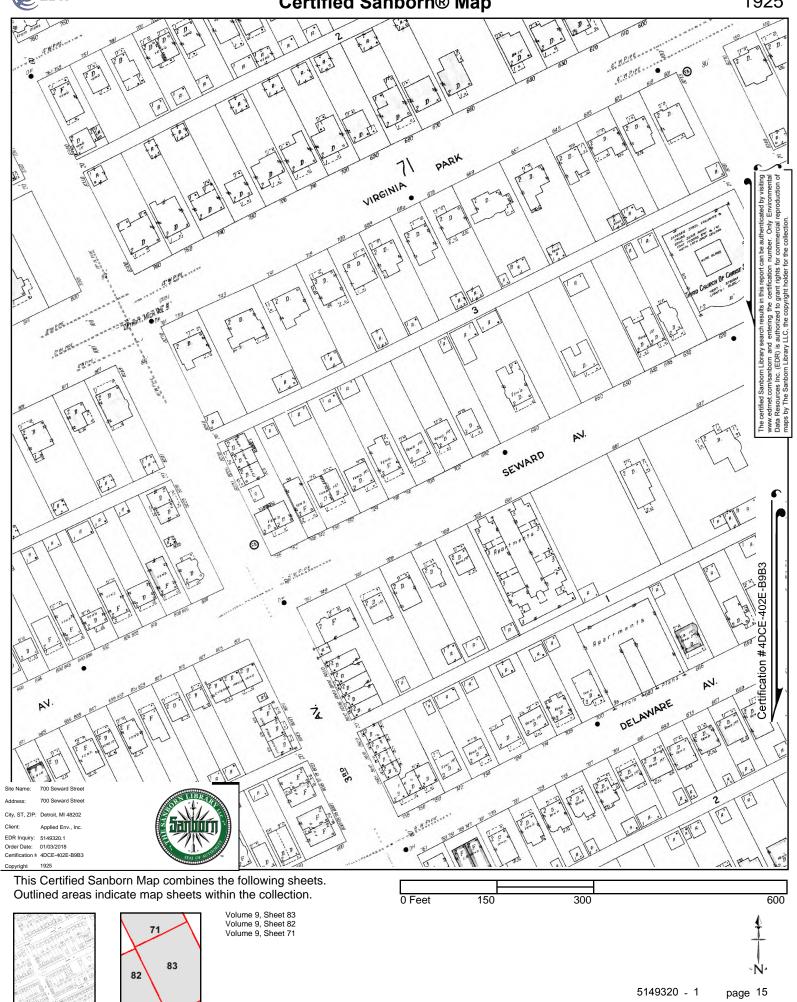


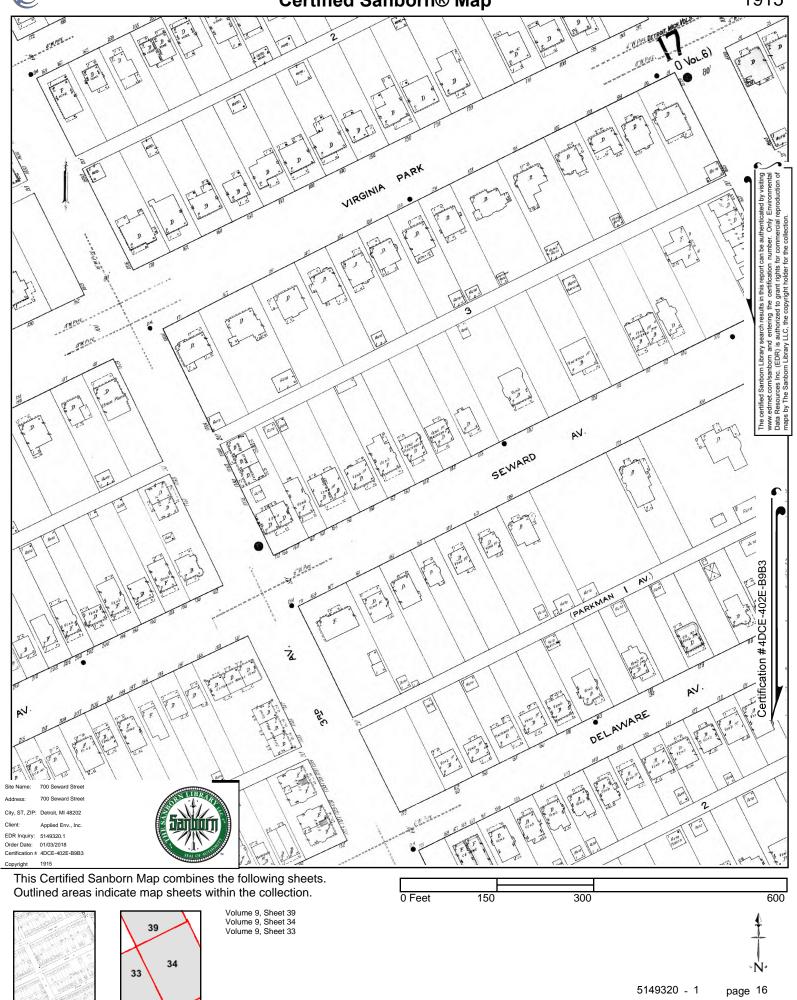
Volume 9, Sheet 83 Volume 9, Sheet 82 Volume 9, Sheet 71

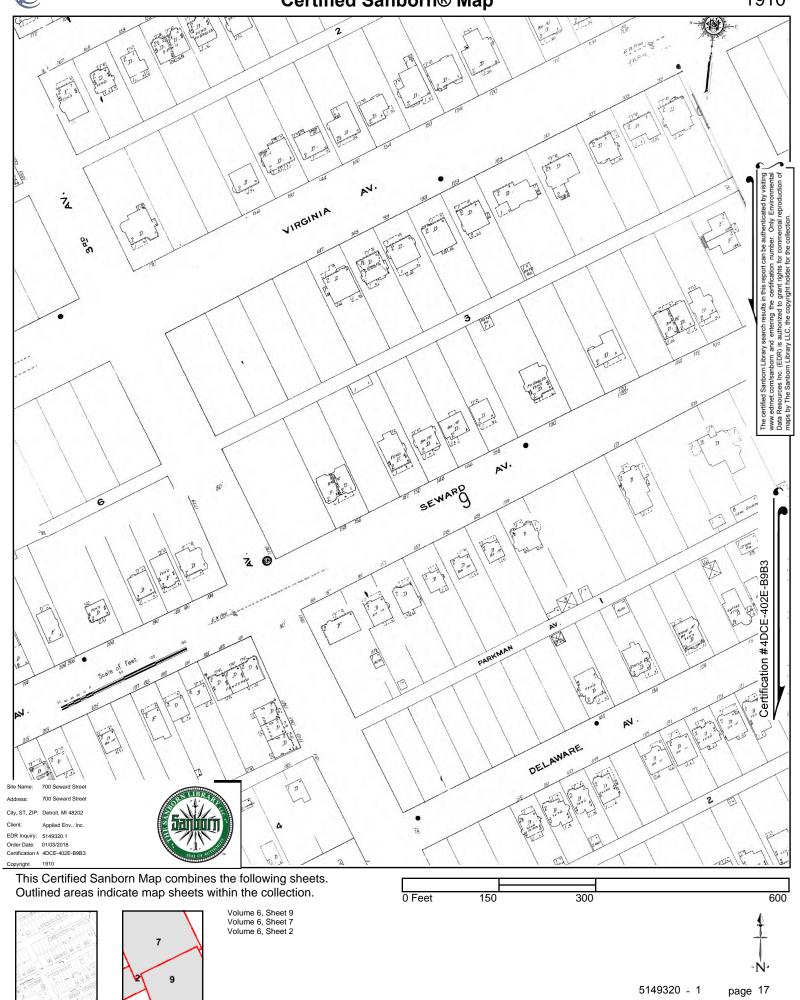






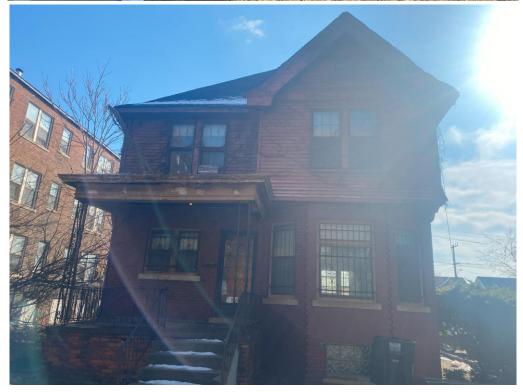






# **Current Photographs**



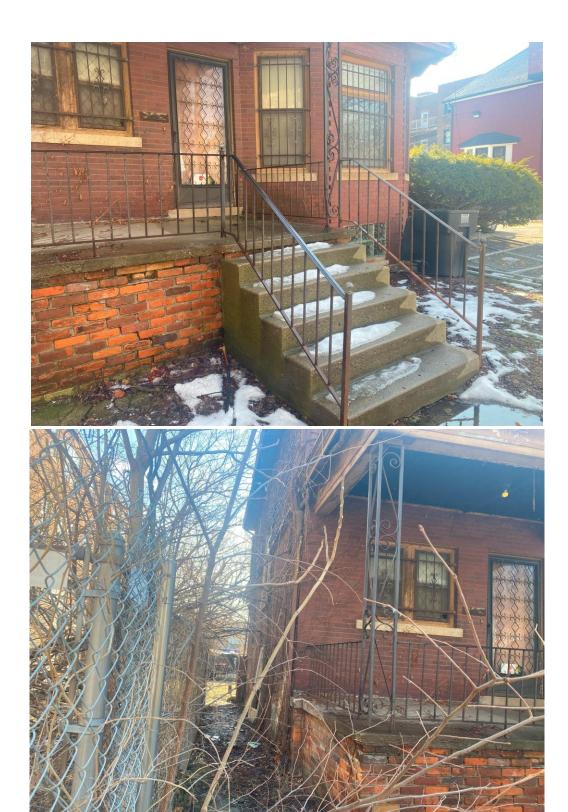














## **Economics of Demolition vs. Rehabilitation**

#### Economic Data

1. 709 Seward was purchased as a part of 700 Seward for a lump sum value. All properties owned by the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church were sold in a lump sum cash deal. The cost of 709 Seward's acquisition was not broken out by the seller or the buyer. The parcel was purchased on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 from the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church. The Owner of Record is 700 Seward Detroit. The applicant is Garrity Guenther Langs, the Owner's hired local representative. There is no relationship between the Owner of Record and the prior owner beyond the sale of the property. There is no relationship between the Applicant and the prior owner.

Annual gross and net income: this property is not occupiable and generates no income.

There is no balance on a mortgage or other financing secured for the property.

Real Estate Taxes for previous 4 years

2021 Real Estate Taxes - info not on file

2022 Real Estate Taxes – info not on file

2023 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,633.90

2024 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,772.90

2025 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,862.90

<u>Assessed Value for previous 4 years</u>

2021 Assessed Value – info not on file

2022 Assessed Value – info not on file

2023 Assessed Value – \$70,700

2024 Assessed Value - \$108,000

2025 Assessed Value – 132,100

No appraisals have been obtained for this property.

This property is owned by 700 Seward Detroit LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Corporation.

