



**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: 4d

Title:

Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to approve Historic Landmark Designation for 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Franklin Curtis House

Presenter:

Russell Colby

Meeting: Planning & Development Committee

Date: October 8, 2018

Proposed Cost: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Not Budgeted:

**Executive Summary** *(if not budgeted please explain):*

Judith Loof has nominated her property at 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. for Landmark status.

In accordance with the Zoning Ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the landmark nomination on 9/5/18. The Commission recommended approval of the nomination by a vote of 5-0, based on the criteria listed in the attached resolution.

The house was constructed circa 1926 in the English Cottage style. Architect Franklin E. Curtis designed and built the home, with the garage being added sometime later. An addition was added to the East side elevation of the home shortly before 2008. The addition does not distract from the prominent English Cottage architectural style. Curtis lived in the home until 1941, when he sold it to George E. Thompson, who lived there until 1959. Mr. Thompson was the superintendent of schools for St. Charles from 1919 until his retirement in 1958. Thompson Middle School is named in his honor.

If the Landmark designation is approved by City Council, a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission will be required prior to issuance of a permit for construction, alteration, repair, demolition, relocation, or other material change that affects the exterior architectural appearance of the structure.

**Attachments** *(please list):*

Historic Commission Resolution, Landmark Nomination

**Recommendation/Suggested Action** *(briefly explain):*

Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to approve a Historic Landmark Designation for 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Franklin Curtis House

## City of St. Charles, Illinois

### Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 4-2018

#### **A Resolution Recommending Approval for Landmark Designation (516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.-Franklin Curtis House)**

WHEREAS, per Section 17.32.060 of the St. Charles Zoning Ordinance, it is the responsibility of the St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission to evaluate applications for Landmark Designation and to make recommendations to the City Council regarding them; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed the application for designation of 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and hereby finds that the Landmark nomination meets one or more of the criteria for Landmark Designation listed in Section 17.32.060.C of the St. Charles Zoning Ordinance based on the historical and architectural significance as described in the following findings:

- 1. The property has character, interest or value which is part of the development, heritage or cultural character of the community, county or nation.**  
**-AND-**
- 2. The property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state or nation.**

The original structure was built in the English Cottage style by Franklin E. Curtis at 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ave. in 1926. The garage was added sometime later.

Mr. Curtis lived in the home until 1941 when he sold it to George E. Thompson. George E. Thompson lived in the home from 1941-1958. Thompson was the superintendent of St. Charles schools from 1919 until his retirement in 1958. Thompson middle school is named in his honor. In 1959 Mr. Thompson sold the home to Daniel J. Schifeling, an attorney for the St. Charles Savings and Loan. He sold the home to Michael S. Shirley, a Phycologist and administrator of Elgin Community College, in 1980.

- 3. The structure embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.**  
**-AND-**
- 4. The structure embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that are of architectural significance.**

The original structure was built as a brick English Cottage style house on terra cotta foundation. A garage was added sometime later. An addition was added to the east elevation of the home shortly after 2008. The addition was built in a way that does not take away from the prominent architectural style of the home. The home has all new windows, except for the garage and the basement. However, all of the replacements are of like material to the originals and the new trim matches the original used.

**5. The property is suitable for preservation or restoration.**

The home retains many of the original exterior features visible at the time of its initial construction and later additions. The house has been owned by Judith A Loof since 2008 and the exterior is suitable for preservation.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission to recommend to the City Council that the property known as 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ave. as legally described in Exhibit “A”, be designated as a Landmark, and that it be referred to as the “Franklin Curtis House”, with a construction date of circa 1926.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Pretz, Smunt, Krahenbuhl, Mann, Malay

Nays: None

Absent: Kessler

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

**PASSED**, this 5th day of September, 2018.

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Chairman

**Exhibit "A"**  
**Legal Description**

THE NORTHERLY 90 FEET OF THE WESTERLY 17 FEET OF LOT 3 AND THE  
NORTHERLY 90 FEET OF LOT 4 IN BLOCK 40 OF WARD'S ADDITION TO ST.  
CHARLES IN THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.  
PIN #09-27-332-01

**CITY OF ST. CHARLES**  
TWO EAST MAIN STREET  
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174-1984



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING DIVISION

PHONE: (630) 377-4443 FAX: (630) 377-4062

**HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION**

*Instructions:*

*To nominate a property for Historic Landmark Designation, complete this application and submit all required documentation to the Planning Division. Based on a review of the application by City staff and the Historic Preservation Commission, additional detailed information to support this application may be required.*

*The information you provide must be complete and accurate. If you have a question please call the Planning Division and we will be happy to assist you.*



<b>1. Property Information:</b>	Parcel Number(s): <p align="center">09-27-332-001</p>	
	Property Name (Historic or common name of the property): <p align="center">TBD</p>	
<b>2. Applicant:</b>	Name <p align="center">JUDITH A. LOOF</p>	Phone <p align="center">630-513-6640</p>
	Address <p align="center">516 N. 3RD AVENUE ST. CHARLES, IL 60174</p>	Fax
		Email <p align="center">JWLOOF8463@GMAIL.COM</p>
<b>3. Record Owner:</b>	Name	Phone
	Address <p align="center">SAME</p>	Fax <p align="center">SAME</p>
		Email
<b>4. Legal Description of Property:</b> The legal description should be obtained from the deed, mortgage, title insurance, or other recorded document (attach sheets if necessary).  <p align="center">SEE ATTACHED PLAT OF SURVEY</p>		

**I. Classification of Property (Check all that apply):**

a) Ownership:

- private
- public-local
- public-state

b) Category:

- building
- district
- site

c) Integrity:

- original site
- moved: date \_\_\_\_\_
- unaltered

d) Function or Use:

Historic/Current

- /  agriculture
- /  commercial
- /  educational
- /  government
- /  entertainment

Historic/Current

- /  industrial
- /  military
- /  museum
- /  private residence
- /  park

Historic/Current

- /  religious
- /  scientific
- /  transportation
- /  other(specify

e) Architecture:

Early Republic

- Federal
- Early Classical Revival

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century

- Greek Revival
- Gothic Revival
- Italian Villa
- National

Late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

- Beaux Arts
- Colonial Revival
- Classical Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Late Gothic Revival
- Dutch Colonial Revival
- English Cottage
- Italian Renaissance
- French Renaissance
- Spanish/Mission

Regional Origin

- Vernacular (describe)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (describe)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Late Victorian

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gothic Revival
- Italianate
- Second Empire
- Queen Ann
- Stick/Eastlake
- Shingle Style
- Romanesque
- Renaissance
- Folk Victorian

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century (American Movements)

- Princess Ann
- Homestead
- (Amer. Arts & Crafts Movement)
- Craftsman
- Bungalow
- Foursquare
- Prairie School

Modern Movement

- Modern
- Art Deco
- International Style
- Ranch

**II. Building Materials:**

Please mark the appropriate boxes listing the materials that exist on the building.

