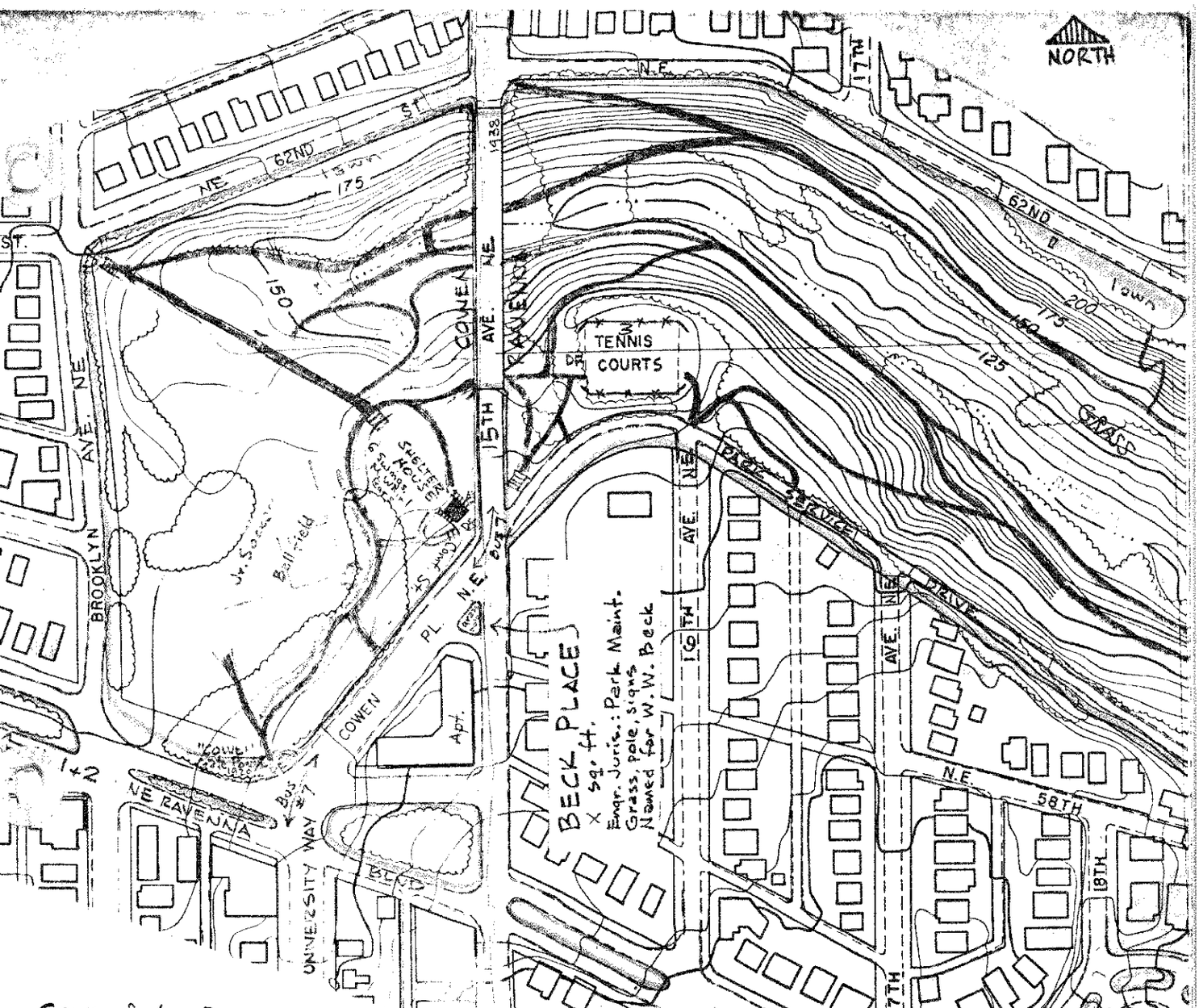

Cowen Park + Ravenna Blvd. originally were a deep ravine like Ravenna Park, having been cut by drainage from the post-Ice Age "Lake Russell" (formed by melt-off from the "Vashon Glacial Ice Sheet," 50,000 years ago.) The glacial basin remaining is "Green Lake" which continued to drain through this ravine until about 1911: installation of sewer and first fill in Boulevard; most recent fill @ Cowen Park in 1961 w/dirt from Seattle Freeway. Stream is now mostly spring-fed (some are mineral). Drains into Union Bay; shoreline (until 1917) is indicated by big curve of railroad.

