

LANDMARKS LETTER

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2009

Landmarks Association Presents Preservation Week 2009

It is almost May and that means Preservation Week 2009 will soon be here. This year from May 9-16, Landmarks has put together a jam-packed week of events, including tours, lectures, films and our Most Enhanced Awards Ceremony (May 15), where we will celebrate the best restorations and rehabs in the area from the past year. We will be announcing our 2009 Most Endangered List as well, shedding light on those irreplaceable St. Louis Landmarks that

are threatened with demolition and/or by neglect. May is also a time in St. Louis for numerous area home tours including ones in Lafayette Park, Old North and the Central West End. It is also a perfect month for biking, walking and cemetery tours, yard-sales, floral shows, book sales, street fairs and other events sponsored by our affiliated organizations. To assist in keeping our members abreast of all that is going on in the preservation world in St. Louis this Spring, we have created a cal-

endar complete with our own Preservation Week activities as well as information on dozens of other events taking place throughout our area. Once you're done reading all the articles in your newsletter, simply remove pages 5-8, the central section, to keep as your ready reference guide to all scheduled activities. Enjoy! and we look forward to seeing you at many of these special events.

Jefferson Mansell

SLPS Considering Demolition of Mann School

On March 12, the Special Administrative Board (SAB) of the St. Louis Public Schools accepted the recommendation of Superintendent Kelvin Adams to close fourteen district schools at the end of the current school year, followed by three closures in 2011 (lists available at www.slps.org). This total figure of 17 closed schools was a relief from the earlier recommendation by MGT of America, Inc. to close 29 schools. However, one of the most troubling provisions recommended by the consultants remained: the idea that the district should build two new elementary schools. That plan in itself shows a predilection against retaining existing



Mann Elementary School, ca. 1901, Wm. B. Ittner, architect

historic school buildings, but the details are astounding: the new school slated for south city would be built on the site of Mann School (1901-16, William B. Ittner) in Tower Grove South, according to Dr. Adams.

Adams' recommendation seemed to be a reversal from

the consultants' recommendation, which hinted at possible demolition of Shenandoah School (1926, Rockwell Milligan) in Tower Grove East. Shenandoah had been removed from the closure list and recommended as a neighborhood school. Dr. Adams recom-

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LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION

OF SAINT LOUIS, INC.

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Landmarks Letter is the official publication of Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. for its members and friends. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the Editor and contributors and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Board or membership of Landmarks Association. Please address all correspondence, comments and inquiries to the Editor.

Grand-Bates Historic Suburb to be Listed in Register

The nomination of the Grand-Bates Historic Suburb National Register District, recently completed by Andrew Weil along with the help of Lindsey Derrington, has been submitted to the National Park Service for final approval. Eleventh Ward Alderman Matt Villa, a great friend to Landmarks Association, funded the project through the Community Development Block Grant program. Villa's exemplary ongoing cooperation with Landmarks has resulted in the listing of thousands of buildings in the National Register in his ward. Villa's commitment to preservation is already paying dividends and will continue to have a positive impact on the development and redevelopment of south St. Louis for years to come. The Grand-Bates District is roughly bounded by Grand Boulevard on the west, Bates Street on the north, Interstate 55 on the east, and Iron and Fillmore Streets on the south; it was nominated based on patterns of historic community planning and development. The earliest extant building in the District dates to circa 1860, though the vast majority of the buildings were built during the first three decades of the 20th century. During this time, the neighborhood evolved from a largely rural area at the fringe of settlement in the city to a densely settled commuter suburb.

The District straddles two phases of historic suburb development in St. Louis and reflects patterns that are typical of neighborhoods that relied entirely on streetcar transit as well as the increasing use of the automobile and bus. Development became possible with the arrival of the streetcar system in 1893 on the District's eastern border and began in earnest following a consolidation and improvement of the system in 1899. While much of the eastern portion of the District was



This handsome row of houses along Bellerive Boulevard will be included in the Grand-Bates Historic Suburb district.