	Foundation	Walls	Roof	Others
Wood				
Weatherboard, Clapboard				
Shingle				
Log				
Plywood				
Shake				
Stone				
Granite				
Sandstone				
Limestone				
Marble				
Slate				
Brick		X		
Metal				
Iron				
Copper			FRONT ENTRY	
Bronze				
Tin				
Steel				
Lead				
Nickel				
Cast Iron				
Stucco				
Terra Cotta	X			
Asphalt			X	W/CEMENT SKIN SHAKE LOOK
Asbestos				
Concrete				
Adobe				
Ceramic Tile				
Glass				
Cloth/Canvas				
Synthetics				
Fiberglass				
Vinyl				
Aluminum				
Rubber				
Plastic				
Drivit/EIFS				
Other				

**III. Significance of Property:**

Please indicate source of documentation, if available.

- a) Original Owner: FRANKLIN E. CURTIS
- b) Architect/Builder: FRANKLIN E. CURTIS
- c) Significant Person(s): GEORGE E. THOMPSON - SUPERINTENDENT OF STC 1919-1958
- d) Significant Dates (i.e., construction dates): CIRCA 1926

e) Please indicate which of the following criteria apply to the property:(check all that apply.)

Property has character, interest, or value which is part of the development, heritage, or cultural character of the community, county, or nation.

Property is the site of a significant local, county, state, or national event.

Property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation. GEORGE E. THOMPSON - SEE ATTACHMENTS

Structure embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.

Property is identified with the work of a master builder, designer, architect, or landscape architect whose work has influenced the development of the area, the county, the state, or the nation.

Structure embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that are of architectural significance.

Structure embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.

Property has a unique location or physical characteristics that make it a familiar visual feature.

Structure is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of historical or architectural significance.

Property is suitable for preservation or restoration.

Property is included on the \_\_\_ Illinois and/or \_\_\_ National Register of Historic Places.

Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to prehistory, history, or other areas of archaeological significance.



**IV. Attachments**

1. Descriptive Statement: Attach a narrative statement describing the property and its historical architectural significance as indicated in Sections I, II, and III above. Describe structural changes, additions, and decorative modifications or material changes and dates of such work if known. State the reasons it should be designated as a Historic property. *SEE ATTACHED*
2. Plat of Survey: Attach a plat of survey showing the boundaries and location of the property. This may be obtained from the County Recorder (630-232-5935) at the Government Center. You may also have one from your house closing. *SEE ATTACHED*
3. Photographs: Attach photographs showing the important structures or features of the property and a photograph as viewed from the public way. Black and white or color prints. A minimum of one photograph of the structure as viewed from the public way is required.

*SEE ATTACHED*

**I (we) certify that this application and the documents submitted with it are true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief.**

*Judith A. Spof* \_\_\_\_\_ *8/6/2018*  
Record Owner Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant or Authorized Agent Date

## Hitzemann, Rachel

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**From:** THOMAS PRETZ  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 18, 2018 8:41 AM  
**To:** Colby, Russell; Hitzemann, Rachel  
**Cc:** Norris Fred; Steve Smunt  
**Subject:** Fw: 516 N. 3rd Ave ... Window replacement question

Please find below a response from Will Loof regarding clarification of the existing windows. If I recall correctly from a verbal conversation, the prior to replacement windows opened into the interior of the home.

Tom

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Judith Loof  
**To:** Thomas Pretz  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2018 3:10 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Window replacement question

Tom - All the windows are new except the basement and garage, with new wood storms made for the basement. House windows match the originals with the appearance of individual panes and are aluminum clad over wood on the outside and wood on the inside. We had the interior trim match the original, including windowsills.

Will

Sent from my iPhone

## 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue – Descriptive Statement

In 1925, Franklin E. Curtis, an architect, and his wife, purchased the site known as 516 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in St. Charles, IL. Mr. Curtis designed an English Cottage style home built circa 1926. The garage was not added until sometime later. Mr. Curtis lived in the home until 1941 when he sold the home to George E. Thompson and his wife. Mr. Thompson was Superintendent of schools for the City of St. Charles from 1919 until his retirement in 1958. The then high school now a middle school was named in his honor and remains so today. In 1959 Mr. Thompson sold the home Daniel J. Schifeling, an Attorney for the St. Charles Savings and Loan and his wife. They sold the home in 1980 to Michael S. Shirley, Phycologist and administrator of Elgin Community College. Judith A. Loof purchased the home in 2008 and is the current owner/applicant.