COWEN PARK: (west of 15th Ave.) named for Charles Cowen who gave the park believing that "Man does not live by bread alone": gatepost inscript. Of English birth, spent childhood at family diamond mine in South Africa. Came to U.S. on business, remained as resident on San Juan estate; Haynes-Cowen Real Estate + Insurance. The present 15th Ave. Bridge built (1938), replacing wooden street car trestle; a spur track went along Service Drive 'til 1941.

RAVENNA PARK: named c.1889 by the original owner and developer: W. W. Beck, because ravine reminded him of Ravenna, Italy, famed for its pine trees. [Ravenna, Italy, was a Roman naval base, seaport and capital of Italy under Byzantine Empire; scene of Battle of 1512] Other names used by Beck were "Big Tree Pk.", "Ravenna Springs", + "Twin Maple Lane." After purch. by Seattle, the name was changed in 1919 to honor Teddy Roosevelt who had died that January. However a popular petition in 1931 restored the name Ravenna. By then the huge trees had died + been removed. By another petition the southeast corner was filled for a playground + WPA (1931) built a large, scenic wading pool fed by Ravenna Creek. It was abandoned in 1950, after a long stagnation caused by drain failure; filled in 1964 by Metro Sewer excavation.

× F.D.R. 1933-1945

sheet 1

COWEN/RAVENNA PK.

RAVENNA BLVD. sheet 3

(BECK PL.) ENGR.

070168

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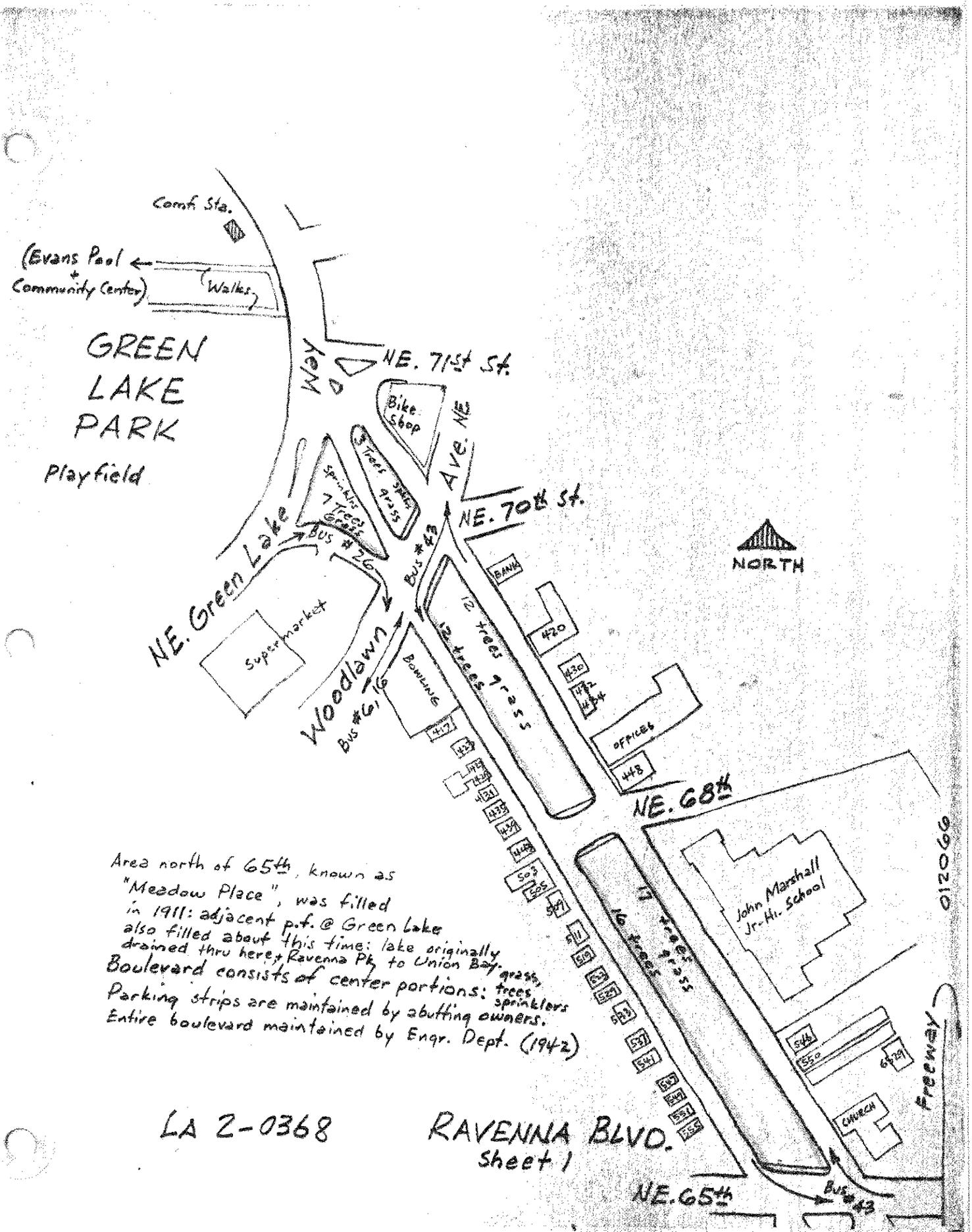

