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Flynnntown Neighborhood Is Home to Nature Conservancy at SJU

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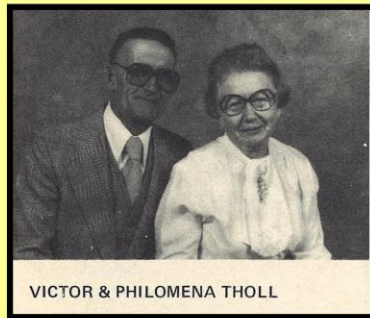
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SJU aerial photo, 2004 – Nature all around!



Nature Conservancy location, former home of Victor & Philomena Tholl, 1972-2001, then Parish house



Victor & Philomena ("Mena") Tholl bought the property from Roger Julkowski, SJU class of 1960 and SJU English professor from 1964-66, and built the yellow house. They lived there from the early 1970s until they passed away, within months of each other, in 2001.

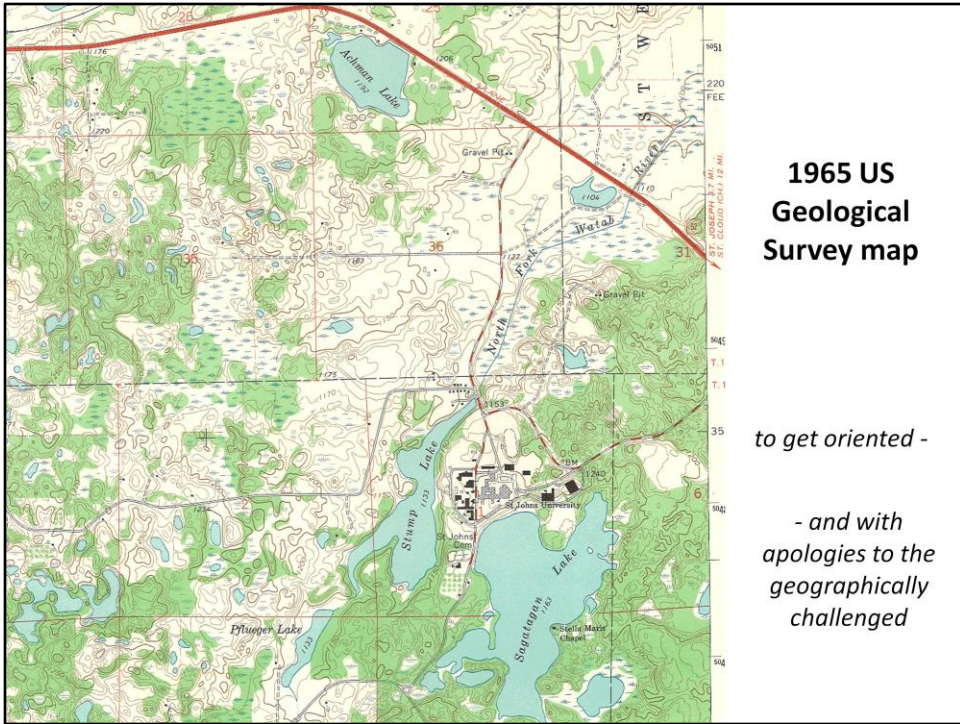
In 2001 the parish rented the yellow house for its pastor, Fr. Blane Wasne.
The Abbey bought the property in 2003.
The first House of Prayer director and his wife also lived there.

Tholls' 1982 & 1994 Parish Directory photos.

Rectory 12/6 1:1 8/9/01 email; other details from Parish records and conversations.



