A	AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Age		Agenda Item number: 4f	
ST. CHARLES	Title:	Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to approve Historic Landmark Designation for 515 Walnut St., Elisha Freeman House		
SINCE 1854	Presenter:	Russell Colby		
Meeting: Planning & Development Committee Date: October 8, 2018				
Proposed Cost: N/A		Budgeted Amount: N/A	Not Budgeted:	

Proposed Cost: N/A

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

Brian and Karen Graf have nominated their property at 515 Walnut St. for Landmark status.

In accordance with the Zoning Ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the landmark nomination on 10/3/18. The Commission recommended approval of the nomination by a vote of 6-0, based on the criteria listed in the attached resolution.

The house was constructed circa 1853 in the Greek Revival style. A large front gable dominates the front of this brick home, while the prominent entrance is detailed in the classical tradition in wood. Since the original completion of the home, there have been several additions constructed with both brick and clapboard exteriors.

Elisha Freeman, prominent St. Charles business owner, had this home built and it remained in his family until 1875. Mr. Freeman started the first drug store in St. Charles. Additionally, long time St. Charles resident Vonnie Mitchell owned the home from 1973-2016.

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 515 Walnut St., Elisha Freeman House

City of St. Charles, Illinois

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. <u>6-2018</u>

A Resolution Recommending Approval for Landmark Designation (515 Walnut St. -Elisha Freeman 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 515 Walnut St. 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, 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 Greek Revival style by Elisha Freeman at 515 Walnut St. in 1853. While unlikely original to the initial structure, a brick smoke house was added to the property sometime later. This smoke house is potentially the last one remaining in St. Charles.

Mr. Freeman designed and built the home, and lived there with his family until 1875. Elisha Freeman was a prominent St. Charles business man; starting the first drug store and the first bank within the City. Additionally, long time St. Charles resident Vonnie Mitchell owned the home from 1973-2016, when she sold it the current homeowners. Ms. Mitchell was a part of many St. Charles organizations. Some of these include the St. Charles Garden Club and the Thornapple Questers.

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.

Resolution No. 6-2018 Page 2

The original structure was built as a brick Greek Revival style house. A large front gable dominates the front of the house, while the prominent entrance is detailed in the classical tradition in wood. Since the initial construction of the home, several additions have been made with both brick and clapboard siding. Most of the additions done to the home do not take away from the dominant style, and even add to the rambling character of the house.

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 Brian and Karen Graf since 2017 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 515 Walnut St. as legally described in

Exhibit "A", be designated as a Landmark, and that it be referred to as the "Elisha Freeman House",

with a construction date of circa 1953.

Roll Call Vote:Ayes:Pretz, Smunt, Krahenbuhl, Mann, Malay, KesslerNays:NoneAbsent:NoneAbstain:NoneMotion Carried.

PASSED, this 3rd day of October, 2018.

Chairman

Resolution No. 6-2018 Page 3

Exhibit "A" Legal Description

LOTS 1 AND 2 AND LOTS 5 AND 6 (EXCEPT THE SOUTHERLY 120 FEET OF SAID LOTS 5 AND 6) IN BLOCK 8 OF MILLINGTON'S ADDITION TO ST. CHARLES, IN THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES, KANE COUNTY ILLINOIS. PIN #09-34-106-001

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:

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.

1. Property Information:	Parcel Number(s): 09 - 34 - 106 - 001		
	Property Name (Historic or common name of the pro ELISHA FREEMAN A	operty):	
2. Applicant:	BRIAN + KAREN GRAS	Phone 630-746-9417	
	Address 515 WALNUT ST	Fax	
	SAINT CHARLES, IL 60174	Email KGRAF777@GMAIL-CDM	
3. Record Owner:	BRIAN + KAREN GRAF	Phone 630-746-9417	
	SIS WALNUT ST	Fax	
	SAINT CHARLES, IL 60174	Email KGRAF77706MAILICOM	
	n of Property: The legal description should be obtained ument (attach sheets if necessary).		
	SEE PLAT OF SURVEY		



Received Date St. Charles, IL AUG 2 1 2018 CDD **Planning Division**

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

a	$) \bigcirc$	W	ne	TS	hi	p	

private ____public-local ____public-state c) <u>Integrity:</u> _X_original site ____moved: date___ ___unaltered

d) Function or Use:

Histor	ic/Current
1	agriculture
1	commercial
1	educational
/	government
/	_entertainment

e) Architecture:

Early Republic

__Federal __Early Classical Revival

Mid-19th Century Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa National

Late 19th/20th Century Revivals __Beaux Arts __Colonial Revival __Classical Revival __Tudor Revival __Late Gothic Revival __Dutch Colonial Revival __English Cottage __Italian Renaissance __French Renaissance __Spanish/Mission

<u>Regional Origin</u> __Vernacular (describe)

_Other (describe)

Historic/Current _______industrial _______military ______museum _______private residence ______park Historic/Current _______religious ______scientific ______transportation ______other(specify

Late Victorian 2nd Gothic Revival Itanlianate Second Empire **Queen** Ann Stick/Eastlake Shingle Style Romanesque Renaissance Folk Victorian Late 19th and Early 20th Century (American Movements) Princess Ann Homestead (Amer. Arts & Crafts Movement) Craftsman Bungalow Foursquare **Prairie School**