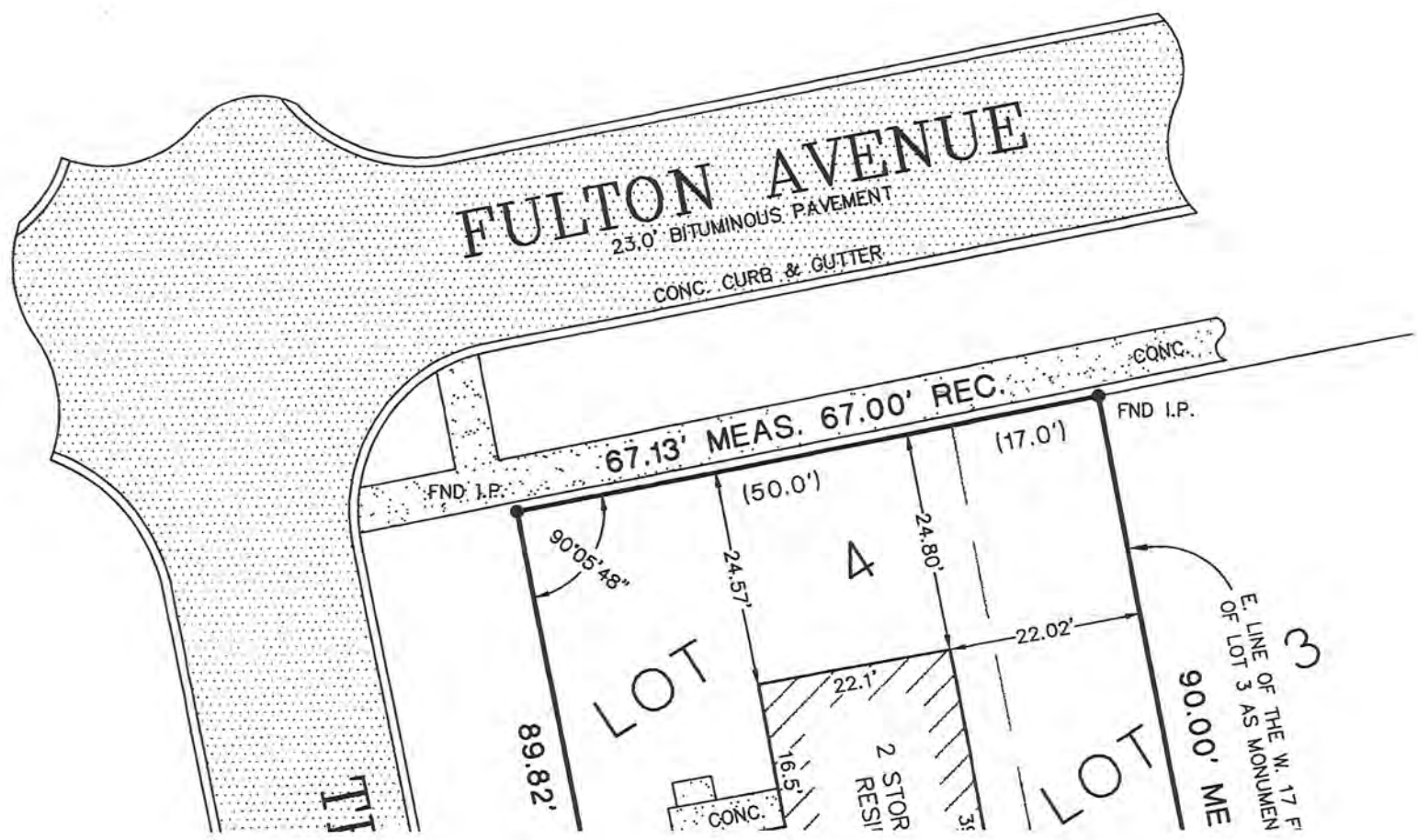
The home resides outside the historic district boundaries in the area referred to as Pottawatomie Park. The addition on the East elevation of the home was added shortly after 2008 but does not distract from the architectural style. Windows are not original but do reflect the correct style. The home is well maintained and worthy for landmark designation

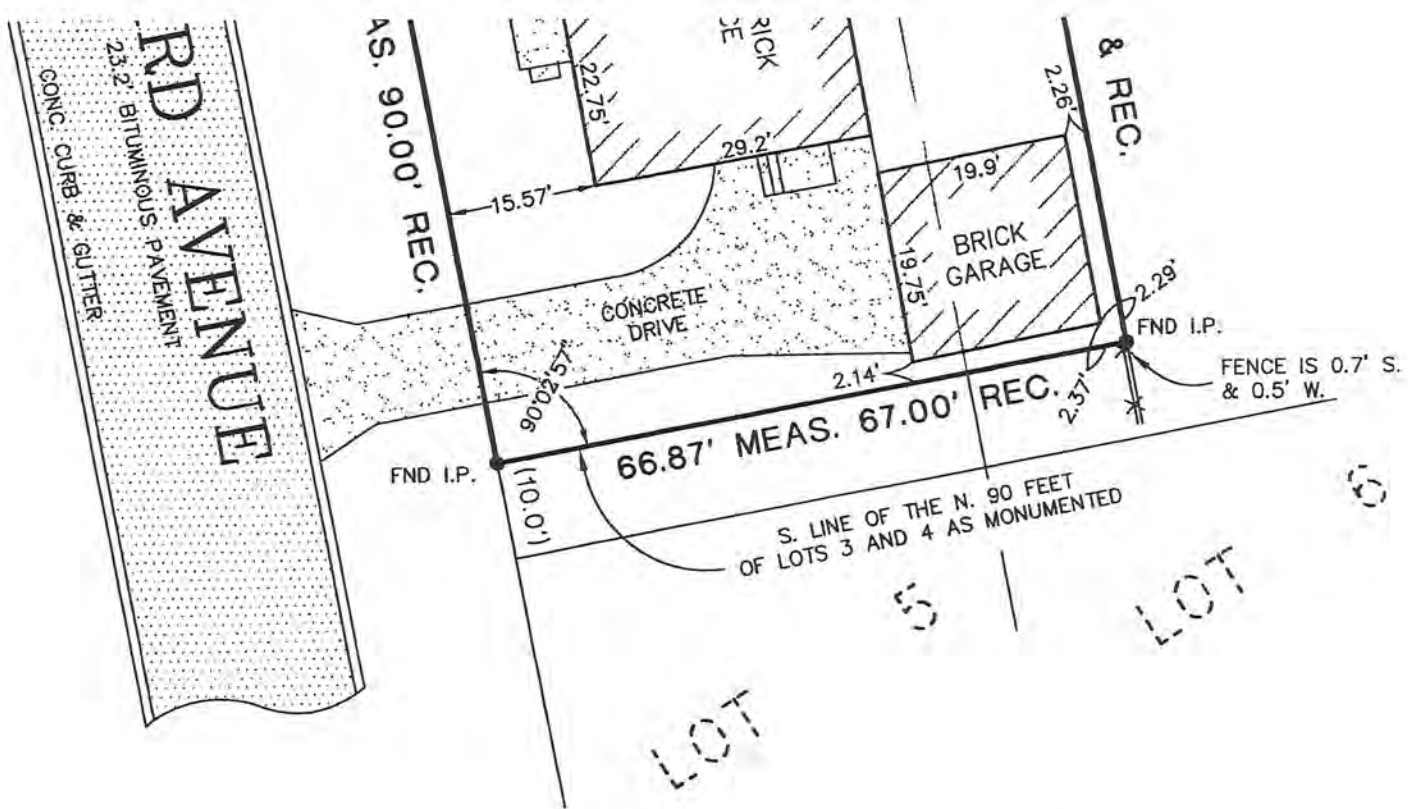
# PLAT OF SURVEY

OF  
THE NORTHERLY 90 FEET OF THE WESTERLY 17 FEET OF LOT 3 AND THE NORTHERLY 90 FEET  
OF LOT 4 IN BLOCK 40 OF WARD'S ADDITION TO ST. CHARLES, IN THE CITY OF  
ST. CHARLES, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.



SCALE: 1" = 20'





Prepared for: Markuson & Neufeld

Job No. 08-8417

Address: 17 N. 11th Street, St. Charles

Book 80 Page 49

FOR BUILDING RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS NOT SHOWN  
HEREON, REFER TO YOUR ABSTRACT, DEED, GUARANTEE  
POLICY, AND LOCAL ORDINANCES

- IRON PIPE SET      R=RADIUS
- IRON PIPE FOUND    A=ARC LENGTH

COMPARE ALL POINTS BEFORE BUILDING AND  
REPORT ANY DIFFERENCES AT ONCE.

