

| AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY   |                  | Agenda Item number: 4e |
|---|------------------|------------------------|
| Title: Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to approve Historic Landmark Designation for 201 Cedar Ave., "Thomas H. Collins House" |                  |                        |
| Presenter:  | Rachel Hitzemann |                        |

Meeting: Planning & Development Committee Date: December 12, 2022

Proposed Cost: N/A Budgeted Amount: N/A Not Budgeted:

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

Karen Lando has nominated her property at 201 Cedar Ave. for Landmark status.

In accordance with the Zoning Ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the landmark nomination on 12/7/2022. The Commission recommended approval of the nomination by a vote of 7-0, based on the criteria listed in the attached resolution.

The house was built in the National style in 1852. The home was commissioned by John Stone, on property owned by Ira and Sarah Minard. Thomas H. Collins and his family were the first official occupants of the home, as John Stone never moved in. The structure was built with Limestone foundation and walls, which was popular at the time due to a nearby quarry. The building anchors the Century Corners shopping district, which is a valuable historic part of the City's downtown.

Because the property is located in the Historic District, a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission is 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. This designation would raise the significance status of the property within the district.

**Attachments** (please list):

Historic Commission Resolution, Landmark Nomination

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

Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to approve a Historic Landmark Designation for 201 Cedar Ave., "Thomas H. Collins House".

#### City of St. Charles, Illinois

## **Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 6-2022**

## A Resolution Recommending Approval for Landmark Designation (201 Cedar Ave. – Thomas H. Collins 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 201 Cedar 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:

- The property has character, interest or value which is part of the development, heritage or cultural character of the community.
   The house is located within the original City footprint, in the area known as Century Corners Shopping District.
- 2. The property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community.
  Ira and Sarah Minard, who were early City residents and owned lots of land in the

Ira and Sarah Minard, who were early City residents and owned lots of land in the City's early years, maintained ownership of this land for 12 years after the structure on it was built.

- 3. Structure embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials. The structure is built in the National Style with Limestone Construction. Limestone was commonly used during this period as there was a quarry nearby.
- 4. Property has unique location or physical characteristics that make it a familiar visual feature.

Structure is an anchor of the Century Corners Shopping District, one of the oldest portions of Downtown.

5. The property is suitable for preservation or restoration.

Resolution No. 6-2022 Page 2

Yes.

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

Nothing is proven or certified, but there are references that this building was used as part of the underground railroad.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission to recommend to the City Council that the property known as 201 Cedar Ave. as legally described in Exhibit "A", be designated as a Landmark, and that it be referred to as the "Thomas H. Collins House", with a construction date of circa 1852.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Malay, Kramer, Pretz, Kessler, Smunt, Rice, Dickerson

Nays: None Absent: None. Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

**PASSED,** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

| Chairman |
|----------|

# Exhibit "A" Legal Description

LOT 4 IN BLOCK 3 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF ST. CHARLES ON THE EAST SIDE OF FOX RIVER, IN THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES, KANE COUNTY ILLINOIS

PIN #09-27-387-001

## **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:

1. Property

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.

Parcel Number(s):

Received Date

**RECEIVED** 

OCT 19 2022

City of St. Charles
Community Development

| Information:                    | 09-27-387-00/ Property Name (Historic or common name of the property)                           |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
|                                 | Property Site Address   | HOMAS WELIZABETH<br>COLLINS HOME       |
|                                 |   |  |
| 2. Record Owner:                | Name KAREN LANDO  | Phone 630-638-8167                     |
|                                 | Address   | Email KACENLANDO C YAHOO               |
| 3. Applicant (if different from | Name  | Phone                                  |
| record owner):                  | Address   | Email                                  |
|                                 | n of Property: The legal description should be obtained from ment (attach sheets if necessary). | n the deed, mortgage, title insurance, |
|                                 | SEE ATTACHEI)   |  |
|                                 | (A.)  |  |

#### I. Classification of Property (Check all that apply): a) Ownership: b) Category: c) Integrity: X building X private X original site public-local district moved: date public-state site unaltered d) Function or Use: Historic/Current Historic/Current Historic/Current / agriculture industrial religious X / X commercial military scientific educational museum transportation government private residence other(specify entertainment park e) Architecture: (Based on "A Field Guide to American Houses") National Folk Style Modern Styles: circa 1900- present circa 1850-1930 Prairie Craftsman Romantic Styles: circa 1820-1880 Modernistic Minimal Traditional Greek Revival Ranch Gothic Revival Split-Level Italianate International **Exotic Revival** Contemporary Shed Victorian Styles: circa 1860-1910 Other 20th Century Modern 21st Century Modern Second Empire Stick Queen Anne Styled Houses since 1935: Shingle Richardsonian Romanesque Mansard Folk Victorian Styled Ranch Millenium Mansion Eclectic Styles: 1880-1940 New Traditional American Vernacular Colonial Revival Neoclassical, Classical Revival Other Architecture: Tudor Revival Chateauesque Beaux Arts French Eclectic

Italian Renaissance

Spanish Revival Monterey Pueblo Revival

Mission

#### II. Building Materials:

Please mark the appropriate boxes listing the materials that exist on the building. Possible options are provided below.

## **Inventory of Original Architectural Elements**

| Item:          | Original (yes only) | Material   | Location if Required |
|----------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Chimney        |                     |            |                      |
|                | YES                 | BRICK      |                      |
| Door(s)        |                     |            |                      |
|                |                     | Wood       |                      |
| Exterior Walls | Vec                 | ,          |                      |
|                | YES                 | dIMESTONE  |                      |
| Foundation     |                     | •          |                      |
|                | YES                 | LIME STORE |                      |
| Roof           |                     |            |                      |
|                |                     | ASPHALT    |                      |
| Trim           |                     |            |                      |
|                | Could BE            | W00)       |                      |
| Window (s)     | - > 0-              |            |                      |
|                | Coald BE            | W001)      |                      |

## **Materials List**

| Adobe          | Aluminum   | Asbestos    | Asphalt   | Brick      | Bronze       |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Canvas         | Cast Iron  | Ceramic     | Clapboard | Cloth      | Concrete     |
| Concrete Board | Copper     | Dryvit      | EIFS      | Engineered | Fiberglass   |
| Glass          | Granite    | Iron        | Lead      | Limestone  | Log          |
| Marble         | Metal      | Nickel      | Plastic   | Plywood    | Rubber       |
| Sandstone      | Shake      | Shingle     | Slate     | Steel      | Stone        |
| Stucco         | Synthetics | Terra Cotta | Tin       | Vinyl      | Weatherboard |
| Wood           | Other:     |             |           |            |              |

| III. | Significance of Property: Please indicate source of documentation, if available.  |
|------|---|
|      | a) Original Owner: Jother STONE (House); IRA/SARAH MINI   |
|      |   |
|      | c) Significant Person(s): CLINTON H. WING, IRA MINNO, OKIUE   |
|      | b) Architect/ Builder: c) Significant Person(s):  CLinton H. Wine, IRA Minad, Okiok  Bai  d) Significant Dates (i.e., construction dates):  |
|      | e) Criteria for Designation: Please indicate which of the following criteria apply to the property and attach supporting documentation for each criteria. (check all that apply)  |
|      | 1. X Property has character, interest, or value which is part of the development, heritage, or cultural character of the community, county, or nation.  Notes: ORGINAL CITY FOOTPRINT  AREA KNOWN AS CENTRY CORNERS Shopping Center |
|      | 2Property is the site of a significant local, county, state, or national event.  Notes:   |
|      | 3. X Property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation.  Notes: ILA SARAH MINARD MAINTARAND OWNERSHIP IN FEARS AFTER STRUCTURE BRILL                 |
|      | 4. XStructure embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.  Notes:  Notes:  Notes:                           |
|      | 5. 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.                               |

Notes:

| 6.  | Structure embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that are of architectural significance.  Notes:  |
|-----|--|
| 7.  | Structure embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.  Notes:  |
| 8.  | X Property has a unique location or physical characteristics that make it a familiar visual feature.  Notes: CENTURY CORNERS Shopping District   |
| 9.  | Structure is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of historical or architectural significance.  Notes:   |
| 10. | $\underline{X}$ Property is suitable for preservation or restoration.  Notes: $4ES$  |
| 11. | Property is included on theIllinois and/orNational Register of Historic Places.  Notes:  |
| 12. | X Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to prehistory, history, or other areas of archaeological significance.  Notes:  No |

#### IV. Attachments

- 1. <u>Descriptive Statement:</u> 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.
- 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.
- 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.

