



May 2016





United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 04 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

I am pleased to transmit to Congress the *Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment*, and the accompanying *Finding of No Significant Impact*. The study was completed pursuant to Public Law 109-319, the Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005, signed on October 11, 2006. The act directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate an area that includes the Bequette-Ribault, St. Gemme Amoureux, and Wilhauk homes, and the related and supporting historical assets located in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, to see if it meets the criteria for addition to the national park system.

Section 100507 of Title 54, United States Code, establishes the criteria to be considered in the study of an area for potential inclusion in the national park system. A study area must possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources and represent one of the most important examples of a particular resource type in the country; be suitable and feasible for addition to the system; and appropriate for direct National Park Service (NPS) management.

The NPS finds that certain resources in Ste. Genevieve, including the properties listed above, meet the established criteria for inclusion in the national park system. Ste. Genevieve has long been recognized as a nationally important collection of French vertical log architecture, and a portion was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960. In the *Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study*, the NPS affirms this national significance and identifies an expanded area of national significance, including significant French vernacular landscape features and contemporaneous examples of British American and German American architecture.

The NPS determined that the nationally significant area exemplifies an important aspect of American history not adequately represented and protected elsewhere, therefore meeting national park system suitability criteria. The NPS found that a subset of resources within the study area would be feasible to manage. It also found there is a need for NPS management to support improved resource management of certain properties and coordinated interpretation of the nationally historic area as a whole.

The study team evaluated several management alternatives and found that the most effective and efficient alternative would be to establish a new unit of the national park system and an affiliated


area encompassing the national historic landmark district (Alternative C). The boundary of the potential NPS unit would include a cluster of seven historic and non-historic properties at one edge of the district, as well as a noncontiguous historic property two miles south of the district. These resources would provide a venue for interpretation of Ste. Genevieve's significant French vernacular architecture and the history of 18th century French settlement. Within the affiliated area, formal agreements with other entities would allow the NPS to provide special recognition and technical assistance beyond the boundaries of the potential new unit.

The Department of the Interior's preferred management option for these resources is Alternative C. Alternative C would enable the NPS to provide protection and visitor enjoyment where needed and partner with other entities, while identifying a discrete area for direct NPS management. A smaller configuration of the boundary of the potential new unit could also be a viable option.

The study included opportunities for public involvement with local governments, private property owners, related organizations, and community members. Comments received during the study's public review period indicate strong local support for the establishment of a new unit of the national park system, and present the possibility for partnerships in managing a potential new unit.

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Sincerely,

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Michael Bean
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosures



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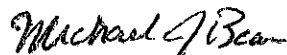
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Michael Bean
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Park Service (NPS) was tasked by Congress with undertaking a special resource study of the resources of Ste. Genevieve in Public Law 109-319, the Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005. In response, the National Park Service formed the Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study Team to conduct a special resource study of the district to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the national park system.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Ste. Genevieve was founded circa 1750 by French Canadian settlers, or *habitants*, most of whom came from earlier settlements just across the Mississippi in present-day Illinois. Though resources such as salt and lead attracted settlers to the west side of the Mississippi, the rich soil was the greatest draw. Ste. Genevieve was primarily an agricultural settlement, with free and enslaved residents working in the *Grand Champ*, or Common Field, a large area of privately held, long agricultural lots surrounded by one large fence. After a series of floods, the most severe of which occurred in 1785, the town was moved inland approximately three miles, to where it stands today. Residents continued to work the Common Field, which though smaller, is still cultivated today. Ste. Genevieve became a hub of trade, and following the Revolutionary War there was an influx of British Americans that intensified following the Louisiana Purchase, expanding the village. Ste. Genevieve retains many of its historic buildings, landscapes, and community characteristics.

CURRENT STATUS

Ste. Genevieve is a city of 4,410 people on the west bank of Mississippi River, about 64 miles south of St. Louis, Missouri. The historic buildings and landscapes of Ste. Genevieve are in a mix of public and private ownerships. Several nonprofit organizations and the State of Missouri own and operate some historic properties as museums.

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

To be considered eligible for designation as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be nationally significant, suitable, feasible, and have a need for direct NPS management.

Significance

For a cultural resource to meet significance criteria in a special resource study, it must meet National Historic Landmark criteria. Ste. Genevieve is one of the oldest National Historic Landmark districts in the country. When initially designated in 1960, it was recognized for the unique concentration of French vertical log architecture. With new research and an expanded understanding of French settlement in the mid-Mississippi “Illinois Country,” new resources have been identified and the nationally significant district encompasses much of the City of Ste. Genevieve and agricultural landscapes and archeological sites in Ste. Genevieve County. The Ste. Genevieve district is nationally significant under Criterion 4, possessing a large and rare collection of French vernacular vertical log houses. It is also significant under Criterion 1, with architectural resources complemented and enriched by contemporaneous examples of British American and German American architecture that contribute to the compelling historical associations with French exploration and settlement of the interior of the United States in the late 18th and early 19th century and with the American territory that developed following the Louisiana Purchase.

Suitability

Compared to thematically similar areas preserved and interpreted for the public, Ste. Genevieve clearly offers an unparalleled opportunity to provide public understanding and appreciation of the nationally significant historic district and themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form as well as farming on the frontier. As a community reflective of these themes, Ste. Genevieve stands alone in terms of the character, quality, quantity, and rarity of its resources, and its combination of resource values, and there are no comparably protected or managed areas. This study concludes that Ste. Genevieve meets the criteria for suitability for inclusion in the national park system.

Feasibility

To be considered feasible, an area's natural systems or historic settings must be of sufficient size and shape to ensure long-term protection of resources and accommodate public use. The area must also have potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost. Because of the size of the Ste. Genevieve district, a number of potential unit configurations are possible. Analyzing a unit as outlined in the management alternatives, the establishment of an NPS unit in Ste. Genevieve is found to be feasible, though budgetary feasibility is a pressing concern in the current budget climate.

Need for Direct NPS Management

A site meets the need for NPS management criterion if management by the National Park Service is both required and the clearly superior alternative. Many resources within Ste. Genevieve Historic District are cared for by owners and protected by City of Ste. Genevieve historic preservation ordinances. Existing nonprofits and the state are working at capacity in Ste. Genevieve, yet there are unmet needs for resource protection and comprehensive interpretation. NPS management would be clearly superior to current protection and interpretation alone.

Affiliated Area Eligibility

When resources are nationally significant and suitable, but do not meet other criteria for inclusion in the national park system, they may be eligible to become an affiliated area. Affiliated areas are areas administered in connection with the national park system that receive special recognition and technical assistance from the bureau but are not federally owned. To be eligible to be an affiliated area, the area must also require some special recognition of technical assistance, be managed in accordance with the NPS policies and standards, and the National Park Service must be assured of sustained resource protection documented in a formal agreement. The National Park Service finds that those areas of the nationally significant and suitable historic district that are not feasible and/or do not have a need for NPS management do have a need for special recognition and technical assistance, particularly with comprehensive interpretation. This study finds that the areas of Ste. Genevieve where criteria for inclusion in the national park system as a unit are not met are eligible for affiliated area status.

Criteria for Inclusion Summary

The study finds that the Ste. Genevieve district is nationally significant and suitable, and that certain resources within the district are feasible and have a need for direct NPS management. Nationally significant and suitable resources within the district are also eligible for affiliated area status if not included in an NPS unit.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Because resources in Ste. Genevieve's nationally significant district were found to meet the criteria for inclusion in the national park system, management alternatives were developed to identify the most efficient and effective way to protect significant resources and provide opportunities for public enjoyment.

Alternative A: No New NPS Action

This alternative describes current conditions and probable future conditions of the Ste. Genevieve historic district identified in this study given the continuation of current management. The No New NPS Action scenario will be compared to potential NPS action or management by other entities to determine the need for direct NPS management. Resource protection and visitor experience opportunities would remain much as they are now, with some properties available for visitation, others inaccessible, the city's historic district protected by historic preservation ordinances, and regular comprehensive interpretation lacking.

Alternative B: NPS Unit

In this alternative, an NPS unit would be established on St. Mary's Road at the state-owned Amoureux House and adjacent properties (including a contemporary residence, a former inn known as the Wilhawk House or the Creole House), and the Bequette-Ribault House property, which also includes the relocated Lasource-Durand House. A noncontiguous area of the unit would be established on state-owned property at the Delassus-Kern House on U.S. 61 in Ste. Genevieve County. These key resources in the district are currently either rarely or never open to the public, and some require stabilization and preservation to ensure resource protection. This node of important resources, adjacent to the Common Field, would provide a venue for NPS interpretation of Ste. Genevieve's significant French vernacular architecture and the history of French Settlement in the Illinois Country.

Alternative C: NPS Unit and Affiliated Area

In this alternative, the NPS unit described in Alternative B would be established, as would an affiliated area encompassing the portion of the nationally significant district where the city's historic district zoning is in effect, as well as preserved and interpreted properties owned by the State of Missouri, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri, and the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve. Formal agreements with the City of Ste. Genevieve, the state, the Colonial Dames, and the foundation would allow the National Park Service to provide special recognition and technical assistance beyond the boundaries of the proposed unit. The affiliated area would contain a substantial percentage of the area within the nationally significant historic district identified in the significance analysis.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment was completed and accompanies this special resource study. The analysis of potential environmental consequences to the resources resulting from implementation of the alternatives found that there is no potential for significant environmental effects. For both action alternatives, it is anticipated that there would be moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts on the fundamental resources of the Ste. Genevieve district, the visitor experience, and the socioeconomic conditions. Minor, short-term, adverse impacts are anticipated as projects are undertaken to accommodate future development to enhance the visitor experience and to provide for management support in the action alternatives.

NEXT STEPS

Congress will ultimately make the determination of whether or not to create a new unit of the National Park System. Implementation of any of the action alternatives requires either a law passed by Congress and signed by the President, or executive action by the President.

Completion and transmittal of the study does not guarantee establishment of a unit of the National Park System or future funding for any NPS actions in Ste. Genevieve. Appropriation of funds for National Park units is the responsibility of Congress. NPS will request funding to achieve the desired conditions and will prepare accordingly, but a new NPS unit may not receive enough funding to achieve all desired conditions for many years.

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CHAPTER 1: STUDY PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In the National Park Service General Authorities Act of 1970, Congress declared that areas comprising the national park system are “cumulative expressions of a single national heritage.”¹ Potential additions to the national park system should therefore contribute in a unique way to a system that represents the superlative natural and cultural resources that characterize our heritage. Proposed additions to the national park system must possess nationally significant resources, be suitable additions to the system, be feasible to administer, and require direct National Park Service (NPS) management instead of protection by other public agencies or the private sector.

Before Congress decides to create a new park, it needs to know whether the area’s resources meet these established criteria for designation. The National Park Service was tasked by Congress in Public Law 109-319 to evaluate an area in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, to see if it meets criteria for addition to the national park system and document its findings in this special resource study (SRS). (See appendix A for the full text of the law.)

Ste. Genevieve has long been recognized as a nationally important collection of French vernacular architecture, but the documentation of these buildings has not been formally updated since 1970. Chapter 2 of this study examines the historic context of Ste. Genevieve within the settlement of the Illinois Country and architectural context for vertical log construction to provide background for an updated evaluation of national significance. Chapter 2 also describes the previous designations of Ste. Genevieve and the history of documentation and preservation of significant resources. Chapter 3 applies the criteria for inclusion in the national park system, analyzing the significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for direct NPS management of the Ste. Genevieve area. Management alternatives are described in chapter 4. Chapter 5 examines the environmental consequences of each alternative. Finally, chapter 6 catalogues the properties that contribute to the national significance of the historic district in Ste. Genevieve for additional information and reference.

Legislation introduced by former Missouri 3rd District Congressman Russ Carnahan in the House of Representatives and by former Missouri Senator Jim Talent in the Senate was enacted on October 11, 2006, as Public Law 109-319, the Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005. In response, the National Park Service formed the Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study Team tasked with conducting a special resource study of the site. A public scoping comment period and public meeting were held in August 2010 to collect public input. The study team held a two-day workshop with state and local officials to develop alternatives in August 2012. This report incorporates input from those meetings into research, discussions, reviews, and input from experts within and outside the National Park Service.

OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA

Ste. Genevieve is a city of 4,410 people on the west bank of Mississippi River, about 64 miles south of St. Louis, Missouri. It is the seat of Ste. Genevieve County, which recorded a 2010 population of 18,145.² The county is predominantly agricultural and home to a large high-calcium lime mine and small manufacturing concerns.

Ste. Genevieve was founded circa 1750 by French Canadian settlers, or *habitants*, most of whom came from earlier settlements just across the Mississippi in present-day Illinois. Though resources such as salt and lead attracted settlers to the west side of the Mississippi, the rich soil was the greatest draw. Ste. Genevieve was primarily an agricultural settlement, with free and enslaved residents working in the *Grand Champ*, or Common Field, a large area of privately held, long agricultural lots surrounded by one large fence. After a series of floods, the most severe of which occurred in 1785, the town was moved inland approximately three miles, to where it stands today. Residents continued to work the Common Field, which though smaller, is still cultivated today. Ste. Genevieve became a hub of trade, and following the Revolutionary War, there was an influx of British Americans that intensified following the Louisiana Purchase, expanding the village. Ste. Genevieve retains many of its historic buildings, landscapes, and community characteristics.

1. Formally known as “An act to improve the administration of the national park system by the Secretary of the Interior, and to clarify the authorities applicable to the system, and for other purposes 1970 (84 Stat. 825)”

2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, <http://www.census.gov>

Ste. Genevieve is home to one of the oldest National Historic Landmark (NHL) districts in the country. Within Ste. Genevieve are the Felix Valle State Historic Site; the Guibourd-Valle House museum, operated by the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve; and the Bolduc House Museum, operated by the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Missouri. Also in Ste. Genevieve are the Ste. Genevieve Museum and the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center. (For a more detailed description of these sites, see Suitability, page 25.)



Figure 1. Ste. Genevieve and surrounding area.

CHAPTER 2: HISTORIC CONTEXT AND PREVIOUS DESIGNATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this historic context is to provide a broad overview of the history of Ste. Genevieve's nationally significant historic district, context for the significance discussion in chapter 3, and background on previous documentation efforts. The contributions of several important properties to the national significance of Ste. Genevieve have been established, while others have not yet been formalized. (See "Previous Designations," page 14, and "Significance," page 19).

Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960, possesses the largest extant collection of French vernacular vertical log houses in North America. The architecture and cultural landscape in Ste. Genevieve constitutes a unique survival and continuation of French traditional architecture under Spanish, and later, American rule. The architecture and cultural landscapes in Ste. Genevieve also represent French settlement patterns in North America, and along with the Anglo- and German American structures contemporaneous with those in the French vernacular style, captures the arc of French settlements in transition to multi-cultural towns on the frontier of settlement in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

French settlement of the upper Mississippi River Valley (known historically as the Illinois Country) in the 17th and 18th centuries is an important, though somewhat underappreciated, chapter in American history. The earliest French settlements, at the beginning of the 17th century, were located in the northeastern part of North America along the St. Lawrence River. Quebec, founded in 1608, was the first continuously occupied European settlement on the continent. In the 1670s, Louis Jolliet and Jesuit Father Jacques Marquette followed the Mississippi River southward from Canada to the mouth of the Arkansas River. Arkansas Post, founded by French traders in 1686, was the first permanent European settlement in the Mississippi Valley.³

3. National Park Service, "French Exploration and Settlement: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings," revised 1960, theme study, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21. The site is a unit of the national park system, Arkansas Post National Memorial.

Property Inventory:

Buildings, sites, landscapes, and archeological resources that contribute to the national significance of Ste. Genevieve are enumerated in the property inventory in chapter 6. First references to these properties in the historic context will be followed by their corresponding inventory number. A map of property locations can be found on page 16 and page 57.

Ste. Genevieve was an outgrowth of a century of French exploration of the Mississippi. Following in the footsteps of Marquette and Jolliet, Robert Cavelier de La Salle completed the journey to the Gulf of Mexico in the 1680s. French missionaries, farmers, trappers, and traders followed these pathfinders into the Mississippi River valley. A group of missionaries, along with a band of American Indians, settled Kaskaskia on the eastern bank of the river in the Illinois Country in the early 1700s. Other settlers followed, eventually establishing St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve on the west bank of the river.⁴

During the first half of the 18th century, French explorers came to the west bank of the Mississippi River searching for resources, including lead, agricultural land, and salt. Very early in the century, French traders and trappers camped at a salt spring and creek, which they called *La Saline* (Property Inventory No. 1). The French colonists needed salt to preserve meat, and importing salt was difficult and expensive.⁵

4. National Park Service, "French Exploration and Settlement: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings," Revised 1960, theme study, 15-16, 21, 23-24; Natalia Marie Belting, *Kaskaskia Under the French Regime* (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press), 1948, 9. See also Charles J. Balesi, *The Time of the French in the Heart of North America, 1673-1818* (Chicago: Alliance Francaise, 1992).

5. Salt extraction from La Saline continued until the invention of the steamboat made it cheaper to import salt through the port of New Orleans. Carl J. Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve: An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier* (Tucson, Arizona: Patrice Press, 1996), 8-11; David D. Denman, "History of La Saline: Salt Manufacturing Site, 1675-1825," *Missouri Historical Review* 73 No. 3 (April 1979): 307-320; Michael K. Trimble, Teresita Majewski, Michael J. O'Brien, and Anna L. Price, "Frontier Colonization of the Saline Creek Valley," in *French Colonial Archaeology: Illinois Country and the Western Great Lakes*, edited by John A. Walthall (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1991), 165-188.



Figure 2. North America showing French, British, and Spanish cities and forts, 1750.

(Image: Creative Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nouvelle-France_map-en.svg)

Access to *La Saline* was important to the early settlers of Ste. Genevieve, but the primary attraction on the west bank was the wide flat swath of rich farm land that stretched for miles along the Mississippi. Many of these French settlers did not come directly from France; they were largely French Canadian migrants or descendants of French Canadians living in the Illinois Country. Others came to Ste. Genevieve by way of the French colonies in the Caribbean.

French-speaking people were settling in Ste. Genevieve in the 1750s, on the eve of the Seven Years' War and just two decades before the American Revolution.⁶ In 1763, France lost all of its North American territory. For a brief period before the Revolutionary War, England dominated the eastern half of the continent and Spain took control of the land west of the Mississippi River. Ste. Genevieve's growth in the 1750s was supplemented after 1763 by a flow of French Illinois Country residents from the east side of the Mississippi following the

6. The North American portion of the Seven Years' War is also called the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

acquisition of the territory by the British. The residents of the newly Spanish-controlled land west of the river were recorded in a 1766 Spanish census of Ste. Genevieve and the surrounding seasonal encampments at *La Saline* and the area lead mines. It recorded 319 free persons and 228 enslaved persons. Enslaved persons were predominantly of African descent.⁷ Others were American Indian slaves, though they made up a small fraction of the enslaved population, just 29 in 1770.⁸ Enslaved persons remained a substantial percentage of the population as the village grew, engaged in agricultural labor in the Common Field and housed in quarters in town.

7. Carl Ekberg, *Francois Valle and His World: Upper Louisiana Before Lewis and Clark*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2002), 50.

8. Ekberg, *Francois Valle and His World*, 245. Native American slave trade was outlawed in 1770. For further discussion on American Indian slaves in the Illinois Country, see Carl Ekberg, *Stealing Indian Women: Native Slavery in the Illinois Country* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2007).

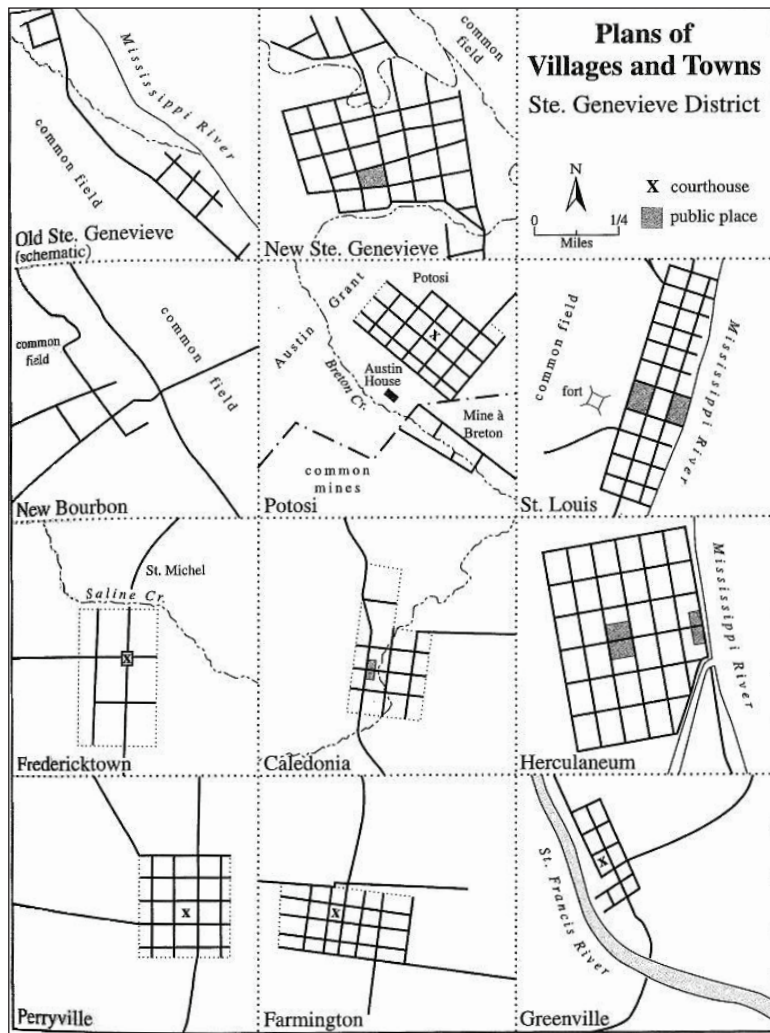


Figure 3. Types of Settlement Forms in the Ste. Genevieve District, covering the earliest European American settlements around 1750 to the 1820s. “Old” and “new” Ste. Genevieve, as well as New Bourbon, fit the type of “Planned French Village”
Source: Schroeder 2002

Far from New Orleans, the Spanish government paid scant attention to Ste. Genevieve, allowing elite French families to maintain political power as well as social ascendancy in the community. French language, customs, and community arrangement persisted under Spanish rule.

The early settlers were influenced by French traditions of community organization and land use that had been promulgated throughout the Illinois Country: compact village settlements with long agricultural parcels in an adjacent “Common Field.” Settlers farmed long, narrow, unfenced lots in the Common Field, also called *Le Grand Champ* or the Big Field (Property Inventory No. 2), which was established with the founding of Ste. Genevieve.⁹ The *habitants* (residents, farmers) tilled land that was laid out in “long lots,” stretching west from the river’s edge to a row of limestone bluffs.

9. For a longer discussion of open-field agriculture throughout the Illinois Country, see Carl J. Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country: The Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times* (Urbana and Champaign, Illinois: University of Illinois, 1998), Chapter 3.

The total area of these lots in Common Field was estimated at 7,000 acres.¹⁰ Though called a Common Field and enclosed by a single fence, the long lots within it were individually owned. Historian Carl Ekberg notes that this open-field system, which accompanied all compact villages in the Illinois Country, defied easy ownership classification even in its time, because “during the spring sowing, summer growing, and autumn harvest seasons they were more or less freehold property, although owners could not erect fences on them. After the harvest, when the livestock of every habitant had free range on them, the arable strips became communal land for pasturing.”¹¹ In addition to the village and Common Field were the “commons,” which was an area recognized as communal for pasturing and harvesting timber. At Ste. Genevieve, the commons were understood to be any lands outside the village and the Common Field.¹²

10. Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, 92.

11. *Ibid.*, 114. Italics added.

12. *Ibid.*, 92.

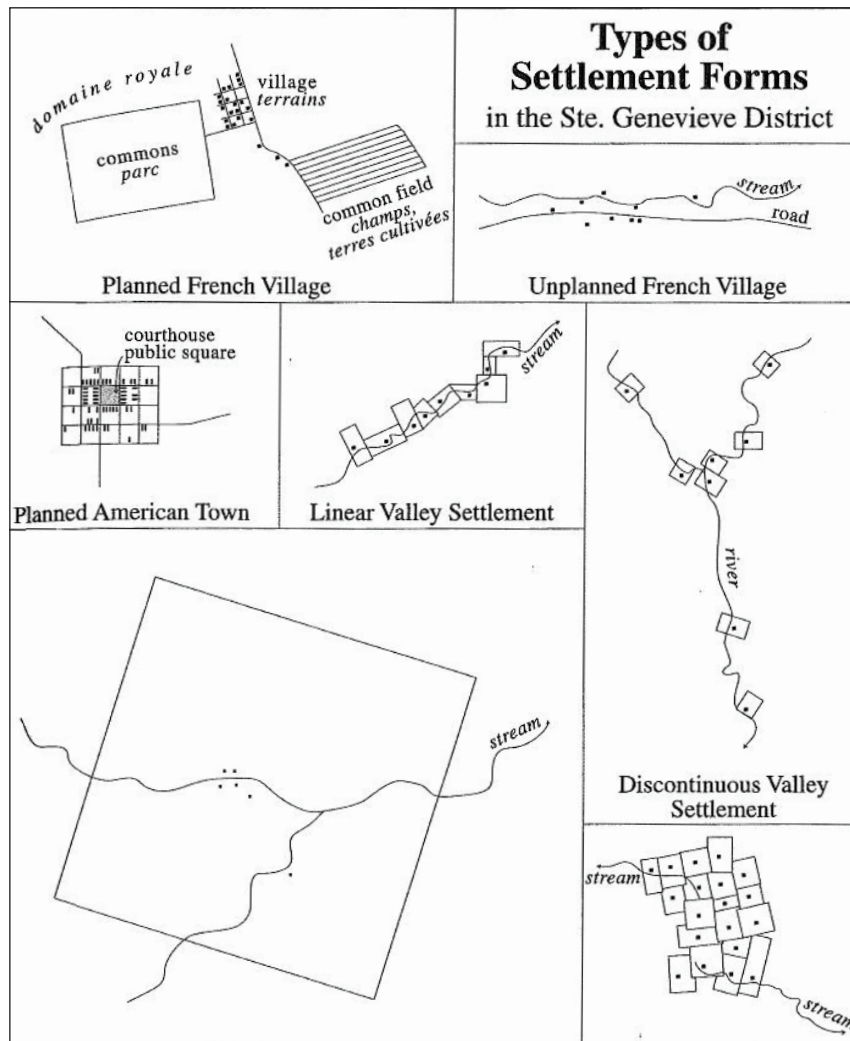


Figure 4. Plans of Villages and Towns in the Ste. Genevieve District, covering the earliest European American settlements around 1750 to the 1820s (from Walter Schroeder, 217). Source: Schroeder 2002

The three elements of a village—long agricultural strips within a fenced-in-common field, and a commons for timber and pasture—was a settlement pattern unique to the French in Upper Louisiana, later known as Illinois Country (see figure 1). This tripartite community arrangement was unlike the settlement patterns of many other European ethnic groups on the frontier who built farmhouses on large agricultural allotments creating a spread out, rural pattern, and even unlike French Canadian *habitants* who constructed their homes adjacent to one another on the narrow ends of individually fenced long lots as in Quebec and the Great Lakes region.¹³ This arrangement endured even as the village of Ste. Genevieve changed locations.

Present-day Ste. Genevieve is the second iteration of the settlement. The first town site of Ste. Genevieve (Property Inventory No. 3), often referred to as “old town Ste. Genevieve,” was located in the flood plain about three miles south of present-day Ste. Genevieve. Because of its location

13. Ibid., 93-94.

in the bottom lands, the old town of Ste. Genevieve suffered from devastating floods in the 1780s, with the flood of 1785 being the most destructive. This disaster led to the founding of “new” Ste. Genevieve (present-day Ste. Genevieve) on higher ground to the north on the banks of two small tributaries to the Mississippi River—the North and South Gabouri creeks. During a flurry of activity in the 1790s, French settlers laid out streets in “new” Ste. Genevieve in a grid pattern (Property Inventory No. 4) and moved their church and burial ground from the old town site to a location near the new town’s central core. Five French colonial vertical log houses constructed during the 1790s (Property Inventory Nos. 7–11) have survived into the 21st century. Though a village was compact, wealthy residents might own an entire block of the grid. Residences were small; gardens and outbuildings such as kitchens, privies, slave quarters, stables, and corn cribs occupied the rest of the lot.¹⁴

14. Bonnie Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town: Ste. Genevieve in the Nineteenth Century* (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 2006), 16.

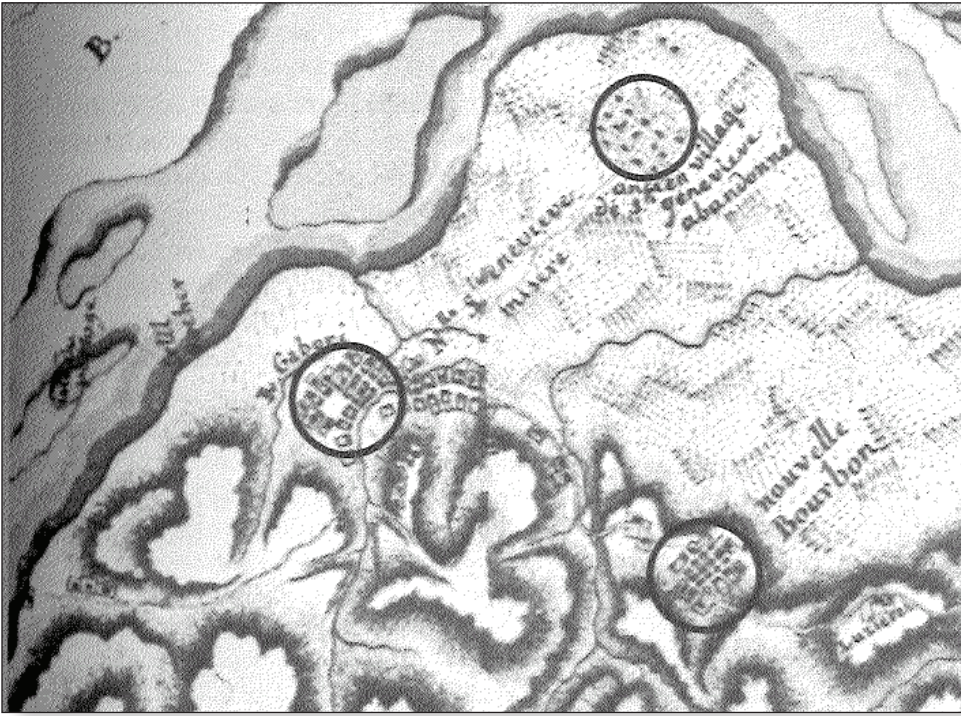


Figure 5. Map of the Ste. Genevieve Region, 1797, by Nicolas de Finiels, shown here with circles around the sites of “old” Ste. Genevieve, “new” Ste. Genevieve, and New Bourbon. (Ekberg, *French Roots*)

Also during this decade, a French nobleman named Pierre Charles Dehault Delassus Deluziere founded a new community called New Bourbon (Property Inventory No. 5), located approximately two miles southeast of Ste. Genevieve on a ridge overlooking the Common Field along the road that led to *La Saline*. An émigré from France, Delassus founded New Bourbon in 1793 as a haven for others like him, noblemen fleeing the French Revolution. However, his vision did not materialize. Delassus, his wife, and their family suffered ill health and financial troubles and his settlement failed to thrive. The residents of New Bourbon were similar to those of Ste. Genevieve. Until the settlement’s demise around 1860, the small population of New Bourbon participated in the social and economic life of the area, tilling land in a Common Field, and interacting with the farmers, traders, and residents of the more prosperous and resilient town of Ste. Genevieve.¹⁵ New Bourbon was also a planned French village, though it never attained the population to warrant a full grid or its own public square.

Ste. Genevieve’s growth during the last years of the 18th century and the very early 19th century was fueled by French-descended people who migrated to Ste. Genevieve and the neighboring settlement of New Bourbon from other towns in the Illinois Country and French Canada. The community was closely knit. The Catholic Church parish “was the fundamental unit of social and government organization in the Illinois Country.”¹⁶

15. Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 414–454. For a book-length biography of Delassus, see Carl Ekberg, *A French Aristocrat in the American West: The Shattered Dreams of De Lassus de Luzieres* (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 2010).

16. Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, 74.

Because so many of the settlers were Catholic, the Catholic Church was a dominant presence in the center of the town. Ste. Genevieve was French-dominated, but even in its early years, not exclusively French. The origins of men in the Ste. Genevieve militia were recorded in 1779; the majority of the 175 militia members came from the Illinois Country and Canada, but 15 were of English heritage (probably from the American colonies) and four were German.¹⁷ Notably, though the Spanish installed some representatives in their new territory, they never actively tried to populate the Mississippi Valley with Spanish-speaking settlers. “French Creole” culture predominated throughout the period of Spanish control. Creole was a term the French applied to any French, Spanish, African American, or mixed settler born in North America.

Black and mixed-race residents, both enslaved and free, were a major segment of the Ste. Genevieve population. Some American Indians were slaves, and others living nearby probably had trading relationships with the merchants in town. The nearby Osage conducted periodic raids on Ste. Genevieve, but were rarely violent. Settlement of the west bank of the Mississippi was not just by those of European and African descent. Following the American Revolution, groups of Illinois and Peoria established residence near Ste. Genevieve.¹⁸ In the 1780s, groups of Shawnee elected to leave Ohio and settle in seven villages on the western bank of the Mississippi south of Ste. Genevieve and north of Cape Girardeau, where they remained until the 1820s.¹⁹

17. Ekberg, *Francois Valle and His World*, 57.

18. Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 14.

19. Robin Dushane, materials provided to the study team, 2011.

Increasingly in the early 19th century, Ste. Genevieve welcomed non-Creole residents. British American settlement increased following the American Revolution, and increased further still after the Louisiana Purchase and eventual statehood of Missouri in 1821. While some stayed only temporarily in the town before moving on to opportunities further west, others remained in Ste. Genevieve, bringing with them different cultural and building traditions. Mirroring a transition occurring in other French towns, Ste. Genevieve underwent a period of transition and change in adjusting to new government and incorporating new cultural influences.

Historian Jay Gitlin described “the two wests” in the period between the American Revolution and the Louisiana Purchase—the immediate west of the American states such as Ohio and Kentucky, and the distant west of the Mississippi Valley and French Great Lakes, which he calls the “Creole Corridor.” As American settlement and influence moved westward, it began to encounter communities of the Creole Corridor. Earliest among these were communities in Indiana. “Vincennes, once securely part of the Creole Corridor, was by 1786 increasingly engulfed by [the] other frontier.”²⁰ Following the Louisiana Purchase, this other frontier of British American settlement moved ever westward to the heart of the Creole Corridor and beyond.

More than settlement patterns, agricultural tradition, and language separated French-speaking settlers from their British American counterparts. The culture of Illinois Country Creoles differed from British Americans from eastern settlements. So did the law. Following the Louisiana Purchase and U.S. government takeover of the territory in 1804, the law was changed to a system based on English common law. Verification of land claims under new law led to disputes. New law eliminated some provisions that women and enslaved persons had previously enjoyed. There had been greater autonomy for women and greater provisions for people of color under French and Spanish law.²¹ Enslaved persons could purchase their own freedom, and the law forbade breaking up slave families when sold.²² The structure of government changed, and as a result, the institutional underpinnings of the Creole way of life in the Illinois Country were damaged.²³

20. Jay Gitlin, *The Bourgeois Frontier: French Towns, French Traders, and American Expansion* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010), 43.

21. Robert J. Moore, Jr., “Determine L’Effacement: The French Creole Cultural Zone in the American Heartland,” *Gateway* 30 (2010), 20-21.

22. *Ibid.*, 20.

23. As Jay Gitlin observes, Louisiana had a much larger French population base and a professional civilian legal class that allowed elements of the French legal system to survive there (p. 149).

But culturally and in everyday life, the Creole influence remained strong. Elsewhere new law meant that individual lots in common fields could be fenced, but in Ste. Genevieve the open field persisted.²⁴ The British American and German American farmers, farm workers, and slaves joined the French *habitants* in planting and harvesting crops in the Common Field, maintaining its French configuration of long lots running largely east to west from the riverbank to the bluffs. Old French families, most notably the Valle family, continued to exercise power and influence, while acting as benefactors to the community. And the French vernacular style of building continued to be used, even as the town grid of Ste. Genevieve was also being filled in with Anglo- and German American buildings. Newcomers, as well as the descendants of old French families, built houses in a variety of styles, including the French colonial style, near the center of town and also along the banks of the meandering North and South Gabouri creeks.

