

WILLOWMERE

the clue book

A murder has been done in Willowmere, and the killer sleeps tonight behind one of its doors. Every clue in this book clears a set of homes beyond doubt. Color each cleared home in the clue's color on your district plates. When every clue is spent, one door in all the town will remain untouched.

*271 homes - four districts - one door
And something is hidden in the colors. You will know it when you see it.*

How to solve

Read the clues in order, or in any order you please - every clue is true, and no clue depends on another.

Each clue clears a set of homes completely. Find those homes on the district plates and color them in the clue's color. A quick pen slash works just as well if you'd rather not color - but the picture at the end is worth the pencils.

Streets run east to west and are named; avenues run north to south and are numbered. Avenue numbers are printed above every plate and on each house's number plaque, so a clue like 'between 13th and 16th avenue' reads the same on any page.

The killer's home is never cleared by any clue. When the last clue is spent, the one uncolored door in all of Willowmere belongs to the killer.

Leave the little white number plaques uncolored as you go - you will need to read addresses until the very end.

The legend

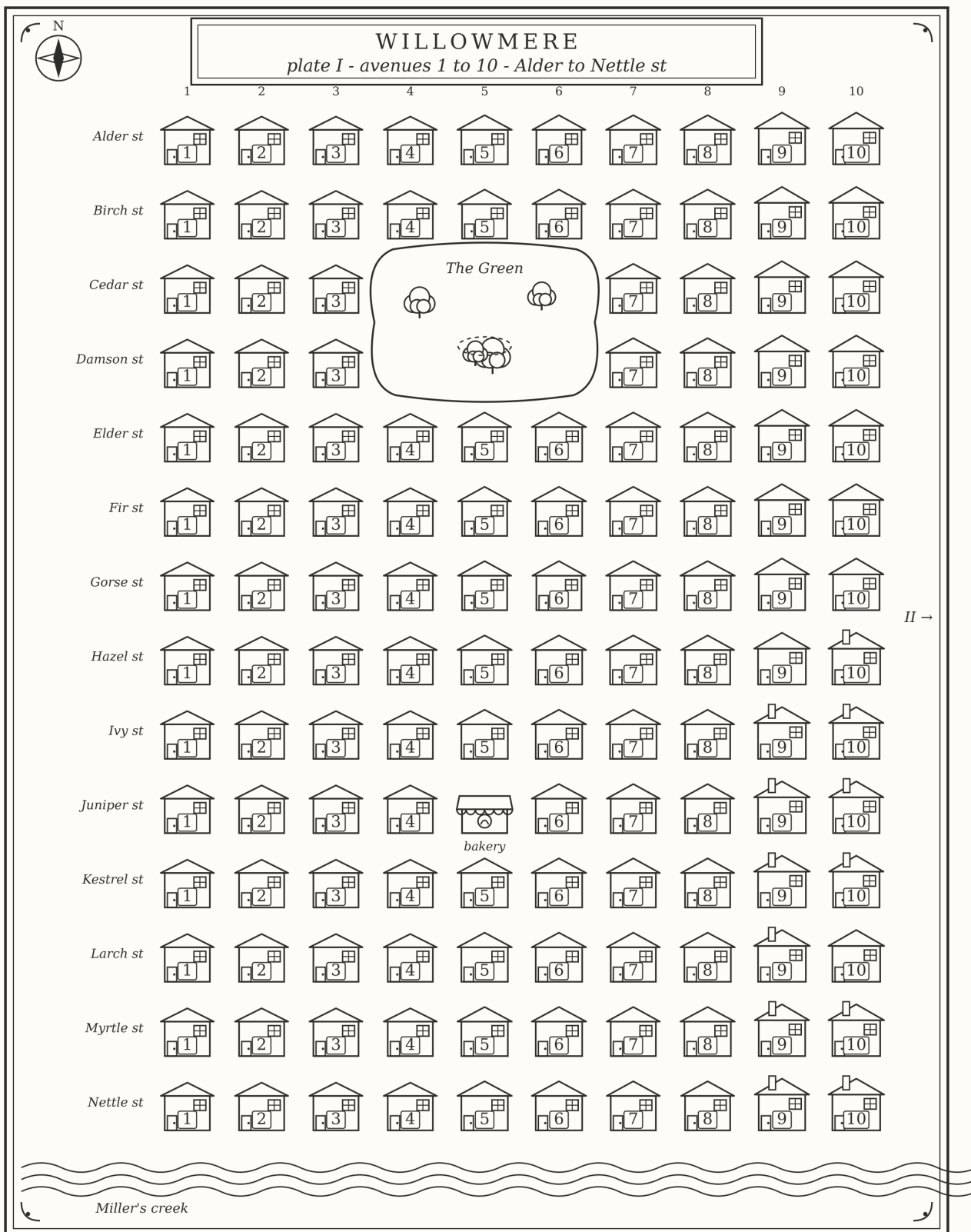
- A** **Alibis** - color with your GREEN pencil - who was seen elsewhere and accounted for
- W** **Witnesses** - color with your PURPLE pencil - what sleepless watchers can swear to
- G** **Geography** - color with your ORANGE pencil - what the ground itself testifies
- T** **Timelines** - color with your RED pencil - who could not have made the journey in time
- F** **The flour trail** - color with your YELLOW pencil, your brightest - the flour trail, every doorstep the killer walked past

