

	HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY			
	Agenda Item Title/Address:	Eligibility of Property for Landmark Designation: 515 Walnut St		
	Proposal:	Landmark		
	Petitioner:	Brian & Karen Graf		
Please check appropriate box (x)				
	PUBLIC HEARING 10/3/18	X	MEETING 10/3/18	X
AGENDA ITEM CATEGORY:				
	Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)		Façade Improvement Plan	
	Preliminary Review	X	Landmark/District Designation	
	Discussion Item		Commission Business	
ATTACHMENTS:				
Ordinance Criteria for Landmarking				
Landmark nomination form and attachments				
Vonnie Mitchell Summary				
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:				
<p>A landmark nomination has been submitted for the structure located at 515 Walnut St.</p> <p>The Commission reviewed the nomination on 9/5/18 and requested an additional summary about Vonnie Mitchell, a former owner of the home, be added to the application documents.</p> <p>The Commission also requested that the survey date be amended to show the correct construction date of 1853.</p>				
RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTED ACTION:				
<p>Conduct the public hearing and close if all testimony has been taken.</p> <p>The landmark recommendation is listed on the meeting agenda for consideration after the public hearing is closed.</p>				

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.
8. 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.



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

NEAR WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Primary Structure

ADDRESS 511 Walnut Street

ROLL-IMAGE # 3435 - 8

CD-IMAGE # 4369 - 8



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

BUILDING CONDITION

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Architectural Style/Type: Greek Revival

Exterior Walls (Current): Brick

Architectural Features: _____

Exterior Walls (Original): Brick

Date of Construction: 1853

Foundation: Stone

Source: Township Assessor's Office

Roof Type/Material: Cross gable/Asphalt

Overall Plan Configuration: Compound Irregular

Window Material/Type: Wood/Double hung

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.



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1844

ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

NEAR WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

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 Freeman
First Drug Store Owner, including First Bank
Source: St. Charles Directory, circa 1857*

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

FEDERAL: _____

STATE: YES

COUNTY: _____

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.

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.

RECEIVED
St. Charles, IL
AUG 21 2018
CDD
Planning Division

1. Property Information:	Parcel Number(s): <p align="center">09-34-106-001</p>	
	Property Name (Historic or common name of the property): <p align="center">ELISHA FREEMAN HOME</p>	
2. Applicant:	Name BRIAN + KAREN GRAF	Phone 630-746-9417
	Address 515 WALNUT ST SAINT CHARLES, IL 60174	Fax
		Email K6RAF777@6MAIL.COM
3. Record Owner:	Name BRIAN + KAREN GRAF	Phone 630-746-9417
	Address 515 WALNUT ST SAINT CHARLES, IL 60174	Fax
		Email K6RAF777@6MAIL.COM
4. Legal Description of Property: The legal description should be obtained from the deed, mortgage, title insurance, or other recorded document (attach sheets if necessary). <p align="center">SEE PLAT OF SURVEY</p>		

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

a) Ownership:

- private
- public-local
- public-state

b) Category:

- building
- district
- site

c) Integrity:

- original site
- moved: date _____
- unaltered

d) Function or Use:

Historic/Current

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

Historic/Current

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

Historic/Current

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

e) Architecture:

Early Republic

- Federal
- Early Classical
- Revival

Mid-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

Regional Origin

- Vernacular (describe)
- _____
- _____
- Other (describe)
- _____
- _____

Late Victorian

- 2nd Gothic Revival
- Italianate
- 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

II. Building Materials:

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

	Foundation	Walls	Roof	Others
Wood		X		
Weatherboard, Clapboard				
Shingle			X	
Log				
Plywood				
Shake				
Stone	X			
Granite				
Sandstone				
Limestone	X			
Marble				
Slate				
Brick		X		
Metal				
Iron				X
Copper				
Bronze				
Tin				
Steel				
Lead				
Nickel				
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 / MARIA / HANNAH FREEMAN

b) Architect/ Builder: _____

c) Significant Person(s): ELISHA FREEMAN

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. FIRST 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. FIRST BANK BUILDING

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

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

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

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

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

Property is suitable for preservation or restoration.