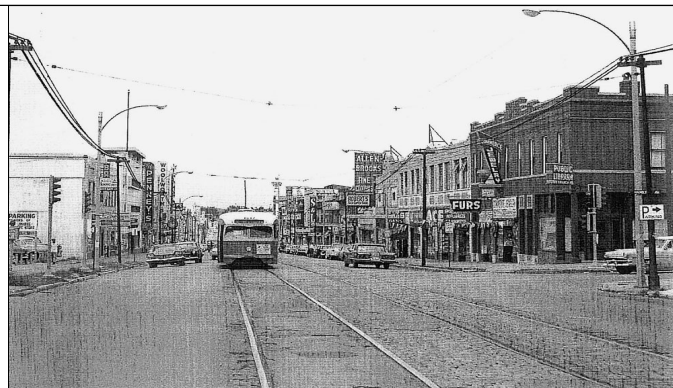
built for working-class streetcar commuters, the construction of the Kingshighway Parkway through the area (the portion in the District was initiated in 1907 and completed by 1912) changed the dynamics of development. Designed by noted landscape architect George Kessler (the creator of the Kansas City parkway system and the St. Louis World's Fair grounds), the parkway brought what was then a unique residential environment to St. Louis, attracting upper middle-class homeowners and automobile enthusiasts/commuters. Finally, in 1923, the early implementation of bus transportation on the western boundary of the District along Grand Boulevard fixed the neighborhood between public transportation routes, securing its reputation as an enviable commuter residential district.

Andrew Weil, Research Associate

Wellston: Community's Colorful Past Provides Fodder for National Register

Working with Alderman Jeffrey Boyd and the Hamilton Heights Neighborhood Organization, Landmarks is preparing a Multiple Property Submission document for the Wellston region for its local commercial and ethnic significance. This will enable clusters of commercial buildings along Martin Luther King Drive to be nominated to the National Register, and will open the door for potential listings for the residential blocks to the north and south.

Of all Saint Louis' inner-ring suburbs, Wellston is perhaps the most unusual. Unlike Maplewood, Webster Groves, Kirkwood, or even University City, Wellston never billed itself as a bedroom community or stressed its distance from the bustle of the central city as a primary attraction. From the start, Wellston aggressively sought to promote itself as a thriving commercial center to rival any in the Saint Louis region. Described more as a "state of mind" than an entity with distinct borders, Wellston straddled Saint Louis' northwestern limits and stretched, roughly, from west of Lucas and Hunt Road in Saint Louis County to Hodiament Avenue in the city. Easton Avenue (now Martin Luther King Drive) cut east-west



Easton Avenue looking west from Hodiament, July 1963. Andrew D. Young, Streets & Streetcars of St. Louis: A Sentimental Journey.

through its center and united the area. The arrival of the electric streetcar along this thoroughfare in 1901 was the major catalyst which transformed the previously sleepy rural resort area into a burgeoning commercial district.

(Continued on page 3)

Wellston

(Continued from page 2)

The county side of the community incorporated as a third-class city in 1909 and took the named Wellston in honor of Erastus Wells, father of the city's streetcar system, whose 19th century country estate was nearby. That year the United Railways Company constructed the Craftsman style Wellston Station (NR 5/2/07) at 6111 Easton to serve the nearby Wellston Loop; it would become one of the busiest streetcar transfer points in the nation, serving as the interchange for the St. Charles, Wellston, Hodiament, and Kirkwood-Ferguson lines.

Opponents to the tiny city's independent status successfully achieved its de-incorporation in May 1911, but this failed to deter community leaders from championing Wellston as force to be reckoned with. Only four months later the Wellston Business Men's League organized a grand parade of floats representing Wellston industries, 200 mounted riders, and automobiles of the community's leading families, all lead by a four-horse carriage carrying a queen whose crown bore the motto, "Annex St. Louis." Beginning at Easton and Hodiament, this cavalcade proceeded to march down Kingshighway, Delmar, Grand, and Chestnut to downtown St. Louis and back – quite a gesture coming from a community of only ten thousand!

This kind of boosterism would characterize Wellston for the next fifty years. The Wellston Chamber of Commerce organized in 1920. Its president served as the community's de facto mayor, while the group touted its economic growth and sought to brand Wellston both locally and nationally as the "Western Gateway to St. Louis." "Shop in Wellston" signs adorned virtually every exterior surface to attract potential customers approaching busy Easton Avenue. Glittering streetlights were erected to facilitate nighttime shopping, and from Goodfellow to Evergreen, Easton was known as Wellston's "great white way."

Around this time Wellston became home to a growing number of Orthodox Jews. In the early 1880s cities across the nation received steady numbers of Yiddish-speaking Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia as they fled the escalating anti-Semitism of their home countries. Saint Louis was no exception, and by the 1890s, the dense blocks just north of downtown became known as "Little Rus-



*The once bustling Wellston Station at 611 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
(Martin Arhelger, architect, ca. 1910).*

sia." Between 1910 and 1920 the area was home to over 11,000 Orthodox Jews and over two dozen Orthodox congregations.