**FJM LAND SURVEYING**

TELEPHONE: (630) 587-8060      EMAIL: FJMSURVEY@AOL.COM

FACSIMILE (630) 587-8061      6 N 566 WILLOWBROOK DRIVE

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60175

State of Illinois)      ) S. S.  
County of Kane    )

I, Frank J. McDaniel, an Illinois Professional  
Land Surveyor, No. 3256, do hereby certify that  
the Plat shown hereon is a correct representation  
of a survey performed at and under my direction.  
This professional service conforms to the current  
Illinois minimum standards for a boundary survey.

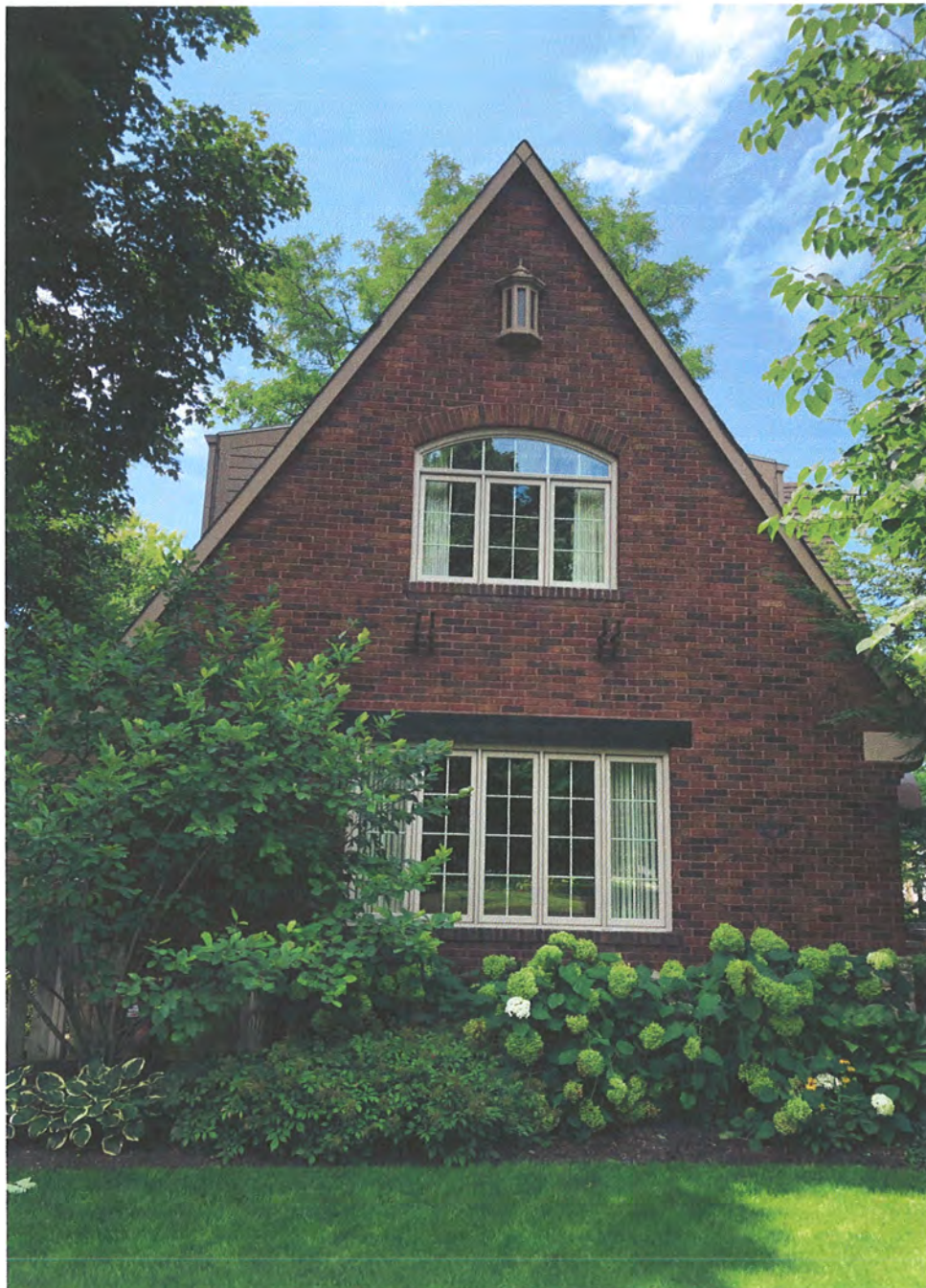
All dimensions shown in feet and decimal parts  
thereof.

Given under my hand and seal in  
St. Charles, Illinois, this  
30th day of April, A.D. 2008.

Frank J. McDaniel, P.L.S. #3256  
License Renewal/Date of  
Expiration = 11/30/2008





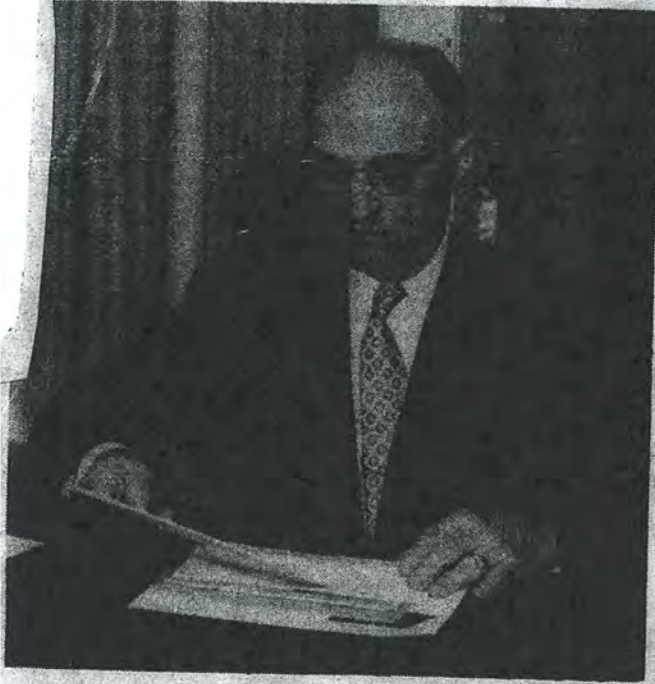




BASEMENT  
FOUNDATION



Chronicle 3/31/76



George Thompson, superintendent of St. Charles schools for 40 years, died Saturday in Indianapolis. A service will be held in St. Charles this afternoon (see death notice below).

## Deaths

The man for whom the high school in St. Charles is named, George E. Thompson, died Saturday, March 27, in his Indianapolis home. He was 81.

Mr. Thompson was superintendent of schools in St. Charles from 1919 to 1958 and later was admissions counselor of Washington University in St. Louis for 10 years. The high school was named in his honor in 1958.

