

LANDMARKSLETTER



Can you guess the St. Louis location of this photo? See *Elements* on page 17.

Death Knells and Wedding Bells at a Palace on Portland Place

By Julius K. Hunter with John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP



23 Portland Place, Eames & Young, 1892, for William Henry Thornburgh and Florence Plimpton
Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP

AS YOU APPROACH THE STATELY MANSION AT NUMBER 23 PORTLAND PLACE on Saturday evening, September 23rd for the Landmark Associations fall event, you are about to step into a fantasy world where historical grandeur reigns! You'll want to wear comfortable shoes that evening because you're in for what may well turn out to be a once in a lifetime opportunity to leisurely stroll through 14,595 square feet of elegance on three floors in a totally warm and welcoming residential space.

Number 23 Portland Place began on the drawing board of two of the most dashing, prolific and distinguished architects in Victorian St. Louis. William Sylvester Eames and Thomas Crane Young had first met as students at Washington University, both graduating in 1878. They each went their separate ways, touring, sketching and studying some of Europe's most awesome classical architecture. After gaining various professional experiences and collaborating on the offices for Dr. James Green in St. Louis, they decided to form a company in 1885 to design and build imposing houses for wealthy St. Louisans, along with a wide range of impressive architectural projects.

Undeveloped wilderness properties near the then brand-new Forest Park, artistic license and the fattest of client bank accounts were striking to out-of-town and local architectural firms. Eames & Young quickly took their places among the top choices for the upper crust in flight seeking residential refuge from noise, grime, crime, disease and a rapidly expanding city with businesses and industries moving westward. The rich flocked together in quiet, verdant oases and then circled their chauffeur-driven wagons and horseless carriages for what they deemed survival of the richest.

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LANDMARKSLETTER

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®2023 Landmarks Association



Letter from the Director

Dear friends.

I look forward to seeing you all the 2023 Annual meeting, which will be held on October 22 in the carriage house at the Magic Chef Mansion (3400 Russell Blvd, 63104) from 2:00 until 4:00. We will update you all with ongoing activities of the organization and introduce you to a number of new board members and our new staff member Zeck Schultz. Zeck will be taking over administrative duties from Susan Tschetter who has been with us for decades and will be retiring this fall.

Staff has finally moved into the Soulard building after an arduous rehabilitation/reconstruction effort that spanned several years. We still have a lot of boxes to unpack, but we are now working from the building and it's wonderful. The natural light is very welcome and it's great to be in a historic property that we can proudly claim to have saved from almost certain destruction. The last piece of the puzzle is finishing the courtyard, which we hope to complete this fall using salvaged historic street paver brick.

We have enjoyed an amazing outpouring of financial support from board members, foundations, and other member donors that have literally made the project viable. I can say that despite the price tag of the rehabilitation, Landmarks Association is in better financial shape right now than ever before. Thanks to everyone that has donated (and everyone who might be considering a donation!). One of the most important reasons for our current financial health is planned estate giving from long-time members, so if you are considering financial planning at the moment, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our staff and board are standing by to discuss how you can help to ensure that St. Louis retains a dedicated voice for historic preservation for many decades and centuries to come.

I would like to give credit to our board members who have devoted untold hours to planning and managing the construction process. While moving takes a lot of staff (and board) time, of course we continue to pursue the organization's mission. For example, we are currently working on a collaborative effort to create a new National Register of Historic Places district in the heart of the Ville Neighborhood, which will facilitate multiple planned redevelopment projects and add an additional layer of protection against arbitrary demolition. We have secured another year of funding from the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission to support upcoming lectures and educational programs for local school groups and are looking forward to working with the Gene Slay Boys and Girls club in Soulard to reach new "after school" students in our neighborhood.

I would also like to recognize our dedicated volunteers who make the Downtown Walking Tour program possible. The program has enjoyed another successful season (it runs annually from April through October [www.landmarkstours-stl.org]) and is a great way to learn more about the architecture and history of the central business district. We will be working to expand this program with a Soulard neighborhood tour focused on vernacular architecture in coming

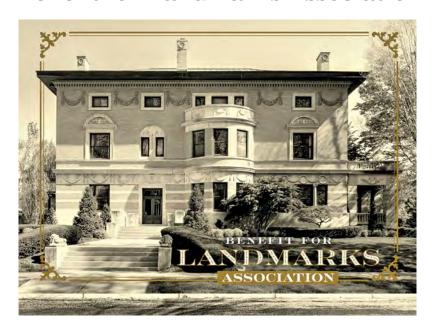
In closing, thank you to all of the people who keep Landmarks Association running. We truly are a family of people who share a love for historic architecture and who collectively devote enormous amounts of time, energy, and finances to ensure that future generations will enjoy a prosperous St. Louis Region that values and capitalizes on its rich heritage.

Best wishes,

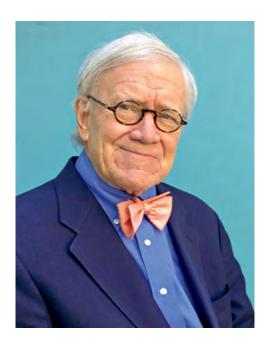


Andrew Weil
Executive Director

Benefit for Landmarks Association



Saturday, September 23, 2023 Central West End ~ 23 Portland Place



JOIN LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION IN CELEBRATING Robert William Duffy's remarkable contributions to the St. Louis community. This year we are honoring him with our H. Meade Summers Jr. Award which recognizes lifetime contributions to the cause of historic preservation in the St. Louis Region. Guests will enjoy an evening of celebration in the Central West End in a stately home listed in the Portland & Westmoreland Places Historic District.

