| itle/Address:<br>coposal:<br>etitioner:<br>ease check ap<br>PUBLIC HI |                                  | 22 W.<br>Smunt                               |   |   |   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| etitioner:<br>ease check ap   | Dr. Steven S<br>propriate box    | Smunt  |   | 5.  |   |
| -   |                                  | x (x)  |   |   |   |
| PUBLIC HI   | TARING                           | 1  |   |   |   |
|   |                                  |  |   | <b>MEETING</b><br>5/4/16  | X   |
| TEGORY:   |                                  |  |   |   |   |
| ppropriateness  | s (COA) Façade Improvement Plan  |  |   |   |   |
| view  | X Landmark/District Designation  |  |   | lmark/District Designation  |   |
| 1   | Commission Business              |  |   |   |   |
|   |                                  |  |   |   |   |
| Landmarking   |                                  |  |   |   |   |
|   |                                  |  |   |   |   |
| form and attac  | chments                          |  |   |   |   |
| ARY:  |                                  |  |   |   |   |
|   | view  Landmarking form and attac | Landmarking<br>form and attachments<br>MARY: | View X  Landmarking form and attachments  MARY:  on has been submitted for the proper | view X Land<br>A Com<br>Com<br>Landmarking<br>form and attachments<br>MARY:<br>on has been submitted for the property loo | X     Landmark/District Designation       n     Commission Business       • Landmarking       • Landmarking       • form and attachments <b>MARY:</b> on has been submitted for the property located at 522 W. Main St., comm |

### **RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Review the landmark nomination and provide a recommendation to set a public hearing date.

### St. Charles Zoning Ordinance – Criteria for Landmark Designation

### 17.32.060.C

The Commission shall evaluate the property's eligibility for landmark designation based on its historic and/or architectural significance, the integrity of its design, workmanship, materials, location, setting and feeling, and the extent to which it meets one (1) or more of the following criteria:

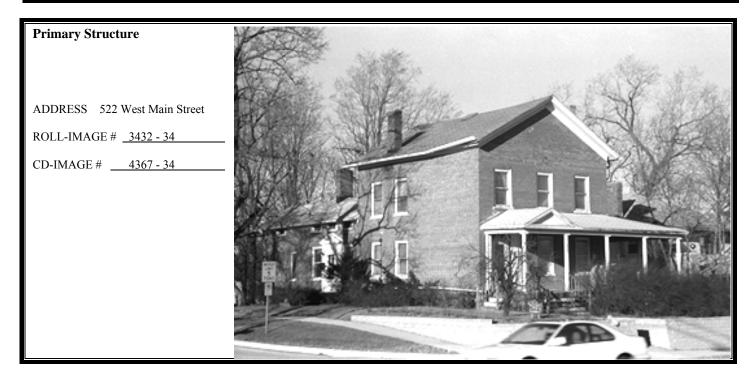
- 1. Has character, interest or value which is part of the development, heritage or cultural character of the community, county, state or nation.
- 2. Is the site of a significant local, county, state or national event.
- 3. Is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state or nation.
- 4. Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that are of architectural significance.
- 7. Embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
- Has a unique location or physical characteristics that make it a familiar visual feature of the community.
- 9. Is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.
- 10. Is suitable for preservation or restoration.
- 11. Is included in the Illinois or National Register of Historic Places.
- 12. Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory, history or other areas of archaeological significance.



## **ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY**

NEAR WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

#### ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- ► Significant
- □ Contributing
- □ Non-Contributing
- Dependent 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:<br>Source: | 1850<br>Township Assessor's Office | Foundation:<br>Roof Type/Material: | Stone<br>Front gable/Asphalt shingle         |
| Overall Plan Configuration:      | Simple w/ additions                | Window Material/Type:              | Wood/Dbl. Hung. Some<br>Alum dbl. hung at 2F |

**ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:** There are brick jack arches over the windows, which have stone sills. Full height classic columns support the wrap - around front porch and a small pediment emphasizes the entrance. The eaves are accented with a wide band of trim.

