



LANDMARKS LETTER



Can you guess the building this architectural detail is from? See *Elements* on page 2.

A Landmark in the Making: the Oscar Waring Home

by Andrew Weil

FROM 1884 UNTIL 1911, this was the home of Oscar M. and Mary C. Waring. Mr. Waring was the first African American principal of Sumner High School, a remarkable scholar, and pioneering educator. African American teachers were first employed in the segregated schools of St. Louis in the 1877-78 school year. According to historian John Wright, this shift in policy led to significant increases in enrollment with the African American student population jumping 35%, 20%, and 27% respectively in the first three years that the policy was in place. Superintendent William Torrey Harris explained this growth by saying that previously many African American parents had kept their children out of the public schools because they felt that white teachers were hostile. According to the SLPS, Waring was appointed as the first black principal of Sumner High School in 1879, although he is first recorded in that position by the city directory in 1881.

Although some conflicting information has been published, census and death records indicate that Waring was born about 1841 in Pennsylvania to Virginian parents. A biography published by the SLPS when the former Pope School was renamed for Waring in 1920 stated that he was actually born in Richmond Virginia, the son of a free African American candle maker, and that the family moved to Pennsylvania shortly after his birth. The accounts agree that the family later relocated to Ohio where Waring attended Oberlin College, which had become the first American collegiate institution to integrate in 1835. He received an education in both the Classics and the law and is credited with being a scholar of seven languages, both ancient and modern.



1211 Tower Grove Avenue, home of Oscar and Mary Waring
1884-1911

Prior to coming to St. Louis around 1877, Waring had a wide ranging career. After the Civil War, he worked for a time with the Freedmen's Bureau teaching former slaves how to read. He also practiced law in Washington D.C., taught mathematics at Alcorn College in Mississippi, and served as the principal of a high school in Louisville, Kentucky where he met his wife Mary Adams.

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Elements

STOCKSTROM COAT OF ARMS

THIS DETAIL IS OF THE STOCKSTROM family coat of arms executed in terra cotta on the central gable of the Magic Chef Mansion at 3400 Russell. Designed by Ernst Janssen for the family of stove magnate Charles Stockstrom and his wife Hedwig, the house was constructed between 1907 and 1909. The Stockstrom coat of arms features a shield on which the stump of a tree (in German) "stock" as well as a flowing stream "strom" are depicted beneath a helmet with a paired trident crest. Inside the home, the coat of arms is also depicted in stained glass on the landing of the grand staircase between the first and second floors. The home is a preeminent example of Chateausque style architecture in St. Louis, and it serves as a showcase of local materials including terra cotta, brick, and Missouri red granite. Inside, it displays not only the lavish tastes of a 19th century industrial baron, but the incredible skills of the local artisans who molded, painted, carved, and glazed its elaborate finishes.

The Magic Chef Mansion is available for event rentals and also opens its doors for monthly self-guided public tours. The remaining tour dates for 2018 are 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3, and a Christmas tour on 12/1. All tours are from 2:00–5:00 except for the Christmas tour (December 2), which is from 11:00–4:00. During tours, the home is open to explore and staffed with knowledgeable docents. Guests are provided with a tour brochure, which guides them through the first and second floors as well as the basement bowling alley and saloon. Admission for public tours costs \$15 per person. Private group tours are also available starting at \$250. For more information, visit <http://magicchefmansion.com> or call Shelley Donaho at 314-664-3400.



Most Enhanced Awards Celebrated

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 1, Landmarks Association and over two hundred guests celebrated excellence in historic rehabilitation with the 22nd annual Most Enhanced Awards. We had a record number of submissions this year, which is a great indicator of how much progress is being made in restoring St. Louis' architectural heritage.

This year Mayor Lyda Krewson and M.C. Debbie Monterrey kicked off the program, which was held at the Shaw neighborhood's newest event venue Wild Carrot. Originally constructed as the Shaw Theater in 1915, the building had fallen into extreme disrepair and had become a neighborhood redevelopment priority. Following an intervention by the city's Community Development Agency, Alderman Conway, and the Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation, a new owner was found and a fabulous rehabilitation and adaptive reuse executed by Urban Improvement Company (UIC).