Historians hold different opinions on the persistence of French culture in the Mississippi River Valley and the American West. Two recent publications have taken opposing views on this important subject. In an article in *Gateway Heritage*, an annual publication of the Missouri Historical Society, Bob Moore has embraced the view that French culture and influence virtually disappeared from the region after the Seven Years’ War and especially after the Louisiana Purchase. His argument is supported with evidence of high-handed arrogance among leaders of the expanding American republic. On the other hand, Jay Gitlin has argued in *The Bourgeois Frontier: French Towns, French Traders, and American Expansion*, that French *inhabitants*, especially merchants and their families, played a significant role in shaping the history and culture of the Mississippi River corridor from the 1760s through the 1840s. Both Moore and Gitlin focus their attention on St. Louis, Missouri, and larger cities, only briefly mentioning the town of Ste. Genevieve, although Moore observes that French material culture fared better in the smaller towns than in the cities. Ste. Genevieve has national significance as an unparalleled example of a French colonial settlement that retained much of its original building fabric while it evolved as a vibrant community within the new American republic.²⁵

The most notable feature of French vernacular log architecture is the use of logs vertically, rather than horizontally, as seen in buildings in the frontier settlements of people of other ethnic European extractions. These vertical log buildings can be divided into two types by their approach to foundations. In the rare *poteaux-en-terre*, or post-in-the-ground, houses, the vertical logs that form the exterior walls are inserted directly into the soil without a foundation wall or a sill underneath them. The surviving examples of the *poteaux-en-terre* house in Ste. Genevieve are the St. Gemme (Amoureux) House, the Vital St. Gemme Beauvais House, and the Bequette-Ribault House (Property Inventory Nos. 7, 9, and 21).

24. Eckerg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, 249.

25. Moore, 19, 27; Gitlin, 11-12.



Figure 6. View of an exterior wall of the Lalumandiere House, constructed ca. 1829, showing vertical log construction with pierreotage. (Bonnie Stepenoff)

More common are the *poteaux-sur-sole*, or post-on-a-sill, houses that have vertical log walls mounted on a wood sill atop a stone foundation (Property Inventory Nos. 8, 10-20, and 22-33). In these buildings, the vertical logs were spaced only a few inches apart, and the spaces between the logs were filled with mixtures of clay and grass (*boussillage*) or clay and small stones (*pierrotage*). Ste. Genevieve's residents continued to build these *poteaux-sur-sole* houses during the first four decades of the 19th century. One of these later examples of the French colonial house type is the Lalumandiere House, ca. 1829, (Property Inventory No. 30).²⁶

Typically, these French colonial houses had one story containing three or more rooms lined up side by side with stone chimneys placed either in the center or at the ends. In Ste. Genevieve, the smallest of these houses, including the Antoine Thomure House and the Lalumandiere House (Property Inventory Nos. 28 and 30), had only one room. The largest one, the Delassus-Kern House (Property Inventory No. 32), had six rooms. Double-pitched hip roofs often provided an attic space. It seems likely that the general form of the vertical log house with its steeply pitched roof had its roots in Normandy and came to the Mississippi Valley by way of Canada. A fine example of a roof supported by heavy Norman trusses is Ste. Genevieve's Guibourd-Valle House (Property Inventory No. 18). The windows in these houses were often of the casement type with wooden shutters. Interior embellishments sometimes included beaded ceiling beams and decorative wrought-iron hardware. A common feature of the French colonial house was the *galerie*, or porch, that surrounded the dwelling on all four sides.

26. The clearest and most succinct summary of these architectural forms is still to be found in Charles E. Peterson, "Early St. Genevieve and its Architecture," *Missouri Historical Review* 35 (January 1941): 216–219. See also Morrison, *Early American Architecture*, 256–258.

The *galerie* appears to have originated in the Caribbean or the lower part of Louisiana as an adaptation to hot weather.²⁷ It is exemplified by the Louis Bolduc House (Property Inventory No. 10) and the Bequette-Ribault House. This combination of features, the steeply pitched roofs of northerly tradition and the porches of southerly tradition, represents a hybrid of French settlers' approaches to building, well suited to the hybrid climate of the Illinois Country.

While the foundation distinction between *poteaux-en-terre* and *poteaux-sur-sole* is a useful distinction in construction methods, there are additional features that divide French vernacular vertical log buildings into subtypes. Roof framing and form is perhaps the most telling. Authors Jack Richard Luer and Jesse W. Francis explain these distinctions in *Vanishing French Heritage, Volume One: French Illinois Country*, identifying "Creole" roofs, which adhere more closely to French tradition, and "transitional" roofs, which borrow from British American framing techniques.²⁸ The carpenters and joiners of Ste. Genevieve, free white and black men of relatively high social status, are the subject of emerging scholarly research.²⁹

27. Morrison, *Early American Architecture*, 256–258; Jay D. Edwards, "The Origins of the Louisiana Creole Cottage," in *French and Germans in the Mississippi Valley: Landscape and Cultural Traditions* (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Center for Regional History and Cultural Heritage, 1988), 20–21.

28. Jack Richard Luer and Jesse W. Francis, *Vanishing French Heritage, Volume One: French Illinois Country* (Ste. Genevieve: Charles E. Peterson Institute for the Preservation of French Heritage, Inc., 1998).

29. Bonnie Stepenoff, "Faire une Maison: Carpenters and Houses in Ste. Genevieve, 1750–1850," unpublished manuscript, 2013.

The historic buildings of Ste. Genevieve convey a sense of history in connection with French exploration and settlement in the late 18th century and also in connection with the movement of diverse groups of settlers across the Mississippi River after 1804. As Charles Peterson noted, British American modifications are evident in many of the town's 27 extant French vernacular vertical log houses. Settlers who came to the area after the Louisiana Purchase adopted and adapted French building techniques and also constructed houses using typically British American materials and building methods. Seventeen of the properties listed in this report exemplify British American building traditions.

In addition to French vernacular buildings influenced by British American styles and techniques, traditional British American buildings were being constructed in the village as mercantile and river-shipping business increased.³⁰ Buildings in frame, brick, and stone were constructed for British American newcomers and for French residents (Property Inventory Nos. 34–49). Increasing population also diversified the area's agricultural landscape, as more farmers lived on their newly settled land outside Ste. Genevieve rather than living in town and commuting to the Common Field.³¹ The population of Ste. Genevieve County in 1830, the first census year in which its borders closely resemble those of today, recorded the population at 2,186.³²

Though Ste. Genevieve grew, it did not grow as rapidly as St. Louis or Missouri itself. At the time Lewis and Clark's Expedition began, St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve were comparable in size.³³ During the Spanish and early in the American administration of the area, Ste. Genevieve was the center for the vast Ste. Genevieve District, but as counties were subdivided off during the 1810s, the village lost influence over the resource-rich district that surrounded it.³⁴ Although Ste. Genevieve County had more than doubled its 1830 population by 1850, this increase was eclipsed by the explosive growth of St. Louis, which documented more than 100,000 residents in the county that same year.³⁵ While Ste. Genevieve was once a center for agricultural production and trading, St. Louis was quickly becoming the primary economic center in the region.

Part of the growth was due to an influx of German immigrants. Ste. Genevieve also experienced this wave, on a much smaller scale, and people of German heritage became another important part of the Ste. Genevieve community. The oldest surviving house exemplifying German American vernacular architectural practices in Ste. Genevieve is the Martin Intress House, constructed in 1846, the same year as the last surviving French vertical log house, the Jacob Auguste House (Property Inventory Nos. 50 and 33). These building traditions in concurrent use attest to the persistence of traditional methods and styles for both longstanding residents and newcomers.

All the extant French vernacular vertical log dwellings in Ste. Genevieve were built after the Seven Years' War, and most of them (Property Nos. 16–33) were built after the Louisiana Purchase—that is, after the period of French political dominance in the region and during a time when many British Americans and German Americans were settling in the town. These surviving buildings provide physical evidence that French residents continued to flourish in the Mississippi River Valley through the first half of the 19th century. There is documentary evidence, cited by Jay Gitlin and others, that French traditions in domestic life and French business enterprises strongly influenced the development of Detroit, St. Louis, and New Orleans, as well as Ste. Genevieve during this period of westward migration. But in these larger cities, as previously stated, French colonial architecture has virtually disappeared. Only in Ste. Genevieve can we clearly see the physical imprint of French *inhabitants* as they mingled with later waves of settlers.³⁶

The early French families of Ste. Genevieve and their descendants adapted to changing times while maintaining many of their traditions. Reflecting the growth of the community and settlement pattern, Ste. Genevieve's architectural and land use heritage includes typical French dwellings, as well as examples of British American and German American architecture, making visible the community transition to part of the new American republic.

30. Walter Schroeder, *Opening the Ozarks: A Historical Geography of Missouri's Ste. Genevieve District, 1760–1830* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2002), 243.

31. Schroeder, 212.

32. U.S. Census, *Population of State and Counties of the United State, 1790–1990*, <http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/pop1790-1990.html>

33. Stepenoff, 3.

34. Schroeder, 409.

35. U.S. Census.

36. Gitlin, 153–155. See also William E. Foley and David Rice, *The First Chouteaus: River Barons of Early St. Louis* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1983).



Figure 7. Ste. Genevieve in the 19th century, showing Common Field lots. Almost every family in Ste. Genevieve owned a plot in the Common Field. (Image: Gateway, 61)



Figure 8. In this view of South Main Street, looking north, the Bolduc House (foreground), the Le Meilleur House, and the Jean-Baptiste Valle House are on the left. The Linden House (with gabled dormers) is on the right. The stepped parapet of the Joseph Amoureux House is visible in the background. (Bonnie Stepenoff)



Figure 9. In this view of South Main Street, looking north, the Antoine O'Neill House is in the foreground on the right. The Bolduc House, the Le Meilleur House, and the Jean-Baptiste Valle House are on the left. (Bonnie Stepenoff)

Summary of Resources

The historic resources of Ste. Genevieve include an unequalled collection of French vertical log houses as well as early 19th-century British American and German American buildings that tell the story of a French colonial village as it evolved into an American town. Without a doubt, the most important extant resources in Ste. Genevieve are the French vertical log houses from the 18th and early 19th centuries. The oldest remaining examples of these have probable construction dates of 1792 and the last of these has a probable construction date of 1846. It is important to note that Ste. Genevieve residents continued to use vertical log construction more than three decades after the Louisiana Purchase. The rarest are the *poteaux-en-terre*, or post-in-the-ground. Only five of these houses have survived in North America, and three of them are still standing in their original locations in Ste. Genevieve: the St. Gemme, or Amoureux, House (1792), the Vital St. Gemme House (1792), and the Bequette-Ribault House (1808) (Property Inventory Nos. 7, 9, and 21). Next in rarity are the *poteaux-sur-sole*, or post-on-a-sill, houses. Twenty-four of these have been identified in Ste. Genevieve (Property Inventory Nos. 8, 10–20, and 22–33). These French vertical log houses have geographical and historical connections to significant early 19th-century British American and German American buildings (Property Inventory Nos. 34–50) that contribute to the NHL district of Ste. Genevieve.

One very striking group of buildings conveys an especially powerful sense of the cultural milieu in Ste. Genevieve between the late 18th century and the 1840s. This cluster of six buildings, located on South Main Street near the center of town, includes examples of French vernacular and British American vernacular buildings construction dates ranging from 1793 to 1844. The Bolduc House, the Jean-Baptiste Valle House, and the Le Meilleur House (Property Inventory Nos. 10, 11, and 22) are French colonial in style, although there is some debate among scholars whether the Le Meilleur House has vertical log construction. The Linden House, the Antoine O'Neill House, and the Joseph Amoureux House (Property Inventory Nos. 38, 44, and 49) are British American. As an ensemble, they form a visually compelling streetscape and provide a glimpse of Ste. Genevieve as it might have looked in the 1840s, before the death of Jean-Baptiste Valle, who served as the last commandant (military and political leader of the town), succeeding his brother, Francois Valle II, who died a few days before the formal transfer of power to the United States in 1804. After the American take-over, Jean-Baptiste Valle retained his status and influence by working in close association with an emerging group of British American and German American social, economic, and civic leaders.

Another important group of buildings, located on the southern bank of the South Gabouri, has strong connections with French exploration and settlement in Ste. Genevieve. Included in this group are three French colonial vertical log houses on the west side of St. Mary's Road, facing the Common Field and the Mississippi River. The buildings in this ensemble (sometimes known as the "Wilhawk" buildings in honor of 20th-century owners, Royce and Marge Wilhawk) include the St. Gemme-Beauvais (Amoureux) House and the Bequette-Ribault House (Property Inventory Nos. 7 and 21). Both of these are *poteaux-en-terre* houses in their original locations. A third French colonial vertical log house, the Lasource-Durand House (Property Inventory No. 19), was moved to this location in 1984 to avoid demolition.³⁷ Because of their location in proximity to the Common Field and the river, these houses convey a powerful sense of history.

The physical heritage of Ste. Genevieve lies not only in its buildings, but also in the cultural landscapes of agricultural fields (Common Field), the layout of streets (Town Grid), and well-preserved burial grounds (Memorial Cemetery). In addition, three archeological sites (the salt works known as *La Saline*, the old town site of Ste. Genevieve, and the archeological site of New Bourbon) formed an integral part of the economic and social development of Ste. Genevieve in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Twentieth Century Preservation and Scholarship

In the 20th century, preservationists discovered, documented, and protected significant French colonial properties. Ste. Genevieve has been extensively studied by historians, architectural historians, and archeologists. Beginning in the 1930s, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documented many of the early French and British American buildings in the community. In 1941, Charles Peterson wrote a seminal article entitled "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," which appeared in the *Missouri Historical Review*. In 1960, the National Park Service conducted a thematic study of "French Exploration and Settlement," as part of the National Historic Sites Survey, which concluded that "Of all the numerous Creole missionary, fur trading, mining, and military establishments in the Illinois Country, only Ste. Genevieve has retained much of its early appearance."³⁸

An example of early preservation efforts is the 1956–57 restoration of the Bolduc House, supervised by Dr. Ernest Allen Connally. (The Bolduc House has been owned and maintained for many years by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri.)

37. A modern building, known as the Creole House or Wilhawk House, is set back behind (to the west of) these historic buildings. While clearly not historic, the Creole House was designed in a compatible style by Jack Luer, an architect who played an important role in preserving the resources of Ste. Genevieve.

38. National Park Service, *French Exploration and Settlement: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings*, 1960, 55.

Within the historic boundaries of the French settlement, preservationists also recognized important British American and German American properties that are contemporaneous with the French colonial properties and convey a sense of the cultural blending that shaped Ste. Genevieve over the years.

In the 1960 historic sites survey, the National Park Service officially recognized Ste. Genevieve as a district that had "exceptional value" in connection with the theme of French exploration and settlement in the United States. Among the 14 properties cited for their "exceptional value" in the 1960 theme study, Ste. Genevieve had no equal in terms of the number of French vertical log houses still standing in their original locations. Eight of these properties surveyed are forts or the ruins of forts. Four of the properties (Arkansas Post, Chicago Portage, Grand Portage, and Saint Croix) are primarily archeological sites or natural areas. One of the properties is a single building, the old Ursuline Convent in New Orleans, which has been extensively altered. Ste. Genevieve stands alone as a collection of French vertical log buildings. For this reason, in 1960, Ste. Genevieve's historic district was among the first in the nation to be designated a National Historic Landmark. (See "Previous Designations," page 14.).³⁹

Studies completed in the 1970s and 1980s added to and refined the knowledge of the French colonial heritage of Ste. Genevieve. A 1980 reconnaissance survey conducted by the NPS Midwest Region drew attention to the archeological site of the original town of Ste. Genevieve in the river bottoms. The site was identified and later investigated by Terry Norris of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who published his findings on features and artifacts there that corroborated the date range of occupation of the site from the 1750s to 1790s.⁴⁰ During the 1970s and 1980s, scholars from the University of Missouri-Columbia conducted extensive research on the history and architecture of Ste. Genevieve and saved many old records collectively known as the Ste. Genevieve Archives. These materials led to important new community-based studies, including a multidisciplinary project in the Saline Creek Valley and Susan Boyle's work on the women of colonial Ste. Genevieve.⁴¹ Scholars also conducted the Ste. Genevieve Architectural Survey, documenting buildings in and around the NHL district and as part of this comprehensive research project, and preparing HABS documentation for 11 properties.

39. See *French Exploration and Settlement: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings* (National Park Service, Revised 1960).

40. National Historic Landmark Nomination: Ste. Genevieve Historic District [draft], prepared by Douglas C. McVarish, 2001, 60. (Hereafter referred to as "Draft NHL Nomination, 2001.")

41. See Trimble, et al., "Frontier Colonization of the Saline Creek Valley" and also Susan C. Boyle, "Did She Generally Decide: Women in Ste. Genevieve, 1750–1805," *William and Mary Quarterly* 44 No. 4 (October 1987): 775–789.

Drawing on these valuable studies, historians continued to piece together the history of a French colonial settlement that became an American town. The historian who has contributed most to the scholarship of Ste. Genevieve, drawing upon extensive primary sources, is Carl Ekberg, who has written a series of books, beginning with *Colonial Ste. Genevieve* on the history of the community before 1804. Starting in 1997, Southeast Missouri State University and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources cooperatively sponsored an annual summer field school that provided an opportunity for students to conduct research in Ste. Genevieve. This research provided the basis for a book by Bonnie Stepenoff entitled *From French Community to Missouri Town: Ste. Genevieve in the Nineteenth Century*, which placed an emphasis on the town's multicultural heritage. Many other historians have contributed to the study of Ste. Genevieve, and the books and articles that many of them have written will be cited in this report.

Missouri's Department of Natural Resources restored and opened the Felix Valle State Historic Site in the 1970s. Historically important resources currently under state stewardship are: the Jacob Philipson House (also known as the Felix Valle House), the Bossier Warehouse (also known as the Dr. Benjamin Shaw House), the Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais House (also called the Amoureux House), and the Delassus-Kern House (also known as the Kern House). [Insert Reference to appropriate map in layout phase].

In 2001, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources purchased the Creole House, a building constructed in 1882 that served as a bed and breakfast, from Marge and Royce Wilhauk. The Creole House was situated on 2.9 acres of land between the Bequette-Ribault House and the Amoureux House, two of the last remaining *poteaux-en-terre* houses in North America. Also located on the Wilhauk's tract was the Lasource-Durand House, a *poteaux-sur-sole* house that was moved there from its original location.⁴²

Federal recognition of the significance of Ste. Genevieve began with HABS surveys in the 1930s. Peterson and Connally encouraged and supported local preservation efforts in the 1940s and 1950s, and in 1960, the historic district achieved National Historic Landmark status. Studies of Ste. Genevieve, supported by the state and federal governments in the 1970s and 1980s, enhanced our understanding of the historic resources associated with French exploration and settlement of the town and its environs. Missouri's Department of Natural Resources acquired its first property in Ste. Genevieve in the 1970s and subsequently brought three additional historic properties under state management.

42. In recognition of the significance of these properties, Senator Christopher Bond proposed the "French Colonial Heritage Area Study Act of 2001." Supporters of this initiative hoped that the Creole House might serve as the interpretive or administrative center of a site that interpreted French settlement in North America. Bonnie Stepenoff, "Initiatives to Preserve French Colonial Heritage," *Missouri Parks Association Heritage* Vol. 20 No. 1 (April 2002), 3.

PREVIOUS DESIGNATIONS

Long recognized as a singular assemblage of rare surviving French vernacular architecture in the United States, Ste. Genevieve has a history of recognition by the National Park Service. This section describes these previous designations, a necessary step toward understanding the designation status of properties included in this study.

National Historic Landmark District

National historic landmarks are cultural properties designated by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing national significance. Acknowledged as among the nation's most significant historic places, these buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.⁴³ They must also retain a high degree of historic integrity, which is composed of key characteristics of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

In 1959, the Advisory Board on National Park, Historic Sites, and Buildings and Monuments recognized Ste. Genevieve for NHL designation because it possesses the largest concentration of French vernacular vertical log buildings in the United States.⁴⁴ It was designated under the theme of French Exploration and Settlement as part of the National Historic Sites Survey. The eligibility was officially announced in 1960, and Ste. Genevieve was one of the first places to receive the designation. Documentation standards at the time were less stringent than today, and, characteristic of that era, the report is brief. The nomination lists eight significant buildings: the Bolduc House, the Le Meilleur House, the Jean Baptiste Valle House, the Felix Valle House, the Senator Lewis F. Linn House, the Janis Ziegler House (Green Tree Tavern), the Ste. Genevieve Academy, and the Mammy Shaw House. No district boundaries were established at the time.⁴⁵

43. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, "National Register Bulletin: How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations," 1999.

44. Today, the Advisory Board on National Park, Historic Sites, and Buildings and Monuments is known as the National Park System Advisory Board.

45. A brief two-page description provided by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: French Exploration and Settlement, 1960, serves as the original National Historic Landmark documentation for Ste. Genevieve.

The first boundaries for the NHL district in Ste. Genevieve were approved in 1970, encompassing roughly 1,400 acres⁴⁶ (see appendix D). The 1970 boundary also named eight representative properties, though a variation on the list from the 1959/60 designation. At the time, NHL nominations for historic districts did not identify individual contributing and noncontributing properties. The eight properties named in 1970 were: the Bolduc House, the Jean-Baptiste Valle House, the Vital St. Gemme de Beauvais House, the Parfait Dufour House, the Guibourd-Valle House, the Janis-Ziegler House (“Green Tree Tavern”), the St. Gemme-Amoureux House, and the Bequette-Ribault House.⁴⁷ At the time, all were believed to have been constructed before 1800. Subsequent investigations, however, revealed that the Guibourd-Valle House and the Bequette-Ribault House were constructed after 1800.⁴⁸ [See Map on page 18]

Also in 1970, the Bolduc House was approved as an individual National Historic Landmark as a superb example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. It remains the only building in Ste. Genevieve with individual NHL designation.

As discussed in “Twentieth Century Preservation and Scholarship,” beginning in the 1970s and 1980s, study of Ste. Genevieve’s architecture and archeology increased, leading to new identifications of vertical log properties and more accurate dating. As new information was discovered, there were several efforts to update the NHL district documentation. In 1975, a historian prepared documentation for an expanded district with 49 contributing properties, but the documentation did not meet accepted standards, and thus was never adopted. Another attempt was made to update documentation in 1986, but work was never completed.⁴⁹

In 2001, architectural historian Douglas McVarish prepared a draft NHL nomination (completed in 2003) that expanded the district boundaries, identified 55 properties of national significance, and provided an important starting point for this current study. (Of the properties identified in the 2001 NHL draft, 2 were no longer extant in 2010, and 8 appeared to lack sufficient integrity to contribute to the district.) The McVarish study also nominated the Ste. Genevieve NHL district as nationally significant under Criterion 1 (representing broad patterns in our nation’s history) in addition to Criterion 4 (architecture). To date, the draft NHL nomination has not been submitted for consideration by the NHL committee. Because there has been no approved revision to the NHL documentation, the original boundaries and contributing properties listed in 1970 stand.

This report draws on the NHL designation, and on the recent documentation compiled by McVarish in the most recent draft NHL nomination. In addition to the resources included in the current NHL district, this report recognizes a number of properties that satisfy the criteria for national significance for their contribution to the collection of exceptional resources in Ste. Genevieve. These will be discussed further in “Significance” on page 19.

National Register of Historic Places District

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance at the national, state, or local levels. In addition to the NHL district, Ste. Genevieve is also home to a larger National Register district, listed in 2002 under National Register criteria A, C, and D, with a period of significance from 1790 to 1951.⁵⁰ The district is roughly bounded by Main Street and St. Mary’s Road, Seventh Street, and Seraphin Street, and encompasses 824 buildings. Of these, 676 buildings contribute to the district, and 148 are noncontributing. While some of these properties are nationally significant because the NHL district overlaps a portion of the National Register district, most are significant at the state and local level.⁵¹

46. National Park Service, “Ste. Genevieve Historic District,” 1970.

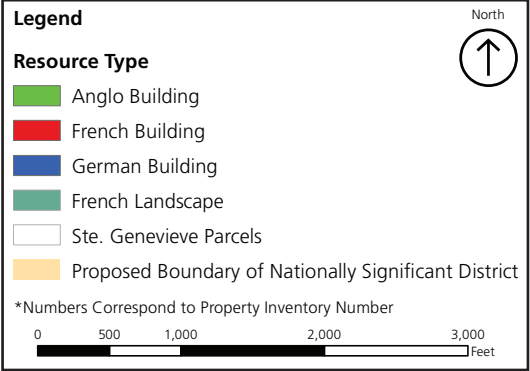
47. The “Parfait Dufour House” referred to in 1970 was probably a misidentification, in both location and name. Standing on Merchant Street between Second and Third Streets (not Third and Fourth, as the 1970 report stated), the “Parfait Dufour House” was probably built by his son Theophilus. Long thought to be a vertical log building, subsequent investigation proved otherwise.

48. National Park Service, “Ste. Genevieve Historic District,” 1970.

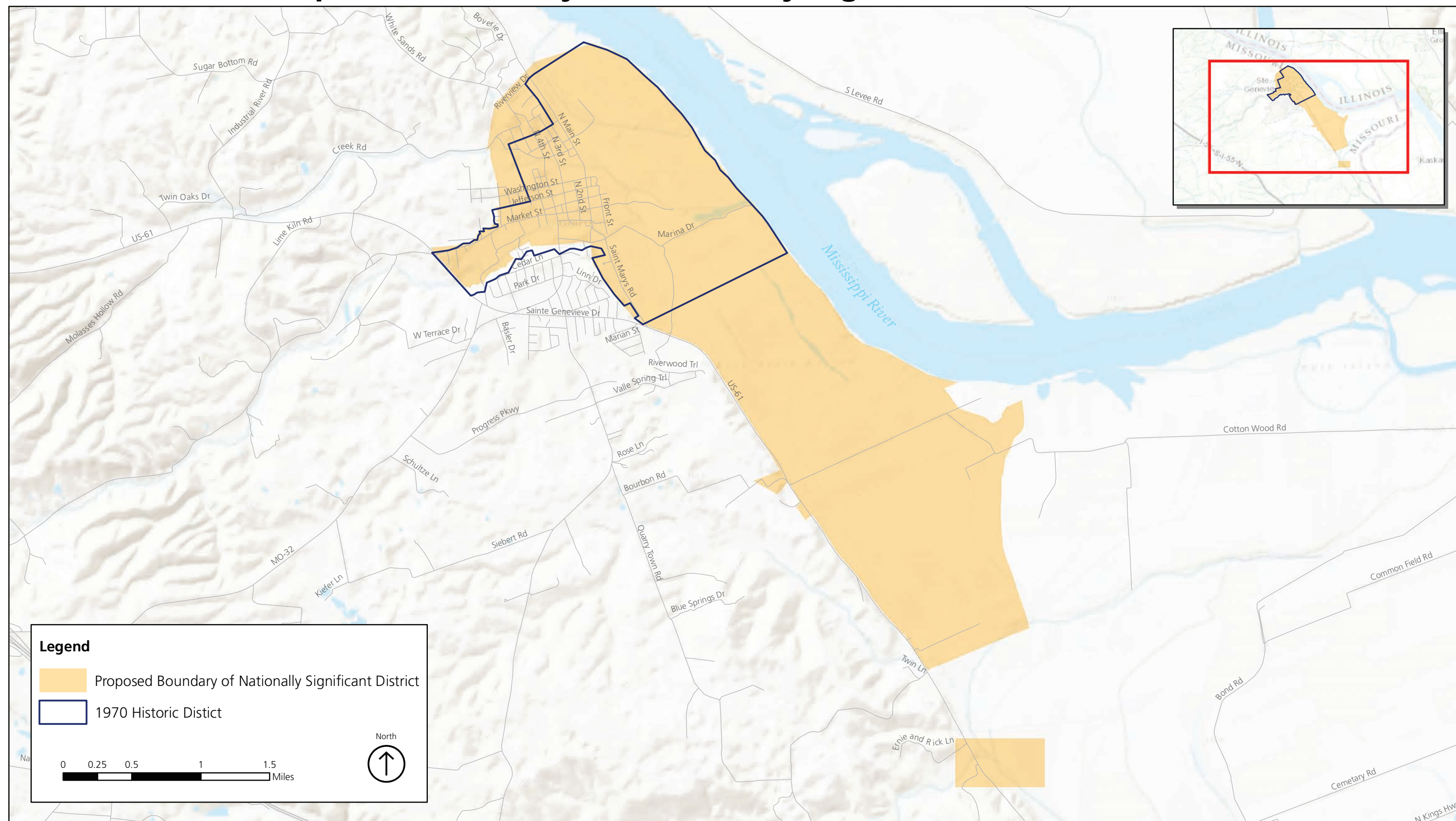
49. Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 9.

50. National Register of Historic Places Criterion A is for properties “associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.” Criterion C is properties that embody “the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. . . .” Criterion D is for a property that “has yielded or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.”

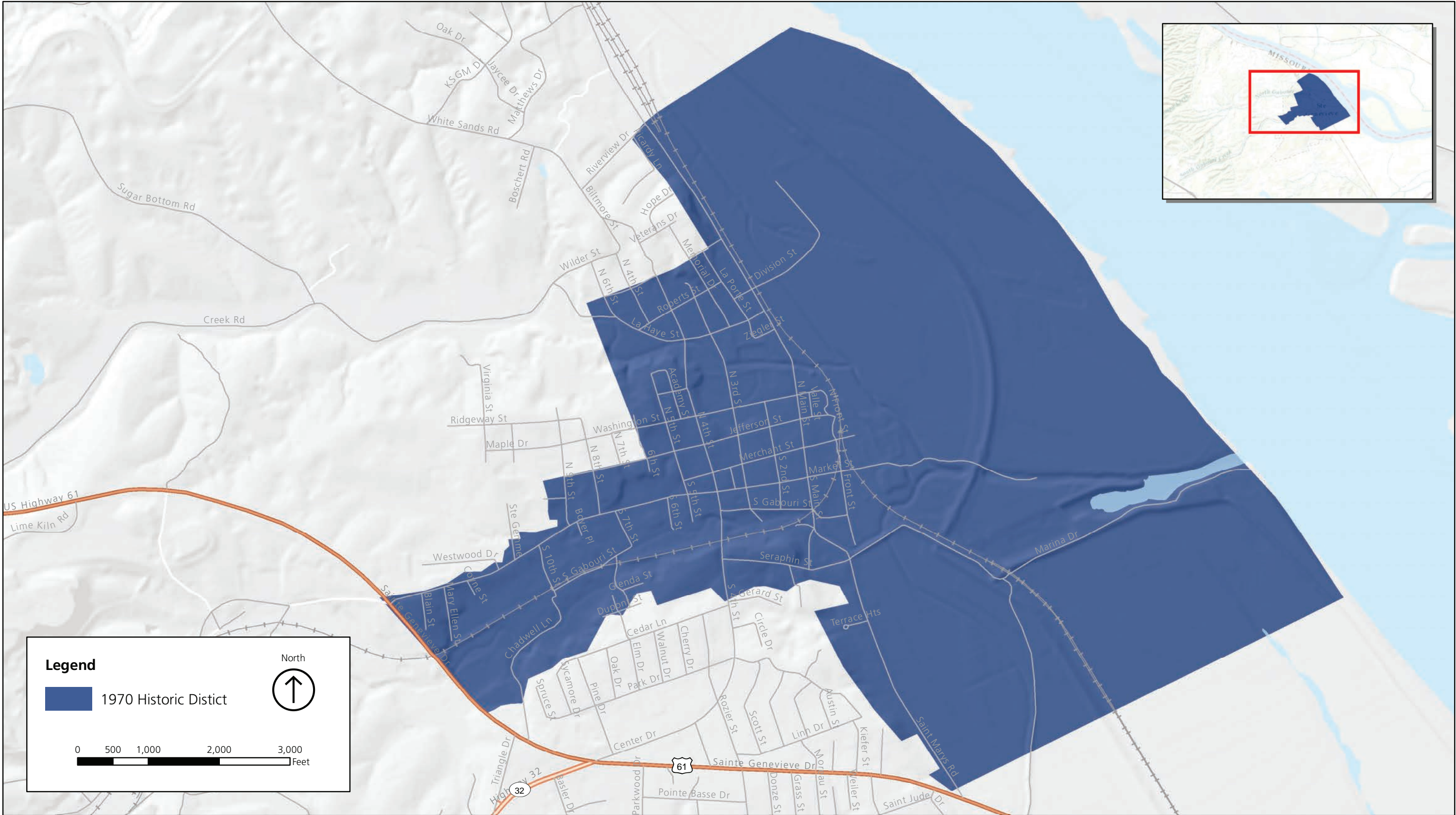
51. National Register of Historic Places, Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Ste. Genevieve, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri. National Register # 02000357.



Ste. Genevieve Proposed Boundary of Nationally Significant District



Ste. Genevieve District NHL Boundaries identified in 1970



CHAPTER 3: ANALYSIS OF THE CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

In this chapter, the resources of Ste. Genevieve will be evaluated against criteria for new units of the national park system. When specifically authorized by an act of Congress, the National Park Service is responsible for conducting studies of potential additions to the national park system, and for transmitting the results of these studies to the Secretary of the Interior and Congress. These special resource studies rely on the criteria for inclusion (appendix B) to evaluate these potential new areas.⁵² To be recommended as a potential new area, a proposed addition to the national park system must meet the following criteria:

1. **Significance:** For cultural resources, significance is evaluated using the National Historic Landmark criteria (appendix C). Determinations of an area's national significance are made by NPS professionals in consultation with scholars, experts, and scientists.
2. **Suitability:** An area is considered suitable if it represents a resource type that is not currently represented in the national park system or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by another agency or entity. Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the type, quality, quantity, combination of resources present, and interpretive and educational potential.
3. **Feasibility:** To be considered feasible, an area must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and to accommodate public use. The area must have potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost. Other important feasibility factors include landownership, acquisition costs, current and potential use, access, level of local and general public support, and staff or development requirements.
4. **Need for Direct NPS Management:** Even if a resource meets the criteria of significance, suitability, and feasibility, it will not always be recommended that a resource be added to the national park system. There are many excellent examples of important natural and cultural resources managed by other federal agencies, other levels of government, and private entities. Evaluation of management options must show that direct NPS management is clearly the superior alternative before a unit will be included in the System.

In this chapter, the criteria for inclusion are applied in succession to the collection of properties in Ste. Genevieve. The criteria for affiliate areas, areas administered in connection with the national park system that are neither federally owned nor directly administered by the National Park Service, but that the National Park Service assists, are also evaluated in this chapter.

SIGNIFICANCE

To qualify as an appropriate addition to the national park system, the property or area must possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources. Cultural resource properties qualify as “nationally significant” in terms of the established criteria for National Historic Landmarks (see appendix C). When evaluating national significance in congressionally authorized special resource studies, resources that have been designated as National Historic Landmarks are considered to be nationally significant and require no further analysis. As discussed in chapter 2 in “Previous Designations,” the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Landmark District has not been formally updated since 1970. This significance analysis will describe the properties that were listed in 1970 and also properties that, as a result of new research, discoveries, and understanding, should be considered nationally significant for the purposes of this study.

Properties or districts are evaluated for exceptional value through a reasoned comparison to similar properties nationwide and to themes of national importance. They must also possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Nationally significant cultural resources must satisfy at least one of the following specific criteria:

52. These criteria are outlined in *NPS Management Policies 2006*, and draw their legal basis from Public Law 91-383 §8 as amended by §303 of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act (Public Law 105-391).

Criterion 1: That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or

Criterion 2: That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or

Criterion 3: That represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or

Criterion 4: That embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion 5: That are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or

Criterion 6: That have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

The properties listed in this inventory contribute to the significance of the Ste. Genevieve NHL District under Criterion 4 and Criterion 1. Under Criterion 4, Ste. Genevieve possesses an unparalleled collection of French vernacular vertical log buildings of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Under Criterion 1, Ste. Genevieve possesses an outstanding array of properties and landscape features associated with French exploration and settlement of the interior of North America and the arc of that settlement from town foundation to the influx of new groups of settlers joining the original French *inhabitants* of the community. The period of significance extends from the founding of Ste. Genevieve circa 1750 to 1846, which is the approximate date of construction for the most recent surviving French vertical log structure and the date of construction of the earliest surviving example of German American vernacular architecture.

Criterion 4: Architecture

Because Ste. Genevieve possesses an outstanding collection of rare property types that represent vernacular French building traditions, the NHL district qualifies under Criterion 4:

Criterion 4: [Properties] that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction

Ste. Genevieve is nationally significant for its examples of rare French vernacular vertical log buildings. The district possesses the greatest concentration of such buildings in North America. In a 1998 inventory of the 49 known extant French vernacular buildings in the Illinois Country, an area that stretched from Indiana to Missouri, all but 19 were located in Ste. Genevieve.⁵³

As previously mentioned, the 1970 NHL district recognized 7 French vernacular vertical log houses, and 1 that subsequent investigation showed was misidentified. This study includes the properties identified for the 1970 district and 20 additional French vertical log buildings. These additional properties should be considered nationally significant for the purposes of this study because research has revealed more examples of French vernacular vertical log architecture, specifically *poteaux-sur-sole*. This enhances the national significance of the district due to the increased concentration of rare buildings. The additional properties also contribute to the understanding of construction methods and the period that French vernacular building methods persisted in areas of French settlement. These additional properties include: the Francois Valle II House, the Moses Austin Outbuilding Number 1, the Aubuchon House, the LaHaye House, the Bernier Barn, the Pepin (LaChance) House, the Lasource-Durand House, the JB Valle II (Dorlac) House, the Le Meilleur House, the Beauchamp House, the Joseph Gouvreau House, the Etienne Gouvreau House, the Louis Caron House, the Joseph Caron House, the Thomure House, the Seraphin House, the Lalumandiere House, the Michel Placet House, the Delassus-Kern House, and the Jacob Auguste House (see Property Inventory No. 8, 13–17, 19–20, and 22–33).

