

LANDMARKS LETTER

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SOULARD SURVEY STONES DISCOVERED

By Dr. Ryan Johnston D.C.



The stone marker in St. Joe State Park



Replacement stone marker in Engler Park

The recent discovery of two stone markers identifying the boundary of a Spanish land grant dating back to April 1795 has recently caused a great deal of excitement in Farmington, MO and surrounding communities. After extensive historical research, Dr. Ryan Johnston and his family were able to locate these stones (one in St. Joe State Park and one in Farmington's Engler Park) and record them with the Department of Natural Resources.

After the exciting field discoveries, further investigation revealed that the stone in Engler Park was actually set in 1998 as a replacement for the lost stone marker originally placed in that location by Antoine Soulard in December 1799. The stone in St. Joe State Park was placed by United States government surveyors in 1835 after failing to identify Soulard's blazed markers. Despite the fact that the discoveries were, to a certain extent "rediscoveries", they were nevertheless hard-won prizes for the Johnson family who proved that careful historical research and technical knowledge can still lead to lost treasures in our own backyards.



Can you guess the building this architectural detail is from? See Elements on page 13.

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WE'RE BRINGING THIS BACK 2024 MOST ENDANGERED LIST

Dear Friends,

Landmarks Association kindly requests your input regarding the 2024 Most Endangered Buildings List. It has been several years since we last published such a list, but it's never too late to pick up where we left off in calling attention to important buildings that may be lost to demolition or neglect.

The Most Endangered List is not intended to impugn property owners, but rather to call attention to the realities and necessities of each individual situation in the hope that by shining light on the problems, solutions may be found.

If you are concerned about the fate of a particular building in the St. Louis Region, please share the details with us via the nomination form on our website: www.landmarks-stl.org.

CALLING ALL SUPPORTERS

As we continue to grow into our new space, we've realized we need to reach out to our wonderful supporters for a little extra help. We're on a mission to make our space better. Here's how you can get involved:

Donations: We're seeking a podium for our events – got one to spare? Your support will amplify our discussions and bring more voices to the stage!

Volunteer: Want to play a more active role in the organization?

Library Helpers: Assist with organizing and creating our library space.

Soulard Tour Creators: Crafting engaging tours, showcasing the heart of our new neighborhood.

Downtown Tour Volunteers: Have a passion for storytelling and local history? Become a downtown walking tour guide and share the city's story.

To contribute your time or expertise, please contact us at office@landmarks-stl.org.

LANDMARKS' URBANITES 5TH ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT!



DATE:
SATURDAY
MARCH 23

TIME:
7:00 PM

LOCATION:
IBEW HALL
5850 ELIZABETH AVE
63110

Join us for an unforgettable night of fun, friends, and competition.
Registration details coming soon!

Get Ready for 8 rounds of general trivia from pop culture to St. Louis facts. Unique rounds with questions crafted by us.

Please check out our website under **Tours & Events** for sponsor opportunities or contact kgraebe@landmarks-stl.org for more information"



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As 2024 swiftly approaches, I am struck by the fact that Landmarks Association of St. Louis will be celebrating its 65th year of advocacy on behalf of the architectural heritage of the St. Louis Region. I wonder if our founders, who knew a very different St. Louis, would have thought that the organization would last so long, or even still be needed in 2024. Landmarks Association helped our community navigate the roiling waters of urban renewal, Post-War deindustrialization, the destruction wrought by the Interstate Highway System, and our society's sprawling migration into auto-dependent suburban and ex-urban environments.

While St. Louis has changed enormously since Landmarks Association was incorporated in 1959, our founding principles have remained the same. Landmarks is built on a foundation of respect for the built environment and a steadfast belief that architecture and sound urban planning play crucial roles in the economic, environmental, social, and cultural health of every community.

As we prepare for our 65th year of service, the Landmarks community continues to face significant challenges in its quest to protect, adapt and reuse the vast and enviable architectural legacy of St. Louis.

Continuing to rear their ageless heads are the persistent adversaries of disinvestment and expedient, myopic demolition in older areas of our cities and towns. Landmarks Association and a diverse array of organizations that advocate for everything from historic preservation and environmental concerns to equitable economic development and housing policy, to sustainable modern transit understand that these issues are all intertwined. Together, these organizations and citizen advocates are part of a broad coalition that recognizes that the “swarm of locusts” development model that has damaged so many great American cities is simply unsustainable. We can't continue to build, discard, and build again on greener pastures indefinitely.