SJU aerial photo, 2004: Nature Conservancy house and its vicinity



US Geological Survey 1965 Avon quadrangle map



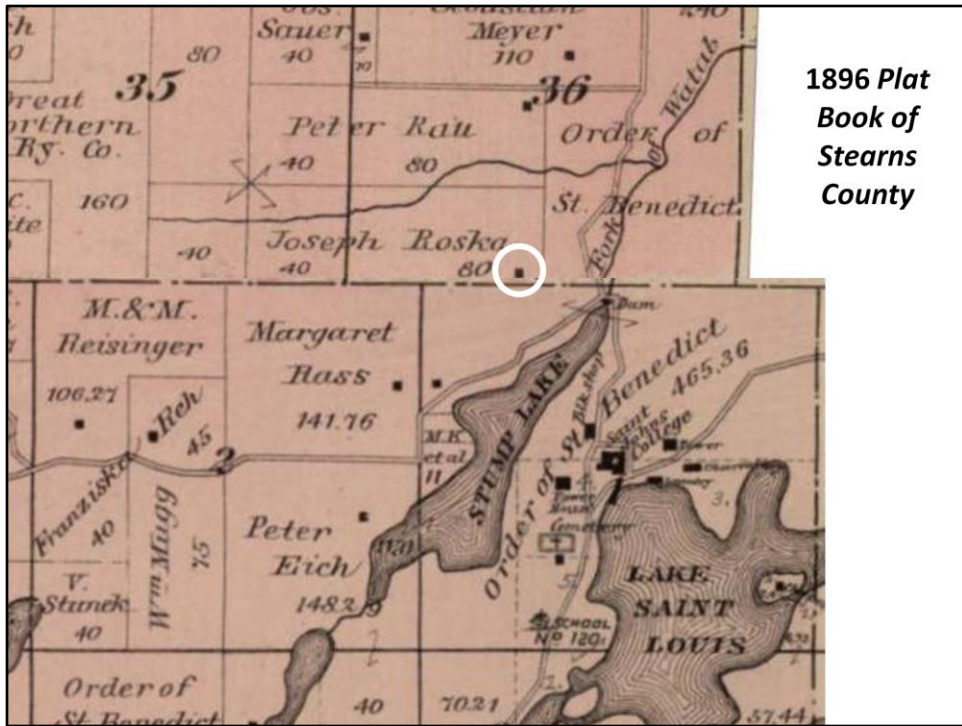
From Plat Book of Stearns County Minnesota, 1896,

<http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/stearns/id/389/rec/1>

Top: p. 27, Avon Township. Bottom: p. 43, Collegeville Township

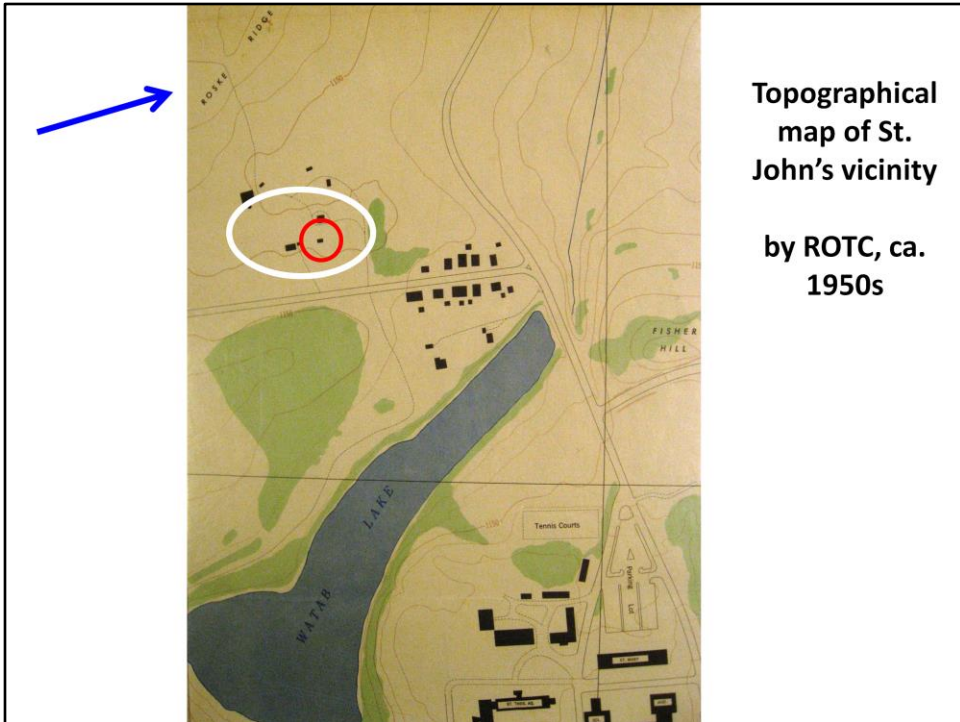
Lake St. Louis became known as Lake Sagatagan in/after 1896 thanks to Alexius Hoffmann OSB, according to *Worship & Work*, p. 119.

Marked on campus: (clockwise, from west side of lake) School no. 120, cemetery, power house, blackshop, laundry, observatory, Chapel.



