



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title:	Discussion of the Location and Relocation Cost for the Jones Law Office
Presenter:	Peter Suhr & Russell Colby

Please check appropriate box:

	Government Operations	X	Government Services 04.28.2014
	Planning & Development		City Council

Estimated Cost:	\$73,000	Budgeted:	YES		NO	X
-----------------	----------	-----------	-----	--	----	---

If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Budget Addition

Executive Summary:

The Jones Law Office was relocated to behind the Dunham Hunt House in 1988. The structure dates from the 1840s and was originally located attached to the Minard House at 504 E. Main St. The Supplemental Document provided gives a brief history from the St. Charles Historic Museum's perspective.

The City sold the Dunham Hunt House property in 2013. As a part of the sale contract, the City has the ability to remove the Law Office building from the site prior to May 26, 2014. Individuals in the community have expressed an interest in having the building relocated to an area that is publicly accessible so that the building can be utilized as a historical and educational feature.

The Historic Preservation Commission and resident Pat Pretz discussed potential locations. The first choice was Baker Park, located a short distance from the Dunham Hunt House and adjacent to its original location across 5th Avenue; however, the St. Charles Park District did not support moving the structure to Baker Park. The only Park location supported by the District was Primrose Farm.

The discussion then moved to City-owned properties on the east side of the river in and around downtown. Two viable locations have been identified: Langum Park (near Rt. 25 and Devereaux Way) and along N. 5th Ave., on the west side of the street, north of bridge over the railroad property. The Historic Commission supported either location. The 5th Ave. location is in the Historic District and is preferred by Ms. Pretz.

Staff obtained estimated costs to relocate the Jones Law Office to the 5th Ave. site:

Prep. Building, Remove Porch, Floor, Etc. & Restore Private Property @ DHH	\$10,000.00
Contractor Services to Relocate Building (With City Required \$5mm Agg.)	\$20,000.00
Relocate Overhead Utility Lines (During Building Move – 18 @ \$1000.00 ea.)	\$18,000.00
Site Work, New Slab, Sidewalks, Access Ramps, Etc.	\$20,000.00
Reconstruct Porch, Stairs, Floor, Etc.	\$5,000.00
Estimated Total Costs	\$73,000.00

Attachments: *(please list)*

History of Jones Law Office and Minard House provided by St. Charles Historic Museum
Proposed Location Map

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

Discussion to determine if the relocation and relocation costs of the Jones Law Office are deemed appropriate by City Council.

For office use only:	Agenda Item Number: 4.a
----------------------	-------------------------

Minard House

504 E Main Street



Image credit: St. Charles Public Library

Note: also referred to as Jones House and Farson House

An early settler from Vermont, Ira Minard built this frame house in 1842. Minard moved to the Fox Valley in 1834 and was responsible for building a mill, dry goods store, bank, Fox River dam, and the first bridge in the new settlement of what was then called "Charleston." Minard was also a leader in local government, helping to organize Kane County in 1836 and serving as an Illinois State Senator in 1862.

Steven Sandborn Jones bought the Minard House in 1843. Jones, also a native of Vermont, moved to St. Charles in 1838. He is thought to have proposed St. Charles' name in 1839 after he learned that another Illinois town had already chosen the "Charleston" name. He proved instrumental in securing the town's charter in 1849. Jones was the first lawyer in the Fox Valley area. He was also a Kane County Judge from 1843-1846. Jones served on the Board of Directors of the Franklin Medical College until it disbanded. Jones was involved in local business as well as the law, and built the Tremont Hotel in 1850. Steven Jones was murdered in his Chicago law office in 1877.



At one time, Jones' St. Charles law office was attached to the west side of this 504 East Main Street house. The office was moved in 1988 to its current location behind the Dunham-Hunt House at 302 Cedar Avenue. During the Civil War, the Minard House served as an army recruiting headquarters. The small law office building served as a holding cell for deserting soldiers. Evidence of the soldiers' presence is still apparent in the graffiti they left behind.

Sources

- Calby, Shirley. "A Lawyer's Life is Brought to Order." *St. Charles Chronicle* 14 Sept. 1988: Our Towns:10
- Clauter, Hazel. **Our Community--St. Charles.** 1967.
- Costerisan, John. "A Lot of History in a Small Space, First Law Office Thought to be First Courthouse." *Kane County Chronicle* 25 May 1999: A:9:1.

- Durant, Pliny. **Passing in Review: Reminiscences of Men Who Have Lived in St. Charles.** pp. [173-175](#), [201-204](#).
- Pearson, Ruth Ann. **Reflections of St. Charles.** Elgin: Brethern Press, 1976.
- St. Charles Historical Society. **Celebrating History: A Pictorial Essay of St. Charles Illinois.** St. Charles: St. Charles Historical Society, 1990.



Data Source:
 City of St. Charles, Illinois
 Kane County, Illinois
 DuPage County, Illinois
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Coordinate System: Illinois State Plane East
 North American Datum 1983
 Printed on: April 14, 2014 09:46 AM



This work was created for planning purposes only and is provided as is, without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The information represented may contain proprietary and confidential property of the City of St. Charles, Illinois. Under United States Copyright protection laws you may not use, reproduce, or distribute any part of this document without prior written permission. To obtain written permission please contact the City of St. Charles at Two East Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174.
 Powered by Precision GIS