Modern Movement

__Modern

- _Art Deco
- _International Style
- __Ranch

City of St. Charles Historic Landmark Nomination

II. Building Materials: Please mark the appropriate boxes listing the materials that exist on the building.

	Foundation	Walls	Roof	Others
Wood		×		
Weatherboard, Clapboard				
Shingle			X	
Log				
Plywood				
Shake				
Stone	X			
Granite				
Sandstone				
Limestone	X			
Marble				
Slate				
Brick		×		
Metal				
Iron	1.00			X
Copper				1.1.1.1
Bronze				1.00
Tin				
Steel				
Lead			1	
Nickel				1.1
Cast Iron				
Stucco				
Terra Cotta				
Asphalt				
Asbestos				
Concrete	X			
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: ELISHA / MIRIA / HANNAH FREEMAN
b)	Architect/ Builder:
c)	Significant Person(s): ELISHA FREENAN
d)	Significant Dates (i.e., construction dates):1853
	FREEMAN PURCHASED LAND FROM WILLIAM FINCH IN 1852
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. FIRGT DRUG STORE
	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.
	X 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 included on theIllinois and/orNational Register of Historic Places.
	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to prehistory, history, or other areas of archaeological significance.
	City of St. Charles Historic Landmark Nomination

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. <u>Plat of Survey</u>: 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 affactual)
- 3. <u>Photographs:</u> 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.

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.

and Mbrit **Record** Owner

Applicant or Authorized Agent

Date

Descriptive Statement for 515 Walnut St.

The beautiful Greek Revival that stands in the Historical Millington District at 515 Walnut Street, St. Charles, IL was purchased by Elisha Freeman, a pharmacist and banker, from the Finch family in 1852.

Elisha Freeman was a prominent member of society in St. Charles, in which he moved to from MA June of 1838. He purchased property and opened St. Charles' first and only drug store on the west side of the City (lot 8, block 39). The small 1 1/2 story framed building burned down in 1868, at that time Mr. Wilson's Meat Market.

In 1854 Mr. Freeman, with the company of George W. Waite, erected the first brick 3-story building in the block, located on West Main Street.

In 1856, Elisha Freeman opened a private bank in this building, the first in St. Charles history, where he also sold drugs and groceries.

The first St. Charles school was taught on the third floor of this building, where Mr. Freeman was one of the first Directors in District #8, and started the first public school in a small frame building across the street from the Mallory house.

Elisha Freeman also served 3 terms as Justice of the peace, and was known to most as "Squire Freeman".

The Walnut Street home that Elisha Freeman and his family lived in until 1959 has beautiful Greek Revival Architecture that include a wide band frieze, entablature, off-centered recessed entry and high stone foundation.

Two additions were believed to have been made by the Huppertz family that resided in the home in the 1930's and include a garage addition with upper living quarters on the south elevation and a bedroom addition on the west elevation. All windows are wood and thought to be original to house and the pattern is 6:6. The home is well maintained and is worthy of Landmark Designation.

515 Walnut St.

09-34-106-001

MILLTN/8/1

2017	Brian/ Karen Graf	
1973	Yvonne M Mitchell	
1938	Bertha/Mary Elizabeth/ George Hupperty	
1900-1913	Laughlin Family	
	Ethel Laughlin (\$2500) => 1911 Nellie Jensen (50%) / Mae Watson (25%)/ Lolo Laughlin (25%) (\$1.00) => 1913 Nellie Jensen/ Mae Watson	
1898	Wm G Waterman (\$2500)	
1890-1897	Minard Family	
	Charles/ Abbie I Minard (\$2500) => 1897 Sarah Minard (\$1.00)	
1875	Clinton/ Margaret D. Wing (\$4500)	
1859	Freeman Family	
	Elisha/ Maria/ Hannah Freeman (two loans of \$1500 each)	
1852	Elisha Freeman (\$1000) (According to the County, this is around when the home started to be built, with a finished date circa 1853).	
1850	Wm/Adelia Finch (\$120)	
	Why Adena Filter (\$125)	

Yvonne Mitchell Owner of The Freeman House (1972-2017)

Upon purchasing the The Freeman Home in 1972, Vonnie knew the property had a history of prominence in community life. It was one of the largest and most stately homes in St. Charles and she was intent upon keeping with that tradition.

Her home was part of the 2006 St. Charles Garden Club's Garden Walk, of which Vonnie was a long-time member.

The house was a regular meeting site of *Thornapple Questers*, the St. Charles chapter of a national organization dedicated to the study, preservation and conservation of historical objects.