The French vertical log houses are the most important architectural resources in Ste. Genevieve. The district includes 3 of the 5 surviving *poteaux-en-terre* houses in North America. Also rare are the *poteaux-sur-sole* houses, more than 20 of which remain standing in Ste. Genevieve. *Poteaux-sur-sole* houses required more sophisticated carpentry skills and the building of a foundation, unlike their *en-terre* cousins, which may contribute to their outnumbering *en-terre* in survivals. Because of their rarity, all contribute to the national significance of the historic district.

53. Luer and Francis, vii.

These rare buildings survive as a collection within a street grid and landscape that retains much of its form from the settlement of “new” Ste. Genevieve, particularly the street grid in the core of the village (Property Inventory No. 4). Also contributing to the national significance of the district under Criterion 4 in this study is the Common Field, a unique survival of an agricultural landscape representing the traditional long lot land divisions used in French settlements in the Illinois Country. This landscape and its relationship to the village as part of the tripartite planned French village form that developed in the Illinois Country is still evident in Ste. Genevieve (see further discussion in Property Inventory No. 2). (See map on page 17.)

Criterion 1: Broad Patterns of United States History

In addition to architectural significance, the proposed district possesses historical significance because it represents French colonial settlement, from its earliest days (at *La Saline* and the Old Town Archeological Site) to a flourishing French agricultural settlement, to an economically diverse community that maintained many of its architectural and cultural traditions as it absorbed new populations. The buildings, landscapes, and archeological sites of Ste. Genevieve have important associations with the arc of French settlement, from initial settlement and development to the coexistence of cultures in the interior of North America after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 (finalized in 1804). An expanded Ste. Genevieve NHL district can also be considered nationally significant for Criterion 1:

Criterion 1: [Properties] that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained.

The French vernacular vertical log buildings (Property Inventory Nos. 7–33) also contribute to the national significance under Criterion 1, outstandingly representing the broad patterns of our national history, in the area of French exploration and settlement. Enhancing the significance of these buildings are surviving cultural landscapes that include an early site of salt extraction called *La Saline* (Property Inventory No. 1), the Common Field, which retains much of its French vernacular form of long lots (Property Inventory No. 2), the site of the original town of Ste. Genevieve prior to the great flood of 1785 (Property 3), the original town grid of “new” Ste. Genevieve (Property Inventory No. 4), the archeological site of the failed settlement of New Bourbon (Property Inventory No. 5), and the old French burying ground known as Memorial Cemetery (Property Inventory No. 6). These elements of the historic district powerfully document French settlement patterns and life in the Illinois Country during the period of French dominance from circa 1750 to the Louisiana Purchase.

In addition to exemplifying the initial phases of French exploration and settlement, the historic resources of Ste. Genevieve represent the broad patterns of our national history by providing physical evidence of the transition from French dominance to American governance. As an important complement to its collection of French colonial architecture, Ste. Genevieve also possesses British American architecture and German American architecture of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, constructed contemporaneously with French vernacular buildings in the community. In fact, some of these were included in the original National Historic Landmark designation of Ste. Genevieve.⁵⁴

As shown by the Spanish census, early muster rolls, and other documentation, Ste. Genevieve had never been a purely French town, relying on people from other cultures, both enslaved and free, to build the community, even as French culture dominated in the 18th and early 19th century. As the population of Ste. Genevieve became more diverse, structures of different building traditions were built alongside one another, and in some cases incorporated elements from one another. Important buildings belonging to British American and German American traditions were integral parts of the historical transition from a French village to an American town. The richness of the town’s cultural heritage is further amplified by the fact that several French vertical log houses had owners and occupants who were free people of African heritage in the years before the Civil War ended slavery in the United States. Among these are the St. Gemme (Amoureux) House, the Bequette-Ribault House, the Joseph Seraphin (Recole) House, and the Jacob Auguste (Birke) House (Property Inventory Nos. 7, 21, 29, 33).

Rather than separate into different areas of town, British American and German American buildings were constructed in available spaces in the town grid. Several properties have historical associations with residents of more than one ethnic group. For example, the St. Gemme-Amoureux House, the Bequette-Ribault House, the Joseph Seraphin House, and the Jacob August House (Property Inventory Nos. 7, 21, 29, and 33) have significant associations with French and African American occupants. The Green Tree Tavern, the Delassus-Kern House, and the Keil-Schwent House (Property Inventory Nos. 12, 32, and 39) have historical associations with French and German American occupants. In addition, the Felix Valle House and the Marie LaPorte House (Property Inventory Nos. 43 and 46) are excellent examples of British American style houses that were occupied for long periods by prominent members of the French community.

54. National Park Service, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: French Exploration and Settlement, 1960.



Figures 10 and 11. Left, front of Louis Felix Valle's tombstone with inscription in French; right, English inscription on the back of the tombstone. (Bonnie Stepenoff)

Many properties demonstrate blended construction approaches or later architectural modifications still respectful of the original building tradition. The transitional roof framing on several surviving buildings, such as the Joseph Seraphin House, illustrates this. Others underwent early modifications, such as the Bequette-Ribault House (Property Inventory No. 21) which was remodeled and anglicized circa 1800.⁵⁵ Properties that are especially notable for their cross-cultural associations include the Jean Baptiste Valle II (Dorlac) House (Property Inventory No. 20), which is a French vertical log house that has significant British American architectural details. More examples are explored in detail in the Property Inventory.

British American and German American architectural examples make an inextricable contribution to the national significance of the district under this criterion. British American buildings with construction dates ranging from 1804 to 1844 are included in the property inventory (see Property Inventory No. 34-49). The Martin Intress House, constructed in 1846, represents German American construction that signaled an important change in the cultural make-up of Ste. Genevieve in the mid-19th century.

Stories of business partnerships, marriages, and friendships between French American, British American, German American, and the free black communities in Ste. Genevieve have been well documented by scholars, supported by the rich records of the community. They worked together to establish educational institutions, such as the Ste. Genevieve Academy (Property No. 36). As the town developed in the early 19th century, they formed partnerships in successful business

enterprises, shared in local governance, and buried their dead in the same cemeteries, including the old French burying ground (Property Inventory No. 6). A poignant record of the transition from French to American culture in Ste. Genevieve has been carved into the stone burial monument of a member of the most prominent French family, the Valles. One side of the monument, erected in the 1850s, is inscribed in French; the other side bears the same inscription in English.⁵⁶

The transition was certainly not without friction. Americans were suspicious of Illinois Country Creole loyalties and close ties with American Indians. Illinois Country Creoles saw American newcomers to the area as rowdy and feared the loss of autonomy and increased taxation under their new government. Though not immediately visible in the built environment, the stresses and strains of change felt by citizens throughout the Creole Corridor were undoubtedly also felt at Ste. Genevieve.

The contributing buildings of differing construction and ethnic traditions built contemporaneously in the 18th and early 19th centuries outstandingly represent the transition from colonial French communities to American towns that occurred in much of the area settled by the French in the United States. As mentioned above, cities such as St. Louis, Vincennes, Detroit, and many others that began as French settlements no longer retain much of their French character, and thus do not retain the physical evidence of cultural transition and blending that occurred in these communities.

56. For a book-length treatment of Ste. Genevieve's transition from French to American, see Stepenoff's *From French Community to Missouri Town*.

55. Luer and Francis, 46.

Table 1. Sites Important to French Exploration and Settlement in the United States

Name	State	French Vernacular Vertical Log Houses
Ackia (Natchez)	MS	No
Aillet House	LA	Yes (1, moved)
Arkansas Post	AR	No
Cahokia	IL	Yes (1, a church)
Chicago Portage	IL	No
Destehan Plantation	LA	Yes (1, modified)
Fort St. Frederic	NY	No
Ft. Boulaye	LA	No
Ft. Caroline	FL	No
Ft. de Chartres	IL	No
Ft. Massac	IL	No
Ft. Orleans	MO	No
Ft. St. Jean Baptiste	LA	No
Ft. Toulouse	AL	No
Grand Portage	MN	No
Kaskaskia	IL	No (ruins)
Natchez	MS	No (later period houses)
Natchitoches	LA	Yes (1)
Old Ft. Niagara	NY	No
Old Mobile	AL	No
Peoria	IL	No
Pierre Menard	IL	Yes (1)
St. Croix/Arcadia	ME	No
Starved Rock	IL	No
Ste. Genevieve	MO	Yes (27)
Ursuline Conv.	LA	No
Vieux Carre	LA	Yes (few)

Source: Bonnie Stepenoff

National historic landmarks representing French exploration and settlement are overwhelmingly military or trading posts, such as Fort de Chartres in Illinois and Fort Michilimackinac in Michigan. There are several representing the religious aspects of French expansion in America, such as the St. Ignace Mission in Michigan or the Ursuline Convent in New Orleans.

A nationally significant district representing the domestic and community life of French settlement is the Vieux Carré, or French Quarter, in New Orleans. This district is an example of urban architecture that owes much to the influence of the Spanish, under whose rule it was rebuilt following a fire in 1788. Ste. Genevieve, a small town at a further remove from the concerns of Spanish colonial government, was free to build village-scale domestic buildings well into the period of acquisition by the United States and even into the period of Missouri statehood. Other French towns in the Illinois Country, such as St. Louis, Cahokia, or Vincennes, had much of their French-built heritage destroyed by fires or growth. Other small settlements, such as Kaskaskia, lost their buildings to flooding and movement of the Mississippi River. French influence and material culture was generally more persistent in smaller towns than in larger French-founded cities such as Detroit and St. Louis, and continued long after French political dominance had waned. In addition to Ste. Genevieve's avoidance of natural disasters or obliterating development, this persistence accounts for the survival of resources.

Whether by natural disaster or community growth and change, no other settlement in the Illinois Country retains the landscape features, archeological sites, and architecture that as completely represent the French heritage of the community. When the view is expanded beyond the Mid-Mississippi Valley to all areas of New France now within the United States, the survival becomes even more remarkable, as no French settlement in either the Old Northwest of Michigan and Wisconsin, nor any in the Lower Mississippi and Gulf Coast retains nearly as much French vernacular architecture or community form as Ste. Genevieve.

Only the Vieux Carré in New Orleans provides a comparative example whose architecture exemplifies the transition as British American influence increased on predominantly French culture. The Vieux Carré retains its grid, laid out by the French, though the architecture is more properly termed “Creole” than either specifically French or Spanish, because both had a strong influence in the city, unlike Ste. Genevieve, which remained predominantly French in architectural and cultural influence.⁵⁷ The Vieux Carré is a National Historic Landmark and represents many of the same themes as Ste. Genevieve, but it lacks the distinctly French vernacular buildings and the landscape features of Ste. Genevieve. There is also a marked distinction between the grand architecture of an urban area and the more typical example of a village, which better represents many French towns in the Illinois Country. Ste. Genevieve is unique and provides opportunities for understanding and appreciating nationally significant patterns of our history that the Vieux Carré does not.

The tripartite village form that emerged in the Illinois Country was unique to the area in part because settlements were formed without the supervision of colonial administration as they were in Quebec or Lower Louisiana.⁵⁸ As historian Carl Ekberg observes, the system was one that “undoubtedly originated and evolved partly in response to local needs and local geography” but that also suggests that “the French colonists of the region possessed a mental template for a system that was part of the cultural baggage they had carried with them from the Old World.”⁵⁹ Other agricultural settlements have lost their common fields to later development—only Ste. Genevieve’s remains.

57. Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, *National Register of Historic Places Update: Vieux Carré*, October 11, 2011. http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/nhl/search_results.asp?search_type=historicname&value=Vieux+Carre&pageno=1 (accessed April 6, 2012).

58. Schroeder, 210.

59. Ekberg, *French Roots*, 108–109. Schroeder examines assertions by other historians that Ste. Genevieve was laid out according to the Spanish “Law of the Indies.” He concludes that it “likely did not directly influence the plan” and that it is different to separate French and Spanish town planning ideas. (p.239–240)

The continuing cultural expressions of the French, in addition to their continued economic power and social standing in the community of Ste. Genevieve, makes visible the continued Creole relevance following the transition to American power, a role that Creole families also played in French-founded cities such as St. Louis and Detroit.⁶⁰ While those cities have lost the strong physical imprint of their foundation and transition, Ste. Genevieve’s remains as a testament to the origins and development of a vast swath of America.

Period of Significance and Themes

The period of significance of the district begins with the founding of the first community known as Ste. Genevieve about 1750 and ends in 1846, the construction date of the last French vertical log house in “new” Ste. Genevieve, the town that replaced the first French village after a disastrous flood. These dates encompass archeological sites that pre-date the founding of present-day Ste. Genevieve as well as all the known French vertical log houses and significant buildings representing British American and German American settlement in the town in the first half of the 19th century.

Taken as a whole, these properties contribute in a significant way to our understanding of the following themes within the NPS current “Thematic Framework”: (I) Peopling Places, (III) Expressing Cultural Values, and (V) Developing the American Economy. The first settlers in Ste. Genevieve were French-speaking people, who came to the area in search of agricultural land and other resources, including salt, meat, and furs. They were then governed by representatives of the Spanish government. After the Louisiana Purchase, English-speaking settlers arrived in growing numbers, and in the 1840s there was a wave of German immigration. Each of these cultural groups had an influence on community life. However, during the first half of the 19th century, French traditions strongly influenced the architecture, gardens, agricultural practices, spatial arrangements, and social customs of Ste. Genevieve. Residents of Ste. Genevieve were engaged not only in farming, but also in a variety of economic activities, including trading, milling, and salt extraction. The French settlers of Ste. Genevieve shaped the landscape, most notably by creating a large agricultural field, divided into long narrow lots, that survives to the present day. Despite changes in language and culture, French influence remains evident in the physical fabric of the town and its environs.

60. For an in-depth discussion, Jay Gitlin.

Integrity

All properties considered contributing to the national significance of the Ste. Genevieve NHL district under both criteria are listed in Chapter 6: Property Inventory. Of the properties listed in the 2001 NHL draft, 2 were no longer extant in 2010, and 8 appeared to lack sufficient integrity. This current study adds 3 archeological sites and 2 buildings to the list of nationally significant properties, resulting in a total of 50 properties discussed in this report.⁶¹

The “new” town of Ste. Genevieve, dating from the 1790s, retains its early configuration as a French community, although naturally there have been changes over the years. Despite political and social upheavals and the arrival of English-speaking and German-speaking settlers, Ste. Genevieve (“new” Ste. Genevieve) retained its French heritage. Historian Natalia Belting stated the case succinctly when she wrote that, while other French settlements faded away or lost much of their original character, Ste. Genevieve “still resembles the old French community” founded by French-speaking people in the 18th century.⁶²

As a district, Ste. Genevieve retains a high degree of historic integrity. Individual contributing properties retain integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and contribute to the nationally significant collection of properties in Ste. Genevieve. The integrity of individual properties is addressed in the descriptions in the Property Inventory.

Significance Conclusion

The Ste. Genevieve district is nationally significant under Criterion 1 and Criterion 4. Under Criterion 4, Ste. Genevieve possesses a large and rare collection of French vernacular vertical log houses. That architecture is complemented and enriched by contemporaneous examples of British American and German American architecture that contribute to the significance of the district under Criterion 1. The buildings, sites, and cultural landscapes listed in the property inventory have clear and compelling historical associations with French exploration and settlement of the interior of the United States in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and with the American territory that developed following the Louisiana Purchase.

61. Charles Peterson, “Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture,” *Missouri Historical Review* 35 (January 1941): 207–233; NPS, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Missouri: Ste. Genevieve, 1965, copy provided by NPS Midwest Office; NPS Midwest Region, “Reconnaissance Report: Ste. Genevieve,” 1980, copy provided by Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, Mecker Library; Carl J. Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve: An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier* (Tucson, Arizona: Patrice Press, 1996); Stephenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, and draft National Historic Landmark Nomination: Ste. Genevieve Historic District, prepared by Douglas C. McVarish, 2001.

62. Belting, Kaskaskia *Under the French Regime*, 9.

SUITABILITY

In order for an area to be considered a suitable addition to the national park system, it must represent a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the system, or is not protected for public enjoyment by other units of the federal government, tribal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, or private entities. Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential area to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, combination of resource values, rarity of resources, and interpretive and educational potential.⁶³ The comparison results in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

As discussed in the significance analysis above, the historic resources of Ste. Genevieve are exceptionally rare. Therefore, the following discussion more broadly compares the resources of Ste. Genevieve with properties associated with the same themes. The themes and sub-themes are identified, comparable properties described, and the adequacy of representation is analyzed.

Ste. Genevieve: Present Protection for Public Enjoyment

The nationally significant historic district in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, is largely in private ownership. There are several properties owned by entities dedicated to preservation and providing for public enjoyment. The State of Missouri owns several properties as part of the Felix Valle State Historic Site. The Jacob Philipson House, also known as the Felix Valle House, is furnished in the style of the 1830s with artifacts that show the American influence on the French community of Ste. Genevieve after the Louisiana Purchase. The Bossier (Shaw) House across the street includes the site office, gift shop, and exhibits. Also part of the Felix Valle State Historic Site are the Amoureux House, containing exhibits on French colonial architecture and a diorama of the historic town, and the Delassus-Kern House. The Amoureux House is open by appointment only; the Delassus-Kern House is undergoing stabilization and is not open to the public.

63. The character and quality of Ste. Genevieve was evaluated in the “Statement of Significance”; the resource values were described in the “Historic Context.”

The Bolduc House Museum is operated by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri and includes several historic buildings. The Bolduc House is furnished to represent 18th-century French Colonial domestic life and includes exhibits on the Shawnee and Delaware Indian experiences in Eastern Missouri. The Le Meillieur House presents domestic life in 19th-century Ste. Genevieve at the time of Missouri statehood. The site also features extensive gardens. The Linden House is used for offices and exhibits. The Colonial Dames recently acquired the Jean Baptiste Valle House, but it is presently occupied by a private resident and is not projected to be open to the public for some time. The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri has owned, operated, and made available to the public the Bolduc House Museum since 1949. It is a chapter of the National Society of the Colonial Dames in America, an organization that is dedicated to Colonial American history, historic preservation, and patriotism.

The Guibourd-Valle House museum is operated by the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve and is furnished with antiques from the Valle family. The foundation also owns the Keil-Schwent House, which contains the organization's library and is open to the public by appointment. The foundation was established in 1967 to support the protection of the Ste. Genevieve's historic resources. Preservation of the community's historic properties is the foundation's primary goal, though they have not attempted to accomplish this through direct property ownership beyond the Gibourd-Valle and Keil-Schwent Houses. The organization also actively promotes interest in Ste. Genevieve's history.

Also in Ste. Genevieve are the **Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center**, a nonhistoric building that disseminates information about history and attractions in the area, and the **Ste. Genevieve Museum**, which has a broad historical focus.

Themes

In evaluating the suitability of cultural resources within or outside the national park system, the

National Park Service uses its Thematic Framework (1994) for history and prehistory. The framework is an outline of major themes and concepts that help to conceptualize American history. It is used to assist in the identification of cultural resources that embody America's past and to describe and analyze the multiple layers of history encapsulated within each resource.

Ste. Genevieve contributes in a significant way to our understanding of the following themes within the NPS Thematic Framework: "Peopling Places," "Expressing Cultural Values," and "Developing the American Economy."

Peopling Places: The Peopling Places theme describes human population movement and change through prehistoric and historic times, as well as family formation and daily life in the American past. Topics that help define this theme are "Migration from Outside and Within," "Community and Neighborhood," and "Encounters, Conflicts, and Colonization."

The collection of historic resources in Ste. Genevieve has long been recognized as nationally significant for its outstanding examples of rare building and cultural landscape types reflecting the history of French settlement in North America. In addition, the vernacular architecture of other groups that settled Ste. Genevieve enhances and adds dimension to its national significance within the theme of Peopling Places by underscoring the transition to an American town. Sub-topics of Peopling Places that Ste. Genevieve characterizes are "French Exploration and Settlement" and "Communities on the Colonial and Early American Frontier."

Expressing Cultural Values: This theme encompasses expressions of culture: people's beliefs about themselves and the world they inhabit, as well as the way that people communicate their moral and aesthetic values. Topics that help define this theme include "Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design" and "Popular and Traditional Culture."

Ste. Genevieve's French vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes tell us much about the building traditions of Illinois Country settlers and the agricultural land allotment systems adopted from their forbearers from French Canada and France. The incorporation of buildings representing British American and German American settlement in the town in the first half of the 19th century represents the changing demographics of Ste. Genevieve and how the community absorbed new arrivals. The sub-topic of Expressing Cultural Values that Ste. Genevieve represents is "French Vernacular Building, Landscape, and Community Design."

Developing the American Economy: This theme reflects the ways Americans have worked and the ways they have materially sustained themselves by the processes of extraction, agriculture, production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Topics that help define this theme include "Extraction and Production," "Distribution and Consumption," and "Exchange and Trade."

The first settlers in Ste. Genevieve came to the area in search of agricultural land and other resources, notably salt. Residents of Ste. Genevieve were engaged not only in farming, but also in a variety of economic activities, including trading, milling, and salt extraction. In addition to the broad facets of Developing the American Economy noted above, a sub-topic that Ste. Genevieve characterizes in a unique way is "Farming on the Frontier" because it represents a system of farming and land use distinctive to the Illinois Country whose physical legacy is preserved there.

Comparable Sites

Cahokia, Illinois: Cahokia was settled by French missionaries in the final years of the 17th century. It has lost the majority its early fabric, but retains the *poteaux-sur-sole* log Church of the Holy Family (1799). The church, a National Historic Landmark, is open for tours. Cahokia is also home to the brick Nicholas Jarrot Mansion (c.1810), a National Historic Landmark as an example of Federal-style architecture on the frontier. It is owned by the State of Illinois but is not currently open to the public. Also in Cahokia is the reconstructed *poteaux-sur-sole* Cahokia Courthouse, originally from 1740. Cahokia Courthouse State Historic Site preserves and interprets the building, which was dismantled and reassembled several times before being brought back to its original site.

Cane River Creole National Historical Park: Natchitoches, Louisiana began as an early French settlement and now serves as the headquarters of Cane River Creole National Historical Park. The park's purpose is to preserve and interpret the Creole culture and diverse history of the Natchitoches region, and to provide technical assistance to a broad range of public and private landowners and preservation organizations.

Centerpieces of the park are Magnolia Plantation and Oakland Plantation, both cotton plantations whose periods of significance span roughly from the first half of the 19th century to the first half of the 20th. The park preserves a rural landscape of the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Cane River Creole National Historical Park is part of the **Cane River National Heritage Area**, which was established with the national historical park. The two entities are bound together by common goals and shared enabling legislation. Cane River National Heritage Area is a largely rural area in northwestern Louisiana featuring an agricultural landscape known for its historic plantations, distinctive Creole architecture, and a multicultural legacy. In addition to the national historical park, Cane River National Heritage Area includes the Badin-Roque House, a *poteaux-en-terre* building, and Fort St. John Baptiste State Historic Site.

Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site: The Pierre Menard Home is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River near Fort Kaskaskia in present day Ellis Grove, Illinois. The home, constructed ca. 1815, is a National Historic Landmark as an excellent example of French *poteaux-sur-sole* vernacular architecture. Pierre Menard migrated to the Illinois country from Quebec, attracted by trading opportunities. He was a successful businessman, and also involved in territorial and early Illinois state politics. The Menard family had personal and business ties to Ste. Genevieve. The house stands alone as the only remainder of early Kaskaskia, which was devastated by flooding.

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve: This unit of the national park system was established to preserve examples of natural and historic resources of the Mississippi Delta region and interpret the development of cultural diversity in the region. The park consists of six separate sites across southern Louisiana, including the French Quarter Visitor Center in the *Vieux Carre*, a National Historic Landmark district (see below). Other sites outside of New Orleans are the Barataria Preserve, Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery, and three Acadian Cultural Centers in LaFayette, Eunice, and Thibodaux, Louisiana. The buildings that house the French Quarter Visitor Center and park offices were constructed in 1845 and contribute to the significance of the *Vieux Carre* National Historic Landmark District. While Jean Lafitte interprets the history and traditions of the New Orleans, it does not protect or preserve a collection of historic properties there. In the *Vieux Carre*, the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve boundary is limited to the buildings owned by the National Park Service.

Vieux Carre: The *Vieux Carre*, or French Quarter, is an urban area of about 85 blocks and the oldest neighborhood in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana. Among the many historic buildings of the *Vieux Carre* National Historic Landmark District are the 1752 Ursuline Convent and the Cabildo, the seat of government during the Spanish colonial period. As discussed in the significance analysis above (page 19), the architecture of the *Vieux Carre* exemplifies a blended vernacular urban building style. The 1959 National Historic Sites Survey on the theme of French Exploration and Settlement concluded that the *Vieux Carre* contained a mixture of architectural styles, and few buildings qualified as French colonial. Many buildings are privately owned but are publicly accessible for tours or as commercial establishments. There is an NPS interpretive presence in the district, at the French Quarter Visitor Center, part of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (see above).

Forts: The military aspect of French history in the Illinois Country are preserved and interpreted by several historic sites preserving buildings associated with forts, ruins of forts, reconstructed forts, or a combination. In addition to their military importance, forts served as trading posts and points of contact with American Indians. Some Illinois Country examples include:

Fort de Chartres State Historic Site: Fort de Chartres was a French fortification constructed in the early 18th century in Prairie du Rocher, Illinois. There were several iterations of the fort, where French administration of the Illinois Country was centered. The fort today is largely a reconstruction of the last stone fort, with the exception of a restored 1750s powder magazine.

Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site: Kaskaskia, Illinois, was an important settlement in the Illinois Country in the 18th and early 19th century, and was important to the early development of Ste. Genevieve. Most of the town was destroyed by floods. A never-completed French fort, destroyed by the people of Kaskaskia anticipating British arrival, remains in ruins as an archeological resource.

Fort Massac State Park: Fort Massac is located in Massac County, Illinois, and was originally built in the 1750s, but was left in ruins after the Seven Years' War. The fort was ordered rebuilt by George Washington in 1794, but was again destroyed in the early 1800s. The existing building is a replica of the late 18th century fort.

Fort sites further afield represent the theme of French Exploration and Settlement, such as Arkansas Post National Memorial, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson State Historic Site in Alabama, and Fort Michilimackinac in Michigan. Very little remains of Fort Rosalie, part of Natchez National Historical Park in Natchez, Mississippi, which helps the park "illustrate French, British, Spanish, and finally U.S. rivalry for dominance in the lower Mississippi Valley."⁶⁴ The Fort Rosalie site is not open to the public.⁶⁵

Historic Huguenot Street: This historic district in New Paltz, New York, is a National Historic Landmark district of seven 18th century stone houses, a graveyard, and a reconstructed church. The Huguenot Historical Society, a nonprofit organization, owns and operates the site featuring seven museum houses, a reconstructed 1717 stone church, an 18th century burying ground, a visitor center, and library in a village setting. The Huguenots were French-speaking people from southern Belgium and northern France who were displaced from their homeland in the late 17th century and established communities elsewhere, of which New Paltz is the best preserved in the United States. Their initial log and dugout houses were replaced by the stone structures, several reflecting Dutch influence. The National Historic Landmark district encompasses 30 buildings across 10 acres that were the heart of the original settlement.

64. Long-Range Interpretive Plan: Natchez National Historical Park, January 2001, 5.

65. *Ibid.*, 21.

Comparative Analysis

The resources of Ste. Genevieve are a large collection of archeological sites and historic buildings, many rare French vernacular, situated within a cultural landscape of French colonial settlement and agricultural patterns. The French character of the town was complemented and enriched by multicultural influences in the first half of the 19th century. This section will compare the character, quality, quantity, and rarity, combination of resource values, and themes of the historic sites above to those found at Ste. Genevieve.⁶⁶

Areas broadly comparable to Ste. Genevieve that represent many or all of the themes described above are Cahokia, Illinois, and the *Vieux Carre*. Cahokia retains three buildings, two of which are National Historic Landmarks, which represent French settlement, French vernacular vertical log construction, and the influence of British American culture in the early 19th century. It does not have the quantity or combination of resources of Ste. Genevieve, which has more than two dozen examples of French vertical log buildings and retains major elements of the colonial and early American landscape and community arrangement. Although Cahokia has a history of friendly relationships between the primarily French-Canadian settlers and local American Indians, the multicultural elements of the town are no longer evident in its physical fabric.

The *Vieux Carre* is a unique and unparalleled resource reflecting the blended culture of New Orleans that combined many influences to create a distinctive style, and does not have the same character as the resources of Ste. Genevieve. The *Vieux Carre* was historically and remains today an urban environment in a regional metropolis, whereas Ste. Genevieve was and remains today a smaller settlement with visible connections to the agricultural and extractive economies as well as trade.

66. In 1959, the National Park Service completed a National Historic Sites Survey of sites and buildings relating to French Exploration and Settlement. The survey identified 14 sites as having exceptional value, and Ste. Genevieve was among these sites. The other sites were St. Croix National Monument and Acadia National Park in Maine; Fort St. Frederic, Crown Point, New York; Old Fort Niagara, New York; Grand Portage National Historic Site, Minnesota; Chicago Portage National Historic Site (Affiliated Area), Illinois; Starved Rock, Illinois; Fort de Chartres, Illinois; Arkansas Post National Memorial, Arkansas; Fort de la Boulaye (Mississippi Fort), Louisiana; Ursuline Convent (The Archbishopric), Louisiana; Ackia Battleground National Monument (now Chickasaw Village, part of the Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi; Fort Toulouse (Fort Jackson), Alabama; and Fort Caroline National Memorial, Florida. The survey considered a number of other sites, but did not include them in the list of outstanding resources. Notable among these were Cahokia, Illinois; Fort Massac, Illinois; Fort St. John Baptiste, Louisiana; Natchez, Mississippi; and the *Vieux Carre*, New Orleans, Louisiana. The 13 other identified are forts or the remains of forts, reconstructions, or archaeological sites. None are comparable to Ste. Genevieve beyond their broader relationship to French Exploration and Settlement, and none contain large concentrations of French vernacular buildings, or represent domestic and community life.

Because of the stronger Spanish influence in New Orleans, the Creole architecture that developed in that urban environment is very different from Ste. Genevieve, which represents architecture and land use patterns once found across the Illinois country.

On the other end of the spectrum, Creole plantation sites such as those found at Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area also represent farming on the frontier, but are representative of a different settlement type that took root in Louisiana. Much like the villages of the northeastern English colonies compared to the plantations of the Atlantic south, plantations in Louisiana were rural agricultural operations removed from village life and embody different facets of the themes of Ste. Genevieve.

Furthest from domestic life are examples of forts in the Illinois Country. While they are strong examples of French Exploration and Settlement, they represent a different facet of life in the Illinois Country and have little overlap with Ste. Genevieve in expressing the Developing the American Economy or Expressing Cultural Values themes.

Both Cahokia and Pierre Menard State Historic Site have examples of French vernacular vertical log architecture in the Illinois Country. Both the Church of the Holy Family and the Pierre Menard House are nationally significant examples, and so are of very high quality (integrity) and are also rare resources. However, each of these resources stands alone, whereas Ste. Genevieve is significant in part for its collection and concentration of rare buildings, a collection that is unparalleled elsewhere in America.

A historic district of houses representing the heritage of its settlers, Historic Huguenot Street was a settlement on the frontier in its day, and retains some of the community's early form. Unlike the mixed and permeable culture at Ste. Genevieve, the Huguenots of New Paltz resisted intermarriage with their Dutch and English neighbors and preserved their traditional way of life. They were an independent, self-governing community for many years. The circumstances of settlement as a refuge and the very different character of the architecture means there is little overlap with Ste. Genevieve's resources, values, and themes.

Suitability Conclusion

Compared to thematically similar areas preserved and interpreted for the public, Ste. Genevieve clearly offers an unparalleled opportunity to provide public understanding and appreciation of the nationally significant historic district and themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form as well as farming on the frontier. As a community reflective of these themes, Ste. Genevieve stands alone in terms of the character, quality, quantity, and rarity of its resources, and its combination of resource values, and there are no comparably protected or managed areas. This study, therefore, concludes that Ste. Genevieve meets the criteria for suitability for inclusion in the national park system.

FEASIBILITY

An area that is nationally significant and meets suitability criteria must also meet feasibility criteria to qualify as a potential addition to the national park system. To be considered feasible, an area's natural systems or historic settings must be of sufficient size and shape to ensure long-term protection of resources and accommodate public use. The area must also have potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost considering the ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected availability of funding and personnel.

For an area to be considered feasible as a new unit of the national park system, a variety of factors must be taken into account. In evaluating feasibility for Ste. Genevieve, the National Park Service considered the following factors:

- Size and boundary configuration
- Land ownership, local planning, and zoning
- Access and public enjoyment potential
- Operational requirements and cost
- Existing degradation of resources
- Current and potential threats
- Local and general public support
- Economic and socioeconomic impacts of designation
- Budgetary feasibility

Because of the size and number of contributing resources in the nationally significant historic district described in the significance analysis above, there are a number of potential unit configurations that could be considered that would be feasible. In this analysis, the projected operational requirements and economic and social impacts factors will be based on the NPS action alternatives proposed in the subsequent chapter ("Chapter 4: Management Alternatives") to provide a more directed examination of those factors.

Size and Boundary Configuration

The historic district outlined in this study covers much of the City of Ste. Genevieve and the Common Field agricultural area between the Mississippi River and U.S. 61 south of the city. The area totals roughly 4,200 acres. The bulk of this acreage comprises the Common Field, which covers approximately 2,600 acres [See map on page 17]. The total acreage was found to meet NHL criteria for an expanded district in the significance analysis. A boundary configuration coterminous with the boundaries of the NHL district presents no unusual challenges.

There is one discontinuous archeological area, representing approximately 80 acres of the total, located about 2.5 miles from the southernmost point of the boundary of the nationally significant district, and about 7 miles from downtown Ste. Genevieve. The size and configuration of the noncontiguous site would not be a prohibitive factor in management, because it is an archeological site in private ownership and thus would not be likely to require resource-intensive management or interpretation. [See map on page 58]

A boundary smaller than the area considered nationally significant could be considered to ensure protection of important, character-defining features in the historic district that are feasible to administer and have a need for direct NPS management. Smaller boundaries could present fewer administrative challenges. The NPS action alternatives contemplated in chapter 4 examine an area totaling approximately 12.5 acres at two sites, one along St. Mary's Road and another in Ste. Genevieve County on U.S. 61, approximately 2.4 miles apart. An area of this size and configuration would be feasible to administer as a new unit.

Land Ownership, Local Planning, and Zoning

Land ownership within the historic district is mixed, and the majority of properties are privately owned. Publicly owned properties belong to the City of Ste. Genevieve, Ste. Genevieve County, and the State of Missouri. (See Table 2 on page 34 for a list of contributing properties owned by entities with a preservation and interpretation mission) The nationally significant historic district covers an area in the jurisdictions of the City of Ste. Genevieve and Ste. Genevieve County. There is no zoning in Ste. Genevieve County.

The City of Ste. Genevieve has zoning jurisdiction over the areas within its boundary, much of which falls under the Historic Preservation overlay (appendix G). This overlay covers both the areas of the National Historic Landmark as it was delineated in 1970, and the National Register of Historic Places district. All properties within this overlay are subject to design guidelines, including for fences and outbuildings, for which a Certificate of Appropriateness must be sought before changes are made. The authorizing body is the Ste. Genevieve Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission, a seven-member committee with one non-voting alderman liaison. The commission applies standards for issuing Certificates of Appropriateness for alterations that are based on the Secretary of the Interior's standards. Demolition review applies city-wide. Ste. Genevieve is a Certified Local Government (CLG), certified by the National Park Service and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to receive technical assistance and historic preservation funds.

The Common Field area is bisected by the tracks of the BNSF Railway, by Cotton Woods Road, and by flood control structures. Extending along the river is the farmer's levee, owned and maintained by local landowners in Levee District 2.

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Urban Design Levee east of the city, completed in 2002, the corps acquired various real estate interests for construction and maintenance.⁶⁷ These include permanent rights-of-way, permanent flowage easements, and permanent restrictive easements. Permanent right-of-way acquisitions are where features such as levees, pumps, tree screens, and mitigation areas are located, or where permanent access is needed for levee maintenance. Permanent flowage or channel easements are where levee districts are allowed to store water during a high water event. Their storage capacity cannot be compromised. Appendix H shows the approximate areas of USACE interest.

Both the City of Ste. Genevieve and Ste. Genevieve County are participating communities in the National Flood Insurance Program. Participating communities must adopt restrictions on building in the hundred-year floodplain consistent with 44 CFR Part 60. The 44 CFR Part 60 regulations stipulate that permits are required prior to building and other activities in the hundred-year floodplain. The entirety of the Common Field is in the hundred-year flood area, and much of it is in the floodway, an area with additional regulations. A portion of the Common Field is shielded from flooding by the Urban Design levee; the rest is within the private Levee District 2.

On the eastern edge of the district along the Mississippi River, the Port of New Bourbon was recently completed by the New Bourbon Regional Port Authority. Decades in planning, the new port handles inbound and outbound products. The site will include material storage areas, loading and unloading cells around the constructed harbor, handling facilities, a scale house, an administration building, and a wetland mitigation area. In planning for the site, port officials have been careful to avoid any disturbance of the adjacent Old Town Archeological Site, which is owned by the New Bourbon Regional Port Authority. The New Bourbon Regional Port Authority is poised to undertake access road improvements on Cotton Woods Road and New Bourbon Port Road through a state grant.