This upwardly-mobile group rapidly began trekking west for better housing and better opportunities, taking their shops and synagogues with them. While the majority of the city's more established German Jews lived in wealthier neighborhoods south of Delmar Boulevard, the Orthodox community overwhelmingly stayed to the north. By the 1930s Wellston had become a thriving hub of Russian and Eastern European Jewish life; Jewish proprietors opened countless clothing, dry goods, and furniture stores along Easton to serve the St. Louis region, while the hallmark delicatessens served the thousands living in the adjoining neighborhoods. Jewish-American professionals opened their offices there as well, and a dozen Orthodox congregations sprang up in converted houses and storefronts in the surrounding area.

Missouri: The WPA Guide to the 'Show Me' State (1941) described Wellston during this time period:

"Directly to the north of [Delmar] is the colorful Wellston shopping center, stretched along Easton Avenue. Along the ever crowded street are open stalls for vegetables and flowers, crates of chicken and geese, and the tantalizing odors of herring and dill. Here are cut-rate stores, variety shops, credit clothing houses, furniture and second-hand dealers, shooting galleries, and delicatessens; and everywhere up and down the

street, the signs of fortune tellers, faith healers, and astrologers."

Indeed, by the 1940s the area was touted as the busiest shopping district in the nation. Four streetcar lines brought 40,000 passengers through Wellston daily, along with another 25,000 carried through by seven bus lines. The bustle of the Easton-Hodiament intersection was comparable to those of Grand and Olive, Delmar and Kingshighway, and Grand and Gravois. The city officially incorporated once more in 1949, maintaining its bustle and excitement through the 1950s.

The death of Saint Louis' streetcar system soon spelled Wellston's impending doom – the last Wellston car ran in 1963, followed by the last Hodiament car in 1966. The thriving business district crumbled at an alarming pace, crippled even further by the loss of the Jewish community which had already overwhelmingly moved either south to University City or further west to Ladue and Creve Coeur. General white flight and the loss of industry soon followed. By 1970, Wellston was already struggling with wide-spread deterioration of its housing and infrastructure.

Forty years later, both the city and county sides of Wellston have seen heartbreaking demolitions but much of its original character remains. Though we can never recapture the Wellston of the past, these listings spell new hope for the Wellston of the future.

Lindsey Derrington, Research Associate

Schools

(Continued from page 1)

mended an aggressive enrollment recruitment plan for Shenandoah. However, at a public meeting held on March 31 at Mann School, Adams stated that the district was in fact looking at placing the new school on one of two sites: those of Mann and Shenandoah. The district did not want to purchase new land in densely-populated south St. Louis. However, after the meeting a district spokesman denied that Shenandoah School was under consideration for demolition or closure.

According to Adams, the district is adopting the MGT recommendation to consolidate the student populations of Mann (4047 Juniata in Tower Grove South), Shenandoah (in Tower Grove East) and Sherman (in Shaw). These students would attend a new school designed to house anywhere from 500-700 students, a large number requiring a larger building. In contrast, MGT estimated the capacity of Mann at 390, Shenandoah at 212 and Sherman at 305 – a total of 907 students. Mann Principal Brian Zimmerman disputes the MGT number, stating that the capacity is actually lower and the school at around 80% used capacity. Currently, the enrollment of Mann is 246, Sherman is 170 and Shenandoah is 127, for a total of 543 students. Educators familiar with school consolidation tell Landmarks that at least 10% of enrollment will be lost as students are forced into new schools.

While consolidation into an existing building is not possible, expansion is. Mann School has a large gymnasium wing added in 1993 that could be demolished and replaced with a new combined gymnasium and classroom wing. Likewise, behind Shenandoah is a gymnasium addition from the same time that could be replaced. Other options could include combining two of the schools into an expanded building instead of three into one. Adams frequently speaks of the value of neighborhood schools, yet he



Shenandoah School, 3412 Shenandoah Ave., ca. 1925-28, Rockwell Milligan, architect.

is advancing a regional super-school that could be built on the site of one of the district's model neighborhood elementary schools, Mann. Twelve different private programs serve Mann students and the building houses neighborhood meetings, night college classes and more.

At the Mann School meeting, Adams told the audience that there is a variable in the district's plans: the form of stimulus funding it receives. Some of that money could be specified for renovation (probably a planned lead remediation effort), and some for new construction. The district would be obligated to spend the money in accordance with federal rules. However, the elected Board of Education reports that the SAB may have another funding source in mind: a bond issue on the ballot in 2010. A bond issue to build new schools would allow the district to side-step any federal funding restraints.

The bond issue is troubling because of a loophole in St. Louis preservation law: under the 1999 preservation ordinance, the Board of Education is exempt from demolition review by the Cultural Resources Office. All the Board needs to do is get a demolition permit approved by the Building Commissioner. All three schools would otherwise have protection: Mann is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places while

Sherman and Shenandoah are contributing to historic districts. A private owner would face demolition review.