For over 60 years, Landmarks Association has argued that the architectural heritage of St. Louis is an irreplaceable cultural and economic asset. We are grateful for our supporters and members who help us achieve our mission.

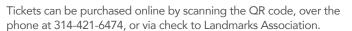
Enjoy the celebration with delicious food, drinks, desserts, a silent auction, and live music by Sarah Jane and The Blue Notes.

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm **Award:** 7:00 PM

Where: 23 Portland Place, St Louis, MO 63108
Parking: Street parking (Enter via Lake Ave

from Lindell Blvd)

Cost: \$125



All proceeds further Landmarks Association of St. Louis' mission of preserving, enhancing, and promoting St. Louis' architectural heritage.

2023 Sponsors

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Benefit sponsorship opportunities are available – please consider investing in our event and our mission. View the sponsorship opportunities under the event heading on our website https://www.landmarks-stl.org/ or email questions to Katie Graebe at kgraebe@landmarks-stl.org.



South façade, Number 23 Portland Place Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP



Distinctive terracotta garlands are placed between the third-floor windows.

Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP

"Death Knells and Wedding Bells at a Palace on Portland Place" continued from page 1

Paint and windows magnate William Henry Thornburgh and his wife, Florence Plimpton Thornburgh, had a general idea of what they wanted in a new home for them and their two young children. They had purchased a vacant lot in the burgeoning enclave that would be called "Westmoreland and Portland Places." After checking out a number of houses in the City's silk-stocking encampments, the Thornburghs knew they wanted Eames & Young for design. My colleague, architectural historian John Guenther, has a good idea of what the preliminary drawing board sketches might have offered the new clients. John . . .

The Thornburghs could see that Eames & Young were well versed in a wide range of architectural styles which reflected other clients' aspirations, as evidenced by their designs in Westmoreland Place – Numbers 5 (1891), 6 (1890), 9 (1890) and 22 (1891). The partners could certainly draw upon their travels and studies of European architecture as they designed their clients' residences in St. Louis.

For the Thornburgh residence at 23 Portland Place, Eames & Young proposed an Italian Renaissance style and motifs. Their Palazzo style design referenced the palazzi (palaces) built by wealthy families of the Italian Renaissance – most appropriate for their new client.

The south façade fronting Portland Place is a beautifully composed, tripartite composition, with a base, middle and top. The base is composed of rusticated bands of Carthage marble and tan Roman brick, with a band of decorative carved stone garlands of festoons of flowers and wreaths above the windows and entrance. The middle is composed of the second-floor windows with their stone surrounds, round pediments, and a horizontal stone sill uniting the windows. The top features a strongly projecting cornice protecting the third-floor windows, reduced in height, and horizontally proportioned, with stone frames. They reduce the scale of the overall composition, while successfully masking the true interior volume of the third-floor ballroom. Distinctive terracotta garlands are placed between the third-floor windows. These decorative motifs reference those found at the Library of San Marco in Venice and the Palazzo Branconio dell' Aquilla in Rome.

The low slope hip roof and horizontal expression of the residence and carriage house anticipate characteristics of the Prairie School.

Of note, a beautiful, two-story bow window emerges from the south facing façade to the right of the main entrance. The bow window grows from the internal planning of the residence, and gave the Thornburghs a second focal point and alcove in their living room, while bringing in abundant natural light from the south and allowing them a

view of the glorious linear landscaped park of their Portland Place community.

One can also appreciate the environmental planning and details of Eames & Young for the south facing rooms and windows, with built in wood louvers and roller shades, as well as the bow window's curving windows – frames and glass – for the window manufacturer, William Henry Thornburgh.

Equally important, the composition of the Thornburgh residence shows the mastery of its architects – Eames & Young. The design of the beautifully proportioned south façade is one of restraint and refinement, with classical motifs and yet modern in its simplification and horizontality, and inventive with its bow window as a vertical counterpoint to the horizontal composition.

Take note of the terracotta fleur-de-lis ornament at the upper corners of the façade, in line with the egg-and-dart cornice and dentils detail. It tells us that, while the design inspiration may come from the Italian Renaissance Revival Palazzi, this residence and its owners are in and of Saint Louis! There is attention to detail everywhere one may look, with the composition and details rewarding the patient observer.



Terracotta fleur-de-lis ornament at the upper corners of the façade,in line with the egg-and-dart cornice and dentils Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP



Entry Hall and Grand Stair Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP

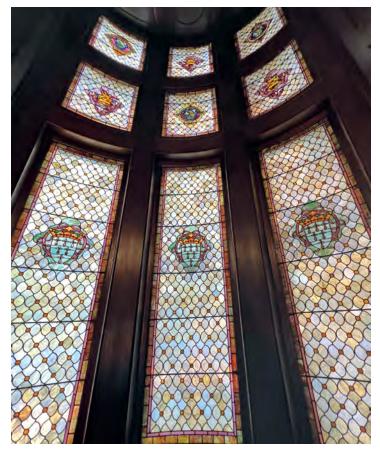
Upon entering this magnificent residence, a gracious, welcoming entry hall receives guests. Straight ahead, a grand stair cascades from the second floor, turning to greet the visitor. Atop the landing is another two-story bow window, with dramatic stained glass incorporating various iconographic patterns, all illuminated with soft north light. One can see crowns and crucifixes, perhaps another reference to the city's namesake - King Louis IX - and the location of this beautiful home.

The internal planning of the Thornburgh home is based upon axial relationships. Just as the grand staircase and bow window of stained glass align with the entrance hall, arriving by carriage under the porte-cochere, the visitor finds a great hall leading to the east and the various living spaces - an inglenook with fireplace to the north to warm the traveler, and a study (in line with the inglenook), living room, and music room - all oriented to the warm southern sunlight.