Fortunately, more and more people are waking up to this fact. As money and people flow back into many sections of our urban core, we are increasingly tasked with the relatively new challenge of weighing the merits and impacts of contemporary development in the midst of historic environments. With this responsibility comes the need to acknowledge and mitigate potential harm that redevelopment can cause to legacy communities in “the next hip neighborhood.” How do we influence redevelopment policies that embrace historic buildings, incorporate the hard-earned lessons of past planners, respect the rights of all residents, and anticipate the needs of future generations? How do we ensure that preservation policies recognize the fact that cities are living things that need to protect the past and embrace the architecture of today and tomorrow?

These are indeed complex questions, but ones that our founders understood and anticipated. In 2023, our members, board, and staff continued to carry the torch that was passed to us nearly 65 years ago. We will do the same in 2024. The principles that guide our efforts—PRESERVE, ENHANCE, PROMOTE—are as relevant today as they were in 1959.

Thank you for standing with Landmarks Association and for the support, both moral and financial, that you so generously provide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Weil', is positioned above the printed name.

Andrew Weil
Executive Director

Armed with a compass and a map, Dr. Johnston and his family set off on a sunny February afternoon in 2023 to search for the starting point of the survey. The hunt was a success!



Dr. Ryan Johnston and his son William, 2023

SOULARD SURVEY STONES DISCOVERED *Continued from page 1*

While working on a survey crew in 2001-2002, Dr. Johnston became interested in surveying and cartography. He furthered his use and study of maps and navigation during his military service. Combining these interests with a passion for history, Johnston realized that advances in digital satellite imagery and available GIS map databases made it possible to overlay current-day landscapes with historical surveys with surprising accuracy.

The Johnston family worked to translate 18th century French field notes from the Missouri Digital Heritage Collections and learned that Antoine Soulard placed 20 stone markers at specific locations along the perimeter of a particular survey near their home in the Farmington area. On the first stone marker at the beginning corner, Soulard indicated that he carved the landowner's initials "DL" (presumably short for the "DeLassus or DeLuzieres" in the typically long aristocratic Spanish name of "Don Pedro Carlos Dehault DeLassus DeLuzieres").

Armed with a compass and a map, Dr. Johnston and his family set off on a sunny February afternoon in 2023 to search for the starting point of the survey. The hunt was a success! The first stone measured approximately 14" long X 14" wide X 7" above ground level and was in a remote section of St. Joe State Park in a dense forest surrounded by a now wild garden of yellow "Lent Lily" daffodils (a garden plant native to areas of Western Europe including France).

As the Johnstons continued following the lines of the historical survey they identified another hand-carved stone marker at a location inside the Farmington city limits. This stone measured 12" long X 4" wide X 4" above ground level and was set very securely in the ground in the exact spot indicated by Soulard on his original survey. The carving on the top surface depicts two distinct lines intersecting at right angles creating a cross or "+" symbol. [1], [2]

Pre-dating any other Colonial Era land claim in the area, DeLassus was granted this property on April 1, 1795 by Zenon Trudeau, Lieutenant Governor of Spanish Upper Louisiana. The

grant was made in compliance with instructions penned by the Governor General of Louisiana, the Baron de Carondelet who made his home in New Orleans. Measuring one league square (equal to 7056 arpents or approximately 6,000 acres) the land was intended to be used for mineral exploration, cultivation, and the raising of cattle.

In his decree, Carondelet directed that the tract should be surveyed in due form by the recently appointed Royal Surveyor. The land was conveyed to DeLassus by Francois Valle, Commandant of Ste Genevieve, on April 15, 1795, and the newly appointed surveyor, Soulard, added another project to his "to do" list. Working on 18th century time, it took nearly four years for him to make it down to demarcate DeLassus' new grant. Soulard began the formal survey on December 14, 1799, and recorded it on March 5, 1800, as one of the 710 surveys that make up a collection known today as the "Historic Soulard Surveys Registre D'Arpentage" which was created between 1797 and 1806. [1], [3]

The French-born Soulard served as Surveyor General of Upper Louisiana for the Spanish Crown from 1795 until the transfer of the Territory to the American regime. During the latter part of his career, he served under DeLassus, who succeeded Zenon Trudeau as Lieutenant Governor. After the Louisiana Purchase, Soulard remained in his former position, but with the new title of Surveyor General of the Louisiana Territory for the United States and continued recording his "Registre" in English. According to the Missouri State Archives, the purpose of the Soulard Registre was to certify and locate the land grants made by the French and Spanish governments, many of which he had surveyed himself. [4]

Pierre Charles Dehault DeLassus Deluzieres, Knight (Chevalier) of the Grand Cross in the Royal Order of St. Michael, was a significant individual in the early history of Missouri. In France, he had served as a royal advisor to his cousin, King Louis XVI. During the French Revolution, the DeLassus family fled Europe to avoid the guillotine.



