



St. Louis Local History Collection (S0076)

Collection Number: S0076

Collection Title: St. Louis Local History Collection

Dates: 1910-1993

Creator: State Historical Society of Missouri

Abstract: The St. Louis Local History Collection is an artificial collection comprised of small donations documenting the history of St. Louis City, including neighborhoods and historic structures. Included in this collection are reports, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets regarding Pruitt-Igoe, Mill Creek Valley, Laclede's Landing, and the Ville.

Collection Size: 2.0 cubic feet
(85 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-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Louis City Local History Collection* (S0076); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: Consult the reference staff for donor information.

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock, June 2023.

Historical Note:

Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis research center staff created this artificial collection in the early 1970s to document St. Louis City's historical structures, parks, and churches. Staff closed the collection to further accruals in the early 1980s.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 8 series and 1 subseries:

- Buildings
- Cemeteries
- Churches
- Neighborhoods
 - Soulard
- Parks
- Streets and Bridges
- Transportation
- Subject Files

Scope and Content Note:**Buildings**

This series consists of booklets, brochures, histories, newspaper clippings, reports, and proposals regarding notable historic homes, office and government buildings, movie theaters, museums, auditoriums, and convention halls in St. Louis City. Materials of interest include a 1967 edition of *The Building Art in St. Louis*, written by George McCue, an architectural critic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The book contains photographs of notable buildings in the St. Louis metro region, such as the St. Louis Art Museum and Powell Symphony Hall, accompanied by their respective addresses, architects, date of construction, and brief descriptions of their architectural features. Other materials of interest include a promotional booklet for Council Plaza, a retirement center sponsored by the Teamsters Joint Council No. 13. The booklet contains exterior and interior concept designs and a brief description of the project. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1931 to 1985.

Cemeteries

This series contains booklets, tour outlines, newspaper clippings, and a map regarding Bellefontaine and Calvary cemeteries. Some items of note include two booklets titled *Cemetery Talks*. Published by the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., the booklets consist of brief histories of Bellefontaine and Calvary cemeteries and biographies of notable individuals buried in the cemeteries, such as William Clark, Henry T. Blow, and Virginia L. Minor. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1970 to 1976.

Churches

Anniversary booklets and histories regarding St. Louis area churches comprise this series. Materials of interest include *The St. Louis Cathedral*, a 96-page booklet published by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, chronicling the construction and design of the cathedral, located in the

Central West End Neighborhood of St. Louis. The booklet provides detailed descriptions (accompanied by sketches) of the cathedral's notable features, such as the main altar and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, identifying their designers, architectural styles, and religious symbolism. Other noteworthy items in this series include a 49-page booklet titled *Cote Brillante Presbyterian Church, 1885-1977*, written by Jamie R. Graham. In the booklet, Graham recounts the early history of the church, its missions in the St. Louis area, the decline in membership due to white flight in the surrounding neighborhood, and the church's rebirth in the 1960s and 70s under the leadership of Reverend William G. Gillespie. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1953 to 1977.

Neighborhoods

This series consists of histories, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and restoration and rehabilitation plans pertaining to historic St. Louis City neighborhoods, such as Carondelet, Lafayette Square, Hyde Park, and the Ville. Most of the subject matter focuses on preserving these neighborhoods' historic structures. For example, the materials about Hyde Park include the *Hyde Park Restoration Plan*, published by the St. Louis Community Development Agency in 1976. Among the authors' recommendations to revitalize the neighborhood was to designate the area a "historic district" under St. Louis City Ordinance 56100, which assisted older neighborhoods with setting standards for construction and building modifications, fostering the restoration of historic buildings, and guiding future land use and zoning plans. Other items of interest include the issues of the *Lafayette Marquis*, the official newspaper of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee. The newspaper contains articles about the Lafayette Square annual house tours, housing conditions, reprints of meeting minutes, profiles on local businesses, and proposed residential developments. The materials in this series date from 1961 to 1993.