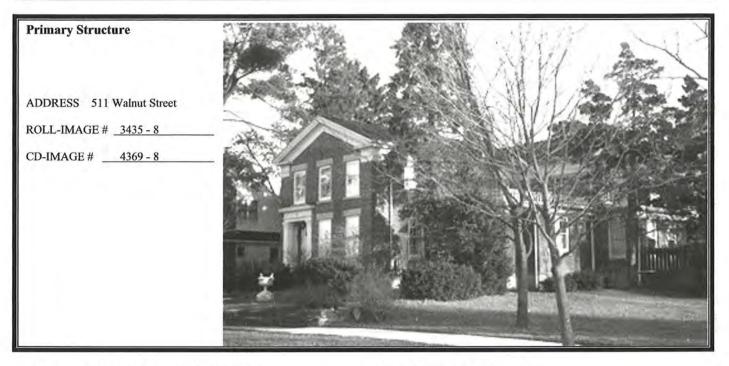
To celebrate the home's pre-Civil War roots, Vonnie hosted numerous Halloween events in which she and fellow members of *Preservation Partners* dressed in period clothing and entertained and educated with tales of frontier life.

Antique Collecting was Vonnie's greatest passion. Some of her artifacts can be seen in and around the property today. Especially prominent are the recently refurbished wrought iron entry posts, railings and gates.



ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY NEAR WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Significant
- □ Contributing
- □ Non-Contributing
- Potential for Individual National Register Designation

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

BUILDING CONDITION

- □ Excellent
- ► Good
- 🗆 Fair
- □ Poor

Architectural Style/Type:	Greek Revival	Exterior Walls (Current):	Brick
Architectural Features:		Exterior Walls (Original):	Brick
Date of Construction: Source:	1853 Township Assessor's Office	Foundation: Roof Type/Material:	Stone Cross gable/Asphalt
Overall Plan Configuration:		Window Material/Type:	

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES: A large front gable dominates the front of the house. A heavy frieze band located at the roof line is broken at the front elevation. There is a prominent entrance detailed in the classical tradition in wood. Stone lintels and sills are typical around the house. The window pattern is 6:6.

1



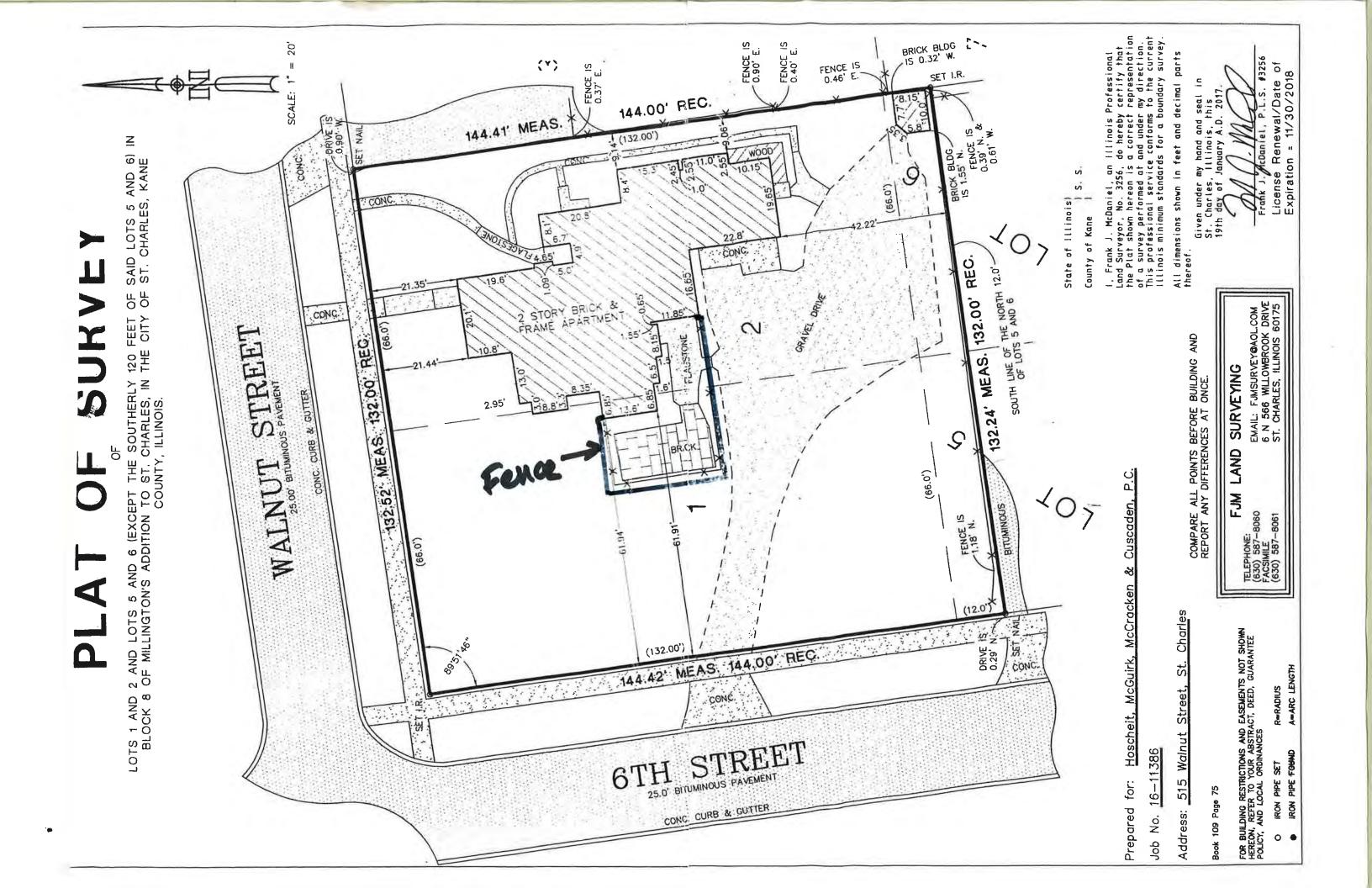
ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY NEAR WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