  ATTACHED

  (1)

| 4. Chronological list of historical owners.      |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | ATTACHED (D.)                                       |   |
| (we) certify that this application and the docur | nents submitted with it are true and correct to the | 1 |

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.

| Applicant | Date |
|-----------|------|

If Owner authorizes application to be filed for their property:

Haren A. Lando October 13, 2022

Owner Date

décat plion nésce plion (A) Lot 4 in Block 3 of the Original Town of St. Charles, Rast side of Fox River, in the City of St. Charles, R County, Illinois.



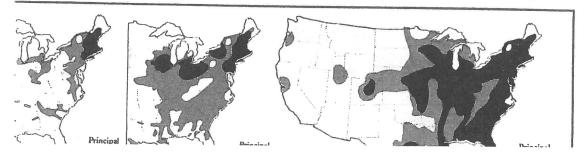
| · | FOLK HOUSES         |
|---|---------------------|
|   | National            |
|   | after ca. 1850-1890 |

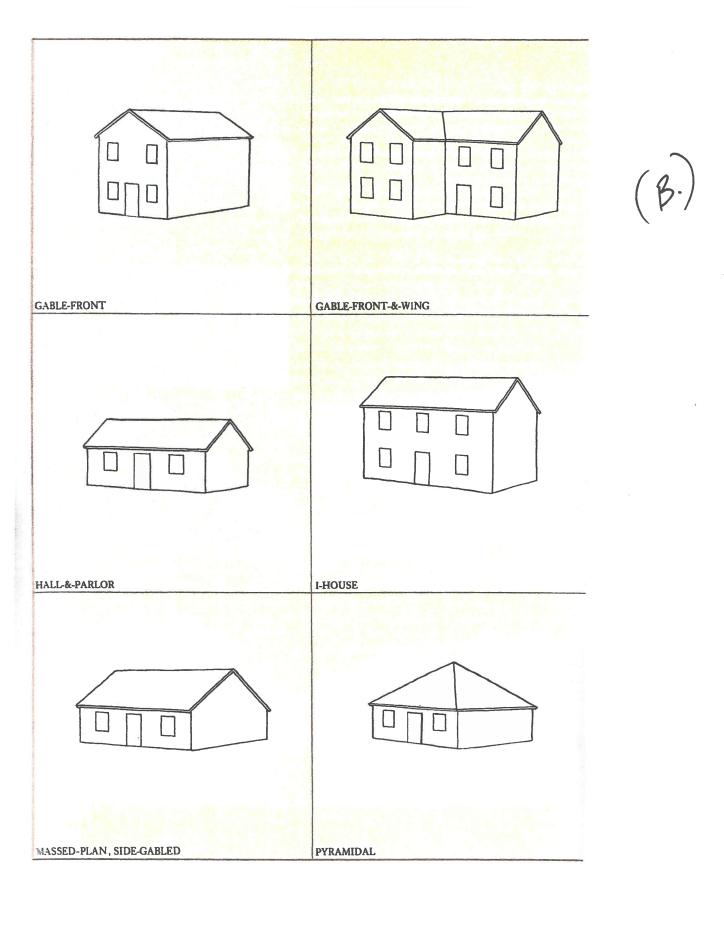
B.)

The nature of American folk housing changed dramatically as railroads mushroomed across the continent in the decades from 1850 to 1890. Modest dwellings built far from water transport were no longer restricted to local materials. Instead, bulky items used for construction, particularly lumber from distant sawmills in heavily forested areas, could now be moved rapidly and cheaply over long distances. As a result, large lumberyards quickly became standard fixtures in the thousands of new towns which sprouted as trade centers along the railroad routes. Soon folk houses built with logs, sod, or heavy hewn frames were being abandoned for wooden dwellings constructed with light balloon or braced framing covered by wood sheathing. The railroads thus changed the traditional building materials and construction techniques of folk dwellings over much of the nation. By the turn of the century, pre-railroad building traditions survived only in isolated areas, far from the nearest rail service.

The railroad-inspired era of national folk housing did not completely erase the earlier traditions, however, for many of the previous folk shapes persisted even though now built by different techniques. These, along with some new shape innovations, make up six distinctive families of house shapes that dominated American folk building through the first half of the 20th century. Only recently have these generally been abandoned for still other forms of folk dwellings (see pages 496-99).

After the expansion of the railroads, gable-front houses remained common in the northeastern region formerly dominated by the New England folk tradition, as did similar massed plans with an added extension known as gable-front-and-wing houses. In much of the remaining eastern half of the country, hall-and-parlor and I-house shapes, both descended from the Tidewater South tradition by way of the Midland log adaptations, remained the dominant folk dwellings. All of these later folk forms, however, tend to show much less geographic restriction than did their pre-railroad predecessors, for as









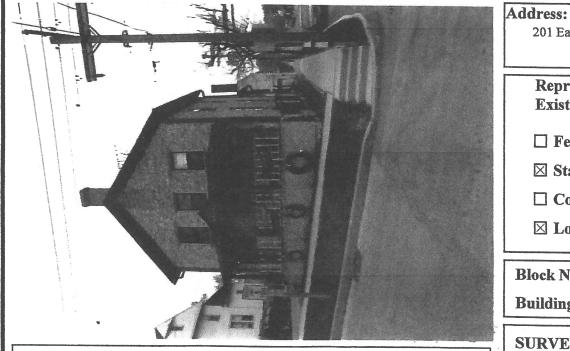
## ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

ST. CHARLES CENTRAL DISTRICT ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DIXON ASSOCIATES / ARCHITECTS

| ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY   |             |             | BUILDING CONDITION |  |
|---|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--|
|   | 1           | 2           | 3                  | ☐ Excellent: Well-maintained   |
| ☐ Unaltered   |             |             |                    | ☐ Good: Minor maintenance needed   |
| ☐ Minor Alteration  |             |             |                    | ☐ Fair: Major repairs needed   |
| ☐ Major Alteration  | $\boxtimes$ | $\boxtimes$ |                    | ☐ Poor: Deteriorated   |
| ✓ Additions  Sensitive to original  Insensitive to original  1: first floor; 2: upper floors; |             | of/cornic   |                    | ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION  Style: National Style  Date of Construction: 1853  Source: St. Charles Historical Museum  Features:   |
| ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE     Significant  |             |             | E                  | Two story limestone structure with front gable. Appears to have had stucco finish originally. Stucco removed in the 1980's. Originally the home of Thomas and Elizabeth Collins. |
| ☑ Contributing  |             |             |                    |  |
| ☐ Non-Contributing  |             |             |                    |  |