Soulard land survey for Pedro Delassus Deluziere
Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives [1]



The DeLassus (c.1793) vertical log cabin in 2023, now owned by Ste. Genevieve National Park.

After a short stay in Gallipolis, Ohio, DeLassus settled in Pittsburgh, PA, and remained for several years before relocating to New Bourbon along the Mississippi River. As a condition of his relocation to the Upper Louisiana Territory, Governor Carondelet promised DeLassus a land grant. DeLassus arrived in what is now Missouri in August of 1793 and immediately began to prepare for his family's arrival by building a house.

Soulard viewed DeLassus as an adopted relative and served as his sponsor upon his arrival in Louisiana. He even made the treacherous voyage on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to accompany the DeLassus family from Pittsburgh to New Bourbon (Ste Genevieve County) in 1794. In 1797, DeLassus was appointed the civil and military commandant of the newly created New Bourbon District, which was cobbled together from sections of the Ste. Genevieve District on the north and the Cape Girardeau District to the south. [5]

The "poteaux sur sol" or "post on sill" DeLassus cabin is one of the largest French-style vertical log structures still known to exist in the Midwest. It is second in size only to the Holy Family Church in Cahokia, Illinois. Originally constructed on the bluffs of New Bourbon overlooking the Mississippi River, it was moved downslope and expanded over time into a two-story farmhouse by subsequent owners. During the Mississippi River flood of 1993, the front porch was washed away, causing damage that compromised the bottom sill log and bowed out the front wall. Now under the care of Ste. Genevieve National Park, the DeLassus cabin is the subject of ongoing preservation efforts. Temporary braces have been installed on the front wall to stabilize the structure as long-term preservation options are considered. Among the ideas being considered is a proposal to return the building to its original single-story vertical log cabin configuration. Components of the home dating to the DeLassus occupation are the only known physical remnant of the now-defunct French settlement of New Bourbon. [5], [6]

In his capacity as Commandant of the New Bourbon district,

DeLassus was responsible for recommending land grants for settlers in his jurisdiction. During his time in power, DeLassus placed multiple smaller land grants alongside his own property. This was not an uncommon settlement strategy on the Louisiana frontier as groupings of grants were a first step toward the development of a more formal town and offered advantages in terms of cooperation and mutual defense.

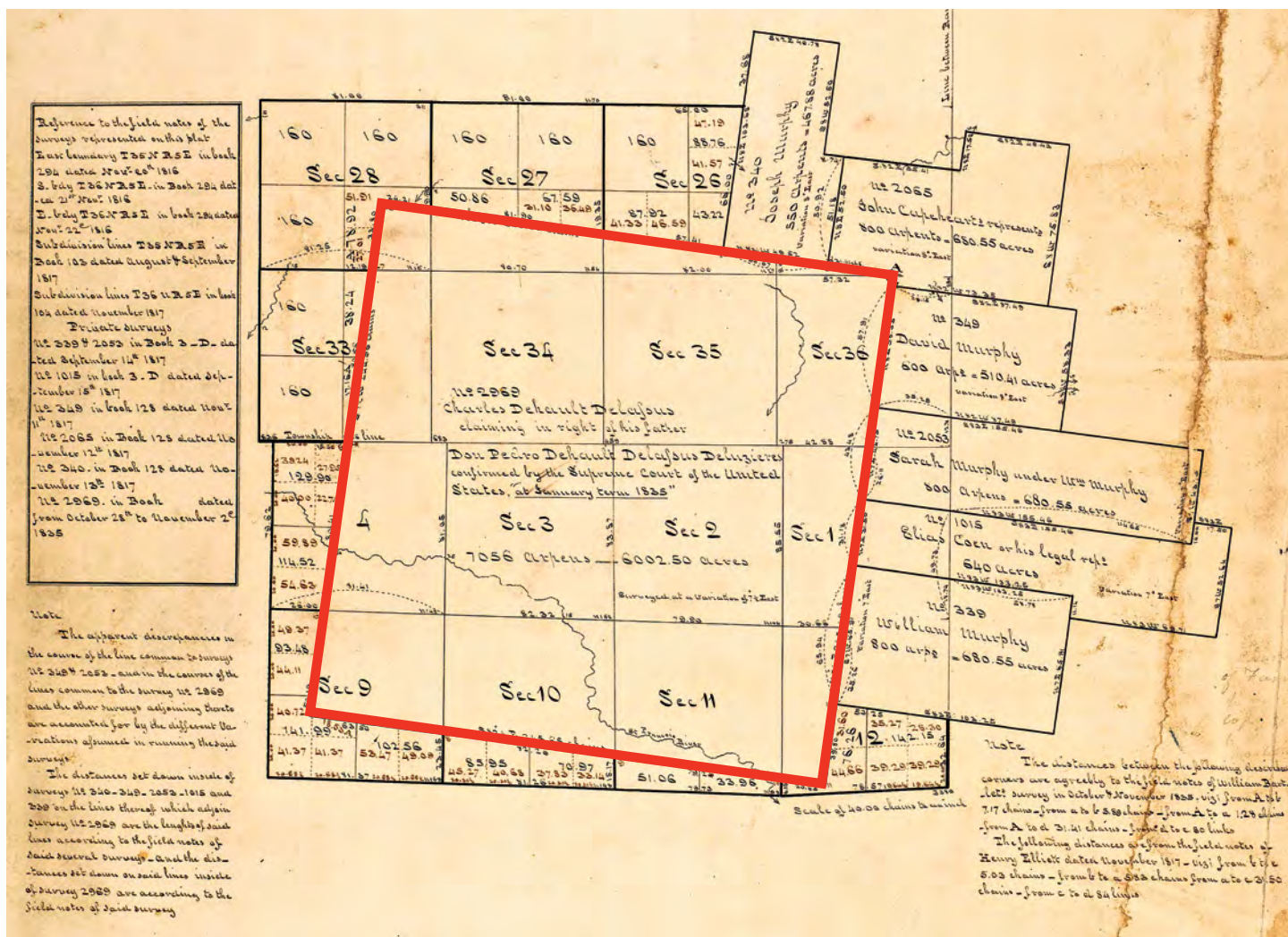
Among the new neighbors were the Reverend William Murphy and his family who arrived around 1798. Reverend William Murphy, a Baptist minister, came to New Bourbon with