67. It is worthy of note that the levee was ultimately constructed because of the importance of Ste. Genevieve's historic resources. The community was unable to match funds under normal federal cost-sharing rules on their own. Ste. Genevieve raised a portion of the \$12 million match through a 0.5% sales tax, but a large portion was from a Community Development Block Grant (\$5 million) and from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (\$5.5 million). (From Jim Ladesich, "Ste. Genevieve Urban Design Levee," Construction Digest: West Edition. Associated Construction Publications, September 2000).

Access and Public Enjoyment Potential

Access to the Historic District: The City of Ste. Genevieve enjoys good access to Interstate 55 and is served by a readily accessible international airport in St. Louis roughly 75 miles away. Visitor wayfinding could be facilitated by directional signage systems, published tour guides, and maps. Though the district within the City of Ste. Genevieve does not cover a large area, there are miles of tightly packed roads, which could lead to visitors getting lost. This can be mitigated by the distribution of maps and the use of wayfinding signage.

Access to Specific Resources and Interpretation: Visitors to Ste. Genevieve can access the grounds and interior of Bolduc, Le Meilleur, and Linden houses owned and operated as a historic site by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri, which also owns the Jean Baptiste Valle House⁶⁸; the Guibourd-Valle and Kiel Stone houses owned and operated as a historic site and library by the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve; and the Jacob Philipson (Felix Valle) House and Bossier (Shaw) House at Felix Valle State Historic Site. Also owned by the State of Missouri are the Jean Baptiste Ste. Gemme Beauvais (Amoureux) House, which is open occasionally to visitors, and the Delassus-Kern House, which is not open for visitation.

Of the 45 buildings contributing to the significance of the historic district, 36, or 80%, do not have publicly accessible interiors. Many of the contributing resources of the historic district continue to be under private ownership and that is unlikely to change even if the NPS action alternatives in chapter 4 were to be implemented. Any privately owned buildings within an NPS boundary remains private. The majority of contributing buildings are visible from the street and could be incorporated into walking tours and other interpretive activities. Presently, many historic and older homes in the city are identified with wooden signs bearing their historic name and a date of construction, though subsequent research yielding new information has rendered many of these signs in need of updating.

Also within the historic district is the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center (previously known as the Great River Road Interpretive Center / Tourist Information Office) at the corner of Market and Main Streets. This welcome center and gallery was built to mimic the massing of French colonial buildings in the area, and is open daily to provide information and orientation to visitors, including a short walking tour brochure.

Strategic NPS acquisition of key properties (in full or partial fee) for preservation or public access purposes would be one facet of the proposed park's resource management strategy. Partnerships with local community groups and property owners to encourage resource identification and protection would also be critical.

Operational Requirements and Costs

Operational requirements and costs will be a consideration in the selection of a future management direction for Ste. Genevieve. The cost to operate a unit of the national park system comparable to the size of the entire nationally significant district in Ste. Genevieve varies widely by intensity of operations. High rates of private property ownership coupled with Ste. Genevieve as an active, living city, make a unit of that scale undesirable.

National historic sites with similar acreage to the NPS alternatives envisioned for Ste. Genevieve in chapter 4 were looked at for comparison purposes. (See appendix F for the list of these sites.) These range in annual operating funding from \$0.7 million to \$1.3 million a year, supporting a range of full-time equivalent staff (including part-time and seasonal employees), as well as programming and administrative costs.

Staffing is needed to design and deliver programming (personal interpretation, exhibits, special events), maintain facilities and grounds, perform administrative functions (budget, management), provide for law enforcement (if necessary), and conduct outreach to the community and schools. Staffing requirements would be dependent on the boundary size, resources, the configuration of the site, and structure of park management and the nature of agreements between partners (if applicable) for administering the site.

Overall costs would be dependent on the specific sites included and the configuration of the boundaries. Start-up costs for a site would require additional expenditures over annual operating costs. NPS acquisition of privately owned properties can occur only by donation or from a willing seller for appraised value. Sites owned by state or local governments could be acquired through donation.

There would be costs associated with developing management plans, establishing office space for staff, providing technical assistance, developing interpretation plans, and preparing environmental compliance documents. Further, there would be additional costs associated with ownership (if any), maintenance, historic preservation, security, and present and future needs. These costs would vary with the specific facilities and sites included, and the size and configuration of the boundaries. In a district with a large number of historic buildings, undertaking historic structures reports for buildings would require considerable funding and time. Sites prepared for public use would increase financial needs.

Periodic, rather than day-to-day, responsibilities such as special history studies and treatment plans for the site, its buildings and cultural landscapes, archeological research, and comprehensive planning would be managed primarily through the Midwest Regional Office and funded through a competitive process.

68. The Jean Baptiste Valle House was acquired by the Colonial Dames in May 2013. It is currently occupied by a private resident.

Existing Degradation of Resources

There is a great range in the level of integrity of individual contributing buildings in the historic district. On the whole, despite some buildings in need of repair, the historic district maintains its collective integrity. However, deterioration of individual buildings may eventually erode the historic integrity of the district.

Currently, several contributing structures are vacant. The Antoine O'Neill House (Property Inventory No. 44) suffered from a fire and is now vacant. Others are vacant because they have been restored authentically to the period of significance and are not, by modern standards, habitable. Of these, the Janis-Ziegler House (Greentree Tavern) is in good repair. The Bequette-Ribault House has had recent restoration completed after years without regular maintenance. As discussed in the integrity section of the significance analysis, many buildings have been modified over the years, but retain their extremely rare structural systems and/or historic character.

Though the Common Field is not surrounded by a fence as it would have been in the period of significance, and has been bisected by a few roads, the BNSF railway, and various flood control structures, it still maintains integrity. The Port of New Bourbon was recently completed on several parcels adjacent to the field on the site of a previous port. A few buildings have been built within the Common Field along its perimeter, during the last several decades. These include Roth's boat yard on St. Mary's Road, across from the Amoureux House, and a group of buildings (a recycling center and auto repair shop and lot) in Ste. Genevieve County just east of U.S. 61, south of its intersection with St. Mary's Road. Despite these instances of building in the Common Field along the western perimeter, the vast majority remains intact and, therefore, the resource retains a high degree of historic integrity.

Current and Potential Threats

The contributing resources of the historic district are not presently under immediate threat. Neglected structures will continue to degrade without proper maintenance, but immediate loss of district integrity is not imminent.

A potential threat to the integrity of the setting of the resources is incompatible development of adjacent and visible properties, especially in areas of the district outside the City of Ste. Genevieve. The City of Ste. Genevieve has zoning jurisdiction over the properties within the boundaries of the city, but there are few constraints on development of those and nearby properties, and even fewer on properties and lands outside of the city limits. As of fall 2012, there is development planned within or adjacent to the nationally significant district. Within the city's historic district, a proposal to create a tax-increment financing district to encourage development is currently under review. There is also planned redevelopment of the Rozier Building on the 300 block of Merchant Street. Because of the Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission review, it is unlikely that these will have negative impacts on the nationally significant district.

The adjacent and ongoing Port of New Bourbon project probably could negatively impact the Common Field and surrounding area through increased noise from truck traffic. This may particularly affect the Delassus-Kern House property, should truck traffic go to and from south of the Port on U.S. 61. There is also the potential that some land in the Common Field may be used for temporary storage of sand and stone leaving though the port in the future. While raising the level of Cotton Woods Road to access the port is not currently permitted or approved, there has been discussion of raising the level of the road to clear the levee. Several archeological reports conclude that raising the level of the road would increase scour at the Old Town Archeological Site during high water events, thereby damaging the site.

Construction on land in the Common Field is a minimal concern. In addition to floodplain restrictions, the frequent flooding of the river makes uses other than agricultural highly undesirable. The "Ste. Genevieve History of Flood Events" marker near the South Gabouri Creek shows the high water marks of 1943, 1944, 1947, 1951, 1973, 1982, 1986, 1993, and 1995. While some building may be possible in the Common Field, it is unlikely given the restrictions, threat of flooding, strong agricultural tradition, and the availability of development sites on higher ground.

A long-term threat to the historic buildings in the Ste. Genevieve area is flooding. Flash flooding along North and South Gabouri Creeks is a potential threat. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently working with the City of Ste. Genevieve and city residents on a plan for flood mitigation, which may include flood control structures. Such structures could negatively impact the integrity of setting for some properties, but because the project is still in planning stages and a major concern of the project is the protection of historic resources, any impacts are likely to be small.

Flooding has affected Ste. Genevieve throughout its history, most recently in the mid-1990s. During the devastating flood of 1993, the Mississippi River reached an extreme flood stage in Ste. Genevieve and drew national media attention to the plight of historic buildings there. The Urban Design Levee, completed in 2002, now prevents rising water from the Mississippi from inundating the city. It is engineered to protect the city above the levels of a 500-year flood.⁶⁹

Local and General Public Support

In assessing whether there is sufficient public interest and support for the study area to be designated as a unit of the national park system, this study considers feedback gathered during a public scoping comment period in August 2010 as part of the special resource study process. A more detailed summary of public scoping can be found in appendix E.

69. A "500-year" flood does not mean that it occurs every 500 years; rather, it means that a flood of that magnitude has a 0.2% chance of occurring in any given year.

Initial public scoping and subsequent contact has indicated local public support for the establishment of an area dedicated to preserving and interpreting the French colonial architecture of Ste. Genevieve. There is no indication of opposition to establishment of an NPS unit for this purpose. Response from outside the immediate community during initial scoping was limited, so it would be difficult to draw a conclusion about support regionally or nationally.

In general, the support for the historic resources of Ste. Genevieve would seem to be strong within the community. The town has strong preservation ordinances, is a Certified Local Government, and a Preserve America community.⁷⁰

Economic and Socioeconomic Impacts of Designation

The social and economic impacts of NPS unit designation could vary depending on the size and scope of the park unit, management approach, staffing levels, and visitation. They could also vary because of external forces such as local, regional, and national economic conditions, actions of local or state government, and actions of public and private organizations and individuals, particularly within the nationally significant district. Designation probably would have beneficial economic and social impacts on the area. Among these possible beneficial socioeconomic impacts are: visitation to the site, surrounding areas, and other attractions; spending by visitors, and growth in visitor-related businesses, such as tourism; sales and hotel tax revenues generated by that growth; and spending generated by park operations and park staff. Possible adverse economic impacts include wear on local infrastructure.

The National Park Service uses “Money Generation Model 2”⁷¹ to quantify the economic contributions of park units to local economies. This model has been used to estimate the anticipated economic contributions of Ste.

Genevieve by analyzing the contributions for seven NPS units that are roughly comparable in terms of location and community size.⁷² Analysis of comparable parks indicates that the expected annual economic contribution of an NPS unit at Ste. Genevieve would range from \$1.7 million to \$3.3 million.

70. Note: Preserve America communities are eligible for funds. None were appropriated for the program in 2012.

71. Money Generation Model 2, developed specifically for the National Park Service by Dr. Daniel Stynes at Michigan State University, estimates the impacts that park visitors have on the local economy in terms of their contribution to sales, income, and jobs in the area.

72. Comparison parks for economic impacts are Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greenville, TN; Fredrick Douglas National Historic Site in Washington, DC; Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, KS; Harry S Truman National Historic Site in Independence, MO; Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site in Saugus, MA; and Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis, MO.

This range represents the likely sum of labor income, profits and rents, and indirect business taxes that would be associated with designation as part of the national park system and is known as “value added” in economic measurement terms. The range also includes the economic impacts of park payroll.

Communities weighing the economic value of NPS units are often concerned about the loss of property taxes with federal ownership of land. Because the federal government does not pay local property taxes, there is potential for loss of this revenue source over time. Although local governments are eligible for federal Payments In Lieu Of Taxes due to nontaxable federal property within their boundaries, historically these payments have not kept pace with lost potential property revenue.

The increase in visitation expected with NPS unit designation would cause a noticeable economic impact in the small town of Ste. Genevieve. Using the visitation records for NPS historical units with similar distance from metropolitan areas, estimated visitation could range from 44,000 to 68,000 people.⁷³ At some larger historical areas near major metropolitan areas, visitation can be as high as 200,000, though visitation at this level is not likely in the early years of a site’s development. Visitation is likely to vary over the course of a year, and socioeconomic impacts would be stronger during peak visitation.

Budgetary Feasibility

Many projects that are technically possible to accomplish may not be feasible in light of current budgetary constraints and other NPS priorities. This is especially likely where acquisition and development costs are high, when the resource may lose its significant values before acquisition by the National Park Service, or when other protective action is possible.

The stewardship responsibilities of the National Park Service have grown significantly in both size and complexity since 1916, when the bureau managed about 38 national parks and monuments. Today, the National Park Service administers more than 400 national park units in the continental United States and territories. The NPS funding priorities reflect a strong commitment to taking better care of existing parks. Most notably, the National Park Service has established goals of reducing its long-standing maintenance backlog, strengthening law enforcement, improving visitor safety programs, and enhancing resource management. The ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities must be considered in light of its existing responsibilities.

A total cost of facility ownership analysis was conducted for the resources described in alternatives B and C and it found that the total cost to maintain the structures in an as-is condition would be approximately \$15 million over 50 years.

73. Comparison parks for visitation estimates are Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site in Elverson, Pennsylvania, and Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in Dayton, Ohio. The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park sites are all in Dayton, but are not adjacent.

Feasibility Conclusion

The establishment of a small NPS unit in Ste. Genevieve is found to be feasible within the larger nationally significant and suitable historic district.

DIRECT NPS MANAGEMENT

The fourth criterion in the special resource study process includes an evaluation of whether the site requires direct management by the National Park Service instead of protection by another public agency or the private sector. Inclusion in the national park system provides properties with a preservation mandate and a base level of funding for resource protection and visitor use and enjoyment. There is a need for NPS management if current or potential management authorities cannot provide these same opportunities. Unless direct NPS management is identified as the clearly superior alternative, the National Park Service will recommend that others assume the lead management role, and that the area not be included in the national park system.

At the properties owned by the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Missouri and the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve there is no need for NPS management, as these resources are adequately protected and interpreted by their current owners. The Common Field remains largely agricultural and is protected from most development by existing restrictions. The State of Missouri has a mixed situation at Felix Valle State Historic Site. The buildings in the core of Ste. Genevieve (the Felix Valle and Shaw houses) are adequately preserved and interpreted. However, the Amoureux House is open only occasionally, and the Delassus-Kern House is not open to the public. The Delassus-Kern House is in need of preservation intervention, though the state has made great strides in this direction.

Table 2. Historic Properties Owned by Entities with a Preservation and Interpretation Mission

Property Inventory No.	Name	Owner	Ownership Type
43	Jacob Philipson (Felix Valle)	Missouri State Parks	State government
41	Bossier (Shaw) House	Missouri State Parks	State government
7	Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais (Amoureux)	Missouri State Parks	State government
32	Delassus-Kern	Missouri State Parks	State government
6	Memorial Cemetery	City of Ste. Genevieve	Local government
10	Bolduc House	National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri	Nonprofit
22	Le Meilleur House	National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri	Nonprofit
11	Jean Baptiste Valle House	National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri	Nonprofit
38	Linden House	National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri	Nonprofit
18	Guibourd-Valle	Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve	Nonprofit
39	Keil-Schwent House	Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve	Nonprofit

The privately owned Bequette-Ribault House is also a rare, high-integrity resource that has a need for more involved management. Recent restoration has improved the condition of the building. As of April 2015, it is not publicly accessible or interpreted. On the same parcel as the Bequette-Ribault House, the Lasource-Durand House has a need for stabilization and interpretation. Roughly the size of an office cubicle, the structure is open to the elements, exposing its structural systems. Also privately owned but unoccupied, the Greentree Tavern is in good repair and regularly maintained. The Moses Austin Outbuildings, though unoccupied, are in good repair and used intermittently for community festivals. Other contributing buildings such as the Linn-Newfield House and the Aubuchon House, though vacant and in need of restoration, were recently purchased for restoration as private residences. The Antoine O'Neill House remains in need of repair, and is owned by the neighboring church that may restore it for parish purposes.

The Amoureux, Delassus-Kern, Bequette-Ribault, and Lasource-Durand properties have a demonstrable need for NPS management and potential to benefit from NPS expertise in preservation and interpretation that would be superior to other available options (see chapter 4).

Large sections of the historic district are private properties protected by the City of Ste. Genevieve's historic preservation zoning and easements, a strong level of protection that the National Park Service could not enhance by placing them within the boundary of a unit of the national park system. This already strong protection obviates the need for including the full extent of the nationally significant area within park boundaries. Only those areas identified as meeting the criteria for direct NPS management will be considered for inclusion in an NPS unit.

While there are groups that have historical interpretation as a part of their mission, there is a need for comprehensive understanding of the district and the story of Ste. Genevieve as a whole community. Interpretation on this level would be needed to adequately convey to visitors the reasons for which the district is nationally significant.

It seems unlikely that one of the existing organizations could step in to fill this role. The current fiscal situation of state parks across America has become more tenuous in recent years as tax revenues have fallen. This is especially true for Missouri, where 75% of operating funds for parks come from the Parks and Soils Sales Tax, and the remainder comes from user fees. This has put a strain on the ability of the Division of State Parks to undertake capital projects and develop new properties. The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri is a small membership organization, and the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve draws its stakeholders largely from the small city. Neither would have the necessary resources to provide comprehensive, districtwide interpretation.

NPS planning and research capabilities, as well as historic preservation, cultural resource management, and interpretive and educational programming expertise, would offer superior opportunities for the full story of Ste. Genevieve to be interpreted. Working with the existing entities described above, sites that are currently owned and managed by other entities could be complemented by or become part of a cohesive national park experience through partnerships.

Need for Direct NPS Management: Conclusion

This criterion requires a finding that NPS management would be superior to other potential alternative management arrangements by other entities. The study finds there is a need for improved resource management of certain properties and a need for coordinated interpretation of the historic district as a whole. NPS management would be clearly superior to current protection and interpretation alone.

Criteria for Inclusion: Conclusion

The National Park Service finds that areas within Ste. Genevieve meet the criteria for inclusion in the national park system. Those areas that are significant and suitable but not recommended for NPS management may also be considered for their eligibility as an affiliated area.

AFFILIATED AREA ELIGIBILITY

When resources are nationally significant and suitable, but do not meet other criteria for inclusion in the national park system, they may be eligible to become an affiliated area. Affiliated areas are defined in law as "miscellaneous areas administered in connection" with the national park system; that is, those properties that are neither federally owned nor directly administered by the National Park Service but that the National Park Service assists. There are a variety of affiliated areas that preserve significant properties outside the national park system that draw on technical or financial assistance from the National Park Service, such as Jamestown National Historic Site in Virginia and the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Some of these have been recognized by acts of Congress, others have been designated national historic sites by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. There are currently 25 areas affiliated with the National Park Service. Designation as an affiliated area brings no special legal status to the property and is solely honorific in nature.

To be eligible for affiliated area status, the area's resources must (1) meet the same standards for significance and suitability that apply to units of the national park system; (2) require some special recognition of technical assistance beyond what is available through existing NPS programs;

(3) be managed in accordance with the policies and standards that apply to units of the national park system; and (4) be assured of sustained resource protection, as documented in a formal agreement between the service and the nonfederal management entity.

Significance and Suitability

The national significance and suitability of the Ste. Genevieve Historic District have been established earlier in this chapter.

Special Recognition or Technical Assistance

Technical assistance may include access to training and/or services such as interpretation, historic preservation, and other resource protection and preservation. Congress may appropriate financial assistance for one-time studies or preservation projects, or it may appropriate annual funds to help manage the affiliated area. Special recognition for affiliated areas comes from their affiliation with the National Park Service. Affiliated areas are permitted to display the NPS arrowhead symbol in tandem with the partner's symbol and may use it in their printed and online literature and other interpretive media about the site.

There is a need for districtwide comprehensive interpretation and wayfinding for visitors. Because the district is nationally significant, understanding it as a district is critical to understanding its significance. Technical assistance with districtwide interpretation would be provided by the National Park Service. Preservation and education entities within Ste. Genevieve focus their time and efforts on the resources for which they are responsible; assistance from the National Park Service could help them expand programs and develop educational materials. The strengths that the National Park Service could provide to Ste. Genevieve include access to resources, consistency of mission, and a national framework that provides support for marketing and interpretation. Existing NPS programs such as technical assistance through the NHL program and Teaching with Historic Places are insufficient to meet the technical assistance and recognition needs at Ste. Genevieve.

As explored in the suitability analysis, the resources and story of Ste. Genevieve are unique, and the public and stakeholders have identified a lack of awareness as a major challenge (appendix F). Recognition as an affiliated area would boost awareness and visitation because affiliated area status allows an area to use the NPS arrowhead, an internationally recognized symbol of high-quality resource protection and visitor experience.

Management in Accordance with NPS Policies and Standards

The City of Ste. Genevieve's Historic Preservation Commission applies the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation to each application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter a building. NPS management policies are consistent with the Secretary's standards. Any technical preservation assistance, as well as any interpretive programs developed with the assistance of the National Park Service, also would adhere to NPS management policies.

Assured of Sustained Resource Protection

To implement a decision to designate an affiliated area, the National Park Service would need to enter into an agreement with entities in Ste. Genevieve to assure resource protection and provide technical assistance. Agreements with the City of Ste. Genevieve, the State of Missouri, the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri would be tailored to the resources and role of each entity. Topics could include planning and technical assistance, liability and insurance, hours and days of operation, review and approval of annual budgets, use of the NPS logo on signs or literature, content and scope of interpretive programs, and accessibility.

Affiliated Area Eligibility: Conclusion

Ste. Genevieve's nationally significant district is significant and suitable, and has a need for special recognition and technical assistance. This study finds that the areas of Ste. Genevieve which are not incorporated into an NPS unit would be eligible to become an affiliated area.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This study finds that there is a nationally significant historic district in the City and County of Ste. Genevieve, and it is suitable for inclusion in the national park system. It also finds that a range of configurations of NPS management would be feasible. There is also a need for NPS management of certain resources that would be clearly superior to current management. The ways these resources might be managed by the National Park Service and partners is explored in the next chapter, "Management Alternatives." The study further finds that areas of the district not incorporated into an NPS unit would be eligible to become an affiliated area.

CHAPTER 4: MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Management alternatives are developed for resources found eligible for potential inclusion in the national park system to identify the most efficient and effective way to protect significant resources and provide opportunities for public enjoyment. This special resource study team of NPS staff and state and local government representatives developed alternatives for resource preservation, visitor services, and interpretation of the nationally significant district at Ste. Genevieve.

This chapter describes three potential management alternatives. Alternative A describes current management and the probable status of protection and interpretation if current management are continued. Alternatives B and C describe action by the National Park Service to preserve key resources and interpret Ste. Genevieve. Also included are short descriptions of alternatives considered by the study team, but dismissed from further analysis. Finally, the chapter concludes with a determination of the need for NPS management.

The most efficient and effective alternative will be identified in the Finding of No Significant Impact following public review of this draft.

ALTERNATIVE A: NO NEW NPS ACTION

The Concept

This alternative describes current conditions and likely future conditions of the Ste. Genevieve historic district identified in this study given the continuation of current management.

Currently, the contributing resources of the nationally significant district in Ste. Genevieve are under a variety of ownership and managed for different purposes. Many houses are in private ownership, while other buildings are commercial. There are a number of resources that are owned by the state or local government or nonprofit organizations that have a preservation and education mission. Publicly accessible and interpreted properties include the following:

Table 3. Properties with Public Access (or owned by an organization with that mission)

Map No.	Name	Owner	Open Regularly?
6	Memorial Cemetery	City of Ste. Genevieve	Yes
18	Guibourd-Valle	Nonprofit (Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve)	Yes
39	Keil-Schwent House	Nonprofit (Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve)	By appointment (research library)
10	Bolduc House	Nonprofit (National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri)	Yes
38	Linden House	Nonprofit (National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri)	Yes (office and visitor services)
22	Le Meilleur House	Nonprofit (National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri)	Yes
7	<u>St. Gemme Beauvais, JB (Amoureux)</u>	State (Felix Valle State Historic Site)	By appointment
41	Bossier (Shaw) House	State (Felix Valle State Historic Site)	Yes (offices and interpretive exhibits)
43	Jacob Philipson (Felix Valle)	State (Felix Valle State Historic Site)	Yes

KEY: PROPERTIES IN BOLD ARE VERTICAL LOG BUILDINGS, **BOLD** INDICATE POTEAUX-ON-TERRE (POST-IN-GROUND).

National Park Service Role

There are no NPS staffing or operational responsibilities under the current management. The City of Ste. Genevieve and the owners of the Bolduc House, the National Society of Colonial Dames, are and would continue to be eligible for existing technical assistance and grant programs for National Historic Landmarks.

Resource Protection

Thirty-six of the 45 buildings contributing to the significance of the historic district in Ste. Genevieve are inaccessible to the public, and the majority of those 36 are private residences. As described earlier in the feasibility analysis, the City of Ste. Genevieve protects most of the nationally significant district with historic district zoning. This zoning provides protection to properties, regardless of ownership, by requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness for major external repairs and changes within the district. If current management were continued, the City of Ste. Genevieve would continue to review permits for changes to structures within the city historic district for appropriateness, protecting historic character. Some contributing buildings in the district may continue to deteriorate for lack of investment by their owners. Others may be restored. Any property that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places is also eligible to receive grants for repairs and rehabilitation through the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, though funds are limited. Properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for rehabilitation tax credits through the state and/or federal government. Land use restrictions in Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated floodplains and areas with USACE easements would continue to be enforced.

Under current management, the buildings owned by the State of Missouri as part of Felix Valle State Historic Site would continue to be the responsibility of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The Felix Valle House in the center of Ste. Genevieve is preserved and operated as a house museum, open regularly for tours. The Bossier (Shaw) House is used for offices and interpretive exhibits. Felix Valle State Historic Site employs three full-time, year-round staff. May through October, the staff is supplemented by four to five seasonal employees.

To the south on Ste. Mary's Road, the state owns the Amoureux House, a rare poteaux-on-terre vertical log building. While the building is in good structural condition and outfitted with some interpretive exhibits, current staffing levels at the Felix Valle State Historic Site allow for visits by appointment only. The state has also acquired some adjacent lots to preserve the setting of the building. Further south on U.S. 61, the state owns the Delassus-Kern House, a large example of vertical log architecture encased in late Victorian additions. The property has been owned by the state since 1993, but has had no significant stabilization work done, in part because of ongoing investigation of the house's origins (see Property Inventory No.32 for discussion) and in part because of potential restoration costs.

A recent study by B.H. Rucker making preservation and management recommendations for the house recommends a conservative preservation approach and proposes a first phase of basic stabilization estimated at a cost of \$80,000. The state has funded this first phase, which is ongoing.

If current management were continued, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources would continue with the currently funded stabilization efforts at the Delassus-Kern House. The state is likely to continue to lack the funds and staff to provide timely maintenance and regular access and interpretation at the Amoureux House, and to implement the improvements at the Delassus-Kern House needed for visitor access.

The Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve operates a house museum at the Guibourd-Valle House, a research library (open by appointment) at the Keil-Schwent House, and organized activities, tours, and symposia relating to the history of Ste. Genevieve. The National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Missouri operates the Bolduc House Museum, providing tours of and special events at the Bolduc House, the Bolduc House gardens, and the adjacent Le Meilleur House. They also own and maintain the Linden House, which is used for offices and is not open to the public. In May 2013, the Colonial Dames purchased the Jean Baptiste Valle House, which may be open to the public at some point in the future. If current management were continued, the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve and the Bolduc House Museum would continue to protect and interpret their holdings.

Visitor Experience

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri, the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, and the State of Missouri at the Valle and Shaw houses are able interpreters of their resources, interpreting them in the context of Ste. Genevieve's origins and community evolution. However, there is a lack of comprehensive, district-wide interpretation of Ste. Genevieve's resources, especially relating to landscapes and architectural history on a broader scale. There is also only occasional access to the Amoureux House, and no public access at the Delassus-Kern House.

The City of Ste. Genevieve also has a limited interpretive role through the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center, located at the corner of Market and Main Streets. The welcome center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day year round, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. A 10-minute video overview of the city and the NHL district and several displays orient visitors. However, the welcome center is geared more toward introduction and tourism than interpretation. There are also community festivals throughout the year, such as Jour de Fete and Bastille Day, that draw on Ste. Genevieve's French heritage.



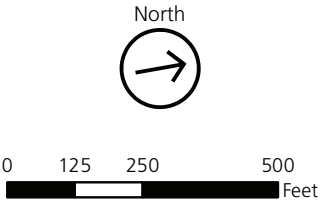
Ste. Genevieve Imagery



- A. Lasource - Durand**
- B. Bequette - Ribault**
- C. Zarinelli**
- D. Wilhawk**
- E. Amoureux**
- F. Roth**
- G. Other Residence**

 NPS Boundary*

*Boundary Lines are Approximate



If current management were continued, visitors to Ste. Genevieve would have the opportunity to visit the Felix Valle House and Bossier (Shaw) House, and, occasionally, the Amoureux House. They would not have public access to the Delassus-Kern House in the foreseeable future. The Bolduc House Museum and Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve would continue their operations. The Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center would continue to provide orientation to the community. Although the welcome center offers a walking tour brochure that provides information about several historic properties in Ste. Genevieve, overall, visitors would continue to experience the privately owned historic resources of Ste. Genevieve from the public right-of-way without comprehensive self-guiding materials. It is unlikely that any current organizations could undertake the regular, comprehensive interpretation of the nationally significant district as a whole.

ALTERNATIVE B: NPS UNIT

The Concept

In this alternative, an NPS unit would be established on St. Mary's Road at the state-owned Amoureux House (Property Inventory No. 7) and adjacent properties (including a contemporary residence, a former inn known as the Wilhauk House or the Creole House), and the Bequette-Ribault House property (Property Inventory No. 21), which also includes the relocated Lasource-Durand House (Property Inventory No. 19). A noncontiguous area of the unit would be established on state-owned property at the Delassus-Kern House (Property Inventory No. 32) on U.S. 61 in Ste. Genevieve County, 2.4 miles south of the St. Mary's Road properties. These key resources in the district are currently either rarely or never open to the public, and some require stabilization and preservation to ensure resource protection. This node of important resources, adjacent to the Common Field (Property Inventory No. 1), would provide a venue for NPS interpretation of Ste. Genevieve's significant French vernacular architecture and the history of French Settlement in the Illinois Country.

Properties described for inclusion in this alternative and shown on map illustrate the largest potential boundary envisioned. Smaller configurations could also be viable options to fulfill the key resource protection and visitor experience needs of the site.

National Park Service Role

The National Park Service would own and manage the above-listed properties and resources and provide for resource protection and interpretation there. Staff could also provide guided interpretation in the community outside the boundary of the unit. The unit would work closely with Felix Valle State Historic Site, Bolduc House Museum, and the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve on interpretive materials and special events.

Upon acquisition of historic structures, the National Park Service would evaluate their needs and undertake recommended treatment plans consistent with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. A cultural landscape report to closely examine the site's history and landscape resource and recommend a treatment plan would be needed, as would historic structures reports, historic resource studies, and other studies required by NPS policy.

Two noncontributing properties, the house between the Amoureux and Bequette-Ribault properties (the Zarinelli house) and the boat shop (Roth) would be included within the boundary only with the owners' consent. Those structures would probably be removed after acquisition, affording an unobstructed view of the Common Field and between the historically neighboring properties.

Table 4. Structures Included in Proposed NPS Unit

Property Name	Ownership	Owner	Property Inventory No.
Amoureux House	State	State of Missouri	7
Bequette-Ribault House	Private	Chaumette, Inc.	21
Delassus-Kern House	State	State of Missouri	32
La Source-Durand House	Private	Chaumette, Inc.	19
Other Residence	State	State of Missouri	N/A
Roth Boatyard	Private	Roth	N/A
Wilhauk (Creole) House	State	State of Missouri	N/A
Zarinelli Residence	Private	Zarinelli	N/A

Resource Protection

In this alternative, both the Bequette-Ribault and Amoureux Houses would be under NPS ownership, allowing NPS knowledge and resources to be applied to two extremely rare, *poteaux on terre* vertical log buildings, two of only five remaining in the United States. On the same property as the Bequette-Ribault House is the Lasource-Durand House, a small cabin-sized building moved to the site, whose vertical log construction is visible from the exterior. The National Park Service would also acquire the Delassus-Kern House, an excellent example of a vertical log building adapted and expanded by later families.

The Bequette-Ribault House and Lasource-Durand House are both on the same parcel and are vacant. The owner restored the Bequette-Ribault House to the period of its construction and early use without the intention of inhabiting it. The owner moved the Lasource-Durand House to the property to save it from demolition; it is open to the elements and not habitable. They are not receiving adequate maintenance. The owner has expressed a desire to continue preservation of the buildings and make them available for public interpretation. Because this parcel contains two examples of vertical log architecture, one of which is the extremely rare *poteaux-en-terre* construction type, because of its proximity to the Amoureux house, and because of the long-term risk of deterioration of the structures without regular, professional maintenance, this parcel is included as a site for NPS acquisition under this alternative.

Visitor Experience

Visitors to an NPS unit on St. Mary's Road would have the opportunity for an in-depth exploration of two buildings, the Bequette-Ribault and Amoureux Houses, which convey the unique architecture and lifeways of the French settlers in the Illinois Country. Both buildings offer the opportunity to discuss how location and the culture shaped construction of these early houses. The Lasource-Durand House currently offers an easily visible example of vertical log building techniques, and depending on structural evaluation and treatment recommendations, may continue to do so. At the noncontiguous unit at the Delassus-Kern House, visitors could see a massive example of vertical log architecture encased in later additions, and learn about the evolution and preservation of architecture in Ste. Genevieve. The Delassus-Kern House is an excellent vantage point for viewing the Common Field.

As is true for alternative A, visitors to Ste. Genevieve would also have the opportunity to visit the Felix Valle State Historic Site, Bolduc House Museum, and the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, for unique stories and in-depth interpretation of village life. Privately owned historic homes would be experienced from the public right-of-way. One result of these partnerships could be self-guided tours of the district. The Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center would continue to provide orientation to the community.

Costs

NPS management of a unit in Ste. Genevieve would be funded through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget. Under this alternative, the National Park Service would own and manage approximately eight to nine acres on St. Mary's Road, and approximately four acres at the Delassus-Kern House on U.S. 61. While no formal estimates of operating costs have been completed for this study, current national historic sites of similar acreage illustrate the potential range. National historic sites of comparable acreage have staff ranging from 8 to 18 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions; the operations envisioned in this alternative would probably require 5–10. National historic sites of similar acreage typically receive annual funding of \$705,000 to \$1.3 million per year. This operational budget would primarily fund NPS staff, interpretive and educational programs, and outreach. Additional funds for capital improvements would be awarded through the NPS competitive process. In general, for a national historic site such as the one envisioned in this alternative, a staff of approximately 5–10 FTE and an operating budget of \$700,000 to \$1 million would be needed.

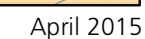
Not included in cost estimates at this time are additional NPS costs that would be incurred for acquisition (including potential environmental mitigation) or capital improvements required for visitor access, historic restoration and long-term maintenance of the sites. These estimates require assumptions about the properties determined to be too detailed for this study process. Such estimates would be developed as part of future management planning, if a unit is designated.

ALTERNATIVE C: NPS UNIT AND AFFILIATED AREA

The Concept

Under this alternative, the NPS unit (Unit) described in alternative B would be established, as would an affiliated area (Affiliated Area) of the national park system. Affiliated area designation can be given to areas that meet the standards for significance and suitability, and require some special recognition and/or technical assistance beyond what is available through existing NPS programs. Affiliated areas must be managed in accordance with NPS policies and standards, and the National Park Service must be assured of sustained resource protection in a formal agreement with the nonfederal management entity. The National Park Service would provide assistance for interpretation and management planning to the Affiliated Area at Ste. Genevieve through the Midwest Regional Office and the Unit in Ste. Genevieve described in alternative B.

In this alternative, the City of Ste. Genevieve would have a formal agreement with the National Park Service for the portion of the nationally significant district where the city's historic district zoning applies (the H1 and H2 zoning overlays of appendix G). The State of Missouri would affiliate with the Felix Valle State Historic Site areas not included in the proposed Ste. Genevieve NPS Unit. The National Society



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of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri and the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve may also affiliate with the National Park Service. The Affiliated Area would contain a substantial percentage of the area within the nationally significant historic district identified in the significance analysis.

National Park Service Role

In addition to managing the NPS Unit described in alternative B, the National Park Service would work closely with the affiliated entities, the City of Ste. Genevieve and State of Missouri at the Felix Valle State Historic Site, to develop and coordinate interpretive programs and special events. Partnerships could be established with the Bolduc House Museum, the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, and the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center. The National Park Service would work with the state, city, and other local organizations to write a general management plan to govern the area and would provide technical assistance in implementing the plan. The success of this alternative would be contingent upon agreements with partners to sustain the Affiliated Area.

In addition to these benefits, the Affiliated Area would receive a name such as “National Historical Site” and would be entitled to display the NPS arrowhead logo on signage and in appropriate marketing and interpretive materials and exhibits.