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LA 2-0368

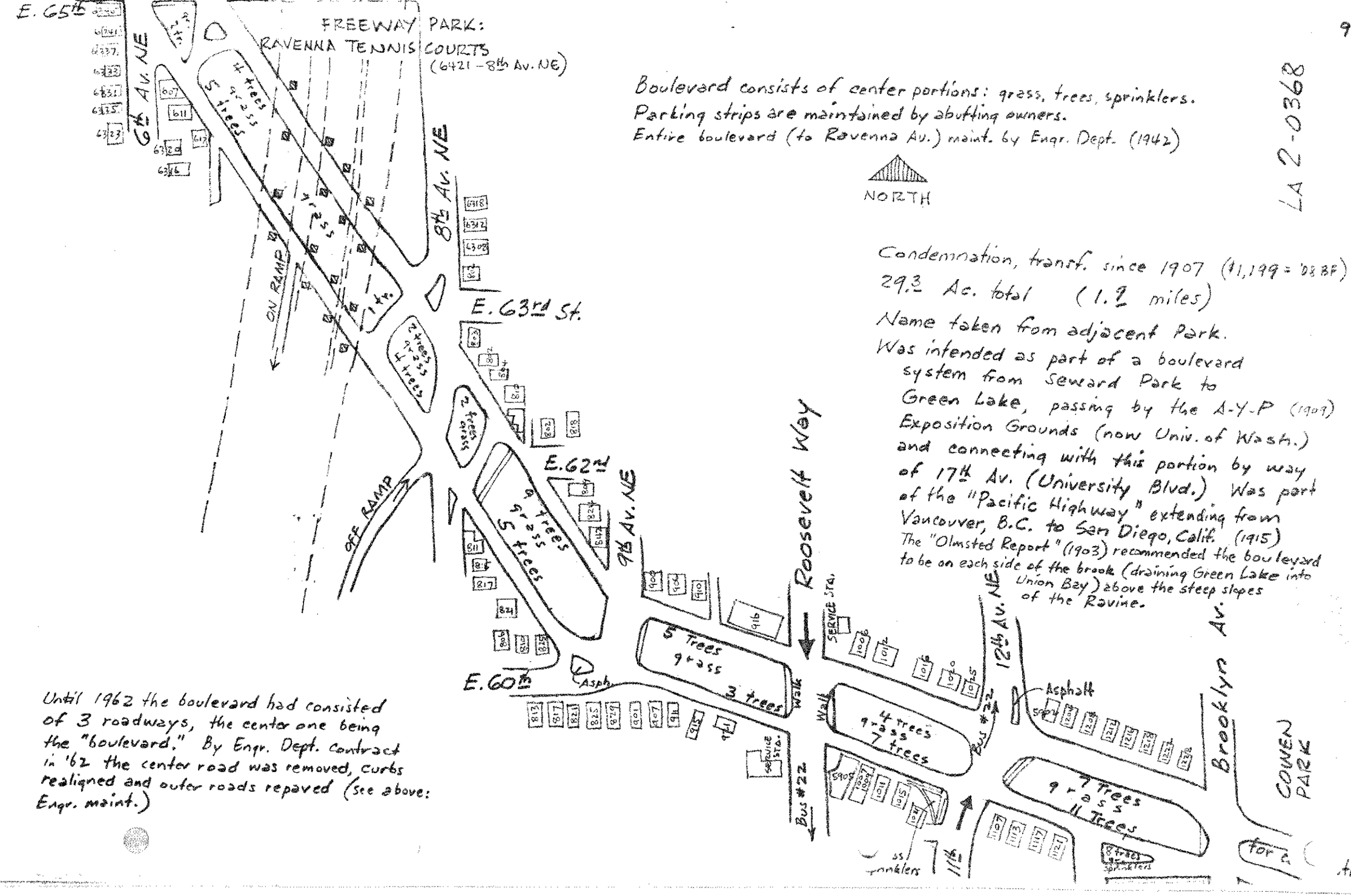
RAVENNA BLVD.
Sheet 1

010066

