

# A GUIDE TO STREET NAMING AND STREET NUMBERING IN THE DENVER METROPOLITAN REGION

## Introduction

The need for an efficient system of property numbering and street naming in the Denver region is becoming more and more apparent. The problem of conflicting street names and addresses was brought to the attention of the Inter-County Regional Planning Commission by the United States Post Office. To help solve the problem a committee was organized, consisting of all the postmasters from the region and members of the staff of the Inter-County Regional Planning Commission. The following report is the result of the work of this committee and is presented herewith by the Inter-County Regional Planning Commission as one of its advisory functions to the counties in the region.

## Report

With the rapid growth of the Denver Metropolitan Region, one pressing problem related to this growth is the waste of time and the taxing of patience resulting from an unsystematic and haphazard method of house numbering and street naming. Street names which give no clue to the section of the city in which a building is located and house numbering signs of non-descriptive design continually slow down the governmental and business operations in the area.

Duplicated or confusing street names are another source of irritation which may cause waste in dollars and perhaps the loss of life resulting from the inability of the fire department, or police department, or the ambulance to find the correct street.

An additional list of problems caused by poor street naming and house numbering are as follows:

1. Difficulty in emergency fire, ambulance, and doctor access to correct address.
2. Loss of mail and goods, wrongly addressed.
3. Difficulty in quick delivery of mail.
4. Unfavorable impression on visitors to the community if they have difficulty finding places of interest and persons they wish to see.
5. Potential increase in traffic accidents by motorists intent on searching for address rather than concentrating on their driving.
6. Difficulty in training civic employees in knowledge of the city.
7. Difficulty in maintaining correct legal documents, such as those for licenses, vital statistics, deeds, etc.
8. Expense to delivery services in routing and re-routing packages.

## A. Guide for Street Naming

The specific purpose of a uniform and orderly street naming system is to enable one to find a street (and a street number) as quickly and easily as possible.

A uniform method of reviewing new plats by each county must be established to prevent further duplication of street names existing in other sections of the metropolitan region and thus prevent the creation anew of the now existing problems.

In keeping with the system already in existence in Denver and the largest part of the outlying region, the following rules should be kept in mind.

1. The existence of a North-South base line which is Broadway and the designation of East or West on either side of this street. Also the East-West base line which is Ellsworth Avenue and the North and South designations on either side.
2. Streets running East and West are avenues.
3. Streets running North and South are streets.
4. Streets running East and West, halfway between established grids, should take the name of the avenue preceding, with the suffix "Place."
5. Streets running North and South halfway between established grids should take the name of the street preceding, with the suffix "Court."
6. Streets running East and West and connecting with an East and West avenue should be a "Drive."
7. Streets running North and South and connecting with a North-South street should be a "Way."
8. Horseshoe-shaped streets beginning and ending within a major block, or dead end streets should be a "Circle." It is suggested that the term "circle" should be used sparingly. If at all possible, a "Way" or "Drive" should be used except in the case of absolute necessity.
9. Streets should line up on a grid with existing streets and avenues - preferably those existing prominently in the "greater" regional area.
10. Street signs should be readable from each direction of travel.
11. Temporary signs should be required during construction period.
12. Names should be of simple spelling for easy pronunciation.