Resource Protection

Resource protection for the NPS Unit in this alternative would be the same as described for alternative B above. The city would continue to exercise permit authority within the historic preservation zoning area, and the state would continue to protect its properties (the Felix Valle and Bossier [Shaw] houses). All sites identified as part of the affiliation with the National Park Service would agree to meet *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, and sign agreements to be in harmony with *NPS Management Policies 2006* to assure a standardization of maintenance and interpretation to meet taxpayer expectations for NPS affiliations.

Visitor Experience

Visitors to Ste. Genevieve would enter the city historic district guided by consistent wayfinding and interpretive signage developed in coordination between the National Park Service and the Affiliated Area. Ownership and management divisions between sites open to the public would not be perceptible to visitors. Visitors would enjoy interpretive tours at the NPS Unit described in alternative B, at the other house museums in the district, or of the entire district. Coordination of interpretive materials would offer a variety of experiences comprehensively interpreting the history and architecture of Ste. Genevieve, hewing to common themes without being repetitive. Because the arrowhead could be used throughout the Affiliated Area, visitors would experience the Affiliated Area and NPS Unit seamlessly. The Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center could provide an additional opportunity for visitor contact and orientation.

Costs

The costs for this alternative would be similar to, but higher than, those of alternative B. In addition to the costs described for that alternative, alternative C would require at least one additional full-time equivalent employee to coordinate the relationship with the Affiliated Area and be a point person for technical assistance requests. Potential costs for those activities are not included in the cost estimate below, nor or any operating funds for the affiliated area, other than those for NPS staff. Because of partnerships with state and local governments and nonprofit groups and others, the additional NPS investment in Ste. Genevieve in this alternative could encourage additional investment by others, making the close relationship between the NPS Unit and Affiliated Area envisioned in this alternative mutually beneficial.

Table 5. Costs, Additional Requirements, and Estimated FTE for Management Alternatives

	Estimated Annual Operating Budget*	Additional Services	FTE Range	Technical Assistance?
Alternative A: No Action	\$0	N/A	N/A	Yes
Alternative B: NPS Unit	\$700,000 to \$1 million	Acquisition costs; treatment for historic structures; CLR; removal of noncontributing structures	5-10	Yes
Alternative C: NPS Unit and Affiliated Area	\$800,000 to \$1.2 million	Alternative B, plus preparation of partnership/affiliation agreements; technical assistance for interpretation, interpretive materials, and management planning	6-12	Yes (Intensive)

*Estimated annual operating budget doesn’t include mitigation, administration, accessibility improvements or other capital improvements—these costs would be based on decisions made in future management plans.

ALTERNATIVES DISMISSED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

National Heritage Area

A national heritage area (NHA) is a nationally distinctive landscape with a locally managed partnership that may include a variety of themes and related resources. Unlike a unit of the national park system, it can be designated without a finding of national significance. If an area is so designated by Congress, the National Park Service is authorized to provide limited financial and technical assistance to the local management entity. That entity organizes and coordinates conservation and interpretation efforts and may provide grants to various sites and key groups that manage specific resources within the area.

A national heritage area encompassing Ste. Genevieve could include areas in Ste. Genevieve County, or could extend to include other communities with similar heritage, such as Cahokia and Kaskaskia. This national heritage area could tell a more comprehensive regional story than any of the other alternatives. Importantly, implementation of alternatives B or C does not preclude the implementation of this alternative.

The concept of a national heritage area was discussed by the study team as a potential area of exploration in meetings held during the course of this study. No entity was suggested by the public or identified by the study team as a potential local manager of a heritage area. Therefore, the study team could not conclude that there was public support for a potential national heritage area designation nor was there evidence of tangible local commitments for its success. Further, because the responsibilities for national heritage areas rest in their communities, proposing the goals and boundaries of a potential national heritage area is outside the scope and ability of a special resource study. If public support were to coalesce around a national heritage area including Ste. Genevieve, legislative designation could be pursued.

NPS Unit Covering the Full Boundaries of the Nationally Significant District

This alternative was dismissed because its size and large percentage of private property owners would be infeasible for the National Park Service to manage. The large sections of the district are private properties protected by the City of Ste. Genevieve's historic preservation zoning and easements, a strong level of protection that the National Park Service could not enhance. This already strong protection obviates the need for including the full extent of the nationally significant area within park boundaries. The districtwide identified need was for interpretation, and, while this alternative would include interpreting the resources within the large boundary, the unit's limited resources probably would have to be directed to other needs across such a large management area.

Additional Management by Current Entities

Given the current and projected future fiscal situation of entities in the City of Ste. Genevieve with an interest in preservation and interpretation of resources contributing to national significance (Missouri DNR, Bolduc House Museum, Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, the City of Ste. Genevieve), it is clear that they would be unable to take on additional management responsibilities. Accordingly, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Congress will ultimately make the determination of whether or not to create a new unit of the National Park System. Implementation of any of the action alternatives requires either a law passed by Congress and signed by the President, or executive action by the President.

Completion and transmittal of the study does not guarantee establishment of a unit of the National Park System or future funding for any NPS actions in Ste. Genevieve. Appropriation of funds for National Park units is the responsibility of Congress. NPS will request funding to achieve the desired conditions and will prepare accordingly, but a new NPS unit may not receive enough funding to achieve all desired conditions for many years.

CHAPTER 5: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

National Park Service policy requires that special resource studies be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), its implementing regulations (36CFR 1500-1508), Director's Order 12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making* (2011), and the accompanying *DO-12 Handbook*. This document also fulfills the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), and has been prepared in accordance with the implementation regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800), NPS Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resource Management*, and accompanying "NPS-28, Cultural Resource Management Guideline." Because a study presents management alternatives at a broad level, an environmental assessment is similarly broad and the analysis is general in nature. Implementation of any action alternative would come only after action by Congress, and in the event that Congress authorizes the National Park Service to implement an alternative, the first task would be a general management planning process.

A complete description of the affected environment and its cultural context may be found in "Chapter 2: Historic Context and Previous Designations," and "Chapter 3: Analysis of Criteria for Inclusion in the National Park System."

IMPACT TOPICS CONSIDERED

The NEPA analysis process requires that agencies consider the effects of the proposed action and its alternatives on resources, defined as impact topics, in a detailed analysis. The impact topics cover a full range from cultural resources to visitor experience. NPS policy requires that all proposed projects be screened for potential impacts against a list of natural and cultural resource categories. The interdisciplinary study team determined the impact topics to carry forward for analysis based on whether a potential impact was likely or not. The following impact topics are analyzed in this document:

Cultural Resources: The cultural resources of Ste. Genevieve make the community a National Historic Landmark district, as well as a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) district. These resources are the underlying reasons that Congress mandated that the National Park Service conduct a special resource study for Ste. Genevieve. The unequaled collection of French vertical log houses, in combination with significant early 19th-century British American and German American buildings, tell the story of

a French colonial village as it evolved into an American town. Today, these buildings contribute to the national significance of the National Historic Landmark district. The action alternatives are intended to preserve Ste. Genevieve's rich cultural resources. To ensure that this is accomplished, it is necessary to determine the impacts of these alternatives, including the No-Action Alternative, on the resources.

Visitor Experience: Visitor experience for Ste. Genevieve is primarily focused on the cultural resources of the area. The city, State of Missouri, and nonprofit organizations all play vital roles in providing opportunities for visitors to explore and learn about the unique resources of the community. Although these entities provide services to visitors, they are limited in their scope. Implementation of any of the action alternatives would impact visitor experience. The impact would probably be beneficial. In order to determine the potential effects, this topic will be carried forward for additional analysis.

Management of Resources (Park Management): The management of Ste. Genevieve's National Historic Landmark district and National Register of Historic Places district and the resources these districts encompass is the responsibility of private owners, the city, the county, the state, and nonprofit organizations. Each entity provides various services. Implementation of either action alternative would impact the management of Ste. Genevieve's resources. The costs would be dependent on the specific sites included and the configuration of the boundaries. In addition, costs would be associated with developing plans, providing technical assistance, and compliance efforts, among others. Accordingly, management of resources will be retained for additional analysis.

Land Use and Socioeconomics: The City of Ste. Genevieve, through its zoning authority, subjects properties in a defined area to specific design guidelines for which a Certificate of Appropriateness must be sought before modifications are initiated. This ensures that properties in this defined area retain the cultural uniqueness for which Ste. Genevieve is known. This zoning does not extend to all properties included in the action alternatives. Some alternatives could potentially result in a reduction of tax revenue for Ste. Genevieve, both city and county. This could, in turn, result in a reduction of some services. The Department of the Interior-administered Payments in Lieu of Taxes program can offset lost tax revenue. Additionally, the impact of tourism could offset some of the loss of property tax revenue. Land use and how it relates to socioeconomics for the community of Ste. Genevieve has been retained for additional analysis.

IMPACT TOPICS NOT RETAINED

Geohazards (New Madrid fault line): Ste. Genevieve lies on the New Madrid Fault Line, which is a major seismic zone in the Midwestern United States. This fault line is responsible for the 1811–1812 New Madrid earthquakes, and may have the potential to produce large earthquakes in the future. None of the alternatives will affect the present or future potential for geohazards.

Floodplains: Presidential Executive Order 11988 mandates that federal agencies avoid, to the extent possible, the adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains, and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. The community of Ste. Genevieve parallels the Missouri River and has a long history of flooding. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a levee for flood protection in 2002. None of the action alternatives propose developing any temporary or permanent structures in the floodplain, and the area is protected by levees. Director’s Order 77-2. *Floodplain Management* exempts historical or archeological structures, sites, or artifacts whose location is integral to their significance. (See Appendix H for a map of floodplains in the study area.)

Wetlands: Presidential Executive Order 11990 mandates that agencies avoid impacts on wetlands as a result of a federal undertaking, or minimize and mitigate unavoidable impacts. Wetlands are present along the banks of the Mississippi River, but the alternatives proposed will not impact the wetlands.

Special Status Species: Analysis of the potential impacts on special status species (federal or state endangered, threatened, or candidate species, or species of concern) is required by the Endangered Species Act, NPS Management Policies 2006, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other regulations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the study area and determined that no federally listed species, candidate species, or designated critical habitat occur within the project area. (Please see consultation letter in appendix I.)

Environmental Justice: Executive Order 12898 requires all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs or policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities. The plans evaluated in this environmental assessment would not adversely affect socially or economically disadvantaged populations.

Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands: “Prime” farmland is classified as the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. “Unique” land is other-than-prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. Both categories require that the land be available for farming uses. Some lands within Ste. Genevieve meet the definition of prime farmland; however, the alternatives do not propose a change to any existing agricultural uses.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section analyzes the potential environmental consequences, or impacts, that would occur as a result of implementation of the various management alternatives, including the No-Action Alternative. Descriptions of the management alternatives are presented in “Chapter 4: Management Alternatives.”

General Methodology for Analyzing Impacts

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts are described (40 CFR 1502.16) and the impacts are assessed in terms of context and intensity (40 CFR 1508.27). Where appropriate, mitigating measures for adverse impacts for each resource may vary; therefore, these methodologies are described under each impact topic.

Type of Impact: describes the classification of the impact as either *beneficial or adverse, direct or indirect*. The terms “impact” and “effect” are used interchangeably throughout this environmental assessment.

Beneficial: An impact that would result in a positive change to the resource when compared to the existing conditions.

Adverse: An impact that causes an unfavorable result to the resource when compared to the existing condition.

Direct: Impacts that would occur as a result of the proposed action at the same time and place of implementation (40 CFR 1508.8).

Indirect: Impacts that would occur as a result of the proposed action, but later in time or farther in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable from the action (40 CFR 1508.8).

Cumulative Impact Scenario Analysis Methodology: CEQ regulations require the assessment of cumulative impacts in the decision-making process for federal projects. A cumulative impact is defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts are considered for both the no-action and the action alternatives.

Cumulative impacts were determined by combining the impacts of the action alternatives (implementation of alternative B or C) with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Past actions include the change in and around the core area of significance—the original settlement of Ste. Genevieve—to those properties most representative of the earliest period of significance. This includes historical properties listed in the National Register. Past actions also include modern development within the core area of significance and the immediate surroundings, and construction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee system. These past actions have cumulatively impacted the original settlement. However, the action alternatives do not call for any development, only for preservation of these core resources. No reasonably foreseeable future development is anticipated other than construction of the Port of New Bourbon, which would be adjacent to the nationally significant district identified in this study. It is foreseeable that the Port Authority operation would lead to increased traffic in the area of significance.

ASSESSING IMPACTS USING CEQ CRITERIA

The impacts of the alternatives are assessed using the CEQ definition of “significantly” (1508.27), which requires consideration of both context and intensity:

Context: Significance varies with the physical setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend on the effects in the locale, rather than in the world as a whole. This means that the significance of any action may be analyzed within the appropriate context, such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, or the locality. Both short-term and long-term effects (duration) are considered.

Duration:

Short-term: impacts generally last only during the initiation and implementation of the project, and the resources resume their pre-project conditions following the implementation of the project.

Long-term: impacts last beyond the initiation and implementation of the project, and the resources may not resume their pre-project conditions for a longer period of time.

Intensity: This refers to the severity of the impact. The following should be considered in evaluating intensity:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the federal agency believes that, on balance, the effect will be beneficial.
2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.
3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.
4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.
5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.
7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it into small components.
8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places or that may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
10. Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the impact.

For each impact topic analyzed, an assessment of the potential significance of the impacts according to context, intensity and duration is provided in the “Conclusion” section that follows the discussion of the impacts under each alternative. Intensity of the impacts fully considers the relevant factors from the list above. Intensity factors that do not apply to a given resource topic and/or alternative are not discussed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternative A: No-Action

Under the No-Action Alternative, the overall integrity of the district would probably remain as it is currently, although some individual resources might deteriorate, while others could be improved through restoration efforts. The city would continue to exercise control over cultural resources within its jurisdiction to specific design guidelines, for which a Certificate of Appropriateness must be sought before changes are made. This ensures that properties in this defined area retain the cultural uniqueness for which the city is known. This involves the city reviewing permits for structural changes within the defined zone, the city's historic district. The zoning protections are limited to a defined area and do not ensure protection of all resources within the study area. The zoning is important to ensure that updates to these resources are done appropriately; however, zoning does not prevent gradual deterioration.

As a Certified Local Government, the city directly receives funding from the National Park Service and the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office to promote preservation efforts and complete necessary repairs to eligible properties. Becoming a Certified Local Government illustrates the city's commitment to keeping what is significant from the past for future generations. Those resources that are eligible (those within the NHL and/or NRHP districts) would continue to qualify for funding. This does not guarantee financial assistance, as there is a limited amount of funding available. Under the No-Action Alternative, the Felix Valle House, the Bossier (Shaw) House, the Amoureux House, and the Delassus-Kern House would continue to be managed by the State of Missouri. Although the state provides funding for restoration and preservation efforts, it is limited in its capacity. The Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, a nonprofit organization, would continue to operate the Guibourd-Valle House and the Keil-Schwent House; the nonprofit National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri would continue to operate the Bolduc House Museum, Le Meilleur House, and the Linden House. These organizations rely on donations to continue cultural resource preservation. The majority of the cultural resources within the NHL district are privately owned.

If the current trend of state funding continues to decrease, and the availability of donations becomes more uncertain, the sustainability of the cultural resources would be further strained. The No-Action Alternative is unlikely to result in a direct adverse impact on cultural resources, but the lack of reliable annual funding may indirectly and adversely impact these resources on a long-term basis.

Conclusion: In the No-Action Alternative, cultural resources may indirectly be impacted adversely if funding decreases, resulting in a gradual deterioration of resources. Any impact would be insignificant in the overall context of cultural resources for the study area.

Alternative B: NPS Unit

Under the NPS Unit Alternative, some cultural resources would become part of the NPS system. There would be two noncontiguous areas of the unit: one directly off St. Mary's Road would include the Bequette-Ribault House, Amoureux House, and the Lasource-Durand House, and the other, located on U.S. 61, would include the Delassus-Kern House. Both areas of the proposed unit would provide a venue for NPS interpretation of Ste. Genevieve's significant French vernacular architecture and the history of French settlement in the Illinois Country. Both of these areas are adjacent to the Common Field, which could provide additional interpretation opportunities.

The resources identified above are currently either rarely or never open to the public, and some require stabilization and preservation to ensure resource protection. Under this alternative, recommended treatment and interpretation would occur. In addition, NPS staff could also provide interpretation in the community outside the unit boundary. The city would continue to exercise permit authority within the historic preservation zoning area, and the State of Missouri would continue to protect its properties (the Felix Valle and Bossier [Shaw] houses). This alternative would provide for the National Park Service to acquire ownership of the Bequette-Ribault and Amoureux Houses, two extremely rare, *poteaux on terre* vertical log buildings, two of just five remaining in the United States. NPS Units would ensure protection to those resources within the formal boundaries. In addition, NPS interpretive programs would benefit all the thematically related cultural resources. The presence of the National Park Service could generate additional support for current nonprofits such as the Colonial Dames as a result of potential collaboration efforts with National Park Service.

Conclusion: The NPS Unit Alternative would be directly beneficial to cultural resources. This benefit would be most significant within the unit boundary, but it would also have indirect beneficial impacts on resources outside the boundary. The context of the impact would be restricted to those NPS Unit resources on a long-term basis, assuming NPS funding. Overall impacts would be beneficial to cultural resources under this alternative.

Alternative C: NPS Unit and Affiliated Area

Under the NPS Unit and Affiliated Area Alternative, the impacts to cultural resources are similar to those in the NPS Unit Alternative. The same NPS areas would be established as a unit within this alternative and would be afforded the same resource protection. In addition, an affiliated area would encompass the NHL district within the City of Ste. Genevieve's historic zoning authority. The Affiliated Area would be managed in accordance with NPS policies and standards, and would be assured of sustained resource protection in a formal agreement with the nonfederal management entity. The nonfederal entity, the City of Ste. Genevieve, currently oversees a local historic district through its zoning jurisdiction, which also overlaps with the nationally significant district (NHL district) and the NRHP district. In addition, the state would enter into a formal agreement with the National Park Service to affiliate with those Felix Valle State Historic Site resources that would not be acquired by the National Park Service. The National Park Service would also work closely with city, state, and other local organizations to develop management planning documents for the area and would provide technical assistance in implementing them. Those resources outside the Unit would continue to be managed by their current non-NPS entities. In addition, should the Affiliated Area be appropriated monies for cultural resources (such as a façade-improvement fund), those resources may be further benefitted by the availability of funds for physical improvements.

Conclusion: The NPS Unit and Affiliated Area Alternative would have long-term beneficial impacts on cultural resources. This alternative would ensure consistency by managing the resources to NPS standards. The context of this alternative would directly impact the defined Units and Affiliated Area, but also indirectly impact those resources outside the boundary. This alternative would result in all entities working collaboratively toward the common goal of preservation of the cultural resources for future generations.

Cumulative Impacts on Cultural Resources: Past cumulative impacts on cultural resources include historical and modern development within the area of national significance. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee system limits the impacts of flooding to the city, but it will not completely prevent future flooding along the Mississippi River. Flooding would have an immediate adverse impact on cultural resources. This impact will be true for all alternatives. In addition, the Port of New Bourbon is currently under construction on the eastern edge of the district along the Mississippi River. The New Bourbon Regional Port Authority will manage the movement of commodities in and out of the port. As a result of the increased commerce, traffic may increase within the area. This could degrade the visitor experience related to cultural resources. No other reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts have been identified.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Alternative A: No-Action

There would be no change from the existing visitor experience at Ste. Genevieve under the No-Action Alternative. The city would continue to operate the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center, which is open regularly throughout the year. The city's welcome center emphasizes introduction and tourism, rather than interpretation, through the use of a 10-minute video overview of the city and the NHL district. The Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve would continue to provide interpretation of the Guibourd-Valle and Keil-Schwent Houses, and the nonprofit National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri would continue to provide interpretation of the Bolduc House Museum, Le Meilleur House, and the Linden House. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources would continue to provide interpretation at the Felix Valle and Bossier (Shaw) Houses. Access to the Amoureux House is limited and public access to the Delassus-Kern House is not available. These resources are underused with respect to visitor experience. Under current management (No-Action Alternative), it is not foreseeable that the public would have access to the Delassus-Kern House. Although the welcome center provides a walking tour brochure that provides information about some of the historic properties, in general, visitors currently experience the privately owned historic resources of Ste. Genevieve from the public right-of-way without comprehensive self-guiding materials.

Conclusion: In the No-Action Alternative, visitor experience would continue as at present. There would be some interpretation opportunities and tourism information available in a limited capacity. It is unlikely that any current organization could undertake regular, comprehensive interpretation of the nationally significant district as a whole. As a result, the impacts on visitors use under the No-Action Alternative are long-term and adverse for the development of visitor use and tourism. Lack of unified interpretation efforts would continue to be the norm.

Alternative B: NPS Unit

Under the NPS Unit Alternative, the visitor experience would be further developed. This alternative would result in two noncontiguous areas of the Unit: one along St. Mary's Road would include the Bequette-Ribault House, Amoureux House, and the Lasource-Durand House. The other, located on U.S. 61, would include the Delassus-Kern House. Both areas would be owned and operated by the National Park Service. Alternative B would allow visitors to experience the Bequette-Ribault and Amoureux Houses, two extremely rare, *poteaux on terre* vertical log buildings, two of only five remaining in the United States. Interpretation of the area would be uniform, and would comprehensively illustrate the nationally significant district. In addition to the proposed NPS area, visitors would continue to have the opportunity to experience the Felix Valle House and Bolduc House Museum, owned by the State of Missouri. The Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve would continue to provide interpretation of the Guibourd-Valle and Keil-Schwent Houses, and the nonprofit National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri would continue to provide interpretation of the Bolduc House Museum, Le Meilleur House, and the Linden House. These resources would allow visitors to experience the unique stories and in-depth interpretation of village life. The city's welcome center would continue to provide orientation to visitors through the 10-minute video overview of the city and NHL district. The resources in private ownership would continue to be observed by visitors from the public right-of-way. However, the National Park Service, through partnerships with the state and nonprofits, could develop self-guiding tours to better enhance the interpretation. Although the primary NPS focus would be the Unit resources, those outside the Unit could still benefit from NPS interpretation efforts through a partnership agreement.

Conclusion: The NPS Unit Alternative would directly benefit the visitor experience. This would be greatest within the Unit boundary locations, but also have an indirect beneficial impact on visitor experience with the presence of the National Park Service and the potential for NPS interpretation efforts outside the Unit boundary. The context of this impact is focused on the NPS Unit areas.

Alternative C: NPS Unit and Affiliated Area

Under the NPS Unit and Affiliated Area Alternative, the impacts on visitor experience are similar to those in the NPS Unit Alternative, but more beneficial due to increased opportunities for interpretation throughout the nationally significant district. Visitors to the Ste. Genevieve historic district would encounter consistent wayfinding and interpretive signage developed cooperatively by the National Park Service and the Affiliated Area. Ownership and management divisions between sites open to the public would be less perceptible to visitors because of consistency. Visitors would enjoy interpretive tours at the NPS Unit, at other sites within the district, or potentially the entire district. NPS standards and coordination of interpretive materials would offer visitors a variety of experiences comprehensively interpreting the history and architecture of Ste. Genevieve. In addition to these benefits of establishing an Affiliated Area, the area would be given an NPS name such as "National Historic Site" and would be entitled to display the NPS arrowhead logo on signage and, where appropriate, on marketing and interpretive materials and exhibits. This partnership could have beneficial impacts on developing and encouraging tourism for the city. Over time, the city's historical district could realize an increase in numbers of visitors.

Conclusion: The NPS Unit and Affiliated Area Alternative would have long-term beneficial impacts on visitor experience. Visitors would have numerous historical and architectural sites to experience. The interpretation would be consistent throughout the Unit and Affiliated Area. The context of this alternative would be restricted to the NPS Unit and Affiliated Area.

Cumulative Impacts on Visitor Experience: Past cumulative impacts on cultural resources include historical and modern development within the area of national significance. This cumulative impact lessens the visitor experience in the area of national significance. Future cumulative impacts on visitors include the potential for flooding along the Mississippi River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee system limits the impacts on the city of flooding, but will not completely prevent future flooding. Flooding would have an immediate adverse impact on visitor use, as any site damaged or inundated with flood waters would result in the resources being unavailable for visitors. Flooding could do irreversible damage to cultural resources. In addition, flooding could result in public health and safety concerns. This impact will be true for all alternatives. In addition, on the eastern edge of the district along the Mississippi River, the Port of New Bourbon is currently under construction. The New Bourbon Regional Port Authority will manage the movement of commodities in and out of the port. As a result of the increased commerce, traffic may increase within the area. This could detract from the visitor experience related to cultural resources and result in safety concerns for visitors to the Delassus-Kern House. No other reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts have been identified.

MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Alternative A: No-Action

Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no change in the existing operating and management of resources. Management of Ste. Genevieve resources is operated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, various nonprofit organizations, private ownership, and the City of Ste. Genevieve through zoning ordinances. The City of Ste. Genevieve would continue to use the zoning authority for those resources within the city's historic district. The Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve would continue to manage Guibourd-Valle and Keil-Schwent Houses. The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri would continue to manage the Bolduc House Museum, Le Meilleur House, and the Linden House. These organizations rely on donations to continue to operate through qualified staff. It cannot be known, if the No-Action Alternative were selected, whether or not these entities would continue to function at their current levels. Both organizations draw their funding sources from their members throughout the state. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources would continue to manage and operate the Felix Valle House, the Bossier (Shaw) House, the Amoureux House and the Delassus-Kern House. The department employs approximately three full-time year-round and four to five seasonal employees for the Felix Valle State Historic Site. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources would continue the stabilization efforts at the Delassus-Kern House. The state would probably continue to lack the funds and staff to provide timely maintenance and regular access and interpretation at the Amoureux House, or to implement the improvements at the Delassus-Kern House needed for visitor access. Missouri Department of Natural Resources funding is obtained through the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, and park user fees. The management of the remainder of cultural resources would be held by private entities.

Conclusion: In the No-Action Alternative, park management would continue to be the same as currently. The city, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, nonprofit organizations, and private entities would continue to manage and operate their properties at the current operational levels. Any decrease in funding of local and state governing agencies and donations from nonprofit groups could result in an adverse long-term impact on management.

Alternative B: NPS Unit

Under the NPS Unit Alternative, park management would have a need for further development, resulting in additional operation costs. The NPS unit would be funded through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget. The National Park Service would own and manage approximately eight to nine acres on St. Mary's Road, and approximately four acres at the Delassus-Kern House on U.S. 61.

An area of this size and configuration would be feasible to administer and manage as a new unit. Current national historic sites of similar acreage highlight a potential range of annual operating costs from \$0.7 million to \$2.9 million a year. This would support approximately 8 to 40 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, which includes part-time and seasonal employees. Costs would cover administration (budget, management), staff salaries, programming such as personal interpretation, exhibits and special events, and maintenance of facilities and grounds. Other costs would include the development of long-term management plans, initial office space for staff, and preparation of environmental compliance documents. In general, for a national historic site of this size and the envisioned role of the National Park Service, a staff of approximately 15 FTE and an operating budget of \$0.7 million to \$1.0 million would be sufficient for park management.

Conclusion: Implementation of alternative B would result in neutral impacts. The costs of creating a new park would be offset by the improvements in operations and programming. The context of this impact is focused on the area of the NPS Unit.

Alternative C: NPS Unit and Affiliated Area

Under the NPS Unit and Affiliated Area Alternative, park management would have the same development and costs as the NPS Unit Alternative, plus additional costs to support management of the Affiliated Area. This alternative would require one additional FTE to coordinate the relationship with the Affiliated Area and serve as a point person for technical assistance requests. If authorized in the enabling legislation, the National Park Service could disburse funds to the Affiliated Area for signage and for grant programs for preservation and education projects. The costs of this alternative would depend on the boundary of the Affiliated Area and the specific role the National Park Service would have with the city, county, state and other partnerships.

Conclusion: Implementation of alternative C would result in neutral impacts. The additional costs of creating a new park would be offset by the improvements in operations and programming. The context of this impact is dependent on the boundary of the Affiliated Area.

Cumulative Impacts on Management of Resources: Cumulative impacts on park management include the overall budgetary constraints of the national park system. Currently, the National Park Service manages and operates more than 400 units. While bureau costs continue to grow, appropriated funds are not guaranteed to increase. The levee system and the Port of New Bourbon are unlikely to have a cumulative impact on park management and operations. No other reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts have been identified.

LAND USE AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Alternative A: No-Action

There would be no impacts associated with land use and socioeconomics under the No-Action Alternative. The city's historical zoning ordinance would remain in effect. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri would retain ownership of the properties they currently manage. No known impacts on the current land use and socioeconomics of the area are anticipated under the No-Action Alternative.

Conclusion: No impacts will result to land use and socioeconomics under the No-Action Alternative.

Alternative B: NPS Unit

Under the NPS Unit Alternative, some properties would eventually be removed from the county's property tax rolls as a result of federal ownership. The National Park Service would obtain ownership of the Zarinelli House and Roth's boat yard. The change of ownership would result in a loss of local property tax revenue because the federal government does not pay local property taxes. This alternative calls for the National Park Service to acquire the Bequette-Ribault House from the Charron Institute. Although the Charron Institute is a nonprofit organization, it still pays taxes to the county (\$589 in 2012). In 2012, the Zarinelli House paid \$932 in taxes and Roth's boat yard paid \$996. The removal of the Zarinelli and Roth properties and the Bequette-Ribault House from the property tax rolls would have an adverse impact; the county would lose approximately \$2,500 in tax revenue.

NPS acquisition of the Roth and Zarinelli properties would be subject to a Phase I environmental site assessment to determine if any environmental contamination is present. If necessary, a Phase II assessment would be made to determine the level of contamination and appropriate mitigation measures that would have to be taken before the National Park Service would assume possession.

For a certain number of years, the county would be eligible for Payments In Lieu of Taxes, a Department of the Interior-administered program that makes federal payments to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable lands within their boundaries. Payments to the county would gradually diminish over time.

The establishment of an NPS Unit would probably result in an increase of tourism for the community. NPS designation would have beneficial economic and social impacts on the area. Socioeconomic impacts would include increased visitation to the site, surrounding areas, and other attractions; spending by visitors and growth in visitor-related businesses; and sales and hotel tax revenues generated by that growth.

Spending generated by park operations and park staff would also be retained within the local economy. A sample of parks comparable in size and staffing to the proposed action at Ste. Genevieve under alternative B estimates that annual total economic contribution of an NPS Unit at Ste. Genevieve would range from \$1.7 million to \$3.3 million.

Conclusion: Alternative B would have adverse and beneficial impacts on land use and socioeconomics. The impacts would be direct and adverse through the removal of tax revenue-generating properties from the tax rolls; however, the context would be restricted to those three properties. Designation of an NPS Unit would have indirect and beneficial impacts through increased visitation and the tourism-related income generated from that visitation.

Alternative C: NPS Unit and Affiliated Area

Under the NPS Unit and Affiliated Area Alternative, some properties would eventually be removed from the county property tax rolls as a result of federal ownership. The National Park Service would obtain ownership from willing sellers and eventually remove the Zarinelli house and Roth's boat yard. The change of ownership would result in a loss of local property tax revenue because the federal government does not pay local property taxes. In 2012, the Zarinelli house paid \$932 in taxes and Roth's boat yard paid \$996. In addition, this alternative calls for the National Park Service to acquire ownership of the Bequette-Ribault House from the Charron Institute. Although the Charron Institute is a nonprofit organization, it still pays taxes (\$589 in 2012). The removal of these three properties from the property tax rolls would have an adverse impact; the county would lose approximately \$2,500 in tax revenue.

As in alternative B, the county would be eligible for Payments in Lieu of Taxes for a certain number of years. These payments would gradually diminish over time.

The establishment of an NPS Unit and Affiliated Area would result in an increase of tourism to the community. NPS designation would have beneficial economic and social impacts on the area. Socioeconomic impacts would include increased visitation to the site, surrounding areas, and other attractions; spending by visitors and growth in visitor-related businesses; and sales and hotel tax revenues generated by that growth. Spending generated by park operations and park staff would also be retained within the local economy. Tourism impacts associated with alternative C would probably be slightly greater compared to alternative B as a result of the increased presence of the National Park Service throughout the Affiliated Area. A sample of parks comparable in size and staffing to that anticipated at Ste. Genevieve under alternative C shows that the annual total economic contribution of an NPS Unit and Affiliated Area at Ste. Genevieve would probably be higher than in alternative B.

Conclusion: Alternative C would have adverse and beneficial impacts on land use and socioeconomics. The impacts would be direct and adverse through the removal of tax revenue-generated property; however, the context would be restricted to those three properties. The impacts would be indirect and beneficial with the designation of a NPS Unit and Affiliated Area, which would probably lead to increased visitation and tourism-related income generated from those activities.

Cumulative Impacts on Land Use and Socioeconomics

Cumulative impacts on land use and socioeconomics include the potential for businesses, such as tourism-related concessions, to establish in Ste. Genevieve as a result of the NPS presence. The increased activity could potentially lessen the overall visitor experience in Ste. Genevieve. Additionally, as a result of the NPS budget constraints, obtaining ownership of the Zarinelli House, Roth's boat yard, and the Bequette-Ribault House may not be feasible in the foreseeable future except by donation. It is likely that there would be an increase in traffic from the Port of New Bourbon to U.S. 61, passing by the Delassus-Kern House along Cotton Woods Road. No other reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts have been identified.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

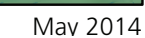
The eastern boundary of the district is the west bank of the Mississippi River. The southern boundary begins at the junction of St. Mary's Road and U.S. 61 and proceeds west to the rear property line of lots fronting on St. Mary's Road and Seraphin Street and then north to the Missouri-Illinois Railroad tracks. The western boundary follows the line of Ninth Street in a northerly direction to the line of Riverview Drive. The northern boundary follows the line of Riverview Drive. Please consult the map.

The core of Ste. Genevieve, from First Street to Fifth Street and from South Gabouri Street to Washington Street follows a clearly visible grid pattern. However, early settlement of Ste. Genevieve took place not only in this nuclear core, but in a linear pattern along two creeks, the North Gabouri and the South Gabouri. Of special significance are the properties fronting on St. Mary's Road, facing the Common Field and the Mississippi River. The boundaries here described encompass the historic resources in the town's core settlement and also in the linear settlement along the creeks.

Four noncontiguous sites are so closely related to the history and archeology of Ste. Genevieve that they are essential components of the historic district. These sites, described in this report, are the Saline (1), the Old Town Archeological Site (3), the New Bourbon Archeological Site (5), and the Delassus-Kern House (32). All four sites are located along the west bank of the Mississippi River at the eastern edge of Ste. Genevieve County within 6 miles of the present-day town of Ste. Genevieve. It is important to note that the salt deposit at the Saline and the rich soil of the Mississippi River bottoms were the main attractions for early settlers. The Saline consists of multiple sites along the Saline Creek in the Mississippi River bottoms approximately 6 miles south of the current town of Ste. Genevieve. The Old Town Archeological Site is located in the Mississippi River bottoms, 2.8 miles south of the present-day town (3 miles north of the Saline). The New Bourbon Archeological Site is situated on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River bottoms, on the west side of U.S. 61, approximately 2 miles south of Ste. Genevieve. The Delassus-Kern House stands in the river bottoms on the west side of U.S. 61 in the immediate vicinity of the New Bourbon Archeological Site, approximately 2 miles southeast of Ste. Genevieve.

The boundaries of the district considered nationally significant for the purposes of this special resource study is larger than those currently recorded as the National Historic Landmark district (see discussion on page 19). Legislation authorizing this study directed the National Park Service to study resources in Ste. Genevieve County, but not all French vernacular vertical log buildings in the county can be considered components of the historic district. The present day boundaries of Ste. Genevieve County encompass an area larger than the historical sphere of influence of the village of Ste. Genevieve. Examples of vertical log buildings, such as a house in Weingarten, 13 miles distant from Ste. Genevieve, are too far afield to be considered part of the same community. These outlying buildings, of which there are seven known, do not contribute to the historic district at Ste. Genevieve but are, nonetheless, important survivals that contribute to the history of the Illinois Country overall.⁷⁴

74. Luer and Francis, vii. Seven houses, all *poteaux-sur-sole*, are located in the Ste. Genevieve County communities of Bloomsdale, St. Mary's, and Weingarten. There may be additional buildings that have not yet been identified.





CHAPTER 6: PROPERTY INVENTORY

PART I: TABLE OF PROPERTIES CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY AREA, ORGANIZED BY CONSTRUCTION DATE

Table of properties contributing to the national significance of the study area, organized by time period.					
No.	Name	Address	Type	Major Cultural Influence	Date*
Properties Representing the Colonial Period					
1	La Saline		Archeo. Site	French	1790
2	<i>Le Grand Champ</i> (Common Field)	River bottoms	Landscape	French	1750
3	Old Town Archeological Site		Archeo. Site	French	1790
4	Town Grid	Main, First - Fifth Streets	Landscape	French	1790
5	New Bourbon Archeological Site		Archeo. Site	French	1793
6	Memorial Cemetery	Fifth St.	Landscape	French	1793
7	<u>Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais (Amoureux) House</u>	327 St. Mary's Rd.	Building	French	1792
8	Francois Valle II House	167 South Gabouri St.	Building	French	1792
9	<u>Vital St. Gemme Beauvais House</u>	20 South Main St.	Building	French	1792
10	Louis Bolduc House	125 South Main St.	Building	French	1793
11	Jean Baptiste Valle House	99 South Main St.	Building	French	1794
12	Janis-Ziegler House (Green Tree Tavern)	244 St. Mary's Rd.	Building	French	1800
13A	Moses Austin Outbuilding 1	68 South Gabouri St.	Building	French	1800
14	Auguste Aubuchon House	467 Washington St.	Building	French	1800
15	Charles LaHaye House	704 North LaPorte St.	Building	French	1801

Table Key

Properties in green are owned by an entity whose mission includes preservation and interpretation

Property name in bold indicates vertical log construction.