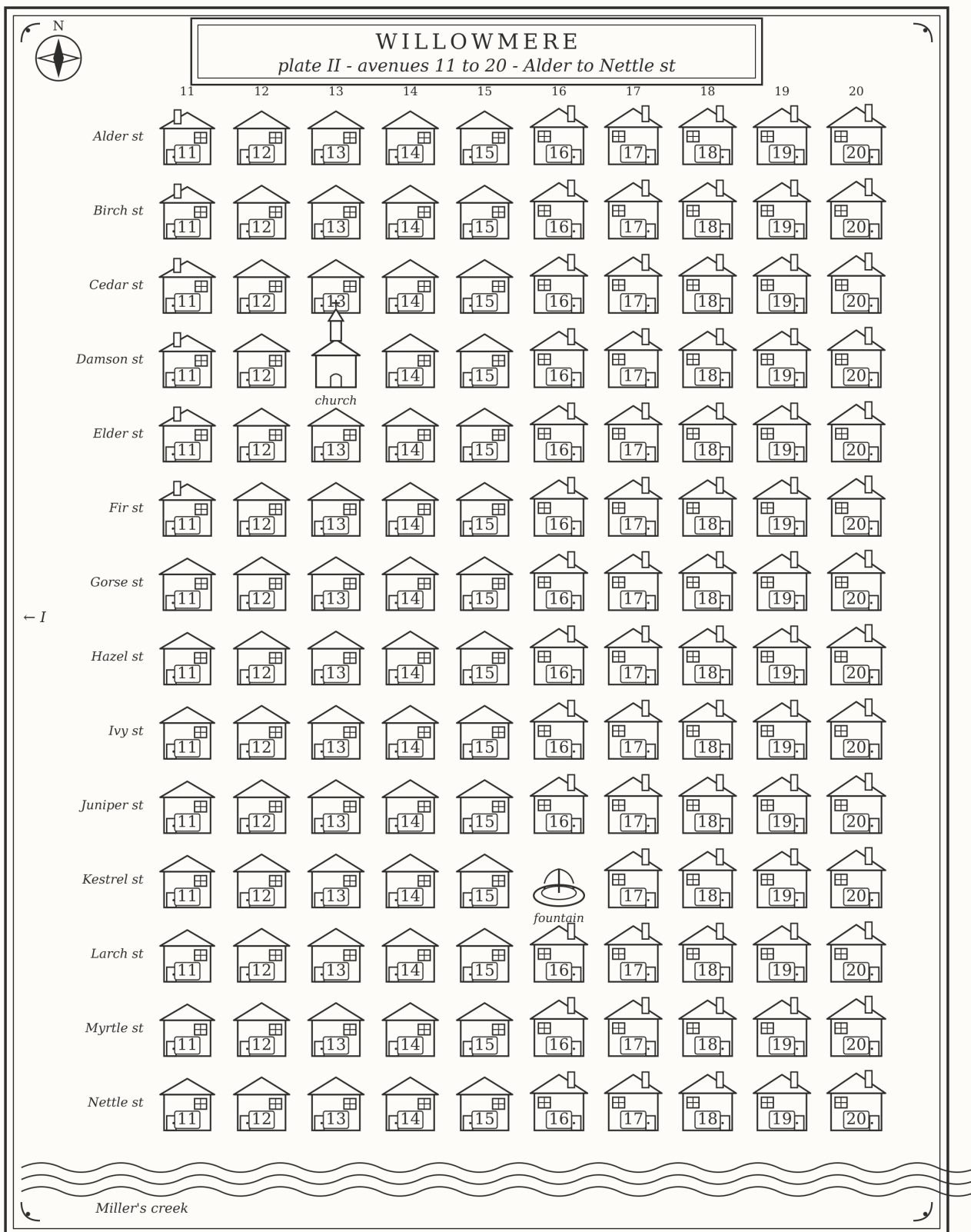
Every color above is found in any basic 12-pack of colored pencils. But truthfully, any five colors will do, so long as each clue type keeps one color from first page to last - and give the flour trail your brightest.