- 2. The property is not in sellable or rentable condition, there is no listing of this property online.
- 3. Feasibility of alternative uses for the property that could generate a reasonable economic return:

The alternative use for this property would be to rehabilitate the existing building and either sell or rent that property. Estimates for the rehabilitation of this property range from \$550-\$650,000. The income from a future rent or sale of the property do not justify that level of investment.

## Estimated Market Values

- a. In current condition \$132,100 (per tax assessors office)
- After completion of the proposed demolition \$10,000 (prior to construction as a new parking lot, this figure is per the tax assessors office assessment of 719 Seward)
- c. After renovation of the existing property for continued use (if rehabilitated as a single family home) Based on sales comparable completed in the past 12 months within a 3 block radius, the property market value could be between \$95,000 and \$200,000.

## 709 Seward - Historic Home Rehabilitation

Preliminary Cost Estimate
Prepared 4/16/2025



# **Build with GG, LLC**

2990 W Grand Blvd, Suite M21 Detroit, MI 48202 313-378-5506

Total Hard Costs\$ 643,362.72Total Soft Costs\$ 37,433.63Grand Total Development Costs\$ 680,796.35

#### HARD COST BUDGET

HARD COST BUDGET			
Trade Description	Budget		Notes
Demolition	\$	18,500.00	
Temp Roof Protection	\$	7 500 00	the existing roof is damaged structurally and the wood framing needs replacement. A temp roof will be required during
Tomp neer recession	Ψ	7,000.00	construction to further protect the house.
Abatement	\$	12,500.00	
Foundation Repair	\$	8,500.00	existing foundation is cracked in two locations
Masonry Restoration	\$	26,000.00	
Rough Carpentry - Interior	\$	32,000.00	
Rough Carpentry - Roof Replacement	\$	55,000.00	
Roofing	\$	16,000.00	
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Window Opening Flashing	\$	6,500.00	the existing windows have no flashing which would expose the house to further damage.
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Painting - Exterior	\$	25,000.00	exterior paint color to be within HDC standard for this district
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Mechanical	\$	45,000.00	
Flooring	\$	32,000.00	
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General Conditions	\$	54,600.00	
Fee	\$	24,024.00	
Insurance	\$	18,738.72	
GRAND TOTAL	\$	643,362.72	

## SOFT COST BUDGET

Trade Description	Buc	dget	Notes
Architect Fee	\$	15,000.00	
MEP Fee	\$	3,500.00	
Structural Fee	\$	3,500.00	
Landscaping Fee	\$	1,500.00	
City of Detroit Permitting	\$	6,433.63	
Utility Costs	\$	7,500.00	
GRAND TOTAL	\$	37,433.63	

# Seward SFH Comps (April 2024 - April 2025)

Address	Beds	Baths	Size	Og List	List	Close	\$/ft	DOM
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#### 700 Seward Detroit LLC

700 Seward, attn Building Management Detroit, MI 48202

3/31/2025

# **City of Detroit Historic District Commission**

2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808 Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Demolition of 709 Seward & Construction of New Parking Lot

Dear Historic District Commissioners,

700 Seward Detroit LLC, the owner of 700 Seward, 709 Seward, 719 Seward and 729 Seward, is seeking to demolish the existing single family residential house located at 719 Seward in order to combine 709 & 719 Seward and create a larger parking lot with historic district appropriate landscaping, fencing and lighting. 700 Seward Detroit LLC has owned these parcels since 2018 and has recently completed rehabilitation of 700 Seward (132 units) and 729 Seward (single occupancy).

It is estimated that the rehabilitation of 709 Seward would cost \$250,000 - \$325,000 based on the total cost-at-completion of the rehabilitation of 729 Seward, a property of the same size and original era of construction. 700 Seward Detroit LLC is seeking approval to demolish the structure at 709 Seward due to the overwhelming cost of construction compared to the economic value of the property at completion.

Through the operation of 700 Seward, we have discovered a dire need for safe and secure parking for residents of the various high occupancy buildings along this section of Seward. Tenants of the various buildings on this section of Seward have reported a high volume of car thefts and violent attempted car thefts for tenants and visitors that park on the street. The other parking lots in the area are secured with rolling gates, fences, cameras and lighting and do not experience the same volume of thefts/attempted thefts.

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application for the construction of the new parking lot. It is the intent of 700 Seward Detroit LLC to work closely with the HDC to ensure all plantings, fencing and layouts are compliant with the standards of the HDC. No work will proceed to any of the subject parcels without the express permission and approval of the Historic District Commission, City of Detroit PDD and BSEED.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for information. We can be reached via email at <a href="mailto:garrity@buildwithgg.com">garrity@buildwithgg.com</a> or phone at 313-378-5506.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Digitally signed by Sarah Garrity
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Garrity Guenther
Agent of 700 Seward Detroit LLC

#### **Parcel Information & Historic Use**

Parcel 04001823 – 709 Seward – Existing vacant residential house – Prior use as housing by Pan-African Orthodox Christian Church from 1960s-2018 when the property sold to 700 Seward Detroit LLC. There is evidence that several homes were built on the same parcels in 1906, three homes appear on aerial photographs through 1956.

Parcel 04001824 – 719 Seward – Existing parking lot (date of creation unknown, possibly in the 1950s as the house no longer appears on aerial photos and Sanborn maps).

# **Description of Existing Conditions**

Parcel 040001823 - The existing house has been vacant for an undetermined period of time. It was vacant in 2018 when the property was purchased by this owner. The home has incurred two main sources of damage. The roof structure has been damaged and requires replacement of the roof trusses as well as the roof itself. There are signs of a sewer backup in the basement as well as resulting water and mold damage. The foundation is cracked in multiple places and requires new waterproofing. It appear the original wood windows are intact. The original kitchen and flooring appears to have been replaced by the prior owner. A VCT flooring is in place potentially containing asbestos materials.

Parcel 040001824 – The existing parking lot is in poor condition with little to no grading or proper drainage. The existing catch basins are set at too high of an elevation to be effective. There is little to no landscaping.

# **Description of Project**

Demolish existing single family home at 709 Seward. Procure approval of the HDC to seek rezoning of parcel 040001823 to allow for a parking lot. Once zoning is established, submit a new application to HDC that covers the construction of the larger parking lot pursuant to all City of Detroit rules, codes and regulations.

Docusign Envelope ID: 599697CF-344A-45AE-A22B-9FB47BD15128

Historic Photographs & Aerial Maps

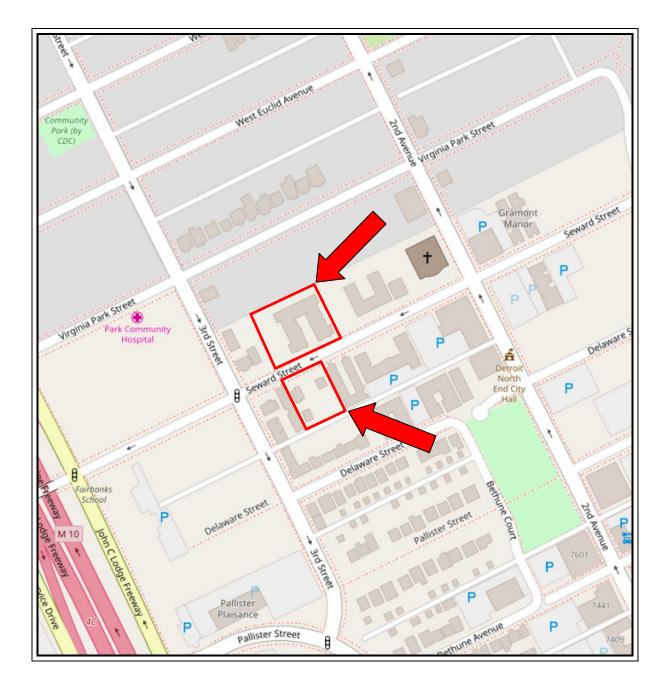


Figure 1
Site Location Map



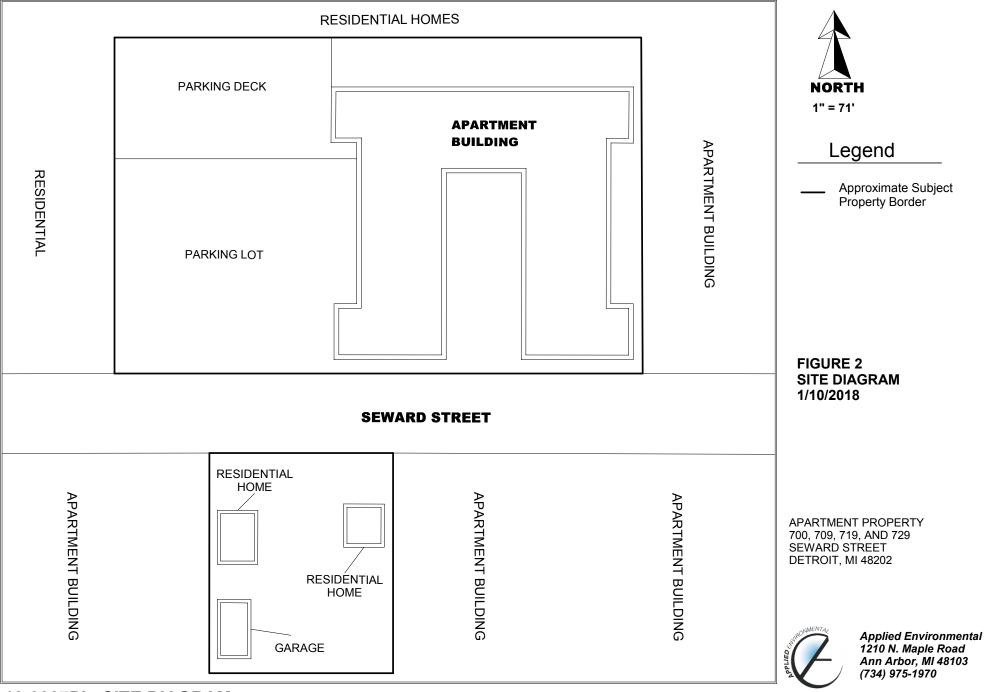
Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Unknown

**Source: Bing Maps** 



18-3007PI - SITE DIAGRAM



Figure 3 2016 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 4 1973 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 5 1956 Aerial Photograph



APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL

1210 North Maple Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 975-1970 Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 6 1937 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'

# Certified Sanborn® Map Report

01/03/18

Site Name: Client Name:

700 Seward Street Applied Env., Inc.
700 Seward Street 1210 North Maple Road
Detroit, MI 48202 Ann Arbor, MI 48103-0000
EDR Inquiry # 5149320.1 Contact: Allison Wysocki



The Sanborn Library has been searched by EDR and maps covering the target property location as provided by Applied Env., Inc. were identified for the years listed below. The Sanborn Library is the largest, most complete collection of fire insurance maps. The collection includes maps from Sanborn, Bromley, Perris & Browne, Hopkins, Barlow, and others. Only Environmental Data Resources Inc. (EDR) is authorized to grant rights for commercial reproduction of maps by the Sanborn Library LLC, the copyright holder for the collection. Results can be authenticated by visiting www.edrnet.com/sanborn.

The Sanborn Library is continually enhanced with newly identified map archives. This report accesses all maps in the collection as of the day this report was generated.