Bold and underlined indicates poteaux-en-terre construction.

Table of properties contributing to the national significance of the study area, organized by time period.					
No.	Name	Address	Type	Major Cultural Influence	Date*
Properties Representing the Territorial Period					
34	John Price (Old Brick) House	90 South Third St.	Building	Anglo	1804
16	Francois Bernier Barn	807 Market St.	Building	French	1805
17	Jean Marie Pepin <i>dit</i> Lachance House	699 North Fourth St.	Building	French	1806
35	Abraham Newfield (Senator Lewis Linn) House	223 Merchant St.	Building	Anglo	1806
18	Guibourd-Valle	1 North Fourth St.	Building	French	1807
19	LaSource-Durand	347 St. Mary's Rd.	Building	French	1807
20	Jean Baptiste Valle II (Dorlac) House	389 St. Mary's Rd.	Building	French	1807
21	<u>Bequette-Ribault House</u>	351 St. Mary's Rd.	Building	French	1808
36	Ste. Genevieve Academy	201 North Fifth St.	Building	Anglo	1808
37	McArthur (Ratte) House	198 South Main St.	Building	Anglo	1809
13B	Moses Austin Outbuilding 2	72 South Gabouri St.	Building	Anglo	1810
38	Linden House	124 South Main St.	Building	Anglo	1813
39	Keil Stone House	198 South Second St.	Building	Anglo	1814
40	Hubardeau House	102 North Fourth St.	Building	Anglo	1817
41	Bossier Warehouse (Dr. Benjamin Shaw) House and Outbuilding	200 Merchant St.	Building	Anglo	1818
42	Rozier Building	201 Merchant St.	Building	Anglo	1818
43	Jacob Philipson (Felix Valle) House	198 Merchant St.	Building	Anglo	1818
Properties Representing the Period of Early Missouri Statehood					
22	Rene LeMeilleur House	101 South Main St.	Building	French	1820
44	Antoine O'Neill House	150 South Main St.	Building	Anglo	1820
45	John Donahue House (Southern Hotel)	150 South Third St.	Building	Anglo	1821
23	Beauchamp House	810 LaHaye St.	Building	French	1825
24	Joseph Gouvreau House	451 LeCompte St.	Building	French	1825
25	Etienne Joseph Gouvreau House	415 LaHaye St.	Building	French	1825
26	Louis Caron House	483 Roberts St.	Building	French	1825

Table of properties contributing to the national significance of the study area, organized by time period.

No.	Name	Address	Type	Major Cultural Influence	Date*
Properties Representing the Period of Early Missouri Statehood					
27	Joseph Caron House	499 Roberts St.	Building	French	1825
28	Antoine Thomure House (Boyer Cabin)	5 Boyer Place	Building	French	1826
29	Joseph Seraphin (Recole) House	74 Seraphin St.	Building	French	1826
30	Antoine Lalumandiere House	801 South Gabouri St.	Building	French	1829
46	Marie Hubardeau LaPorte House	248 Market St.	Building	Anglo	1830
47	Millard-Valle House	1007 North Main St.	Building	Anglo	1838
31	Michel Placet House	246 North Main	Building	French	1840
32	Delassus-Kern House	US Highway 61	Building	French	1840
48	Eloy LeCompte House	231 North Main St.	Building	Anglo	1840
49	Joseph Amoureux House	102 South Main St.	Building	Anglo	1844
33	Jacob Auguste (Jean Baptiste Birke) House	151 Ziegler St.	Building	French	1846
50	Martin Intrass House	52 North Third St.	Building	German	1846

* In general, the dates given are approximate dates of construction; in each case, the date given is the latest probable date.

Table Key

Properties in green are owned by an entity whose mission includes preservation and interpretation

Property name in bold indicates vertical log construction.

Bold and underlined indicates poteaux-en-terre construction.

PART II: NARRATIVE OF PROPERTIES CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY AREA, ORGANIZED BY RESOURCE TYPE

Table Key
Poteaux on terre (Post in Ground) French vernacular construction
Poteaux sur sole (Post on Sill) French vernacular construction
Other property types

LANDSCAPES AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES, 1750-1793

1

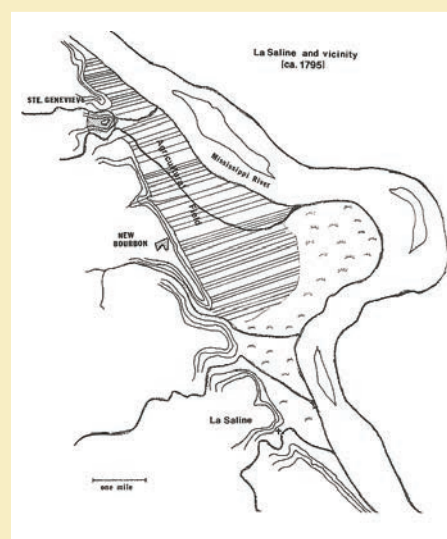
La Saline

Near US 61 and State Route J

1790

When French colonists first settled in Ste. Genevieve in 1750, they were already aware of the salt deposits along Saline Creek, the southernmost tributary of the Mississippi River in present-day Sainte Genevieve County. Native Americans and French people who lived on the east bank of the Mississippi River made frequent trips to the salt works, because salt was essential to preserve their supply of meat. The original townsite of Ste. Genevieve was located in the river bottoms just three miles north of *La Saline*. Documents dating from 1750-1790 connect several local families, including the Valle family, to the salt works and business remained brisk until about 1825 when steamboats made it feasible and cheap to import salt from elsewhere. Archaeologist Richard Keslin excavated six sites along the Saline Creek in the early 1960s. A multi-disciplinary team, led by Michael Trimble, conducted archaeological excavations as well as documentary research in the 1980s. Terry Norris, an archaeologist who was associated with that team, has stated that *La Saline* was “absolutely integral” to the development of the original town of Ste. Genevieve.¹

01 David Denman, “History of *La Saline*: Salt Manufacturing Site, 1675-1825,” *Missouri Historical Review* 73#3 (April 1979): 307-320; Richard O. Keslin, “Archaeological Implications on the Role of Salt as an Element of Cultural Diffusion,” *Missouri Archaeologist* 26 (December 1964): 1-181; Trimble, et al., “Frontier Colonization of the Saline Creek Valley,” 165-188; Terry Norris, telephone conversation with Bonnie Stepenoff, January 10, 2011.



2

Common Field (*le Grand Champ*, or the Big Field)
River bottomlands

Stretching along the west bank of the Mississippi River from a point northeast of downtown Ste. Genevieve to a point southeast of the site of New Bourbon, the Common Field (*le grand champ*) is a significant cultural landscape that defines Ste. Genevieve as a French settlement. Historically, the Common Field was divided into long narrow lots, stretching from the bluffs on the west to the river bank on the east, and enclosed with a common fence. An early nineteenth century observer estimated that it contained approximately 7,000 acres.² This pattern of long lots, which has survived to the present day, was typical of French settlements in North America. Contemporary surveys maintain this pattern of land ownership and use, and though the acreage is now approximately 2,700 acres, it still conveys the sense of expansive agricultural land whose lots are unbroken by individual fences. The Common Field retains a high degree of historic integrity as an agricultural landscape in continuous use since the latter part of the eighteenth century. Even more than *La Saline*, the rich soil of the Big Field attracted French settlers to the west bank of the Mississippi.³ The Common Field Archaeological Site, containing the remains of American Indian mounds, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.⁴

⁰² Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, 128.

⁰³ NPS, "Reconnaissance Report," 1980, 3; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 56-62. National Register of Historic Places, Common Field Archaeological Site, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, National Register # 69000306, 1969.

⁰⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Common Field Archaeological Site, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, National Register # 69000306, 1969. For a discussion of the French colonial practice of dividing large agricultural tracts into long lots, see Michael Roark, "Imprint of the French in North America: Long-Lots in the Mid Mississippi Valley," in *French and Germans in the Mississippi Valley*, 111-123.

ca. 1750



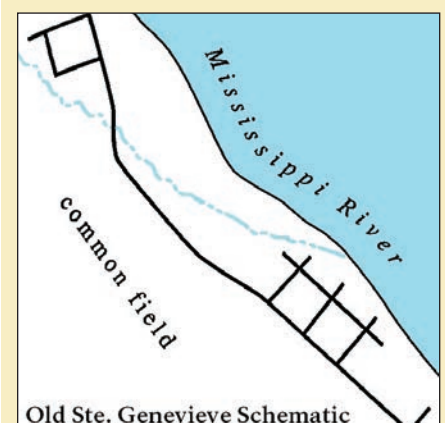
3

Old Town Archaeological Site (*Vieux Village*)
River bottomlands

The site of the original town of Ste. Genevieve contributes to the national significance of the district by providing the potential for additional information about the roots of Ste. Genevieve and evidence of the community's initial settlement during the mid-eighteenth century. Known features of Site 23-SG-124, located within the Common Field, 2.8 miles south of Ste. Genevieve, include ten artifact concentrations and one stone-lined well identified by field surveys in 1975, 1979, and 1980. It is unclear from these investigations whether the original town of Ste. Genevieve was a linear or a nucleated settlement. It may have been a linear settlement stretching out along the river bank, between the river and the Common Field. Archaeologists determined that the terminal date of occupation was about 1790, which supports historical information that the old town suffered badly from the flood of 1785 and residents relocated to new Ste. Genevieve at a greater distance from the river. The site was described in the 1980 NPS Reconnaissance Report on Ste. Genevieve. Archaeologist Terry Norris discussed the site in an essay entitled "Ste. Genevieve: A French Colonial Village in Illinois Country," published in 1991.⁵

⁰⁵ NPS, "Reconnaissance Report," 1980, 13-14 and map; Terry Norris, "Ste. Genevieve: a French Colonial Village in the Illinois Country," in *French Colonial Archaeology: The Illinois Country and the Western Great Lakes*, edited by John A. Walthall (University of Illinois Press, 1991), 133-148.

1750-1790



4

Town Grid

Main Street, First through Fifth Streets

ca. 1790

The pattern of streets in downtown Ste. Genevieve, including Main, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Streets, bounded on the north by Washington Street and on the south by South Gabouri Street, contributes to the national significance of the district because it reflects the typical pattern of French villages in the Illinois Country. Both scholars Carl Ekberg and Walter Schroeder have noted that colonial French villages were laid out in grids. In Ste. Genevieve, Schroeder observed that, at the center of town, the grid consisted of nearly perfect square blocks measuring 350 to 400 feet on a side. At the northern and southern edges of downtown, along the banks of the North and South Gabouri creeks, which flank the downtown area, the blocks became less regular, conforming to the orientation of the creeks. All streets in the original grid remain substantially in their original eighteenth-century layout.⁶

06 Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 63-64; Carl J. Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, 49; Schroeder, 29.



5

New Bourbon Archaeological Site

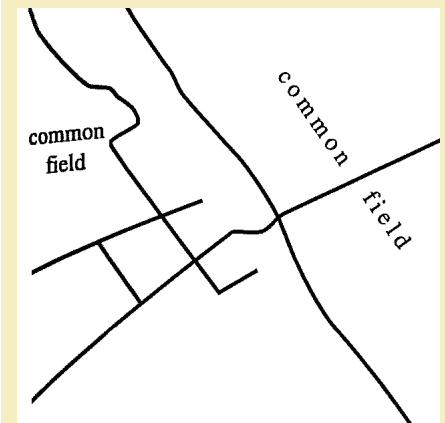
Near US 61 and Bourbon Road

ca. 1793

Pierre Charles Delassus de Luzieres, a nobleman fleeing the French Revolution, founded the village of New Bourbon in 1793 on a bluff overlooking the Common Field and the Mississippi River approximately two miles southeast of Ste. Genevieve. Residents of the settlement farmed lots in the Common Field and were members of the same parish.⁷ The settlement did not flourish, never rivaled Ste. Genevieve in population, and disappeared by the 1860s. Archaeologists Mark A. Rees and Neal H. Lopinot excavated a portion of the historic New Bourbon site, which they identified as the Delassus de Luzieres-Hecker Site (23SG176) in the summer of 2000. Their brief investigation (one week) confirmed historic occupation of the site during the general time span of 1770-1840. Rees, Lopinot, and Ekberg have all affirmed the importance of the site as a repository of archaeological material. Precisely because of New Bourbon's short history and the lack of modern development, the site possesses the potential to yield information about a French settlement in the period just before and after the Louisiana Purchase.⁸

07 Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, 92.

08 Mark A. Rees and Neal H. Lopinot, "Archaeological Survey and Testing of the Delassus de Luzieres-Hecker Site (23SG176), Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri," March 2001, 9-10, 52-53; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 453. The map was prepared by Larry Grantham for Bonnie Stepenoff and Debbie Bibb, "Ste. Genevieve Historic Preservation Field School 2000 and 2001: The Delassus-Kern House," Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks, 2004, 8-9.



6

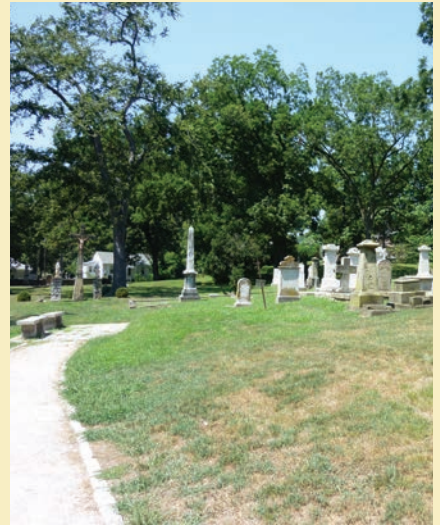
Memorial Cemetery

North Fifth Street between Market and Jefferson

ca. 1793

Memorial Cemetery, or the Old Burying Ground (Peterson), contributes to the historic district's national significance as a well-preserved landscape from the colonial period and as the resting place of many of Ste. Genevieve's most prominent early citizens, including many members of the Valle family. According to Booker H. Rucker, who is coordinating an on-going restoration project, "The stone gate built in the 1930s has 1787 carved into the gatepost." However, he has stated that the first officially documented burial was that of Francois Leclerc in 1793. The cemetery was closed to new interments after 1881. The last burial on the grounds was that of Odile Valle, who was buried next to the grave of her husband, Felix Valle, after her death in 1894. Residents of Ste. Genevieve have long recognized the importance of the cemetery and have undertaken three major restoration projects in the 1930s, the 1970s, and finally in the first decade of the twenty-first century. In 2004, the Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve received a Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service. With that grant and local matching funds, preservationists constructed a new fence around the perimeter of the cemetery, developed and implemented a landscape plan, developed and installed interpretive signs, conducted research on the cemetery's history, and repaired more than fifty damaged grave markers.⁹

⁰⁹ Booker H. Rucker, E-mail to Bonnie Stepenoff, July 2, 2010; HABS MO-1130; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 232; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 62-63.

**FRENCH COLONIAL VERTICAL LOG HOUSES, 1792-1846**

7

The Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais House (Amoureux) House

327 St. Mary's Road

ca. 1792

The Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais House (Amoureux) House, 327 St. Mary's Road, is one of only three surviving *poteaux-en-terre* houses in Ste. Genevieve and one of only five such houses in North America. Important architectural features include the heavy timber trusses supporting the steeply pitched roof. The walnut ceiling beams are original, and the date of construction has been confirmed by dendrochronology. The house was shortened, and interior alterations were made in the 1840s. Though the house has been altered, it retains integrity and is a critical contributing structure to the historic district.¹⁰ The house also has a well-documented history of occupation and was the residence of a free black woman, Pelagie Vital Amoureux, and her family in the nineteenth century before and after the Civil War. The Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais (Amoureux) House has long been recognized for the importance of its architecture, but it is also important for its ability to illustrate the varied backgrounds of Ste. Genevieve residents and the African American experience in the community.¹¹

¹⁰ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 23-24.

¹¹ Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) MO-1113; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 223; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 23-24; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 115-119.



8

Francois Valle II House

167 South Gabouri Street

ca. 1792

The Francois Valle II House, 167 S. Gabouri Street, is important as an example of an eighteenth-century French colonial building of the *poteaux-sur-sole* type and also as a residence associated with the man who served as the political and military leader of Ste. Genevieve during the last decade of Spanish rule before the transfer of sovereignty to the United States. The Francois Valle II House is most likely a remnant of a larger house or an outbuilding associated with the original house on the lot that belonged to Francois Valle II, or Francois Valle *fils*, in the 1790s when he served as commandant. The vertical log building, which measures 27 feet by 26 feet, is enclosed inside a later house with a front-facing gable and a Victorian front porch, but retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.¹² Valle *fils*, born in 1758, was the son of the most prominent leader of colonial Ste. Genevieve and succeeded him as commandant. Valle *fils* died in 1804, just before the official transfer of power to the United States, therefore his brother Jean Baptiste Valle served very briefly as the last commandant (political and military head) of the colony.

¹² Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 224; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 29-30; Carl J. Ekberg, *Francois Valle and His World: Upper Louisiana Before Lewis and Clark* (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 2002), 149, 289; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 29.



9

Vital St. Gemme Beauvais House

20 South Main Street

ca. 1792

The Vital St. Gemme Beauvais House, 20 South Main Street, is one of the three surviving *poteaux-en-terre* houses in Ste. Genevieve. The original French colonial house has been altered, although the old section retains its *poteaux-en-terre* walls. Scholars who have surveyed Ste. Genevieve have unanimously agreed that this house is of great architectural importance and is a critical contributing resource to the district.¹³ The house has important associations with the transition from the French colonial period to the early American period in Ste. Genevieve. Henry Marie Brackenridge, who apparently spent several years as a boy in this house, described it in his 1834 book *Recollections of Persons and Places in the West*. Vital St. Gemme Beauvais was the owner of Pelagie Vital, who became the matriarch of a blended-race family that lived in the home once owned by Vital's Brother, the Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais (Amoureux) House (Property Inventory No.7). Felicite Janis, widow of Vital St. Gemme Beauvais, freed Pelagie from slavery after Pelagie bore her first child.

¹³ HABS MO-1121; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 226-227; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 1-32; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 115-119.



10

Louis Bolduc House

125 South Main Street

ca. 1793

The Louis Bolduc House, 125 South Main Street, is an exceptionally well-preserved example of eighteenth-century French colonial *poteaux-sur-sole* construction and both contributes to the NHL district and is possesses individual NHL designation for its architectural significance. The property also contributes to the district because of its association with Louis Bolduc, a prominent lead miner, merchant, and planter in early Ste. Genevieve. In 1956-1957, architect and first director of the NPS Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Dr. Ernest Allen Connally supervised the restoration of the house, which is carefully maintained by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Missouri and operated as a historic house museum. The garden was also restored, under Connally's direction, in 1957. Many scholars have recognized the significance of the house, which was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1938 and again in the 1980s. In 1941, Peterson described it as "one of the least changed of the old French houses of Ste. Genevieve."¹⁴

¹⁴ Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 224; HABS MO-1105; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 35-36. See also Carl J. Ekberg, *Louis Bolduc: His Family and His House* (Tucson, Arizona: Patrice Press, 2002).



11

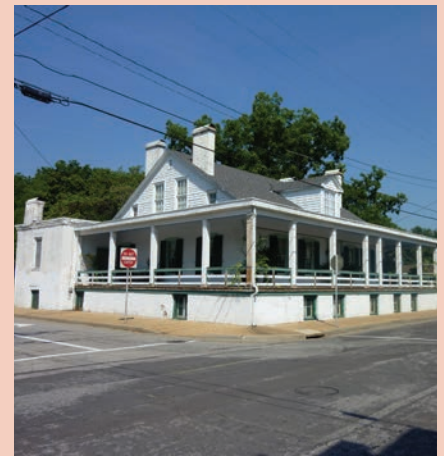
Jean-Baptiste Valle House

99 South Main Street

ca. 1794

The Jean-Baptiste Valle House, 99 South Main Street, is a large and imposing example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. In the 1850s and 1860s, subsequent owners of the house remodeled it to conform to American tastes. In the 1960s, descendants of Leon Vion, who purchased the property in 1867, restored the house to its pre-1850 appearance. The garden survives in its French colonial configuration. In 1941, Peterson noted that "the formal garden north of the house follows an old pattern." Through the years, scholars have unanimously recognized the Jean Baptiste Valle House as one of the premier historical properties in Ste. Genevieve.¹⁵ The house is also noteworthy because of its association with the last political and military leader (*Commandant*) of Ste. Genevieve before the American take-over in 1804. Jean Baptiste Valle successfully made the transition from *Commandant* to civil and business leader in the American town, and because of this he and his descendants had a lasting impact on the economy, social life, and landscape of Ste. Genevieve.

¹⁵ HABS MO-31-10; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 33-34; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 36-38; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 226. See also Mark L. Evans, *The Commandant's Last Ride* (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Ten-Digit Press, 2001).



12

Janis-Ziegler House (Green Tree Tavern)

River bottomlands

ca. 1800

The Janis-Ziegler House, more commonly known as the Green Tree Tavern, 244 St. Mary's Road, is a large and well-preserved example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. It has the least altered interior of any French vernacular house in Ste. Genevieve, has been extensively documented, and retains a high degree of historic integrity.¹⁶ Nicolas Janis, a wealthy French Canadian, had lived in Kaskaskia under French, British, and American rule before relocating to Ste. Genevieve with his family and nineteen slaves. The building served as a home and inn, and the raised basement provided housing for slaves and storage.¹⁷ The property is important as a commercial building and residence that is closely associated with the transition from French to Anglo-American ascendance in Ste. Genevieve. In 1806, the English traveler Thomas Ashe stayed at Francois Janis' inn and later wrote that "the landlord, a lively Frenchman, looked after my horses and his wife made me a cup of coffee with as much perfection as ever I drank at the Palais Royale." In 1833, Janis' heirs sold the property to Mathias Ziegler, and the property remained in the Ziegler family for more than a century. Scholars have long agreed upon the significance of this property.¹⁸

¹⁶ Draft NHL Nomination 2001, 22.

¹⁷ Luer and Francis, 65.

¹⁸ HABS MO-1104; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 21-23; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 141.



13

Moses Austin Outbuildings 1 and 2

Moses Austin Outbuilding 1, 68 S. Gabouri St. ca. 1800

Moses Austin Outbuilding 2, 72 S. Gabpiro St. ca. 1810

ca. 1800 - ca. 1810

The two buildings at 68 and 72 South Gabouri Street, one French vernacular (ca. 1800) and one Anglo-American vernacular (ca. 1810), stand on property once owned by lead mining entrepreneur and frontiersman Moses Austin. The buildings also have significant associations with African-American history in Ste. Genevieve. The large house that Austin built on this property was destroyed by fire in the nineteenth century. The two surviving outbuildings are visible reminders of the transition from French to Anglo-American building traditions in the period following the Louisiana Purchase. In 1811 Austin left Ste. Genevieve and sold his property to William Shannon, who migrated to the community from Tennessee and brought his slaves with him. One of his slaves, Elizabeth Shannon, became a free woman in the 1840s, and in 1845 she purchased the property that had belonged to her deceased master. She owned the property until 1857, when she and her daughters left Ste. Genevieve. The property and the surviving outbuildings, therefore, have very significant associations with the settlement of Ste. Genevieve by Anglo-Americans and African-Americans in the first half of the nineteenth century. These buildings were identified as significant in a survey conducted by the University of Missouri-Columbia in the 1980s, and both underwent restoration in the 1990s following the flood of 1993, returning both buildings to an approximation of their historic appearance.¹⁹ Moses Austin and his son Stephen have long been recognized as outstanding figures in the history of the trans-Mississippi West.²⁰

¹⁹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 28, 48.

²⁰ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 28-29, 47-48; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 51-52. For a book-length biography, see David B. Gracy, *Moses Austin: His Life* (San Antonio, Texas: Trinity University Press, 1964).



14

Auguste Aubuchon House

467 Washington Street

ca. 1800

This house is a *poteaux-sur-sole* residence that rests on a raised limestone block foundation. The walls have clapboard siding, and the double-pitched gable roof is clearly of French design. By 2001, according to local historian Mark Evans, the condition of Auguste Aubuchon's old home had deteriorated, but it remained "an excellent example of Ste. Genevieve's colonial architecture."²¹ The home belonged to a descendant of one of the first French families to settle in Ste. Genevieve. Ekberg noted that the surname "Obichon," or Aubuchon, appeared on the 1752 census and that the Aubuchons remained an important presence in Ste. Genevieve throughout the colonial period.

²¹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 36-37; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 30-31; Evans, *Commandant's Last Ride*, 95.



15

Charles LaHaye House

704 North LaPorte Street

ca. 1801

The Charles LaHaye House, a *poteaux-sur-sole* house, was constructed in the early years of the nineteenth century. Historical architect Jack Luer postulates that the original building was a one-room *poteaux-en-terre* cabin and that a second room, added a year later, was built on a stone foundation without a sill. More than a decade later (ca. 1816), a *poteaux-sur-sole* addition, with a timber sill and a stone foundation, was constructed at the east end of the original building. Although the house has been altered over the years, according to Douglas McVarish, "the house retains its original vertical log walls, as well as clear evidence of the early construction sequence."²²

²² HABS MO-1838; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 15-16.



16

Francois Bernier Barn

807 Market Street

ca. 1805

The Bernier Barn is an example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. Researchers from the University of Missouri identified this French vertical log building in their survey in the mid-1980s. The original log walls survive beneath clapboard siding and nineteenth-century additions, including verge boards, gabled dormers, and an entry porch with a hipped roof. No evidence of an original chimney or flooring system has been found.²³ The consensus is that this building was originally a barn that was converted to a house later in the nineteenth century as having barns in the center of town became less useful.²⁴

²³ Luer and Francis, 90.

²⁴ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 16-17.



17

Jean Marie Pepin *dit* Lachance House

699 North Fourth Street

ca. 1806

This *poteaux-sur-sole* house was constructed in the early nineteenth century. Researchers from the University of Missouri identified this well-preserved house in their survey in the mid-1980s. The house, on a limestone foundation, was originally a one-room vertical log cabin. Despite a long sequence of additions, this house retains much of its original interior and exterior fabric, including vertical log walls, some original paneling and doors, and cellar joists.²⁵

²⁵ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 18-19.



18

Guibourd-Valle House

1 North Fourth Street

ca. 1807

The Guibourd-Valle House is a large and imposing example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. According to Ekberg, the Guibourd house was the “first major residence built in Ste. Genevieve under American sovereignty.”²⁶ Many notable original elements of the house survive, such as doors, an original casement window, flooring and truss systems.²⁷ The building originally had a hipped roof and side galleries, which were changed in the early nineteenth century to conform to American tastes.²⁸ Historically, the house belonged to Jacques Guibourd, but in the 1930s members of the Valle family restored it. Jacques Guibourd fled the slave rebellion in St. Domingue and arrived in Ste. Genevieve in 1799, but he occupied another residence for several years before completing this house ca. 1807. Guibourd is an example of a French immigrant who arrived in Ste. Genevieve during the last years of the colonial period, adapted to life in a changing community, and participated in the economic, social, and political life of the emerging American town.²⁹

²⁶ Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 443-444.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Luer and Francis, 99.

²⁹ HABS MO-1109; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 17-18; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 443-444; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 25, 79.



19

Lasource-Durand House

347 St. Mary's Road (relocated in 1984)

ca. 1807

The Lasource-Durand House is an extremely rare surviving example of a one-room French vernacular house of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. This house has a long and complex history, which is outlined in a 1987 report prepared for HABS. Louis Lasource owned the property on which the original cabin was built until his relatives (members of the Moreau family) sold it to Francois Durand in 1813. It is probable that Lasource built the one-room cabin ca. 1807 and that Durand built a two-room addition ca. 1814. In 1862, Durand sold the property to Francis Felix Larose, who removed one small room and added three more rooms to the rear, creating a five-room residence. Margaret and Royce Wilhauk acquired the building in 1984 and moved it to its present location from Chadwell Lane along the South Gabouri Creek when it was threatened with demolition.³⁰ The Wilhauks reconstructed the original one-room building, retaining as much of its original fabric as possible. The original roof has been replaced with a modern truss roof with historic contours and dimensions.³¹

³⁰ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 24.

³¹ HABS MO-1281 and Addendum; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 24-25



20

Jean Baptiste Valle II (Dorlac) House

389 St. Mary's Road

ca 1807

The Jean Baptiste Valle II House is an excellent example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction combining French and Anglo-American cultural traditions. Pierre Dorlac, an early Ste. Genevieve settler, owned the property on which the house was built, but Dorlac passed away in 1803. In 1806, his widow sold the property to a nephew of Commandant Jean Baptiste Valle. The nephew bore the same name as the Commandant, and so the house has been dubbed the Jean Baptiste Valle II House. The house had many owners in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and appears to have undergone numerous renovations. According to a HABS report in 1987, despite these renovations, the house retains integrity, because "its plan, general form, and detail are characteristic of Creole architecture, but reveal Anglo-American influence." The transom over the entry door and interior pediments over doors and windows are examples of mid-nineteenth-century alterations that exemplify the blending of French and Anglo-American traditions in Ste. Genevieve.³²

³² HABS MO-1285; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 26-27.



21

Bequette-Ribault House

351 St. Mary's Road

ca. 1807

The Bequette-Ribault House is one of the three surviving *poteaux-en-terre* houses in Ste. Genevieve. Originally, the house had only one room with a stone fireplace on its north wall. The house retains its original king-post truss system, as well as walls, ceiling, and floor framing.³³ An early remodeling added a central chimney and a wall that divided the house into smaller rooms. Construction dates are disputed, but dendrochronology points to the date 1807. Jack Luer carefully restored the house in the 1980s and Melburn D. Thurman wrote a brief but fascinating book entitled *Building a House in Eighteenth Century Ste. Genevieve*. In addition to its architectural significance, the Bequette-Ribault House has historical associations with the African-American community in Ste. Genevieve. Originally the house belonged to a French family with the surname Bequette. Beginning in the 1840s, however, the house was occupied by a free black woman named Clarisse (or Clarice), a former slave of the Janis family, and the mother of several children fathered by a Frenchman named Jean Ribault. Ownership of the property passed to the Ribault family and when Jean Ribault died in 1849, Clarisse and her children inherited the house. For many years, Clarisse, her son John Ribault, his wife Mary Jane and their children lived in the house. Clarisse passed away in 1886; John Ribault died in 1899, and his wife passed away in 1926. Like the Amoureux House, the Bequette-Ribault House is noteworthy as the residence of a racially blended family in Ste. Genevieve in the years before and after the Civil War, and contributes to the understanding of the community dynamics.³⁴

³³ Luer and Francis, 47.

³⁴ HABS MO-1114; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 25-26; Melburn D. Thurman, *Building a House in Eighteenth Century Ste. Genevieve* (Ste. Genevieve: Pendragon's Press, 1984); Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 149.



22

Rene LeMeilleur House

101 South Main Street

1820

The LeMeilleur House, of possible *poteaux-sur-sole* construction, has important associations with the development of educational institutions in the early years of Missouri statehood. Rene LeMeilleur built the house near the home of his father-in-law, Louis Bolduc, in 1820. LeMeilleur died shortly after the house was completed. In 1837, Mother Agnes Hart and five other members of the Sisters of Loretto came to Ste. Genevieve and opened a convent school. For this purpose, they acquired the LeMeilleur house and the brick building immediately to its north. The Sisters of Loretto operated the school for more than twenty years. Architect Ernest Allen Connally supervised the restoration of the LeMeilleur House, also known as the Old Convent, in the 1960s.³⁵ Writing about the early appearance of the house, based on this restoration, Connally wrote "Still French in general concept but American in detail, it was an example of the transition from the French colonial tradition of building to the American style..."³⁶ There is some debate among scholars about whether this building is actually vertical log; even if it is not, the blend of styles present contributes to the understanding of the Ste. Genevieve's French roots and transition.

³⁵ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 34-35; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 226; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 163-165.

³⁶ Quoted in Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 34.



23

Beauchamp House

810 LaHaye Street

ca. 1825

The Beauchamp House, of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction, dates from the early years of the nineteenth century. Researchers from the University of Missouri identified this small house in the mid-1980s. The residence consists of a one-story vertical log cabin with a taller wood-framed addition of a later date. The house was remodeled in the 1930s and the 1990s and does not “read” as historic. However the vertical log portion retains its original workmanship, materials, and configuration. The house is located on a large lot in an open field on the banks of the North Gabouri Creek.³⁷

³⁷ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 15.

24

Joseph Gouvreau House

451 LeCompte Street

ca. 1825

The core of this dwelling is a *poteaux-sur-sole* house dating from the early nineteenth century. The date of construction is uncertain, but is estimated to be between 1800 and 1825. Framing members of the core are vertical log. Although the house has been remodeled numerous times, it contributes to the significance of the historic district as an example of vertical log construction, associated with one of the early French families in Ste. Genevieve. Patriarch of the family, Etienne Gouvreau, was the village blacksmith. He and his wife, Marie Jeanne La Valle Gouvreau, both passed away in the 1780s, leaving seven orphaned sons, including Joseph Gouvreau. Many members of the Gouvreau (sometimes spelled Govro) family still live in the area. This house was identified by researchers from the University of Missouri in the mid-1980s.³⁸

³⁸ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 14-16; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 270.



25

Etienne Joseph Gouvreau House

415 LaHaye Street

ca. 1793

This vertical log house, modified to an L-shaped floor plan by later additions, is an example of French *poteaux-sur-sole* construction that contributes to the significance of the historic district. Early deed records connect the house to Etienne Joseph Gouvreau, brother of Joseph Gouvreau. The original block of the house was a single room cabin constructed of vertical logs on a wooden sill with a limestone foundation. This original structure, built sometime between 1800 and 1840, is encased inside a wood-framed building on a concrete foundation. This house was identified by researchers from the University of Missouri in the mid-1980s.³⁹

³⁹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 14-16; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 270.



26

Louis Caron House

483 Roberts Street

ca. 1825

The Louis Caron House, of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction, dates from the early nineteenth century. Despite alterations and loss of original fabric, the vertical walls of the house remain intact, and the plan of the original block remains discernable, giving it the requisite integrity to contribute to the historic district.⁴⁰ The house is associated with an old French family and is very similar to the Joseph Caron House at 499 Roberts Street. The Caron family had ties with the Valle family and also with the American Indian population of the area. Louis Caron married Marguerite Valle, who was the illegitimate daughter of Francois Valle and an American Indian woman. Joseph Caron was the son of Louis and Marguerite.⁴¹

⁴⁰ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 20.

⁴¹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 20-21; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 114-115.



27

Joseph Caron House

499 Roberts Street

ca. 1825

The Joseph Caron House, which strongly resembles the Louis Caron House, and consists of a *poteaux-sur-sole* house encased within a larger, updated house. The vertical log walls, however, are largely intact. As mentioned in entry #26, Joseph Caron was the son of Louis Caron and the former Marguerite Valle.⁴² The house contributes to the significance of the historic district because it is a rare surviving example of French vertical log construction.

⁴² Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 20-21; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 114-115.



28

Antoine Thomure House (Boyer Cabin)

5 Boyer Place

ca. 1826

The Antoine Thomure (Thaumur) House is a beautifully preserved example of a vertical log house, consisting of one room and an attic, of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. This house was identified by researchers from the University of Missouri in the mid-1980s. By 2001, the owners of the house had removed some modern additions, reconstructed the front and rear porches, and restored the house to an approximation of its original condition.⁴³ The Thaumur (Thomure) family had arrived in Ste. Genevieve by the 1780s and continued to flourish after the Louisiana Purchase.

⁴³ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 13-14

29

Joseph Seraphin House (Recole House)

74 Seraphin Street

ca. 1793

The Joseph Seraphin House, which should perhaps be called the Recole House, is a one-and-a-half-story Creole house of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. In 1826 Antoine Recole, a free black man, acquired the property on which the house now stands from the heirs of Joseph Seraphin. The presumption is that Recole built the house sometime between 1826 and 1856, when the property passed to his niece after his death. Local records indicate that Antoine Recole purchased his freedom in 1816. During his years as a free black man, he bought and sold several pieces of property, including the house he sold to Clarisse Janis (Ribault) in 1850 [See Property Inventory No. 21]. His niece Angelique, who inherited the house on Seraphin Street, owned the property until 1873, when it was sold at auction to John L. Bogy.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ HABS MO-1282; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 27-28; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 126, 128, 130.



30

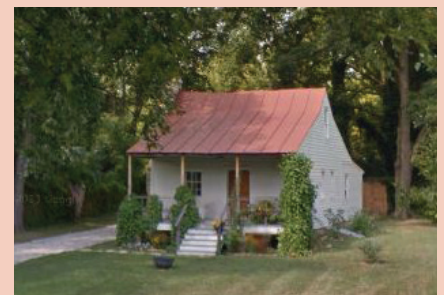
Antoine Lalumandiere House

801 South Gabouri Street

ca. 1829

The Antoine Lalumandiere House is an intact example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. Recently restored, the house retains its vertical log walls resting on a horizontal hand-hewn sill. Originally, this was a one-room house with an attic space under the steeply pitched roof. A rear porch was added and subsequently enclosed, and there is an addition in the rear, but the building is substantially intact and in its original configuration. Members of the Lalumandiere family were among the first settlers in Ste. Genevieve. According to Ekberg, they were yeomen farmers who were not members of the social elite, but were respected and valued members of the community.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 30-31; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 182-183.