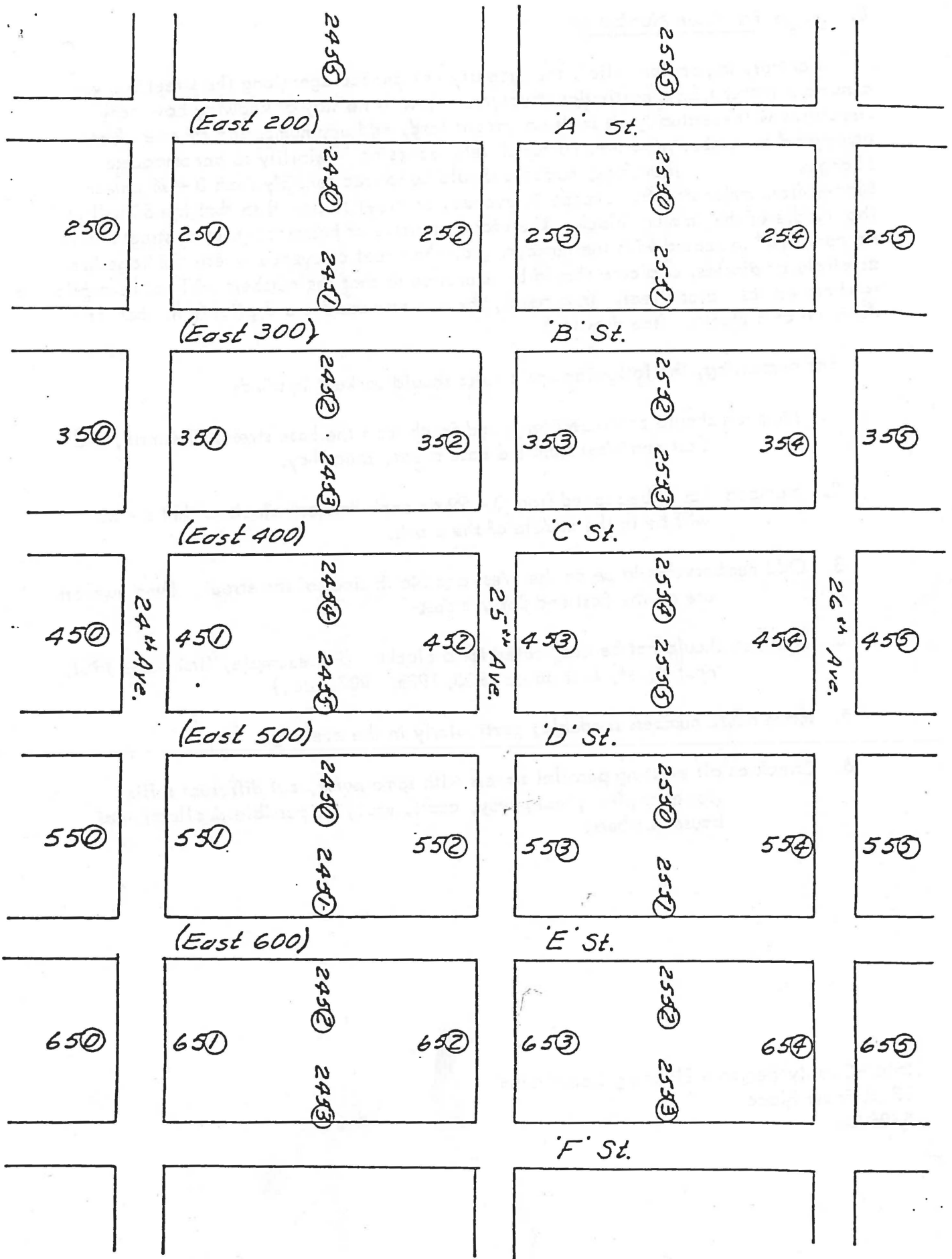
## D. Guide for House Numbering.

Contrary to popular belief, the property or front footage along the street is given a number rather than a particular structure. There is no way of knowing how many structures will eventually be built on vacant land, and any numbering scheme which attempted to number structures consecutively leaves no flexibility to accommodate change.

Therefore, numbers should be spaced sensibly from 0 - 99 on each block, from major streets, (avenue to avenue, or street to street) so that the 50 will be in the middle of the "major" block. Therefore, a circle or horseshoe-shaped street should be numbered in accord with the numbering on the street or avenue where the horseshoe or circle originates, and care should be exercised so that the numbers will not be duplicated to those on the major street. In general, there is no need for a duplicate number for a distance of 5 blocks. (see drawing)

For numbering, the following basic rules should be kept in mind:

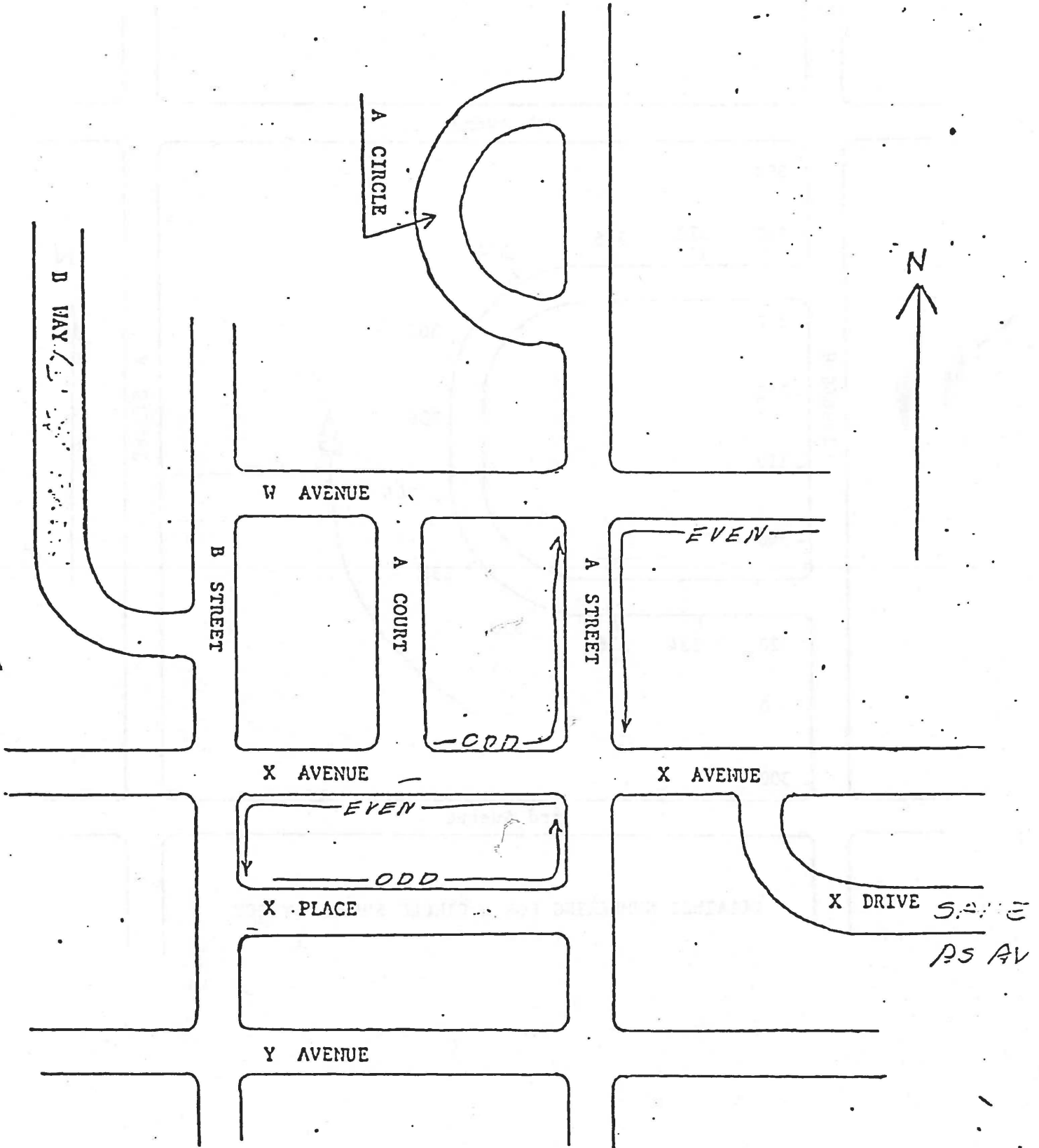
1. Numbers should continue North and South from the base street, Ellsworth, and East and West from the base street, Broadway.
2. Numbers should be spaced from 0 - 99 on each "major" block so that the 50 will be in the middle of the block.
3. Odd numbers should be on the West and North sides of the street. Even numbers are on the East and South sides.
4. Numbers should not be duplicated for 5 blocks. (For example, first house 1901; next street, first house 1903; 1905; 1907, etc.)
5. Have house numbers readable, particularly in the evening.
6. Check on all existing parallel streets with same name, but different suffix, (for example: place, way, court, etc.) for possible duplication of house numbers.

