



SPOKANE CITY/COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

*Providing historic property protection and development
services to the City of Spokane and Spokane County.*



June 2, 2023

Dear Shawn Jordan and Spokane Public Schools,

This letter is in response to a request from Spokane School District 81 to prepare a short sketch of the history of Dean Avenue and its namesake Chester Dean Ide. The request was prompted by the school district's proposed renaming of a section of Dean Avenue between Howard Street and Washington Street near the downtown stadium and Podium.

Based on the records examined by the Spokane Historic Preservation Office, Dean Avenue (originally Dean Street) was first named as such when Ide's Addition to Spokane was platted in 1883. Ide's Addition was platted by Chester Dean Ide, who shamelessly named the addition after himself. He also used his middle name (Dean, which was probably a family name) and his surname (Ide) for two of the street names.

Chester Dean Ide, and his wife (Lucy nee Loomis) and son (Clarence W. Ide), were significant in late 19th and early 20th century Spokane. Chester was born in Vermont in 1830. In his thirties, he fought in the Civil War with the Union Army as a member of the Wisconsin 25th Infantry Regiment. In 1878, just over a decade after the war ended, the Ides along with a group of thirty-five family members from Wisconsin moved to Spokan Falls via wagon train. Lucy Ide kept a daily journal during their move which can be viewed at the Ferris Archives at Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.

The Ide family were among the earliest white individuals to arrive at the Spokan Falls townsite, three years before the city incorporated and over a decade before Washington statehood. Chester was a serial homesteader who received title for hundreds of acres of land from the federal government, land that was the ancestral territory of regional tribes including the Spokane Tribe of Indians. In 1880, Chester was appointed as the postmaster of the Mondovi Post Office in Spokane County, a position he held for three years. In 1881, Chester purchased 160 acres in the heart of Spokane from the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. As the city grew, Chester developed the land, which included most of the modern West Central Neighborhood, into a residential district. Chester lived in Spokane until his wife died in 1903 at which time he relocated to Seattle with his son, Clarence. Chester died in 1917 at 86 years old and he is interred at Greenwood Cemetery in Spokane.

Chester's son, Clarence, was 18 years old when the family moved to Spokan Falls. In the 1890s, he served as a Washington State Senator representing Spokane County during the first decade of statehood. He later relocated to western Washington where he became a US Marshall and customs officer. Clarence died in 1917 at just 56 years old in Seattle, just six months after the death of his father. Despite Clarence's untimely death, the family helped to initiate a long political legacy in Washington State. Clarence's daughter Irma Evans (nee Ide), who was active in politics herself, was the mother of Washington's legendary three term governor and United States

Senator, Daniel J. Evans, which makes Clarence the grandfather and Chester the great-grandfather of Governor Evans.

The Ides previously had a more prominent Spokane street in West Central along the north river bluff adorned with their family name, Ide Avenue, which has been reconfigured multiple times and renamed to Summit Parkway. Considering the loss of Ide Avenue, preserving Dean Avenue as a street name is of greater priority since the other street name memorializing the family has been changed. But, the original section of Dean Avenue, as platted by the Ides, was further west than the section proposed for renaming near the downtown stadium/Podium. The original section was between Elm Street and Cedar Street. When the area around the stadium/Podium was first platted as Keystone Addition in 1890, the name Dean Avenue was adopted for the section of section of road between Howard Street and Washington Street likely based on a city policy to use uniform street names for all streets that have alignment east to west and north to south.

Furthermore, the section of Dean Avenue near the downtown stadium/Podium is (and always has been) disconnected from the main contiguous portion of Dean which has an eastern terminus at Adams Street, half a dozen blocks to the west. The small section of Dean Avenue near the stadium/podium also does not proceed further to the east from Washington Street. It is a standalone section of Dean Avenue between Howard Street and Washington Street that is potentially ripe for renaming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Logan Camporeale', with a large, stylized initial 'L' and 'C'.

Logan Camporeale