

MURPHY & BOLANZ

Block and Addition Books Dallas County 1880-1920

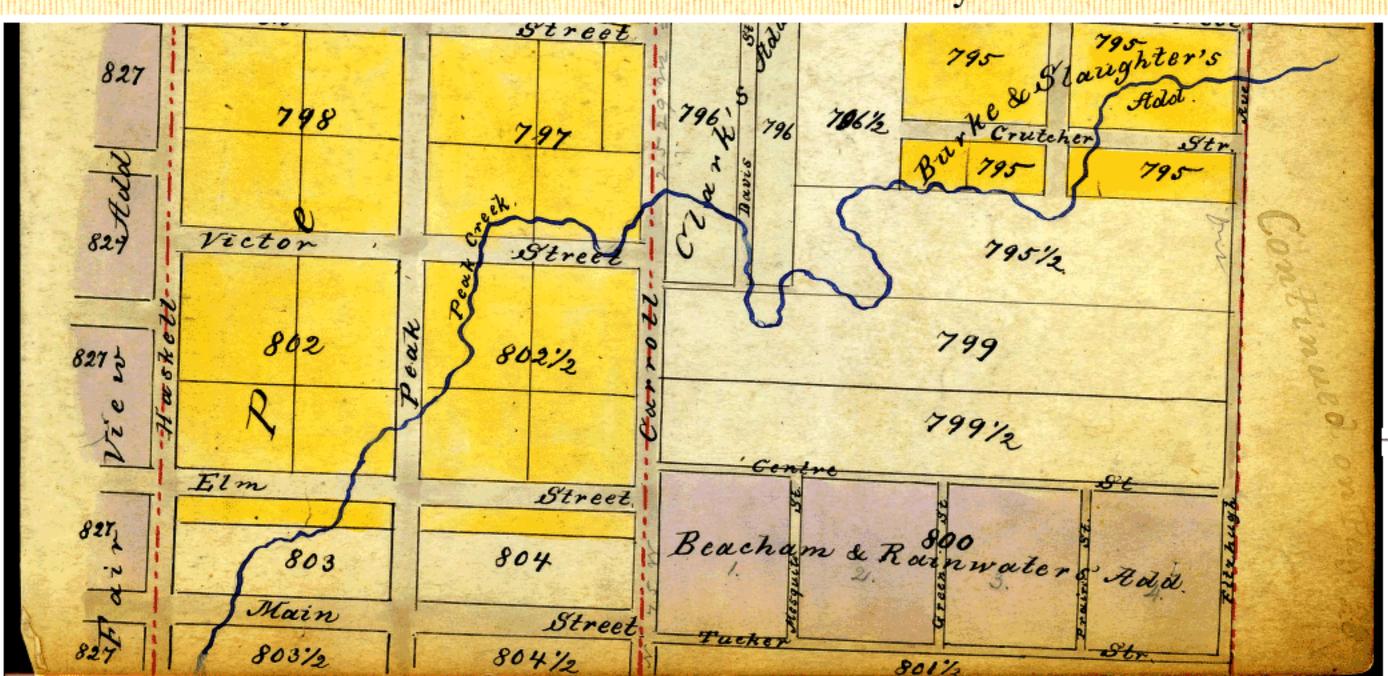
The Murphy & Bolanz collection, a manuscript collection consisting of real estate maps of Dallas and surrounding communities. The Murphy & Bolanz Company was an early Dallas real estate development firm established in 1874 (and exists today as Bolanz & Miller). The collection includes 3 Addition books, 6 Block books, and an index. The firm used these volumes to trace and record the growth of Dallas. The collection consists of approximately 3500 maps, or about 400 maps per volume.

In 1874, John P. Murphy established a real estate development firm and started doing plats of every neighborhood addition in Dallas County. Charles F. Bolanz joined the firm in 1884, and together they produced a set of maps that are incredibly detailed and provide information that cannot be found anywhere else. The Murphy & Bolanz Company became the official mapmaker for the City of Dallas. In an ad placed in the 1914 Texas Almanac, they stated that they have been involved in nearly every land deal in Dallas County. They also claimed to have the most complete set of block books for Dallas County. The result of their efforts was a set of maps of each block in Dallas and of some of the surrounding suburban towns, including original townsite maps of most towns and communities in Dallas County. The Dallas Public Library owns 10 volumes of the Murphy & Bolanz addition and block books containing detailed maps of Dallas and its surrounding suburbs from 1880s -1920s and an index

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