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

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

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

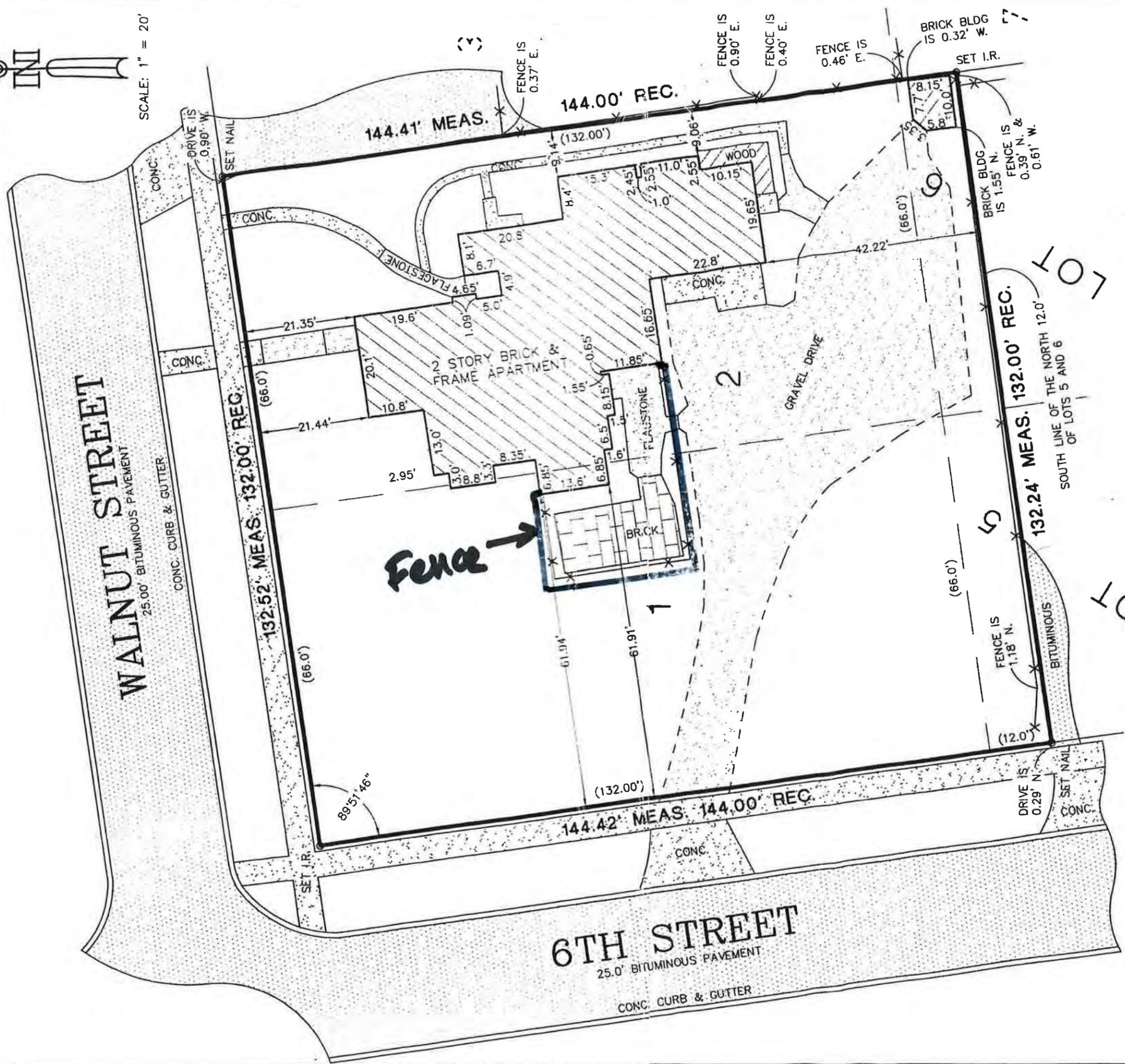
MILLTN/8/1

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)
Prior	Ira/Sarah Minard

PLAT OF SURVEY

OF

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.