The Kern family in front of their home (DeLassus Cabin) in the 1890s, prior to the addition of a second story. [6]



The interior of the house shows traditional French vertical log construction. [6]



Conway (1847) survey showing the Murphy land grants in relation to the older and larger DeLassus land grant highlighted in red. [13]

his three sons David, Joseph, and William (Jr.) from Tennessee and approached the Commandant for permission to settle and pursue agriculture. The Murphy properties were surveyed by Antoine Soulard in the spring of 1800 and are included in his Registre D'Arpentage.

The Reverend Murphy died on the return trip to Tennessee to retrieve the rest of the family. According to Sarah Murphy's sworn testimony, after her husband passed away, she sent one of her younger sons to settle the land on December 20, 1803, and raise a crop there with his family. Sarah and her family, together with three enslaved people, arrived sometime in 1804. DeLassus verified this arrangement with a certificate letter granting special permission for the Murphy family to found a town on December 20, 1805. The area would come to be known as the Murphy's Settlement and eventually the city of Farmington. [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12]

Although no grave location is known, Catholic burial records kept by the St. Louis Archdiocesan Archives in Shrewsbury, MO show that on December 21, 1806, the body of Pierre-Charles Delassus de Luzieres, former civil and military commandant of New Bourbon was buried in the cemetery at Ste. Genevieve. [5], [14]

Following the death of the senior DeLassus, his son Charles Dehault DeLassus, or Don Carlos as he was known to the Spanish, inherited most of his father's debt and his yet unconfirmed land grants.

The younger DeLassus was born in France in 1764 and entered military service in Spain at the age of 18. The young soldier served with distinction and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and requested a transfer to the Upper Louisiana Territory to be near his family. DeLassus was appointed the Commandant of the Spanish post on the Mississippi River at New Madrid from 1796 to 1799. Notably, Lieutenant Colonel DeLassus served as the last Lieutenant Governor of Upper Louisiana from August 29, 1799 to March 10, 1804. He was serving in this capacity as he hosted the Lewis and Clark Expedition during their winter in St. Louis in 1803-1804. While in St. Louis, he witnessed the ceremony transferring the Upper Louisiana Territory to the United States (later known as "Three Flags Day").

A great parade followed the transfer and dinner took place at DeLassus' residence. Over the course of March 9-10th, 1804, DeLassus completed his duties as Lt. Governor by putting the final seal on the Louisiana Purchase. [5], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18]

During the Three Flags Day celebration, on March 9th and 10th, DeLassus served as the government official charged with handing over the territory with dignity to the United States, thus completing the Louisiana Purchase.



*Three Flags Day postcard
Courtesy of Missouri History Museum*

Following the Louisiana Purchase, the United States Congress created a Board of Land Commissioners tasked with “adjusting” (i.e. confirming or denying) Spanish and French land grants made between 1680 and 1803. The DeLassus family grant in the Farmington area, along with many others, was in limbo for years as this process played out.