#### Certified Sanborn Results:

Certification # 4DCE-402E-B9B3

**PO #** 18-3007PI

Project 700 Seward Street

## Maps Provided:

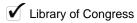
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1996	1925
1991	1915
1989	1910
1977	
1961	
1957	
1952	



Sanborn® Library search results

Certification #: 4DCE-402E-B9B3

The Sanborn Library includes more than 1.2 million fire insurance maps from Sanborn, Bromley, Perris & Browne, Hopkins, Barlow and others which track historical property usage in approximately 12,000 American cities and towns. Collections searched:







The Sanborn Library LLC Since 1866™

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page 2

## Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 2002 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 2002



Volume 9, Sheet 82 2002



Volume 9, Sheet 83 2002

### 1996 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1996



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1996



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1996

## 1991 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1991



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1991



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1991

### 1989 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1989



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1989



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1989

# Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 1977 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 84 1977



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1977



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1977

#### 1961 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1961



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1961



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1961

## 1957 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1957



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1957



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1957

### 1952 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1952



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1952



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1952

### Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 1950 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1950



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1950



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1950

### 1925 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1925



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1925



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1925

## 1915 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 33 1915



Volume 9, Sheet 34 1915



Volume 9, Sheet 39 1915

### 1910 Source Sheets



Volume 6, Sheet 2 1910



Volume 6, Sheet 7 1910



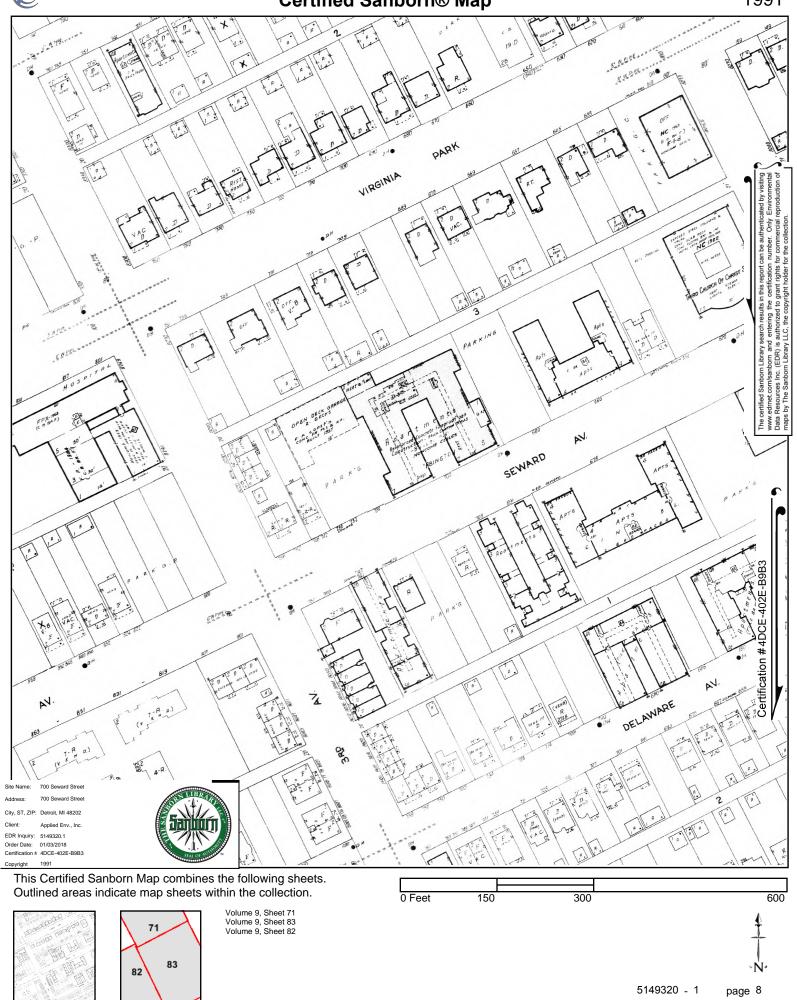
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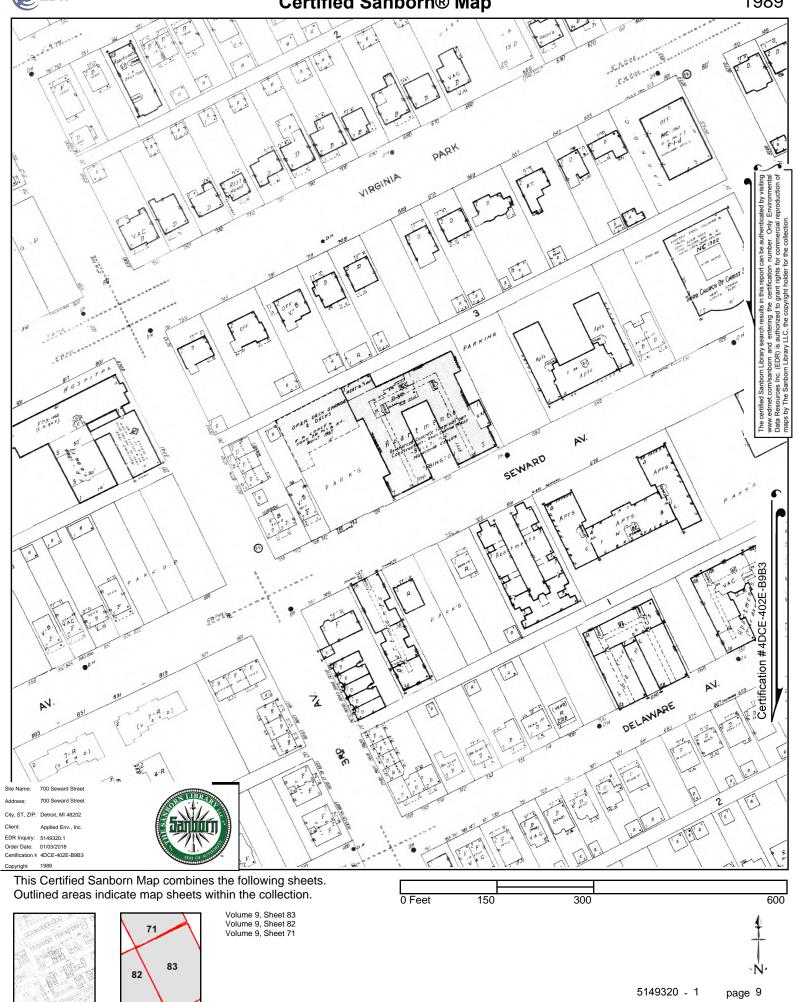


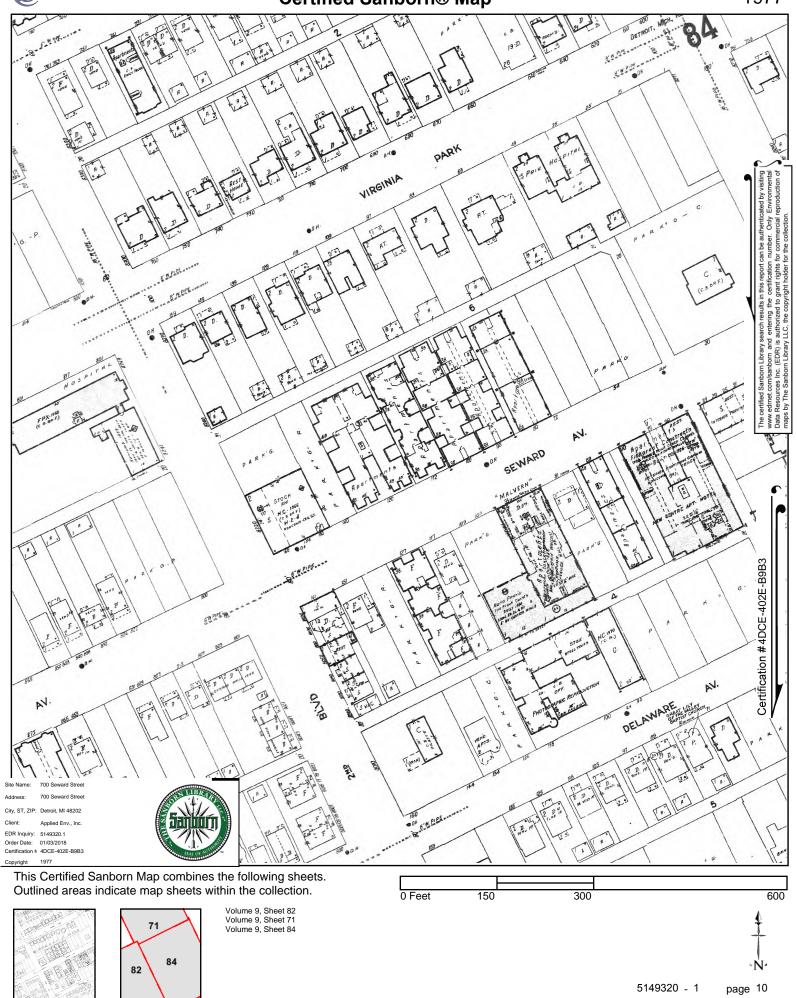
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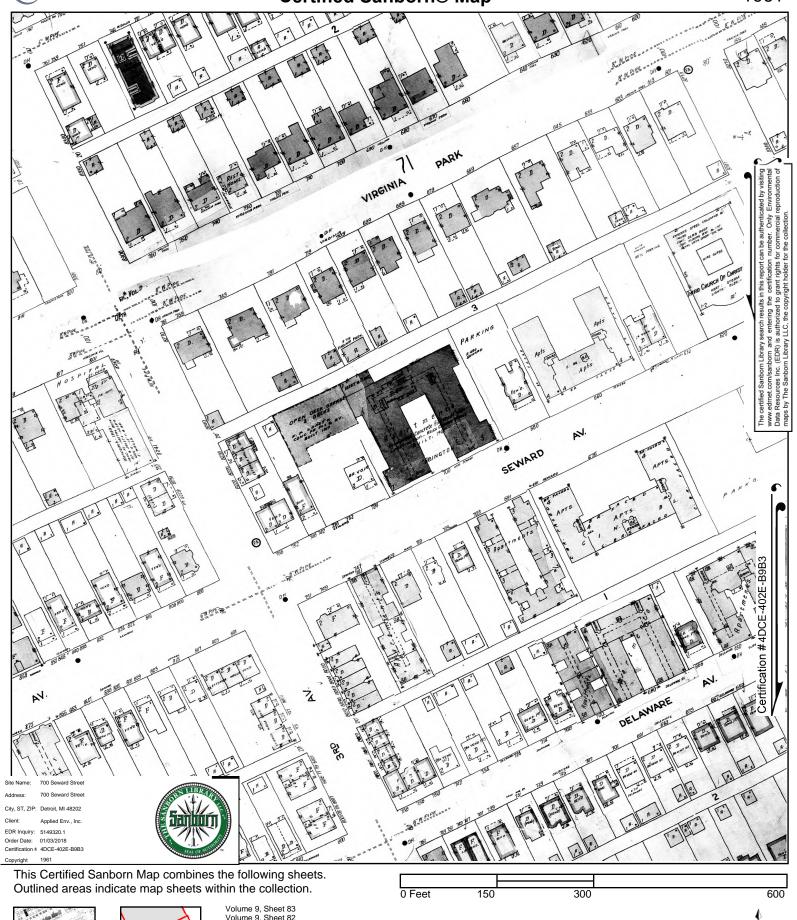
page 7