Most Enhanced Awards audience.

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The Architectural Legacy of Restaurateur Tony Faust

by Andrew Weil

DESPITE THE FACT THAT his restaurant has been closed for more than a century, St. Louis' great restaurateur Tony Faust is still a household name. While the legend of Tony Faust's Restaurant and Oyster House lives on, the building itself was demolished in 1933, as was the adjacent Southern Hotel, from which Faust's Fulton Market had been selling seafood and gourmet specialty items since the 1880s. Still, the legacy of Tony Faust survives in many buildings and sites in St. Louis.

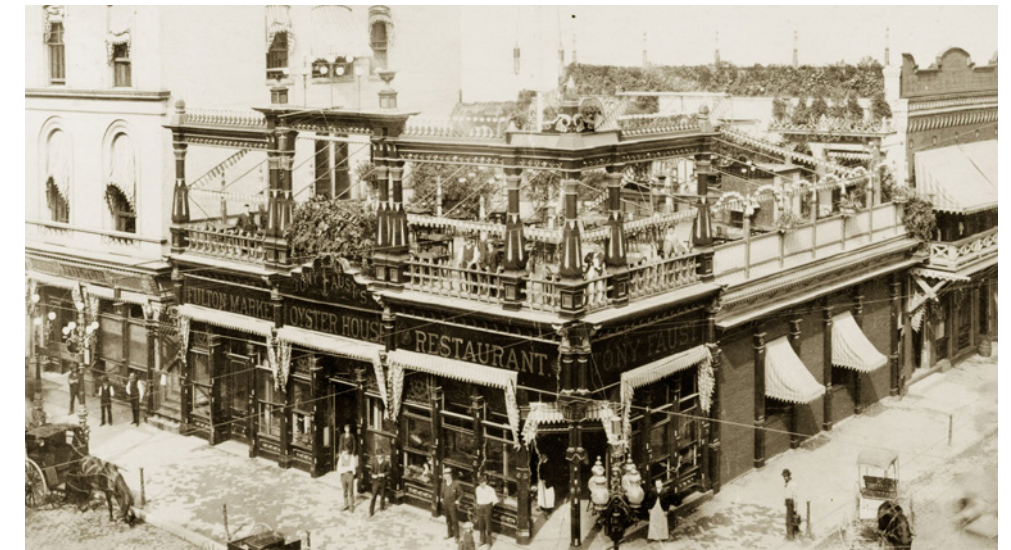
Faust arrived in the United States from Germany in 1853. A plasterer by trade, the trajectory of his life was changed forever when he was hit by a stray bullet while standing in the crowd watching the confrontation between Federal troops and Confederate militia at Camp Jackson in 1861. While not fatal, the wound left him unable to perform the physical work of plastering, so he opened a small café on what is today Broadway in the vicinity of Busch Stadium. Despite his injury, he joined the Union Army during the Civil War, but his unit never saw service and when his enlistment expired, he returned to his café. Faust specialized in Oysters, which, undeterred by the lack of artificial refrigeration, were a very popular food in 19th century St. Louis. In the early years, the shellfish were packed in ice and sent up the river on steamboats from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. As the railroads expanded and refrigerated freight cars perfected, oysters began arriving by the train load from the east as well.

Faust prospered as a restaurateur. This was due to his attention to detail, appreciation of fine food, and his affable personality. At his funeral, congressman Richard Bartholdt said "[I]f I were asked what were the strongest traits of his character, I would say congeniality and that benign goodness of heart which prompted him to say or do always that would tend to make others cheerful and happy...It can be truthfully said of him—and it can be said of but few—that of the many, many thousands who knew him, there was not one who bore him a grudge."