State of Illinois | S. S.
County of Kane |

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

All dimensions shown in feet and decimal parts thereof.

Given under my hand and seal in St. Charles, Illinois, this 19th day of January A.D. 2017.

Frank J. McDaniel
Frank J. McDaniel, P.L.S. #3256
License Renewal/Date of Expiration = 11/30/2018

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

FJM LAND SURVEYING
TELEPHONE: (630) 587-8060
FACSIMILE: (630) 587-8061
EMAIL: FJMSURVEY@AOL.COM
6 N 566 WILLOWBROOK DRIVE
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60175

Prepared for: Hoscheit, McGuirk, McCracken & Cuscaden, P.C.

Job No. 16-11386

Address: 515 Walnut Street, St. Charles

Book 109 Page 75

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

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





...where she occupied a position as head clerk of one of the departments, and is known as an accomplished lady and a thoroughgoing and very competent official. Harriet married D. Combs from Morrisville, N. Y. She died a few years ago in Cameron, Mo. where they were keeping a hotel. Eliza, the youngest, has been twice married. Her first husband was Joseph Smith, of Rockford, Ill., who subsequently died, and a few years later she married Judge Joseph Addison Moultrie, of San Jose, Cal., where they now reside. The two younger daughters were graduates of the Rockford female seminary. All the sisters met together in St. Charles in the spring of 1871.

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

Stevens S. Jones was a native of Barre, Washington county, Vermont, and a man of fine natural abilities. He received a good education and studied for the legal profession. In 1837 he made a prospecting tour through the west and determined to make St. Charles (then Charleston) his future home. Returning to Vermont he settled his business and removed to St. Charles, reaching here on the 7th of June, 1838. Mr. Jones has been credited with suggesting the name "St. Charles," when it was found necessary to change the one first adopted. He opened a law office and at once took a prominent rank as an energetic and capable attorney. In politics he was a Democrat, to which school he adhered until the organization of the Republican party, about 1854, when he united his fortunes with thousands of other free soil Democrats and anti-slavery Whigs and helped to build up the Republican party. Mr. Jones was elected prosecuting justice in 1843, and held other important positions. He took an active part in railroad matters, was an extensive real estate owner and for several years owned and managed the Kane County Democrat, a political paper published in this city between 1850 and 1860. He was also instrumental in procuring the first village charter of St. Charles about 1849-50. At a later date he abandoned the profession of the law and established himself in the publishing business in Chicago, where he founded the Religio Philosophical Journal. He met a violent death at the hands of a fanatic in 1876. His family still retains a large property interest in St. Charles. His oldest daughter, Mary, married Col. John C. Bundy; the youngest, Clara M., married Mr. Robert Parson. An only son, George H., died in early manhood. Mrs. Jones resides on the old homestead in St. Charles during the summer, and with her daughter in Chicago during the winter. NE Cor E Main 4-5th

Elisha Freeman was among the settlers in 1838, arriving in the autumn of that year. The Freemans were originally from Hazard, Windham county, Vermont.

...Mass., and from there in June, 1838, to St. Charles, Ill., 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. Wilson, who kept a meat market. This building was erected 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 opened 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. He sold 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 Jairus 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 since early years.

...has resided in St. Charles since 1875.

James Lovell, now living near Sycamore, was one of the settlers of 1837. He built a small frame house on the block a little west of Dr. DeWolf'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 a resident of St. Charles in 1837, owning the frame dwelling before spoken of, near the east side paper mill. He organized several of the earliest churches in this region. His death occurred in Elgin within the past few years.

