



## CHARLES H. HAINES HOME

The Haines Home at 521 West Main Street was built around 1866 for Charles H. Haines and his mother. Haines was Mayor of St. Charles from 1889-1891 and a major benefactor of St. Charles. He also served as President of the School Board from 1897 until his death in 1914.

Charles Haines lived with his Mother in the house on the southeast corner of West Main at 6<sup>th</sup> Street, which his Father bought from the J. W. Butler family in 1866.

Charles Haines was born in a small stone house on the southwest corner of East Main at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, March 3, 1844 and remained in St. Charles his entire life. He received his education in the schools here and attended Notre Dame University in Indiana.

School was the prime benefactor of his life. He was President of the Board of Education from its consolidation in 1897 until his death.

In 1898 Haines gave the block of land on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and East Main Street to the City for the purpose of building the Haines High School. This structure was razed in 1957. The 75-acre Haines farm then became the site of the St. Charles High School, now Thompson Junior High.

This property was left to the School District in Haines will. Haines was one of the largest real estate owners in St. Charles but most of his valuable real estate holdings were on the west side of Chicago. He also owned a then-modern store and office building on West Main Street, two factory buildings and the J. F. Colson and Co. store building. He was also proprietor of the Excelsior Mills at St. Charles. He was a lover of fine horses and bred and raised blooded horses. Haines and partner, C. D. Wing were incorporators of the St. Charles Hotel and Park Association formed to make St. Charles a nationally known summer resort with park and boating facilities.

Haines was a bachelor, and left two-thirds of his estate to Mercy Hospital in Chicago and one-third, after the death of his Mother, to the St. Charles School District No. 87 (now 303). Some of this was Chicago property and estimated at one million dollars. In addition to the land, the \$100,000 sum that he left to the School District, invested at interest, continues to help the school district today.