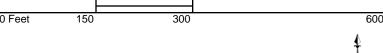




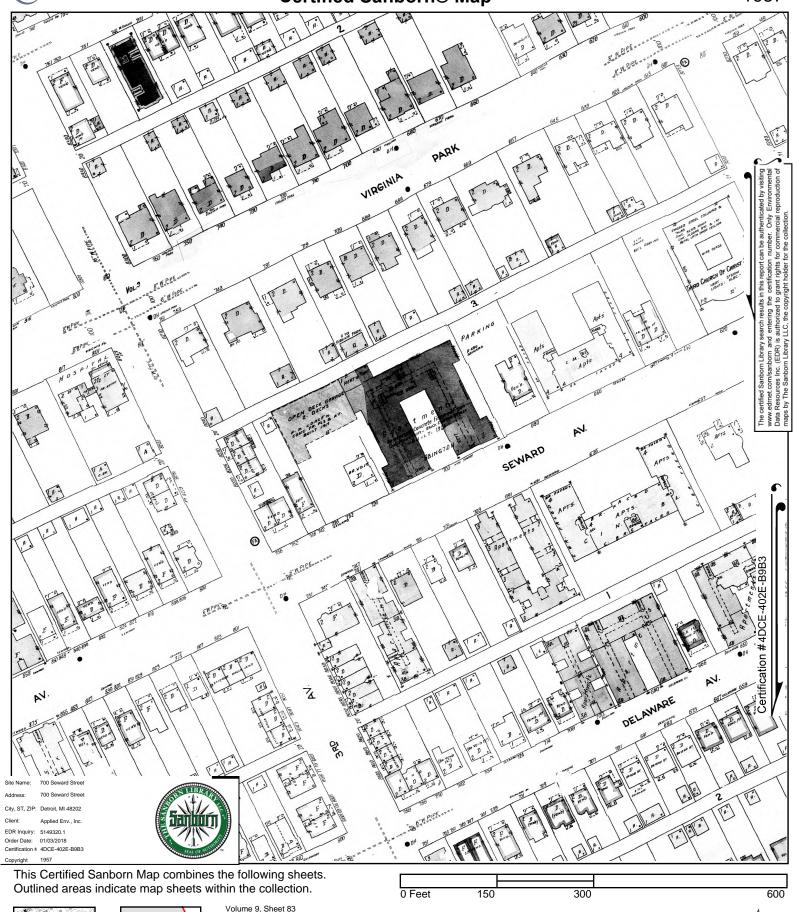




Volume 9, Sheet 83 Volume 9, Sheet 82 Volume 9, Sheet 71





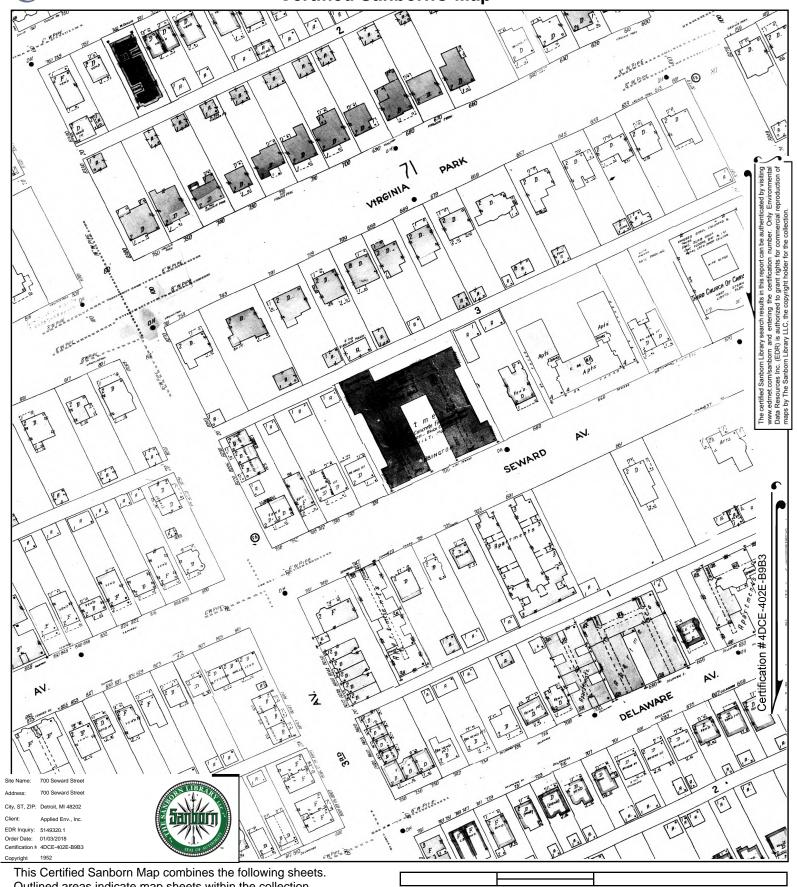






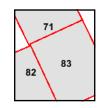
Volume 9, Sheet 83 Volume 9, Sheet 82 Volume 9, Sheet 71



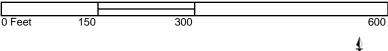


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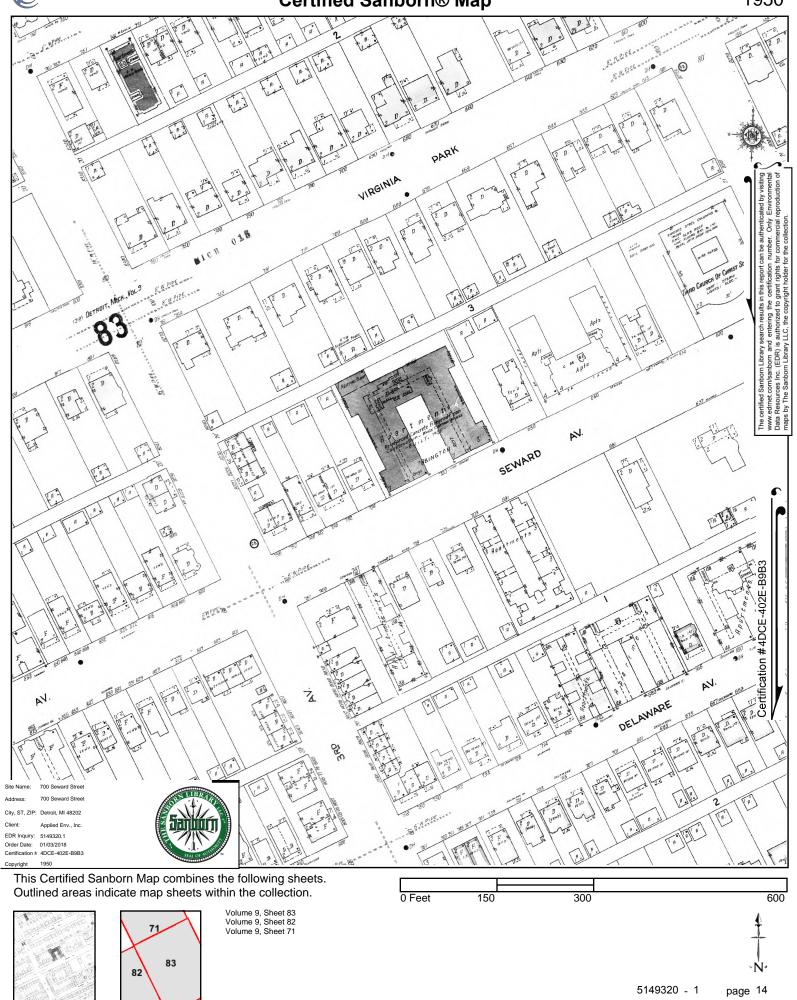