Strangely, private ownership could become more desirable due to an act by the SAB. On April 16, the SAB unanimously voted to remove deed restrictions prohibiting sales to charter schools. Landmarks has advocated for this position since the beginning of the current facilities planning process because it creates another option for re-using historic school buildings. If the district is intent on building a new building, it could sell Mann or Shenandoah to an owner who could maintain them as neighborhood schools.

It would be regrettable if the district that erected these great buildings as works that embody and inspire great public education becomes the biggest threat to their preservation. No matter what the district's needs, it should not consider demolition of any of its irreplaceable buildings. Let's not throw out a proud public legacy for the sake of perceived momentary need.

Landmarks members should contact SAB members and Superintendent Kelvin Adams via www.slps.org and ask them to pledge to prevent demolition of Mann and Shenandoah Schools, and to explore expansion of one of the existing buildings instead.

Michael R. Allen, Assistant Director

PRESERVATION WEEK 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 9

ENHANCED AWARD BUS TOUR 12:00 NOON TO 5:00 P.M.

What better way to kick off Preservation Week than to take a tour of some of our Most Enhanced Award winners from 2007 & 2008! We will begin our afternoon "ramble" at the Field School Lofts and visit 5 other award-winning sites including 4512 West Pine, Soulard Preservation Hall, Salena Dairy, the Marquette Building, and Ludwig Lofts. We will end the day with a reception hosted by Landmarks board member Craig Heller at the Syndicate Trust building. Along the way, guides will point out other past award recipients including the Dorris Motor Car building, the Independence Center, and the Aquinas Institute. Parking at Field School Lofts. Bus will return to lofts at end of tour.

\$45 per person includes transportation and reception; reservations must be accompanied by check and must be received by May 5th; mail check to Landmarks, 911 Washington Ave., Suite 170, St. Louis, MO 63101. For more information, call 421-6474.



SATURDAY, MAY 9 **OLD NORTH HOUSE** **& COMMUNITY TOUR** 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., 2800 NORTH 14TH STREET

Old North St. Louis opens its doors with its annual house and community tour. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the long-awaited, and nearly completed, Crown Square project, consisting of two blocks' worth of amazingly rehabbed commercial buildings along 14th Street! Registration will be across St. Louis Avenue from Crown Candy Kitchen. From here visitors can either walk or hitch a ride on the free shuttle bus to tour ten homes & gardens throughout the neighborhood. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$10 at either Crown Candy Kitchen (1401 St. Louis Avenue) or from the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, or at www.onsl.org. Day of tour cost is \$12. All tickets include a coupon for a free ice cream cone. **For further information call (314) 241-5031.**



SUNDAY, MAY 10

LECTURE: THE JAMES CLEMENS **HOUSE: PAST, PRESENT AND** **FUTURE**

2:00 P.M.

ARCHITECTURE ST. LOUIS
911 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 170

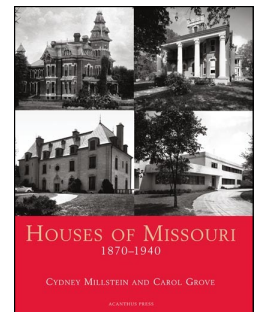
Join Michael Allen, Assistant Director of Landmarks Association, as he offers a look at one of the most significant endangered houses in St. Louis. Built in 1858 for James Clemens, Jr., the house at 1849 Cass Avenue is one of the few remaining antebellum mansions in the city. Later life included expansion of the house and use as a convent and several ministries. For the last decade, the fate of the vacant complex has been uncertain. Collapse of a chapel wall last year sent shock waves throughout the preservation community. Explore the fascinating history of this St. Louis landmark and discover what hope remains.

Lecture is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested, please call 421-6474.



MONDAY, MAY 11 **LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING:** **HOUSES OF MISSOURI, 1870-1940** 7:00 P.M., CHATILLON-DEMENIL HOUSE, 3352 DEMENIL PLACE

Carol Grove and Cydney Millstein's *Houses of Missouri, 1870-1940* is the first comprehensive account of the development of residential architecture in the state. With nearly 300 archival photographs, drawings, and original floor plans, the book offers an intimate tour behind the facades of 45 purely American houses ranging from pastoral retreats to mid-century modern mansions. The authors will discuss the book project at the historic Chatillon-DeMenil House, with a reception and signing to follow. Copies of the book (retail price \$65) will be on sale, but the reception is complimentary. **For information, please call 771-5828.**



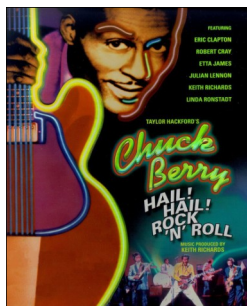
TUESDAY, MAY 12**SPECIAL MOVIE SCREENING****HAIL! HAIL! ROCK 'N' ROLL**

DOORS OPEN AT 7 P.M., SHOWTIME 7:20 P.M.