511 Walnut St. - Continuation Sheet

ALTERATIONS: The original roof was undoubtedly wood shakes or shingles. There have been several additions constructed with both brick and clapboard exteriors. Some of the additions are 1 story adding to the rambling character of the house. Some of the 1 story elements have flat roofs.

HISTORIC INFORMATION:	
ARCHITECT: Source	
BUILDER: Source	
ASSOCIATED EVENTS, PEOPLE & DATES: Source	Elisha Maria Hannah France. First Ny 43 Arry Owner including First Back Source: St. Charles Directory Circa 1857
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:	Source. M. Dylarics prochory Circa 1851
FEDERAL:	
STATE: COUNTY:	YES
LOCAL:	There is a local landmark plaque located at the front door, however, there is no documentation to that effect. The plaque that this is known as the Elisha Freeman house.







where she octime a position as head clerk of one of s departments, and is known as an acpplished lady and a thoroughgoing and ry competent official. Harriet married D Counts from Morrisville, N. Y. She -! a few years ago in Cameron, Mo., .ere they were keeping a hotel. Eliza . He youngest, has been twice married. maret busband was Joseph Smith, of exford, Ill., who subsequently died, d a few years later she married Judge eeph Addison Moultrie, of San Jose, 1. where they now reside. The two unger daughters were graduates of ockford female seminary. All the sisrs met together in St. Charles in the ".ng of 1871.

Henry Moore was a brother of John, st system of, and the two operated the eke carding mill for a year or more out 1845-6. Henry died in St. Charles

Stevens S. Jones was a native of Barre, ashington county, Vermont, and a man 'fne natural abilities. He received a and education and studied for the legal rofession. In 1837 he made a prospectg tour through the west and determined , make St. Charles (then Charleston) his sture home. Returning to Vermont he stilled his business and removed to St. harles, reaching here on the 7th of June. 435. Mr. Jones has been credited with uggesting the name "St. Charles," when , was found necessary to change the one rat alopted. He opened a law office and t once took a prominent rank as an enrgetic and capable attorney. In politics was a Democrat, to which school he thered until the organization of the Rewillican party, about 1854, when he inited his fortunes with thousands of thet free soil Democrate and anti-slavery Thigs and helped to build up the Repubican party. Mr. Jones was elected proate justice in 1843, and held other imwriant positions. He took an active part a railread matters, was an extensive real state owner and for several years owned ist managed the Kane County Democrat, political paper published in this city betwoen 1850 and 1860. He was also indrumental in procuring the first village Datter of St. Charles about 1849-50. , later date he abandoned the profession f the law and established himself in the "Lishing business in Chicago, where he randed the Religio Philosophical Journal. its met a violent death at the hands of a analic in 1876. His family still retains a arge property interest in St. Charles. tis oldest daughter, Mary, married Col. John C. Bundy; the youngest, Clara M., narried Mr. Robeit Farson. An only on, George H., died in early manhood. stra. Jones resides on the old homeslead n St. Charles during the summer, and ith her daughter in Chicago during the tinter. NE Lor E Main 4-54 Slisha Freeman was among the settlers 1838, arriving in the autumn of that The Freemans were originally Ramari Window County, Vapanois

CA:

trom there in June, 1838, to St. Charles, Illa, where Elisha purchased property and engaged in the drug business, being the first to open a regular drug store in the place. His first store building stood very nearly on the ground now occupied by the market of Wm, H. Matteson on lot 8 in block 39 of the original town of St. Charles, on the west side of the river. The building was a small one and a half story frame, built of oak lumber, and bore on its south alde for many years the legead, "Drugs and Medicines." It was burned in September, 1868, at which time it formed a part of the premises of a Mr. Wilsn, who kept a meat market. This building was crected in the spring of 1840, and was the first store building erected on the west side of the river. In 1841 or '42, in company with H. T. Shepherd, he built a three story brick and stone building on the spot now occupied by T. E. Ryan's building, and William C. Irwin put up a similar building adjoining on the west, the two fronts being carried up together. These were the beginnings of the large block now occupying nearly the whole front of block 39 on west Main street. Mr. Freeman bpened a large stock (for those days) and carried on the drug and general grocery business until about 1856 when he sold his stock and opened a private banking and exchange office. A little later, probably in 1856, he entered into a partnership with Geo. W. Waite, and the new firm engaged in banking and real estate business in the small frame building still standing next west of the Butler block, where they continued until the financial crash of 1857 swept over the country. when, in common with many others, they were forced to go into liquidation. For several years subsequently Mr. Freeman was an employe in the Chicago post office. During the war he returned to St. Charles and again engaged in the drug business one door east of his old stand. When his sons, Albert and Allen, reached maturity they took charge of the business and continued it for several years. For the past fifteen years the family have been residents of Chicago, where Albert, the oldest son, is engaged in the business of furnishing druggists' supplies.