999211

LA 2-0368

RAVENNA BLVD.
Sheet 2



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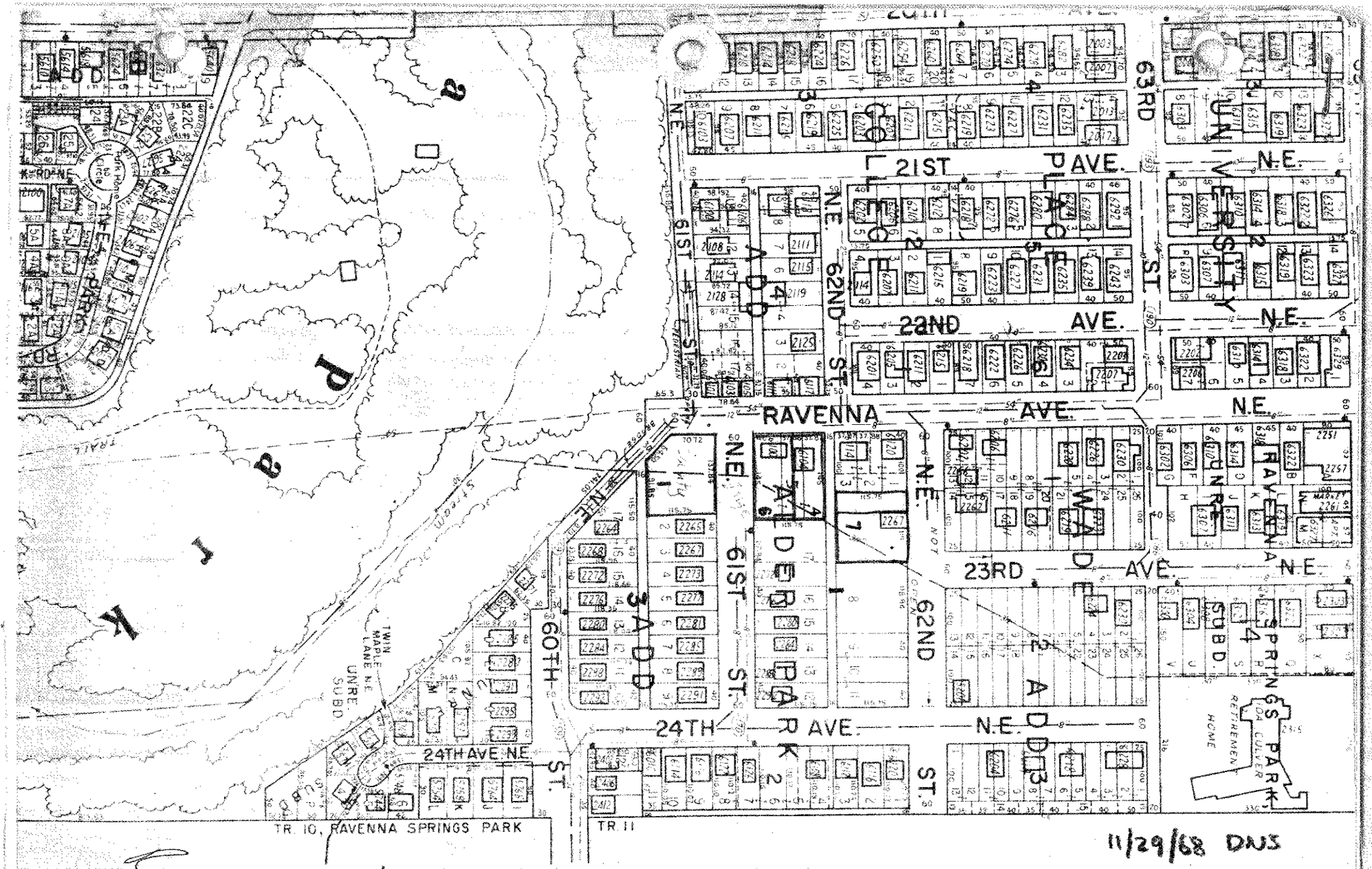