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

BY SAMUEL W. DURANT.

CHAPTER XVII.

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 Orritt 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 imprisoned by the British authorities, came to Illinois and stopped for a time in DuPage 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 erected 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.

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 California with teams. On the morning of the day they started Capt. Norton put on his regimentals and a heavy saber and

Clock Shop

SW Cor W. Walnut + 5th

ST. CHARLES
CLOTHING STORE,
 AND
CUSTOM TAILORING
ESTABLISHMENT,
 ONE DOOR EAST OF THE ST. CHARLES HOTEL,
 BY J. P. FURNALD.

The Subscriber respectfully informs the Public that he has on hand at all times, a large assortment of

READY MADE CLOTHING,

All of his own manufacture, which will be warranted to be as represented.

FURNISHING GOODS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

Such as Shirts, Collars, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Cravats, Ties, Suspenders, &c.

Trunks and Traveling Bags,

Which will be sold cheaper than can be bought in the West.

Boys' Clothing of all kinds.

CLOTHS, CASSIMERES & VESTINGS,
 Of Every Grade, Style and Price,

Which will be made to order in a style that cannot be surpassed in the west, and warranted to fit or no sale.

Thankful for past favors he respectfully solicits a continuance of the same.

J. P. FURNALD.

N. E. No Jew tricks nor Jew trade at this Establishment.

J. P. F.

Person Reed, farmer, Main bt 3rd and 4th ✓E
 Person Robert, merchant, 10th cor Main ✓E
 Finch Mrs., widow, 4th cor Walnut
 Fish E. S., clerk, 2nd cor State
 Fick John, laborer, South bt 6th and 7th E
 Flanery Michael, laborer, 4th cor State
 Flint Joseph, carpenter (bds Main nr 11th) } See Co. Hist p 108)
 Flint Samuel, mechanic, Main nr 11th ✓E
 Foss Charles, clerk, (bds Main bt 1st and 2nd)
 FOSS JOHN F., billiard saloon, Main cor 2nd
 Foster William, baker, Main bt 2nd and 3rd ✓E
 Freeman E., (of E. F. & Co.) h Walnut cor 6th W ✓
 * FREEMAN E. & Co., bankers St. Charles Bank, Main bt 1st
 and 2nd, (Elisha Freeman & Geo. W. Waite) W ✓
 Freeman Mrs. M. H., widow, 5th cor Illinois
 FRENCH CHARLES, Rev., episcopal methodist minister, 6th
 cor Indiana
 French R., 2nd cor Walnut
 Fuller Benjamin, lumberman, 5th cor Main
 Fuller Joseph, wagon maker, 3rd bt Indiana and Ohio E
 FURNALD J. P., merchant tailor and clothier, Main bt 1st and
 2nd, h Illinois, cor 3rd ✓E

G

Gale Dr. W. J., dentist, over Minard's Bank, (bds St. Chs. Hotel)
 Garron George, blacksmith, 3rd bt Cedar and State
 Garroty Edward, grocer, Main bt 2nd and 3rd
 Gibbs H. T., clerk, (bds St. Charles Hotel)
 Gilbert M., moulder, 2nd bt Indiana and Oak W
 Giles Henry, merchant in Chicago, 3rd cor State
 Gifford James, laborer, Cedar bt 3rd and 4th
 Goldschmidt, Morris & Co., merchant tailors, Main bt 1st and 2nd,
 (T. Goldschmidt, M. Morris, & D. Meltzer)
 Grandy Ira, farmer, Indiana bt 5th and 6th
 Green Edward, blacksmith, 1st bt Main and Cedar, h 2nd bt
 State and Chestnut E
 - Green Mary Hargan, widow, Chestnut bt 3rd and 4th E

H

Habort Edward, harness maker (bds Main cor 3rd) ✓
 HAINES R. J., miller at Excelsior Mill, Main w side of river,
 h Main cor 6th ✓
 Hall Gustavus, drayman, Ohio bt 6th and 7th E
 HAYDEN A., post master, Main bt 1st and 2nd, h 6th cor Ohio E
 Hazelton Asa, pedlar, 2nd cor Ohio E
 Hemms Robert, barber, 2nd nr Maine, (bds Maine bt 1st and 2nd)

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-eighths 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.