Deacon Levi Brown, another early settler, was born in Warren, Worcester county, Mass., Oct. 5, 1788. He removed to Illinois in 1838, settling in St. Charles in August of that year, and purchased a claim of David W, Arnold on section 30, which he owned for several years. Hesold this place to one Conklin, who married a daughter of Clayton Seamans, but did not remain long in this vicinity. In April, 1847, Deacon Brown bought the dwelling on Walnut street, now owned by his son Jajrus B., of William Debit. It was built by Edward Bunker about 1842, and about 1846 was occupied by James P. Vance and family. Deacon' Brown died in this house Oct. 19, 1874, at the age of 86 years. He had been a member of the Congregational church sinc ourly man

., ... uns resided in S Charles since 1875.

harles since 1875. James Lovell, now living hear Sycs more, was one of the settlers of 1837. H built a small frame house on the block little west of Dr. De Wolf's present store building, which he sold about 1846 to Social Rolph. Mr. L. kept a hotel about four miles east of Sycamore for many years, and has always been a prominent and respected citizen of DeKalb county.

Rev. N. C. Clark, the first Congregational minister to settle permanently in this region was in retident of St. Charles in 1837, owning the frame, dwelling before spoken of, near the charge side paper mill. the organized several of the earliest churches in this region. His death de curred in Elgin within the past few vera.

History of St. Charles, Illinois, Revised and Corrected.

BY SAMUEL W. DURANT.

CHAPTER XVIL

Among the very early settlers in St. Charles was Deacon John Fisk from Holden, Worcester Co., Mass., who visited this region in 1835 and purchased two claims of Albert Howard, one in the timber near M. W. Fletcher's, the other a prairie claim lying east of the Orrit Hall farm where he resided ten years or more.

In 1838 the Norton family, whose members had been engaged in the Canadian rebellion of 1837-8, and some of them im prisoned by the British authorities, came to Illinois and stopped for a time in Du-? Page county, but in 1840 removed to St. Charles, where Lewis A., familiarly known as "Capt. Norton," married Martha Fisk in February, 1841, and worked Deacon Fisk's farm for two years. Not liking the business of farming he purchased land in the "Little Woods" of William Baird which included a small water power on the Norton 'creek, named for him, and in 1843 crected a saw, mill which he operated for several years. While living at his mill he commenced his "Metrical Romance of Canada." In 1847 he enlisted as a volunteer in Capt. E. E. Harvey's company which was recruited at St. Charles for the Mexican war. He was commissioned lieutenant but served during most of his term of enlistment as quartermaster and commissary for the regiment to which the company belonged, the sixth of the Illinois volunteers, commanded by Col. Collins.

4

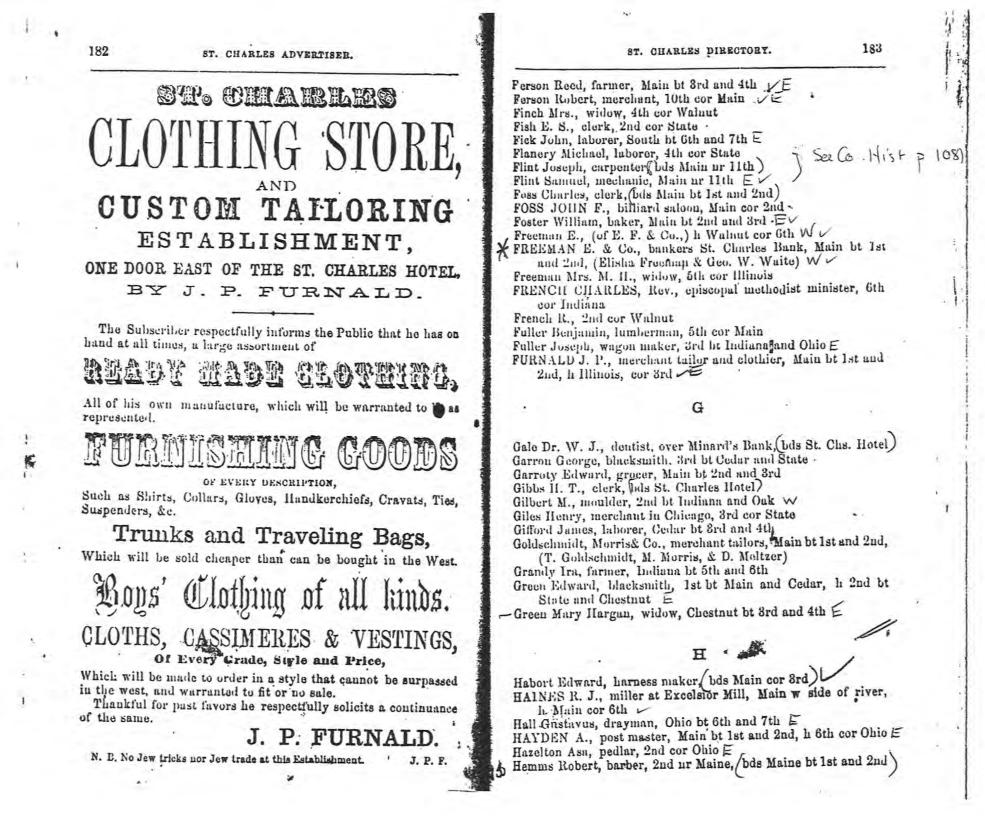
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On the return of the troops from the seat of war in 1848, Capt. Norton located at his mill for a short time where he nearly completed his poetical work, Later he read law in the office of Judge Barry. In 1852, in company with Abner Currier, Jonathan Mack, Wm. Brophy and Fred Parker, he went overland to alifornia with teams. On the morning

