

	HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY			
	Agenda Item Title/Address:	Discussion Item: Jones Law Office furnishings		
	Proposal:	Installation of a cast iron stove		
	Petitioner:	Pat Pretz		
Please check appropriate box (x)				
	PUBLIC HEARING		MEETING 5/20/15	X
AGENDA ITEM CATEGORY:				
	Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)		Façade Improvement Plan	
	Preliminary Review		Landmark/District Designation	
X	Discussion Item		Commission Business	
ATTACHMENTS:				
Information regarding Questers grant request				
Photos of cast iron stove				
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:				
<p>The City is in the process of drafting an agreement amongst the groups that are interested in maintaining and enhancing the Jones Law Office building. The Public Works Department is proposing as part of the agreement that the Historic Preservation Commission be consulted on any proposed changes to the building (both interior and exterior). This agreement is not yet in place.</p> <p>Pat Pretz has communicated with the Wayne Historical Preservation Society regarding the furnishings and items that were previously located in the law office when the structure was part of the museum at the Dunham-Hunt House. The Wayne society has agreed to provide all of the furnishings for use in the law office; however, the cast iron stove that was previously installed in the law office cannot be located.</p> <p>Pat Pretz has identified an opportunity to pursue funding through Questers to install a similar era cast iron stove in the interior of the law office. The Public Works Department has requested the Historic Preservation Commission review the proposal and provide any comments.</p>				
RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTED ACTION:				
Provide feedback and recommendations.				

Funding Request for S.S. Jones Law Office

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Stevens Jones was the first lawyer to practice law in St. Charles.
- In 1843 Jones purchased a home from Ira Minard on the northeast corner of 5th Avenue and Rt. 64 and had a 14' x 14' law office constructed and attached to his house.
- Originally, St. Charles was named Charleston but it was Jones who determined that another Charleston existed in downstate Illinois and suggested "St. Charles." He was instrumental in securing the town's charter in 1849.
- Jones served as a Kane County Judge from 1843-1846 and for many years was editor of the *Kane County Democrat*, a weekly newspaper printed on the first floor of the Tremont Hotel he built in the 1850s and located on the southwest corner of 5th Avenue and Rt. 64.
- An original painting of Stevens Jones by recognized artist Sheldon Peck hangs in the St. Charles Heritage Center.
- During the Civil War the law office was used as a cell to hold deserters. Drawings by these soldiers can still be seen on an interior wall.
- In the 1980s local preservationist, Jane Dunham, purchased the well-known Dunham-Hunt home at 304 Cedar Avenue and established the Dunham-Hunt Museum.
- Ms. Dunham had the historically significant but dilapidated law office in 1987 moved to the museum property and enlisted Dan Otto, well known restoration carpenter, to completely restore the building.
- Jane Dunham passed away in 1995 and bequeathed the museum property to the city of St. Charles. The St. Charles Heritage center operated the museum until 2000 when the costs for restoring the Dunham-Hunt Museum were determined too high.
- The city eventually sold the building and property in November 2013. The sales contract allowed for the Jones Law Office on the property to be moved within 6 months of the date of sale or become the property of the current owners.
- The building requires no heat or water and in fact the one-room building can be viewed from the existing exterior windows.
- The S.S. Jones Law Office was moved to Langum Park in St. Charles in August 2015. At this time it is not furnished.

Funding Needs for the Interior of the S.S. Jones Law Office

GOAL

To furnish the interior of the S.S. Jones Law Office, as possible and appropriate, to how it looked after the 1988 restoration efforts by Jane Dunham.

UPDATE

The St. Charles History Center gave up operation of the Dunham-Hunt Museum and all the furniture and items from the Dunham-Hunt Museum and the S.S. Jones Law Office were donated to the Wayne Historical Preservation Society.

In working with Karen Armbrust, President of the Wayne Historical Preservation Society, the Society has recently met and agreed to donate back all furniture and items stored and in their possession for furnishing the S.S. Jones Law Office. Currently, an inventory of items is being prepared which is standard procedure.

Unfortunately, the cast iron stove was missing from the Law Office when the Wayne Historical Society took possession of the furniture and other items. In addition, the Victorian desk chair is badly in need of reupholstering.

Dan Otto has an 1860s cast iron stove and stove board that is appropriate for the Law Office. Photos are attached of the stove and stove board. In addition, a photo of the chair in its present condition is also attached.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Cost of 1860s antique cast iron stove	\$500
Cost of antique stove board, pipe to connect and installation	\$200
Cost of stove grate (if needed) and installation	\$50
Cost of upholstery for Victorian Desk Chair	<u>\$250</u>
TOTAL	\$1000

SUMMARY

This year our focus of study for the Thornapple Questers Chapter has been on the history and development of St. Charles and the individuals whose efforts, past and present, make our City unique and charming. Helping to enhance the historic S.S. Jones Law Office is a worthy investment because it provides the opportunity for people to learn about Stevens Jones and his significant contributions in the very early years of St. Charles.



FRONT VIEW OF CAST IRON STOVE



SIDE VIEW OF CAST IRON STOVE



STOVE BOARD



DESK CHAIR