**ALTERATIONS:** A large addition to the rear of the house features frieze band windows and a simple gable roof like the original



# **ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY**

NEAR WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

522 West Main Street - Continuation Sheet

#### **HISTORIC INFORMATION:**

| ARCHITECT:                         |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Source                             |   |
|                                    |   |
| BUILDER:                           |   |
| Source                             |   |
|                                    |   |
| ASSOCIATED EVENTS, PEOPLE & DATES: | Darwin and Miranda a. Millington donated land to the Congregational |
|                                    | Catholic Church and for the West Side Park.                         |
| Source                             | Wall Plaque   |
|                                    |   |
| <b>REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING</b>  |   |
| SURVEYS:                           |   |
|                                    |   |
| FEDERAL:                           |   |
| STATE:                             |   |
| COUNTY:                            |   |

LOCAL: Yes

# **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<br>Information: | Parcel Number(s):09-27-359-009Address: 522 W. Main Street  | t, St. Charles, IL 60174               |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                             | Property Name (Historic or common name of the property):<br>Darwin Millington Homestead                  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Applicant:               | Name<br>Dr. Steven W. Smunt  | Phone 630-338-7320                     |  |  |  |
|                             | Address<br>403 S. 6th St., St. Charles, IL 60174   | Fax                                    |  |  |  |
|                             |  | Email stevesmunt@me.com                |  |  |  |
| 3. Record Owner:            | Name<br>Eric Larsen  | Phone wk: 630-587-2800                 |  |  |  |
|                             | Address  | Fax                                    |  |  |  |
|                             | wk: 605 W. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174   | Email                                  |  |  |  |
|                             | on of <b>Property:</b> The legal description should be obtained from ument (attach sheets if necessary). | n the deed, mortgage, title insurance, |  |  |  |

MILLINGTON'S ADDITION LOT 5 BLK 4 (EX PT TAKEN FOR RD BY 95K008192)

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

| a) <u>Ownership:</u> <u>X</u> privatepublic-localpublic-state  | b) <u>Category:</u><br><u>X</u> building<br>district<br>site | c) <u>Integrity:</u><br><u>X</u> original<br>unaltered                                 | date   |
|--|--|--|--|
| d) Function or Use:  |  |  |  |
| Historic/Current<br>agriculture<br>X commercial<br>educational<br>government<br>entertainment                                    | <u>Historia</u><br>//<br>/<br>X_//                           | <u>c/Current</u><br>_industrial<br>_military<br>_museum<br>_private residence<br>_park | Historic/Current<br>religious<br>scientific<br>transportation<br>other(specify |
| e) Architecture:   |  |  |  |
| Early Republic<br>Federal<br>Early Classical<br>Revival<br><u>Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century</u><br>Greek Revival<br>Gothic Revival |  | Itanlia<br>Second<br>Queen<br>Stick/H  | thic Revival<br>nate<br>d Empire<br>Ann<br>Eastlake<br>e Style                 |
| Italian Villa<br>National  |  | Renais   |  |
| Late 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> Century Re<br>Beaux Arts<br>Colonial Revival<br>Classical Revival<br>Tudor Revival       | <u>vivals</u>  |  |  |
| Late Gothic Revival<br>Dutch Colonial Reviva<br>English Cottage<br>Italian Renaissance<br>French Renaissance<br>Spanish/Mission  | 1  | (Amer. A<br>Craftsn<br>Bungal<br>Foursq<br>Prairie                                     | ow<br>uare   |
| <u>Regional Origin</u><br>Vernacular (describe)  |  | Moder<br>Art De  | 200  |
| Other (describe)   |  | Ranch  | ational Style  |

\_\_\_\_\_

### **II. Building Materials:**

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

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

### **III. Significance of Property:**

Please indicate source of documentation, if available. % Kane Co. Recorder, Research Dept.

| a) | Original Owner:              | Darwin Millington |            |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| b) | Architect/ Builder:          |                   |            |
| c) | Significant Person(s):       | Darwin Millington |            |
| d) | Significant Dates (i.e., con | struction dates): | circa 1843 |

- e) Please indicate which of the following criteria apply to the property:(check all that apply.)
  - X 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.
  - X Property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation.
  - X Structure embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
  - Property is identified with the work of a master builder, designer, architect, or landscape architect whose work has influenced the development of the area, the county, the state, or the nation.
  - \_\_\_\_ Structure embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that are of architectural significance.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Structure embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
  - X 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.
  - X Property is suitable for preservation or restoration.
  - \_\_\_\_ Property is included on the\_\_\_\_Illinois and/or \_\_\_\_National Register of Historic Places.
  - Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to prehistory, history, or other areas of archaeological significance.