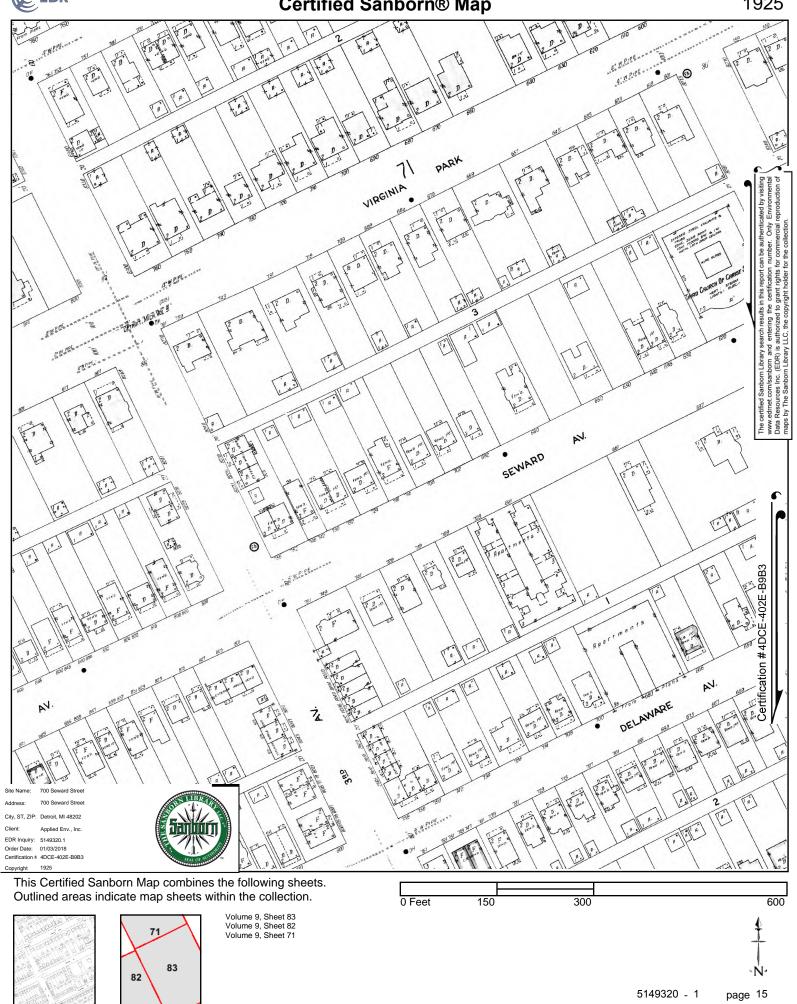


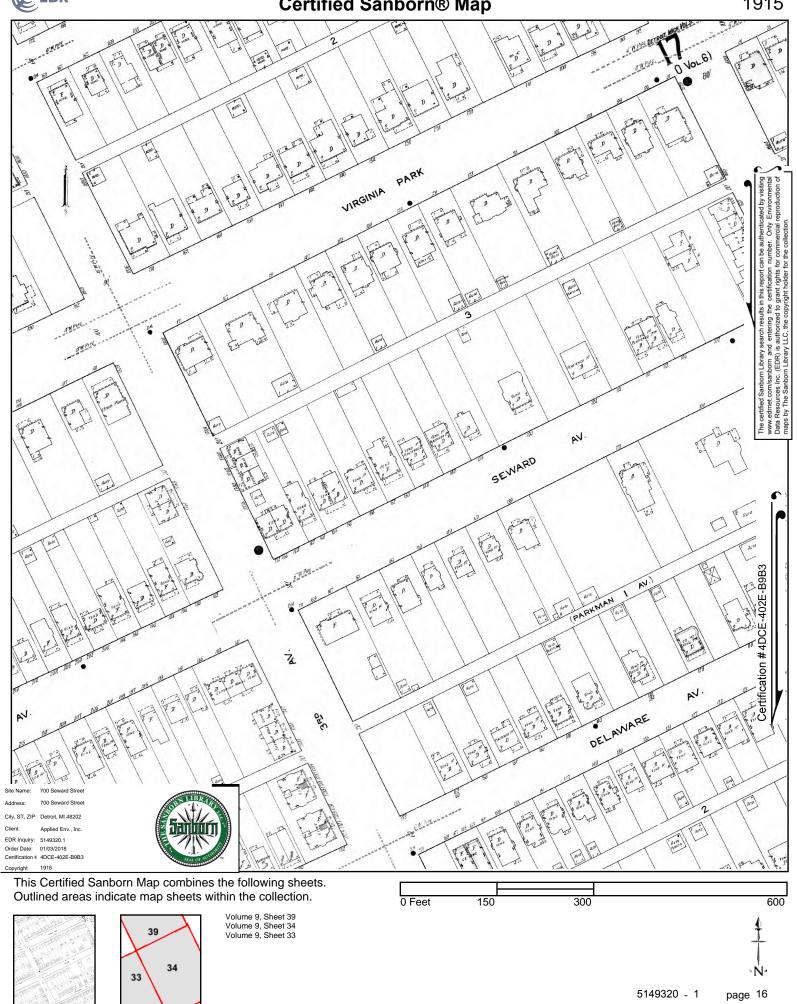
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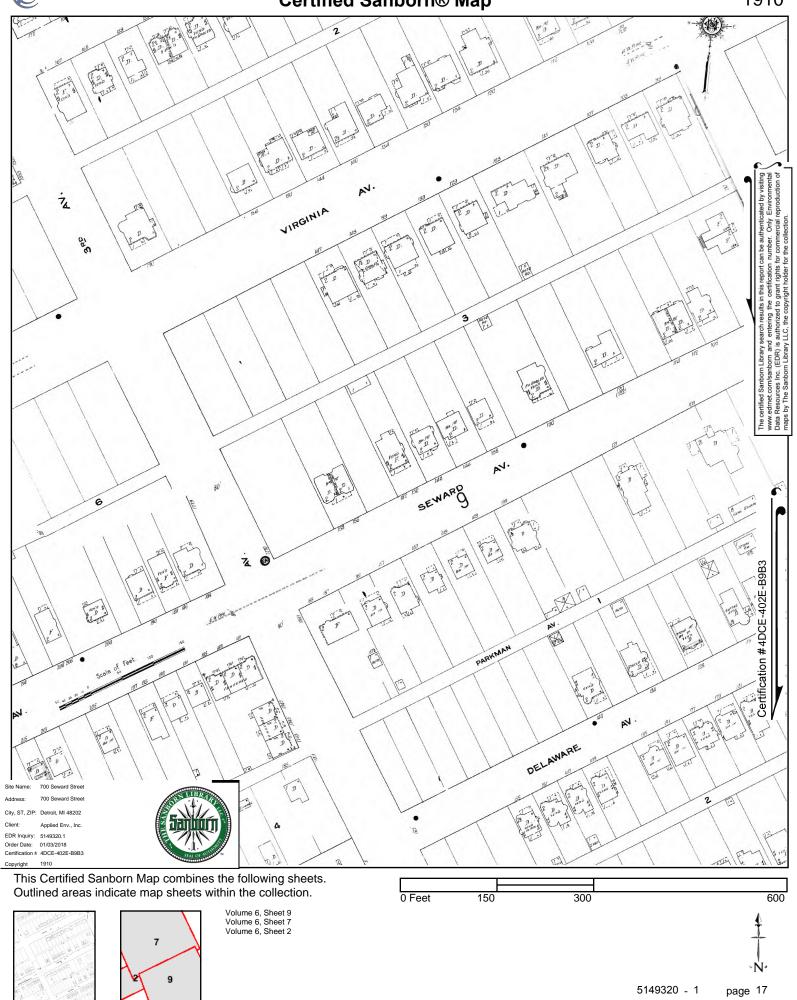












# **Current Photographs**



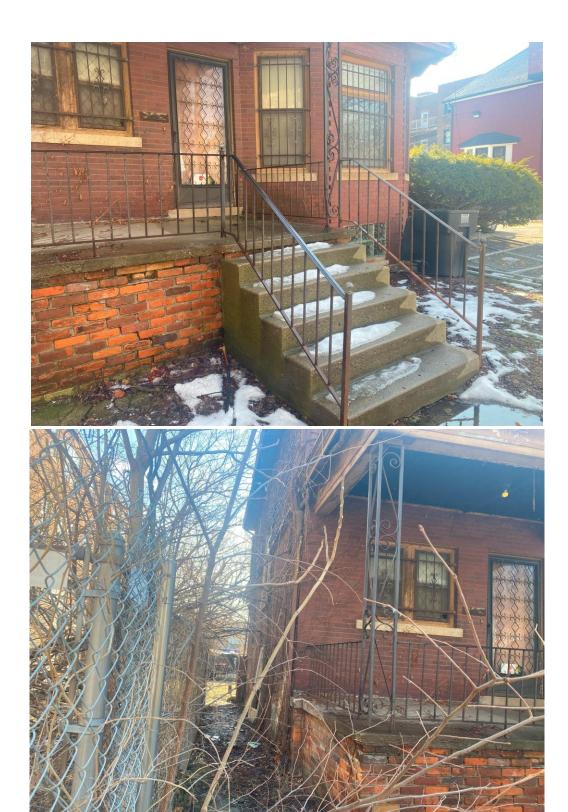














## **Economics of Demolition vs. Rehabilitation**

#### Economic Data

1. 709 Seward was purchased as a part of 700 Seward for a lump sum value. All properties owned by the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church were sold in a lump sum cash deal. The cost of 709 Seward's acquisition was not broken out by the seller or the buyer. The parcel was purchased on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 from the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church. The Owner of Record is 700 Seward Detroit. The applicant is Garrity Guenther Langs, the Owner's hired local representative. There is no relationship between the Owner of Record and the prior owner beyond the sale of the property. There is no relationship between the Applicant and the prior owner.

Annual gross and net income: this property is not occupiable and generates no income.

There is no balance on a mortgage or other financing secured for the property.

Real Estate Taxes for previous 4 years

2021 Real Estate Taxes - info not on file

2022 Real Estate Taxes – info not on file

2023 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,633.90

2024 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,772.90

2025 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,862.90

<u>Assessed Value for previous 4 years</u>

2021 Assessed Value – info not on file

2022 Assessed Value – info not on file

2023 Assessed Value – \$70,700

2024 Assessed Value - \$108,000

2025 Assessed Value – 132,100

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Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for information. We can be reached via email at <a href="mailto:garrity@buildwithgg.com">garrity@buildwithgg.com</a> or phone at 313-378-5506.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Digitally signed by Sarah Garrity
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Guertheir
Gestort
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Garrity Guenther
Agent of 700 Seward Detroit LLC

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Parcel 04001824 – 719 Seward – Existing parking lot (date of creation unknown, possibly in the 1950s as the house no longer appears on aerial photos and Sanborn maps).

# **Description of Existing Conditions**

Parcel 040001823 - The existing house has been vacant for an undetermined period of time. It was vacant in 2018 when the property was purchased by this owner. The home has incurred two main sources of damage. The roof structure has been damaged and requires replacement of the roof trusses as well as the roof itself. There are signs of a sewer backup in the basement as well as resulting water and mold damage. The foundation is cracked in multiple places and requires new waterproofing. It appear the original wood windows are intact. The original kitchen and flooring appears to have been replaced by the prior owner. A VCT flooring is in place potentially containing asbestos materials.

Parcel 040001824 – The existing parking lot is in poor condition with little to no grading or proper drainage. The existing catch basins are set at too high of an elevation to be effective. There is little to no landscaping.

# **Description of Project**

Demolish existing single family home at 709 Seward. Procure approval of the HDC to seek rezoning of parcel 040001823 to allow for a parking lot. Once zoning is established, submit a new application to HDC that covers the construction of the larger parking lot pursuant to all City of Detroit rules, codes and regulations.

Docusign Envelope ID: 599697CF-344A-45AE-A22B-9FB47BD15128

Historic Photographs & Aerial Maps

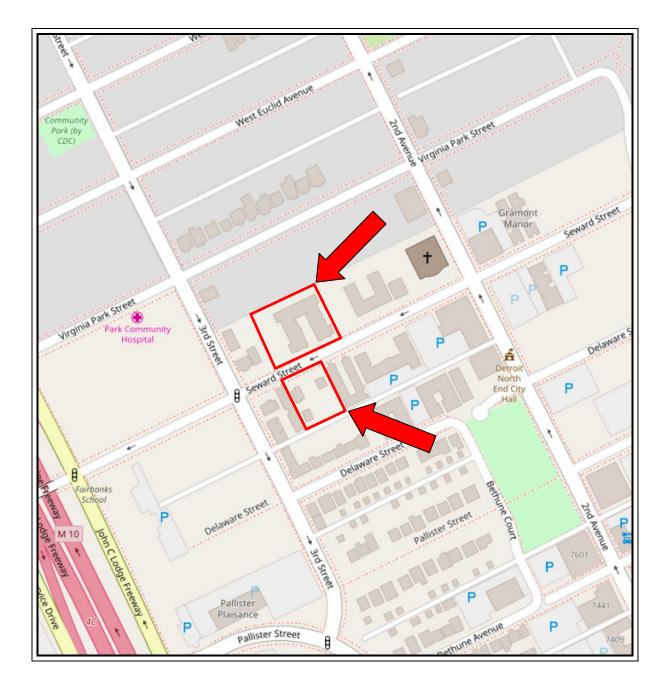


Figure 1
Site Location Map



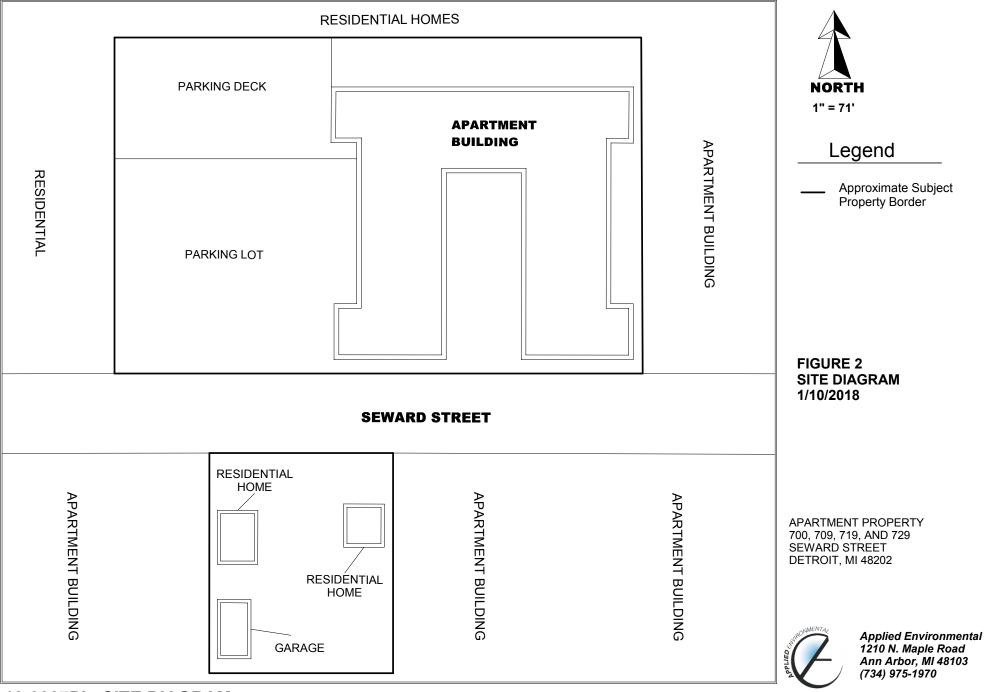
Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Unknown

**Source: Bing Maps** 



18-3007PI - SITE DIAGRAM



Figure 3 2016 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 4 1973 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 5 1956 Aerial Photograph



APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL

1210 North Maple Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 975-1970 Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'



Figure 6 1937 Aerial Photograph



Apartment Property 700, 709, 719, and 729 Seward Street Detroit, Michigan 48202

AE Project No. 18-3007PI



North Scale: 1" = 500'

# Certified Sanborn® Map Report

01/03/18

Site Name: Client Name:

700 Seward Street Applied Env., Inc.
700 Seward Street 1210 North Maple Road
Detroit, MI 48202 Ann Arbor, MI 48103-0000
EDR Inquiry # 5149320.1 Contact: Allison Wysocki



The Sanborn Library has been searched by EDR and maps covering the target property location as provided by Applied Env., Inc. were identified for the years listed below. The Sanborn Library is the largest, most complete collection of fire insurance maps. The collection includes maps from Sanborn, Bromley, Perris & Browne, Hopkins, Barlow, and others. Only Environmental Data Resources Inc. (EDR) is authorized to grant rights for commercial reproduction of maps by the Sanborn Library LLC, the copyright holder for the collection. Results can be authenticated by visiting www.edrnet.com/sanborn.