I the day they started Capt. Norton put n bis regimentals and a heavy saber and

Clock shop

SW Cor W. Welnut + St-



KANE COUNTY HISTORY

The Dixon Air Line Road, under the management of the Chicago & Galena Union, was completed to Geneva in 1853 and pushed westward until finally it became the main line of the Chicago & North-Western Railway, as the great system has for many years been called.

The railway did not at first tap the Fox river country at Elgin, however. The people of St. Charles seeing the road about to go around them and leave them several miles away, bestirred themselves and built what was known as the St. Charles Branch Railroad, connecting with the Chicago & Galena Union about four miles east of St. Charles. The first train over it reached the place December 13, 1849, the cost of the branch having been about \$23,000. March 11, 1850, the following directors were elected: Ira Minard, Darwin Millington, G. C. Stevens, F. H. Bowman, Elisha Freeman. Mr. Freeman was chosen president, Mr. Stevens secretary, and Mr. Minard acting director and treasurer. An engine arrived for the branch in July, 1850. This road, as were all the early ones, was laid with strap rail.

Early in 1850 the subject was agitated of connecting St. Charles and Geneva by rail. Stock was taken and proposals for doing the work were invited in March. Matters progressed favorably and finally a branch on the east side of the river, one and seven-eights miles in length, was built between the two places and cars commenced running over it to Geneva, September 12, 1850. Both this and the St. Charles branch were abandoned after about ten years and the latter place was without railway facilities until January 16, 1871, when a branch two and seven-tenths miles long, was opened between the two towns on the west side of the river, which later became the property of the Chicago & North-Western Company and is still operated.

The North-Western continued its line from Geneva to Batavia, on the west side of the river, in the summer of 1873, and in 1883 extended it to Aurora, opening business over it in the fall of that year. Depot grounds, yards and general right of way had some time previously been secured, at large cost to the company.

The Fox River Railroad, northward from Elgin to McHenry, was commenced in 1853 and completed in 1855. The south end of the Wisconsin Central Road, from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, south, passed into the hands of the Chicago & Galena Union Company in May, 1859. The latter company repaired the track and began running regular trains over the whole from Elgin to Lake Geneva on May 16, 1859. This line has since remained under the same management, now known as the Chicago & North-Western.

Early in January, 1849, a project was set on foot for building a branch railroad from Aurora to connect with the Chicago & Galena Union at or near Warrenville, about twelve miles distant, in DuPage county. An enthusiastic meeting was held on the 27th of the month, when it was unanimously Resolved, "That this meeting use its best exertions for the construction of a branch railroad from West Aurora, by the most feasible route, to the main line of the Chicago & Galena Union Railroad." A bill to charter the Aurora Branch Railroad was passed by the legislature in 1849 (house, February 6, and senate, February 9) and a board of directors was elected, consisting of Stephen F. Gale, Chicago; Benjamin Hackney, Charles Hoyt and William V.

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KANE COUNTY HISTORY

David Strader and B. T. Hunt; on the west side were E. Freeman, L. M. Blaisdell & Co., Thomas & Howard, John F. Wright and M. F. Burdge. W. J. Conklin and others were running a mill on the west side at that time, and Bundy & Evans were operating the old east side sawmill.

The first postoffice was established in 1837, with Horace Bancroft as postmaster and Calvin Ward, mail carrier.

The most serious public disturbance that occurred in St. Charles in the early days was the Richards' riot, which is spoken of more in detail in the general county history under the chapter of Resurrectionists.

One of the remembered occasions of early days was the duplicate celebration of the 4th of July, 1846. The whigs and democrats united in a national celebration on the east side of the river, and the abolitionists, under the lead of John Farnsworth, Calvin Ward and others, had a celebration on the west side. The east siders procured two cannon which were placed side by side on the hill. At the foot of the hill an oven was built to do cooking for the crowd. The abolitionists borrowed a large tent capable of holding one thousand people, which they set up on the west side; dishes were procured in St. Charles, Elgin and other places and preparations made for a great celebration. Eminent speakers were secured, enthusiasm was very great, and the town was filled with many people who came from many miles around. Everything went well until about two p. m., when a sudden thunder storm and a furious wind arose. The big tent, which was filled with people, was torn from its fastenings and collapsed, leaving the people to crawl from under asbest they could. They fled in all directions, wading through the deep water which filled the gutters. A number were seriously injured but no one killed. The storm effectually broke up both celebrations.