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 as best 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 water 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

f
s
ll
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n,

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

...oldest 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
grocery business. Catherine married
Walker who was for several years
ident of St. Charles. Mrs. Walker
been for several years in the pension
at Washington, D. C., where she oc-
a position as head clerk of one of
departments, and is known as an ac-
plished 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
be youngest, has been twice married.
first husband was Joseph Smith, of
ford, Ill., who subsequently died,
a few years later she married Judge
pb Addison Moultrie, of San Jose,
where they now reside. The two
nger daughters were graduates of
ford female seminary. All the sis-
met together in St. Charles in the
ng of 1871.

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

...evens S. Jones was a native of Barre,
hington county, Vermont, and a man
ne natural abilities. He received a
education and studied for the legal
ession. In 1837 he made a prospect-
tour through the west and determined
make St. Charles (then Charleston) his
are home. Returning to Vermont he
ed his business and removed to St.
aries, reaching here on the 7th of June,
1838. Mr. Jones has been credited with
uggesting the name "St. Charles," when
as found necessary to change the one
as adopted. He opened a law office and
nce took a prominent rank as an en-
getic and capable attorney. In politics
was a Democrat, to which school he
ered until the organization of the Re-
bligan party, about 1854, when he
ted his fortunes with thousands of
er time and Democrats and anti-slavery
ays and helped to build up the Repub-
an party. Mr. Jones was elected pro-
e justice in 1843, and held other im-
portant positions. He took an active part
national matters, was an extensive real
estate owner and for several years owned
and managed the *Kane County Democrat*,
a local paper published in this city.

where an ancestor, Thomas Freeman, set-
tled June 7, 1776. 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 air line. The country was
then almost entirely covered with timber
which carried sound to a great distance.
Thomas Freeman was one of the first ap-
pect men of Barnard when the town was
organized in April, 1778. In 1835, Eli-
sha 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,
Ill., 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 le-
gend, "Drugs and Medicines." It was
burned in September, 1868, at which time
it formed a part of the premises of a Mr.
Wilson, who kept a meat market. This
building was erected 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. Shep-
herd, 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 opened 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 bank-
ing 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 subse-
quently Mr. Freeman was an employe in
the Chicago post office. During the war
he returned to St. Charles and again en-
gaged 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. He was also
member of the village bo-
Deacon Brown was twice
second wife, Sarah C. Gi-
Judge Gibson, is still livin-
Jairus B. Brown, son
settled in St. Charles in Ju-
two months earlier than
the spring of 1839 he won
er's claim. He built the s-
owned by Walter Wilson
1853 to 1875 he was a re-
cantine, Iowa, but has
Charles since 1875.

James Lovell, now liv-
more, was one of the settle-
built a small frame house
little west of Dr. DeWolf
building, which he sold to
Social Rolph. Mr. L. kept
four miles east of Sycar-
years, and has always be-
and respected citizen of I-
Rev. N. C. Clark, the fi-
tional minister to settle
this region was a resident
in 1837, owning the frame d-
spoken of, near the east s-
He organized several of
churches in this region,
erected in Elgin within
years.

History of St. Cha- nois, Revised and rected.

BY SAMUEL W. DE
CHAPTER XVI

Among the very early
Charles was Deacon John
Holden, Worcester Co., Mass
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 antl
to Illinois and stopped for
Page county, but in 1840 r
Charles, where Lewis A
known as "Capt. Norton," m-
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 ama-
er on the Norton creek, ne-
and in 1843 erected a saw m-
operated for several years.

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.