Ravenna Park

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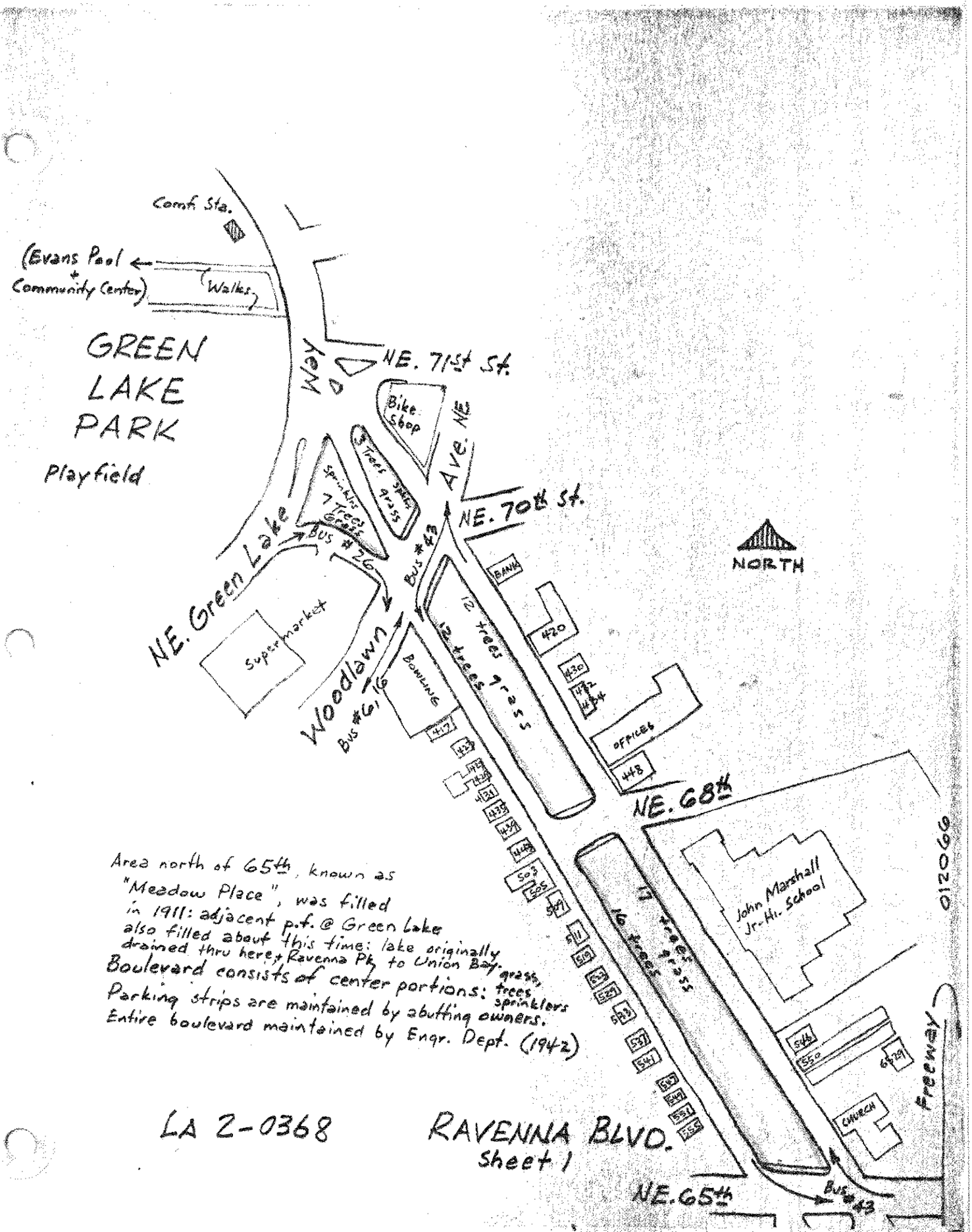