### **IV.** Attachments

- 1. <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.
- 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.

Record Owner Date April 29, 2016 Applicant or Authorized Agent. Date

# Darwin Millington Homestead, Significant Findings

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

The property lies within Millington's Addition to St. Charles. The Addition, surveyed and certified July 19,1842, is an early annexation to the original town. The sale of lots within its boundaries allowed for normal population growth and, ultimately, tax revenues for local units of government.

# The Property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation.

Beginning in 1838, Darwin Millington and his father, Dr. Abel Millington, constructed the first water powered, flour mill along the Fox River. In 1840, the Illinois General Assembly enacted legislation authorizing "Ira Minard, Read Ferson, Bela T. Hunt, and Darwin Millington to construct, build, and continue a mill-dam across Fox River at the town of St. Charles."

In 1842, Darwin purchased from the US Government a portion of a quarter section of land west of and adjacent to the original town. It was surveyed and subdivided into 9 blocks. On July 19, 1842, the land was annexed as Millington's Addition to St. Charles.

On Jan. 24, 1843, the State General Assembly enacted legislation to incorporate the St. Charles Academy, and "the object of said institution shall be the promotion of the general interests of education." Darwin Millington was named amongst 8 as a trustee.

"Darwin Millington proved to be a generous citizen of St. Charles. He donated land on the east side of 4th Street on which the Old St. Patrick's Church was built in 1851. The younger Millington also gave land to the town for the West Side Park, now named Lincoln Park.

Darwin was also instrumental in bringing the St. Charles Branch Railroad to St. Charles in 1850."

# Darwin Millington Homestead, Significant Findings

# 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.

In 1843, Darwin Millington acquired clear title to Lot 5, Block 4 from his brother, Cicero for \$100. This is about the time that the brick, National Style house on lot 5 is constructed or acquired. Red clay bricks were used in the wall construction, and were likely fabricated at the Penny Brickyard, which began operation circa 1840. The foundation is constructed of quarried limestone, hand laid with lime mortar, and is typical of the mid-19th century. A classical columned veranda wraps the south and east elevations. A pedimented roof extension over the south entry stairs echoes the Gable-Front form. The brick north half of the first floor is possibly a structural addition. Whereas the second floor above is mostly framed and partially incorporated into the roof, and utilizes window dormers to gain head room and additional daylight. The windows are 1/1, double hung, sash replacements.

The National Style, is a folk house with several dominant forms. The Millington House is an example of the Gable-Front Form, which echoes the pedimented facade of Greek Temples, Greek Revival Style (1830-50), but without the distinguishing elements and detailing. *source: A Field Guide to American Houses* 

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

Lot 5 is located on the west river bluff at the NE corner of 6th and Main Streets. The structure faces south, and offers an eastward view of the Fox River Valley. This location was called "Millington's Hill" by locals, and according to Pliny Durant, "the old brick house was in its day one of the most pretentious edifices St. Charles could boast."

### The Property is suitable for preservation or restoration.

Eric Larsen, the current property owner, has invested considerably to preserve the brick exterior elements, the foundation, the veranda, and the roof. The sash replacements accurately duplicate the look of the original windows.







