

Homes of My Great-Grandfather's Brother and Sister: Frank Sieracki and Julianna Repinski Sieracki

In 1981, Paul Libera gave me an account of the two houses built a few years after their immigration to Winona from Wiele, Poland, by his grandparents, Frank and Josephine (Przytarski) Sieracki and Frank's sister and her husband, Peter and Julianna (Sieracki) Repinski. Frank and Julianna were the brother and sister of my great-grandfather Joseph Sieracki.

This story has been repeated thousands of times by the early Polish immigrants to Winona. They were passionate about owning their own houses. They took advantage of the cheap lumber turned out by the sawmills, built the houses with the help of relatives and friends on half lots, started small and then later built additions. As is the case with my great-grandfather's house, the property stayed in the family for generations.



682 and 686 West 4th Street

Winona, Minn.
July 31, 1981

Charles Sieracki

Charlie,

This is the information I said I would send to you about the Sieracki-Repinski property in the west end.

The attached sheets are copied from the "Abstract to Title" for the city lot at West 4th and Ewing Streets. This lot was purchased in 1883 by Frank Sieracki and Peter Repinski, brothers-in-law.

On the east half of this lot, 682 West 4th Street, Frank Sieracki built a house with well and hand-pumped water, outhouse, smokehouse, chicken coop and barn. Peter Repinski did the same on the west half of this lot, 686 West 4th Street. Relatives and friends helped them build. Repinski's house and barn were smaller than Sieracki's house and barn. It was probably so because Repinski had a smaller family.

In 1886 Sieracki and Repinski gave quit claim deeds to each other. This made their lot into half lots of individual ownership for each of them.

In 1890 Repinski sold his half lot to an "Adam Kotlewski." This was probably the time when Repinski acquired and moved to his farm in Dodge, Wisconsin.

In 1901 the Repinski-Kotlewski half lot was sold to an "Ignac Szuminski." This Szuminski was married to Frank Sieracki's daughter, Anna.

In 1908 the Repinski-Kotlewski-Szuminski half lot was sold to Frank Sieracki, joining his ownership to the other half lot.

In 1914 there are two quit claim deeds which work to make Josephine Sieracki owner of the lot after the death of her husband, Frank Sieracki. This title was processed through an "E. L. Roesner." In this it is also shown that Joseph Sieracki, brother of Frank, verified that Josephine was the wife of Frank.

In 1914 Josephine Sieracki died and the ownership of the lot passed to her eight living children as listed.

At the time of her death, 1915, Josephine Sieracki was renting the original Repinski house to her son-in-law and daughter, Harry L. and Elizabeth (Sieracki) Libera. Harry Libera purchased the interests of the seven children, not that of his wife. Ownership has been continuous. Harry Libera died in 1965. The lot is owned today by Elizabeth (Sieracki) Libera. The original Sieracki and Repinski houses are still standing and being rented to tenants. Tenants in the Repinski happen to be Zennon and Gertrude (Sieracki) Pellowski. Gertrude is the daughter of John Sieracki. John was a son of Frank Sieracki.


Paul Libera