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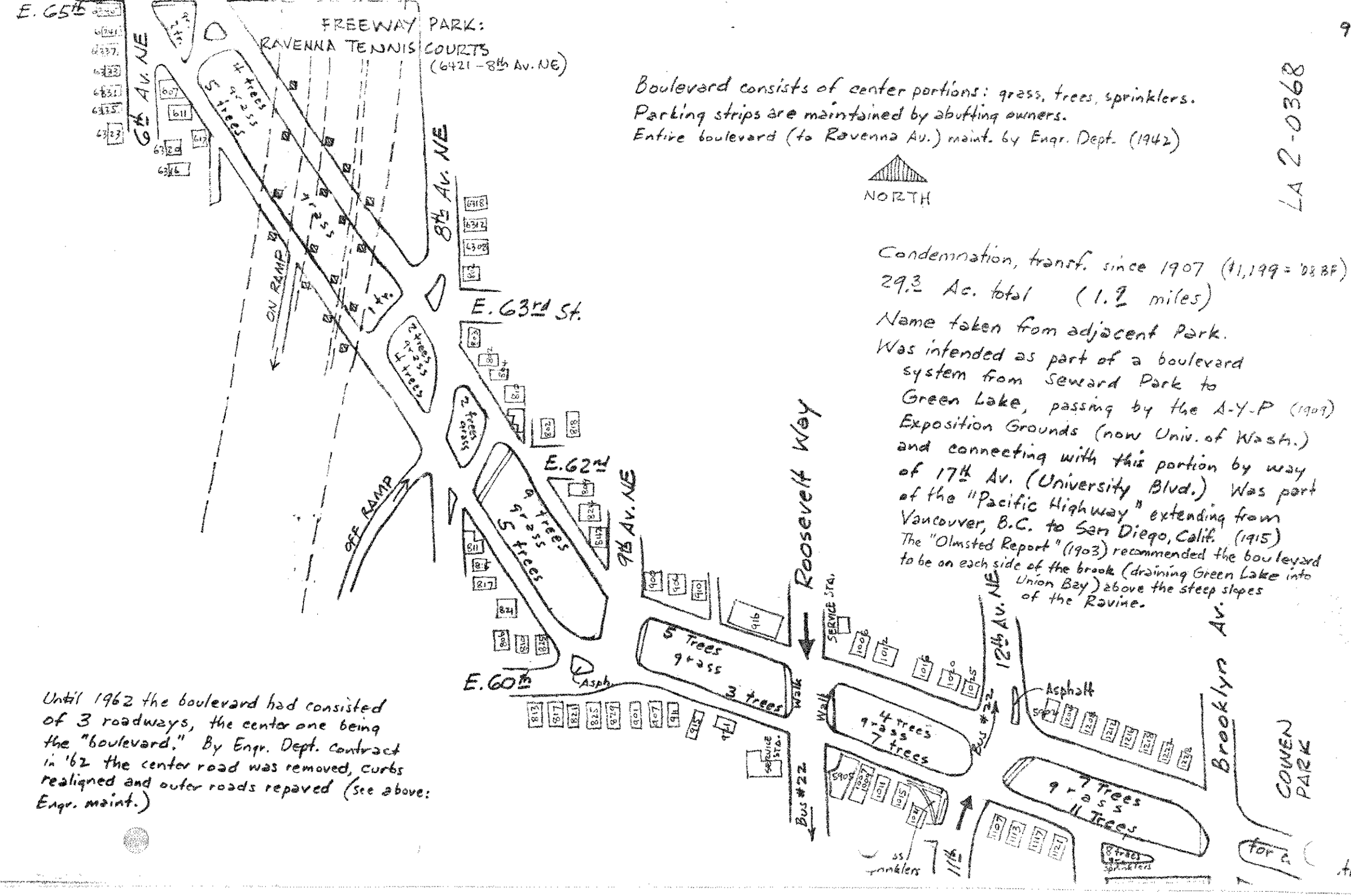