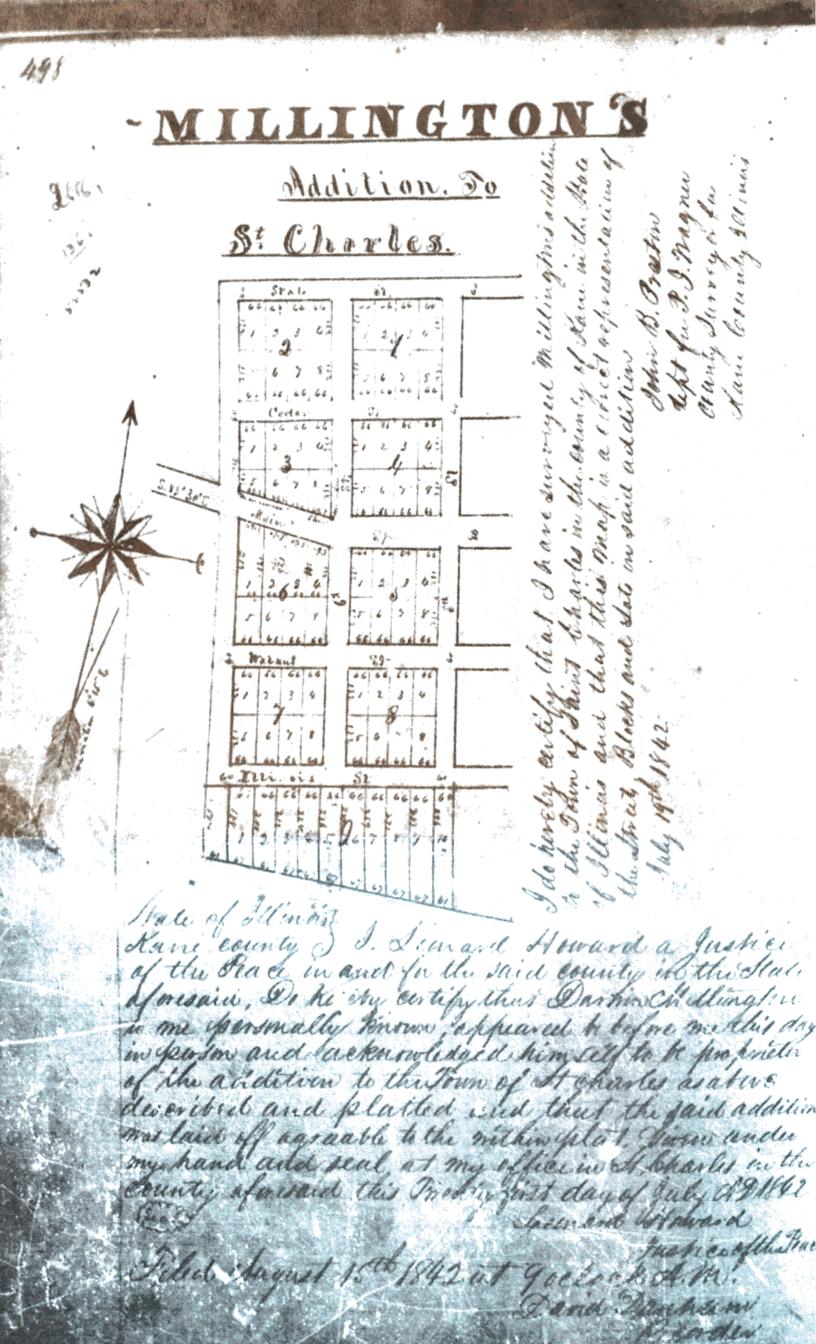


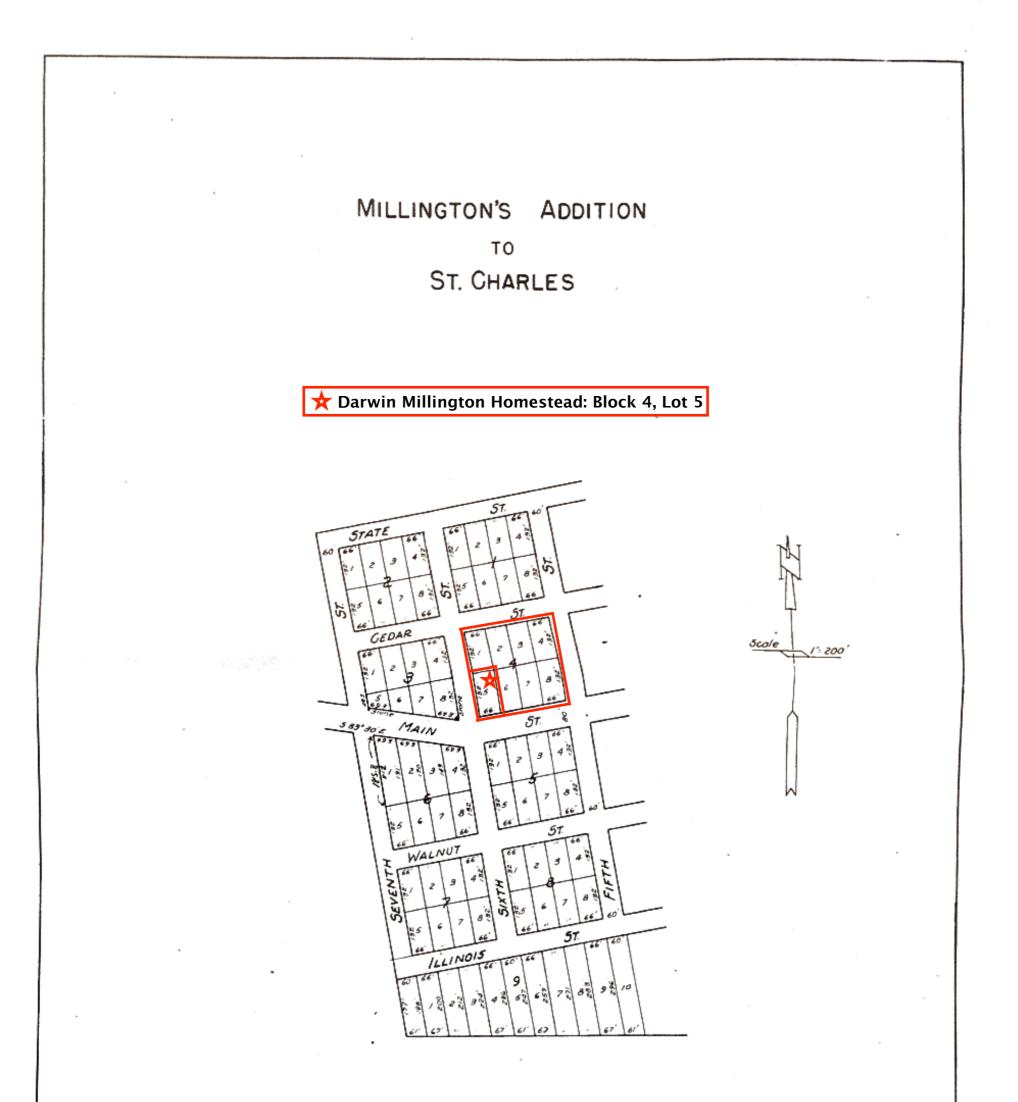












Surveyed & Certified July 19, 1842 by John B. Prestin FILED - AUGUST 15, 1842 JOHN B. PRESTON RECORD BOOK 2 PAGE 498 SURVEYOR E (31 1 7 1

### Biography of Darwin Millington while residing in St. Charles, 1837 -1866.

Darwin Millington, born June 15, 1815, arrived from Ypsilanti, MI, in 1837 (1834 per Library doc) with his father, Dr. Abel and his brother, Cicero. In 1838, Dr. Abel Millington "bought a large parcel of land on the west side of town from Gideon Young for \$8,000 in gold, a huge sum in those days."

Dr. Abel "began construction of the first water powered, flour mill on the Fox River where the Hotel Baker now stands. Abel Millington's son, Darwin, joined his father in the business venture. Dr. Millington died prior to the completion of the mill, and in 1838, Darwin inherited the business." On Feb 1, 1840, the General Assembly enacted legislation authorizing "Ira Minard, Read Ferson, Bela T. Hunt, and Darwin Millington to construct, build, and continue a mill-dam across Fox River at the town of St.

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In 1842, Darwin purchased from the US Government a portion of a quarter section of land west of and adjacent to the original town. It was surveyed and subdivided into 9 blocks. On July 19, 1842, the land was annexed as Millington's Addition to St. Charles.

