

# SASSE ST. COMMUNITY SURVEY

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



MARCH 2025

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# Executive Summary

The Sasse Street Community Survey was conducted to assess the needs and challenges faced by residents, with the goal of informing a strategic wealth plan aimed at enhancing economic stability, health, and overall quality of life. The survey engaged 70 respondents from residents of the Sasse Street neighborhood and surrounding areas and collected data on demographics, housing, employment, financial health, health and mental health, community services, and information preferences. The findings revealed key areas of concern and opportunities for intervention.

## Key Findings:

1. **Demographics:** The majority of respondents were aged 18-24 (32.3%), with a significant portion aged 35-44 (21.5%) and 65 or older (18.5%). Only 28.9% of respondents lived in the Sasse Street neighborhood, while 68.1% did not.
2. **Housing and Living Conditions:** Housing quality was rated as "okay" by 38.6% of respondents, with 42 respondents citing homes in need of repairs as a major issue. Over half (50.7%) expressed a desire for help with buying or fixing their homes.
3. **Employment and Economic Opportunities:** 40% of working-age respondents were employed full-time, while 25.7% were unemployed. Job training needs were highest in healthcare (12.1%), starting a business (18.2%), and computer skills (10.6%).
4. **Financial Health and Literacy:** The biggest financial challenges included saving money (41%) and paying off debt (8.2%). A majority (65.7%) expressed interest in learning about money management, while 20% did not use traditional banking services.
5. **Health and Mental Health:** Long-term illnesses (21.9%) and lack of access to healthcare providers (9.4%) were significant health concerns. Mental health was rated as "good" by 45.7% of respondents, but 17.9% cited stigma as a barrier to accessing mental health services.
6. **Community Services and Programs:** The most desired programs included job training (59.1%), affordable childcare (40.9%), and mental health services (27.3%). Access to community services was rated as "okay" by 43.5% of respondents.
7. **Information and Communication:** Social media (46%) and word of mouth (31%) were the primary sources of information. In-person classes (54%) were the preferred method for receiving training, with Wednesday and Thursday afternoons being the most convenient times.

## Recommendations:

1. **Housing:** Address the lack of affordable homes and provide financial assistance for home repairs. Support homeownership through targeted programs.
2. **Employment and Economic Opportunities:** Expand job training programs, particularly in healthcare, computer skills, and trade skills. Provide resources for entrepreneurship.

3. **Financial Health and Literacy:** Implement financial literacy programs focusing on budgeting, saving, and credit management. Encourage the use of traditional banking services.
4. **Health and Mental Health:** Increase access to healthcare providers and reduce stigma around mental health services. Expand mental health and wellness programs.
5. **Community Services and Programs:** Develop more recreational activities and spaces, offer affordable childcare, and expand mental health services.
6. **Information and Training:** Use social media and word of mouth for communication. Offer in-person classes and printed materials for training, scheduling sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon or evening.

The survey results highlight the need for targeted interventions to address housing, employment, financial literacy, health, and community services in the Sasse Street neighborhood. By implementing these recommendations, the community can work towards improved economic stability, health, and overall quality of life for its residents.

# Background and Objectives

The Sasse Street neighborhood survey was conducted to understand the needs and challenges of residents. The primary objective was to gather data that would inform the development of a strategic wealth plan aimed at improving economic stability, health, and overall quality of life for the community.

## Methodology

The survey engaged 70 respondents from residents of the Sasse Street neighborhood and surrounding areas, with questions covering demographics, housing, employment, financial health, health and mental health, and community services. Data was collected through both quantitative and qualitative questions, and responses were analyzed using pivot tables and thematic analysis.

