

NORMAL SITE IS SELECTED

George L. Carter Addition Chosen!

BY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Banquet to Governor and Board Tuesday Night – Citizens Are Pleased with Location

Johnson City Comet February 17, 1910

The agony is over and the Normal School site has been selected in the Southwest Addition, more familiarly known as the Carter site.

There is naturally some disappointment on the part of those who hoped the Carnegie site would be chosen, but there is no feeling of resentment toward the State Board of Education.

The offering selected contains from 125 to 140 acres and lies east and to the south of the home of George L. Carter. It includes the ridge east of his house, visible from all parts of the city, with its graceful symmetrical outlines rising to such a height that it commands a magnificent view of the entire valley in which nestles the throbbing and tireless city destined to become the metropolis of East Tennessee. It seems fitting that this great school, that is to have such an important bearing upon our future should stand like a sentinel in the watchtower and a monument to the cause of education and an inspiration to our young men and women.

The lines of the boundary take in the three knolls and intervening valleys covered with timber and sweep down the back of Mr. Carter's residence in parallel lines and reach Walnut Street with a frontage of several hundred feet, this level portion containing 35 or 40 acres of land particularly well adapted to learning purposes.

The selection was made by unanimous vote of the Board. Governor Patterson stated that it was the **most desirable site** that had been offered the state in any of the towns that were applicants for the Normal Schools. At the hands of a capable landscape architect it is susceptible of great things, nature lending itself admirably to the touch of the artist.

The State Board arrived on train No. 26 Tuesday and was met at the station by a large delegation and escorted to Hotel Pardue. The members of the Board present were: Governor M. R. Patterson, President; Professor R. L. Jones, Secretary; A. L. Todd, R. L. Bynum, D. B. Loggins, J. M. Barker, W.N. Billingsley. Mr. J. L. Brooks was the only absent

member, he being kept at home on account of illness. After luncheon the party began its tour of inspection going first to Carnegie and spending several hours looking at the various offerings. The rest of the afternoon was taken up in looking over the campus and farm sites offered by Mr. Carter. At both places the campus was separated from the experimental farm about half a mile and this feature rendered the offers very objectionable.

While returning from the Carter site, Governor Patterson noticed the ridge above Mr. Carter's home and admired it very much; asking if it could be reached and secured. Mr. Carter said it could be and if it was wanted he would give a hundred acres around it. The next morning the Board was driven to this site and examined it with a great deal of care.

To render access possible Mr. Carter had taken a force of hands there about three o'clock in the morning, and with an Aladdin's lamp, as it were, built a road and cut out the right-of-way so that navigation could be made safe and easy. **The road was finished by 5 o'clock and before 6 he stepped over to see his neighbor, J. P. Lyle, who owned some land that was needed to make his offerings contiguous.** Carter purchased the necessary amount, paying as high as \$1,400 per acre, and at 6:30 he was waiting to be shaved when the first barber shop in the city opened so he could start to work for the day.

After viewing this site the Board was taken again to Carnegie to examine the new and greatly enlarged offerings of the Carnegie Realty Company. The impression created on the minds of the Board by the view from the Carter site could not be overcome and shortly after luncheon the announcement was made to citizens who filled the lobby of the hotel that the site in the southwest addition had been chosen not alone for its natural beauty but because of the generous offering.

The banquet in honor of the Board, given by the Commercial Club was held Tuesday night in the basement of the Munsey Memorial Methodist Church and was in charge of the ladies of the church. The decorations were artistically appropriate and the service was superb, charming and beautiful young ladies serving the following menu of delicious and delicate viands in the most attractive manner:

Menu

Oyster Cocktail, Pickles, Celery Hearts, Olives, Wafers, Roast Turkey Stuffed, Club Sandwich, Cranberry Jelly, French Peas, Waldorf Salad, Neapolitan Ice Cream, Macaroons, Lady Fingers, Angel Cake, Fruit, Nuts, Café Noir

Mr. S.C. Williams presided as toastmaster in an ideal manner. Governor Patterson was called upon and sustained his reputation as an after dinner speaker in a very gratifying manner. He talked pleasantly and entertainingly of the early history of Washington County and the present and future of Johnson City. His description of the Normal School and its scope were well received. He is a chaste and finished speaker, using superb and forceful English and the great faculty of being able to think on his feet. He makes a fine appearance with his erect and dignified carriage and is as a speaker as interesting as he is forceful. His talk was well received and universally complimented.

Professor R. L. Jones was down for a toast, but was not able to be present on account of a slight indisposition and Mr. Arthur T. Earnest kindly consented to render a song instead and, as usual, had to respond to a hearty encore.

Mr. J. Norment Powell replied to the toast "Education" in his usual faultless manner, the handling of the subject evidencing what education can do for the natural soil.

Colonel J. M. Barker was assigned to the duty of speaking on "Johnson City's Past, Present, and Future," a task he handled with ease and erudition, congratulating Johnson City on having the push and energy to make a town of 50,000 people.

Mr. A. R. Johnson replied in his usual happy style to "Washington County Schools" and showed that since the establishment of Washington College 132 years ago, no effort had ever been made to establish a college in this historic county until this normal school was secured. His story of the Negro doorkeeper of the Supreme Court who advised the foreigner that when that court got through with him there was no appeal except to God Almighty, and its application to the supreme jurisdiction of the normal board was the hit of the evening. It was a great occasion and much enjoyed by the 175 citizens present.

Too much credit cannot be given to the entertainment committee of the Commercial Club, of which Mr. Amzi Smith is chairman, for the success of the affair and its admirable selection of a place for the feast and its good fortune in securing the ladies to serve it.

The educational committee of the club, headed by Mr. J. E. Brading, also did valiant service from the first and is entitled to a rich reward in thanks for work well prepared. The normal board was very grateful to fall into the hands of a committee charged with attending to their wants and showing them the various sites in a disinterested and unselfish manner and took occasion to express their gratitude.