One will find a grand dining room at the end of the great hall. All of these spaces feature beautiful, rich and warm wood work and paneling, with articulated columns and beams above.

The interiors flow together beautifully and seamlessly, united by the grand stair which leads to the second floor. One can imagine the festive social gatherings within the Thornburgh home, with the assembled guests listening to the occasional words of welcome given from the landing of the grand stair.

And then there is the grand finale – the third-floor ballroom. This grand room is 68 feet long, occupying the entire footprint of the south block of the L-shape plan. The ceiling features wood beams and is partially vaulted under the shallow hip roof, yielding a beautifully proportioned room. The low, rectangular windows of the top floor are set within taller, recessed arched openings within the thickened walls, each with a window seat, on three of the four sides of the room. Eames & Young again are masters of creating beautifully proportioned space through manipulating the scale of the various elements. The original chimney, projecting through this space, is now surrounded by a uniquely designed and beautifully crafted wood bar, to serve the guests assembled.



Bow Window Stained Glass in Grand Stair Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP

Renovation and design modifications in the support spaces of the L-shape residence were deftly and successfully undertaken by Thomas Wall, Architect, of Mitchell Wall, Architecture and Design, in 2017. Julius . . .

If the walls of Number 23 Portland Place could only talk... here are just a few of the whisperings your ears might pick up when you attend the fabulously festive Landmarks Association event on the evening of September 23rd.

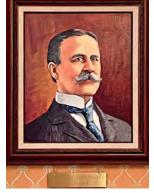
Number 23's first owner, William Henry Thornburgh, was just 57-years-old when he died of heart disease at the family's summer

retreat near Kennebunkport, Maine just seven years after the family moved into Portland Place. Widow Florence remarried and lived in the mansion for another 17 years.

In May, 1913 . . . death knells turned to wedding bells at Number 23 when the 23-year-old Thornburgh daughter, Edwine, married 29-year-old British Baron Wilfred Peek. One newspaper headline blared: "LOCAL GIRL MARRIES TITLE." The big nuptial ceremony was held with all available pomp and circumstance at

nearby First Presbyterian Church. Local newspapers unanimously trumpeted the event as the "Wedding of the Century." The parlor you'll enter at

William Henry Thornburgh the festive Landmark's event on September 23 held wedding gifts



valued at more than \$3 million in today's money. Two armed security officers stood on 24-hour vigil for a full week keeping watch over the large larder of largesse. The newlyweds honey-mooned at Hot Springs for two weeks before sailing the ocean blue to the Baron's ancestral estate in England. continued on pg. 6 >

"Death Knells and Wedding Bells at a Palace on Portland Place" continued from page 5





Edwine Thornburgh and British Baron Wilfred Peek Images from the "St. Louis Star" newspaper, May 7, 1913

Just as featured in "Downton Abbey", the Peek's baronial estate in Devonshire was conscripted and converted during WWI into a hospital for wounded British officers. Lady Edwine presided over the confiscation of the estate with grace and firm directions. The young baron, after rising to the rank of Major in military battle in "Mesopotamia," (present-day Iraq) became a war casualty, dying at the American Hospital in Paris from combat injuries just 14 years after the grand and glorious wedding festivities at Number 23 Portland Place.

Lady Edwine's and Sir Wilfred's only child, Sir Francis Henry Grenville Peek, was born three years after the wedding and lived till age 80 in 1996 in France.



Entry Hall and Grand Stair Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP

Second owners of Number 23 were Neill and Mattie Caruth McMillan. They lived there for only three years, but I'm sure the walls are still whispering about the fact that Mrs. McMillan was from a wealthy Texas family that at one time owned all the land that is now the city of Dallas.

Next to own our featured mansion were Warren and Estella Brown McElroy. Warren became a shoo-in to run Hamilton-Brown Shoe Company after marrying Estella, the boss' daughter. The company became the biggest manufacturer of footwear in the world. The indomitable Estella lived to be a remarkable 103 years old.... outliving her husband by 33 years!! Full of energy, Mrs. McElroy ordered a stem-to-stern remodeling of Number 23 just four decades after it was built. On February 28 of 1938, the lady of the house was handed the combined contractors' and interior decorator's tabs totaling \$64,787. The heiress simply pinched from the cookie jar the equivalent of \$1,397,409 in today's dough.

One of the most frightening episodes in the colorful history of Number 23 occurred on January 30, 1953. That's when a devastating fire of undetermined cause roared through the mansion causing major destruction. In fact, an insurance adjustor put the damage at \$107,000 in today's dollars.

The owner at the time of the blaze was Harry J. Tuthill, an internationally known and respected editorial cartoonist. His sketches were syndicated in more than 150 newspapers worldwide. He had owned Number 23 since 1941 following the heartbreaking death of his young wife from childbirth complications. The baby survived.

Friends and family had noted that Tuthill had been ripped apart by that death. Then came the news he received from two somber Marine officers ringing the doorbell at Number 23 in 1945. Tuthill's son, Marine Corp Infantry-man, George Henry Tuthill, had been killed in a fierce machine gun battle on Iwo Jima. The posthumous Silver Star for combat bravery was little consolation.

Whenever I think of the sad stories from Number 23... I just reflect on that regal, fairytale 1913 wedding... and then I smile when I think of Estella McElroy gleefully supervising that massive million-dollar mansion makeover.

