



Sainte Genevieve, Missouri Collection (R0165)

Collection Number: R0165

Collection Title: Sainte Genevieve, Missouri Collection

Dates: 1885-1967

Creator: Schram, Bernard K.

Abstract: The Sainte Genevieve, Missouri Collection contains photocopies of miscellaneous papers concerning the history of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri. The papers include a historical address by Firmin A. Rozier, a printed directory of the Catholic Church, a souvenir program from a production of *Shaun Rue*, and two architectural reports by Ernest A. Connally on historic homes.

Collection Size: 0.04 cubic foot
(4 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Sainte Genevieve, Missouri Collection* (R0165); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The collection was loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard K. Schram on April 13, 1983 (Accession No. RA0172).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Sainte Genevieve, Missouri Collection can be found in the following collections:

Sainte Genevieve, Missouri Photograph Collection (R0338)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, August 5, 1983. Revised by Kathleen Seale, October 21, 2020.

Historical Note:

Firmin A. Rozier was born in Sainte Genevieve, Missouri, in July 1820. Of French heritage, he was the president of the Sainte Genevieve Saving Association and served in the Missouri State Senate.

The Bolduc House is possibly the oldest remaining structure west of the Mississippi. Built in late 1780s for Louis Bolduc, the home was constructed as a French vertical log house. Additions were made in the 1790s and the house stayed in the Bolduc family until 1949. It was designated as a National History Landmark in 1970.

The Bolduc-LeMeiller house, formerly known as the “Old Convent” or LeMeilleur House was built between 1820 and 1824. It was constructed for René and Agatha *Bolduc* LeMeilleur, but later became a convent school for the Sisters of Loretto. A second story was added during its time as the Detchmندی Hotel, but was later removed by Dr. Ernest Connally who restored the home to its early 19th century configuration.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photocopies of miscellaneous papers concerning the history of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri. The papers include a historical address by Firmin A. Rozier, a printed directory of the Catholic Church, a souvenir program of the *Shaun Rue* play, and two architectural reports by Ernest A. Connally on historic homes.

Firmin A. Rozier’s historical address was delivered in July 1885, during the celebration of the town’s sesquicentennial. Printed in booklet form, his address contains an account of the community’s history to that date. Also published as a booklet, the 1904 directory of the Catholic Church also includes historical material, along with excerpts from parish records and lists of members of the church and its societies.

Ernest A. Connally’s reports on the Bolduc and Bolduc-LeMeilleur houses contain a considerable amount of information on old French customs in the Mississippi valley, and how they have been preserved in the buildings at Sainte Genevieve. His 1957 plans for gardens and landscaping at the Bolduc House, possibly the oldest remaining structure west of the Mississippi River, are based on typical Creole practice of the period, and include notes on the varieties and arrangement of the flora customarily found at similar dwellings. The 1967 report set out his recommendations for restoration of the Bolduc-LeMeilleur House, built on the same block just north of the Bolduc House. Connally urged the use of the name Bolduc-LeMeilleur as more consistent with the ownership of the house as shown by municipal records. Through painstaking examinations of the structure, Connally was able to produce a plan of the building as it was originally constructed, and recorded changes made to it over time. To document fixtures and furnishings no longer extant, Connally referred to architectural pattern books in use during the

period, and made comparisons with similar buildings in Saint Louis and Kaskaskia, Illinois. The collection is arranged in chronologically order.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	“An Address by Hon. Firmin A. Rozier,” 1885
	f. 2	Sainte Genevieve Catholic Church parish directory, 1904
	f. 3	Souvenir program for <i>Shaun Rue</i> , 1907
	f. 4	Reports on architectural history of Sainte Genevieve, 1939-1967

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