**NEGATIVE NO. 33** 

201 East Cedar Avenue

Representation in **Existing Surveys:** 

☐ Federal

**⊠** State

☐ County

**⊠** Local

Block No. 42

**Building No. 2** 

SURVEY DATE:

**MAY 1994** 

ROLL NO. 13





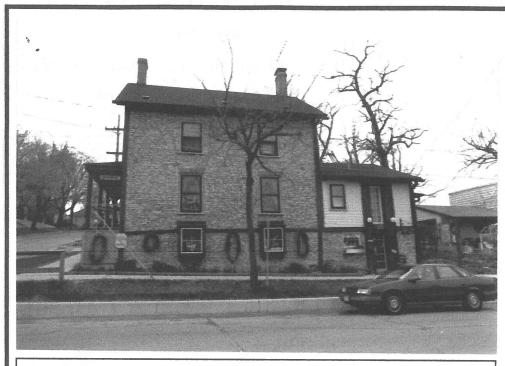
## ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

ST. CHARLES CENTRAL DISTRICT ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

DIXON ASSOCIATES / ARCHITECTS

## ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

#### **CONTINUATION SHEET NO: 1**



Address:

201 East Cedar Avenue

Remarks:

West Elevation.

**ROLL NO. 13** 

**NEGATIVE NO. 34** 

Block No. 42

**Building No. 2** 



ROLL NO. 13

**NEGATIVE NO. 35** 

Address:

201 East Cedar Avenue

Remarks:

Garage.

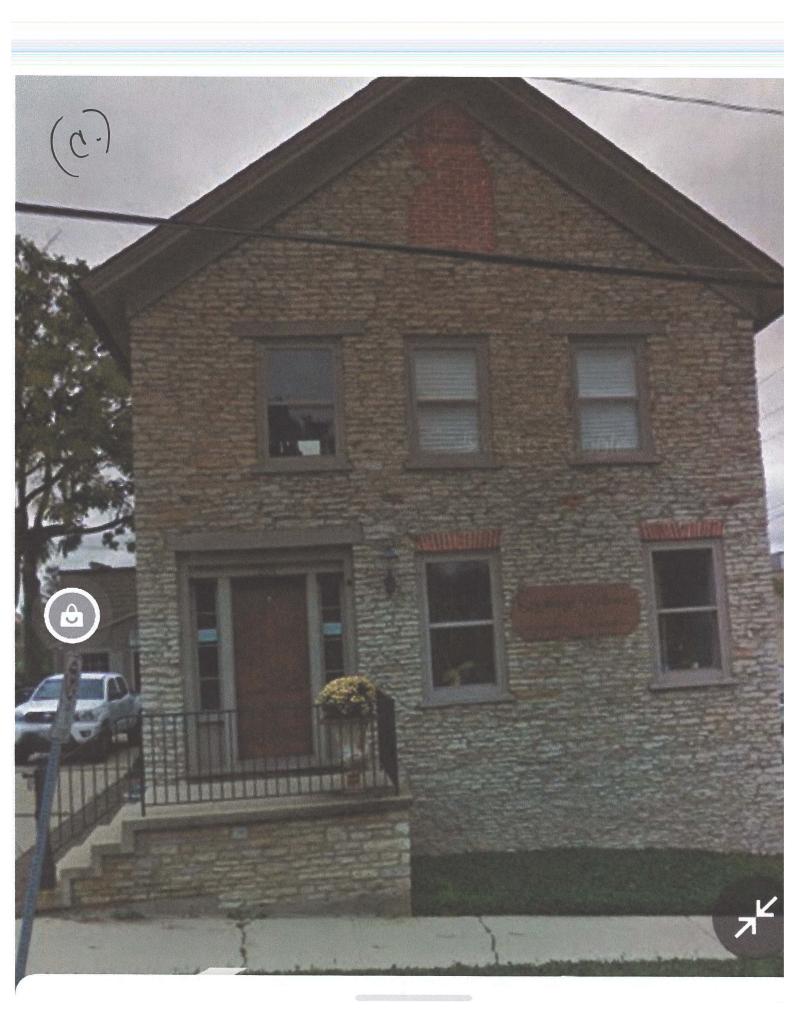
Block No. 42

**Building No. 2** 

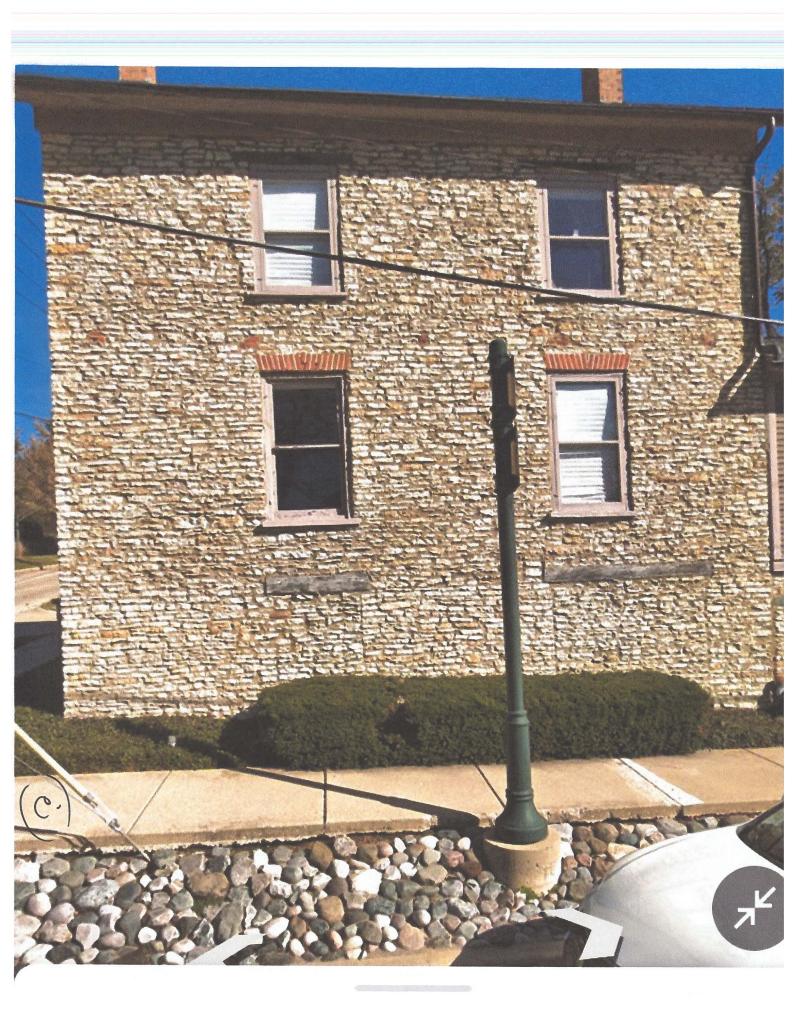


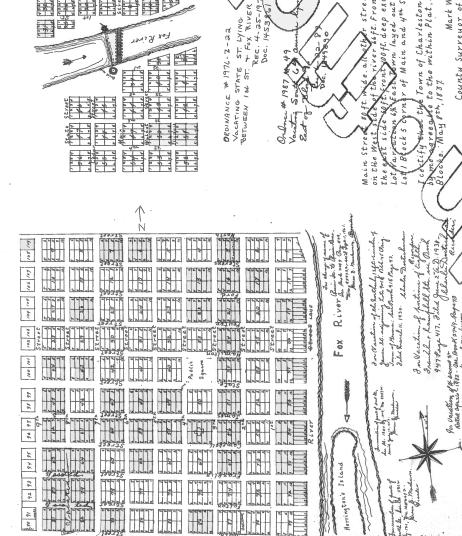
## 201 Cedar Avenue – Description

Built in 1852, this National Style two-story limestone with front gable was commissioned by John Stone as a rental structure on land owned by Ira/Sarah Minard. The exposed limestone resulted from the removal in the 1980's of a stucco covering thus revealing what is seen today. Original limestone, wood trim, brick fireplace chimney, and wood windows exist today. The structure today is in excellent condition due the current owners, the Lando family. The house previously known as the Thomas and Elizabeth Collins House and more commonly today as the Stone House anchors the Pottawatomie area called Century Corners. The Collins family were the first tenants in 1853 taking land ownership in 1864. After several financial/legal challenges by the Collins family they were forced into joint ownership in 1876 with the Marvin family. In 1855 John Stone sold the structure only to Seth Marvin while Ira/Sarah Minard maintained the land rights. The Collins family appear to have been unaware they did not own the structure, only the land. The Collins (and Marvin) family released ownership to Clinton Wing in 1893 after 41 years. The Wing family continued ownership until 1964 after 71 years.









