

MOLE NEW STREETS.

Deal on Franklin Street to Put More Building Lots on the Market.

Judge George G. Grattan Friday morning purchased of Walter O. Switzer 40 feet of the latter's 90-foot lot on Franklin street and running back about 200 feet to an alley provided for in the original Bucher and Steigel addition to the town. The price paid was \$700. Including the 10-foot alley between the Switzer lot and the residence of Mr. A. H. Snyder, Judge Grattan's purchase will provide a fifty foot street running southward from Franklin to a tract of twelve acres now belonging to Judge Grattan which is beautifully located and is admirably adapted to subdivision into high-class lots for residence purposes.

It has been rumored that behind this sale is a project to put these lots on the market to desirable purchasers on such terms as will inaugurate a genuine building boom in that section. They would lie directly east of the Campbell property and would be approached from South Main street by the street leading east between the residence of Mr. J. Wilton and the A. M. Newman property now occupied by Mr. S. B. McFall.

The action of the Town Council last Tuesday evening in ordering an official survey of a street that would run parallel to Main between East Market and the southern corporate limits has been construed by some of our citizens as at least a recognition of the prospective development of the Grattan lots, if not, indeed, an accessory to the project. Members of the Council, however, deny that there is any such connection. They say that it was simply the Council's intention to survey a street and not to open one; that the action taken was to guard against the opening of streets by private individuals at haphazard, as personal interests might dictate, and without due regard to the public convenience or uniformity of plan. They say that the Town does not propose to condemn land for street purposes, or in any other manner incur the expenditure of public money for the improvement of new streets—a statement which is easily believed in view of the niggardly, not to say hostile, attitude of the present Council toward Franklin street, where taxable values and water rents have increased something like 500 per cent. in the past three years without the slightest assistance or encouragement from the Council.

The Street committee and the Superintendent of Public Works looked over the new street Friday that Judge Grattan's purchase will open, but they say nothing has yet been done toward including it in the survey that was ordered by the Council Tuesday evening. This survey Supt. Fallis expects to make early this week.

North of Franklin street Mr. A. M. Newman has opened several tiers of good lots in front of the old Henry Ott property, and has secured access to Franklin by the purchase of a 50 foot lot from I. Paul Fletcher. These lots will likewise figure in the development of that section of the town, which is fast becoming one of its most attractive residential sections.

In what may be called the Grattan addition are possibilities of parks, drives, and other suburban attractions that under proper management may make it the beauty-spot of the newer and greater Harrisonburg.