## Results

### Demographics

- **Age Distribution:**
  - 18-24: 32.3%
  - 25-34: 10.8%
  - 35-44: 21.5%
  - 45-54: 4.6%
  - 55-64: 12.3%
  - 65 or older: 18.5%
- **Residency:**
  - Do not live in Sasse Street: 68.1%
  - Live in Sasse Street: 28.9%
  - Not sure: 2.9%

### Housing and Living Conditions

- **Housing Quality:**
  - Excellent: 22.9%
  - Good: 35.7%
  - Okay: 38.6%
  - Bad: 2.9%



**Figure 1.** Respondents rate the housing quality in their neighborhood.

- **Housing Problems** (multiple responses allowed):
  - Homes in need of repairs: 42 responses (highest among all housing issues)
  - Not enough affordable homes: 28 responses
  - Rent/mortgage payments too high: 16 responses
  - Hard to buy a house: 23 responses
- **Desire for Help with Housing:**
  - 50.7% of respondents said they would like help with buying or fixing their home.

## Employment and Economic Opportunities

- **Employment Status:**
  - Full-time: 28 responses (40% of working-age respondents)
  - Part-time: 6 responses (8.6%)
  - Self-employed: 4 responses (5.7%)
  - Unemployed: 18 responses (25.7%)
  - Students: 23 responses (32.9%)
  - Retired: 9 responses (12.9%)
- **Job Training Needs** (multiple responses allowed):

- Starting a business: 12 responses (18.2%)
- Healthcare jobs: 8 responses (12.1% of total skill/training requests)
- Computer skills: 7 responses (10.6%)
- Trade skills (e.g., plumbing, carpentry): 7 responses (10.6%)

## Financial Health and Literacy

### Biggest Money Problems (Multiple Responses Allowed)

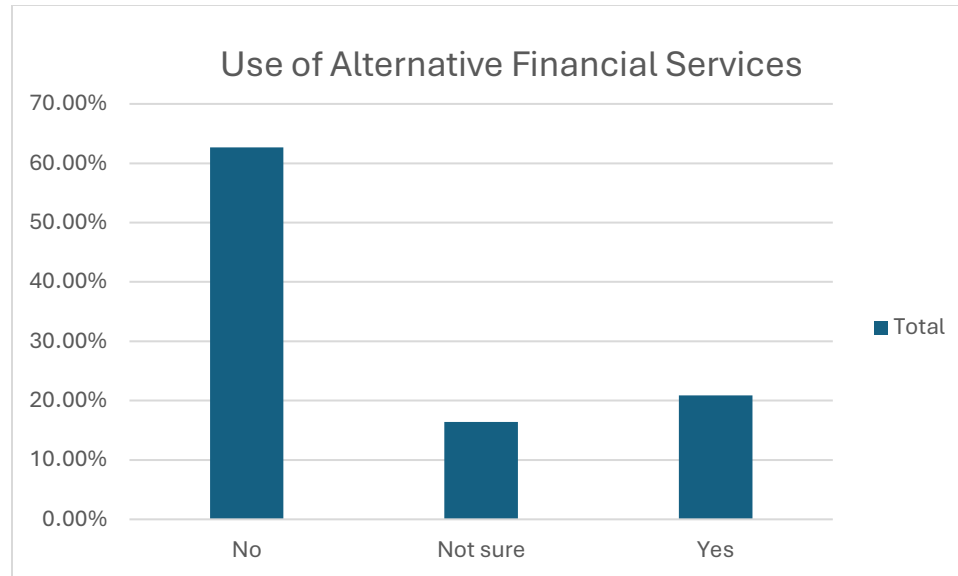
- **Saving money:** 25 responses (41%)
- **Paying off debt:** 5 responses (8.2%)
- **Fixing credit:** 4 responses (6.6%)
- **Getting a loan:** 2 responses (3.3%)
- **Helping kids:** 1 response (1.6%)
- **Making money:** 1 response (1.6%)

### Desire to Learn About Money Management

- **Yes:** 65.7%
- **No:** 24.3%
- **Not sure:** 10%

### Banking Status

- **Use of Banks or Credit Unions:**
  - Yes: 67.1%
  - No: 20%
  - Not sure: 12.9%
- **Use of Alternative Financial Services** (e.g., payday loans, installment loans, check-cashing services):
  - No: 62.7%
  - Yes: 20.9%
  - Not sure: 16.4%