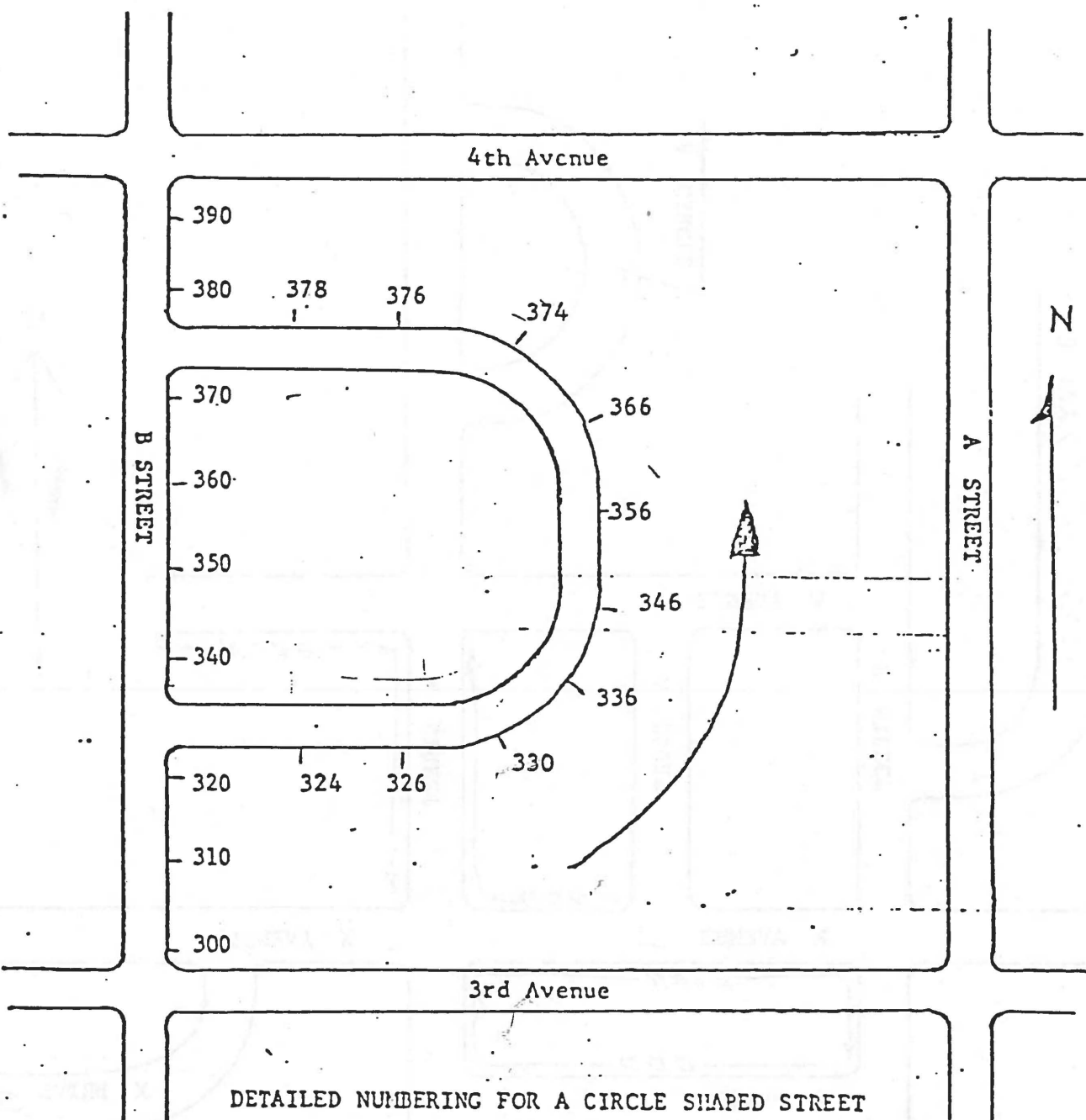


Basic House Numbering System For New Areas



SYSTEM FOR NAMING STREETS, AVENUES, WAYS, COURTS, DRIVES, ETC.





DETAILED NUMBERING FOR A CIRCLE SHAPED STREET

Streets running East and West are called Avenues, Places, or Drives.

Streets running North and South are called Streets, Courts, or Ways.

No definite rule has been established on Parkways, Boulevards, Lanes, or Roads..

In the Business Section the "diagonal" named streets run Northeast and Southwest and the "diagonal" numbered streets run Northwest and Southeast. In this section the numbers start at Colfax Avenue and Broadway on the numbered streets. On the named streets the numbers correspond to the numbers of the streets that cross them.

ODD numbers are on the WEST side of North and South streets.

ODD numbers are on the NORTH side of East and West streets.

ODD numbers are on the NORTHEAST side of "diagonal" numbered streets.

ODD numbers are on the NORTHWEST side of "diagonal" named streets.

There is no official East or North prefix to street names. South (S,) and West. (W.) are used, however, on street names South of Ellsworth Avenue, and West of Broadway, respectively. Ellsworth Avenue is the dividing line North and South; Broadway is the dividing line East and West.