St. Charles enjoys the distinction of having furnished, or at least having been the place of enrollment, for the only company furnished by Kane county to the Mexican war.

The first attempt to establish a bank was made by Elisha Freeman about 1853, when he opened a small office on West Main street. The village organized under a city charter April 22, 1875. Dr. J. K. Lewis was the first mayor; T. W. Edmunds, first city clerk; first treasurer was S. B. Huls, and the first city attorney was Frank McMasters. The aldermen were Charles Chovin, E. A. Brownell, F. L. Alexander, A. W. Kelley, T. L. Ryan and John F. Elliott.

In late years the location of the Cable Piano Company at St. Charles and the establishment of other industries have given the place a new impetus. It is one of the best located cities in the county and has one of the best warp powers. If present indications go for anything it will, in the not far distant future, be one of the industrial and manufacturing points of the Fox river valley.

The first school taught in St. Charles was opened in the fall of 1835, in a log house. It was taught by Prudence Ward, afterward Mrs. Dean Ferson. The first building erected for school purposes within the city limits was built of boards and slabs in the fall of 1836. In 1837 a frame school building was erected by Thomas E. Dodge, contractor. Among the early

A of the old ploneers. Judge Barry been twice married. His first wife B Bliza Beabrooks, a slater of Mrs. P.J. archall." His second wile was a sister William Thom. The Thom family are from Scotland. To have obtained some additional insmallon concerning Blishs Freeman see writing of him in chapter zvi, hich makes a few corrections and adds little to what was written: Mr. Free-as reached Charleston with his family uly 8, 1838. His/first start in the drug of grocery business was in 1839 in the of all house on the cast side of the river. In the first day of April, 1840, he removed o the trame building he had erected on Tist streat pa the west sider. The brick and stone store spoken of on west Main wel be erected in 1842. H. T. Shepherd ha bot in company with him until a lit-Water. E. Z. Craudall and George W. afte taught the first school on the west de in the third story of this building. which was the only hall on the west side The river. It was also used for religous meetings by the Congregationalists and Baptists, and occasionally opened for bowe. lectures, etc. Mr. Freeman was ane of the tirst directors in school district and started the first public school a lag west side in a small frame building which stood across the street east from te Mallory house. He was also a direcfor when the present school building on be bill was erected in 1854. He attended the feweting called to change the name of the fewe in 1889, held in the school house which stood on what is now Dr. Crawford's lot, west of his residence. Mr. Freeman served three terms as justice of the peace. He left St. Charles in 1875. Be was born in 1816. He was an active member of the Universalist church in St. Charles.

Listory of St. Charles, Illinois, Revised and Corrected.

BY SAMUEL W. DURANT.

CHAPTER XIX.

" Joshua Weeks, whom our older citizens well penember, settled with his family in St. Charles in November, 1839. Mr. Weeks was a native of Lorg Island, N Y, and belonged to a very long lived amplys Heddini in St. Charles in (1571 at the advanced age of 94 years. His wife deat in 1851. At the time of his settlement here his family consisted of three daughters and one son, Jerume F. Weeks. The latter had been here on a prospecttotr in 1535. For a time Jerome followed the avocation of a stage driver on routes from BL Charles to Cultonville. then an important town and county seat of DeKalb county; also over the Ottawa A and perhaps others. He was a aral hereeman and could handle a and equal to the best. In 1841 he pur-

stand the claim hot means to it have

elected constable. attended medical le ards' school, then in in St. Charles, and university, and grad cal college, Chicago, the time of the Ric 1849, he was located and was, consequent the doctor's school Marseilles about a y quently located at P years, during which practice through o sensons. At the bre of the relellion he v ments to remove to at the front in Virg with a New York r to Illinois he went w geons and medical a in bringing home wounded after the t loh. He still intend York, but circums plaus. There was competent surgeons Illmois regiments, perative necessity (arrangements to en infantry, raised and spiendid citizen and Wallace, who gave country amid the Shiloh on the 6th of rious reasons he d regiment, but finally of the 51st Illinois it years service in the ern times. Since th practice in the city also had his residen when he removed his home has since l

In May, 1843, he daugister of John whom he lived unt which date she died demic at Peru, Ill.

The year 1840 wi improvements in St. and stone block of best lings on the nor Man and First sti this year. The cort Dr. Thomas P. Whi Brooks, the middle son & Hunt, and the G. and Smith Conkli erection it was probing husiness structu lower stories were stores, the second fo etc., and the third t In this block was lo fice of John Thomas first issue of the S For River Advocate it the third issue the by fire. It was re 1SCI, again partial same element, at v records, in the office