The Sanborn Library is continually enhanced with newly identified map archives. This report accesses all maps in the collection as of the day this report was generated.

#### Certified Sanborn Results:

Certification # 4DCE-402E-B9B3

**PO #** 18-3007PI

Project 700 Seward Street

## Maps Provided:

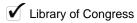
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1996	1925
1991	1915
1989	1910
1977	
1961	
1957	
1952	



Sanborn® Library search results

Certification #: 4DCE-402E-B9B3

The Sanborn Library includes more than 1.2 million fire insurance maps from Sanborn, Bromley, Perris & Browne, Hopkins, Barlow and others which track historical property usage in approximately 12,000 American cities and towns. Collections searched:







The Sanborn Library LLC Since 1866™

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page 2

## Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 2002 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 2002



Volume 9, Sheet 82 2002



Volume 9, Sheet 83 2002

### 1996 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1996



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1996



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1996

## 1991 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1991



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1991



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1991

### 1989 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1989



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1989



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1989

# Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 1977 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 84 1977



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1977



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1977

#### 1961 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1961



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1961



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1961

## 1957 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1957



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1957



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1957

### 1952 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1952



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1952



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1952

## Sanborn Sheet Key

This Certified Sanborn Map Report is based upon the following Sanborn Fire Insurance map sheets.



#### 1950 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1950



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1950



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1950

### 1925 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 71 1925



Volume 9, Sheet 82 1925



Volume 9, Sheet 83 1925

## 1915 Source Sheets



Volume 9, Sheet 33 1915



Volume 9, Sheet 34 1915



Volume 9, Sheet 39 1915

### 1910 Source Sheets



Volume 6, Sheet 2 1910



Volume 6, Sheet 7 1910



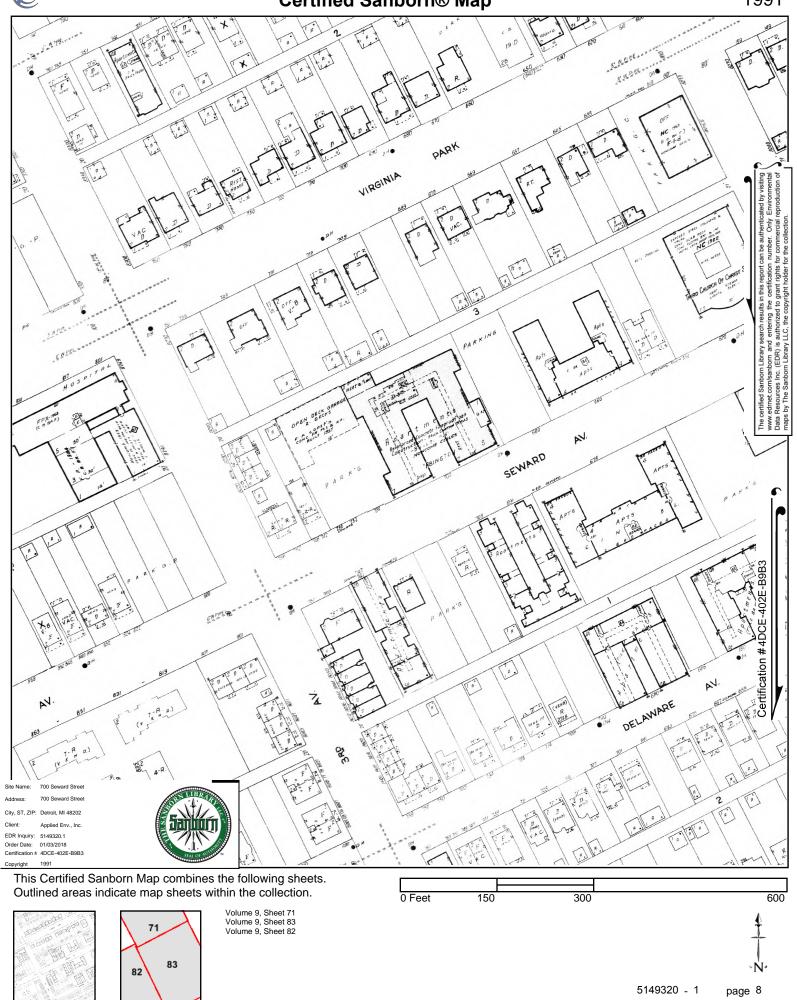
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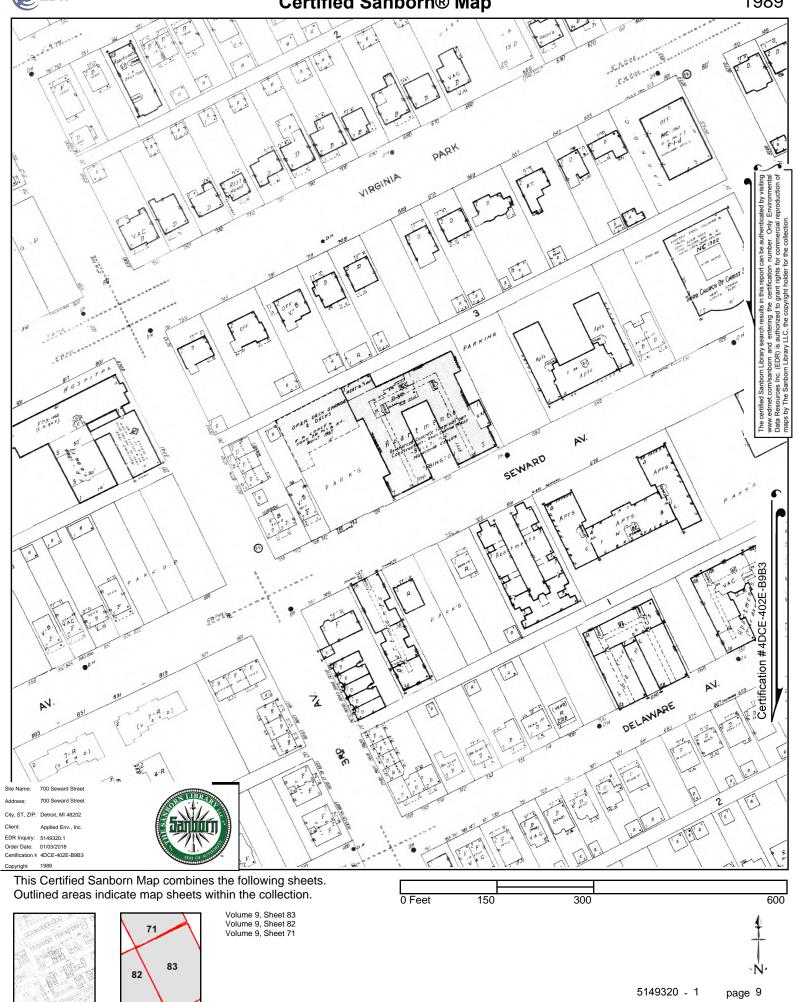


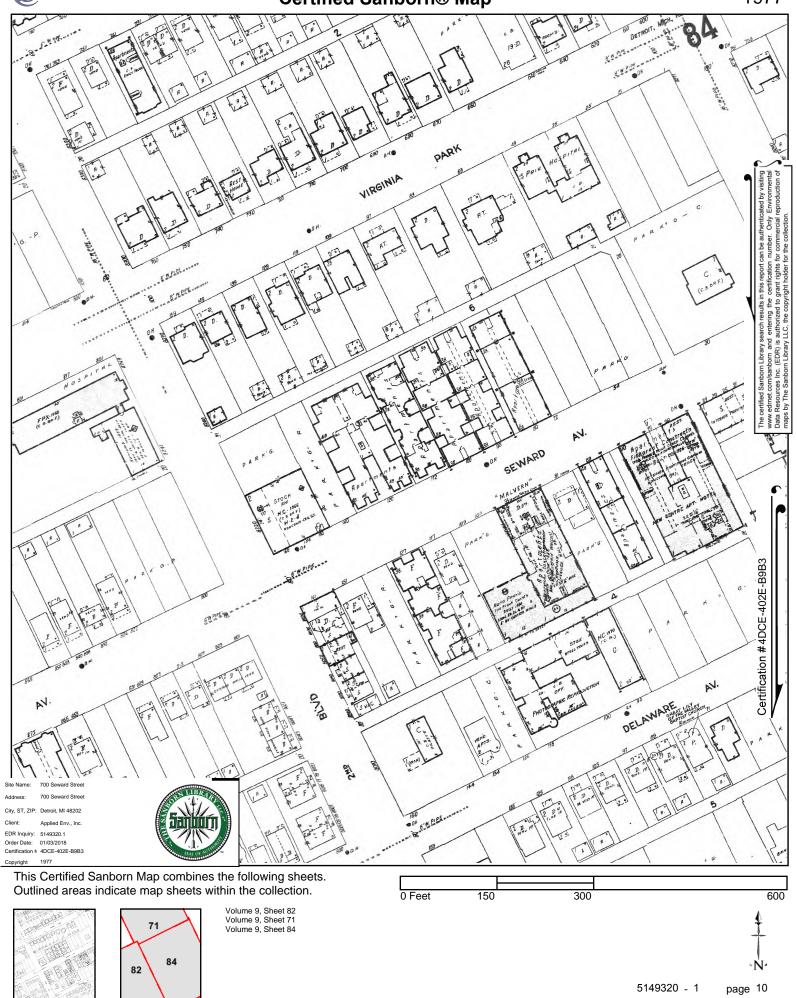
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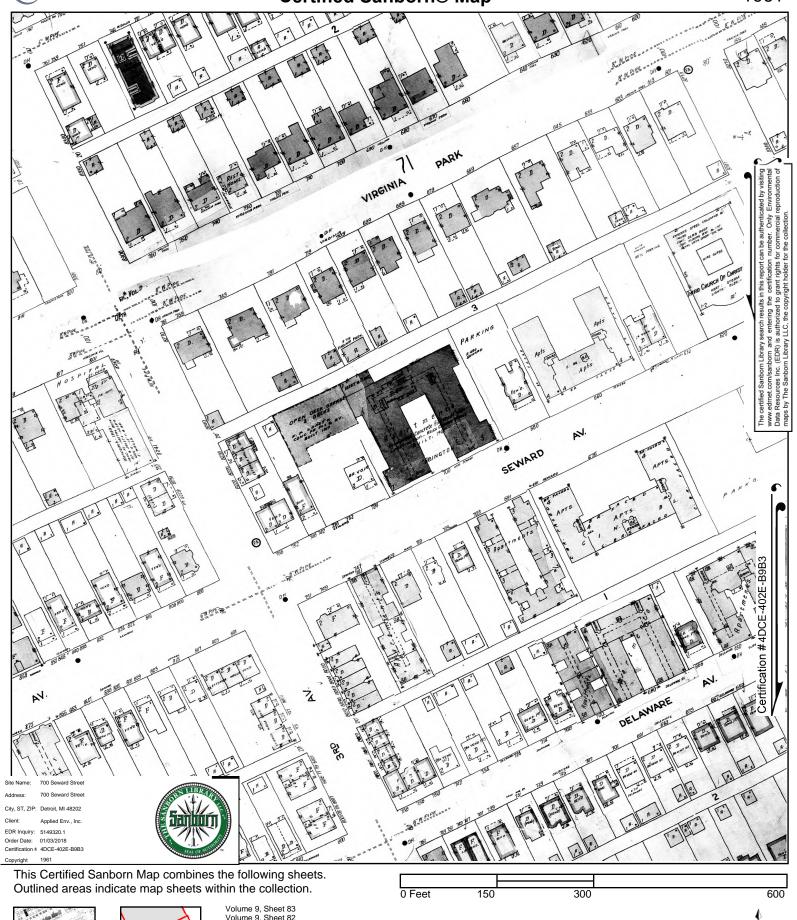
page 7