From Plat Book of Stearns County Minnesota, 1896,
<http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/stearns/id/389/rec/1>

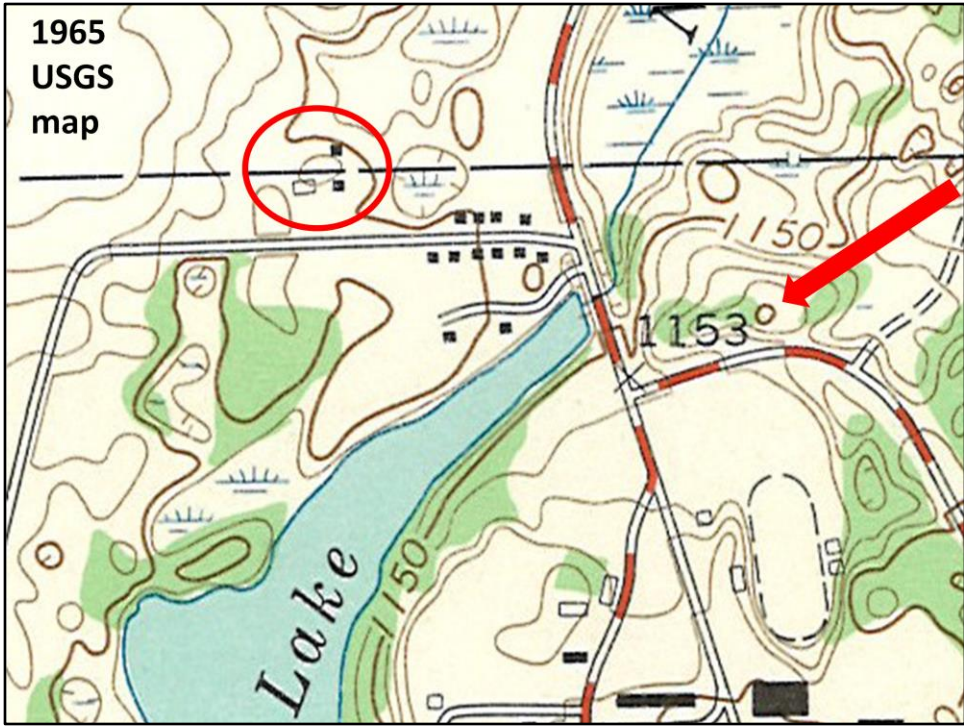
Top: p. 27, Avon Township. Bottom: p. 43, Collegeville Township
 Marked on campus: (clockwise, from west side of lake) School no. 120, cemetery, power house, blackshop, college, laundry, tower, observatory, Chapel.



**Topographical
map of St.
John's vicinity**

**by ROTC, ca.
1950s**

ROTC map, ca. 1950s; "Roske Ridge" noted!



US Geological Survey 1965 Avon quadrangle map



Flynntown in the early days – photo LP156 in the Br. Linus Ascheman Sesquicentennial collection, correctly printed



Flynttown in the early days – photo LP156 in the Br. Linus Ascherman Sesquicentennial collection, zoomed



Writer J. F. Powers' home from 1988-1999

Powers moved from another Flyntown house to this one after his wife died in 1988. He died here in 1999.



Old barn and house with 2009 FlynnTown Apartments next door.

Clerics Battle Flames

The Record
Aug. 25,
1932, p. 2

On July 15, Flynnville was startled by a large fire which razed to the ground the white barn of Mr. John Roske. The owner had hauled in about twenty tons of alfalfa, which, it is believed, caused spontaneous combustion. Since the barn was doomed, the workmen, neighbors, and members of the community rescued the rest of the buildings and other property which was threatened. A truck from the St. Cloud Fire Department was also summoned.

Mr. Roske had built the barn about four years ago.

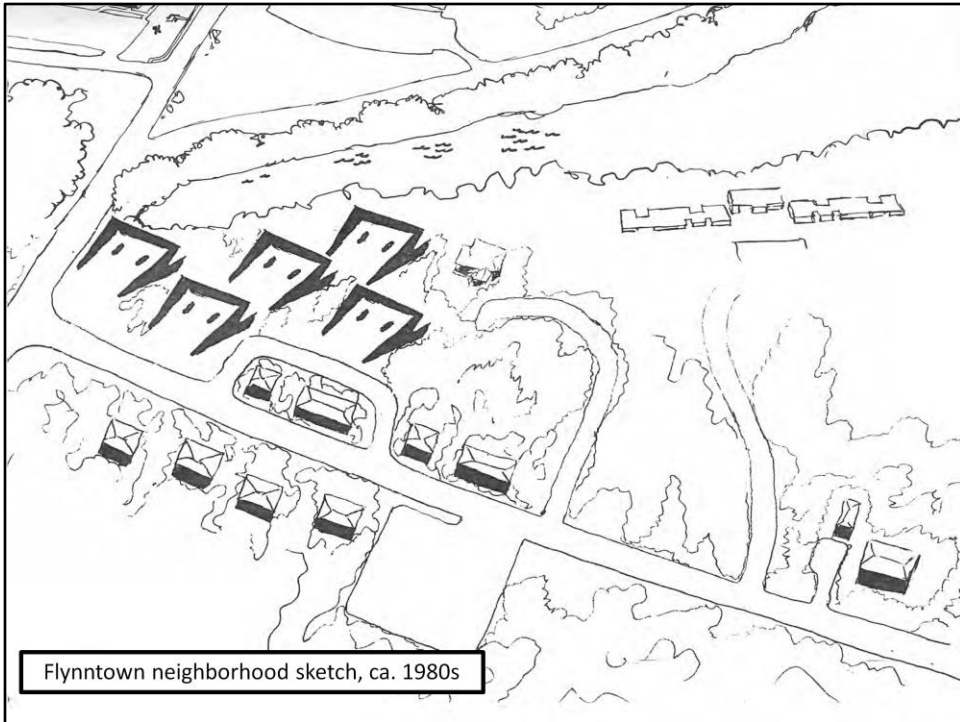
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/27095/show/27088>