On Jan. 24, 1843, the State General Assembly enacted legislation to incorporate the St. Charles Academy, and "the object of said institution shall be the promotion of the general interests of education." Darwin Millington was named amongst 8 as a trustee.

On October 2, 1843, Cicero Millington now residing in Washtenaw Co., Michigan, sells Block 4 back to Darwin for \$100. This is about the time that the brick, National Style house on lot 5 is constructed or acquired. Lot 5 is located on the west river bluff at the NE corner of 6th and Main Streets. This location was called "Millington's Hill" by locals, and according to Pliny Durant, "the old brick house was in its day one of the most pretentious edifices St. Charles could boast."

Darwin was married to Miranda Boardman on October 23, 1838, and moved into the newly built house to raise their family of 5 children: Arthur, Darwin Jr., Ella, Emily, and Lucy Millington.

"Darwin Millington proved to be a generous citizen of St. Charles. He donated land on the east side of 4th Street on which the Old St. Patrick's Church was built in 1851. The younger Millington also gave land to the town for the West Side Park, now named Lincoln Park. Darwin was also instrumental in bringing the St. Charles Branch Railroad to St. Charles in 1850."

On Jan. 3, 1866, the estate is placed in Probate following Darwin Millington's death. The property is conveyed to Miranda Millington and her children.

# Darwin Millington Homestead, circa 1843

Title history for lot 5 of Block 4 of Millington's Addition to St. Charles.

April 24, 1820: Act of Congress "making further provisions for the sale of public lands..."

1837, Charleston (St. Charles) is incorporated and becomes a town.

1842, President John Tyler signs U.S. Patent granting Federal land to Luther Hatch, Francis Gormer(sp.?), and John Thompson, assignees, covering various quarter sections in Illinois.

May 16, 1842: portions of a quarter section of land are assigned to Darwin Millington after appropriate funds are deposited into the US Land Office. Specifically, Luther Hatch assigns 53.88 acres, Francis Gormer assigns 160 acres, and John Thompson assigns the remainder.

June 14, 1842: 186 acres are conveyed to Cicero Millington(POA), Darwin's brother

July 19, 1842: Millington's Addition to St. Charles is surveyed, certified, and annexed. August 15, 1842: the surveyed addition is recorded with Kane County.

October 2, 1843: Cicero Millington (POA) of Washtenaw Co. Michigan sells Block 4 back to Darwin for \$100. This is about the time that the brick house on lot 5 is constructed.

Sept. 29, 1859: Block 4, including Lot 5, is placed into a Trust for Miranda Millington and her children against future contingencies. Block 4 is referenced as being the homestead. Henry Stevens is named the trustee.

Jan. 3, 1866: Block 4 is placed in Probate following Darwin Millington's death. The property is conveyed to Miranda Millington and her children, including Arthur Millington and Darwin Millington, Jr.

Nov. 16, 1895: Western ½ of Block 4,(Lots 1,2,5,6) conveyed to Ella Millington Egleston , Emily Millington Ryan, and Lucy Millington Marsden

June 1906: Emily Millington Ryan and the Egleston heirs of Ella Millington Egleston, now deceased, sell their portion of lot 5 to Lucy and James Marsden.

Aug 12, 1922: Lucy and James Marsden sell the property to Fredrick G. Bormann.

Nov 18, 1930: Fredrick G. Bormann sells to Oscar F. Bormann.

Jan 9, 1933: Oscar F. Bormann & his wife sell to Elsie M. Goreki.

March 31, 1945: Elsie M. Goreki sells to Elmer Borman.

March 31, 1945: Elmer Borman & wife sell to Elsie M. Goreki and her daughter, Eleanor Himmelfarb.

# The Moody-Millington Historic District History

The Moody-Millington Historic District July 7, 2006

The Moody-Millington Historic District is a near west side residential area which encloses 17 parcels lying within two early additions to the original town of St. Charles. The earliest structure dates to the late 1860's. The district currently contains 5 Designated Landmarks and the remaining structures all contribute either architecturally or historically.