REC. 4-35-1978 Doc. 1453861

19ft. Wide all other streets laft wide Lots State of the viver step. Front 19th deep, on 19th front 190ft deep except the Fractional publicast Jown layed out H. 11% W. Corner stone ir streets loft wide. Lots r of Main and 4th Streets.

I cottify that the Town of Charleston has been surreyed by me agreegate to the within Plat, as far as fifty six flocks. May 8th, 1837.

County Surreyor of Kane County Mark W. Fletcher

Kate of Illinois,)

I, Elijah S. Town, Justice of the Peace, with personally appeared before me and to me personally known who duly acknowledged themselves to be the proprietors of the Town of Charleston and that they had the said Town (aid off agreeable to the within plat. Given under my hand and seal, this 8th day of in and for the county of Kane, do hereby certify that Ira Minard , Reed Ferson, Calvin Ward and Oideon Young May, A.D. 1837. Kane County.

Justice of the Peace. Elijah S. Town,

nurse conney. This day personally appeared before the subscriber James Herrington and Richard J. Hamilton to me personally known who duly acknowledged themselves to be the propre-etors of the Towns of Geneva and that they have laid off said fown agreeable to which this annexed. Cirem under my hand

certify that the Town of Genera was laid out and surrey<del>ed by Me</del> greeable to this plat. M.W. Fletcher, County Surreyor. May <sup>8th</sup>, 1837

cate of Illinois) ans County.

We Fast. Corner stone on lot I Block 49 corner of 4th and State.

tional lots in Block I all other lots in the same tree of Blocke 1997 by 150 feet, all other Lots bo feet by 150 feet, State Street 1897 wide North and South streets 40ft wide 6th, the Fringen Street 80ft wide, all other streets 80ft wide. Town laid out to a vaniation

ots fronting River Street so feet front 150 ft. deep except

Mare E. Markewoon

Recorder. David Dunham, Recorded May 8th, H. D. 1837, at 2 o'clock P.M.

This certifies that the above is a true and complete copy of plat entitled "Charleston" recorded May8th, 1837, in Record Book 1 on Page II.
Frank E. George.
Sept. 27th, 1907.

This certifies that the above is a true and complete copy of plat entitled "Geneva recorded May 8th, 1837, in Record Book

on Page 9.

David Dunham, Recorder

ecorded May 8th, A.D. 1837, at 11 oclock A.M.

Justice of the Peace

Mark Daniels

nd seal this second day of May, A. D. 1837.

Reblie

Stone on Lot 5 Block 4 corner of Main and 4th Streets Streets 60ft wide except Main St. which is 80ft wide. All lots boft. Front 150ft. deep, except lots fronting the front by 120ft deep and Fractional lots. Corner Public Square in blocks No. 11#12, which are boft rariation 6/2 east on the 29th day of May 1837, personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of Kane Coun-ty John Oatman, Proprietor of the Town of Oun-Seth Green, J.P. (Seal) dee, and duly acknowledged that he had laid out the same agreeable to the within Plat. In witness whereof. I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

This may certify that I surreyed and laid out the this Town agreeably to this plat, June 5<sup>th</sup>,1839 M.W. Fletcher

County Surreyor of Kane County

Receired this Plat for record on the 5th day of June A.D. 1831, at 7 octook A.M., and recorded at 12 octook of the same day.

David Dunham, Recorder

This certifies that the above is a true and complete copy golds entitled "Plat of Dundee" recorded June str.,1837, in Record Book I on Page 13. Frank E. George, Recorder

Oct. 2 3rd, 1907.

860 (D.)





## **201 Cedar Avenue**

## 09-27-387-001

## STCHAS/3/4

All support documentation is housed at the Kane County Recorder's Office

| 1837 |      | Ira/Sarah Minard  |
|------|------|---|
| 1852 | MTG  | Samuel H. Young, Administrator for Robert Moody to John Stone   |
|      |      | Structure is built in 1852 for John Stone on Minard lot   |
| 1853 | TD   | Ira/Sarah Minard to Oliver M. Butler, Trustee a land trust is created   |
|      |      | Note: Thomas H. Collins and family are only tenants of the structure owned by John Stone on Ira/Sarah Minard lot at this time |
| 1855 | WD   | John/Ann Stone to Seth Marvin (house only)  |
| 1864 | QCD  | Oliver M. Butler, Trustee to Elizabeth Collins (lot only)   |
| 1876 | LEIN | Mutual ownership established Elizabeth Collins and Marvin ET AL   |
| 1878 | QCD  | Andrew J./Sarah J. Marvin to James M. Marvin  |
| 1888 | TAX  | Sheriff sale County Clerk Arthur M. Beaupre to Henry A. Glos  |
| 1893 | QCD  | Henry A./Anna B. Glos to Elizabeth Collins  |
| 1893 | QCD  | James M. Marvin to Clinton D. Wing  |
| 1893 | QCD  | Elizabeth Collins to Clinton D. Wing  |
| 1939 | Prob | Estate of Clinton D. Wing   |
| 1951 | Prob | Estate of Hortense M. Wing  |
| 1959 | Prob | Estate of Harriet A. Wing   |
| 1964 | WD   | Lyle E./Evelyn L. Wachtel Gramley & H. Wing/Eleanor M. Wachtel Jr. to   |
|      |      | Fred D./Elizabeth A. Wilson   |
| 1991 | WD   | James A. Zito (Wilson Trust) to Susan L. Neri   |
| 2000 | WD   | Susan L. Neri to David Lando  |
|      |      |   |