**Figure 2.** Respondents' use of alternative financial services by percentage.

## Health and Mental Health

### Health Problems (Multiple Responses Allowed)

- **Long-term illnesses (e.g., diabetes, high blood pressure):** 14 responses (21.9%)
- **Lack of access to healthcare providers:** 6 responses (9.4%)
- **Poor nutrition and lack of healthy food options:** 5 responses (7.8%)
- **No places to exercise:** 8 responses (12.5%)

### Mental Health Status

- **Excellent:** 37.1%
- **Good:** 45.7%
- **Okay:** 15.7%
- **Bad:** 1.4%

### Mental Health Service Use

- **Have used mental health services:** 42.9%
- **Have not used mental health services:** 41.4%
- **Don't know about these services:** 15.7%

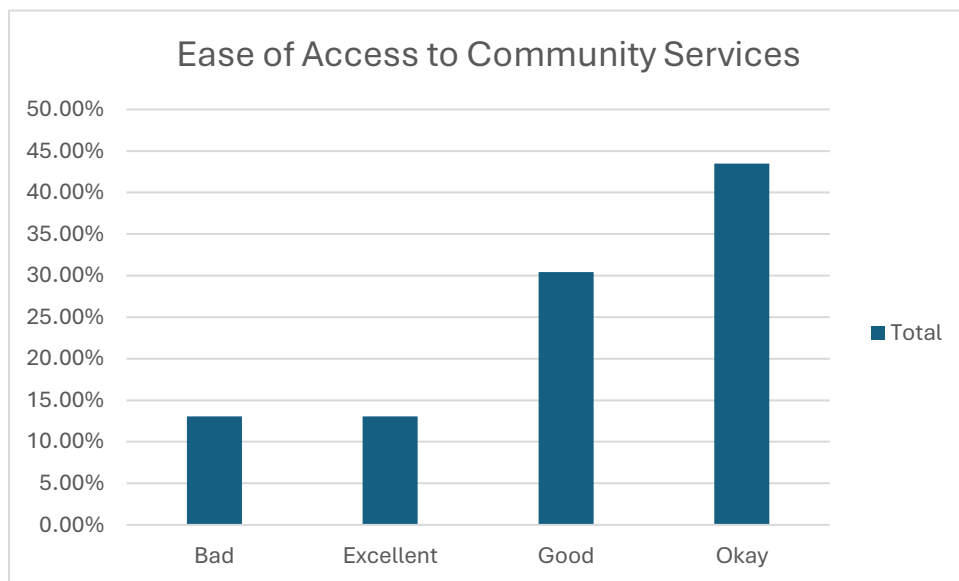
### Barriers to Mental Health Services (Multiple Responses Allowed)



- **Stigma and social judgment:** 10 responses (17.9%)
- **Lack of local providers:** 4 responses (7.1%)
- **Cost and affordability:** 4 responses (7.1%)
- **Transportation issues:** 2 responses (3.6%)
- **Confidentiality concerns:** 2 responses (3.6%)

## Community Services and Programs

- **Desired Programs** (multiple responses allowed):
  - Job training or job placement: 39 responses (59.1%)
  - Health and fitness programs: 28 responses (42.4%)
  - Affordable childcare: 27 responses (40.9%)
  - Help with housing: 25 responses (37.9%)
  - Mental health services: 18 responses (27.3%)
- **Access to Community Services:**
  - Excellent: 13%
  - Good: 30.4%
  - Okay: 43.5%
  - Bad: 13%