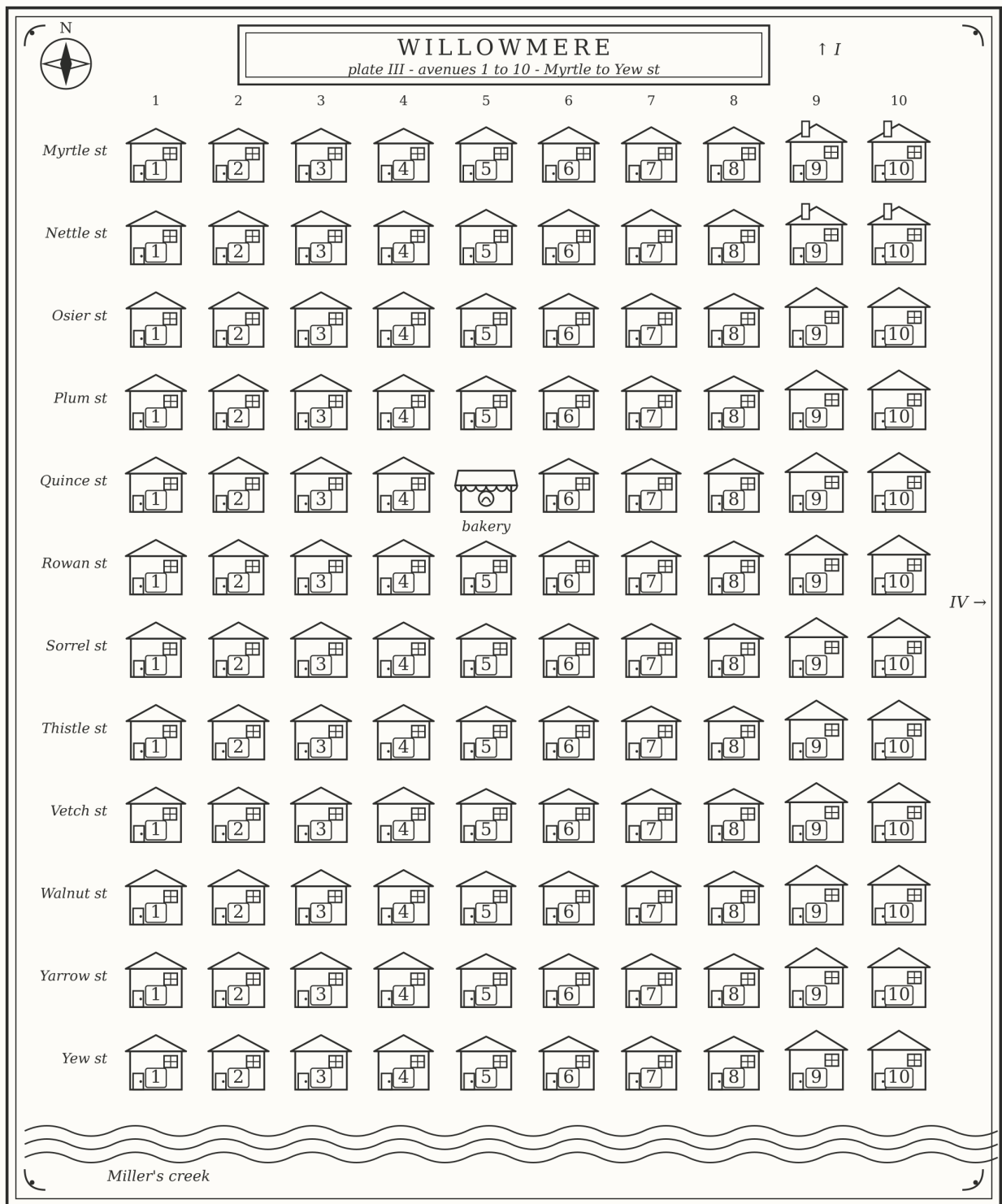
Prefer not to color, or unable to tell the colors apart? Write each clue's badge letter (A, W, G, T, F) in the homes it clears instead. The puzzle solves identically either way - though only colorists get the surprise at the end.