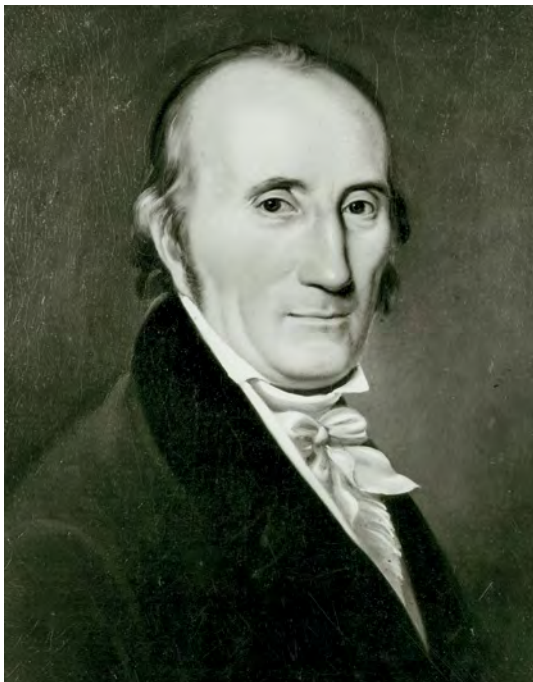
DeLassus continued his military career in the service of the Spanish Crown and in 1808 was appointed Governor of the Spanish controlled region of West Florida. The “West Florida

Rebellion” of September 1810 saw him briefly imprisoned and the region he had been defending handed over to the United States

After years of service to the Spanish Crown, DeLassus resigned his commission and chose to live in New Orleans as a private US citizen with his wife and only child Auguste, born in 1813. His wife passed away a few short years later in 1816, after which he relocated with his young son, back to St. Louis. They lived near his good friend, Antoine Soulard, in St. Louis for the next ten years before returning to New Orleans in 1826. [3], [16], [19], [20], [21], [22]

On May 18, 1829, Charles DeLassus filed a petition with the District Court of Missouri who refused confirmation of the DeLassus land grant in St. Francois County because the land contained a lead mine, and for no other reason. The decision was appealed to the United States Supreme Court which had seen its first appeal related to Spanish land grants earlier that year and decided to postpone all decisions on these cases to allow time for consideration. In January 1831, and the Missouri General Assembly asked Congress for a speedy and final adjudication of these land claims. The Supreme Court eventually reversed the decision of the lower court and upheld the DeLassus land grant in January, 1835. [3], [23]

Charles Dehault DeLassus died in New Orleans on May 1, 1842, and is interred at the St. Louis Cemetery Number 1. Auguste DeLassus inherited most of the original DeLassus land

