



Old building to be demolished

For the second time in St. Charles history, a church located on the corner of 5th and Walnut Avenues will be demolished and a new one erected.

In 1907, a building which had served the Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Charles for 65 years at that location was torn down and a new one erected.

Now, a building which has stood on that corner for 70 years, the worship center for

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, will be torn down to be replaced by a new worship-education-office complex.

The final services in the present sanctuary will be held Sunday.

The historical site at 5th and Walnut was dedicated for use as a church in 1842, when the Methodist Society, which had been meeting in a school house on the corner of 4th and Cedar Avenues, built a stone building with a bell

tower on that site.

The property had been given to the society by Ira Minard, one of the early settlers in St. Charles.

During the congregation's use of that building, it erected in 1894 a stone wall and shed to hitch horses while members were at worship. The cost to the church for this construction was \$200.

Although the shed was demolished long ago, the

stone wall with the rings for the horses still stands.

In October 1907 the cornerstone was laid for a new facility, costing \$16,000, which was to serve 175 members.

Constructed of solid red brick with Bedford limestone trim, the church used the Akron plan of architecture which was a popular style around the turn of the century. An octagonal dome was but-

tressed by the four corners of the square building.

The church was to house the bell from the old church, but it was cracked in the demolition. In 1919 a pipe organ was given to the church by Col. Edward Baker in memory of his parents.

In 1956, the building was turned over to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the Methodist congregation having moved into its new structure on Main Street two years before that.

The Lutheran congregation spent \$41,000 renovating

the building, which included gutting the obsolete pipe organ.

The St. Mark's congregation has worshipped in this sanctuary for 21 years. Having outgrown its building, the congregation decided last year to erect a new one at a cost of \$450,000.

The scheduled demolition date for the present building is May 2.

The only artifact remaining at St. Mark's from the period when it was used by the Methodist congregation is the original altar table, which has been in storage

for several years.

It will be returned to the Methodists, along with a tape of the original pipe organ, as a gift for their own 140th anniversary celebration in September.

During the building period, St. Mark's members will worship in its gymnasium-fellowship hall. Regular services will be maintained at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., with an education hour in between.

The interim worship committee has been working with the Christian art group to provide meaningful and

varied worship settings.

During the final services in St. Mark's at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, the congregation will leave the old church with all the appointments used for worship during the past 21 years and enter the gymnasium-fellowship area, which will be consecrated for use during the interim.

The worshippers will sing the same song sung at the cornerstone laying of the present building in 1907: "Time like an ever rolling stream, bears all its sons away."