History of Millington's Addition

Darwin Millington, born 6/15/1815, arrived from Ypsilanti, MI, in 1837 with his father, Dr. Abel and his brother, Cicero. They purchased west side properties in 1838. The family developed and operated the first water-powered flour mill on the west bank of the Fox River at the presentday site of the Hotel Baker. The mill was later sold to R.J. Haines, who expanded it's size and operation. Darwin donated the land the town used to create Lincoln Park, and donated the adjoining land for construction of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Millington's Addition was annexed to the municipality on July 19, 1842. It is bordered by State St. on the north to Indiana St. on the south, and by 5th St. on the east to 7th St. on the west.

Significant historic individuals who resided in or are associated with Millington's Addition are: Mayor J.K. Lewis, James Perkins (J.P.) Furnald, R.J. Haines

History of Moody's Addition

Robert Moody emigrated from Scotland, was elected Justice of the Peace on August 15, 1840, and died in 1847.

Three tracts owned by Robert Moody were annexed to the municipality of St. Charles. 1) Moody's Addition, 1846: bordered by Indiana St. on the north to Bowman St. on the south, and by 3rd St. on the east to 8th St. on the west. Three subdivisions south of Prairie St. were later designated as Highland, Norway Maple, and Cregier's.

2) Assessor's Addition: bordered by Indiana St. on the north to Bowman St. on the south, and by IL Route 31 (2nd St.-Geneva Rd.) on the east to 3rd St. on the west.

3) Administrator's Addition (Robert Moody Estate Addition): bordered by Indiana St. on the north to south of the original Prairie St., and by IL Route 31 (2nd St.-Geneva Rd.) on the west to The Fox River on the east.

Significant historic individuals who resided in or are associated with Moody's Addition are: William Beith, Sheriff Nathan S. Carlisle, Charles A. Miller, William H. Wilcox, Emma Durant-Lane, Bryant and Jerusha Durant, Otto Frellsen, William and Lottie Lillibridge, Charles and Eva Beckstrom, Fritz G. and Maem Carlson

Architectural History

The significant period of home construction is 1869 to 1925. Dominant architectural styles are Queen Ann, Gothic Revival, Prairie, Craftsman, and National.

# Bibliography for Darwin Millington Homestead Research, April 29, 2016

Darwin Millington House, c1843, Title History:

• Kane Co. Recorder, Research Dept., personal notes, photocopies

Biography of Darwin Millington, 1837 -1866:

- Kane Co. Recorder, Research Dept., personal notes, photocopies
- St. Charles Historic Buildings Website, % St. Charles Public Library,
- *Laws of Illinois*, p76, Feb.1,1840, An Act to authorize...dam across Fox river.
- *Laws of Illinois*, Jan 24,1843, An Act to incorporate the St. Charles Academy...
- Moody-Millington Historic District History

Architecture, the National Style:

• A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984, p90

Photographs:

• Digital images taken by Dr. Steve Smunt using the iPhone camera



# St. Charles Historic Buildings

SCPL Historic Buildings Page <u>Welcome</u> > <u>Local Buildings - Alphabetically</u> > Millington House

(View on map)

522 W. Main Street

#### Welcome

Buildings with Historic Landmark Documentation

Library Resources

Links

Local Buildings -Alphabetically

Local Buildings By Address

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### Comments

Email or Call 630-584-0076 x1

Image credit: St. Charles Public Library

Dr. Abel Millington came to St. Charles, then called Charleston, from Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1834. Upon his arrival, he bought a large parcel of land on the west side of town from Gideon Young for \$8,000 in gold, a huge sum in those days. He immediately began construction of a flour mill on the Fox River where Hotel Baker now stands. Abel Millington's son, Darwin, joined his father in the business venture.

Darwin built this brick house 1837, and brought his wife, Miranda Boardman Millington, to live in the large residence after their marriage on October 23, 1838. The location of this house was called "Millington's Hill." Pliny Durant wrote in the St. Charles Chronicle in 1902 (later compiled into **Passing in Review**: **Reminiscences of Men Who Have Lived in St. Charles**) that "the old brick house was in its day one of the most pretentious edifices St. Charles could boast."

Dr. Millington died prior to the completion of the mill, and in 1838 Darwin inherited the business. Darwin sold the mill in around 1850 to R.J. Haines and for many years it was known as the Haines Excelsior Flour Mill.