To cap off your delightful visit to Number 23 Portland Place on Saturday evening, September 23rd, get ready for the biggest treat and surprise of the evening. Wait till you make it up to the Third Floor



Ballroom Photo by John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP

Ballroom!! Surprise! I have never seen captivating theme decor like this before!!!! Chances are. . . you haven't either!!! Be sure to purchase your tickets now! Visit https://2023Landmarksbenefit.eventbrite.com or learn more on page 3.

Julius K. Hunter, Broadcast journalist, author, historian, genealogist, columnist, musician, educator, raconteur, Landmarks Board member.

John C. Guenther, FAIA, LEED AP, is an architect, historian, author and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects for notable contributions to the advancement of the profession of architecture in design. John serves as President of the Society of Architectural Historians – St. Louis Chapter. His book – *The Gateway Arch: An Illustrated Timeline* – has recently been published by Reedy Press.

La Triviata: Eames & Young

By Julius K. Hunter

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EAMES & YOUNG? HERE'S A BIT OF TRIVIA TO TEST YOUR FAMILIARITY:



William Sylvester Eames, FAIA (1857-1915) Photograph by J.C. Strauss, 1903 Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society



Thomas Crane Young, FAIA (1858-1934) Photograph by Strauss, 1897 Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society

Questions

- Which of the two, Eames or Young, was President of the American Institute of Architects?
- 2. Which was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, of all places?
- 3. Which of the two gentlemen served as Deputy Commissioner of Public Buildings for the City before the partnership was formed?
- 4. On the advice of a trusted friend and colleague, at which point did the team begin to eschew: "the stone front, zinc cornice, iron column, pseudo classic, cheap and nasty style" then popular in the design of local buildings? That friend, William Hodges, suggested that the Eames & Young team pay more attention to the variegated beauty of St. Louis' very own natural BRICK!! Which massive local project design proved that Eames & Young took Hodges' advice to heart?
- 5. Which of the two architects left Washington University after two years to study his craft in France and Germany?

Answers

BONUS: Charles Eames

10. Thomas Crane Young

9. William Sylvester Eames

8. 7 years before Number 23 Portland Place (1892)

7. Thomas Crane Young

United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia, 1902

6. United States Federal Prison, Leavenworth, Kansas, 1895-1897

5. Thomas Crane Young, 1878-1880, Washington University

- 6. Which two infamous Federal Penitentiaries did the Eames & Young team design?
- 7. Which of the two architects was Mayor of Webster Groves (1901-1903)?
- 8. How many years after Eames & Young hung out their shingle did construction work begin on Number 23 Portland Place?
- 9. Which of the two architects was the frequent target of snarky barbs by *St. Louis Mirror* gossip columnist William Reedy? One swipe noted that "______ never married and was extremely close to his mother and five sisters."
- 10. After the death of one partner in 1915, which of the partners soldiered on and designed the colossal (some believe "monstrous") Masonic Temple on Lindell (1926)?

Bonus question: William Sylvester Eames was uncle to which groundbreaking "mid-century modern" architect/designer?

(1864-1611)

4. Cupples Warehouse complex for Brookings (18 buildings)

3. William Sylvester Eames, until 1885

2. Thomas Crane Young, 1858

Solito hold that national office

William Sylvester Eames, 1904-1905, National President, American Institute of Architects – the first member of the profession from St.

Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

1. William Sylvester Eames, 1890, 1901, 1907, President, St. Louis

Landmarks Most Enhanced Awards 2023

By Katie Graebe

LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION'S MOST ENHANCED AWARDS was held on Wednesday, June 14th, at the stunning 9th Street Abbey. Prior to the ceremony, our new Soulard offices were open for viewing. This year's award went to 12 projects that earned recognition as "outstanding examples of restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of our architectural heritage." Winners are selected based on the difficulty of the project, the historical or architectural significance of the building, diversity of building type and development entity, the capacity of the project to have a transformational effect on its surrounding area, and the project's power to inspire. The award-winning buildings demonstrate the amazing culture of rehabilitation that thrives in our region and are a testament to the skills and vision of the local development community. The 2023 winners represent a residential building and an array of institutional and commercial projects.



4021 IOWA AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO 63118 — FORMER ST. THOMAS OF AQUINAS SCHOOL Owner: 4021 Iowa LLC (Subsidiary of Blackline Design + Construction) Architect(s): Blackline Design + Construction / Contractor: Blackline Design + Construction



The former St. Thomas of Aquinas School, located in Dutchtown overlooking Laclede Park, served as the grade school for the St. Thomas of Aquinas Catholic Parish. The church is situated at 3949 lowa Ave (Established: 1882; closed in 2005). The two-story brick school building differs from the church, displaying more of an Italian Renaissance Revival influence. It was constructed in 1932 under the architect Henry P. Hoss.

After sitting vacant for approximately 20 years, Blackline acquired this property and embarked on an exterior restoration and interior adaptive reuse of the building, transforming it into 24 market-rate apartments. State and Federal tax credits were utilized for this project, amounting to a \$4.75 million redevelopment completed in 2022. Nearly all original elements were retained, with each classroom being converted into a residential unit. Historic flooring, casework, chalkboards, doors, interior glazing, trim, ceiling medallions, and even light fixtures were all restored and incorporated into the new design.

2. 4308 MANCHESTER AVE. — THE DOGWOOD IN THE GROVE Owner: Kelly and Sean Spencer (The Dogwood STL) (The Social Affair, LLC) Architect(s): Trivers and Associates / Contractor: Paramount Construction / Kyle Miller



Constructed in 1941 by owners Charles Grady and August Kucharski, 4308 Manchester Ave. originally operated as a Kroger Grocery until 1962. Afterward, it was occupied by Tom O'Malley from O'Malley Metal Polishing Company for over 20 years. Despite the storefront appearing

vacant with boarded-up windows, Tom O'Malley was renowned as one of the finest metal polishers and among the last remaining in St. Louis. When he decided to retire, Kelly Spencer, owner of The Social Affair, purchased the property on June 15, 2017, without a concrete plan.