31

Michel Placet House

246 North Main Street

ca. 1840

This house, which stands on property once owned by Michel Placet, is an example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction. The original one-room vertical log cabin has undergone numerous additions and alterations, and although the log walls remain encased in a more modern building, it contributes to the significance of the historic district. Researchers from the University of Missouri identified this building as belonging to the tradition of French vertical log architecture.⁴⁶ Construction date is uncertain, but the house was probably built between 1820 and 1840. Placet acquired the parcel from the Spanish governor in gratitude for helping in the relocation and construction of the new Catholic Church when it was relocated from the original town site.⁴⁷ He most likely never occupied this house. Ekberg mentions him as one of the settlers of Ste. Genevieve in the 1770s.⁴⁸ In the 1780s he built a mill just west of Main Street, but he later moved to the area north of Ste. Genevieve.

⁴⁶ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 19-20.

⁴⁷ Luer and Francis, 109.

⁴⁸ Eckberg, 105, 391.



32

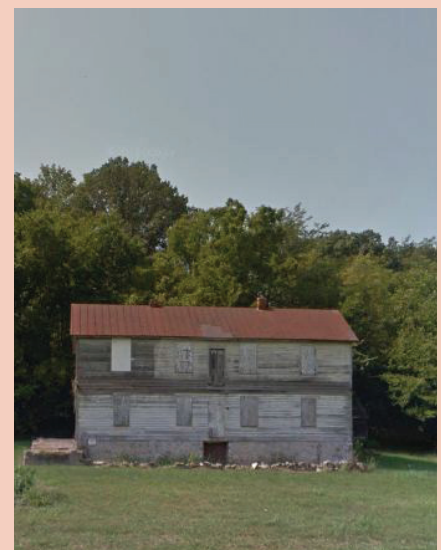
Delassus-Kern House (Kern House)

U.S. Highway 61 (T37N, R9E, Section 2)

ca. 1840

The Delassus-Kern House is a large and imposing *poteaux-sur-sole* house to which a second story was added in the late nineteenth century. Analysis of log samples from the original building yielded a fell date of 1793. Archaeological and documentary evidence suggest, however, that the house was constructed on its current site sometime between 1830 and 1840. The land on which the house stands once belonged to Pierre Charles Dehault Delassus, who founded New Bourbon in 1793. It is possible that the logs used to build the first story of the house were salvaged from Delassus' house or from other buildings in New Bourbon. After Pierre Delassus' death in 1806, the property was involved in a convoluted series of land transactions that, in themselves, were emblematic of the complex transformation of a French colonial community to an American town with a diverse population. In 1855, the land on which the house now stands became the property of John D. Kern, and the German-American Kern family owned and inhabited the house and land for more than a century. Sometime after 1896, the Kern family added the second story to the original vertical log house, creating its current configuration as a typically American side-gabled farmhouse with clapboard siding. From 1997 through 2001, students in the annual summer field school co-sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Southeast Missouri State University conducted archaeological and documentary investigations of the Delassus-Kern House and its history. The Missouri Department of Resources published a detailed summary of the field school's findings in 2004.⁴⁹ Though there has been some controversy surrounding the date of this building's construction, whatever is concluded from existing or future research, the building was constructed during the period of significance of the historic district and is an important contributing property. The house is undergoing stabilization.

⁴⁹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 37-40; Stepenoff and Bibb, "Ste. Genevieve Historic Preservation Field School 2000 and 2001;" Kit Wesler, Bonnie Stepenoff, N. Renae Farris, and Carol A. Morrow, "Archaeological Test Excavations at the Delassus-Kern House, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri," *Ohio Valley Historical Archaeology* 14 (1999): 67-88, and Larry Grantham, "Additional Test Excavations at the Delassus/Kern House, New Bourbon, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri," unpublished manuscript, 2001.



33

Jacob Auguste House (also known as the Jean Baptiste Birke House)

151 Ziegler Street

ca. 1846

The Jacob Auguste House (also known as the Jean Baptiste Birke House) is an example of *poteaux-sur-sole* construction that is also important for its association with the African-American population of Ste. Genevieve in the nineteenth century. Despite many alterations and damage from flooding in 1993, the house retains its original vertical log walls, and the integrity necessary to be a contributing resource of the district.⁵⁰ Early owners of the property were members of the Birke family. However, in the mid-nineteenth-century, the parcel of land on which the house stands belonged to Jacob Auguste (also known as Jacko Aubuchon). Jacob Auguste purchased his freedom from his owner, Auguste Aubuchon, in 1817. In the 1820s and 1830s, Jacob Auguste purchased at least two lots in Ste. Genevieve. In 1856, he sold the parcel at 151 Ziegler Street to Conrad Ziegler. Auguste passed away in 1864, and his probate file in the Ste. Genevieve County Courthouse is labeled "Jacko."⁵¹

⁵⁰ Draft NHL Nomination, 40.

⁵¹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 40-41; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 125-129.

**ANGLO-AMERICAN BUILDINGS, 1804-1846**

34

John Price House (Old Brick House)

90 South Third Street

ca. 1804

The John Price House (Old Brick House) contributes to the national significance of the district by illustrating the transition from French to Anglo-American cultural traditions immediately following the Louisiana Purchase. The use of brick was a novelty in Ste. Genevieve, where wood and stone were plentiful. The building is in the Federal style and despite additions in the rear, retains historic integrity and is an important contributing resource. John Price was a trader, and, in Peterson's words, "one of the first enterprising Americans in Ste. Genevieve." The "Old Brick House" played a pivotal role in the development of American legal and educational institutions, serving as a territorial courthouse and providing classroom space for school masters in the early decades of the nineteenth century. When HABS researchers documented the building in the 1930s, it was in use as a tavern, and in the twenty-first century, the building continues to function as a tavern and restaurant.⁵²

⁵² HABS MO-1619; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 49-50; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 229; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 79, 168.



35

**Abraham Newfield House
(Senator Lewis Linn House)**

223 Merchant Street

ca. 1806

The Abraham Newfield House is an early representative example of a timber-frame house belonging to the Anglo-American building tradition in Ste. Genevieve. Abraham Newfield purchased the lot and is believed to have constructed the original (southern) portion of the house in 1806. The house was added to in the second half of the nineteenth century. The house also has a significant association with Senator Lewis Linn, who came to Ste. Genevieve in 1816 and practiced medicine. Linn purchased the house in 1826 and subsequently served as United States Senator from Missouri from 1833 until his death in 1843. Senator Thomas Hart Benton delivered a famous eulogy describing Linn's passing at the age of forty-eight in his home in Ste. Genevieve and praising his legislative service, especially his support of the Platte Purchase and the Oregon Bill, allowing expansion of the U.S. in the Pacific Northwest. By the 1840s, the frontier had moved beyond the Mississippi Valley, and Linn was looking farther west.⁵³ The house was named as a contributing resource to the district in the original 1959 Historic Sites Survey, and since it retains the architectural character it had at the time, is still considered a contributing resource to the historic district.

⁵³ HABS MO-1117; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 45-46; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 87-89. See also Michael B. Husband, "Senator Lewis f. Linn and the Oregon Question," *Missouri Historical Review* 66 (October 1971): 1-19, and Elizabeth A. Relfe Linn and N. Sargent, *The Life and Public Service of Dr. Lewis F. Linn* (New York: De. Appleton, 1857).



36

Ste. Genevieve Academy

201 North Fifth Street

ca. 1808

The Ste. Genevieve Academy is an early and well-preserved example of Anglo-American architecture in Ste. Genevieve. A five bay Federal limestone building, it conveys all aspects of integrity and is an important contributing property to the historic district. It is also important for its association with efforts to develop educational institutions in the Trans-Mississippi West. In 1808, Father James Maxwell established the Academy with the support of a group of prominent local citizens (including Jean Baptiste Valle). William Shannon took the major responsibility for constructing the handsome stone building. The school opened in 1810 and subsequently suffered many ups and downs. In the 1850s Firmin Rozier acquired the property, which had fallen into disrepair, constructed a two-story brick addition on the building, and reopened the school. By 1861, the upheaval of the Civil War caused financial hardship; tuition was too high for most students, and the school was forced to close its doors. The original Academy building, with its 1853 addition, is substantially intact and has been carefully restored in recent years.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ HABS MO-1118; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 52-53; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 157, 163-164, and Francis Yealy, *Ste. Genevieve: The Story of Missouri's Oldest Settlement* (Ste. Genevieve: Bicentennial Historical Committee, 1935), 128-130.



37

McArthur (Ratte) House

198 South Main Street

ca. 1809

The McArthur (Ratte) House is an excellent example of an early nineteenth-century Anglo-American house that has undergone few architectural alterations. The house has significant historical associations with the transition from French rule to American sovereignty in Ste. Genevieve. In 1809, Louis Ratte Labruyere and his son Julian sold the property on which the house stands to John McArthur. Evidence indicates that McArthur built the house, although he owned the property for only four years. In 1813, after a foreclosure, John Scott took possession of the property. Scott was a flamboyant character, a lawyer and politician, who played a controversial and prominent role in territorial and state politics. Perhaps, the property should be renamed the McArthur-Scott House. In recent years, the house has been carefully restored to its early nineteenth century appearance after years of neglect.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 48; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 44-47. For information on John Scott, see William E. Foley, *History of Missouri*, Vol. I: 1673-1820 (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1971), 198-204; Rozier, *History of the Early Settlement of the Mississippi Valley* (St. Louis, Missouri: G. A. Pierrot and Son, 1890), 253-255; Alan S. Weiner, "John Scott, Thomas Hart Benton, David Barton and the 1824 Presidential Election: A Case Study in Pressure Politics," *Missouri Historical Review* 60 #4 (July 1966):460-494.



38

Linden House

124 South Main Street

ca. 1813

According to local historian Mark Evans, the original (northern) portion of the Linden House dates from 1813 and retains its original construction and hand-hewn cellar joists. The original house was a single-story gable-front dwelling with brick-nogged heavy timber framing. Two early nineteenth-century mantels testify to the age of this original house. A mid-nineteenth-century addition included a central hallway and a southern wing, creating the present-day façade. Greek revival doors survive in the central hallway. Later additions included a brick rear ell and wood-frame enlargements. The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri restored the house, which is located directly across the street from the Bolduc House. This house is part of the streetscape of South Main Street that has as its focal points the carefully restored Bolduc House and the highly significant Jean-Baptiste Valle House.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ HABS MO-1174; Evans, *Commandant's Last Ride*, 11; Ste. Genevieve Historic District (Historic Resources of Ste. Genevieve MPS, 2002, Section 7, page 21).



39

Keil Stone House

198 South Second Street

1814

The Keil Stone house is a good representative example of an Anglo-American vernacular stone house constructed during Missouri's territorial period. The one-story house has a symmetrical faced with a recessed central entrance flanked by two windows. The exterior walls are constructed of cut limestone in regular courses. Henry Keil, an important early nineteenth-century merchant in Ste. Genevieve, built the house in 1814 and occupied it until 1842. Keil had a business relationship with an early German settler, Albert Bisch.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ HABS MO-31-2; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 49; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 59.



40

Hubardeau House

102 North Fourth Street

1817

The Hubardeau House at the corner of North Fourth and Jefferson streets is a well-preserved example of an Anglo-American two-story residence with a one-story rear ell. In the rear yard of the house is an icehouse, which was also constructed of coursed limestone, ca 1817. It is also significant for its association with the transition from French to Anglo-American culture in Ste. Genevieve. The Hubardeau family settled in the original town of Ste. Genevieve in the eighteenth century and prospered in the new town in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Simon Hubardeau, a well-to-do merchant, appears to have been a quarrelsome man, who spent time in jail and was involved in several lawsuits.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 30; Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 328-329; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 109-114. For information on the Hubardeau family, see N. Renae Farris, "French Roots American Woman: Marie LaPorte of Ste. Genevieve, 1766-1849" (M.A. Thesis, Southeast Missouri State University, 2002).



41

Bossier Warehouse (Dr. Benjamin Shaw House) and Outbuilding

200 Merchant Street

ca. 1818

This building is an excellent example of an Anglo-American vernacular building that played a significant role in the commerce and social life of Ste. Genevieve in the territorial period. In 1818, Jean Baptiste Bossier purchased the lot on which the building stands from Parfait Dufour. A logical assumption is that Bossier constructed the building soon after purchasing the lot. He used the building as a warehouse for his trading enterprise. In 1837, Bossier sold the property to a physician, Dr. Benjamin Shaw, who modified it for use as a residence. The building is heavy timber frame construction in the early portion with a stone addition. The property also includes an early nineteenth century outbuilding. Both buildings have retained much of their original and early architectural fabric.⁵⁹ Locally the house is known as the "Mammy Shaw House" for the widow of Dr. Shaw. In the 1940s and 1950s, an artist named Matthew Ziegler remodeled the rear portion of the house and the stone building at the rear of the lot. The property is now owned and maintained by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, as an integral part of Felix Valle State Historic Site.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 43.

⁶⁰ HABS MO-1120: Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 43-44; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 228.



42

Rozier Building

201 Merchant Street

ca. 1818

The Rozier Building is a well-preserved example of an Anglo-American commercial building, constructed of heavy limestone blocks, that dates from Missouri's territorial period and has significant associations with the economic development of Ste. Genevieve. The trading firm of Keil, Bisch, and Roberts used it as an office and warehouse. Edmund Roberts, the last surviving partner in the firm, sold the building to Lewis Linn in 1831. In the late nineteenth century, Henry L. Rozier, Sr., acquired the building for use as a bank. Members of the Rozier family settled in Ste. Genevieve in the early territorial period, and by the end of the nineteenth century, the Roziers were one of the most prosperous families in the community. Throughout the century, the Roziers were engaged in merchandising as well as banking. The stone building on Merchant Street, therefore, has significance in connection with the growth of business enterprises in Ste. Genevieve.⁶¹

⁶¹ HABS MO-1116: Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 44; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 141-144.



43

Felix Valle House (Jacob Philipson House)

198 Merchant Street

ca. 1818

In 1941, Peterson wrote of this house: "The lines of this structure, with its modillion and dentil cornice are probably as attractive as can be found in any small American house."⁶² The builder of this federal-style stone house was a merchant named Jacob Philipson, an American Jew. He sold the property to the Valle family in 1824. Felix Valle and his wife Odile Pratte Valle moved into the building, using part of it as a house and part as a store, an arrangement that was typical of French businesses in Ste. Genevieve. The Valles resided there long after the store closed. Felix was a civic leader and supporter of education. Although they lived in an American-style dwelling, they embodied the continuing connection of Ste. Genevieve with its French heritage. In the 1970s, the state of Missouri acquired the property, restored the house and store, and opened the site to the public.⁶³

⁶² Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," 228.

⁶³ HABS MO-31-11; Peterson, "Early Ste. Genevieve," 228; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 51-52; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 37-39. See also Bill and Patti Naeger and Mark Evans, *Ste. Genevieve: A Leisurely Stroll through History* (Ste. Genevieve, Missouri: Merchant Street Publishing, 1999), 94-95. Important data is recorded in M. Colleen Hamilton, "Archaeological and Historical Investigations at the Felix Valle State Historic Site, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri," Research Report # 94, Prepared for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, January 1990



44

Antoine O'Neill House

150 South Main Street

1820

The Antoine O'Neill House is an integral part of the streetscape of South Main Street which includes the Bolduc House. This Anglo-American house is notable for its heavy timber frame construction. A recessed front-gallery porch suggests the influence of French traditions on non-French construction. O'Neill purchased the lot in 1810 and the house is mentioned in documents dated 1820. After a fire in 1982, researchers from the University of Missouri examined the structure and found that it was substantially intact. In addition, they determined that the original house consisted of a single story with a half-story added later.⁶⁴ The house suffered fires in the 1980s and 1990s.

⁶⁴ Evans, *Commandant's Last Ride*, 12; Ste. Genevieve Historic District (Historic Resources of Ste. Genevieve MPS, 2002, Section 7, pages 22-23..



45

John Donahue House (Southern Hotel)

150 South Third Street

1821

The handsome brick house originally constructed by John Donahue in 1821 maintains a commanding presence in the historic district of Ste. Genevieve. An original Federal-style mantel and some original woodwork remain in the interior. Mid-to-late nineteenth-century alterations include Greek revival woodwork, bracketed cornices, and belvedere. The building was altered over time to follow stylistic architectural trends, yet the Federal elements remain under later ornamentation. Donahue defaulted on a note and lost the property to foreclosure in 1825. Matthew Kern acquired the building in 1859 and operated it as a hotel. Kern was an enterprising man, who emigrated from Germany in the late 1830s and began operating an omnibus to carry visitors from the river landing to the town.⁶⁵

⁶⁵ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 54-55.



46

Marie Hubardeau LaPorte House

248 Market Street

ca. 1830

The Marie Hubardeau LaPorte House is a well-preserved example of a timber-framed, brick-nogged Anglo-American vernacular residence that is associated with a prominent woman who was a member of one of the old French families in Ste. Genevieve. Born in the original town of Ste. Genevieve in 1766, Marie Hubardeau LaPorte was widowed twice and became a very successful businesswoman before her death in 1849 at the age of eighty-three. During her long life, she operated an inn, owned and rented property, lent money, was involved in several lawsuits, adopted a son, helped to further the education of neighbors' children (including several of the Lalumandiere children), and generally challenged traditional assumptions about a woman's place in society.⁶⁶ According to McVarish, the house "represents the embracing of Anglo-American building traditions in Ste. Genevieve."⁶⁷

⁶⁶ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 42-43; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 109-115. See also Farris, "French Roots American Woman."

⁶⁷ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 42-43.



47

Millard-Valle House

1007 North Main Street

ca. 1838

This imposing two and a half story federal-style stone house is an outstanding and well-preserved example of Anglo-American architecture, which contributes to the national significance of the historic district in its association with the transition from French to Anglo-American cultural traditions in the decades following the Louisiana Purchase. The primary (east) façade and south elevations are constructed of dressed limestone, and the north and west elevations are constructed of rough fieldstone. Gabled wood-framed dormers project from the eastern slope of the roof. Many original interior details, including molded door and window frames and beaded wood paneling, remain intact. The date of construction of the house is uncertain, but the most likely date falls between 1834 and 1838. Josiah Millard purchased the parcel on which the house stands in 1810 and sold it to his son Jedediah Millard in 1823. There were additional transfers of ownership before 1828, when the property was sold to Jean-Baptiste Valle.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ HABS MO-1122; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 53-54.



48

Eloy LeCompte House

231 North Main Street

ca. 1840

The Eloy LeCompte House is a two-story stone I-house that retains substantial portions of its original exterior and interior architectural fabric and has significant associations with the economic development of Ste. Genevieve in the first half of the nineteenth century. In the 1830s, Eloy S. LeCompte owned land in both Ste. Genevieve and New Bourbon, and in 1856 he built a flour mill near his house. His mill remained the largest such operation in Ste. Genevieve throughout the nineteenth century.⁶⁹

⁶⁹ HABS MO-1125; Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 46-47; Stepenoff, *From French Community to Missouri Town*, 140.



49

Joseph Amoureux House

102 South Main Street

ca. 1844

The Joseph Amoureux House, with its stepped parapet facing Main Street, is a highly recognizable landmark in Ste. Genevieve. It is significant as an outstanding example of Anglo-American vernacular architecture with Greek revival modifications. Constructed of brick on a limestone foundation, the house retains many original details, including limestone sills on all the windows, a limestone belt course forming lintels on the first story, and original interior woodwork.⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 55-56.



GERMAN-AMERICAN VERNACULAR BUILDINGS, 1846

50

Martin Intress House

52 North Third Street

ca. 1846

The well-preserved one-story brick residence known as the Martin Intress House is believed to be the oldest surviving German vernacular building in Ste. Genevieve. Details typical of German-American architecture include arched window openings and parapeted gable ends with brick chimneys. Although doors and windows have been replaced, the original fabric is largely intact, and the house is an excellent example of a German vernacular building associated with the influx of German settlers in Ste. Genevieve in the 1840s and 1850s.⁷¹

⁷¹ Draft NHL Nomination, 2001, 56.



BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The eastern boundary of the district is the west bank of the Mississippi River. The southern boundary begins at the junction of St. Mary's Road and US Highway 61 and proceeds west to the rear property line of lots fronting on St. Mary's Road and Seraphin Street and then north to the Missouri-Illinois Railroad tracks. The western boundary follows the line of Ninth Street in a northerly direction to the line of Riverview Drive. The northern boundary follows the line of Riverview Drive. Please consult the map.

The core of Ste. Genevieve, from First Street to Fifth Street and from South Gabouri Street to Washington Street follows a clearly visible grid pattern. However, early settlement of Ste. Genevieve took place, not only in this nuclear core, but in a linear pattern along two creeks, the North Gabouri and the South Gabouri. Of special significance are the properties fronting on St. Mary's Road, facing the Common Field and the Mississippi River. The boundaries here described encompass the historic resources in the town's core settlement and also in the linear settlement along the creeks.

Four non-contiguous sites are so closely related to the history and archaeology of Ste. Genevieve that they are essential components of the historic district. These sites, described in this report, are the Saline (1), the Old Town Archaeological Site (3), the New Bourbon Archaeological Site (5), and the Delassus-Kern House (32). All four sites are located along the west bank of the Mississippi River at the eastern edge of Ste. Genevieve County within six miles of the present-day town of Ste. Genevieve. It is important to note that the salt deposit at the Saline and the rich soil of the Mississippi River bottoms were the main attractions for early settlers. The Saline consists of multiple sites along the Saline Creek in the Mississippi River bottoms approximately six miles south of the current town of Ste. Genevieve.

The Old Town Archaeological Site is located in the Mississippi River bottoms, 2.8 miles south of the present-day town (3 miles north of the Saline). The New Bourbon Archaeological Site is situated on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River bottoms, on the west side of Highway 61, approximately two miles south of Ste. Genevieve. The Delassus-Kern House stands in the river bottoms on the west side of Highway 61 in the immediate vicinity of the New Bourbon Archaeological Site, approximately two miles southeast of Ste. Genevieve.

The boundaries of the district considered nationally significant for the purposes of this special resource study is larger than those currently recorded as the National Historic Landmark district. (See discussion on page 19). Legislation authorizing this study directed NPS to study resources in Ste. Genevieve County, but not all French vernacular vertical log buildings in the county can be considered components of the historic district. The present day boundaries of Ste. Genevieve County encompass an area larger than the historical sphere of influence of the village of Ste. Genevieve. Examples of vertical log buildings, such as a house in Weingarten, thirteen miles distant from Ste. Genevieve, are too far afield to be considered part of the same community. These outlying buildings, of which there are seven known, do not contribute to the historic district at Ste. Genevieve but are, nonetheless, important survivals that contribute to the history of the Illinois Country overall.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: STUDY LEGISLATION

Public Law 109–319
109th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating portions of Ste. Genevieve County in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005.”

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AREA**.—The term “Area” means Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, which includes the Bequette-Ribault, St. Gemme- Amoureux, and Wilhawk homes, and the related and supporting historical assets located in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri.

(2) **SECRETARY**.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) **In General**.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the State of Missouri—

(1) complete a study on the suitability and feasibility of designating the Area as a unit of the National Park System, which shall include the potential impact that designation of the area as a unit of the National Park System is likely to have on land within the proposed area or bordering the proposed area that is privately owned at the time that the study is conducted; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the findings of the study.

(b) **Contents**.—The study under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

Approved October 11, 2006.

APPENDIX B: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MANAGEMENT POLICIES 2006: 1.3 CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

Congress declared in the National Park Service General Authorities Act of 1970 that areas comprising the national park system are cumulative expressions of a single national heritage. Potential additions to the national park system should therefore contribute in their own special way to a system that fully represents the broad spectrum of natural and cultural resources that characterize our nation. The National Park Service is responsible for conducting professional studies of potential additions to the national park system when specifically authorized by an act of Congress, and for making recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress. Several laws outline criteria for units of the national park system and for additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and the National Trails System.

To receive a favorable recommendation from the service, a proposed addition to the national park system must (1) possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources, (2) be a suitable addition to the system, (3) be a feasible addition to the system, and (4) require direct NPS management instead of protection by other public agencies or the private sector. These criteria are designed to ensure that the national park system includes only the most outstanding examples of the nation’s natural and cultural resources. These criteria also recognize that there are other management alternatives for preserving the nation’s outstanding resources.

1.3.1 National Significance

NPS professionals, in consultation with subject-matter experts, scholars, and scientists, will determine whether a resource is nationally significant. An area will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following criteria:

It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.

It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation’s heritage.

It offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study.

It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

National significance for cultural resources will be evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmarks criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65 (Code of Federal Regulations).

1.3.2 Suitability

An area is considered suitable for addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector.

Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential addition to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The comparative analysis also addresses rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

1.3.3 Feasibility

To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be (1) of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries), and (2) capable of efficient administration by the service at a reasonable cost.

In evaluating feasibility, the service considers a variety of factors for a study area, such as the following:

- size
- boundary configurations
- current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands
- landownership patterns
- public enjoyment potential
- costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation
- access
- current and potential threats to the resources
- existing degradation of resources
- staffing requirements
- local planning and zoning
- the level of local and general public support (including landowners)
- the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system

The feasibility evaluation also considers the ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected availability of funding and personnel.

An overall evaluation of feasibility will be made after taking into account all of the above factors. However, evaluations may sometimes identify concerns or conditions, rather than simply reach a yes or no conclusion. For example, some new areas may be feasible additions to the national park system only if landowners are willing to sell, or the boundary encompasses specific areas necessary for visitor access, or state or local governments will provide appropriate assurances that adjacent land uses will remain compatible with the study area's resources and values.

1.3.4 Direct NPS Management

There are many excellent examples of the successful management of important natural and cultural resources by other public agencies, private conservation organizations, and individuals. The National Park Service applauds these accomplishments and actively encourages the expansion of conservation activities by state, local, and private entities and by other federal agencies. Unless direct NPS management of a studied area is identified as the clearly superior alternative, the Service will recommend that one or more of these other entities assume a lead management role, and that the area not receive national park system status.

Studies will evaluate an appropriate range of management alternatives and will identify which alternative or combination of alternatives would, in the professional judgment of the Director, be most effective and efficient in protecting significant resources and providing opportunities for appropriate public enjoyment. Alternatives for NPS management will not be developed for study areas that fail to meet any one of the four criteria for inclusion listed in section 1.3.

In cases where a study area's resources meet criteria for national significance but do not meet other criteria for inclusion in the national park system, the service may instead recommend an alternative status, such as "affiliated area." To be eligible for affiliated area status, the area's resources must (1) meet the same standards for significance and suitability that apply to units of the national park system; (2) require some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available through existing NPS programs; (3) be managed in accordance with the policies and standards that apply to units of the national park system; and (4) be assured of sustained resource protection, as documented in a formal agreement between the Service and the nonfederal management entity. Designation as a "heritage area" is another option that may be recommended. Heritage areas have a nationally important, distinctive assemblage of resources that is best managed for conservation, recreation, education, and continued use through partnerships among public and private entities at the local or regional level. Either of these two alternatives (and others as well) would recognize an area's importance to the nation without requiring or implying management by the National Park Service.

APPENDIX C: NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CRITERIA

36 CFR § 65.4 National Historic Landmark Criteria

The criteria applied to evaluate properties for possible designation as National Historic Landmarks or possible determination of eligibility for National Historic Landmark designation are listed below. These criteria shall be used by the National Park Service in the preparation, review, and evaluation of National Historic Landmark studies. They shall be used by the advisory board in reviewing National Historic Landmark studies and preparing recommendations to the secretary. Properties shall be designated National Historic Landmarks only if they are nationally significant. Although assessments of national significance should reflect both public perceptions and professional judgments, the evaluations of properties being considered for landmark designation are undertaken by professionals, including historians, architectural historians, archeologists and anthropologists familiar with the broad range of the nation's resources and historical themes. The criteria applied by these specialists to potential landmarks do not define significance nor set a rigid standard for quality. Rather, the criteria establish the qualitative framework in which a comparative professional analysis of national significance can occur. The final decision on whether a property possesses national significance is made by the Secretary on the basis of documentation including the comments and recommendations of the public who participate in the designation process.

(a) Specific Criteria of National Significance: The quality of national significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- (1) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
- (2) That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
- (3) That represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
- (4) That embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(5) That are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or

(6) That have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

(b) Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not eligible for designation. Such properties, however, will qualify if they fall within the following categories:

- (1) A religious property deriving its primary national significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- (2) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is nationally significant primarily for its architectural merit, or for association with persons or events of transcendent importance in the nation's history and the association consequential; or
- (3) A site of a building or structure no longer standing but the person or event associated with it is of transcendent importance in the nation's history and the association consequential; or
- (4) A birthplace, grave or burial if it is of a historical figure of transcendent national significance and no other appropriate site, building or structure directly associated with the productive life of that person exists; or
- (5) A cemetery that derives its primary national significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, or from an exceptionally distinctive design or from an exceptionally significant event; or
- (6) A reconstructed building or ensemble of buildings of extraordinary national significance when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other buildings or structures with the same association have survived; or
- (7) A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own national historical significance; or
- (8) A property achieving national significance within the past 50 years if it is of extraordinary national importance.

APPENDIX D: STE. GENEVIEVE NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT 1970 NARRATIVE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the west bank of the Mississippi River, thence S 60 W to the extreme southeast corner of the property in the angle formed by the junction of St. Mary's Road and U.S. 61 (Ste. Genevieve Drive), thence in a westerly direction along the south boundary of this property to its intersection with the back property line; thence in a northwesterly direction along the back lines of the properties fronting on St. Mary's Road and Seraphin Street as far as the east side of Fourth Street, thence due west to its intersection with the 420-foot elevation contour; thence in a west-southwesterly direction along the contour to the east side of U.S. 61 right-of-way; thence in a north-northwesterly direction along the edge of the right-of-way to the back line of the nearest property facing on the north side of Market Street; thence in an east-northeasterly direction along the back lines of properties facing on Market Street to the back line of the nearest property facing on the west side of Ninth Street; thence in a northerly direction along the back lines of the properties facing on Ninth Street to the back line (extended) of the nearest property facing on the north side of Jefferson Street; thence in an easterly direction along the back lines of the properties facing on Jefferson Street to the back line of the nearest property facing on the west side of North Street; thence in a northerly direction along the extension of this line across North Gabouri Creek and the street paralleling the drainage to the back line (extended) of the nearest property facing on the south side of Wehner Street; thence in an east-northeasterly direction along the back lines of the properties facing on Wehner Street to the nearest property facing on the west side of Main Street; thence in a north-northwesterly direction along the back lines of the properties facing on Main Street to the south side of Riverview Drive; thence N 60 E to a point on the west bank of the Mississippi River; thence in a southeasterly direction to the point of beginning.

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

Public comment is an important part of the special resource study process, providing an opportunity for the National Park Service to understand resources and communities around them in new ways. The earliest phase of public input for a project is called public scoping, and seeks to draw out concerns or additional information the public may want to contribute before specific plans are created for public review. The National Park Service sent newsletters describing the SRS process with a postage-paid comment card to approximately 700 recipients, sent press releases to dozens of news outlets, and invited the public to a meeting on August 10, 2010, to hear about the SRS process and gather public comment. Comments could be made via the postage-paid comment card, at the public meeting, or online using the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website.

In requesting public input, we asked the following questions:

1. What kinds of experiences do you want to have in Ste. Genevieve? What do you think would need to be done at the site, if anything, to facilitate these expectations?
2. Do you have ideas or concerns about preserving and interpreting the resources of Ste. Genevieve? What are they?
3. Which organizations do you think should be involved in preserving and interpreting Ste. Genevieve? What are they?
4. Do you have any other ideas or comments you would like to share with us?

Thirty-two comments were received via the comment card and PEPC, and approximately 35 people attended the April 2010 public meeting in Ste. Genevieve. The following summary of those comments reflects the opinions of those who have an interest in the study, and their comments shed light on the topics the National Park Service wanted more information about. This information is summarized below, grouped in categories that emerged in a review of the comments: Ste. Genevieve's Place in History, Desired Experiences, Resource Threats, Organizational Involvement, Scope, and Benefits.

Ste. Genevieve's Place in History

A common thread was a feeling that Ste. Genevieve has not been properly recognized for its part in history, nor has the story of non-British European colonization and the multiethnic frontier been represented adequately. Several commenters noted the need to educate children about this history because they are often exposed primarily to an East Coast-dominated view of European settlement. Comments suggested a strong desire to share Ste. Genevieve's history with a wider audience.

Desired Experiences

The desired experiences at Ste. Genevieve focused on different areas, but were rarely in direct conflict with one another. Overall, the need for districtwide interpretation with the physical restoration of unspecified “key” resources was expressed.

Most commenters focused on overall experience. For instance, one commenter wanted Ste. Genevieve to make visitors “feel like they are walking into a living, breathing community from both the colonial past and modern day life.” One commenter suggested “If all could be interpreted in a consistent manner, the visitors would have a richer experience, consistent signage [and] this historical information could be a common thread at all sites, whether private or part of the park service. [Because] Ste. Genevieve is a small town, a walking route would be perfect to move visitors from site to site within the town.” This commenter further observed that infrastructure for pedestrians was lacking in some areas. Another commenter noted the need for public facilities, such as restrooms. Responses that described desired experiences also included living history and model farms, family-oriented activities, interpretive panels, and trails. Several commenters mentioned they wanted Ste. Genevieve to be like Colonial Williamsburg, though they acknowledged the lack of tax base or the relative paucity of visitors to support such an endeavor.

The interpretation of Ste. Genevieve was addressed. One commenter hoped “that all cultures [would] be represented fairly...and that the story of those who were unfairly treated is properly represented, despite whatever embarrassment or shame that might cause.” Another sought to push the scope beyond the historic district itself: “Specific historic locations and venues could connect with what was going on around the world during that time (the French Revolution, the Haitian Revolts, the Revolutionary War, the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis & Clark, Black & Indian slavery)...”

Resource Threats

The biggest concern was general deterioration of buildings that contribute to the district. A commenter observed that some of the structures are still in flood-prone areas. There was also some concern about threats to Native American mounds in the Common Field.

One commenter noted a lack of active concern for resources because the existing protection from the City of Ste. Genevieve’s historic district zoning and oversight by the Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission seems to make vigilance less necessary. Several other commenters felt that the commission “seems to turn a blind eye” at times in issuing demolition permits.

Organizational Involvement

Suggestions for organizations to be involved in the preservation and interpretation of Ste. Genevieve included all the organizations currently operating in Ste. Genevieve with this mission, including the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks (Felix Valle State Historic Site), the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri (the Bolduc House), and the City of Ste. Genevieve.

Groups that have had a periodic or former association with preservation and interpretation in Ste. Genevieve were mentioned: the Missouri Humanities Council which provides support to museums, Historic Preservation Department of Southeast Missouri State University which has done archeological investigation, the State Historic Preservation Office which provides support to historic resources across the state, and the Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce which has a role in promoting the town. Formerly active, Les Amis (a St. Louis organization) was mentioned, as well as the Missouri Historical Society, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

One commenter suggested that some organizations not be involved, because “all the organization[s] fight among themselves.” Another advocated the creation of a new group, saying, “I believe Ste. Genevieve or [a] private group needs to create a funded organization to coordinate with local, state, and federal groups to create proposals with time lines for funding a program.”

Several commenters expressed the belief that only the National Park Service could bring the mandate, status, and resources necessary to preserve and interpret Ste. Genevieve in perpetuity, though this was advocated in conjunction with already active local groups. One commenter cited a specific example: “I think that the Cane River area in Louisiana [Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area] reflects an approach that would probably work best in Ste. Genevieve: multiple stakeholders and authorities remain in place, but with an overall coordinating and interpretive role for the National Park Service.”

Scope

Very few commenters were specific about what the physical scope of a potential NPS unit should cover, though some discussed the important thematic connections to the Common Field and the Mississippi River. Others noted the regional context, saying Ste. Genevieve is “directly connected with Kaskasia, Fort de Chartres, and Prairie du Rocher in Illinois. A designation for these areas in Illinois, along with Ste. Genevieve in Missouri, would be of vast interest to Americans and Europeans alike.”

Benefits

Many comments focused on benefits that could come to Ste. Genevieve and the region with designation as a national park unit. Improving tourism was important to commenters, who mentioned it for economic benefits and for the importance of sharing Ste. Genevieve's history with a wider audience. The potential for any NPS designation to boost tourism and the economy was one of the most common sentiments expressed. One commenter noted that designation would bring scholars and archeologists as well as tourists. Opportunities for further study of the French Colonial period were also anticipated.

One commenter did acknowledge potential drawbacks, including "increased conflict between various local stakeholders, and loss of the creative independence of existing local agencies and organizations," but noted, "I believe the downsides can be avoided through collaborative and respectful planning."

A comment summarized the impacts anticipated from designation: "A National Park designation would not be the cure-all for the town, but a step in the right direction to preserving and protecting what has been left there... Ste. Genevieve is a small town with a rich and robust history which should be shared with the world."