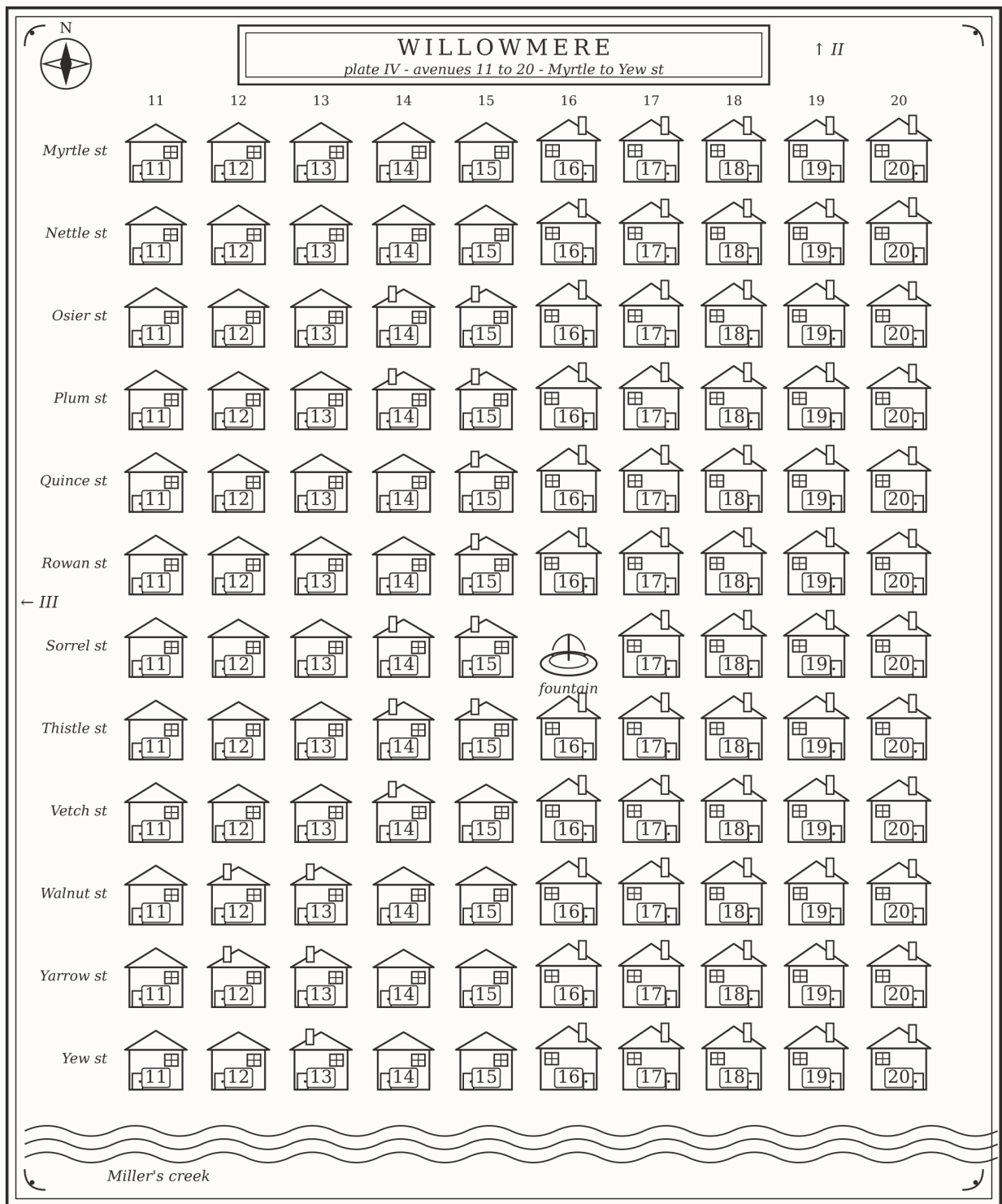
The district plates

The four plates of Willowmere follow, one to a page. In the bound book each plate prints full-page and single-sided; here they are sized for a home printer. Margin marks on each plate point to the neighboring district.









The clues

Solve at whatever pace the evening allows. The early clues clear whole neighborhoods; the late ones come down to single doors.

1. [A] ALIBIS - GREEN

Every household between 1st avenue and 3rd avenue, from Alder to Hazel street, was crammed into the same pews, tents, or taprooms when it happened - all accounted for.

2. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The mud at the scene is river mud. The wells between 18th avenue and 20th avenue, from Gorse to Nettle street, draw from chalk - clean boots, clean consciences.

3. [A] ALIBIS - GREEN

Every household between 1st avenue and 4th avenue, from Juniper to Nettle street, was crammed into the same pews, tents, or taprooms when it happened - all accounted for.

4. [T] TIMELINES - RED

The bridge on that side was raised until midnight; nobody between 6th avenue and 9th avenue, from Juniper to Nettle street, could have crossed in time.

5. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The red clay on the killer's boots is found nowhere between 7th avenue and 9th avenue, from Alder to Elder street, so those homes are clear.

6. [W] WITNESSES - PURPLE

The lamplighter walked between 10th avenue and 16th avenue, from Alder to Birch street, and swears every door he passed stayed shut.

7. [T] TIMELINES - RED

No one living between 6th avenue and 9th avenue, from Fir to Hazel street, could have reached the scene and returned before the church bells - all cleared.

8. [A] ALIBIS - GREEN

The guest book from choir practice clears every household between 17th avenue and 18th avenue, from Alder to Fir street.

9. [W] WITNESSES - PURPLE

Two insomniac sisters kept watch over everything between 19th avenue and 20th avenue, from Alder to Fir street, and saw nothing but cats.

10. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The red clay on the killer's boots is found nowhere between 10th avenue and 11th avenue, from Juniper to Nettle street, so those homes are clear.

11. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

Flour dusted every doorstep on Ivy street between 1st avenue and 10th avenue - the killer passed them all, so none of them is the killer.

12. [W] WITNESSES - PURPLE

Nothing happens within a block of the church unobserved; all 8 homes beside it are vouched for.

13. [T] TIMELINES - RED

The bells of the fountain mark every quarter hour, and its 8 neighbors were all seen between chimes.