The Soulard subseries consists of research reports, restoration plans, and newspaper clippings pertaining to the Soulard neighborhood in St. Louis City. Soulard Market is the most prominent topic in this series. An example is an unpublished manuscript titled *A Brief Description of Soulard Market*, written by Philip Taylor, Soulard Market's former "Market Master." This 103-page history chronicles the history of early markets in St. Louis City, the founding and evolution of Soulard Market, and short biographies on Antione Pierre and Marie Julia Cerre Soulard, who deeded the land currently occupied by Soulard Market in 1842 to the city of St. Louis for a public market. The materials in this subseries are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1961 to 1977.

Parks

This series contains pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and fact sheets pertaining to Forest Park and other recreational areas in St. Louis City. Materials of note include a manuscript *Forest Park: Annotated Edition*, written by Caroline Loughlin and Catherine Anderson and published by the Junior League of St. Louis. The manuscript chronicles the founding of Forest Park, the effects the separation of St. Louis City and County had on its operations, the 1904 World's Fair and the years-long effort to restore Forest Park after the Fair's closing, and the formation of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District in 1971 to provide a stable tax base for the St. Louis Zoo and museums located in Forest Park. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1935 to 1986.

Streets and Bridges

This series includes booklets and newspaper clippings documenting St. Louis City streets and bridges. Eads Bridge is featured prominently in this series and includes *The Eads Bridge*, a booklet published by the St. Louis Art Museum in conjunction with its exhibition on Eads Bridge from November 1974 to January 1975. The booklet contains short articles about the bridge's designer, James B. Eads, and the engineering principles behind the bridge's construction. Accompanying the articles are photographs and illustrations of Eads Bridge. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1960 to 1985.

Transportation

This series contains essays and newspaper clippings pertaining to early omnibus lines in St. Louis and St. Louis-Lambert International Airport. Materials of interest include a research paper titled *The Omnibus and St. Louis: 1840 to 1850*. Dave Grant, the author, chronicles the history of the first omnibus line and its possible effects on land values and population density in St. Louis City. Items regarding St. Louis-International Airport consist of newspaper clippings about the airport's expansion in the mid-1960s and a six-page essay on the airport's history titled *The St. Louis Airport*. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1928 to 1976.

Subject Files

This series covers various St. Louis City history topics, including program booklets, histories, newspaper clippings, guidebooks, and pamphlets regarding Gaslight Square, Catholicism, Pruitt-Igoe, and the St. Louis Hooverville. Items of interest include the official program for the International Air Races, held in St. Louis from October 1-3, 1923, at the St. Louis Flying Field (St. Louis-Lambert International Airport). The program includes guidelines for judging races, event listings for air races, and advertisements for aviation companies throughout the United States. Other items of interest include promotional materials for the Gateway Arch, including *The Official Brochure of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial*. The publication contains essays on St. Louis history, the efforts of former St. Louis Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann and Luther Ely Smith to fund the memorial, and the Gateway Arch's construction. Accompanying the essays are photographs of the Gateway Arch's construction and a diagram of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial's underground museum. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically, dating from 1910 to 1977.

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f. 2	<i>Beautiful St. Louis Buildings Erected by the Goesse and Remmers Building and Construction Company</i> , no date
f. 3	<i>The Building Art in St. Louis: Two Centuries: A Guide to the Architecture of the City and Its Environs</i> , 1964, 1973
f. 4	Campbell House, 1985, no date
f. 5	Chatillon-DeMenil House, no date
f. 6	Council Plaza, 1965-1970
f. 7	Eugene Field House, 1974, no date
f. 8	General American Life Insurance building, 1977