Mid Indenture Made this Seventeenth day of July in The year of our Lord and Thousand Eight hundred and fifly to Between John Stane the first party of the first fart and Samuel IH. Voung administrator to the Estate Robert Moody decealed intestate become party of the Second Prior part. Whereas the Said harty of the first part is fully indebt. ed to the Said party of the second part in the Sum of Sixty Eight dollars and fifty chall because to be paid by Two certain fromits. ory bearing Even daly herewith of Thirty four dollars and twenty five beuts Each. The first payable I've months from date and the ther payable one year from date. Now Therefore This Indenture Witneseth That the Said party of the first part for the there Securing the hayment of the many of me gover purification the securing to the tenor and effect staid promissor, not above mentioned: And also in consideration of the furtherson of the furtherson fact at the feeling of these presents the light whereby is hereby action at the delivery of these presents the light whereby is hereby action and by these presents the light whereby is hereby these presents the light and conveyed and by these presents do for grant balgain sell and conveyed and by these presents do to the said hand to the single of the single farly of the first party of the fleand hand his heis and assigns forever all that back and Marsel of land Pituals in the ville age of St. Charles County of Bour and State of Illinois described and known on the recorded four Plat of the Village of St. Charles as Lats Se three (3) and four the in block se there is also a fractional block to four (4) also a fractional block to Three (3) To Have and to Hold the Same together with all and Jugar ar the tenements heredeloused the fame together with all and Jugar ar the tenements heredeloused the privileges and affectioned the state interest to laim what second in law as well as in Equity which the into the fact part has and to the premises here by bourneyed unto the fail hardy of the second part his hilirs and alliens and to their only profer use before the behoof. Provided Always and there first ends are upon this express condition that if the first farty of the first land his him him him him here and hart his heirs in Depreculors in a or administration shall will and truly pay or causelo be faid to the Said farty of the Seemed part his heirs executors : administrators or assigns the affectand sum of money with Such interest thereon at the time and in the manner Specified in the above mentioned promittory Motes according to the true intent and meaning thereof that then and in that onle These presents and evrything herein Expressed Shall be assolutely hull and boid, In Withell It hereof The Said harty of the first part hereunto let his hand and Seal the day and year - first above written Figured Sealed and delivered In Presence of State of Minein M. I Alex H. Baird a fullice of the Flaces.

aforesaid do hereby certify that the within named John Stane who is personally known to me as the real person whose name is Subs cribed to the annexed deed appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that he executed and delivered the Said deed as his freedend bolum any act for the uses and purposes therein Set forthe Price and the Said wi of the Said having been by me examined Separate and apart and out of the hearing of he husband and the contents and meaning of the Said deed having been by me made known and explained to he he asknowledged that he had freely and bolum lang executed the Same and Relinguished he dower to the lands and tenements therein mentioned without compulsion of he faid hus. band and thathe did not with to reteast the fame Given under ing hand this 17 day of July in the year of Our lone Thousand Eight doundred and fifty two Filed and Recorded Jany 20-1863 at Congres Mit of plenture. Made his horfold land, retructy in the year of Purchas One. Thousand Eight supposed and rifly three Believen of Stame and Plate of Stame Afford of Autora on the Country of Rame and Plate of Stame of the Country of Have and Plate of the Single of the Country of the Santa of the Country of the Santa of the Country of the Santa of the Said pay of the Said pay of the Said pay of the Said of the Said pay of May ment the Stame of the first day of Northber must the Sourth on or feeling the first day of Northber must the Sourth on or feeling the first day of Northber and the Said barts of the first part for the better Previous described fremide. Stay therefore this Indenture this the part the faid barts of the first part for the better Previous to the Isaac of the further when the first part for the better Previous to the Isaac of the further said above mentioned; And also in Court was land paid by the Vaced faily of the degrand part at the delivery of these predents by the Vaced faily of the degrand part at the delivery of these predents by the land harty of the second part at the delivery of these presents thereeight where is hereby a cknowledged have granted bary ained sold and conveyed and by these presents do grant bargain Hell and coursey unto the Said party of the Second part his heirs and alligns foreson all the certain facests or pieces of land in the Jon of Aurora in the bounty and Hate affordaid and described es follows to wit: All of lat to fix & excepting thirty three (20) feet in width on Broadway by Sixly Six (66) feet in length in the South wellern corner of faid lot now owned by a.D. Day Alto lat to nine 91 Said, being in Black Number Pleven (11) in the town of Aurora aforesaid excepting and reserving to the Aurora & Chicago Rail Road Company the right of way as

hool

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398 with Said led for the sum of lew hundred Dollars and leents Witness on hands and seals this hnetwork dry of January 10185 Saron Sibbs mister & cul William Sniggs State of Allings ( I. A. J. Brenn a. Astan, Public in and for said county lower burn by ys in the state aforeing do herely Certify that Sarow Gills Instei, and Im Boigs Jurionally Mounto me arthe Same Jeen on white Agrinis are subscribed to the to the foregoing Deed appeared before me This dry infuna and a cornowledged that they signed Sealed and sain eved the dand Instrument of Writing as their free and Valarme, are for the me and professes therein ker forthe hiver sender on hund and Notarial Deals this Mueleuster Day of Jennay 201853 Filed and Recorded June 30" 1853 4 96 Pm & Andrew J. Borons Netury Public minand to all to whome thereforesents shall come breating Among that the Ind Hallen Dollaw relived to our full Salinfaction of Alline manufaction of Chine In Butter of to flow a foresaid and in Consideration of the South Receivage of Consideration of the South Receivage of Consideration of the South Receivage of Consideration of the Said Client Matter a color fact or fravel of Land Lying in the Said Client Months and more fally described as Lat humber & form in Bleek Months affect is the common the original Hat of dain Loom of It charles definition in the original Hat of dain Loom af It charles definition of the dail minus to said minant and wife to capital by one I the said Cliver of a latter that they are well and Countyally Diget of the Said furnishing in that they are well and Countyally Diget of the Said furnishing in that they are well and Countyally Diget of the Said furnishing in that they are well and Countyally Diget of the Said furnishing in that they are well and Countyally Diget of the Said furnishing in the Said furnishing in the Said furnishing in the Said furnished to the Said furnishing in the Sa and so had the abort a world premises to him the said Ballo his here and so had the abort a world premises to him the said Ballo his here and arriges paper however forthe fallowing lumpous to mit brief to left the said forther some ar against the Seather and The Hour of ling and aler to great against Lorses when the building thenno by proxies and rensonable insurant from time to time and to pay all There on the said frances Ligally Cined in histo may be heriagles incumabebelite Said perfect, ag they may Lanfully accome Sound Do alone the me of the Anne and primines to Elizabeth Walling and Eligo Collins wife and the child of Thomas A! Calling of the sail Jum of St. Charles driving their hatural line Except the Lover fort Theren of the said House which the said Butter Instechasfull liberty to rents to such thrands as he may dum to be for the best interest of Said Elizabeth and lige and to precede of the sand bacement or Lower money of heraid are to be defilied and use to be apperfunded to must the expenses of the Centlay specified in and in der the first head above mentioned dund the ball and if any there may be to be used as I will my let may dund for the beel your of said ruge and dang her of Said I humas It belling Ir ling as this must Shall excel as circum dances may require and from and after the decrase of the said Elizabeth Walling to Leed the Jame to said Elija Calling Throld she there be finne

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and if but living to her Lamport Neins forever and in definiting my here to the downthein of said Thomas M. Walling and the said acres in Saling in Aut as afterward, overnants forthe fully to performe and fullful the matherens Executed In Witness Ithere of the Said perilies howe st. it and and sent of This so day of fine Ist 1835 From Minimark Sight Stane Down ; }" Sarah Mmand. Tel Chine in Botter some in the state afrondied to der 5 pg, That Drew, mineral Darch, mineral his roger are fremmally Minner The asthoforein whose hance but Inhamited to the foregoing elects of Frist represent before metterday, in person and nown worldged that they the it sent sent delivered the day to the first ment of milling arthur free and Falunta, act for the war and per jever theren Applyingto and the said danch mineral rife of the hand Irai mineral burning bein by me Expansional rejurate and if well for her har known and and onto of his heaving lower by the inese the court of the for explanate to her a miting having been by the inese the court of the fire explanated to her a acknowledged that the real freely and typy to the expension to dame and Old ingrashed her drawer the land of the Sand of the there is month and without Completed in special of the Sand South that the does be course to retract the Source is in a condend by the stand that this saday of the season the Stand of th Midge of Tandante Files and Recorded prino it "1838. & Olastona Mender but marchen Endenter morte to chile to Affiche De Some in the gira your cent on thouse to Chile branches in the first in the first find on the first for the first find from the first form if the first find from and total Compagitie down fill confidence. Chemit france of the steened food Politicarity that the said fund of the first front for and the middle of the first front for and front the said fund for and front the many of the first front food for the first food for the said front fron Richards Rimple form There deres and appronter of ann arthe with East Corner of Joans johnsons Framo ine Acre of Bian withe Same. me Plane Dame & Bought of My, In bowh in Sugether with all and Singular the appeartenances therewe to belowing or in any wine appeartering and To have and Do hald the above described goods and chattles wit the I rid franty of the Deanne front his heirs, and arriger prever travilled always That there Presents, are upon this confiners circlition that of the done 6. W. Greenman his heirs Exposition tilaministration examing in hallon er before the first Day of efeterner AD eightern hundred and high, Three pay oremes to be fraid to the said dras Many or his Comfort atter men or attorney herregalministrative or arraying the sty me Jun Dollars by the with the interest that may a come itiven at the rate of six hercention per amon from the Eight day of from the

