

Affidavit of Solomon S. Smith

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State of Missouri, County of Jackson } SS.

On this 10th day of September 1863 before me Philip S. Brown a Notary Public within and for the County of Jackson in the State of Missouri personally appeared Solomon S. Smith who is of lawful age and who being by me first duly Sworn on his oath says, that he is a Brick Mason by occupation, that he has been engaged in that business in Kansas City Missouri Since the Month of May in the year 1857, that he built the Walls of the 1st & 2nd Stories of the Brick Building No 13 in Metropolitan Block in McGee's addition to Kansas City Missouri belonging to the heirs of Revd. R. S. Thomas Decd. [deceased] and also the Walls of the Building adjoining on the South side belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Cockerel[,] that said Buildings were Erected in the year 1857, that the outer foundation Walls of said Revd. R.S. Thomas Building were Eighteen inches thick and the partition Walls thirteen inches thick, that the said entire Metropolitan Block was built in the same manner the Walls being the same thickness, that this affiant built the said Entire Block, the Brick work thereof, the affiant states that the foundation of said Revd. R.S. Thomas Building were finer and on Solid clay bottom foundations Seven

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feet deep, the Walls well Constructed from the foundations up of a good quality of Merchantable Bricks, that this affiant was carefull in Selecting the hardest and best quality Bricks for said Entire house out of a large lot of good quality Bricks and specially the hardest for the said foundations, between the said Revd. R.S. Thomas Building and the Mrs Cockerel House there was one Common Partition Wall, these joists met in the Partition Wall between Mrs Cockerel's House and the House belonging to Estate of Revd. R.S. Thomas Decd. and the other ends rested upon Girders extending the Entire length of Each House [remaining?] East & West Sixty feet the length of the Buildings, these Girders were Supported by Wooden Posts or Columns placed in first Story, after these [*text stricken through*] Posts or Columns should be removed then the Girders of Course would bend or [MS. illegible] until the Ends would Come off the Wall which then would be their only Support and then the joints leaving been securely nailed and fastened to the floor would operate as a lever extending the Entire length of the Wall dividing the two houses and necessarily cut the Wall half in two the Entire length and that would force the Wall the Entire length beneath the joists into the Basement

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of the adjoining house, and cause the upper Walls to fall over into the house from whence the Posts or Columns had been removed and the girders and joists give way in, this affiant further states that he has been Engaged as Contractor in the business of Building Brick Building of all Sizes and Classes in different Sections of the United States for Nineteen years past, that he is competent to Erect Substantial Walls and Buildings and to decide their Capacity for the different [MS. illegible] of Service that a Building may be used for and that the Walls of said Revd. R.S. Thomas House were Sufficiently thick and Substantial to Support Six Stories thereon, that under no circumstances of occupation for Stores whatever weight might have been place therein and for Dwelling and any other ordinary use and occupation could said Building belonging to the heir and Estate of Revd. R.S. Thomas have fallen or the adjoining Building, Except undermining the Walls in Same way or removing the Supporters aforesaid, this affiant further says that said

Revd. R.S. Thomas Building was a good and Substantial Building that the adjoining Buildings were also good and Substantial Building and could

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only have given way by removing the Columns aforesaid or by Cutting the Walls or undermining the foundations in Some way.

Solomon S. Smith

Sworn to and [MS. illegible] before me on this 10th day of September 1863 witness my hand and notarial Seal

P.S. Brown

Notary Public

(seal)