He was president of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce in 1928 and 1929, a charter member of the St. Charles Rotary Club and its president in 1949 and 1950.

Mr. Thompson was born May 1, 1894, in Continental, Ohio. He received a bachelor's degree from Defiance College and a master's degree from the University of Chicago. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War I after being principal of Haines High School in 1917.

He helped organize the Little Seven Conference in 1921 and was its president for 34 years. He was president of the Northeastern Division of the Illinois Education Assn. and two educational organizations for superintendents.

He is survived by a son, Robert of Indianapolis; three sisters, Marvel Schaffer and Helen Lanning of Toledo, Ohio, and Jane DeVel of Geneva, and three

wife, Mary, in 1974, a daughter, Mary Jean Thompson, in 1970, and seven brothers.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. today in the Yurs Funeral Home in St. Charles, Rev. Drury H. Green officiating. Burial will be in North Cemetery, St. Charles.

Contributions may be made to Defiance College Book Fund.

Newspaper Chronicle

Date March 1975

Subject George E. Thompson

### Thompson

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He helped organize the Little Seven Conference in

grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, in 1974, a daughter, Mary Jean Thompson, in 1970, and seven brothers.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. today in the Yurs Funeral Home in St. Charles, Rev. Drury H. Green officiating. Burial will be in North Cemetery, St. Charles.

Contributions may be made to Defiance College Book Fund.

## GEORGE E. THOMPSON SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR 40 YEARS RETIRES.

George Thompson came here as principal of the High School in 1917, and left in 1918 to serve overseas on a Navy Destroyer, then returned as Superintendent in Sept. 1919 being employed by a School Board headed by Col. E.J. Baker. He has been in that capacity since, serving the community ably under several different boards. He has managed the system in a period that saw it grow from one small High School and two city Grade schools to a large City-Country District with eight buildings.

In the spring of 1957, George E. Thompson announced he would retire at the end of 1958 school term. He said, in the fall of 1958 the schools will have to be reorganized because of lack of building space. A new building program will have to be planned and carried out. This program will take more than a year to complete. I felt that the reorganization and planning should be done by the person who will carry it to its completion.

During the past 40 years, Mr. Thompson has given generously of his time to the improvement of his community. Mr. Thompson won the respect of his fellow educators. He was president of the Little Seven Athletic Conference, which he helped start in 1921, for over 34 years. He has served as president of the Northwestern Division of the Illinois Education Assn., of the Superintendents' Roundtable of Northern Illinois, and the Superintendents' Study Club that meets at the University of Chicago.

He was a main organizer of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce and served as its president the year the Thomas Engineering building was brought here (now S.S. Printing & Lithograph's headquarters). He set up the organization of the Henry Rockwell Baker Memorial Community Center when it opened. He was spokesman for this region when a caravan went to Gov. Small at Springfield to urge a four-lane highway (Rte. 64) into Chicago. Recently Mr. Thompson was chairman of a Lane County committee that worked for the adoption of a county building code.

Superintendent Thompson can justly be proud of several projects he encouraged and sponsored in the schools. At the close of World War II the St. Charles system had one of the largest apprentice school programs for veterans in this area.

St. Charles was one of the first school districts to institute the renting of school books. This was begun by Superintendent Thompson in the depths of the depression. Small nominal rental charges were made and the people were saved thousands of dollars. St. Charles was also one of the first systems to employ the part-time services of a dentist. This was done as early as 1920.

In making plans for the future, Mr. Thompson sees changes ahead in the education of American youngsters. "Changing times he stated, will require great changes in the American high school. The use of television and other visual aids will be increased immensely and will modify procedures at all levels. The school year will have to be longer.

Mayer Ralph Richmond, proclaimed May 18, 1958 as George E. Thompson Day. Hundreds gathered at the High School to honor the Superintendent and a program "This Is Your Life," written by Lois Link O'Melia, narrated by Russell Fortkins was presented. Former School Board Members, teachers, servicemen from World War were present to honor him.

To climax the day for Supt. Thompson, the St. Charles High School was named the GEORGE E. THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL and besides tickets to the 1958 World Series, the members of the community gave him and his wife a Trip to Europe.

Thompson, George E.

## ST. CHARLES' SCHOOL HEAD FETED SUNDAY

ST. CHARLES — "This building, which since 1925 has been known as 'St. Charles Community High School', will from this day be known as 'George E. Thompson High School'". These words were spoken yesterday afternoon in the high school auditorium by Russ Forkins, who acted as a local Ralph Edwards in the real life dramatization of the life of superintendent of schools George E. Thompson. (The new inscription, already over the entrance of the high school, was unveiled Sunday

Starting at two o'clock in the afternoon hundreds of people streamed into the high school gym which had been transformed into a lovely reception room. The area where Mr. and Mrs. Thompson stood with others of the reception committee was flanked with American flags and the American Legion and V.F.W. flags, bouquets of red roses and palms. Long tea tables holding gleaming silver urns and punch bowls were arranged by Mrs. Chester Anderson down the center of the room. Many teachers took turns pouring, and others aided visitors with the guest register books. Mrs. Janice Smith, school art supervisor, designed adorable school children made of crepe paper, wrapped wire and yarn for each table.

A short program by the high school choir under the direction of Tabor Kelly was presented in the gym, while the high school band, directed by Walter E. Best, played a more lengthy program on the lawn.

After greeting the guest of honor people found pleasure in greeting former classmates and teachers and in strolling thru the building.

The "This Is 'your Life'" program, written by Mrs. Harry O'Melia and Arthur Albiston, drew a full house to the auditorium.

Forkins set the theme by bringing Thompson to a seat on the stage and with the "Book of Memory" in hand went back to the superintendent's birth May 1, 1894 in Putnam County, Ohio. The audience learned of his early schooling, his first job as a harness maker's apprentice, later working two shifts in a canning factory.

As the program progressed several persons important in his life were introduced either in person or thru voice recordings. Those presented were:

Mr. and Mrs. Erie Benton. Benton is Thompson's cousin, and lives in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Ward McReynolds, now registrar of Defiance College who graduated from Defiance College with Thompson in 1915.

Mrs. Mary Caldwell Thompson, his wife.

George Lamb, a member of the St. Charles School Board, who cabled Thompson when he was on duty with the Navy offering him the job as superintendent in St. Charles. (A recorded message from Col. Baker was presented).

Robert Munn, a former pupil at Defiance, later a high school science teacher here, secretary of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce, and now an executive of the American Red Cross.

Joe Gaffney, who spoke of Thompson's early interest in baseball.

Sharon Williams, a present day high school student.