This Indenture, Made this I hirlienth day of far.
Thousand Eight Hundred and Nivery Lifty fire BETWEEN John Stine of Seth marrie of the first part, and pasty-of the second part. WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of..... (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second part forever released and discharged therefrom had granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, conveyed, aliened and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, convey, alien and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and to heirs and assigns FOREVER, all the following described lot, piece or parcel of land, situated in the County of Kane and State of Illinois, and known and described as follows, to-wit: lying and king in the town of Saint Charles in said bounty and known and de scribed on the on the recorded town plat of the tillage of Saint Charles as lots no. Three (3) Together with a pastion in Block no three (2) and hot no. four (4) in Block no There (3) also fractional lot No. one (1) in Block No. Jour (4) TOGETHER WITH ALL AND SINGULAR the horeditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, hents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim, or demand whatsever, of the said party of the first part, either in law of equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part heirs and assigns FOREVER And the said party of the first part, for... heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain and agree. heirs and assigns, that at the time of the ensealing and delivery of these presents he were and with the said party of the second part, well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of a good, sure, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law, in fee simple, and by good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, liens, taxes, assessments and encumbrances, of what kind or nature soever, and the above brances, of what kind or nature soever; and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, heirs and assigns, against all and every other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof the said party of the first part shall and will WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND. And the said part of the first part hereby expressly valve and release any she of right, benefit, privilege, advantage and elemption under or by virthe of any and di Statutes of the State of Illinois, providing for the exemption of homesteads from sale to execution or otherwise.

IN THE HEREOF the said party of the first part hereunto set the handsand seals the day and year first above written. Signed, Scaled and Delivered in the Presence of alex N. Burd

assign, It it at the spice of the sweeting and delivery of the present, this ne well arized of the kremise about conveyed, as fa good, sure, pertit. absolute and hidylearists estate of inhettance in law, in fee simile, and some good right full power and lawful authority to grant, bar going selfant som see the same in manner and form aforesaid; and that the same out free and char from all former and other grants. ta, sales, Time, lapes, assessments and mount frances, fushat kindernation evener; and the above largained premises, in the quit and peaceable for escion of the said parts of the second part, his heir and assigns, against all and salry person or persons tampelly chaining or to chain the whole part have herent pet their hands and peals and affixed the regul Daniel of Challed Schuston. I the Statute on such case made and forwirded, this the day and year fruit affire willien. Seeal ! Leona !! Treal 1. Toeona 1:1 Geneline Lorona Main State of Illiviors, St. Chat P. Ishorton cline fethe court of Common Pleas of the Fame Roundy scity of aurora sin said court. City of aurora. Sind the State of casaid. do herby certify . that Swall! Selvard and Empire Lovaby his wife who are flesonally known to me to be the persons whose pranes are superished to the foregoing deed, as havis in received the same appeared the sure this day, in person, and as known as this free and poleutary and wife of the said surfaces thering set forthe and the paid Employed bearing of the said Swal ! Theonard barning for by wife of the said Swal ! Theonard barning for by our by one spaning of her said sout of the hearing of her soil husband and the milet and meaning of the said deed having been by me mode known and fully prolained to her book now tedged that she had feel, and orbinate ify executed the same, and religioned herdower, and all prints to the lands and tenements therein mentioned, without the compulsion of his paid husband, and that she does not wish to petract the

Chall Dohnstow. Clerk. Ciledang 50 D. 1864at 10 /cam. J. l. More . Recorder

O.M. Buller Chyatethe bolling

This Induluse , prade this Eight (8th) day of angust in the grand our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sifty four Between Oliver M. Buller of Sauce County Illinois party of the first port and mis Elijable bolling of the same place of wirdence party of the second frait Wilmensto that the said part of the fresh, first part, for and in considerations of one dollar & I ain hand paid by the said party of the second part, the weight where is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second

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Mate of Illinois & J. a Molika of still six and for said county, in the - bounty Months of said, de herby certify, that Ohnin M. Butter for some ally known to me as the parket personal before one this day, in ference, and acknow predict to the signed, ended and dehiced the soid into and acknowled for the signed solution ach, for the pure and purisons therewas for the soil free and robustary ach, for the pure and purisons therewas for the said free and robustary ach, for the pure and for show therewas for the day of any pure therewas for the said solution. I still day of any pure all the solution of the solution of the said solution. Siled any guest 17th day of any solution. Siled any guest 17th day of any solution.

John Bickton Ja W. B. West, Quingament State of Illinois to Jon salue received I hereby assign the within mostgage itame Gowethy to you B. West and authorize hein to cancel the same on record being Recorded a book to page 503 in Recorders office stane lowerty, Illinois. Isain sender my hand and real this 22 day of Some 1863.

Share of Illowing I of Someon W. Awig a Notary Public mit for the cit; book count; of chicago in said county, in the State aforeard as cit; least of Chicago in said county, in the State aforeard, known by me to be the same person whose mane is subscribed to the associated his me to be the same person whose mane is subscribed to the associated in the state aforeard his was the day, see person, and a che on our led ged that he had eigned, realed and delevered the said put

| sums mentioned in a dec of the Cialso order that complat is the own to te def JosephDesloade of the folder to the Golden to the State of the Salk 3 in the Thought St Chas on the | Marvin, decd.                                       | George W. Marvin &<br>Seth Marvin Et al<br>& unkwn hrs of Seth | Elizabeth Collins                          | The state of the s |
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|   | Sec Sec   | No Bill four Decree filed Decree filed Decree a li             | Kind of Action  Bill  Date of Commencement |  |
|   | 27 & The N E d<br>38 Tp 40 R 6 E<br>cure the pymt o | found in files.<br>Dec 28, 76, Orders<br>a lien upon the N b   |  | Lot 4 Block  |
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| ple ex as<br>of the S   | f of the of cert                                    | ers that   |  | Cir. Ct. Case<br>No.   |

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To have and to hold the same, with all the appurlinances thereunts belonging unto the said party of the second part his heir and assigno forever Mitness the hand and real of the said party of the first part the day and year first above written. James O. M. (leflaw Geal) Master in Shancing of the Securit lout of Nane Country, State of Illinois, ) ss. I Sharles & Stephens, a tolony Buther in and for the eard lounty, in the State aforescend, depherely certify, that James O Millellan, Maeter in Scarcery of said Nane County, who is personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subveriled to the foregoing Instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that he signed exaled, and delivered the early Instrument us his fee and voluntary act, as such Martin part branchery, for the used and purposes therein act forth. Given under my hand and Malaxal Seal, this fifth day of June, a. S. 1890 has. I. Stephene Stolanal Leal 10.30509 Filed for Record July D. 1890, at 5 % O m. Shas. a. Muller. becorder.