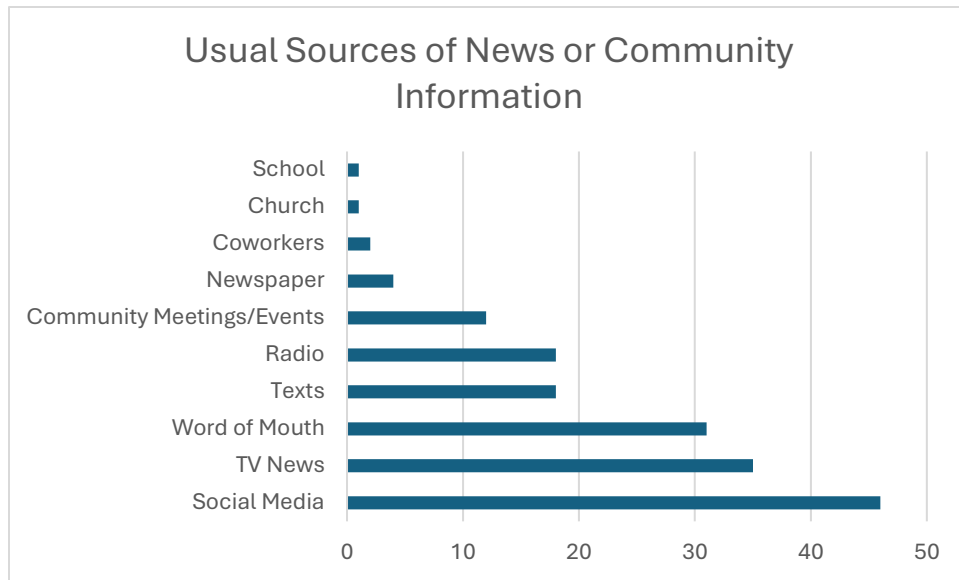


**Figure 3.** Respondents' rate how easily they can access services in their community by percentage.

- **Quality of Life Improvements:** Respondents indicated addressing the following issues would improve their neighborhood:
  - **Community Cleanliness and Maintenance** (e.g., cleaning up abandoned buildings, repairing sidewalks).
  - **Safety and Crime Prevention** (e.g., more police presence, surveillance cameras).
  - **Recreational and Social Activities and Spaces** (e.g., parks, pools, fun places for teens).
  - **Community Engagement and Leadership** (e.g., neighborhood groups, more investment in community programs).
  - **Infrastructure and Accessibility** (e.g., better sidewalks, flood management).
  - **Economic Development** (e.g., attracting businesses and grocery stores).
  - **Food and Dining Options** (e.g., better food places).

## Information and Communication

- **How Residents Get Their Information (Multiple Responses Allowed)**
  - **Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter):** 46 responses (46%)
  - **TV news:** 35 responses (35%)
  - **Word of mouth (friends, family, neighbors):** 31 responses (31%)
  - **Text messages or alerts:** 18 responses (18%)
  - **Radio:** 18 responses (18%)
  - **Community meetings or events:** 12 responses (12%)
  - **Newspapers or magazines:** 4 responses (4%)



**Figure 4.** Respondents' preferred methods of communication, by percentage.

- **Preferred Method to Receive Training (Multiple Responses Allowed)**

- **In-person classes or workshops:** 54 responses (54%)
- **Printed materials or guides:** 23 responses (23%)
- **Zoom or other live online sessions:** 18 responses (18%)
- **Text reminders or tips:** 14 responses (14%)
- **Pre-recorded online classes:** 12 responses (12%)

- **Preferred Day and Time for Training**

- **Preferred Days:**
  - Wednesday: 37 responses (37%)
  - Thursday: 34 responses (34%)
  - Tuesday: 31 responses (31%)
  - Monday: 31 responses (31%)
  - Friday: 24 responses (24%)
  - Saturday: 23 responses (23%)
  - Sunday: 13 responses (13%)

- **Preferred Times:**
  - Afternoon (12 p.m.–4 p.m.): 29 responses (29%)
  - Evening (4 p.m.–8 p.m.): 29 responses (29%)
  - Morning (8 a.m.–12 p.m.): 22 responses (22%)
  - Late evening (after 8 p.m.): 5 responses (5%)

## Recommendations

### Housing

- **Affordable Housing:** Address the lack of affordable homes (28 responses, 42.4% of housing issues).
- **Home Repairs:** Provide financial assistance for home repairs, as 42 respondents (63.6%) cited this as a major issue.
- **Homeownership Support:** Offer programs to help residents buy homes, as 23 respondents (34.8%) find it hard to buy a house.