Recognizing the need for a venue that encompassed the missing elements in the market, Kelly embarked on designing her own event space. This included an in-house commercial kitchen, indoor and outdoor areas, and two separate floors for ceremonies and celebrations.

With the assistance of Trivers Architects and Paramount Construction, the \$2+ million project transformed the building into an exceptional venue. The grand entrance features 1890s doors sourced from New Orleans, while the stylish interiors showcase a 15-foot marble top custom bar and a striking 35-foot grand staircase leading to the new second floor and terrace. The property also boasts a commercial kitchen, ADA accessibility, and additional outdoor spaces. An additional \$100k was invested in the adjacent garden/green space, and a trellis is currently being added to the terrace. Adjacent buildings were renovated to accommodate a wedding lounge and suite.

3318 & 3333 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63103

Owner: Kranzberg Arts Foundation

Architect(s): Chandler Ahrens / Open Source Architecture

Contractor: Lockwood Construction & Development / Accepting the Award: Chris Hansen (Kranzberg Arts Foundation)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Kranzberg Arts Foundation recently renovated 3318 and 3333 Washington Ave. The organization plays a vital role in fostering a thriving arts community in the St. Louis region by providing essential infrastructure, including artistic venues, studios, workspaces, and both short and long-term residencies. With a focus on community-based programming, the Foundation ensures that its investments align with the broader community's needs and vision. With a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity, the Foundation not only promotes economic development and cultural sustainability but also positions St. Louis as a premier destination for arts and entertainment.



Recently, Forbes recognized the Grand Center Arts District in St. Louis as the most exciting emerging arts district in America, with a particular emphasis on the work of the Kranzberg Arts Foundation in creating a vibrant neighborhood.

The Kranzberg Arts Foundation operates several venues, including The Big Top at 3401 Washington Blvd., The Grandel + The Dark Room at 3610 GRANDEL SQ., High Low at 3301 WASHINGTON BLVD., The Kranzberg at 501 N GRAND BLVD., The Marcelle at 3310 SAMUEL SHEPARD DR., .Zack at 3224 LOCUST ST., Central Stage at 3524 Washington Ave, and the newly added Sophies Artist Lounge at 3333 WASHINGTON AVE.

3318 WASHINGTON

The former warehouse located at 3318 Washington Avenue was originally constructed in the early 1920s. This single-story building spans 6,050 square feet and features concrete floors and steel roof beams. Throughout its history, it primarily served automotive purposes, initially housing the Kellerman Motor Car Co. (1923), followed by The Brodhead Company, which showcased its collection of high-quality used cars including Cardinals and Lincolns (1928). It later became the headquarters for The Automotive Equipment and Supply Company before they moved in 1938. By the 1950s, it transitioned into a tire warehouse and specialized in re-capped tires. After the recent rehab, the building now serves as the home for Artist Cbabi Bayoc and Mid Coast Media.



3333 WASHINGTON

Constructed in the early 1920s, 3333 Washington Avenue also initially served the automotive sales and service industry. This two-story building spans 36,000 square feet and features concrete and tile floors, steel roof beams, concrete and steel columns, as well as rod and wood trusses. In 1924, it was home to the Owen Baskett Motor Co., later transitioning to the W. H. Owen Co., a service station dealership specializing in Firestone tires. By 1935, it became the Milstrand Motor Co., a Dodge and Plymouth dealership, and in 1940, it housed Downtown Pontiac. In September 1950, it was transformed into an athletic equipment warehouse as part of Rawlings Manufacturing Company's extensive program expansion. Rawlings leased 3333 Washington as a shipping warehouse.

Following an extensive renovation that included some hiccups, like the collapse of the north wall, the building now offers a mix of commercial and creative-use spaces. It opened to the public in the fall of 2021 and is home to various entities, including Sophie's Artist Lounge, KAF Resident Organizations such as the Saint Louis Fashion Fund and St. Louis Shakespeare Festival's offices, as well as commercial tenants like Elasticity, Scene Event Space, Mark Buckheit Frame Shop, Open Studios, Mike Martin Media, and Page Avenue Photography. Additionally, it houses The Walls Off Washington, an ongoing Mural Walk showcasing over 20 murals created by local, national, and international artists. These murals extend around the district and various KAF buildings, creating an artistic and vibrant atmosphere.

continued on pg. 10 >

4 7135 CANTERBURY AVE. — WILKINSON LOFTS

Owner: 7212 Arsenal, LLC (Brian Minges, Advantes Group subsidiary)
Architect(s): Jeff Hyatt, Trio Creative, LLC / Contractor: Advantes Construction, LLC



The abandoned Wilkinson School building in Ellendale underwent a remarkable transformation by Advantes Group. Designed by architect Rockwell Milligan, this Jacobethan revival-style elementary school was closed in 2008 but Advantes Group purchased it in 2018 and restored it by 2020-2022. The renovation project successfully preserved original features, including the slate roof, front entry doors, wood windows, and marble tile flooring. The building now houses 34 market-rate apartments, 2,484 sq. ft. of commercial spaces, and amenities such as a fitness center and 39,524 sq. ft. of permanent green space through an easement with MSD's Green Infrastructure Grant Program.

Despite facing challenges related to timing, rising construction costs, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the renovation of Wilkinson School was completed in October 2022. The project brought new life to the neighborhood, which had seen minimal development in recent years. The transformed building stands as a significant investment and a revitalized landmark, showcasing the successful preservation and adaptive reuse of a historic structure.