14. [A] ALIBIS - GREEN

Not one soul between 4th avenue and 5th avenue, from Elder to Hazel street, missed widow Finch's card night; the whole stretch alibis itself.

15. [W] WITNESSES - PURPLE

The lamplighter walked between 10th avenue and 11th avenue, from Cedar to Fir street, and swears every door he passed stayed shut.

16. [W] WITNESSES - PURPLE

Two insomniac sisters kept watch over everything between 15th avenue and 16th avenue, from Cedar to Fir street, and saw nothing but cats.

17. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The mud at the scene is river mud. The wells between 12th avenue and 14th avenue, from Myrtle to Nettle street, draw from chalk - clean boots, clean consciences.

18. [T] TIMELINES - RED

No one living between 15th avenue and 17th avenue, from Gorse to Hazel street, could have reached the scene and returned before the church bells - all cleared.

19. [T] TIMELINES - RED

No one living between 15th avenue and 17th avenue, from Myrtle to Nettle street, could have reached the scene and returned before the church bells - all cleared.

20. [A] ALIBIS - GREEN

Every household between 4th avenue and 5th avenue, from Alder to Birch street, was crammed into the same pews, tents, or taprooms when it happened - all accounted for.

21. [A] ALIBIS - GREEN

The guest book from the harvest fair clears every household at 5th avenue, from Kestrel to Nettle street.

22. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The red clay on the killer's boots is found nowhere between 10th avenue and 11th avenue, from Gorse to Hazel street, so those homes are clear.

23. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

The flour ran corner to corner: beginning at No. 12 Fir street, stepping one avenue east and one street south with every stride, and ending at No. 15 Ivy street. Every home it grazed at the gatepost is cleared.

24. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

The flour ran corner to corner: beginning at No. 11 Ivy street, stepping one avenue east and one street

south with every stride, and ending at No. 13 Kestrel street. Every home it grazed at the gatepost is cleared.

25. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

The flour ran corner to corner: beginning at No. 12 Gorse street, stepping one avenue east and one street south with every stride, and ending at No. 14 Ivy street. Every home it grazed at the gatepost is cleared.

26. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

The flour ran corner to corner: beginning at No. 12 Hazel street, stepping one avenue east and one street south with every stride, and ending at No. 14 Juniper street. Every home it grazed at the gatepost is cleared.

27. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The mud at the scene is river mud. The wells at 6th avenue, from Alder to Birch street, draw from chalk - clean boots, clean consciences.

28. [W] WITNESSES - PURPLE

The lamplighter walked between 13th avenue and 14th avenue, on Fir street, and swears every door he passed stayed shut.

29. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

Whoever did it waded a ditch; there is no ditch within reach of any home between 13th avenue and 14th avenue, on Larch street.

30. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

The flour trail turned up 12th avenue, dusting every doorstep from Kestrel to Larch street - passed, and therefore innocent.

31. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The garden gate at No. 6 Elder street has rusted shut since spring - nobody left that way, or any way.

32. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The garden gate at No. 14 Gorse street has rusted shut since spring - nobody left that way, or any way.

33. [G] GEOGRAPHY - ORANGE

The garden gate at No. 14 Kestrel street has rusted shut since spring - nobody left that way, or any way.

34. [T] TIMELINES - RED

The resident of No. 17 Ivy street could not have made the round trip before the bells rang.

35. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

A perfect, undisturbed dusting of flour lies across the step of No. 12 Ivy street. No one came out that door.

36. [F] THE FLOUR TRAIL - YELLOW

A perfect, undisturbed dusting of flour lies across the step of No. 13 Juniper street. No one came out that door.

When one door remains: hold your finished map at arm's length before you knock. Willowmere has been trying to tell you something all along.

*The district checksums are printed upside down,
so honest eyes don't wander. Turn the book when you are ready to check a finished district.*

District checksums	
When you believe a district is finished, count the colored homes of each color on that plate. If your counts match, every deduction you made there was sound. If not, a clue was misread - recount before moving on.	
District	Correct counts