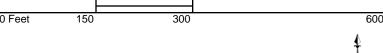




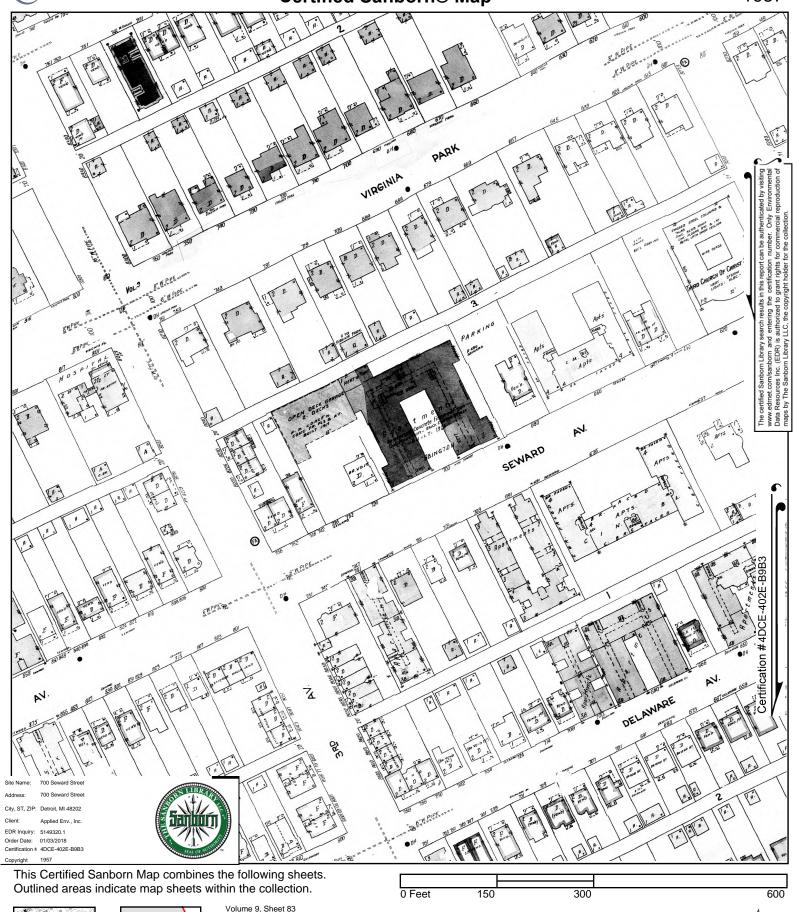




Volume 9, Sheet 83 Volume 9, Sheet 82 Volume 9, Sheet 71





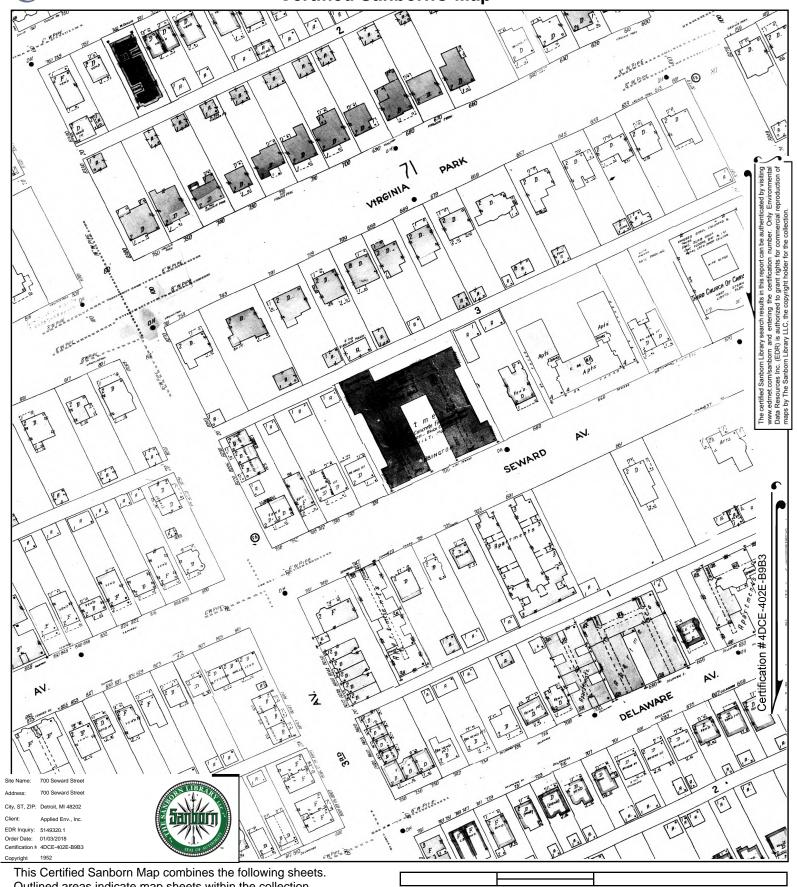






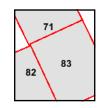
Volume 9, Sheet 83 Volume 9, Sheet 82 Volume 9, Sheet 71



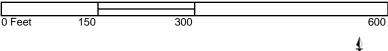


Outlined areas indicate map sheets within the collection.