In 1870, Faust moved his operation twenty blocks to the north to Broadway and Elm next to the Southern Hotel and Olympic Theater. There it grew to become Tony Faust's Oyster House and Saloon, the most celebrated restaurant in St. Louis. At Faust's, the gilded age aristocracy of the city dined in high style, alongside visiting dignitaries and theater goers staying at the Southern Hotel. Among the regular patrons was Adolphus Busch, whose daughter Anna Louise married Faust's son Edward. The two families were quite close; Edward rose to become a vice president of Anheuser-Busch and the company even brewed "Faust Beer" to be served in the restaurant. As a wedding present, Busch had #1 Portland Place constructed for the couple.

Tony Faust's restaurant was damaged when the Southern Hotel burned in 1877, but Faust rebuilt and added a rooftop terrace for outdoor dining. In 1880, he also opened a retail establishment in the new Southern Hotel next door. Known as "Faust's Fulton Market" the store was a gourmand's idea of heaven. Advertisements announced the sale of imported marzipan, spice cookies, ginger bread, goose breasts and livers, sausages, caviar, herring as well as fresh oysters, lobster, fish, and clams.

Always seeking improvement, Faust traveled extensively in Europe inspecting and studying restaurants. After ten years, these experiences had convinced him to once again replace his building, resulting in the



Tony Faust's Oyster House, Missouri History Museum Collection.



Faust's Fulton Market branch, 3219 Olive.

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In Houses Dwell Stories: a Simple House History Reveals a Crime that Shocked the Country

by Robert M. Bruce MD with Andrew Weil

IN THE LATE 1890s, a terrible crime horrified the people of St. Louis, and fed the sensationalist appetites of newspapers and tabloids across the country. A double murder committed by the depraved scion of a wealthy and respected family was an irresistible story for Victorian gossip-mongers, and for a period the ruin of St. Louisan Arthur Duestrow was national news. Today, the story is almost forgotten. With the exception of a single surviving home and an unmarked grave in a distinguished family plot, over the last century, the combined forces of highway construction, a tornado, and even the end of the Montana silver boom, have erased almost all the places that once formed the landscape of the saga.

On the morning of February 13, 1894 Arthur Duestrow departed his mistress Clara Howard at 814 S.14th Street in St. Louis on his way to keep a date with his wife and young son for a 1:00 sleigh ride. As he traveled west on Chouteau Avenue, returning to his home at 1724 South Compton, Duestrow stopped at various saloons becoming ever more drunk and irritable.



1724 S. Compton (demolished). Home of Arthur Duestrow. Swekosky photo collection, Missouri History Museum.

He arrived home late, just before 4 PM. He stumbled from his sleigh. Mrs. Duestrow (Albertina) saw him from a second floor window and sent her teenage servant downstairs to let him in. After cursing the girl and brandishing a pistol, a domestic dispute ensued in which both Mrs. Duestrow and the couple's two year old son Louis were shot.

Arthur stumbled out the front door into the snowy street and commandeered a passing teamster who transferred him to the police station at the southeast corner of Lafayette and Grand. Situated in a stately Italianate house constructed in 1859 for attorney George Hoyle, the building had been acquired by the City as it consolidated land for the Compton Hill Reservoir. There, Duestrow told the authorities that he thought something bad had happened to his wife. He was reported to have stated: "...it was an accident—an accident—I tell you. I am no murderer. I did not kill her." He was wrong. The couple's son had died immediately; Albertina succumbed four days later. Arthur remained incarcerated for the rest of his short life.



George Hoyle Mansion, later used as a police station. Southwest corner Lafayette and Grand., Missouri History Museum.

The murder of Albertina and Louis was a tragedy; ruination of Arthur Duestrow was a scandal. He came from a family of great accomplishment and wealth and his life was defined by privilege and opportunity. Arthur's father Louis was born in Germany in 1832 and immigrated to the United States at the age of 16. Within five years he became an officer of the Franklin Life Insurance Company, which had a payroll of over \$1 million in 1855. He became a pillar of the community. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War, was an incorporator of the Compton Hill Improvement Company, and served terms as President of the St. Louis Turnverein and Liederkranz Club.

