

The Noble - Sell House and lot at 301 East Third Street have been a part of Chaska from the speculative pre-state period in Minnesota up to the present time. The Noble – Sell house is considered the oldest brick house in Chaska. The home is situated on Lot 6 Block 30, and on the same block as St. John’s Lutheran Church in down town Chaska.

Lot 6 Block 30 is Platted

The first recorded owner of Lot 6 Block 30 was Judge Andrew Chatfield. He received deed to the lot in January 1856. Judge Chatfield was a Justice for the Third Judicial District of the County Courts for the County of Carver in the Territory of Minnesota. Judge Chatfield came to St. Paul in May 1853. He was sent under a commission from then President Pierce to become an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Minnesota Territory. Minnesota became a state in 1858.

Judge Chatfield sold the lot and some other pieces of land to James Ackerman in March 1856. The land record states deeding of the land was part of “*An Act for the Relief of the Citizens of Towns Upon the Lands of the United States Under Certain Circumstances, passed on March 3, 1855.*” It is not clear who Mr. Ackerman was or if he ever actually lived on the lot. There were no census entries for a James Ackerman in Chaska during this time period, but, there was an 1860 census entry for a 39 year old Prussian born Saloon Keeper by the name of James Ackerman in the nearby river town of San Francisco.

Jacob Ackerman held deed to Lot 6 Block 30 from March 1856 until he transferred the deed to the young family of James Delamater from Shakopee in October 1861. Mr. Delamater transferred the deed to Sarah Ellsworth just before Christmas in 1861. There is no indication whether Mr. Ackerman or Mr. Delamater ever actually resided in the home. Mr. Ackerman’s interest in the property may have been part of an investment as his name does not appear in the dwelling house building bond.

Sarah Ellsworth transferred the deed to her father Ezekiel Ellsworth in June 1864. Ezekiel Ellsworth transferred the deed to Lyman Noble in February 1865.

The House is Built

The Carver County land records contain a series of bond entries pertaining to building a dwelling house on Lot 6 Block 30. The first bond entry was between the Shaska Company and John Humpel on October 23, 1857. As part of the bond, it stated Mr. Humpel, of Chaska, “...*shall on or before the expiration of one year build or cause to be built a good substantial dwelling house of the value of five hundred dollars ...*” Mr. Humpel transferred his bond rights to Ezekiel Ellsworth on April 21, 1858. The Shaska Company extended the bond obligation to build the dwelling for one year on October 19, 1858. Ezekiel Ellsworth transferred the bond to Lyman W. Noble on July 15, 1859.

It is presumed the home was built by Lyman Noble since he was the last person holding the bond to build the dwelling house. Unfortunately, this was so long ago that it is difficult to locate documents confirming Lyman Noble, in fact, did build the home. You need to use other information, like Lyman Noble held himself out as a Brick Mason when the 1870 and 1880 census taker came to his home. Another piece might be a comparison of his work on other homes during the same time period. In this case, Lyman Noble is believed to have built the nearby Samuel B. Strait home in the proposed

town site of St. Lawrence in Scott County in 1857. When you look at both homes, there are clearly a number of style similarities.



Noble - Sell home.



Samuel B. Strait home.

Lyman Noble married Sarah Ellsworth in January 1868. When the census taker came to their home in 1870, he found Lyman, 38, his wife Sarah, 28, their son Gaylord, 1, his mother Almira, 60, and Mary, age 27. Lyman Noble was elected constable in 1878. When the 1880 census taker came to their home in 1880 he found an even larger group. The 1880 group included Lyman, 49, Sarah, 39, their son Harvey, 5, their son Lyman, 2, his mother Almira, 70, his sister Laura Baily, 30, her three year old daughter, and his brother-in-law F.J. Lee, 41. Their son Gaylord died in 1876. By 1882, only three of their five children were living, namely Harvey, Burt, and Ella. The Nobles moved to Minneapolis in 1883. Sarah Noble passed away in 1915. Lyman Noble passed way in Minneapolis in 1921.

The Home is Sold to Two Sisters

Lyman Noble sold the property to Mrs. Katherine Ebelacher, and her widowed sister Mrs. Maria (Plocher) Wasserman in September 1883. They moved to the United States and Dayton, Ohio from Germany in 1846. Maria was the widow of Michael Wassermann. The Wassermann's settled in Laketown Township near Chaska in 1852. They sold their 160 acre farm and moved to Chaska in 1861. Unfortunately, Michael Wassermann and another gentleman died when some scaffolding gave way underneath them at a construction site in May 1867. The newspaper reported that they were at work 24 feet above the ground, and at the time, engaged in raising timber for the roof of the new "*German Singing and Turning Hall*" when the scaffolding gave way. Michael's wife Maria and their young daughter Mary survived him. Maria never remarried.

The 1880 census taker found Mary Wasserman, age 55, residing with her sister Catherine Eberlacker, age 50, and her three daughters, Rosa, 13, Katie, 12, and Christina, age 10. Ms. Eberlacker was keeping house and Ms. Wasserman was a nurse.

In January 1891, they placed a "*Lot and House For Sale*" advertisement in The Weekly Valley Herald:

Lot and House For Sale	A
The undersigned will sell their two	C
(2) story brick house and lot, cen-	J
trally situated in the village of chas-	J
ka, near the Lutheran and Moravian	E
churches. The building is in good	C
repair, and it can be purchased rea-	C
sonably. For particulars as to	G
terms inquire of	F
Mrs. K. EBELACHER.	
1mo. Mrs. M. WASSERMANN.	

In November 1894, The Weekly Valley Herald had side by side articles about the sale of the home. One wrote of its purchase by John Sutheimer. The other announced Mrs. Wasserman had left for Oregon.