Mrs. Jane DeVel of Geneva. Thompson's sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson and their three children, Joan, Tommy and Johnny. Bob Thompson is the George E. Thompson's son and Mrs. Bob Thompson who is the former Shirley Borman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Borman. A cablegram was read from the Thompson's daughter, Mary, who is in Vienna.

At the close of the program Thompson was given the "Book of Memory" which was prepared for the occasion, two tickets to the 1958 World Series games, and a certificate for a trip to Europe or any other vacationland of his choice.

William Bangs of Crane Road, was general chairman of the big event in which 230 people took part.

Thompson, George E.

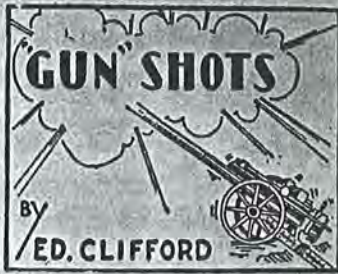
# to Honor Thompson

Thompson Sees New Nameplate



Retiring St. Charles School Superintendent George E. Thompson (second from right) inspects the new nameplate on St. Charles Community High School, now renamed the George E. Thompson High School. With Thompson (left to right) are William Bangs, chairman of the local Appreciation Day committee; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Albiston; and Miss Margaret Foley, who recently retired after 31 years in the school office. (Photo by Porter)

Re-name High School



When the program committee of the First Evangelical Albright Brotherhood invited George E. Thompson, superintendent of the St. Charles school, to address them last Monday night, they didn't realize what they were biting off.

The topic assigned him was "How Shall We Meet the Present Crisis" and following the accepted formula, those present expected to settle back, be well entertained and when it was all over, file down to a luncheon at 9 as usual and then call it an evening.

Well, they didn't know Thompson or they would have known better. This St. Charles educator is quite a fellow. He commands the respect of everyone in his chosen profession and, you might say, the admiration and affection of every boy and girl, who has ever attended the St. Charles schools since he has been there.

Thompson doesn't let you settle back. He believes any controversial subject deserves a sound thrashing out, not just by him alone but everyone present, who has informed himself on the matter and has definite ideas.

Before the members of the Brotherhood realized it, he had fired a series of thought and speech provoking questions at them that demanded an answer and within a minute or two, there were a dozen on their feet ready to accept the challenge. Possibly everyone present didn't get a word in but those who didn't were in the minority.

The "Soup's On" announcement at 9 could not be heard. For another half hour, the "red hot" discussion continued. Finally on the insistence of the committee in charge of preparing the food, adjournment was taken, unwillingly, at 9:30.

There are many local organizations, which need a Thompson or some one like him to stir them up and compel the individual members to not only think but to get up on their feet and express themselves.

It is too easy to get out of the "hang" of being able to present your thoughts confidently and in well chosen language. Sure, it's easier to just sit there and let someone do the talking and confine your own activity to polite applause at the conclusion of the evening.

"Doc" Bennett with his speech clubs is doing an excellent job in Elgin along this line. He has gathered a group of business and professional men and is teaching them to give a good account of themselves when called upon to talk. Graduates of his course are already demonstrating that it works.

You may not believe it but the average fellow, who can talk an arm off you on a street corner or monopolize the conversation at the lunch table or counter, turns red and stutters, when he is called upon to talk on his feet to any large audience.

## MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

*continued from page 16*

After leaving Defiance, he served as the principal of the St. Charles High School from 1917-1918 before serving in the Navy in the Adriatic Sea for one year. He then returned to St. Charles to become superintendent of the city's present 10 schools.

On the day the words "This building ..... will from this day be known as George E. Thompson High School" were spoken, a "This Is Your Life" program was held for him. As he sat in "his" high school, Thompson watched the names and voices of his life parade before him.

Among those in the program was Ward McReynolds, a man who has devoted many years of his life to Defiance College and is now retired. McReynolds and Thompson are both graduates of the class of 1915. Thompson served as master of ceremonies during "Ward and Opal Day" in 1962.

At the close of "This Is Your Life" program, Thompson was given the "Book of Memory" which was prepared for the occasion, two tickets to the 1958 World Series games and a certificate for a trip to Europe or any other vacationland of his choice.

"I haven't gone on the trip yet because there isn't any place I want to go," Thompson said. "I've been to Europe twice."

This is what Vernon L. Nickell, superintendent of Public Instruction, in Illinois, said about Thompson's 41 years as an educator. "In my humble opinion, this is a noteworthy contribution to public education and I wish to congratulate you upon your devotion to the schools of Illinois and the tremendous influence that you have exerted on the lives of the boys and girls who have been fortunate enough to have been in your classes.

It is impossible to measure the impression that you have made upon these young people and the great contribution which you have made to our great commonwealth through your influence upon the boys and girls you have taught."

Where does one find Thompson now? Nine months out of the year he is roaming the country working for Washington University and the other three he spends at a trout stream and golf course. "However, I'm not allowed to reveal my golf score," he chuckled.



To

George E. Thompson

A TRIP TO EUROPE

*or to any other vacationland of your choice*

from All the people who want to say "thank you"  
for the forty years you've given us from your life.

(The financial means for making  
this trip is deposited in your name  
at the State Bank of St. Charles)

# EX-ST. CHARLES SCHOOL HEAD TO LEAVE AREA

ST. CHARLES — Former Superintendent of Schools George E. Thompson and Mrs. Thompson have purchased a newly built home in the city of Mountain Home, Ark., and two lots on the shores of Lake Norfort nearby and plan to leave St. Charles by mid-summer.

In telling of his plans for the new home, Thompson stated that the house is just completed and that there is ample land for Mrs. Thompson to pursue her hobby of rose growing. She will also continue her profession of teaching piano and already has been urged to accept pupils there.

Mountain Home is a city of approximately 3,000 persons and is located about half-way between Bull Shoals Lake and Lake Norfort in northern Arkansas. It is a county seat and Thompson reports that there are fine schools (his specialty), fine public buildings and lovely homes. He heard Alex Drier extol the virtues of Mountain Home on a radio program and decided to see for himself.

Thompson is thoroughly enjoying his work with Washington University in St. Louis. Since leaving his position in St. Charles he has visited 209 high schools and has talked to hundreds of students and parents about Washington. During the month of March he travelled 2,200 miles.

Thompson was in St. Charles yesterday to attend a meeting of the board of directors of the Baker Memorial Community Center.

**St. Chas. Personals**



THOMPSON, GEORGE + MARY  
FAMILY



George Thompson, superintendent of St. Charles schools for 40 years, died Saturday in Indianapolis. A service will be held in St. Charles this afternoon (see death notice below).

## Deaths

### Thompson

The man for whom the high school in St. Charles is named, George E. Thompson, died Saturday, March 27, in his Indianapolis home. He was 81.