M. Gerupe State of Allen erry A. Klas.

Whereas, at a public sale of real estate I for the non- payment of taxes, made in the lounly fax Deed aforesaid on the dissenth (15th) day of June a. D. 1888, the following de scribed Chal Estate was sold, to wit

Lot four 19 in Block three 131 in Original Town of St. Molharles east side For aires. Also the west nine tenths (3) of Lots one 1) four (4) fire (5) and eight (1) in Glock fire (5) in Dearbonie Addition to General Also Lot I wan A. W. Section 13 Township 40 Clarge 8, all in Name County Illinois

And Whereas, the same not having term redeemed from and sale, and it appearing that the holder of the certificate of purchase of said real estate has compled with the laws of the state of Illinois necessary to entitle from to a deed of said real estate: Now therefore know yesteat I Arthur Mr. Deaugree Courty Herbe of eard bounty of Stane in consideration of the premier and by written statutes of the state of Illinor in such cause provided, do

Brook Jakes

hereby grant and convey wate Henry A bloom, his here and assigned forever, the said real exists hereintifore described, subject horrow, to any reduciption provided by law. under my hand and the seal of said lovert itis 211 day of June a. D. 1894. A. M. Geaupre Lourt deal? State of Illenora, for Loundy black Nane loundy. I has a Miller locuit that in and for said lounty in the State aforesaid, do hereby westify that a. W. Geoupe bounty thick, personally known to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that he raid instrument as his free and sealed and delivered the purposes therein set forth. tighting act for the uses and Geven under my hand Official seal, this 21 st day of June a. D. 1890. Sourt Seal Shas. a. Miller task loscut bourt. No. 305-62. 21) a. D. 1890, at 9-20 70 a. m. A has a buller. Recorder Ferdinand H. Holle The State County of Pravi A now all Men by these Presents: M. W. Du Bow That we Terdinand H. Note and Sarah 6 Notte wife of the said Ferdinand H. Notte of the lounty of Chevita and state aforesaid for and in consideration of the sum of Elevan hundred \$ 1100 cost Dollars, to us in hand paid by 11.11 Du tre. hand the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have granted, sold and convey ed, and by these presents do grant, will and convey unto the said 110.11 Du Are of the County of Preventer and State of Texas, all those within Lote and parcele of land discrebed as follows towers: God of Lots numbers therein (13) and fourteen (4) in Block number thisty four (50) of the Franc of Elgen (new lety I as laid on by 16 5 Kurball and awarded in the Recorders Office of Have lainty Illenory trung minuteen and one half 1941 feet in width off the worth side of said Bot men Let number foreview 141, making in all therty are 1861 pet front Also the right of way off the west aide

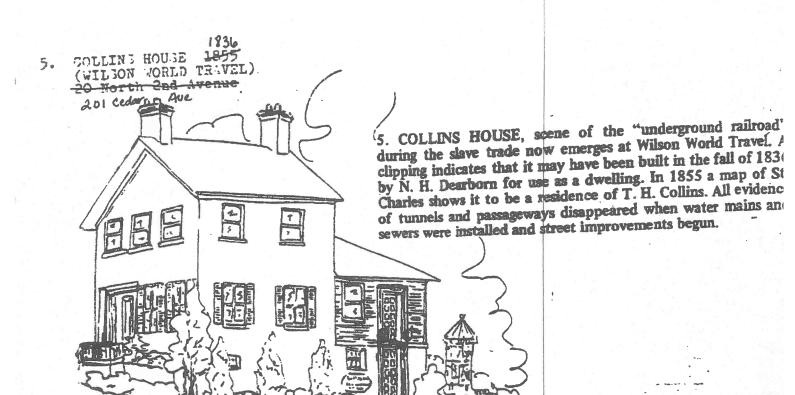
Phis Indentuce Witnesself, That the Grantors Harry Wellow and a Bolloshismife of the Dity of St. O harling the County of Kany Cheveraty three + 58 (7358) DOLLARS, in hand paid, GONFEY, and QUIT-CLAIM to... Coliga oth Collins of the Vity of St Charles County of Kanel and State of Illinois the following described Real Betale, to-wit: Lot Me Four (4) in Block No. three in Original Town of St. Charles on the En not Top hiver The object and purpose of this conveyance is to cancel isued to said Henry Adlos, byaring date June 21 st. 1890 in Josh 281 on Dage 277 of the Dicords of Rate County. This conveyance to affect no other property in said deed. situated in the County of Kane of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State. Dated this\_ 25th in & Clovember Henry Adlos SEAL STATE OF ILLINOIS, SS: 1. 10 harles A delose Actodory Cubic KANE COUNTY. esaid, Do HEREBY CERTIFY, that Atenny also and anna Bollos (notarial Seal) personally known to me to be the same person Swhose names. ATE subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day wiedged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as Illien free and voluntary act, for the es and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead Given ander my hand and Assactant Least, this 210 that do day of Matreson PECT A. D. 1803 Charles Ordilos A. D. 1893, at 8/15 o'clock a.M. No. 82 with Filed for Record this 218th day of Montenuter Joseph Ingham

for 3 property of 3

|                                   | inesself, That the Granter James M. Marrisal,  |
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| f the                             | in the County of Kanel and State of Illiancial   |
| or and in consideration of the    | sum of Trochundard (20000)   |
| OOLLARS, in hand paid, CON        | VEY- and QUIT-CLAIM. to Chinton T. Wing  |
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| one City of St. 101               | and state of Mane and State of Illinois  |
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| tuated in the County of           | Ain the State of Minois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homeste  |
| cemption Laws of this State.      |  |
| Dated this Tornty                 | Sevently lay of November 1. D., 1893.  |
|                                   | James M. Marvin GRA  |
|                                   | SKA  |
|                                   | SEA  |
|                                   |  |
| ATE OF ILLINOIS,)                 | GREAT STATE OF THE |
| KANE COUNTY.                      | 1. John The Collict No Notary Julia  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   | in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, Do HER CERTIFY, that James M. Marvins  |
| (Motorial Deal)                   | (al Chachaler) - new real and the acceptance of the  |
| THE CONTROL ASSAULT               | personally known to me to be the same person whose name 100 subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this  |
|                                   | in person, and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as high free and voluntary act, for uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.  |
|                                   | Given under my hand and Natural seas, this 27ths. day of November A. D. 18   |
|                                   | TELLES ILL   |
|                                   | you've a sullista  |
| Ø1.0.3                            | John F. Elliott<br>Motory Publice  |
| o. C2.2.3. Filed for Record this  | 28th day of Movember A.D. 1803, as 8'15 oclock, d.M.  Jodeph Chagham   |

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# ST. CHARLES PUBLIC L'AND ONE SOUTH SEXTER ST. CHARLES, ILLINO S 60174



offices

### Search of City Directories

201 Cedar Avenue St. Charles, Illinois

There is some confusion over the ownership of the above-mentioned property. The deeds attached to this address seem to have been owned at one time or another by different neighbors; they are:

Clinton D. Wing, Miss Harriet Wing, and Miss Hortense Wing, they all resided at 105 North Second Avenue. (Town House Books)

The 1928 directory lists Clinton as retired.

Miss **Harriet** as a proprietor of the Wing-Hanmer Camp (along with Anna H. Hanmer) The camp, later referred to as Oak Ridge Camp was described as 571 summer cottages and dance pavillon located 2 1/2 miles N St Charles own 10. Little Woods Road. (Kane County Rural Route Directory 1930-31.)