Mary (Plocher) Wassermann moved to Oregon to be near her daughter.

Mary Wassermann died in Oregon in 1912. Her obituary stated that "*her heart often yearned for Chaska, which after all had remained the dearest spot on earth for her.*" She was brought back to Chaska for burial. Her funeral was held at the Chaska Moravian Church.

Mrs. Wassermann, who left for Oregon last Monday as noted elsewhere in these columns, was one of the old pioneers of this county, and is endeared to all of our settlers on account of her womanly virtues and true Christian traits of character. She was always first and foremost to help the sick and needy, and in her removal from our midst—perhaps forever—she carries with her the love, respect and best wishes of all for a long life of rest and happiness with her daughter, her only child, in far off Oregon. Farewell! and may a kind Providence deal gently with you is our sincere wish.

The Home is Sold to a Local Cigar Manufacturer

John Sutheimer has purchased the brick residence of Mrs. Wassermann known as the "Noble homestead," situated on the corner of 3d and Oak streets; consideration \$850. This building is one of the old landmarks of early Chaska, and is worth much more than the purchase price. It will make Mr. & Mrs. S., a cosy home, such as they deserve.

John Sutheimer was born in Germany in 1832. He and his family came to the United States and Utica, New York in 1853. They moved to the Waconia area in 1854. Mr. Sutheimer married Magdalena Meyer in 1861. They moved to St. Paul during the Civil War and operated the first tobacco factory in the state of Minnesota.

John Sutheimer was a well known Chaska businessman. In January 1886, the Carver Free Press reported "*John Sutheimer started a cigar factory at Chaska. John knows how to do it, and if properly supported will turn out a fine cigar.*" Mr. Sutheimer grew his cigar business in Chaska for many years. His Sutheimer's Cigar Factory products included cigar clippings, smoking tobacco, and cigars called "*The Famous "B.T.," the "Judge Morrison,"*" and the "*Senator C.K. Davis.*"

By December 1902, Mr. Sutheimer joined up with Jack Dols to form Sutheimer & Dols.

A December 1913 Weekly Valley Herald stated "*Sutheimer's cigars have always occupied a front rank among the leading cigars and they were never better than they now are.*"

An Addition is added to the Home

It is believed the east addition to the home was added in 1903. This addition added a main floor kitchen, a sitting room with a fireplace, and an additional room upstairs. The new addition also included a sizable wrapped porch. While the bricks on the original part of the home are shades of yellow with some light brown or orange coloring, the bricks used for the east addition are more in line with the pale yellow "Chaska Brick" coloring many think of today. The carriage house on the property may have been added at the same time.

The 1910 census taker found John, 77, his wife Magdalena, 68, and their niece Nellie Moore, 46 residing in the home. The Sutheimers were listed as having been married for 49 years with no children.

Mr. Sutheimer described himself as a cigar manufacturer. His niece described herself as a Christian healer.



Mr. Sutheimer passed away in June 1915. His funeral notice described him as “... a good business man, an honest and above-board man in all his dealings ... he enjoyed a wide circle of patrons and friends ...” John Sutheimer’s widow Magdalene sold the home to Helmuth Sell in February 1916. Mrs. Sutheimer moved to Minneapolis, where she passed away in November 1919.

The Home is Sold to a Notable Public Servant

Helmuth and his wife Elizabeth (Trende) Sell were both born in Laketown Township during the 1870’s. They were married in 1897.

Helmuth, Elizabeth, and their young daughters, Esther, 16, Dora, 12, and Myrtle, 10, moved to Chaska in 1916.

One or another of the Sell family members would continue to reside in this home for the next 80 years.



The 1920 census taker found Helmuth, 46, Elizabeth, 45, and their daughters, Esther, 20, Dora, 16, and Myrtle, 14, residing in the home. Mr. Sell was listed as the Treasurer for Carver County, and his daughter Esther was a Stenographer for the Sugar Company. Esther eventually married Carl Ort and moved to California. Dora and Myrtle never married.

Helmuth Sell was very active in Carver County during his lifetime. He held many offices, including School Clerk for District 20 from 1895 – 1902, Laketown Township Clerk from 1900 – 1910, Director and Presidential positions with the Laketown Fire Insurance Company from 1906 – 1913, Secretary for the Waconia Creamery Association organizing committee in 1908, committee member of the Liberty Loan Drive, committee member of the Ration Board, three term member of the Chaska Public Schools Board, and the Carver County Treasurer from 1912 to 1930.



Mr. Sell transferred the deed to the property to his daughters Dora and Elizabeth in December 1930.

Elizabeth Sell passed away in November 1948. Helmuth Sell passed away in June 1960. Their daughter Esther Ort passed away in July 1968. Their funerals were held at the Chaska Moravian Church with interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

By November 1956, the deed was in the name of Myrtle Elizabeth Sell. Myrtle added her sister Dora's name back on the Deed in 1989.



Dora Sell passed away in November 1995. The deed was transferred from Myrtle Sell to the Chaska Moravian Church in April 1996. Myrtle Sell passed away in January 2005.

H.I.S. Ministries obtains the Home

The Chaska Moravian Church transferred the deed to the non-profit H.I.S. Ministries in December 1996.

Carpentier Family Purchases the Home

Michael and Paula Carpentier purchased the home from H.I.S. Ministries in June 1999. In the years since, they have remodeled portions of the home and rebuilt the carriage house that was situated on the property. The current carriage home has a modern interior with the original Chaska bricks being reused as the 'new' cladding. Some of the left over bricks were used as part of a fence they added to the property.