TIVOLI THEATRE

6350 DELMAR - UNIVERSITY CITY LOOP

ADMISSION \$5



Landmarks presents a special screening of *Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' Roll* at the Tivoli in celebration of the Chuck Berry House's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Filmed in 1986, this much-storied documentary explores the fascinating, and often challenging, personality of Saint Louis' own Father of Rock 'n' Roll and culminates in footage of his 60th birthday concert at the Fox Theatre. The film features interviews with Bo Diddley, Little Richard, Johnnie Johnson, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bruce Springsteen, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards (who served as its music director), and more to give a rare (and lively) insight into Berry's impact on the birth of this purely American musical genre. Landmarks is proud to be partnering with Vintage Vinyl which will be onsite selling Chuck Berry DVDs & CDs as well as offering Vintage Vinyl goodies & coupons. Door prizes include tickets to Landmark Theatres (Tivoli/Plaza Frontenac Cinema), Chuck Berry paraphernalia, and more! Radio legend, music historian, and *St. Louis American* columnist Bernie Hayes will kick off the event with opening remarks.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**EXHIBIT OPENING & RECEPTION:****MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
ARCHITECTURE**

6:00 P.M TO 8:00 P.M.

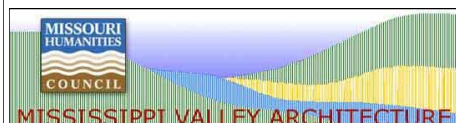
CAROLYN HEWES TOFT GALLERY

AT ARCHITECTURE ST. LOUIS

REMARKS AT 6:30 P.M. BY

DAVID V. KROMM & YOUNG-HIE KROMM

Crafted by the firm of Kromm, Rikimaru & Johansen, this exhibit showcases the wealth of vernacular architectural forms and trends found in Missouri's Mineral and River Heritage areas. The initial survey of the regions found a variety of architectural influences as well as remarkable improvisations, resulting in forms that embody their own intrinsic beauty and yet are responsive to the materials and methods that shaped them. Exhibit runs from May 4 - July 31.



See information on page 7 about accompanying bus tour on June 13th.

FRIDAY, MAY 15**LECTURE: THE LIFE AND WORK OF
THEODORE CARL LINK**

12:00 NOON

ARCHITECTURE ST. LOUIS

911 WASHINGTON AVE., SUITE 170



Join architect and "Link authority" Gary Tetley for an overview of the work of St. Louis architect Theodore Link. Perhaps best known as the architect of this city's Union Station, Link was a prolific designer whose work is found across the United States. Tetley will shed new light on Link's career in his illustrated lecture that will showcase some never-before-seen images from various Link projects, including the Mississippi State Capitol, the LSU campus in Baton Rouge, and a number of residential and institutional buildings. **Limited seating. Lecture free and open to the public.**

SATURDAY, MAY 16**WALKING TOUR:****EXAMPLES FROM THE WORK OF
THEODORE CARL LINK**

10:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST AT 5001 WASHINGTON



Architect, architectural historian and photographer Gary Tetley continues his presentation on the work of Theodore Link with a Saturday morning walking tour through the Central West End, a neighborhood containing some of Link's most important work remaining in St. Louis. Included on the two-hour walking tour will be the starting point for the tour, St. John's United Methodist Church (1901), 5001 Washington Place, the Wednesday Club (1908), 4500 Westminster Place and of course, the landmark Richardsonian Romanesque-style 2nd Presbyterian Church (1889) at 4501 Westminster Place. **Walking tour is free but reservations requested.**

**THURSDAY, MAY 14 -
SUNDAY, MAY 17****ROOMS IN BLOOM
SAMUEL CUPPLES HOUSE**

Celebrate spring at the Historic Samuel Cupples House as they host Rooms in Bloom 2009. Members of the St. Louis Florist Network will design floral works of art to complement the rooms, art and ambiance of the historic mansion. Not to be missed. Preview reception featuring jazz trio. **For more information, please call 314-977-2666.**

FRIDAY, MAY 15
MOST ENHANCED AWARDS
MOST ENDANGERED PLACES
ROBERTS ORPHEUM THEATRE
5:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.