### Employment and Economic Opportunities

- **Job Training:** Expand job training programs, particularly in healthcare (12.1% of requests), computer skills (10.6%), and trade skills (10.6%).
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** Provide resources for starting businesses, as 18.2% of respondents expressed interest in entrepreneurship.

### Financial Health and Literacy

- **Financial Literacy Programs:** Implement programs focusing on budgeting, saving, and credit management, as 65.7% of respondents expressed a desire to learn about managing money.
- **Debt Management:** Offer resources for debt management, as 8.2% of respondents cited paying off debt as a financial problem.
- **Banking Access:** Encourage the use of traditional banking services, as 20% of respondents do not use banks or credit unions, and 20.9% rely on alternative financial services like payday loans.

### Health and Mental Health

- **Healthcare Access:** Increase access to healthcare providers, as 9.4% of respondents cited this as a barrier.

- **Mental Health Services:** Launch public education campaigns to reduce stigma (17.9% of mental health barriers) and provide more mental health services (27.3% of program requests).

## Community Services and Programs

- **Recreational Activities:** Develop more recreational activities and spaces for children and teens, as 59.1% of respondents requested job training or placement programs, which could include youth-focused initiatives.
- **Affordable Childcare:** Offer affordable childcare services, as 40.9% of respondents expressed a need for this.
- **Mental Health and Wellness:** Expand mental health and wellness programs, as 27.3% of respondents requested mental health services.

## Information and Training

- **Communication Channels:** Use social media (46% of respondents) and word of mouth (31%) as primary channels for disseminating information.
- **Training Delivery:** Offer in-person classes or workshops (54% preference) and provide printed materials (23%) for those who prefer self-paced learning.
- **Training Schedule:** Schedule training sessions on Wednesdays (37% preference) and Thursdays (34%), with afternoon (29%) or evening (29%) timeslots to accommodate most residents.

## Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

We extend our deepest gratitude to the individuals whose support made this community engagement process possible. Special thanks to Courtney Jones of the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center for her exceptional efforts to collect and input survey data. Appreciation goes to Lisa Campbell for her assistance in recruiting survey participants.

Funding for the Sasse Street Community Wealth-Building Initiative is provided through a grant from the Walton Family Foundation.

# Appendix A: Survey Questions

## Money Matters: Neighborhood Needs Survey

### Introduction

Hello!

We are conducting a survey to learn more about the financial, mental, and physical health needs of the Sasse Street community. Your answers will help us create programs and services that work for you. This survey is private, and your answer name won't be shared.

As a thank-you, you can choose to enter a drawing for a \$25 gift card after completing the survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

### Section 1: About You

1. How old are you?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18–24
- ☐ 25–34
- ☐ 35–44
- ☐ 45–54
- ☐ 55–64
- ☐ 65 or older



2. Do you live in the Sasse Street area (see the map above this question for more information)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

3. If you don't live in the Sasse Street neighborhood, what is the name of the neighborhood or community you live in?
4. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?
  - Less than 1 year
  - 1–5 years
  - 6–10 years
  - Over 10 years
5. How many people live in your house?
  - 1
  - 2–3
  - 4–5
  - 6 or more
6. Do you work right now?
  - Yes, full-time
  - Yes, part-time
  - I work for myself
  - No, I don't work
  - I'm retired
  - I'm a student

## **Section 2: Your Home and Neighborhood**

7. Do you own or rent your home?
  - I own it
  - I rent it
  - Other
8. How would you describe the housing in this neighborhood?
  - Excellent
  - Good
  - Okay
  - Bad

9. What are the biggest problems with housing here? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Rent or house payments are too high
- ☐ Homes need repairs
- ☐ Not enough affordable homes
- ☐ Hard to buy a home
- ☐ Other