Where ancestor shos. Freeman Settled : 17:

g ladies peeping from beneath the on over, often asked the father, at are you going west with so many for "

a-ddest daughter, Sarah E., married Moore, who died in Wisconsin about His widow lives with a daughter Intonville, Wis. Mary A. married k L. Alexander in January, 1846, and are still living in St. Charles where A. was for many years engaged in rucery ousiness. Catherine married Walker who was for several years bilept of St. Charles. Mrs. Walker ern for several years in the pension at Washington, D. C., where she oca position as head clerk of one of epartments, and is known as an aclished lady and a thoroughgoing and competent official. Harriet married Combs from Morrisville, N. Y. She a few years ago in Cameron, Mo., re they were keeping a hotel. Eliza he youngest, has been twice married. first husband was Joseph Smith, of ford. Ill., who subsequently died, a few years later she married Judge ph Addison Moultrie, of San Jose, where they now reside. The two ager daughters were graduates of ford female seminary. All the sismet together in St. Charles in the ng of 1871.

rney Moore was a brother of John, spoken of, and the two operated the te carding mill for a year or more 1 1845-6. Henry died in St. Charles the later.

evens S. Jones was a native of Barre, biogton county, Vermont, and a man be natural abilities. He received a deducation and studied for the legal free on. In 1837 he made a prospecttour through the west and determined make St. Charles (then Charleston) his ite home. Returning to Vermont he ded his business and removed to St. trees, reaching here on the 7th of June,

Mr. Jones has been credited with westing the name "St. Charles," when as found necessary to change the one ad 1 ted He opened a law office and me took a promiment rank as an enet: and capable attorney. In politics mas a Democrat, to which school he ered until the organization of the Reble an party, about 1854, when he tet the fortunes with thousands of re from mail Democrate and anti-slavery is and helped to build up the Repubf. farty Mr. Jones was elected profustice in 1543, and held other imtant positions. He took an active part al'r al matters, was an extensive real te owner and for several years owned maniged the Kane County Democrat, et al paper published in this city

where an ancestor, Thomas Freeman, ast tled June 7, 1775. During; the battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June, 1776, Mr. Freeman distinctly heard the heavy artillery firing of the British ships on Boston harbor, a distance of more than 100 miles in an Bir line. The country was then almost entirely covered with timber which carried sound to a sound the first uslect men of Barnard when the town organized in April, 1778. In 1835, Elisha Freeman and his sister Hannah, who died in Chicago in June, 1882, removed from Vermont to Ware village, Mass., and from there in June, 1838, to St. Charles, Illa., where Elisha purchased property and engaged in the drug business, being the first to open a regular drug store in the place. His first store building stood very nearly on the ground now occupied by the market of Wm, H. Matteson on lot 8 in block 39 of the original town of St. Charles, on the west side of the river. The building was a small one and a half story frame, built of oak lumber, and bore on its south side for many years the legend, "Drugs and Medicines," It was burned in September, 1868, at which time it formed a part of the premises of a Mr. Wilsn, who kept a meat market. This building was crected in the spring of 1840, and was the first store building erected on the west side of the river. In 1841 or '42, in company with H. T. Shepherd, he built a three story brick and stone building on the spot now occupied by T. E. Ryan's building, and William C. Irwin put up a similar building adjoining on the west, the two fronts being carried up together. These were the beginnings of the large block now occupying nearly the whole front of block 39 on west Main Mr. Freeman bpened a large street. stock (for those days) and carried on the drug and general grocery business until about 1556 when he sold his stock and opened a private banking and exchange office. A little later, probably in 1856, he entered into a partnership with Geo. W: Waite, and the new firm engaged in banking and real estate business in the small frame building still standing next west of the Butler block, where they continued until the financial crash of 1857 swept over the country. when, in common with many others, they were forced to go into liquidation. For several years subsequently Mr. Freeman was an employ6 in the Chicago post office. During the war he returned to St. Charles and again engaged in the drug business one door east of his old stand. When his sons, Albert and Allen, reached maturity they took charge of the business and continued it for several years. For the past fifteen years the family have been residents of

hood, and filled the office many years. His was all member of the village bo Deacon Brown was twice second wife, Barah C. Gi Jadge Gibson, is still livin

Jairus E. Brown, son settled in St. Charles in Ji two months earlier than, the spring of 1839 he wen er's claim. He built the s owned by Walter Wilson 1 1853 to 1875 he was a ri catine, Iowa, but has Charles since 1875.

James Lovell, now livmore, was one of the settle built a small frame house little west of Dr. DeWolf building, which he sold Social Rolph. Mr. L. kep four miles east of Sycar years, and has always be and respected citizen of I

Rev. N. C. Clark, the f tional minister by settle r this region was a feutdent in 1837, owning the frame d spoken of near the east, a the organized several of churches in this region, curred in Elgin within lyears.

History of St. Cha nois, Revised ar rected.

BY SAMUEL W. DI

OHAPTER XVI

Among the very early Charles was <u>Deacon Job</u> Holden, Worcester Co., Mase this region in 1835 and p claims of Albert Howard, o ber near M. W. Fletcher's prairie claim lying east of t farm where he resided ten y

In 1838 the Norton family bers had been engaged in rebellion of 1837-8, and som prisoned by the British autl to Illinois and stopped for Page county, but in 1840 r Charles, where Lewis A known as "Capt. Norton," mi Fisk in February, 1841, and con Fisk's farm for two ye. ing the business of farming land in the "Little Wood Baird which included a sma er on the Norton 'creek, na and in 1843 erected a saw, 1 operated for several years.