5. 4923 DAGGETT — THE MARKETPLACE ON THE HILL Owner: Mark Erker (Little Trammer LLC) (Catering St Louis Events) Architect(s): Space Architecture / Contractor: Maplewood Contractors



The Marketplace on the Hill is part of a larger complex developed by Mark Erker and Carleen Kramer, who purchased the building in 2019. Sandwiched between the Kingshighway overpass and I-44, the Marketplace is set back from Daggett Ave within the historic Hill neighborhood. This antique market and event space occupies a historic building that was originally the home to Mancha Storage Battery Locomotive, which manufactured small narrow gauge electric locomotives for the mining industry.

The Marketplace on the Hill contains The Hill Antique Market and La Verona event space, in addition to their existing building, which houses Oliva Café and Oliva Lofts. After years of creating welcoming event spaces as owners of Catering St. Louis Events and having knowledge of scouting antique wares, Mark and Carleen opened the Marketplace in 2019 and have been expanding it through 2022. As of 2022, The Hill Antique Market now boasts 16,000 square feet of aisles and cases and hosts over 75 vendors with high-quality vintage wares. Since creatively repurposing this part of St. Louis' industrial history, The Hill Antique Market has expanded several times, with plans for further growth. In Mark's words, "We appreciate the opportunity to preserve the neighborhood while also providing people with an exciting place to visit."

6. 725 KINGSLAND AVE. — LEWIS COLLABORATIVE Owner: Lewis Center ML, LLC Architect(s): Lawrence Group (Greg Trost) / Contractor: HBD Construction, Inc. (now Russell)



Constructed between 1909 and 1926 and designed by the renowned firm of Eames and Young with additions by William Ittner, this building originally served as the Academy of Fine Arts for the St. Louis Women's League, which was an outgrowth of the endeavors of Edward Gardner Lewis. Lewis was the founder of University City as well as the "Women's Magazine" whose headquarters are now the University City City Hall. The current project converted the building into 93 unique multi-family market-rate apartments and 16,000 square feet of office space. The project did a wonderful job preserving the original exterior including complete masonry restoration and new replica wooden windows. Inside, the high ceilings, clerestories, and skylights (originally designed to light educational spaces) provided opportunities to create unique contemporary living and workspaces. The Lewis Collaborative is an outstanding example of how old spaces that are intrinsic to a community's identity can be made new and repurposed for future generations.

16 S. ILLINOIS ST. — LOFTS ON THE SQUARE

Owner: MH Belleville Associates LP

Architect(s): WJW Architects, Mike Jerabek / Contractor: Holland Construction



Located just across the river, the Hotel Belleville was constructed in 1930 by the architecture firm Manske & Bartling and contractors Bauer Bros. Const. for the Belleville Hotel Co. The six-story building features

expressive art-deco geometric brickwork, terra cotta, and stone details, with a spacious lobby that rises to a mezzanine housing a central skylit atrium. Facing the county courthouse, the hotel opened its doors in 1931 and quickly became a premier lodging location, particularly for trade meetings and conventions. However, as downtown customers dwindled due to deindustrialization and suburbanization, the hotel's popularity declined. It was later converted into senior housing by the Belleville Archdiocese before eventually becoming vacant in 2009.

The building faced the imminent threat of demolition, but thanks to a lengthy community campaign and a partnership between the Southwestern Illinois Development Agency and Bywater Development, it was saved. Through innovative funding strategies, including the utilization of historic tax credits, the project successfully transformed the hotel into affordable senior apartments. This not only preserved the last remaining pre-World War II building anchoring Belleville's central fountain square and the intersection of Main and Illinois avenues but also became one of the first projects to receive an allocation from Illinois' expanded statewide historic rehabilitation tax credit. The rehabilitation project provided much-needed inclusive housing, while also highlighting the power of local advocacy and the significance of historic preservation in downtown redevelopment.

S 4751 MORGAN FORD RD. — LITTLE BEVO

Owner: Jumpstart Properties, LLC (Nicholas Freund)

Architect(s): J.P. Melton Design / Contractor:

Historic Preservation Consultant: Maureen McMillan, Preservation Consultant

Accepting the Award: Nick Fruend



Constructed in 1924 for restaurateur C. Henry Dietz, who was arguably St. Louis' first "Celebrity Chef," Dietz had previously worked for Tony Faust downtown and through the Busch/Faust family connection was recruited to run the Bevo Mill when it first opened. Little Bevo was designed to complement the design of the main Mill building situated across the street. It's a testament to the Busch's respect for Dietz (whose family lived in the mill tower) that they allowed him to construct and operate a competing restaurant next door while still running operations at the Mill.

The building operated as a restaurant and, reputedly as a speakeasy during Prohibition, until being vacated in the late 1980's. Decades of vacancy and neglect compounded by material and labor shortages during covid compounded the challenges of rehabilitation. Most of the floor and roof joists had to be replaced in addition to all systems. Great efforts were made to preserve the original terrazzo and encaustic tile flooring as well as textured plaster walls. After many years, laudable efforts, the lights are back on in Little Bevo; a curious and unique part of St. Louis' culinary and architectural history. The Lodge, Game Room and Bar area are a sought-after event venue and the commercial kitchen in the rear has been converted to an air bnb space.