10. Would you like help with buying a home or fixing your home?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

### **Section 3: Work and Money**

11. Are there enough jobs in this area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

12. What skills or training would help you get a better job? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Learning computers
- ☐ Trade skills (like plumbing or carpentry)
- ☐ Healthcare jobs
- ☐ Starting my own business
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you use a bank or credit union?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. Do you use alternative financial services like payday loans, installment loans, or check-cashing services?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. What are your biggest money problems? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Getting a loan
- ☐ Fixing my credit



- ☐ Paying off debt
- ☐ Saving money
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

16. Would you like to learn about managing money?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

#### **Section 4: Health and Mental Health**

17. How would you say your health is?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Okay
- ☐ Bad

18. Can you get medical care when you need it?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes

19. What are the biggest health problems in this neighborhood? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Long-term illnesses (like diabetes or high blood pressure)
- ☐ No doctors or clinics nearby
- ☐ Not enough healthy food
- ☐ No places to exercise
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

20. How would you say your mental health is?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Okay
- ☐ Bad

21. Have you or someone in your family used mental health services, like counseling?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I didn't know about these services

22. What makes it hard to get mental health help? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Too expensive
- ☐ No local providers
- ☐ People look down on it
- ☐ I don't know where to go
- ☐ No transportation
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

23. What health or mental health services would help you or your family? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Learning about health
- ☐ Counseling or therapy
- ☐ Managing stress
- ☐ Help with substance abuse
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Section 5: Community Resources**

24. How easy is it to find community services like clinics, food programs, or childcare?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Okay
- ☐ Bad

25. What programs would help you or your family? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Activities for kids and teens
- ☐ Job training or job placement
- ☐ Affordable childcare
- ☐ Health and fitness programs
- ☐ Mental health services
- ☐ Help with money or credit

- Help with housing
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section 6: News and Learning Preferences**

26. How do you usually get your news or community information? (Choose all that apply)

- Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)
- Newspapers or magazines
- TV news
- Radio
- Word of mouth (friends, family, neighbors)
- Community meetings or events
- Text messages or alerts
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

27. What is your preferred way to receive training or learn new skills? (Choose all that apply)

- In-person classes or workshops
- Zoom or other live online sessions
- Pre-recorded online classes
- Printed materials or guides
- Text reminders or tips
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

28. What days work best for you to attend in-person or virtual meetings? (Choose all that apply)

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

29. What times of day work best for you to attend in-person or virtual meetings? (Choose all that apply)

- Morning (8 a.m.–12 p.m.)
- Afternoon (12 p.m.–4 p.m.)

- Evening (4 p.m.–8 p.m.)
- Late evening (after 8 p.m.)

30. What makes it hard for you to attend meetings or training sessions? (Choose all that apply)

- Time of day
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Technology or internet access
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Section 7: Your Ideas**

31. What do you think would help your family gain/maintain lasting financial health? *(Write your answer)*

32. Is there anything else you'd like to share about how to make life in the neighborhood better?  
*(Write your answer)*

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for helping us! Your answers will guide us in improving the community. If you would like to enter the drawing for a \$25 gift card, please provide your name and contact information below (optional). Please print legibly.

- Name:
  
- Phone or Email:

Please return this survey by **Feb. 5, 2025**. If you have questions, contact us at [info@sassestwealth.org](mailto:info@sassestwealth.org).

## Appendix B: List of Communities Respondents Lived In (Other Than Sasse St)

Below is the final, deduplicated list of communities provided by respondents who indicated they did not live in the Sasse Street neighborhood. Duplicates and variations in spelling have been removed for clarity:

1. Elm Ave
2. 16th Street
3. Barnes Ave/Street
4. Belen
5. Brickyard
6. Canary Lane
7. Cherry
8. Farrell
9. Friars Point
10. Green Bough
11. Riverton
12. Jack Johnson
13. Jonestown
14. Lee Drive
15. Lula
16. Maple
17. Oakhurst
18. Roundyard
19. Ruleville
20. South Edward St
21. Webb
22. West Second Street