Cannon Design
 2009 Award Winner

The highlight of Preservation Week is the Most Enhanced Awards presentation. Join us this year as we recognize 14 projects that represent the best in restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of some of St. Louis' most historic structures. The evening

begins with the announcement of Landmarks' annual Most Endangered List, calling attention to the plight of some abandoned, forgotten, or threatened buildings. Sponsored by Mike Roberts, Steve Roberts and the Roberts Orpheum Theatre. **Tickets Required. Advance \$20; at the door, \$25. Mail checks to Landmarks, 911 Washington Ave., Suite 170, St. Louis, MO 63101.**

SUNDAY, MAY 17
FILM AND WALKING TOUR:
THIS WAS THE FUTURE:
MID-CENTURY MODERN
ARCHITECTURE ON LINDELL BLVD.
10:00 A.M.
BEGIN INSIDE THE CHASE PARK PLAZA CINEMA
212 N. KINGSHIGHWAY

Have a mid-century modern morning in May! A screening of the new short documentary "San Luis: This Was the Future" tells the story of the threatened San Luis Apartments. After the 10 minute film, **Toby Weiss** of www.beltstl.com and Michael

Allen will lead a walking tour of the many mid-century treasures along Lindell Boulevard, where modern design flourished between World War II and the 1970s. The walk will run from the Chase Park Plaza Hotel to Vandeventer and back, so be prepared for serious walking.



Chancery building, St. Louis Archdiocese, 1961.

Special Tours Sponsored by Landmarks Association



In Search of
Mississippi Valley Architecture
Saturday, June 13, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
An Architecture Weekend Event

A companion tour to the scheduled exhibit at Architecture St. Louis, this all day bus tour explores the vernacular architecture in Missouri's Mineral Region of the Mississippi River Valley. The tour will include stops in the quaint towns of Old Mines, Potosi, Caledonia, Pilot Knob, Arcadia, Frederickton, Farmington and Bonne Terre. Along the way, participants will tour a variety of courthouses, churches, schools, and private homes. Of particular interest will be Ursuline Academy in Arcadia with its chapel windows by Emil Frei Art Glass Company of St. Louis; Henry Hohenschild's 1908 courthouse in Potosi; St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church (1873) in Frederickton; Norman Howard's 1922 Neo-classical limestone courthouse in Farmington; and the fascinating industrial complex of the St. Joseph Lead Company in Bonne Terre.

Registration required by June 6. First come, first served basis. Seating limited to 45 participants. Send check with names of participants to Landmarks Association, 911 Washington Ave, Suite 170, St. Louis, MO, 63101

Cost: \$50 per person. Includes lunch and light refreshments throughout the day. Depart and return from 911 Washington Avenue.



ONSL-Hyde Park and Carondelet Bicycle Tours

See St. Louis in a whole new light - by bike! Beginning May 17, Landmarks Association will be sponsoring two architecturally inspired tours via bicycle: "Old North St. Louis-Hyde Park Tour" to the north, and "Carondelet Tour" to the south.

Ride pleurably and leisurely, as your tour guide leads you by largely forgotten and hidden architectural gems. Both ONSL-Hyde Park area and the Carondelet area offer something different and unique to St. Louis. We will include brief stops at some of the more historically worthy buildings, providing the rider with a bit of history and anecdotes that mark the site's character. Our ONSL-Hyde Park tour will have a final stop at Crown Candy Kitchen while our Carondelet tour will have a mid-tour stop at Doering Bakery.

Starting/Meeting Points: ONSL-Hyde Park Tour » Trailnet Parking Lot (on Leonard K Sullivan Dr., just north of the secured parking garage at Lucas and Leonard K Sullivan Dr.); Carondelet Tour » Bellerive Park (South Broadway and Bates).

Tour Dates:
 May 17 - ONSL/Hyde Park Tour
 June 14 - Carondelet Tour
 July 19 - ONSL/Hyde Park Tour
 Aug 16 - Carondelet Tour

Tours led by Robert Bailey and Harold Karabell
 Free for members;
 \$5 for non-members

Reservations, call
 314-421-6474

EVEN MORE TOURS, TALKS, EXHIBITS & EVENTS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU!

A Landmark for the Future?

Sunday, May 10, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Visit downtown's new Gateway Station via Amtrak/ Greyhound Metro system. See how transportation and urban planning work with preservation to protect and enhance our urban environment. Meet at Forest Park Station at 1:50 p.m. (A Metro ticket costs \$2.75.) **For more information, contact Melanie Harvey at 314-306-7739.**

Book Sale Benefit, Chatillon-DeMenil House

Saturday, May 16, 10:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 17, Noon-4 p.m.