9. 4701 NORTHWEST DR. — WEST GATEHOUSE

Owner: Tower Grove Park

Architect(s): SmithGroup – Jim Sheperd, AIA, LEED / Contractor: Vanstar Construction – Nick Hugeback Accepting the Award: Bill Reininger & William Rein (Tower Grove Park)



The West Gatehouse at Tower Grove Park, built in 1870 and enlarged in 1880, has undergone a comprehensive rehabilitation project. Designed in the Gothic Revival style by Francis Tunica, the building originally served as a gatekeeper's home, and then was rented to staff or private tenants over the years. The rehabilitation project included a comprehensive restoration of the exterior masonry including both the limestone walls and the slate roof. Based on historic photos and material analysis, the original "TGP" initials that had faded and been covered with mold/moss over the years were restored with Vermont Green and Purple Slate. Flashing, gutters, downspouts, chimney caps were replaced with heavy gauge copper and original windows were replicated. All internal systems were replaced, and the building was sensitively modified to meet ADA compliance. It now serves as the offices of Tower Grove Park's Volunteer and Education Coordinator, along with a team of Naturalists from the Missouri Department of Conservation. This project exemplifies Tower Grove Park's ongoing and painstaking efforts to protect the heritage of its landscape and architecture for future generations.

10. 4175 SHAW BLVD. — BAILEYS' RANGE ON SHAW Owner: David & Kara Bailey (Baileys' Restaurants) Architect(s): Kyle Nottmeier / Contractor: Spiegelglass Accepting the Award: Kara & David Bailey



Constructed in 1924, this neighborhood service station is emblematic of the first wave of buildings that were erected as automobiles became accessible to the middle class during the roaring 20s. The site originally housed the outhouses for the Mulanphy School and later became a filling station built by the Vogt Family, who resided across the street. It operated as a Gulf Oil Station until the mid-1980s. After being vacant for approximately 12 years, the building's interior had completely collapsed. Furthermore, due to its previous use, there was a significant need for environmental remediation. Through a complete historic rehabilitation of the existing structure, along with the addition of a rear extension and a spacious patio, the restaurant now comfortably accommodates 200 guests. After years of planning and hard work, the building has once again become a valuable asset to the neighborhood.

11. 2127 N 11TH ST. — WEBSTER SCHOOL SENIOR APARTMENTS Owner: Lewis McKinney (Webster School Senior Apartments LP) Architect(s): Melissa Cox - Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture / Contractor: Double Diamond Construction

Architect(s): Melissa Cox - Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture / Contractor: Double Diamond Construction Accepting the Award: Sabrina Canada & Paul Hohmann (Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture)



Constructed in 1906 and designed by renowned SLPS architect William B. Ittner, Webster School was built to replace an older school building in the same location on one of three circular plazas. These plazas were designated for public use in 1818 back when the neighborhood was a community unto itself, prior to annexation by St. Louis City. The school is considered one of the earliest extant examples of Ittner's open plan layout, which maximized natural light in the classroom.

The school sat vacant for 13 years. This project demonstrates how St. Louis' progressive school architecture, which focused on natural light, air flow, and circulation of the population, is incredibly adaptable for housing. The project created 45 affordable Senior apartments and included restoration of historic interior features such as wood flooring, doors and trim, built-in cabinets, marble base molding, glazed block walls, leaded glass windows, corridor lighting, and the exterior masonry.

As the student population of St. Louis City Public Schools continues to decline, it is truly wonderful to see groups take creative approaches to redevelopment of these unique and highly significant buildings.

12. 5266 MAPLE AVE.

Owner: 5266 Maple LLC (Erica Henderson and Guy Slay)

Architect(s): Jeff McGee, St. Louis Design Alliance / Contractor: Mangrove LLC Historic Preservation Consultant: Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist

Accepting the Award: Erica Henderson



This historic single-family home, designed by A. A. Fischer in 1901, had been vacant since a devastating fire in 2005, until 2019 when Erica Henderson and Guy Slay took on the challenge. The renovation plans and historic tax credit application were delayed, coinciding with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 shutdown, delaying work and completion until 2022. Despite extensive structural damage, water infiltration, and the need for meticulous repairs, the Mangrove team successfully restored the house, preserving its original floor plan and incorporating new wiring, plumbing, and HVAC equipment. The project, costing approximately \$450,000, has not only saved the building but also served as an inspiration for further revitalization and preservation efforts in the Mount Cabanne/Raymond Place neighborhood.

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The Dogwood in the Grove

Tower Grove Neighborhood Community Development Corp.

And our venue and catering: 9th Street Abbey and Urban Eats





Former Uhrig/Excelsior Brewery

The following photographs were taken by Landmarks' staff during the renovation of Union Station by Lodging Hospitality and Management (LHM) in 2015 (a renovation for which LHM received a Most Enhanced Award). During the transformative rehabilitation, we were able to gain access to the remnants of the lagering cellars of the former Uhrig/ Excelsior brewery that occupied the site from the mid 19th century until the construction of Union Station leveled the remaining buildings in 1892. These cellars were built into a natural cave system that was associated with "Camp Spring" that once flowed into Mill Creek to the

south. The spring provided clean water for the brewery and the caves provided a reliably cool environment for the storage of beer.

In addition to the cellars, buried below the northeast corner of the Station at 18th and Market are the remnants of ad hoc World War II Era restrooms that accommodated the thousands of troops that passed through the Station on a daily basis in the 1940s. Interestingly, prior to the installation of refrigerant-based air conditioning, Union Station developed what today we would call a "geothermal" cooling system that vented cold air from the cellars and caves into its enclosed public spaces.



Need captions for top left and above photos.



Welcome Our New Office Administrator

"HI THERE, I'M ZACK SCHULTZ, and I'm absolutely thrilled to join the team as the new Operations Manager at Landmarks. I'm excited to help support the company's social media presence, office management, and other administrative duties, all in support of our wonderful cause.

