

Historic Old Matteson Homeowners' Association

Heidi L. Keenan, President

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January 15, 2008

Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

Our village, Matteson, Illinois, owes its existence to the railroad industry. During the mid-to-late twentieth century, three (3) railroad companies, the Illinois Central, the Michigan Central and the EJ&E, laid tracks to and through our town. These commercial transportation ventures provided Matteson area farmers and other businesses direct access to urban markets.

In time, Matteson experienced solid economic and population growth. Based on a special census in 2005, Matteson has a residential population of 16,529. Of the total village population, we estimate that approximately 1,500 people live in the area commonly know as Old Matteson (see Exhibit "Area Map" attached). This neighborhood is where Canadian National Railroad (CN) proposes to construction a new alignment lead and wyes as part of its acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad. In this area, our homeowners will experience an adverse impact to their quality of life due to huge increases in train traffic as cited in CN's application. In addition, residents in several neighborhoods both to the east and west of Old Matteson will also experience a similar degradation in quality of life.

The Historic Old Matteson Homeowners' Association (HOMHOA) was formed to promote Matteson as an attractive and safe community by combining traditional values with modern conveniences that enhance the quality of life. However our foremost concern and focus is for the residents of Historic Old Matteson. We are pleased and encouraged that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will address such issues as safety, energy, air quality, noise and vibration, water resources and cultural and historic assets. These areas will directly affect the quality of life of our membership.

We strongly support Village of Matteson officials who have taken the initiative on the proposed CN/EJE acquisition by meeting with CN officials to ensure that the concerns of all Matteson residents are satisfactorily addressed.

Sincerely,



Heidi L. Keenan
President
Historic Old Matteson
Homeowners' Association

Attachment

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

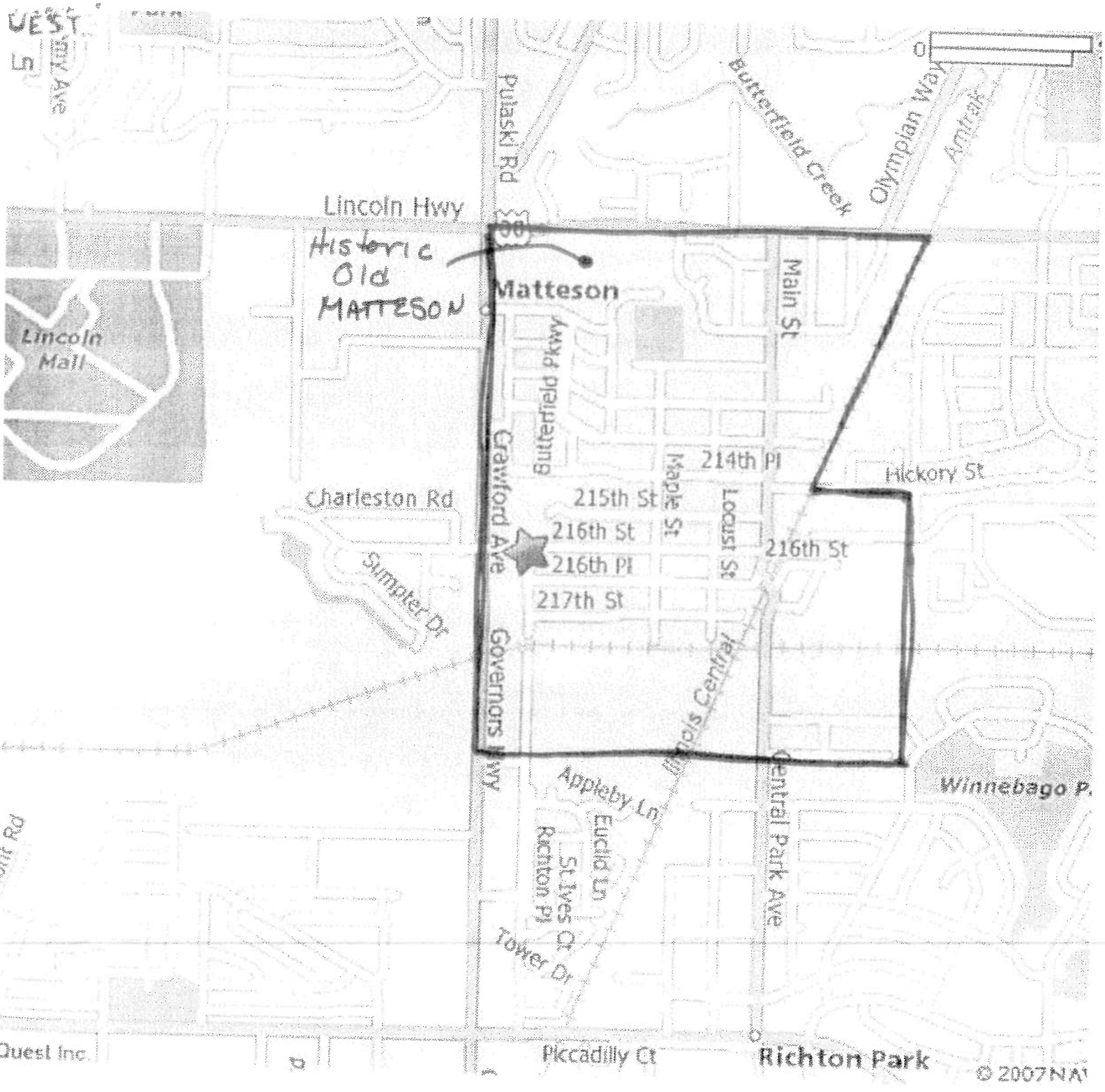
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C. Original - Job File



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