APPENDIX F: FEASIBILITY SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

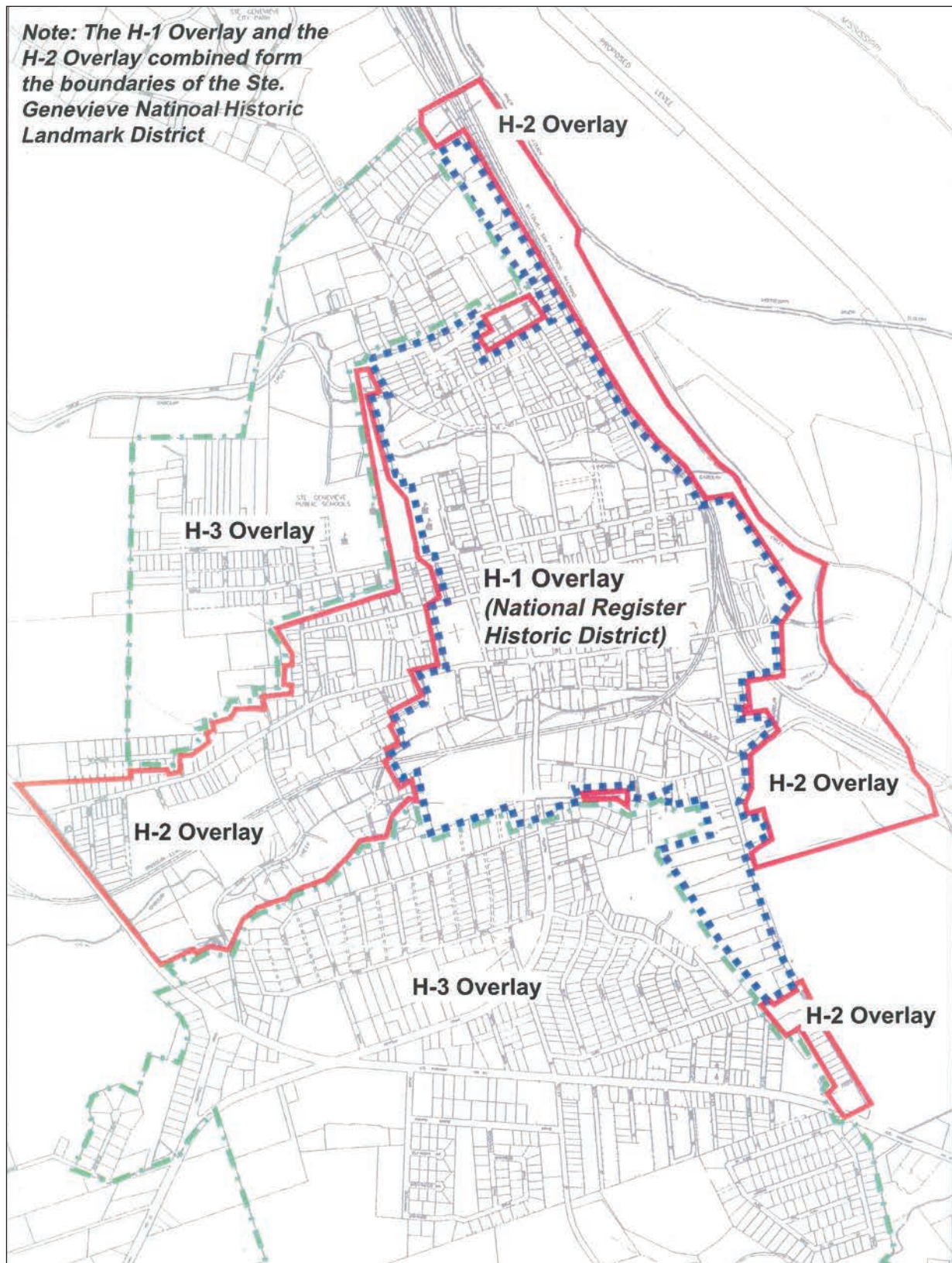
Selected Comparable NPS Units					
Park	Location	Acres	FTE* (2010)	LCS**	ONPS *** (2010) in mil
Andrew Johnson NHS	Greenville, TN	17	11	16	1.005
Fredrick Douglas NHS	Washington, DC	9	10	4	0.705
James A. Garfield NHS	Mentor, OH	8	9	14	0.717
Fort Scott NHS	Fort Scott, KS	17	16	26	1.371
Harry S Truman NHS	Independence, MO	10	18	29	1.301
Ulysses S. Grant NHS	St. Louis, MO	10	15	8	1.313

*FTE: Full time equivalent employees.

**LCS: List of Classified Structures is an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures that have historical, architectural, and/or engineering significance within parks of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, any legally enforceable interest.)

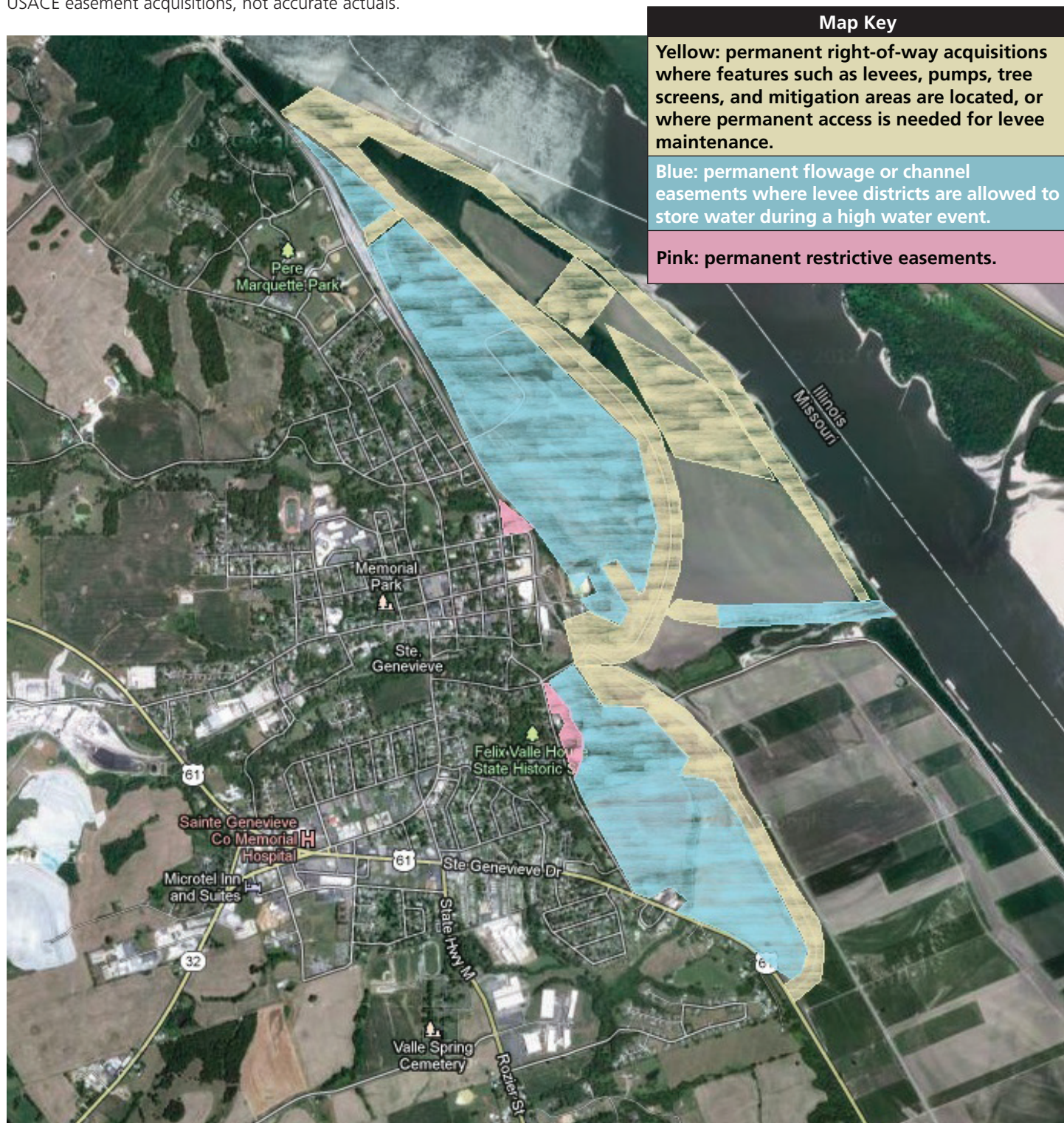
***ONPS: Operations of the National Park Service budget.

APPENDIX G: CITY OF STE. GENEVIEVE HISTORIC DISTRICT OVERLAY



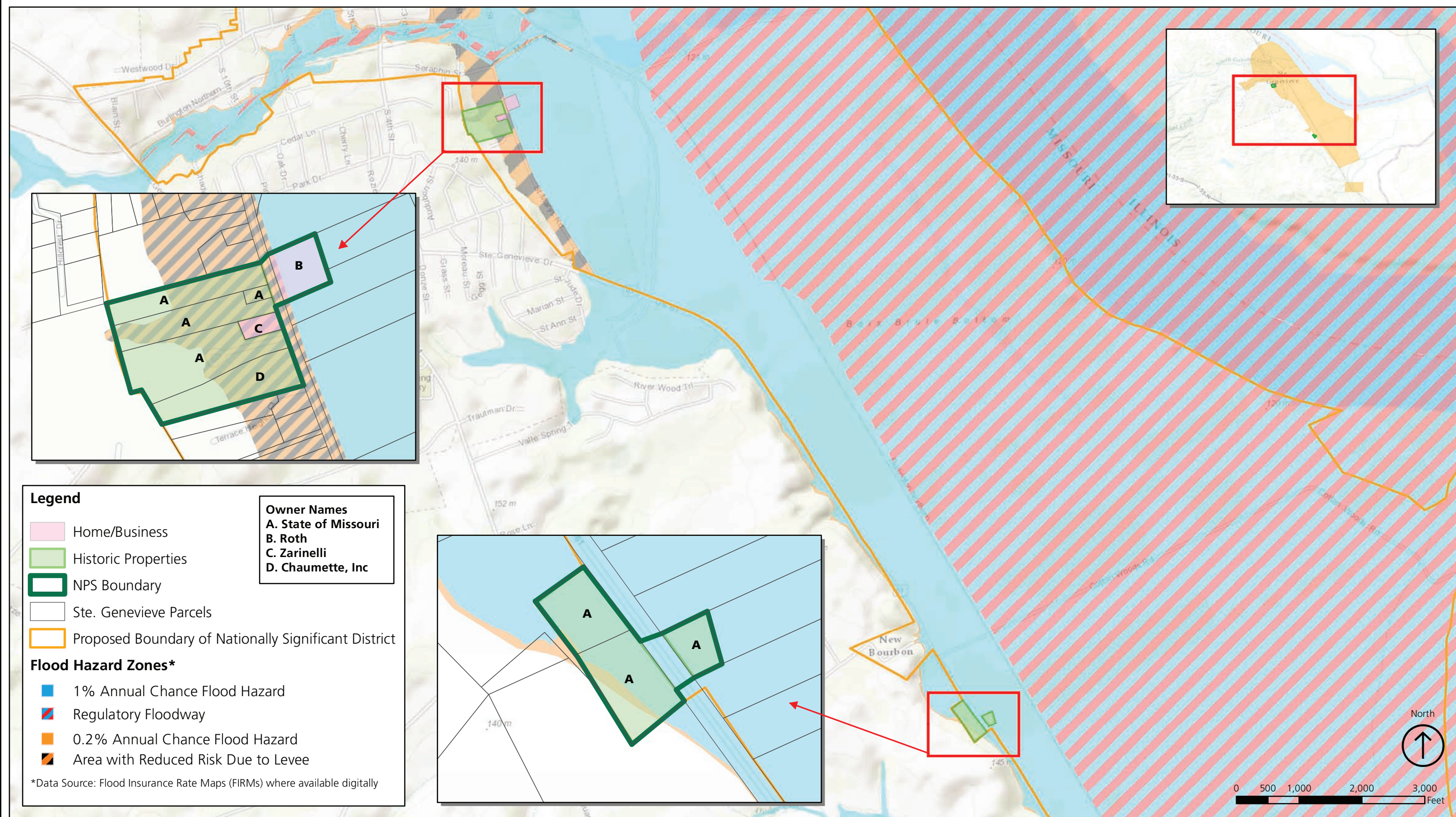
APPENDIX H: APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REAL ESTATE INTERESTS IN STE. GENEVIEVE

Please note this map shows a rough approximation of intended USACE easement acquisitions, not accurate actuals.



All images NPS unless otherwise noted, and images on Property Inventory Nos. 8, 15, 16, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 38, 46, 47, 49, 50. Property Inventory No. 25 MARIS.

Ste. Genevieve Flood Hazard Zones



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT STE. GENEVIEVE SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Introduction

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment of the historic resources of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, in accordance with Public Law 109-319, the Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005.

There are three primary purposes of an Environmental Assessment: 1) To help determine whether the impact of a proposed action or alternative could be significant; 2) To aid in National Environmental Policy Act compliance when no environmental impact statement is necessary by evaluating a proposal that will have no significant impact, but that may have measurable adverse impacts; and 3) To facilitate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, if one is determined to be necessary.

Through this study, the NPS finds that the Ste. Genevieve study area is nationally significant and that portions of the study area are suitable, feasible, and appropriate for NPS management. The areas that meet all criteria for inclusion in the National Park System are defined in the proposed alternatives. This document identifies the selection of the most effective and efficient alternative ("the selected alternative") and the basis for a determination that completion of the study results in no associated significant impacts on the human environment.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this study is to comply with Public Law 109-319, the Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Ste. Genevieve's historic resources. The study evaluates whether the historic resources of Ste. Genevieve meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System.

This study is needed to provide the Secretary of the Interior and Congress with information on opportunities for management of the resources found within the study area. It identifies and analyzes alternatives for the management, administration, and protection of those resources, and evaluates their appropriateness for becoming a unit of the National Park System.

Evaluation of Nationally Significant Resources

For a cultural resource to meet significance criteria in a special resource study, it must meet National Historic Landmark (NHL) criteria. Ste. Genevieve is one of the oldest NHL districts in the country. When initially designated in 1960, it was recognized for its unique concentration of French vertical log architecture. With new research and an expanded understanding of French settlement in the mid-Mississippi "Illinois Country," new resources have been identified and the nationally significant district encompasses much of the City of Ste. Genevieve and agricultural landscapes and archeological sites in Ste. Genevieve County. The Ste. Genevieve district is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 4,

possessing a large and rare collection of French vernacular vertical log houses. It is also significant under NHL Criterion 1, with architectural resources complemented and enriched by contemporaneous examples of British American and German American architecture. These resources contribute to the historical associations with French exploration and settlement of the interior of the United States in the late 18th and early 19th century that developed following the Louisiana Purchase.

Evaluation of Suitability

Compared to thematically similar areas preserved and interpreted for the public, Ste. Genevieve offers an unparalleled opportunity to provide understanding and appreciation of the historic district and themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form as well as farming on the frontier. Ste. Genevieve stands alone in terms of the character, quality, quantity, and rarity of its resources, and its combination of resource values. NPS finds that there are no comparably protected or managed areas. This study concludes that Ste. Genevieve meets the criteria for suitability for inclusion in the National Park System.

Evaluation of Feasibility

To be considered feasible, an area's natural systems or historic settings must be of sufficient size and shape to ensure long-term protection of resources and accommodate public use. The area must also have potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost. Because of the size of the Ste. Genevieve district, a number of potential unit configurations are possible. Analyzing a unit as outlined in the management alternatives, the establishment of an NPS unit in Ste. Genevieve is found to be feasible, though budgetary feasibility is a pressing concern in the current budget climate.

Need for NPS Management

A site meets the "need for NPS management" criterion if management by the NPS is both required and the clearly superior alternative. Many resources within Ste. Genevieve Historic District are cared for by owners and protected by City of Ste. Genevieve historic preservation ordinances. Existing nonprofits and the state are working at capacity in Ste. Genevieve, yet there are unmet needs for resource protection and comprehensive interpretation. NPS management would be clearly superior to current protection and interpretation alone.

Alternatives Analyzed

Three alternatives were analyzed in the *Ste. Genevieve Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment*. The alternatives are based on the purpose and need for the project and are consistent with existing law and NPS policy.

Alternative A: No New NPS Action

This alternative describes current conditions and probable future of the Ste. Genevieve historic district, given the continuation of current management. The No New NPS Action scenario was compared to potential NPS action or management by other entities to determine the need for direct NPS management. Resource protection and visitor experience opportunities would remain much as they are

now, with some properties available for visitation, others inaccessible, the city's historic district protected by historic preservation ordinances, and a lack of regular comprehensive interpretation.

Alternative B: NPS Unit

In this alternative, an NPS unit would be established on St. Mary's Road at the state-owned Amoureux House and adjacent properties (including a contemporary residence, a former inn known as the Wilhauk House or the Creole House), and the Bequette-Ribault House property, which also includes the relocated Lasource-Durand House. A noncontiguous area of the unit would be established on state-owned property at the Delassus-Kern House on U.S. 61 in Ste. Genevieve County. These key resources in the district are currently either rarely or never open to the public, and some require stabilization and preservation to ensure resource protection. This node of important resources, adjacent to the Common Field, would provide a venue for NPS interpretation of Ste. Genevieve's significant French vernacular architecture and the history of French Settlement in the Illinois Country.

Alternative C: NPS Unit and Affiliated Area (The Selected Alternative)

In this alternative, the NPS unit described in Alternative B would be established, as would an affiliated area. The affiliated area would encompass the portion of the nationally significant district where the city's historic district zoning is in effect. This includes properties owned by the State of Missouri, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri, and the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve. Formal agreements with the City of Ste. Genevieve, the state, the Colonial Dames, and the foundation would allow the NPS to provide special recognition and technical assistance to these associated properties beyond the boundaries of the proposed unit.

Alternative C is the Most Effective and Efficient Alternative because it represents the most comprehensive approach for visitors to experience the historic resources of Ste. Genevieve and offers a way to coordinate and enhance interpretation, and improve public access to the resources. Under Alternative C, the NPS would manage a small unit and would have a close relationship with affiliated organizations in the larger nationally significant district. NPS would play a role in comprehensive interpretive planning, providing technical assistance to partner sites, and carrying out a range of initiatives. The affiliated area component of the alternative allows for greater NPS assistance within the district without taking on ownership or management responsibilities for resources outside the unit. NPS concludes that the benefits of Alternative C justify the marginal additional cost to administer compared with Alternative B.

The Selected Alternative and Significance Criteria

As defined in 40 CFR 1508.27(b), significance is determined by evaluating ten intensity criteria:

- 1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that, on balance, the effect will be beneficial:*

The agency-selected alternative could result in both beneficial and adverse impacts to the study area. The selected alternative would result in long-term beneficial impacts to cultural resources. This

alternative would ensure consistency by managing the resources to NPS standards. The selected alternative would have long-term beneficial impacts on visitor experience. Visitors would be able to experience numerous historical and architectural sites. The interpretation of the resources would be more consistent throughout the NPS Unit and Affiliated Area. Under the selected alternative, park management and infrastructure would need further development, resulting in additional operational costs. Funding through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget would be required. The NPS would own and manage approximately eight to nine acres on St. Mary's Road, and approximately four acres at the Delassus-Kern House on U.S. 61. The Affiliated Area would require coordination with partners. Based on comparable NPS units, annual operating costs from \$800,000 to \$1,200,000 and approximately 6-12 full-time equivalent employees would be required. The selected alternative would have adverse and beneficial impacts on land use and socioeconomics. The impacts would be direct and adverse through the removal of property from the tax rolls if they were to be federally owned. The county would be eligible for Payments In Lieu of Taxes. This is a Department of the Interior-administered program that makes federal payments to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable lands within their boundaries. Payments to the county would gradually diminish over time. The impact would be indirect and beneficial with the designation of a NPS Unit and Affiliated Area, which would likely lead to increased visitation and tourism-related income generated from those activities.

2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety:*

The selected alternative will not cause adverse impacts to public health or safety.

3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:*

As described in the Environmental Assessment, there will be no impacts to prime farmlands, scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. The selected alternative would result in long-term beneficial impacts on cultural resources. This alternative would ensure consistency by managing the resources to NPS standards.

4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:*

There were no highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment identified during either the preparation of the Environmental Assessment or the public review period.

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks:*

There are no identified risks associated with the selected alternative that are unique or unknown, and there are no effects associated with the selected alternative that are highly uncertain identified during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment or during the public review period of the Environmental Assessment.

- 6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration:*

The study does not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle because it only offers findings, based on completion of a prescribed evaluation process. These findings may be conveyed by the Secretary as recommendations to Congress. Development of specific actions responsive to the recommendations would require Congressional or Presidential establishment of a national park unit and would subsequently be refined through management planning process, including a unit-specific management plan and environmental analysis, if established.

- 7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts:*

Cumulative impacts were determined by combining the impacts of the preferred alternative with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. The Environmental Assessment determined that there will be no significant cumulative impacts associated with the selected alternative.

- 8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources:*

A number of structures in Ste. Genevieve are in the National Register of Historic Places, including a national historic district and national historic landmark district. The NPS consulted with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer (MO SHPO) on August 5, 2015, regarding the Draft Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment of historic resources in Ste. Genevieve. The NPS provided the Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment to the SHPO for review and provided a determination of no adverse effect. On August 25, 2015, the SHPO concurred with the NPS finding of no adverse effect.

- 9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat:*

The NPS consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) on May 13, 2010. The FWS determined that no federally listed species, candidate species, or designated critical habitat occur within the project area.

- 10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local environmental protection law:*

The selected alternative violates no federal, state, or local law, including environmental protection laws.

Public Involvement

Public scoping for the study took place in August 2010. The Environmental Assessment was made available for public review from August 7 to September 25, 2015 and public comment was solicited during this period. Announcement of opportunity to review and comment was made through regional media, including newspapers, and copies were available on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, and at local libraries. Hard copies of the Environmental Assessment were sent to potentially interested federal, state, and local agencies. During the review period, 69 pieces of correspondence were received. In general, comments were in support of NPS involvement in Ste. Genevieve. One commenter was not in support of an NPS unit in Ste. Genevieve. No substantive comments were received. Attached to the FONSI are a Public Comment Summary, which analyzes all comments received, and an Errata Sheet noting updates and corrections to the draft study.

Conclusion

The NPS has determined that completion of this special resource study and recommendation of the most effective and efficient alternative to the Director does not constitute an action that requires an Environmental Impact Statement. Based on a review of the facts and analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment, which is incorporated herein, the Selected Alternative for the Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment will not have a significant impact either by itself or cumulatively. Accordingly, the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and provisions of the NPS Director's Order-12 and Handbook (Conservation Planning and Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision-Making) have been fulfilled.

I find that the preferred alternative does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for the project.

Approved:


Regional Director
Date

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study Public Comment Period August 7 - September 25, 2015

The following summary represents the full range of comments received on the *Ste. Genevieve Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment* (draft study/EA). All written comments were entered into the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment database (PEPC) and analyzed.

The public comment period on the study was August 7- September 25, 2015. During the comment period, the National Park Service (NPS) received 67 written comments. NPS also held a public open house in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, on September 10 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Ste. Genevieve County Community Center. Approximately 100 people attended. Comments analyzed also include notes from the public open house.

Comments were received from official representatives of:

- City of Ste. Genevieve
- County Commission of Ste. Genevieve County
- Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve
- Les Amis
- Missouri Parks Association
- National Society Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri
- New Bourbon Regional Port Authority
- Sierra Club (Eastern Missouri Group)
- The State Historical Society of Missouri
- Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce
- Ste. Genevieve Downtown Renewal Project
- Ste. Genevieve Museum
- Ste. Genevieve Tourism Tax Commission

Substantive Comments

The study team reviewed all correspondence submitted about the draft study/EA for substantive comments. A substantive comment is defined by NPS Director's Order 12 (DO-12, Section 4.6A) as one that does one or more of the following: questions, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the environmental analysis

- questions, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of environmental analysis
- presents reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the environmental analysis
- causes changes or revisions in the proposal

The study team found that there were no comments made on the study that qualified as substantive. There were comments that included factual corrections, additions, and updates to the draft study report/EA - these are included in an Errata Sheet that is available on the study website and is included with the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The final recommendations for the study are documented in the FONSI. The draft study report/EA, Errata Sheet, this Public Comment Report, and the FONSI together complete the study process.

Comments on Potential NPS Presence

The overwhelming majority of comments discussed the proposed NPS presence in Ste. Genevieve favorably, with many commenters expressing excitement at the possibility. Many expressed hope that NPS involvement in Ste. Genevieve would lead to the resources and the stories of the community becoming more widely known. Several commenters identified the possibility for economic growth as a result of designation because of the projected increase in visitation as a reason they support NPS involvement. The importance of coordination between governments, nonprofit organizations, and scholars was expressed by one commenter; several others noted opportunities for partnership with existing entities in Ste. Genevieve.

One respondent opposed designation of a portion of Ste. Genevieve as a unit of the national park system out of concern that changes, such as new signage, could mar the current character of the town.

One commenter suggested that, in the future, satellite sites at other French colonial connected sites like Fort Kaskaskia and Fort Des Chartres in Illinois could tell a wider, connected story.

Cultural Resources and Existing Management in Ste. Genevieve

Commenters spoke in very positive terms about the resources in Ste. Genevieve, calling them “hidden treasures” and worthy of national recognition. Many were hopeful that NPS involvement and attention to Ste. Genevieve would boost awareness of the resources there and French Colonial history generally. Some noted that Ste. Genevieve is already viewed as regionally important, and that with NPS involvement, Ste. Genevieve would be recognized as nationally important. One commenter noted the international value of the resources in Ste. Genevieve.

Several commenters reflected on their enjoyment of Ste. Genevieve as a place to visit and a place with unique resources.

Many commenters expressed their appreciation for the organizations and programs already at work in Ste. Genevieve through state and local government and nonprofit organizations. Several predicted that NPS involvement would make these organizations more competitive when seeking grant funding. One commenter noted that there is already much going on in Ste. Genevieve, but that NPS involvement there would further enhance the available programs.

Another commenter noted that increased coordination would lead to smoother visitor experiences with regard to hours of operation and signage.

Comments from the Community Development Administrator for the City of Ste. Genevieve noted changes in February 2015 to the Historic Preservation Chapter of the Municipal Code, though these changes have not changed the essential nature of the ordinance or the design guidelines. Please see the Errata Sheet for details about these changes.

Concerns

A few commenters expressed concerns about the archeological sites not included in the NPS unit or Affiliated Area boundaries in Alternatives B and C, especially the Old Town Archeological Site on the edge of the Common Field, presently owned by the New Bourbon Regional Port Authority. Several people at the public open house said that the New Bourbon Regional Port Authority was committed to the preservation of the archeological site, and comments to that effect were received from the New Bourbon Regional Port Authority in the form of a resolution. The Authority attested that they recognize the significance of the site, have protected it during the development of the port, and desire that it remain protected. They resolved that they endorse the creation of a national park unit in Ste. Genevieve that includes the Old Town Archaeological Site, though inclusion of the site in park boundaries is not contemplated in the study’s alternatives. Some commenters who raised this issue suggested that NPS obtain the Old Town Archeological Site property or secure a conservation easement and provide some interpretation there.

One commenter expressed concern about the Antoine O’Neille House (sometimes called the Silversmith House) on Main Street, which was damaged by fire and has been vacant for some time, as an important part of the streetscape that is in need of assistance.

Support of NPS Management and/or Specific Alternatives

Most comments were in favor of further NPS involvement in Ste. Genevieve as a result of this study. The overwhelming majority of the comments that supported a specific alternative were in favor of Alternative C, the NPS and Affiliate Area option. Reasons for support were cited as providing a mechanism for wider preservation without infringing on private property rights, providing a more exciting and comprehensive visitor experience, and providing the most community benefit by exposing historic assets throughout the community to a wider audience.

ERRATA SHEET

The following errata provide factual corrections, additions, and updates to the Ste. Genevieve Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment (draft study report/EA), dated August 2015. Changes to the draft study report/EA, and references to the page number where the change should be noted are provided. The National Park Service (NPS) did not identify any changes that would result in the determination of significant impacts. The reader must have access to a copy of the draft study report/EA in order to fully understand the changes below. These changes will not be made to the draft study report/EA document itself. This Errata Sheet accompanies the Finding of No Significant Impact, completed for the study in November 2015.

Page 5: Addition of a footnote to the first sentence of the first full paragraph “As in northern France, the agricultural strips in Ste. Genevieve were not associated with residences, a situation very different from that of French Canada, where the land use system was of dispersed rural residences with intimately associated plowlands. The Illinois Country cultural landscape was French rather than French-Canadian, it was unique in North America.”

Background: A commenter felt that this distinction was not emphasized in the study’s historic context.

Page 14: “[Insert Reference to appropriate map in layout phase]” changed to [See Figure 10 on Page 16]”

Background: Editing error.

Pages 17 and 18: The maps on pages 17 and 18 have been updated to reflect the full extent of the National Historic Landmark District as it was delineated in 1970.

Page 20, 60, and 69: “Bernier Barn” changed to “Bernier House”

Background: Recent investigations have revealed that this was a house and not a barn.

Page 30: “Demolition review applies city wide.” changed to “Demolition review by the Heritage Commission applies within the NHL District, and by the Board of Alderman city wide.”

Background: Applications for demolition of properties outside the NHL District no longer go before the Heritage Commission. Applicants must attest that they have no knowledge that the structure to be torn down is historic - if during the demolition process it is discovered that the structure is historic, the Administrator has the authority to halt the demolition for 24 hours to assess the property and determine if there is an alternative to demolition.

Pages 30, 32, 36, and 42: The Ste. Genevieve Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission is now the Ste. Genevieve Heritage Commission

Background: The Landmarks Commission was replaced in February 2015 with a five member commission called the Heritage Commission. The essential nature of the ordinance has not changed, not have the Design Guidelines for the Ste. Genevieve National Register Historic District.

Page 35: “The privately owned Bequette-Ribault House is also a rare, high-integrity resource that has a need for more involved management.” changed to “The privately owned Bequette-Ribault House is also a rare, high-integrity resource that presents the opportunity for close partnership.”

Background: The Bequette-Ribault House was restored by Hank Chaumette for public visitation.

Page 35: In reference to the Bequette-Ribault House, “As of April 2015, it is not publicly accessible or interpreted.” changed to “As of Summer 2015, the house is open to visitors on weekends.”

Background: The Bequette-Ribault House was restored by Hank Chaumette for public visitation.

Page 35: In the first sentence of the second paragraph, removed “Bequette-Ribault”.

Page 37: The final sentence of the second paragraph, referencing need for NPS management, should be deleted.

Background: Need for NPS management is analyzed in the previous chapter.

Page 42: “(the H1 and H2 zoning overlays of appendix G)” changed to “(the National Register Historic District and H-2 Historic Districts overlays of appendix G)”

Background: The new city ordinance adopted in February 2015 updated designations on the map, but does not alter the district lines. The former H-1 overlay, where both the NRHP and NHL Districts are colocated, is now called the National Register Historic District. The only areas labeled H-2 are those that are in the NHL District but not the NRHP District. The former H-3, indicating city area not within the historic districts, has been eliminated. See correction to Appendix G below.

Page 69: Addition of a sentence to the summary of Property Inventory No. 14, the Auguste Aubuchon House “The house was recently rehabilitated.” and the addition of an updated picture of the house.



Background: The Auguste Aubuchon House was rehabilitated since the property inventory was compiled. The house is now in use as a private residence.

Page 72: Addition of a footnote to the name “Delassus-Kern House” reading “Though no connection to Delassus has been established, the Kern House is referred to as the Delassus-Kern House because that is how it is known in the community and by its owned, the State of Missouri. The name of the house comes from the association that the vertical logs in the house were cut in 1793 and that Pierre Charles Dehault Delassus had his house built in 1793 somewhere in the area. Previously it was believed the Kern House was his house, research has confirmed that it is not, but there continues to be a possibility that the logs from his house were reused in the Kern House.”

Background: The name of this house and the provenance of the logs used to construct it has long been the subject of academic debate. This additional footnote better explains the use of the name.

Page 74: Addition of a picture for Property Inventory No. 28, The Antoine Thomure House (Boyer Cabin).



Page 75: Addition of a sentence to the summary of Property Inventory No. 30, the Antoine Lalumandiere House “The house was recently rehabilitated.” and the addition of an updated picture of the house.



Page 82: Addition of sentences to the summary of Property Inventory No. 44, the Antoine O’Neill House “Also called the Silversmith House locally, the O’Neill House has been the subject of fundraising efforts to rehabilitate it. It is owned by the neighboring church. Rehabilitation efforts may tell researchers more about its history and structure.”

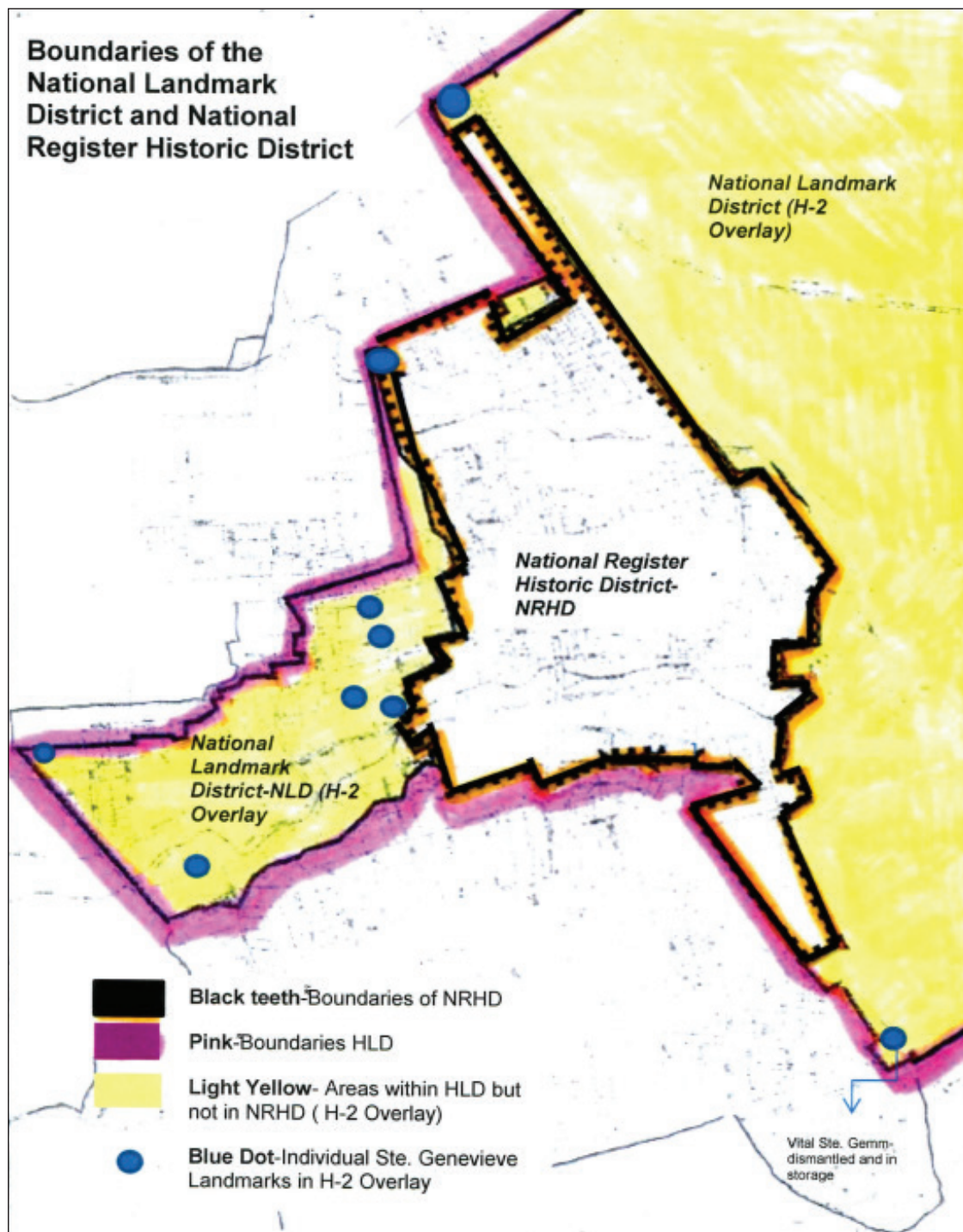
Page 86: Citation should read Stepenoff, Bonnie. 2014. “Faire une Maison: Carpenters in Ste. Genevieve, 1750-1850,” *The Confluence: A Regional Studies Journal*, 5 Number 2 (Spring/Summer 2014), 30-38.

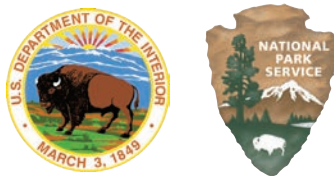
Background: The article was published after the bibliography was compiled.

Appendix G: Map of City of Ste. Genevieve Districts should be replaced with the following interim map:

Background: The new city ordinance adopted in February 2015 updated designations on the map, but does not alter the district lines. A GIS map of the city district designations is in development.

Thanks are due to several commenters, especially Petree Powell, Bonnie Stepenoff, and Carl Eckberg, in the compilation of these corrections.





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