St. Louis has been my home for the past ten years, and I've become deeply connected to the community during this time. My previous work history has exposed me to diverse experiences – including various roles in education at Washington University in St. Louis, shift supervisor work in one of the fastest-paced Starbucks locations in the county, and banking fraud-related customer service investigation for Cash App – which have equipped me with the skills to contribute meaningfully to Landmarks' mission.

Beyond my professional endeavors, I'm actively engaged with the St. Louis community through my love for music and theater. Over the years, I've been fortunate to be a part of various music groups (including Brainwaves, Sorry Scout, and The Legendary Tiger Rider) as well as theatrical performances (most recently with Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble's production of *Brontë Sister House Party*), which have only strengthened my love for this city's vibrant cultural scene!

I'm truly looking forward to making a positive impact as the Operations Manager at Landmarks Association of St. Louis, and I can't wait to collaborate with the community in learning about, preserving, and appreciating our city's beautiful architecture. Thank you for this incredible opportunity, and I'm excited to embark on this journey with everyone involved!" with everyone involved!"



ANNUAL LANDMARKS MEMBERSHIP MEETING Sunday, October 22nd, 2 - 4 PM

Annual Landmarks Membership Meeting

Join Landmarks for the 2023 annual membership meeting! Enjoy a reception with light snacks and drinks and updates on organizational activities from the Landmarks' board and staff.

WHEN: Sunday, October 22, 2:00-4:00 PM

WHERE: 3400 Russell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104 (Carriage House*)

FREE STREET PARKING

This Event is FREE and open to ALL Landmarks members and prospective members, but PLEASE RSVP at https://AnnualMembershipMeeting.eventbrite.com

*The house is not open for tours during this time. The annual meeting will take place in the carriage house.

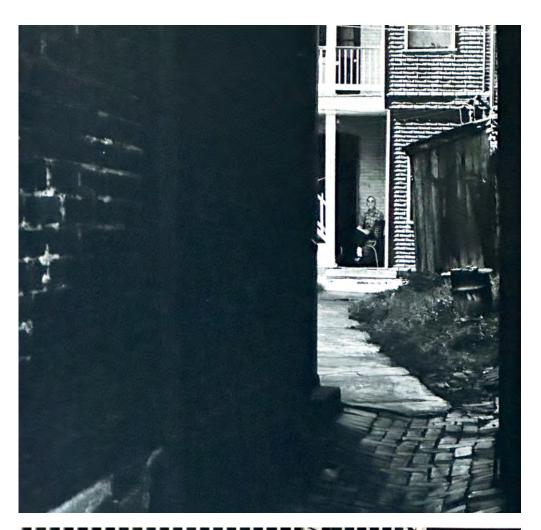
Eastman Photographs

MICHAEL EASTMAN OF MICHAEL EASTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY recently came by our office to share two photographs that he took of a man named Gregor Krekorvatz sitting on the porch of the alley house at our new office space. The photos are fascinating because they reveal new details about the historical configuration of the alley house, with an exterior stairway (long gone) as well as the appearance of the courtyard in bygone days.

Because of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, we knew that a privy and cistern existed in the northwest corner of the courtyard historically, but had no idea that they persisted into the 1970s. The privy (outdoor toilet) is the vertical board structure at the right of the photo. In front of it (much lower) is likely the cover for the cistern/well, which is also depicted on the maps in the 19th and early 20th century. While it's unclear if the two units are still in use at the time of the photo, it's still interesting to see them. The proximity of the porous brick and plaster lined facilities, which is frighteningly common in 19th century urban environments, sheds some obvious insight into the prevalence of waterborn diseases at the time.

The 1947/48 Civic League Plan (authored by Harland Bartholomew and Associates) has a fascinating map that depicts percentage of housing units still served by outdoor toilets. At that time, Soulard was among the highest in the city weighing in at 80%.

According to Robert Brandhorst, a community activist and former Landmarks Board member, his friend Mr. Krekorvatz was originally from Ukraine and fought on the "White" (anti Communist) side during the Russian Civil War (1917-1923). Bob remembers Gregor living in the alley house and making bone soup on a regular basis from discarded waste from kitchens and Soulard Market. Back in the 1970s, many Soulard residents still retained strong ancestral ties to Central and Eastern Europe, ties that have largely faded today. We are grateful to Robert Eastman for the images and to Bob Brandhorst for the memories.





Elements

By Andrew Weil

RECENTLY, A LONG TIME MEMBER of Landmarks (Mr. Robert Nussbaumer) sent a photograph to our office to see if we could identify the location. Detective work by Preservation Specialist Katie Graebe began by researching the business names that are visible in the store windows. Using city directories, Katie was able to identify the location of the photo as 1428-1430 South Broadway. The photo is facing east on South Broadway just south of its intersection with Park Avenue (very close to our new office in Soulard).

Unfortunately these stately buildings fell victim to the almost wholesale demolition of the portion of the neighborhood east of 7th in the mid 20th century for light industrial redevelopment.

This section of the neighborhood appears to have been dominated by Hungarian immigrants as evidenced by the names of the various shops. Visible are the Pazman Watchmaker and Jeweler, Edward Nussbaumer's Notions and Postcard Shop, and the *Amerika Magyar Nepszava*, which was a Hungarian Language newspaper.

The man in the wheelbarrow is apparently headed off to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, which opened in 1915. Given the mode of transport, I wonder if he made it?

There are so, so many wonderful photos of old St. Louis hidden in family collections. Please feel free to share them and we will be happy to work with you to figure out locations and history!



Landmarks Association Membership

AUGUST 1, 2022 - JULY 31, 2023

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.

Thanks!

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