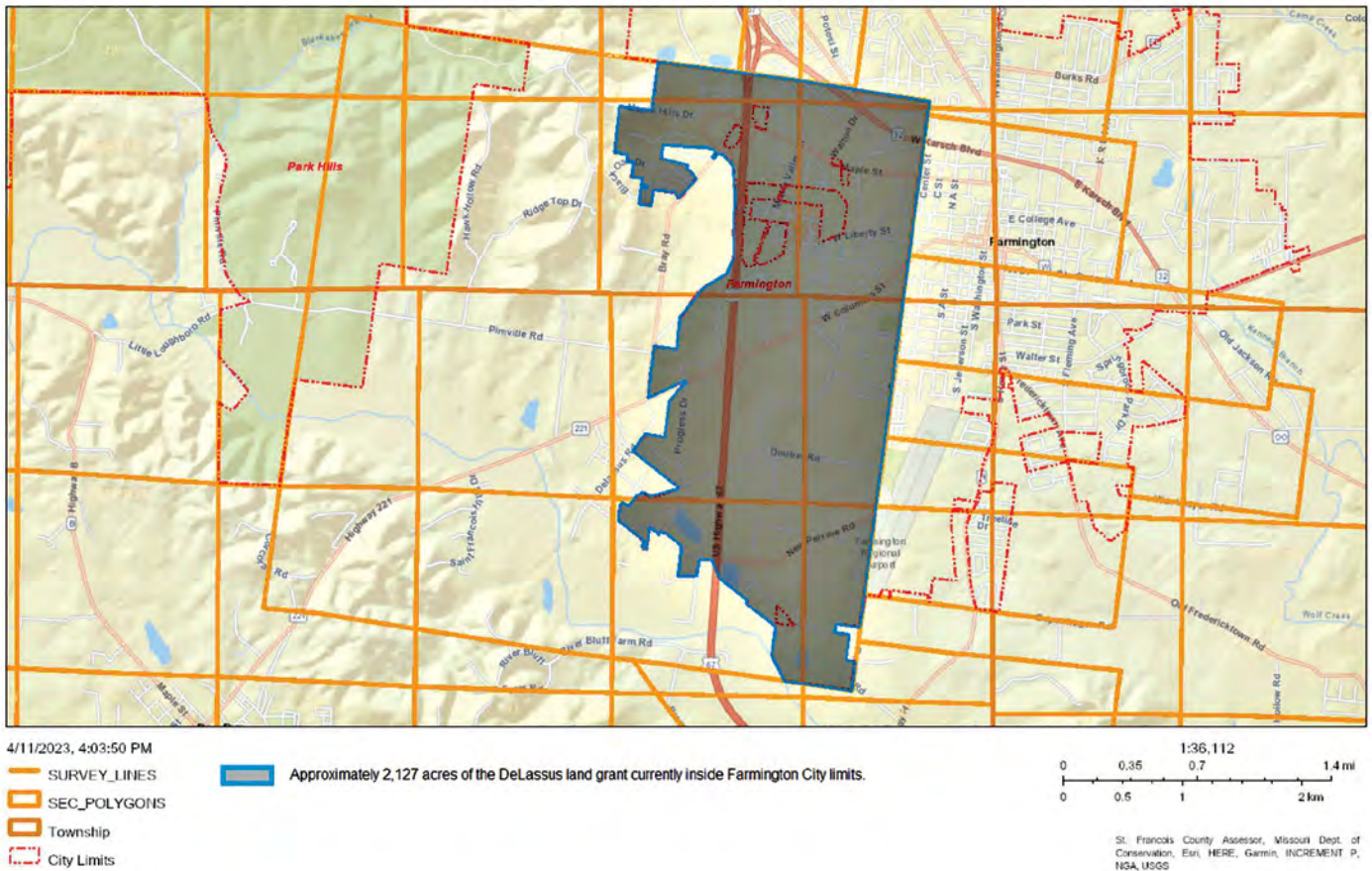


*Antoine Soulard
Courtesy Missouri History Museum*



*Carlos Dehault Delassus
Courtesy Missouri History Museum*

DeLassus Land Grant in City Limits



grant, including the properties with the two recently identified Soulard survey stones and continued to own them until his death in 1888. By 1901, the properties had been sold.

The lot with the survey's starting point marker stone was purchased by the Missouri Lead Fields Co. which had a large adjacent land holding at the time of purchase. This property was

then subsequently owned exclusively by lead companies until it became a part of St. Joe State Park. [24], [25], [26]

Today, over one-third (approximately 2,127 acres) of the original DeLassus land grant is located inside the Farmington city limits. Also, approximately 750 acres are located inside what is now Park Hills city limits, within the boundary of St. Joe State Park.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ryan D. Johnston DC, is a 2009 graduate of Logan University in Chesterfield, MO with a passion for history. Prior to chiropractic, Dr. Johnston gained experience working on a field survey crew in St. Francois and Washington counties in 2001–2002. While serving in the military as a combat aviator from 2002–2006, he and his wife Tiana received additional specialized cartography training in plotting, point to point navigation, and location triangulation. They now homeschool their three sons.

The recent rediscovery of the Soulard survey stones occurred while the Johnston family were conducting research for a self-published history book *The Shaping of Farmington, Missouri*. That book is available for purchase at www.thejohnstoncenter.com, and for review at the Farmington Public Library.

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Soulard display at the Missouri History Museum

PHOTOS OF THE PAST, RICHARD MUELLER, C1960

The accompanying images were taken by Dr. Richard Mueller, who has been a member of Landmarks Association for 64 years! Richard joined the organization in 1959 after seeing an ad in the newspaper about a new organization that was being formed to protect the valuable architecture that was being destroyed by rampant urban renewal. Guided by his passion for St. Louis' historic architecture, Richard joined the cause and became a founding member! Lucky for us, Richard had always loved exploring the city with his camera. This hobby resulted in irreplaceable images of St. Louis at a time of radical change. A sampling of his photos dating to around 1960 (never seen before) is published in this newsletter. All captions courtesy of Dr. Mueller.



Convent Rosati-Kain HS, NE corner Newstead and Lindell



3538 Olive



*Castleman-Mackay Mansion, 3693 Lindell Blvd, NE
Corner Lindell and Spring*



Clemens Mansion, 1849 Cass

RIVER CITIES

By Andrew Weil



St. Louis Harbor and Wharf office riverfront, Richard Mueller, c 1959-1960

This photo depicts the City of St. Louis' Harbor and Wharf Master's Office, which was a division of the Street Department at the time. Photographed in 1959 or 60, this building, once so critical to the commercial and economic foundation of St. Louis, was on borrowed time when Landmarks' founding member Dr. Richard Mueller documented it on what are now the Arch grounds.