In the late 1870s, Louis Duestrow was approached by Montana silver prospectors who had come to St. Louis seeking investors. Although initially reluctant, Louis eventually joined a syndicate that furnished \$130,000 and created the Saint Louis and Montana Silver Mining Company. The company met with little, if any, initial success and when a request for more funding arrived with no news of silver, the syndicate telegraphed the following reply: "[T]here will be no more money coming. You can come back to Saint Louis if you want to." Fortunately for Duestrow and the other investors, a tornado had knocked down transmission lines and delayed delivery of the message long enough for the prospectors to discover one of the most lucrative silver lodes in American history. The mine the company went on to establish in Granite, Montana (now a ghost town) became so productive that stockholders were earning six figure dividends by the late 1880s, and it made Duestrow a millionaire.

The 1880 census found the Duestrow family (Louis and Frederika, children Arthur [11] and Hulda [4]) living at the Stoddard Arms Hotel downtown. Louis and Frederika were able to give their children every advantage in life, but as Arthur grew older, he managed to squander his position. After the prodigal son spent four years enrolled in the Missouri Medical College skipping classes, failing exams, drinking, carousing, and unemployed, Louis realized that he needed to take steps to protect the family's wealth. While he did provide money for Arthur to purchase and expand the home 1724 South Compton, his 1891 will established two trusts to regulate his assets after his death. These trusts provided

comfortable, if not lavish income for Frederika, Arthur and Hulda, while assigning ultimate distribution to either grandchildren or a variety of charities. One year to the day of executing the will, Louis died.

Following the murder of his wife and child, Arthur Duestrow hired Charles Philip Johnson, former Missouri Lieutenant Governor (1873–75) and the most prominent criminal lawyer at the time to defend him. Knowing an insanity defense was to be pursued, Fredericka departed for Germany to visit her late husband's family. During the trip, she hoped to discover evidence of familial mental illness that might help to save her son from the hangman's noose. She died abroad.

Arthur's first trial took place in St. Louis where a jury deadlocked over Duestrow's mental state. The case was retried in Union, Missouri where one jury found Arthur fit to stand trial and another sentenced him to hang. Extensive, though unsuccessful appeals were pursued all the way to the Missouri Supreme Court. An entreaty from the West End Benevolent Society briefly convinced Missouri Governor Lawrence Vest Stephens to commute Arthur's sentence to life imprisonment in the Saint Louis Insane Asylum. After signing the order, Stephens had a change of heart and tore it up.

Arthur Duestrow was hanged in February, 1897 three years after the murders. He refused last rites and proclaimed his innocence until the end. His sister, Hulda, then 17 and the only surviving member of the immediate family, was present at the execution. She returned her brother to Bellefontaine Cemetery on February 17 where he was buried in an unmarked grave in the Duestrow family plot.

Hulda was left without family and nearly penniless as the Union Trust Company settled claims against Arthur's estate. The home in which she had previously lived with her parents at 2345 Lafayette Avenue had been destroyed the previous May by the 1896 tornado. As a minor female, Hulda was assigned a matron chaperon, referred to as a "duenna" by the court. The duenna arranged a marriage to her nephew, which Hulda subsequently called off. She then arranged for Hulda, not Catholic, to enter a convent. After also managing to avoid this fate, Hulda eventually gained her independence as an adult and successfully sued the Union Trust Company for her rightful inheritance.

At the age of 34, after years of turmoil, she was in a position to put down her own roots in Compton Heights. In 1910, architect Ernst Janssen designed her home at 3436 Longfellow Boulevard where she lived until her death in 1945. Hulda never married or had children, so after her death, the remaining Duestrow estate worth several million dollars was given to a variety of charities, including Eden Seminary.