Mr. Thompson was superintendent of schools in St. Charles from 1919 to 1958 and later was admissions counselor of Washington University in St. Louis for 10 years. The high school was named in his honor in 1958.

He was president of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce in 1928 and 1929, a charter member of the St. Charles Rotary Club and its president in 1949 and 1950.

Mr. Thompson was born May 1, 1894, in Continental, Ohio. He received a bachelor's degree from Defiance College and a master's degree from the University of Chicago. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War I after being principal of Haines High School in 1917.

He helped organize the Little Seven Conference in 1921 and was its president for 34 years. He was president of the Northeastern Division of the Illinois Education Assn. and two educational organizations for superintendents.

He is survived by a son, Robert of Indianapolis; three sisters, Marvel Schaffer and Helen Lanning of Toledo, Ohio, and Jane DeVel of Geneva, and three

grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, in 1974, a daughter, Mary Jean Thompson, in 1970, and seven brothers.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. today in the Yurs Funeral Home in St. Charles, Rev. Drury H. Green officiating. Burial will be in North Cemetery, St. Charles.

Contributions may be made to Defiance College Book Fund.

March 6, 1969

George E. Thompson  
412 West Glenstone Circle,  
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Thompson;

I trust it won't be too much of a shock hearing from an ex-neighbor after all these years, but as is always the case, when a teacher has problems he turns to his Superintendent.

The "Illinois Prep Sports Special", a weekly newspaper devoted entirely to high school athletics is going to do a two page special honoring our school on April 25th of this year. Among other things they have asked us for a brief history of St. Charles High School, particularly from an athletic point of view. I have talked to Wirth Gustafson, Elmore McCornack, Joe Gaffney and a few others and they all say that the best single source for this would be George Thompson.

I realize that although you have retired from the educational wars you are probably still as busy as ever (I somehow can't imagine you not being busy), but if you have the time and the inclination it would be of great value to us.

I talked to the publishers on the phone today and they are interested in such things as:

What years we have won championships and in what sports.  
Who were our all-state players? Football and basketball.  
Who have been our coaches and for what years?  
When did we enter the Little Seven Conference? Were we ever a member of another conference.

I am enclosing a copy of the article written about another school to illustrate the type of article they expect.

The plans are to try and get all this information in to me about the first week of April, and then with the help of a couple of English teachers we will write it up so it is received by the paper ten days before the publishing date.

There are also some plans that if the information we receive is too much for a single article, perhaps it could be written up and put in our public library much as Alice Davis' fine History of St. Charles. It seems to me that many of these things that are so important to the history of a community should be recorded for future generations now while they are still in the minds of some of the participants.

ST. CHARLES HIGH SCHOOL  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

5-10-22

We are getting very excited about this and hope you will be able to help.

Congratulations to you and Mrs. Thompson on your 50th wedding anniversary, and I hope Mrs. Thompson's health is improved. I trust that your enthusiasm for sports remains the same. I imagine you have switched your allegiance from the White Sox to the Cardinals by now -- after last season I can't really blame you.

Sincerely,

Paul Bergeson,  
Director of Athletics

PB:bc

GEORGE E. THOMPSON

~~217 COLLEGE STREET~~ 412 Glenstone Cir  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS 72653

Mr. Paul Bergeson, Director of Athletics  
St. Charles High School  
705 West Main St.,  
St. Charles, Illinois

ST. CHARLES HIGH SCHOOL  
LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Dear Paul:

I do not know how much help I can give but I will do the best I can. I do not want to trust my memory going back too many years.

We were in the Little Seven Conference from its beginning. The Conference included Batavia, Dundee, Geneva, Sycamore, Wheaton, Naperville, and St. Charles. I do not remember the exact year it was organized but you should be able to get that information from the present secretary who should have the past records. It was in the early twenties. We were never in another conference until more recently.

I am sending you a copy of the 1926 Pottawatomie, the school's yearbook. You will see there information you will want. This was put out yearly and included the records of our teams for that year. They should be on file in the Library.

Other information could be obtained from Eddy Chessman who was President of the Conference Sports Writers group and sports writer for the Chronicle. He could get you much information from the Chronicle's publishing through the years. The Wheaton paper also kept the records for our Conference.

When we had to remove pictures from the high school corridors I had them put the pictures of the teams in the space below the balcony. They were pictures of championship teams through the years.

We won football championships in 1946 when Rufus Dewitz was coach, and in 1956 when Rex Smith was coach.

It might be interesting to know that our coach in 1938 was Corby Davis, an All-American and Heintzleman Trophy winner, from Indiana University. Rufus Dewitz received honorable mention as a player with Nebraska and was on the team that defeated Notre Dame.

I think this is about the best I can do for you.

Sincerely yours,

(over)

S-10-22



**THE KANE COUNTY**  
**TRIBUNE**

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GEORGE E. THOMPSON  
 HIGH SCHOOL



# St. Charles

VOLUME LXXVII NUMBER 26

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS, W

## SUPERINTENDENT THOMPSON

### Steady Hand At Helm

The community is shocked as well as saddened to hear that Superintendent Thompson will retire. Through 40 years of management, the people have grown accustomed to think of "Mr. Thompson" and the St. Charles Schools as synonymous. His steady hand was always at the helm. He was a sympathetic person that parents could take their problems to. It will indeed be hard to fill his shoes. We wish him God Speed in any future plans he may have even if it is the cherished dream of "a half-time job at full-time pay." After 40 years he deserves it.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 'Negative' No-down Plan

The secret of America's well-beeled look is not so much that people are making big money, but that they are spending it lavishly. Everybody seems to be living it up and paying for it later. So you cannot afford the down payment on that new house and lot? Who cares? In Los Angeles they are offering the 'negative' no-down plan: you move in without paying a cent, the builder throws in \$400 worth of lawyers' fees and title changes.

\* \* \* \* \*



G. E. THOMPSON

\* \* \* \* \*

### Board of Education Accepts Resignation Of G. E. Thompson

The Board of Education, Dr. D. L. Franklin, president, accepted Superintendent Thompson's resignation last night with the following statement:

"George E. Thompson has asked the Board of Education of Community School District 303, St. Charles, to relieve him of his duties at the end of the school year, next June.

In making this request he unselfishly pointed out that he is nearing retirement age and that it is in the best interests of the schools that a new and younger man should take over at this time. His successor will then be able to follow through in a program that will be required over the next several years when this community will be faced with a vast school expansion program.