Note the high-water marks on the gauge to the right of the door. The building had obviously survived some serious flooding in the past.

The high-water gauge was not just a way of measuring the river's depth—it had economic implications. Above or below a certain level, the river trade quite literally ground to a halt. The gauge told boatmen whether the river was ready for business, or whether they were going to need to wait until navigational conditions improved. One can imagine the barge company owners, the boatmen, the commodity speculators, etc. anxiously watching the gauge and waiting to get back to business.

Because commerce and taxes are irrevocably intertwined the harbormaster's gauge recalls another society thousands of miles and thousands of years, away that also made its living from the fertile farmland of its alluvial plain and riparian commerce—ancient Egypt.

Ancient Egyptian society was incredibly dependent upon the Nile River for commercial and agricultural purposes. As such, Egyptian leaders devised methods for monitoring river conditions and extrapolated those conditions into economic and social policy. The most basic mechanism by which the river was monitored was the "Nileometer". Situated at strategic points along the length of the Nile, these gauges measured the depth of the river during the summer and early fall flooding period. The depth of the river during the annual floods was directly tied to the fertility of the agricultural fields on the surrounding alluvial plain. If the water

was too low, the fields wouldn't get the nutrients and fresh soil they needed and the harvest would be poor. If the water was too high, it could have costly implications for infrastructure: destroying houses, granaries, fences, irrigation channels, etc. If the water was just right, a bountiful harvest was on the horizon.

Nileometers allowed Egyptian rulers to look into the future to prepare for the days to come. Annual tax rates were set based on river conditions; taxes went up in good flooding years and down in bad ones. Because river conditions were predictors of crop yields, Nileometers also helped rulers plan for famine ahead of time.

All great civilizations with economies that depended upon flood-plain agriculture and river-based trade, from Cahokia to Mesopotamia, developed ways to "read the river" and plan accordingly for their various needs. While today we have advanced modeling and rivers that have been artificially modified in innumerable ways, at the end of the day, it's still the amount of water moving through the system that matters. The old St. Louis Harbormaster's office and its depth gauge are long gone, but the river they served isn't going anywhere.



*Nileometer on Elephantine Island, Egypt
Photo credit: madainproject.com*

2024 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

With assistance from the Regional Arts Commission, we are proud to announce our inaugural spring lecture series at the Soulard Settler's Cottage (1805-07 S. 9th Street). Please join us for a diverse selection of talks about the history, architecture, and culture of the St. Louis Region spanning nearly 250 years. All lectures are **free** and Landmarks' members will receive preference for reservations through early notification.

Space is limited: reservations are required.

Information for online registration will be released via email in February; no prior reservations will be accepted. Stay tuned for notification. If you want to receive notifications and updates, please make sure we have an up-to-date email address by emailing office@landmarks-stl.org or calling 314-421-6474.

All lectures are on Wednesdays, but times vary between midday and evening. Each lecture requires its own reservation.

APRIL 3: RYAN JOHNSTON:

"The Discovery of the Soulard Stones; How Historic Maps and Modern Surveying Equipment Led to the Discovery of 18th Century Survey Markers" — 6:00 PM

APRIL 10: CHRIS NAFFZIGER, HISTORIAN AND WRITER:

"The Architectural History of the Lemp Brewery" — 6:00 PM

APRIL 17: MEG LOUSTEAU, DIRECTOR ST. LOUIS CITY CULTURAL RESOURCES OFFICE:

"Working with the City's Cultural Resources Office" — 6:00 PM

APRIL 24: DOUG HOUSER, MAPLEWOOD HISTORIAN:

"A Brief Look at the Landmark Homes of the Sutton and Rannells Families and the Farms that Would Become Maplewood" — 6:00 PM

MAY 1: EMMA PRINCE, PROFESSIONAL ARCHIVIST:

"Building a Family Archive" — 12:00 NOON

MAY 8. JULIE NICOLAI, AUTHOR:

"There Were Lions in the Way: Enslavement & the Underground Railroad in MO & IL" — 6:00 PM

MAY 15: JEFF AND RANDY VINES:

"You Can't Spell Style without STL; How the History and Architecture of St. Louis Captured Our Imaginations and Built a Brand" — 6:00 PM

MAY 22: ANDREW WANKO, PUBLIC HISTORIAN, MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM:

"Made in STL: The Stuff Underfoot that Built the 19th Century City" — 12:00 NOON

MAY 29: ANDREW WEIL, DIRECTOR LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION:

"The History and Restoration of the Soulard Settler's Cottage" — 12:00 NOON

JUNE 5: STEPHANIE BLISS, DIRECTOR OF THE FIELD HOUSE MUSEUM:

"The History of the Field House Museum and an Update on Flood Restoration Work" — 12:00 NOON