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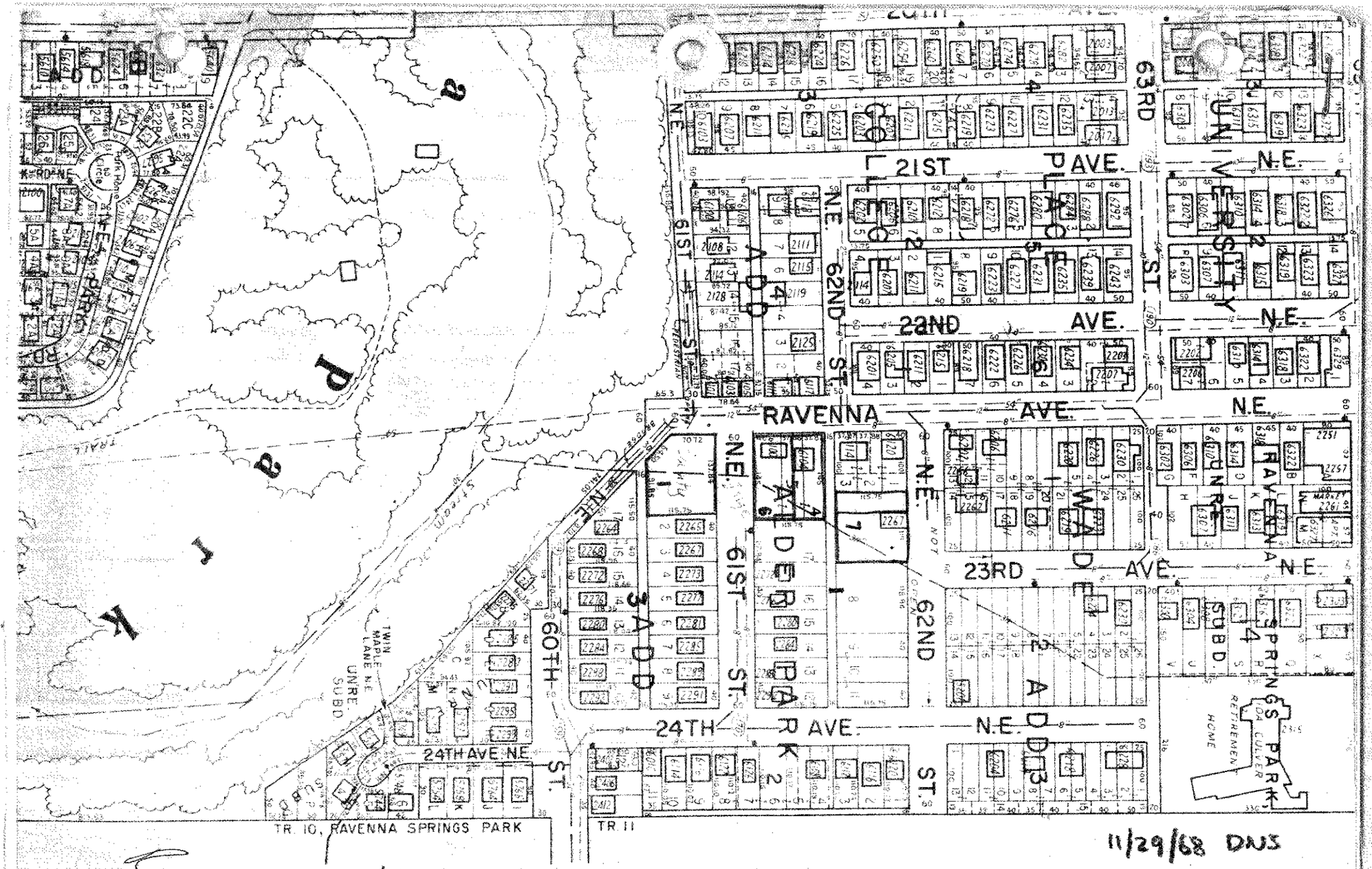

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