

John Smith surveyed basically the portion north of Black Creek in what might be called the typical rectangular block method of town lots. By the way, he also surveyed almost all of Riga. At the mouth of Black Creek at the river, a piece was settled early on (1794) by Josiah Fish and was split into a few lots. That was actually the very first division of land in the town and came 6 - 8 years before John Smith. Cornelius Charles Six from Holland purchased a large piece (the northeast part of the town) and he took the John Smith lots and divided them up into even more lots as you can see by the numbering. The Sibley Tract is a sub-tract within the Six Tract.

Fitzgerald divided the part of the town located south of Black Creek and used a much different method of sectionalizing than Smith. He divided the south part of the town into a number of "Great Lots" and as you can see, he then divided those lots into smaller divisions, mostly into six lots per great lot. This was done somewhat haphazardly as shown.

There are certain "unlotted" lands in places along the river and there is also a west and east gore along the Black Creek corridor where I believe the Smith and Fitzgerald surveys overlapped causing some confusion.

So that is why it is part of divisions 1 and 2 in great lot 20.

Greg,

I researched all of this quite a while back through various plat books, atlases and info from the State Historian. People can call those small lots town lots if they want but it is **not** what they are, they are subdivisions of the several great lots and I have encountered "division" in various abstracts for parcels south of Black Creek over the years. The old tax mappers or whomever from the County did not research this years and years ago.

Bob

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