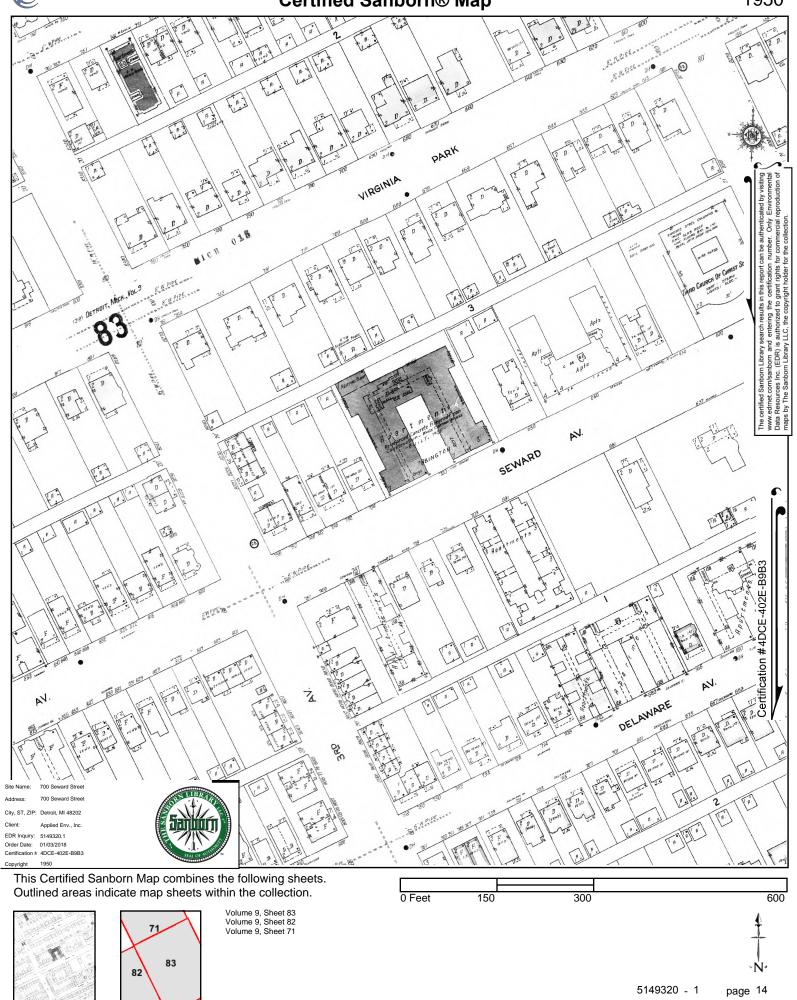


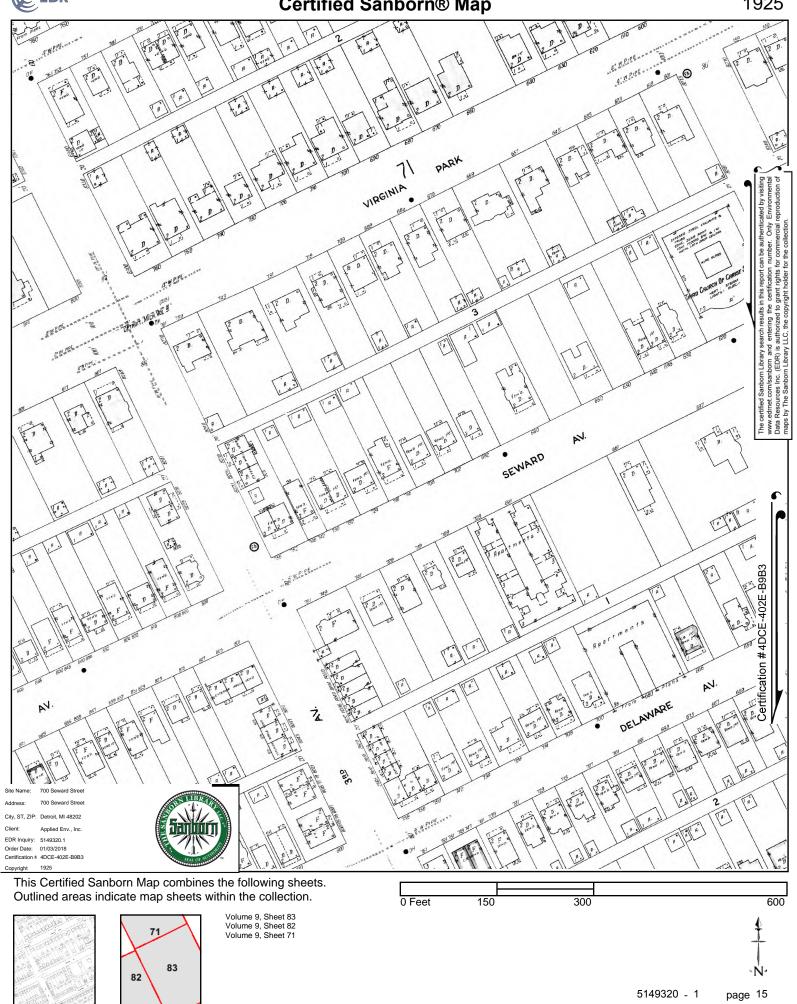


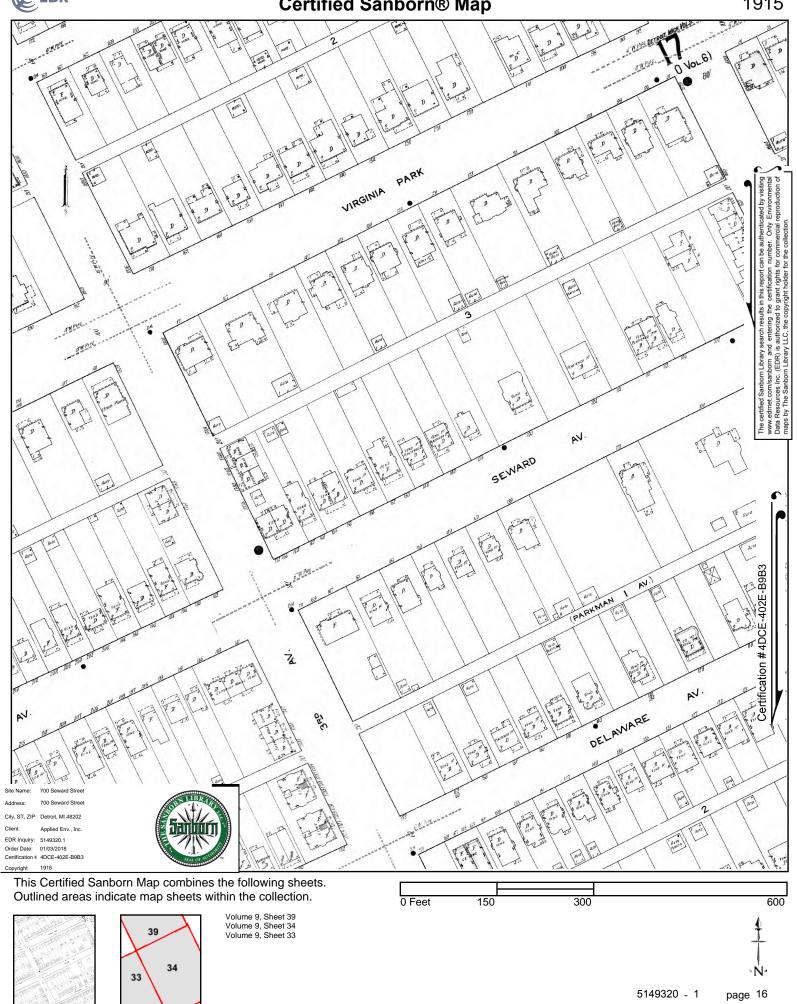
Volume 9, Sheet 83 Volume 9, Sheet 82 Volume 9, Sheet 71

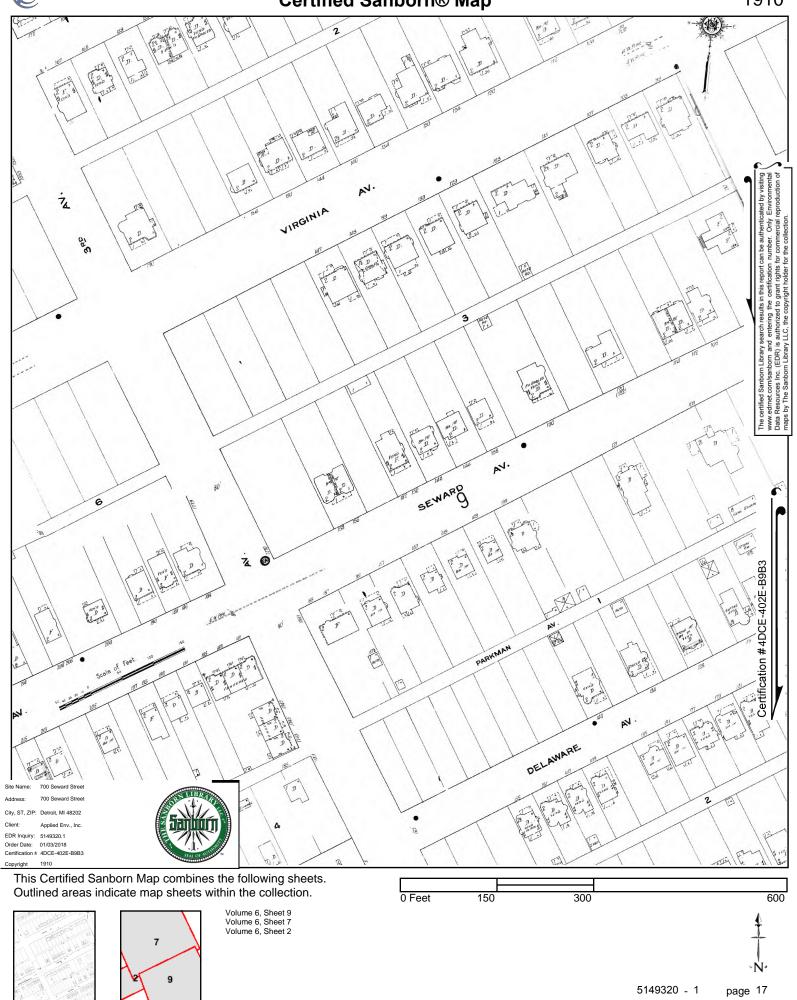












# **Current Photographs**

















## **Economics of Demolition vs. Rehabilitation**

#### Economic Data

1. 709 Seward was purchased as a part of 700 Seward for a lump sum value. All properties owned by the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church were sold in a lump sum cash deal. The cost of 709 Seward's acquisition was not broken out by the seller or the buyer. The parcel was purchased on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 from the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church. The Owner of Record is 700 Seward Detroit. The applicant is Garrity Guenther Langs, the Owner's hired local representative. There is no relationship between the Owner of Record and the prior owner beyond the sale of the property. There is no relationship between the Applicant and the prior owner.

Annual gross and net income: this property is not occupiable and generates no income.

There is no balance on a mortgage or other financing secured for the property.

Real Estate Taxes for previous 4 years

2021 Real Estate Taxes - info not on file

2022 Real Estate Taxes – info not on file

2023 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,633.90

2024 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,772.90

2025 Real Estate Taxes - \$1,862.90

<u>Assessed Value for previous 4 years</u>

2021 Assessed Value – info not on file

2022 Assessed Value – info not on file

2023 Assessed Value – \$70,700

2024 Assessed Value - \$108,000

2025 Assessed Value – 132,100

No appraisals have been obtained for this property.

This property is owned by 700 Seward Detroit LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Corporation.

- 2. The property is not in sellable or rentable condition, there is no listing of this property online.
- 3. Feasibility of alternative uses for the property that could generate a reasonable economic return:

The alternative use for this property would be to rehabilitate the existing building and either sell or rent that property. Estimates for the rehabilitation of this property range from \$550-\$650,000. The income from a future rent or sale of the property do not justify that level of investment.

## Estimated Market Values

- a. In current condition \$132,100 (per tax assessors office)
- After completion of the proposed demolition \$10,000 (prior to construction as a new parking lot, this figure is per the tax assessors office assessment of 719 Seward)
- c. After renovation of the existing property for continued use (if rehabilitated as a single family home) Based on sales comparable completed in the past 12 months within a 3 block radius, the property market value could be between \$95,000 and \$200,000.

## 709 Seward - Historic Home Rehabilitation

Preliminary Cost Estimate
Prepared 4/16/2025



# **Build with GG, LLC**

2990 W Grand Blvd, Suite M21 Detroit, MI 48202 313-378-5506

Total Hard Costs\$ 643,362.72Total Soft Costs\$ 37,433.63Grand Total Development Costs\$ 680,796.35

#### HARD COST BUDGET

HARD COST BUDGET			
Trade Description	Budget		Notes
Demolition	\$	18,500.00	
Temp Roof Protection	\$	7 500 00	the existing roof is damaged structurally and the wood framing needs replacement. A temp roof will be required during
Tomp neer recession	Ψ	7,000.00	construction to further protect the house.
Abatement	\$	12,500.00	
Foundation Repair	\$	8,500.00	existing foundation is cracked in two locations
Masonry Restoration	\$	26,000.00	
Rough Carpentry - Interior	\$	32,000.00	
Rough Carpentry - Roof Replacement	\$	55,000.00	
Roofing	\$	16,000.00	
Foundation Waterproofing	\$	4,500.00	
Window Opening Flashing	\$	6,500.00	the existing windows have no flashing which would expose the house to further damage.
Window Replacement	\$	32,000.00	existing wood windows are deteriorated, assumed new windows would be aluminum clad wood window, spec to be submitted to HDC
Painting - Exterior	\$	25,000.00	exterior paint color to be within HDC standard for this district
Painting - Interior	\$	40,000.00	
Landscaping	\$	10,000.00	
Fencing	\$	10,000.00	assumed wood fence painted in HDC approved color
Finish Carpentry	\$	45,000.00	
Tile & Stone	\$	12,500.00	
New Kitchen Cabinets, Countertops	\$	12,500.00	
Appliances	\$	5,000.00	
Plumbing	\$	35,000.00	
Electrical	\$	55,000.00	
Mechanical	\$	45,000.00	
Flooring	\$	32,000.00	
Subtotal Subcontractor Costs	\$	546,000.00	
General Conditions	\$	54,600.00	
Fee	\$	24,024.00	
Insurance	\$	18,738.72	
GRAND TOTAL	\$	643,362.72	

## SOFT COST BUDGET

Trade Description	Buc	dget	Notes
Architect Fee	\$	15,000.00	
MEP Fee	\$	3,500.00	
Structural Fee	\$	3,500.00	
Landscaping Fee	\$	1,500.00	
City of Detroit Permitting	\$	6,433.63	
Utility Costs	\$	7,500.00	
GRAND TOTAL	\$	37,433.63	

# Seward SFH Comps (April 2024 - April 2025)

Address	Beds	Baths	Size	Og List	List	Close	\$/ft	DOM
509 Englewood	5	1	1550	\$120,000	\$95,000	\$75,000	\$48	32
801 Euclid	4	1.1	1709	\$89,900	\$89,900	\$93,000	\$54	20
728 Philadelph	ia 4	1.1	1704	\$209,000	\$209,000	\$194,000	\$114	12
743 Virginia Pa	rk 5	3.1	3715	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$210,000	\$57	52
680 Virginia Pa	rk 4	2.1	4165	\$429,900	\$429,900	\$376,800	\$90	93
Average		•	2569	\$219,760	\$214,760	\$189,760	\$73	42
Median			1709	\$209,000	\$209,000	\$194,000	\$57	32