- f. 9 Kiel Auditorium, no date
- f. 10 Laclede's Landing, 1966-1977
- f. 11 Movie theaters, 1975-1976
- f. 12 Old Court House, 1931, 1946, no date
- f. 13 Old Rock House, 1964, 1968
- f. 14 St. Louis Convention Center, 1971-1976
- f. 15 *The Saint Louis Old Post Office: A History and Architectural Guide to the Building and its Neighborhood*, 1979
- f. 16 Spanish Pavilion, 1970, no date
- f. 17 Thomas Sappington House, no date
- f. 18 Wainwright building, 1974-1975
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 - f. 21 Calvary Cemetery, 1970, no date
- f. 22-30 Churches
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 - f. 24 Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 1977
 - f. 25 Old Cathedral, 1956, 1963-1964, 1976
 - Box 2 f. 26 St. Anthony of Padua, 1963
 - f. 27 St. Joseph's Church, 1976
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 - f. 29 Saints Peter and Paul Parish, 1953
 - f. 30 Trinity Lutheran Church (Old Trinity), 1975, no date
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 - f. 32 Carondelet, 1966, 1975
 - f. 33 Central West End, 1973-1974
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 - f. 37 Lafayette Square, 1969, 1971, 1984
 - f. 38 *Lafayette Square Marquis*, 1980-1983
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 - f. 40 Mill Creek Valley, 1962-1964
 - f. 41 St. Louis Neighborhood Resource Center, 1978-1981
 - f. 42 Skinker-DeBaliviere, 1973, 1976
 - f. 43-51 Soulard
 - f. 43 *A Brief History of Public Markets in the City of St. Louis*, 1961
 - f. 44 *Cast Iron Works in the Soulard Area*, 1971
 - f. 45 *Ethnicity and Occupations in Soulard Farmers Market*, 1978
 - f. 46 *Public Markets: Functional Anachronisms or Functional Necessities?*, 1978
 - f. 47 *Soulard: The Ethnic Heritage of an Urban Neighborhood*, 1975
 - f. 48 Soulard Market, 1961-1964, 1973, 1975
 - f. 49 *Soulard Neighborhood Historic District: Preliminary*

- Research Report, 1973*
- f. 50 *Soulard Restoration Plan, 1975*
- f. 51 *Soulard Summer I: An Anthropological Report on the Firms at Soulard Farmers Market, A Preliminary Study, 1977*
- f. 52 The Ville, 1975
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- f. 60 St. Louis Lambert International Airport, 1928-1929, 1956, 1966
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- f. 62 *Public Art in St. Louis: Sculpture, Architecture, Mural Decorations, Stained Glass, 1925*
- f. 63 St. Louis Riverfront, 1938, 1964-1978, no date
- f. 64 *St. Louis: A Fond Look Back, 1956; St. Louis: The First 200 Years, 1964*
- Box 5 f. 65 Missouri Botanical Garden, 1958, 1960, 1964, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1981
- f. 66 *Motoring in the St. Louis Area!*, Automobile Club of Missouri, 1960
- f. 67 Gaslight Square, 1960-1970
- f. 68 *St. Louis: From Laclede to Land Clearance, 1962*
- f. 69 *Interim Report: Pruitt-Igoe Research Project*, Missouri Division of Welfare, 1963
- f. 70 Gateway Arch, 1963-1968
- f. 71 *Catholic Beginnings in Saint Louis, 1964*
- f. 72 St. Louis guidebooks, 1964-1969, no date
- f. 73 Magazine and newspaper articles: "St. Louis Steps Out," 1965; "The Ups and Downs of Downtown," 1976
- f. 74 *From Kerry Patch to Little Padderhorn: A Visit in the Irish-German Communities of 19th Century St. Louis, 1966*
- f. 75 *Philippine Duchesne and Her Times, 1968*
- f. 76 *History: Physical Growth of the City of St. Louis, 1969*
- f. 77 Block Grant Partnership Program, 1969-1970, no date
- f. 78 *Literary St. Louis: Noted Authors and St. Louis Landmarks Associated with Them, 1969; "A Literary Map of St. Louis," newspaper clipping, 1977*
- f. 79 Tourism literature, 1970-1975
- f. 80 "After the Fair, Decline and Fall—And Now Rebirth?," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, December 3, 1972
- f. 81 *The St. Louis 'Places': An Innovation in Nineteenth Century Urban Form*, report, 1972; Private places and streets, 1970, 1976-1977
- f. 82 *History Trail, 1973*

- f. 83 *St. Louis: Fifty Generations of European Tree Sparrows Just Can't be Wrong*, 1975
- f. 84 *Hooverville: The St. Louis Experience, 1930-1936*, 1976; *An Overview of the History of Hooverville*, no date
- f. 85 *Architecture and landscape*, 1977

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