Today, the Duestrow family home on Lafayette is no more. Arthur's home where the murders happened was destroyed by the construction of Interstate 44. The police station where he surrendered was torn down by the City in 1901, and the corner of Reservoir Park (where it once stood) is also now the highway. The town of Granite, Montana that sprung from the mine that made the Duestrow fortune, is a ghost town. Fortunately, Hulda's home on Longfellow provided the thread that, when pulled, unraveled the entire story. Without this physical link, there would have been no starting point for the research or connection to the people involved. The human stories that give depth to the history of a community are rooted in physical places—when those places are lost, we lose both connections to the past and opportunities to discover it.



Granite, Montana 1900, Westernmininghistory.com.



1896 Tornado Damage at Lafayette and Jefferson. Duestrow family home one of three damaged homes on the left, St. Louis Public Library.



3436 Longfellow Boulevard today.



Waring School circa 1945.

1211 Tower Grove Avenue Continued...

Oscar and Mary Waring appear in the St. Louis City Directory for the first time in 1878. Mary is listed as a teacher and he as the principal at "Colored School #2" at 1745 Hadley Street in north St. Louis (demolished). This school was later renamed "Dessalines School" after the Haitian Revolutionary leader.

During their first years in St. Louis, the couple lived at 1329 N. 11th Street (demolished). In 1881, Waring was recorded as the Principal of Sumner High School in the city directory for the first time. Named for abolitionist senator Charles Sumner, and established in 1875, Sumner High School was the first public high school for African American Students west of the Mississippi River. Originally located on 11th Street between Poplar and Walnut, by c. 1895 the school had moved to a different building at 15th and Walnut where it stayed for the remainder of Waring's term of leadership.

In 1884 the Warings moved to a home at 1211 Tower Grove Avenue in what would have still been a semi-rural environment. The area now known as Forest Park Southeast had only been brought into the city limits eight years previously and its first public transit, a horse drawn streetcar line, had been operating for just two years along Chouteau. Still, large scale industrial and residential development was on the horizon and by the time the Waring's vacated the home in 1911, the neighborhood would become quite urban.

Throughout both Oscar and Mary Waring's careers with the SLPS, the couple lived in the home at 1211 Tower Grove, where they raised their children George and Virginia. Oscar was remembered by his SLPS colleagues as a quiet, studious man who gave what time he did not spend on his students to his family. He loved chess as well as his extensive home garden.

The census of 1900 noted that the Warings were the only African American household in their area of Forest Park Southeast, with all of their neighbors on adjacent inventory pages listed as white. Interestingly, the census of 1910 recorded Oscar and Mary as being white themselves, which is either a mistake or indicative that the light skinned Warings had found it necessary, or at least easier to "pass" in what may have been a less than welcoming environment.

Oscar M. Waring retired from the SLPS due to failing health in 1908 as the present Sumner High School building (4248 Cottage Avenue in The Ville), was being constructed. He died at home on March 26, 1911, and Mary was never again recorded at that address.



Waring School class of 1950.

In 1940, a new school at 25 S. Compton Avenue was named in honor of Oscar Waring. The school was closed in the early 2000's and sold to St. Louis University, which demolished it to make way for the Chaifetz Arena.

Today, Waring's former home in Forest Park Southeast is worthy of recognition for its association with two African American pioneer educators in St. Louis. Following use as a homeless shelter by New Life Evangelistic Center and as transitional housing by Agape House Outreach Center, the condition of the home had deteriorated badly by the early 21st century. When it was purchased for rehabilitation in 2016, very few original details were visible. Faux wood paneling and drop ceilings obscured original wall surfaces and room volumes. Spaces had been subdivided, windows boarded, and the exterior neglected. Original features like paneling and balustrade were uncovered during the renovation process. The rear wall had to be taken down and rebuilt, the masonry detailing of the parapet had to be restored and all windows were replaced with custom historic replicas. Thanks to an enormous amount of hard work by the home's new owner along with the skills of Millennium Restoration and Killeen Studio architects, this important building won a Most Enhanced Award in 2018 and we hope it will be recognized in the future with formal City Landmark Status.