JUNE 12: MITCH AND AMANDA GOIST:

"The Lion's Den; Misadventures in Restoration" — 6:00 PM

JUNE 19: TOM GRONSKI, RESEARCHER, CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM:

"Dr. Richard Fuhrmann: Amateur Photographer in Turn-of-the-Century St. Louis" — 6:00 PM

JUNE 26: ANDY HAHN, DIRECTOR OF THE CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM:

"The Photos of Dr. William Swecosky: The Dentist Who Became the 'Pallbearer' of Old St. Louis" — 12:00 NOON



NOT JUST ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

By Andrew Weil

This “element” is a closeup of the façade of the Hutcheson Arms apartment building at 2105-2111 S. Grand Boulevard. The unusual golden brick with a raked center and smooth enameled ends must have been a custom commission, considering that I am only aware of it being used on one other building in the City (although admittedly there are probably more ...where!? Let us know). The other property that exhibits the same pattern is the much smaller building housing Trattoria Marcella Italian restaurant at 3600 Watson Road, which employs an identical material and bond.

The Hutcheson Arms is part of the Shaw Neighborhood Certified Local Historic District. Constructed c. 1928, the building reflects the ambitious plans of developers during the Roaring Twenties who anticipated that the small commercial buildings and 19th century residences along Grand would all be replaced with much larger and higher-density developments as the 20th century progressed. The Marmaduke Apartments (2710 S. Grand), the Saum Building (1919 S. Grand), and the Dickmann Building (3115 S. Grand) nearby are other examples of this vision. Unfortunately, these grand plans ran headlong into the Great Depression and



Hutcheson Arms, 2105-2111 S. Grand Boulevard

came to a screeching halt.

The combination of the bond and strangely textured material that face the Hutcheson Arms can cause a kind of dizzying optical illusion from afar. Like a “magic eye” image, if you stare at the building long enough, different patterns start to emerge in the brickwork; look once and there seems to be an irregular pattern of chevrons or “comma” shapes embedded in the bond. Look again and those chevrons coalesce into diamond shapes and circles.

By the early 20th century, the local clay products industries were experimenting with all kinds of unusual colors and finishes as builders and developers sought ways to differentiate their buildings from the ubiquitous red brick that defined 19th century St. Louis. It seems that a lot of the more novel designs like the brick that graces the Hutcheson Arms had only a brief moment in the sun before the Depression, and the subsequent transition to Modernism ended St. Louis’ brickmakers’ pursuit of unique and undoubtedly labor/process-intensive materials.

The brick that faces the Hutcheson represents a high point of experimentation in both brickmaking and finishing processes, and is an interesting case study of how the material could be employed for a wide variety of artistic effects.

The combination of the bond and strangely textured material that face the Hutcheson Arms can cause a kind of dizzying illusion from afar. Like a “magic eye” image, if you stare at the building long enough, different patterns start to emerge in the brickwork.

2023 BENEFIT FOR LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION



We want to express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported or attended our annual event, *Benefit for Landmarks Association 2023*, held on Portland Place. This year's celebration, on Saturday, September 23rd honoring Robert W. Duffy with the H. Meade Summers Jr. award, was particularly significant. It marked our most successful and well-attended event in recent memory, and it's all thanks to your generous support. Your contributions made this evening memorable.

All photos by: Alison Hillman of BTP by Alison



Left to right: Will & Sophie Liebermann, Anya Drozdova



Andrew Love, Laura Carpenter



Nancy Kranzberg



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Maggie Novak, the Landmarks Urbanites President, working the Postcard Pull



Left to right: Carl Safe, Robert Duffy, Martin Kaplan, Paul Wagman, Sally Altman



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DEAR FRIENDS,

As you know, Landmarks Association relies heavily on the support of our membership to meet our humble financial needs. We would like to thank you for your continuing support, and encourage you to pass this newsletter along to a friend with an invitation to join! Becoming a member is easy. Simply call the office at 314-421-6474 or visit landmarks-stl.org and click on the "join" tab, or scan this QR code to go to our membership page.

Thank You!



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Our tours highlight the architecture, history, and culture of downtown St. Louis. We currently offer an East Tour and a West Tour of Downtown. Tours are scheduled on Saturdays, April through October starting at 9 a.m. Each tour covers about two miles in its designated downtown area. Tour guides are usually scheduled only once or twice each month.

We provide complete training and materials for guides to learn the routes and details of each tour. Volunteers learn everything they need to know to lead the tours and showcase our fabulous historical architecture for area residents and tourists. The Tours website Landmarkstours-stl.org has more information, and you may contact us at tour-schedule@landmarks-stl.org to learn more.