Darwin Millington proved to be a generous citizen of St. Charles. He donated land on the east side of 4th Street on which the Old St. Patrick's Church was built in 1851. The younger Millington also gave land to the town for the West Side Park, now named Lincoln Park. Darwin was also instrumental in bringing the St. Charles Branch Railroad to St. Charles in 1850.

The Millington house remained a private residence for most of its existence. Today, it houses the offices of several small businesses.

### For additional photographs see:

Biography Binder: Local History

### See also:

<u>Haines House</u>

Hotel Baker

Old St. Patrick's Church

### Sources

- Clauter, Hazel. Our Community--St. Charles. 1967.
- Clauter, Hazel. <u>Our Community--St. Charles, IL</u>: Units I-VI: Historical Information Compiled for Third Grade Teachers. 1990.
- Pearson, Ruth Ann. <u>Reflections of St. Charles</u>. Elgin: Brethern Press, 1976.

### Comments

You do not have permission to add comments.

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In force, AN ACT to authorize Ira Minard, Read Ferson, Bela T Hunt and Darwin Feb. 1, 1840. Millington, to build a dam across Fox river.

**SEC.** 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois. Persons au- represented in the General Assembly, That Ira Minard, Read Ferron, Bela T. Hunt and Darwin Millington, their heirs and build dam a-assigns, be, and they are hereby, authorized to construct, build cross Fox riand continue a mill-dam across Fox river, at the town of St. Charles, in the county of Kane, between the land held by them to the height of seven feet above low water mark: Provided, Said grant shall not be construed so as to prevent the State from improving said Fox river at that place, by dams, locks, or any other way, at any time hereafter, for the purpose of slack water navigation, or otherwise.

Construction of dam

thorized to

ver

Proviso

SEC. 2. The said dam shall be constructed with a down stream slope of two feet horizontal to one foot perpendicular rise, well and sufficiently planked over, for the purpose of allowing the safe passage of the descending trade of said river; and during the continuance of the said dam, said slope shall be kept in good repair. This act to take effect from and after its passage.

APPROVED, February 1, 1840.

In force, Feb. 1, 1840. AN ACT to change part of a State road from Naperville, in Du Page county, to Indian Creek, in McHenry county.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That Stephen J. Scott, Nathan Allen Jr., Ethan Grisworld, be, and they are hereby, Com'rs to reappointed commissioners to view and relocate a certain State road from Naperville, heretofore in Cook county, now in Du Page county, to Indian Creek, in McHenry county, from the twenty-nine mile stake on the line of said road to Naperville.

Map of road

locate road

Proviso

SEC. 2. The said commissioners, as soon as they shall have completed said work, shall make out a map of that part of the said road so to be relocated, giving the course and distances to be lodged with the clerk of the county commissioners' court for the county of DuPage, which shall be recorded at length in the books of said court: Provided, however, That those persons interested in the relocating of the above road, shall defray all the expenses thereof.

SEC. 3. The said commissioners shall, before they proceed to relocate said road, be sworn before some justice of the Com'rs to be peace faithfully to perform their duties; and so much of said sworn road as shall be changed, shall be vacated.

APPROVED, February 1, 1840.

AN ACT to incorporate the St. Charles Academy, in the county of Kane. In force, Jan. 24, 1843.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illino's represented in the General Assembly, That Bela T. Hunt, William Rounsville, Leonard Howard, Lucius Foote, Darwin Millington, Thomas P. Whipple, Stevens Jones, Nathan H. Dearborne, and their successors, bc, and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate, to be styled and known Name of corby the name of the "President and Trustces of the St. Charles poration. Academy," and by that style and name to remain and have perpetual succession. The said academy shall be and remain at and Location of The academy in St. Charles, in the county of Kane, State of Illinois. number of trustees shall not exceed twelve, one of whom shall Number of trustees be president of the board, to be chosen by the trustees. For the present, the above-named individuals shall constitute the board of trustees, who shall fill the remaining vacancies at their pleasure and discretion.

SEC. 2. The object of said institution shall be the promo-Object of intion of the general interests of education.