Miss Hortense's occupation was never mentioned.

1930-31

Mary A. Marvin (Widow George P.) resided at 21 North Third Street. George Marvin, son of Harry R., Student 8<sup>th</sup> grade, R.1 St. Charles Box 15 Harry R. Marvin (Effie), R1 St. Chas. Box 15 phone 4072-J-2 dairy farmer 3 miles W. St. Chas., rents of Mrs. Mary Marvin, St. Chas. 121 1/2.

1934-35

George J. Marvin R.1 St. Chas. Box 111 son of Harry R., student 4 yr. high school. 1938-39 Harry Marvin (Jr.) employed Lafoon Garage, St. Chas 1947 Harry Marvin (Jr.) employed Operadio r. 21 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>

People residing at 201 Cedar Avenue but apparently not owners:

1928-29 #932533 Wandle.

1936-37 George E. Vanda, (Ruth) Clerk Marshall's Variety

Elmer L. Marshall, (Ina) Marshall's Variety Store prop. 102 E. Main

1950 Edgar C. Bowen, (Maxine) Research Eng. Paire Oil Laby

Hal B. Stamm, (Louwellia) General Forman Owens Illinois

Mitzie Stamm, Clerk

1958 Stamm same

1960 Bill Sanderson, (Donna) Emp. Lockke's Vending

Frank R. Sahlroot

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Lites Other

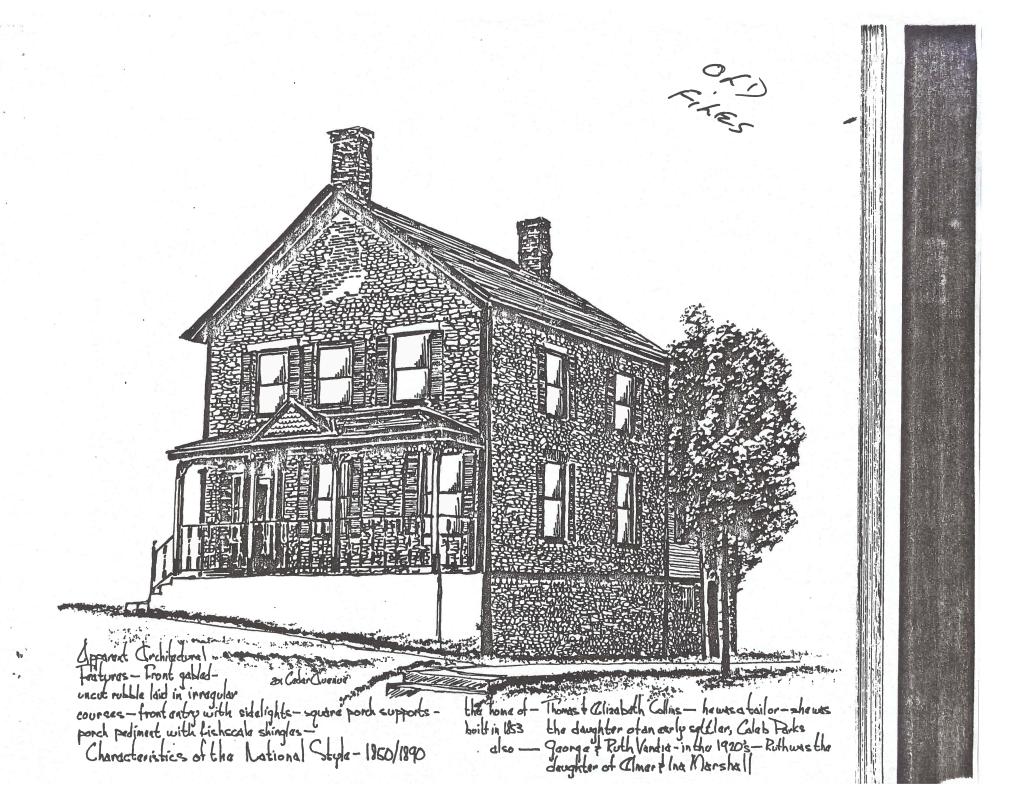
The Badger, Collection
Javid Alan Badger

featuring St. Charles of Illinois

ST. CHARLES PURLIC LIRRARY DISTRICT ONE SOUTH SIXTH AVENUE ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174

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The Stone House, 201 Cedar St., St. Charles, IL

POLITICS



Anne Bowen, Yahool Contributor Network
Mar 30, 2012 "Share your voice on Yahoo! websites. Start Here."

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The house pictured in this article is where my Mom and Dad and I lived for about a year back in 1949-1950, in what is now The Stone House Antique Shop located at 201 Cedar Street in St. Charles,

Illinois. The house was built in 1841. Whenever I visit this little Fox River town, I make it a point to stop in at The Stone House, a weird experience to be sure, because walking in makes me feel like I'm coming home but of course that's not where I live anymore. I am grateful to whomever has expended so much money and effort to preserve the house which has never been registered as a historic landmark. Registered or not, 201 Cedar Street has great historical value.

#### THIS OLD HOUSE

In the bad old days when slavery was in flower and people were bought and sold like property, the Underground Railway was the only hope for many but just getting away from the plantation didn't necessarily ensure freedom because escaped slaves were still considered to be someone's property to be captured and returned, sometimes for a bounty. It is said that Harriet Tubbman dreaded the prospect of somebody's recapture because she knew they would be tortured and possibly made to give up details of whatever they knew about the Railway so a lot of care had to be taken in helping the escaped slaves get to a safe place. The Underground Railway used several different routes through different parts of the country, including the Fox River.

UP THE RIVER

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Among many other precautions, travelers on this branch of the Underground Railway had to be transported in boats up the Fox River under cover of night. During the day they had to stay hidden in "safe houses" along the shores. If a boat was approaching St. Charles at the first light of dawn, the captain would pull up to the shore near a "safe house" like the one at 201 Cedar Street. The escaped slaves would have to disembark, walk more than a block through a dark tunnel and then climb up a ladder and through a trap door into what someday would be "our" basement. There in those dark rooms the people would take shelter for the day, waiting for night to come again so they could continue their journey.

By the time we moved in during early autumn of 1949, the Underground Railway belonged to the ages, the earthen basement floor had been replaced with cement, and the trap door had been paved over. We never knew about that part of the house's history or about the ongoing drama that had occurred in those spooky, dark basement rooms where now my Dad shoveled coal into the furnace, Mama washed laundry and I sometimes played on rainy days.

We were there for about a year and although we enjoyed most of our stay, the house sometimes seemed a little scary to me after dark. One night as I was about to go upstairs to bed, suddenly an invisible man marched down the stairs, walked around me and down what used to be a hall into what used to be our dining room. (This was a startling experience -- not mysterious creaking but the definite sound of someone wearing heavy boots treading over our hardwood floors.)

We were only at 201 Cedar Street for about a year because of a great tragedy — the serious illness and death of my mother when she was only 42. Dad and I just couldn't take living in the house anymore where there were so many memories and so we moved to Woodstock so that Dad could be closer to his work. As far as the old house was concerned, now we belonged to the ages too.

#### TODAY

The Stone House in St. Charles, IL, is a block north of Main Street (Route 64) on the east side of the river and is a part of an area called "Century Corners." The most convenient way to get there is to turn off on Third Street but I suggest turning off on Second Street (a block closer to the river) instead. When you drive up the hill and the house at 201 Cedar Street comes into view, you will get a better understanding of how far those frightened people had to walk underground and how high they had to climb to get to the basement of where we used to live. Today we don't know their names but God bless them all (and the people who helped them) and I hope they all got to their final destinations safely.

OFT. LES