The St. Louis Rehabbers Club sponsors its third annual used book sale to benefit ongoing restoration work at the Chatillon-DeMenil House. The sale includes sections of books on architecture, gardening, history, local interest, home repair, literature and more. **For more information or to make book donations, call 314-229-0793 or email lynnjosse@sbcglobal.net.**



Soulard Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The economy might be bad now, but there's still hope in a \$5 Gucci purse or a two buck car seat. Garage sales are in season in St. Louis, and nowhere more so than in the historic Soulard neighborhood. This neighborhood-wide garage sale starts at 8am - 3pm on Saturday, May 16. A directory and map will be prepared that lists all who are participating in the yard sale. **The map will be distributed at the starting point, 2339 South 12th Street.**

Talk: Jewish Cemeteries of St. Louis County

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

St. Louis County Library, Headquarters Building, 1640 South Lindbergh Blvd.

The Jewish Special Interest Group of the St. Louis Genealogical Society presents an illustrated talk on Jewish cemeteries by Esley Hamilton. **More information: jewish-sig@stlgs.org. Free and open to the public.**

Historic Maplewood Tour

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 a.m.,

Meet at Cooper Ella's Coffee House at Hazel and Sutton

Esley Hamilton will once again lead his popular History Hike in Maplewood. Now in its 6th (or 7th?) year, this tour boasts that it has never yet lost a participant (as far as they know). Attendees will thrill to the historic info and photos that will be provided on the tour. Sites include the Kate Thomas house on Roseland Terrace, Schlafly's Bottleworks, Concordia Lutheran, the Post Office, and buildings along the original streets of Myrtle, Vine, Maple, Arbor and Flora. **For more information, contact Esley at EHamilton@stlouisco.com.**



Symbols of Collective Memory: A Photographic Survey of Missouri Courthouse Architecture

Sheldon Art Galleries

Through May 30, 2009

Tuesdays, 12 noon - 8 p.m.,
Wednesdays - Fridays, 12 noon - 5 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Curated by art historian Carol Grove, this exhibition presents an overview of the architectural variety of courthouses across the state of Missouri. This range of styles varies from the early spare brick foursquare and the classical temple-front style to the eclectic and ornate expressions representative of the late 19th century and the streamlined Work Projects Administration designs of the 1930s. Although a number of historic Missouri courthouses are listed in the National Register of Historic Places many are currently threatened by lack of funding and the availability of sufficient maintenance budgets. **Call 553-9900.**

Central West End Condominium and Terrace Tour

Saturday, May 30 & Sunday, May 31, 10:00 til 4:00 p.m.

Kick-Off Party May 29 at the Chase, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

For More Information, CWEA@thecwe.com.

Hiking into History in Old Town Clayton with County Historian Esley Hamilton.

Saturday, June 6, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

While the turn-of-the-century houses in Clayton north of Maryland are fast being replaced, similar houses in University City are being preserved in the Linden Avenue and Maryland Terrace historic districts. This tour looks at these distinguished houses plus the venerable Hanley House and some of the good new residential work by architect Louis Saur. Group will meet on Westmoreland Drive east of Jackson. **Call the Center of Clayton for reservations: (314) 290-8500 and refer to course code 8514. Pre-registration is required. \$5 per ticket.**

Lafayette Square 40th Annual House & Garden Tour

Saturday, June 6 & Sunday, June 7

10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 40th Annual Lafayette Square Spring House and Garden Tour is appropriately themed "Ruby Jubilee" and will feature the Square's own "architectural jewels" - elaborately restored Victorian-era mansions and examples of historic restorations that are underway. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour or in advance by calling (314) 772-5724. Tour begins at the corner of Lafayette and Mississippi where visitors receive tour books and maps. **For more information, visit www.lafayettesquare.org.**



Prop U Passed in U. City, Demolitions to Follow

Though voter turnout in St. Louis County was low on April 7th, those in University City turned out in greater numbers than expected to pass Proposition U, a \$53.6 million bond issue to fund the University City School District's (UCSD) plan to overhaul its facilities. The bond's passage will greatly impact all of the district's eight historic school building. Over the course of several years, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Delmar-Harvard schools will be closed, while major additions will be made to Flynn Park and Jackson Park schools, Brittany Woods Middle, and University City High. Pershing Elementary, designed by William B. Ittner in 1919, will be demolished and replaced, as will Barbara C. Jordan Elementary, designed by William B. Ittner, Inc. in 1951. The University City Historic Preservation Commission, University City Historical Society, and Landmarks Association all spoke out against the bond and its destructive nature.