Barn burning story – *The Record*, Aug. 25, 1932, p. 2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/27095/show/27088>

<p>Thursday, August 25, 1932</p>	<p>ST. JOHN'S RECORD</p>
<p>Fires always arouse impulses to be of service, but most of the monks who sped to the assistance of Mr. Roske whose barn happened to burn during the latter part of July were in the way. Their good will and eagerness to be of some help were not, however, lacking. <u>No matter how often an alarm is given, it always finds hurried and ready response.</u> One came from Collegeville on the first day of the Laymen's Retreat, but after a scramble for seats in a car, and after Fr. Constantine had bumped his head on the door, and after a wild ride down the new road, they reached the station and found—not a wisp of smoke. The savior of the railroad's right of way, for that was what was supposed to be on fire, was a little</p>	<p>maid in overalls carrying a bucket of water and a broom!</p>
<p>http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/27095/show/27093 p. 7</p>	

Another fire story also in *The Record*, Aug. 25, 1932, p. 7
 Fr. Constantine Thelen, 1897-1984, would have been 35 years old in 1932.



Flyntown neighborhood sketch, ca. 1980s

Monday 16 August 1982

To all SJU students living in Flynttown

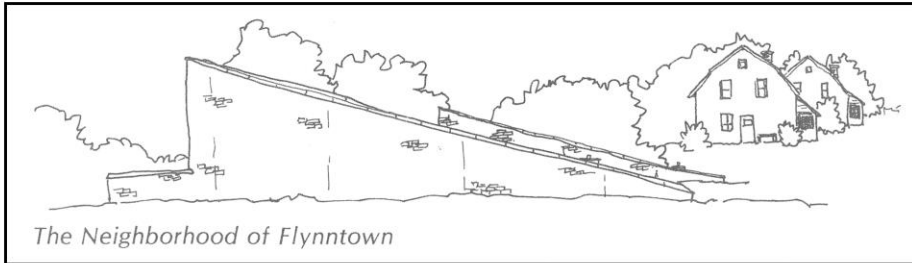
Dear neighbor:

Saint John's University

Collegeville, Minnesota 56321

Welcome to the neighborhood of Flynttown both in the old conventional houses and the new earth-sheltered apartments. As you may be aware, in addition to the 76 students in 19 apartments and 36 students in 9 houses, other residents of Flynttown include John and Peg Gagliardi, George Klein, Jim and Betty Powers, and Adella Hiltner. Ted Yank (Ap 34, #2942) is the Flynttown RA and I (Ap 31, #2911) am the Faculty Resident. The houses and apartments are identified by number as indicated on the map on the reverse side.

Although the norms of behavior in this campus housing are the same as elsewhere throughout the University, students live in Flynttown on an honor code. Violation of the code raises the serious question of whether or not one wishes to continue living in this neighborhood, as well as the value of the code itself. By signing the Residence Agreement, it is understood that all University residential policies will be respected, and specifically regarding care for people and property, life safety equipment, open house hours and alcohol.



Flynttown graphic from Roman Paur stationery & letter, 1346:3

J.F. Powers (1917-1999) and his wife Betty Wahl Powers (1924-1988) lived in Avon, Flynttown, Ireland and elsewhere off and on from the 1950s until their deaths. He was on the SJU faculty from 1975-1993.



Three generations of Roskes,
three generations later:
Homesteader Joseph Roske's
great grandson Hal poses with
his son and grandson outside the
old Roske house, March 2012



The house is torn down on July 23, 2012; the newer Roske house behind it remains.

Addendum: The house is torn down on July 23, 2012; the newer Roske house behind it remains.



Compiled in 2012 from
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by Peggy Landwehr Roske,
CSB/SJU Archivist.
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