Faust Continued...

most lavish and state of the art restaurant St. Louis had ever seen. Estimated to have cost nearly \$100,000, the restaurant Faust reopened in 1889 could accommodate 1,500 patrons.

By 1890, as population continued to shift westward out of the central business district, he opened a branch of his Fulton Market at 3219-21 Olive in Midtown (extant). It's unclear if Faust himself had the building constructed as the permits for this block have been lost, but with its three parallel halls, it certainly could have been built for this purpose. This is the only known building still standing in St. Louis that was once part of Faust's culinary empire, but there are other buildings and properties that have links to his life.

One such building is the home that Tony and his wife Elizabeth (Bischoff) owned at the end of his life at 1605 Missouri Avenue in Lafayette Square. Constructed in 1897 by malt manufacturer Charles Ehlermann, and designed by architect Ernst Janssen, the Fausts were listed in the city directory at the home for the first time in 1905. Having lived next door to his restaurants amidst the hustle of the central business district since the 1860s, the move into this 5,700 square foot home across from the peace of Lafayette Park signaled a commitment to a hard earned retirement.

After moving into the new home, the Fausts once again departed for Europe. While staying at a German health resort in 1906, the horses that were pulling 70 year old Tony's carriage became alarmed and began to run out of control. Faust jumped from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. His body was returned to St. Louis almost a month later and an enormous crowd turned out for the funeral from the Missouri Avenue home. Such was his popularity that a cortege of 80 carriages carried guests from Lafayette Square to Bellefontaine Cemetery, accompanied by six wagon loads of flowers. The list of thirty six honorary pall bearers was a who's who of St. Louis society. Among the active pall bearers were staff from the restaurant including head chef Henry Dietz.

Dietz was perhaps St. Louis' first celebrity chef. At the time of Faust's death, he was regularly publishing recipes and cooking advice



4751 Morgan Ford, "Dietz's Little Bevo."

in the *Post Dispatch*. Dietz continued in his position at Fausts after Tony's death under the management of Tony Faust Jr., but the final chapter of the restaurant had begun. Tony Jr. became deathly ill in 1911 and after a few years of management by the St. Louis Catering Company, chef Dietz purchased and closed the business in 1916. By that time, the center of St. Louis' commercial and entertainment districts' had shifted westward leaving Tony Faust's behind.

Still, connections that Faust facilitated in life continued after his death. Dietz closed Faust's, to become the first chef and general manager at the newly opened Bevo Mill. The Dietz family was the first occupant of the upstairs apartment behind the windmill itself. In 1924, while still managing operations at Bevo, Dietz built his own restaurant across Morgan Ford Road to the north. Taking inspiration directly from the Mill, "Dietz's Little Bevo Restaurant" at 4751 Morgan Ford is a little landmark in its own right.



1605 Missouri Avenue, last home of Tony Faust.



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2018 Most Enhanced Award Winners

- 1211 Tower Grove
- 2000 Washington, Brick River Cider Co.
- 1900 Washington, Beatrice Lofts
- 1250 Gravois
- 3900 Laclede, Gerhart Lofts
- 3353 Roger, Circa Properties
- 4225 Swan
- 7423 Broadway, The Sinkhole
- 7700 Minnesota
- 3942 Flad, Sherman School Lofts
- East Fox Homes
- 2724 Cherokee, Earthbound Brewing
- 1615 Hampton, Gratiot School Lofts
- 3901 Shaw, Wild Carrot



Thanks to everyone who nominated projects this year and to everyone who does the difficult work of putting our architectural heritage back together. Thanks to our generous sponsors: Dorothy Martin, David and Mandy Lott, Karen and Lawrence Goering, Michael E. Shepley, as well as the following companies and organizations:

Thank you to our host Wild Carrot and to our SPONSORS



These photos show 3901 Shaw when it was the Shaw Theater (above) as well as before (top left) and after (top right) rehab.