Discussion within University City was heated, with many opponents questioning the correlation between new facilities and educational improvement. Supporters claimed that the

schools were "crumbling," asserting that the bill's passage was an ultimatum on whether the district would succeed. Better funded and better organized, the latter group won out. The UCSD and the citizens committee "Yes to Prop U" claimed that certain historic buildings could not be renovated into adequate spaces for "21st century students," seemingly blowing typical maintenance issues into irreparable problems. "Yes to Prop U" continued the misleading use of state "standards" and "requirements" in place of "recommendations" as reasons why Pershing and Barbara Jordan could not be reused, while discussing ADA issues in terms of requirements for new construction rather than for existing buildings. The district asserted that its plan is "green," announcing goals to achieve LEED certification for the new buildings. It further cited the salvage and reuse of historic tiles from around the demolished buildings' drinking fountains as evidence that the new designs will be "contextually sensitive to the neighborhoods that surround them."

In the end, the bond issue won 64% of the vote. Of the 36% who voted



With the passage of the \$53.6 million dollar bond issue, University City School District is set to enact a facilities plan that would call for the demolition of the historic Pershing School.

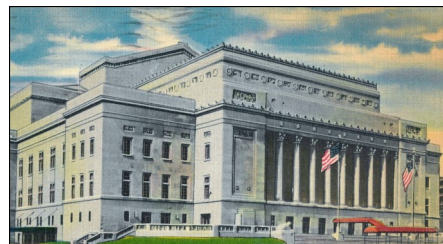
against it, many felt that the community engagement process which led to it was designed to gain support for a pre-determined plan rather than to craft a new one. In the end, the loudest support came from the southern part of University City where schools are to be added onto but not demolished. Pershing and Barbara Jordan will be lost, and whether or not the district can achieve LEED certification for a project which involves such wasteful demolition and loss of materials is questionable.

Lindsey Derrington, Research Associate

Kiel Opera House Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Missouri House of Representatives, the Missouri Senate and St. Louis County Council passed resolutions recently recognizing the 75th birthday of the Kiel Opera House. The grand civic space, originally known as the Municipal Auditorium, opened to the public on Saturday, April 14, 1934 with Mayor Bernard Dickman declaring a half-day holiday so all citizens could attend the dedication. Emily Roosevelt, cousin of the President, sang the National Anthem as well as "America," accompanied by the grand opera chorus. For the next two weeks, St. Louisans enjoyed non-stop festivi-

ties, including productions of *Aida*, *Pagliacci*, *La Boheme*, and *Madame Butterfly*, a pageant of 19 scenes and a cast of 550 people portraying the "Musical History of St. Louis," and an ensemble consisting of 14 grand pianos and 28 players. Containing a 3,500-seat opera house, an auditorium with a capacity of over 12,000, smaller assembly rooms and an exposition hall, the auditorium was an ambitious publicly-financed civic achievement. The Kiel was listed in the National Register in 2000 and most recently, Dave Checketts, chairman of SCD Worldwide and owner of the St. Louis



A vintage postcard captures the Kiel Opera House shortly after its opening in 1934.

Blues, Scottrade and the shuttered opera house, announced plans for the proposed restoration of the grand entertainment center with a slated opening for 2010.

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In Memoriam

Mary Ann Kren contacted our office recently to let us know that former Landmarks member, real estate agent, and St. Louisan, Jeffrey Drane Kimbrell passed away on March 4 in South Carolina. A former resident of Hortense Place, Kimbrell had restored homes in Arkansas and South Carolina. In 2003 he received a statewide preservation award from Gov. Mark Sanford and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

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Computer Assistance

Many thanks to Chris Marshall of Business PC Solutions for reconfiguring Landmarks access membership database.



Every Saturday from April to the end of October, Metropolis will be offering two Downtown Architectural Walking Tours. These tours start, rain or shine, at 10:00 a.m. and end at noon. Each

tour costs \$5.00, a donation to Metropolis - an organization promoting downtown living. Kids are free, and dogs on leashes are welcome. Parking is free on Saturdays at downtown parking meters. If you arrive late, please call Doug Schneider at 314-221-6381 to catch up with the group. The tours include:

Western Downtown Tour

Meet at the Hotel in Union Station on Market Street, under the marquee. This excursion includes a labyrinth, an eternal flame, a room modeled after a Roman bath, a cenotaph, a controversial bear, a scandalous fountain, a ceiling of Venetian glass and other interesting sites.

Eastern Downtown Tour

Meet at the Old Courthouse on Broadway, steps facing Kiener Plaza. Tour includes an umbrella the Pope gave to the city, a cast-iron storefront, the largest piece of stainless steel in the world, the first skyscraper in the USA and 182,000 pieces of terra cotta on a single façade.

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