"In accepting his resignation the board joins with the thousands of students who gained their education under his direction, as well as citizens in general, in an expression of appreciation. His tireless and sincere effort over the past 40

years of service not only to the community

### ENDS SERVICES TO DISTRICT 303 NEXT SPRING

#### In 40th Year

#### As Superintendent

The end of a long and distinguished public career was foretold this week in an announcement by George E. Thompson, superintendent of schools for Community Unit 303, that he will retire at the end of the current school year. The retirement will mark his 40th year as superintendent of the St. Charles schools.

Superintendent Thompson stated: "I have one year remaining under the district's retirement plan, but it seemed better to retire at the end of this year rather than next. In the fall of 1958 the schools will have to be reorganized because of lack of building space. A new building program will have to be planned and carried out. This program will take more than a year to complete. I felt that the reorganization and planning should be done by the person who will carry it to its completion.

"Since 1950 we have constantly been in the midst of either planning or carrying out a building program in District 303. During this period there has been considerable pressure on everyone having to do with the administration of schools. The excellent cooperation of splendid teachers, office staff, custodians, students and all others, working in the schools with boards of education interested in the welfare of boys and girls, has given the community fine schools. The period ahead calls for revolutionary changes. It seems better for me, as well as the schools, to retire at the end of the present year. I have informed the board so they will have adequate time to secure a successor."

\* \* \* \* \*

# Thompson: 40 years

By Dorothy DeWitte

George Thompson was on a navy ship headed for Turkey when he was beckoned to return to St. Charles as superintendent of schools in 1918.

Thompson had come here in 1917 as principal at the Haines school. Then came the war, and he enlisted in the Navy. He returned to St. Charles, however, and became superintendent of schools after a cable he received from Colonel Edward J. Baker offered him the job.

"I have never regretted spending 40 years of my life with the young people in the schools of St. Charles," Thompson said last week from his home in Indianapolis.

"Some people have said to me, 'How could you be so dumb as to stay 40 years in a small school system?'" But, Thompson said, he knew a big school system wouldn't have been his kind.

"In a bigger school system, I wouldn't have had students come to my home and ask if I could tell them how to get to Wrigley Field to watch the Cubs play."

"Sure I could tell them," Thompson said he would say. "I'd hop in the car and go with them."

Under his direction as superintendent of schools, the St. Charles High School was built in 1925, and, later, Lincoln, Little Woods, Alice Davis, Amelia Anderson and Harriet Richmond schools, plus a \$100,000 addition to Wasco school in 1952, and the senior high science

wing addition.

In a telephone interview last Friday, Thompson recalled the construction of the senior high, and how some people in town at that time predicted there would never be enough high school students in St. Charles, Geneva or Batavia to fill the building.

As you know, though, that wasn't true, Thompson said. Others complained the school would be too far from the center of town.

During construction of the senior high science wing, Thompson said, he sought outside assistance in its planning. When the plans were completed, though, the science installation was \$30,000 more than earlier predicted.

Thompson wrote a letter to Colonel Baker, explaining his desire to provide an exceptional science department facility for the students, and the impossibility of coming up with the needed \$30,000 in additional school funds. At the next school board meeting, Thompson handed over to the board a check for \$30,000 from Baker.

"I think the people of St. Charles should know it is because of Colonel Baker and Dellora Norris that much of St. Charles is what it is today," Thompson said. "They have given much to the community, and still are giving."

Thompson recalled the days of the 1930s, when many area schools were closing for lack of operating funds. "We had an awful time," Thompson said, "but we were one of

the few  
Colonel

Thom  
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FACT SHEET RE: 516 NORTH THIRD AVENUE, ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

It is a unique design, planned by an architect, and has seven gables. When completed it was featured in "House Beautiful" magazine.

The style is English Tudor. The fireplace is French provincial.

The floors are all hardwood, and the doors and trim are said to be cypress.

The kitchen and bath are covered with no-wax Armstrong material, and were installed by a master craftsman.

The casement windows permit cleaning and storm and screen changes from inside without the use of a ladder.

The brick exterior is nearly maintenance free.

The gravity feed hot air heating system is quiet.

The two removed kitchen doors are available for replacement.

The front door knocker is being repaired.

Outside plantings, in addition to the roses, include flowering almond, Juneberry, sweet viburnum, flowering crab, witch-hazel, red bud, pussy willow, winged euonymus, cut leaf birch, mock orange, peonies, scotch blue bells, Chinese forget-me-nots, and several lilacs. Wild flowers include columbine, white trillium, red trillium, solomon seal, false solomon seal, blood root, Jack-in-the-pulpit, New England aster, and false dragonhead. Spring bulbs include snow drops, Scylla, grape hyacinth, crocus, tulips, narcissus, daffodils, Iris, and lily of the valley.

Beeth Realty		Fr. 232-0333		a-12980
Address 516 N. 3rd Ave.		R	3	1 Full
City St. Charles, Ill.		6+		2-car
Owner(s) SCHIFELING, Daniel J. & Anna Lee		Lot Size 90' X 67'		Zoning R
Const. & Style Brk. 2-Story/Agg: 50		Heat: Ele <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil <input type="checkbox"/>		Par. #
ud 5'x20'16 w/Fireplace		Well <input type="checkbox"/> Septic <input type="checkbox"/>		Ov/Range <input type="checkbox"/>
DR (Sep/Comb/El) 14'x14'		Water <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Dish W. <input type="checkbox"/>
K 9'4x13'2		School Dist: St. Chas.		Wash. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FR		Bus: to High School		Soltn. <input type="checkbox"/> St
BR Up: 3 Dn:	Baths Up: 1 Dn:	Possession: 30 days		Walls Pl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1) 16'x17'9"	2) 13'x13'10"	Fireplaces: 1 - IR		Carp. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tile
3) 11'8'x13'10"	4)	Drapes/Curtains Stay		S&S Al <input type="checkbox"/>
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Add. Rms: 7'6x8'8"		TV Ant. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moit. Inf. <input type="checkbox"/>
*Class 1oz) CHARMING BRICK HOME Pottawatomie-Delnor area. THE HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES!				





Willis ; Judith

a few notes about the house:

Mike # 309-846-0898

Susan # 630-721-0010

We will send you the history we have when we locate it.

Here is what I know.

I have seen a 1925 plat that <sup>had</sup> the house but not the garage. The garage was built a little later. The garage is solid. I wouldn't do a thing to it unless you want garage door opener. The garage roof does not have breathing spaces in it so asphalt shingles are the correct kind. I put shake shingles on it once but they didn't wear well.

The house roof is spaced for shake shingles. The shaker should last 20 years maybe 40. If you ever put asphalt on the house you will need to fill in the spaces in the roof.

I think you are the 5<sup>th</sup> owners.

architect builder - moved to arizona for wife health

Thompsons - Supt of schools nearly 50 years

Shurlings - Lawyer at St Charles S+L

Shurleys - Psychologist and ECC administrator

Loofe

Mike Shurley