

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Missouri	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX Architecture Theme V French Exploration and Settlement
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Ste. Genevieve	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Ste. Genevieve County	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Administrator: W. J. Scherer, Mayor (2/20/1964)	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Significance: Ste. Genevieve is one of the oldest surviving French settlements in Missouri and in the trans-Mississippi West. It is probably one of the few places in the Upper Mississippi Valley where any buildings of the pre-American period have survived.

It is impossible to determine when the first French settlements were made in the vicinity of Ste. Genevieve. In 1715 the French had discovered lead about 30 miles to the southwest and mined it by primitive means. From 1723-1744, Philippe Francois Renault operated the mines there on an extensive scale. The earliest known grants of land were made in 1752, when 27 inhabitants owned approximately three miles of Mississippi River frontage. A parish known as the "Poste De Saint Joachim" was organized there seven years later. When Louisiana was secretly transferred to Spain in 1762, Ste. Genevieve became a part of the Spanish Empire.

The town thrived under the Spanish. When Captain Philip Pittman visited Ste. Genevieve in 1766, he found 70 families there. By 1772, it had a white population of 404 and 287 slaves. It had a profitable fur trade, a steady production of lead and shipped grains, meat, honey, and lard to New Orleans and St. Louis, which it surpassed in size. In 1785, floods forced the town to move from the Mississippi River to the high valley four miles distant where it now stands.

For about fifty years, Ste. Genevieve thrived. It was the principal seat of government for many years. For some time it was St. Louis' principal rival. Gradually, as St. Louis grew Ste. Genevieve declined.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Works Projects Administration, Missouri: A Guide to the "Show Me" State (New York 1954) 269-281; John Drury, Historic Midwest Houses (Minneapolis, 1947) 81-83.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Bolduc, Old Convent, Jean Baptiste Valle, Dr. Shaw, Senator Linn, Ziegler Houses and the Ste. Genevieve Academy, listed in HABS.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES ☒ NO ☐	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Town	13. DATE OF VISIT Sept., 1959
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Ray H. Mattison</i>	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE October 3, 1959	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE
Missouri

NAME(S) OF SITE
Ste. Genevieve

Among the noteworthy visitors at Ste. Genevieve were Prince Paul, Duke of Wurttemberg (1822), King Otto of Greece (1830), Maximilian, Prince of Wied (1832), and John James Audubon in 1810.

Remains: The population of Ste. Genevieve in 1950 was 3,992. The noteworthy historic buildings in this old French town include the following: (1) The Bolduc House, restored late 18th century residence of Louis Bolduc, prosperous lead miner, merchant and planter of early Ste. Genevieve. This building was restored by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and is operated as a museum. (2) The Meilleur House, also known as the Old Convent, a two-story frame structure which was built as a private dwelling in 1815 for Rene Meilleur, son-in-law of Louis Bolduc. (3) Jean Baptiste Valle House, a one and a half story Creole type of dwelling which is claimed to date from 1785. The original owner was the Third Commandant of Ste. Genevieve. It was the "State House" of the territory up to the time of the Louisiana Purchase. (4) The Felix Valle House, erected between 1818 and 1824 by Jacob Phillipson. (5) Senator Lewis F. Linn House, said to have been built about 1827. Linn served as U. S. Senator from 1833-1843 and was identified with his fight for Oregon Territory. (6) Janis-Ziegler House or old Green Tree Tavern. This building built prior to 1790 at one time served as a tavern and inn. (7) Ste. Genevieve Academy, built in 1807, served as a school until the Civil War when it was permanently closed. (8) The Mammy Shaw House, one of the oldest structures in Ste. Genevieve.



The Janis-Ziegler House, known as the Green Tree Tavern, at 244 St. Mary's Route, Ste. Genevieve. This building has played an important part in Missouri history. It was built prior to 1790 by a Francois Janis for use as a tavern and inn. It now serves as a private residence. Camera pointing to the northwest.

Photo by Mattison
September, 1959



J. B. Valle House, located at the corner of Main and Market Streets, Ste. Genevieve. This residence of Gene Baptiste Valle, Third Commandant of Ste. Genevieve, was built in 1782 and was the "State House" for all inhabitants of the territory up to the time of the Louisiana Purchase. Camera pointing to the west-northwest.

Photo by Mattison
September, 1959



Mammy Shaw House at the corner of Second and Merchant Streets. This building purportedly erected about 1885, is one of the oldest structures in Ste. Genevieve. It is now used as a restaurant. Camera pointing to the south-west.

Photo by Mattison
September 1959



Portion of the Louisiana Academy Building on northwest corner of Fifth and Washington Streets, Ste. Genevieve. This structure is a portion of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story stone building completed about 1810. Camera pointing to the south.

Photo by Mattison
September, 1959



This building, known as Meilleur House, is a two-story frame structure, built about 1815 by Rene Meilleur, son-in-law of Louis Bolduc, as a private dwelling. In 1837, five sisters of Loretta opened this building as a school which they conducted at that place until 1848. Camera pointing to the northwest.

Photo by Mattison
September 1959



The Senator Lewis F. Linn House, Merchant Street West of Second Street, Ste. Genevieve. This house, a two-story white frame structure set at the edge of the sidewalk, was built by Dr. Linn in 1827, three years before he became senator. It is typical of many New England types of structures built by the first American settlers in Ste. Genevieve. Camera pointing to the northwest.

Photo by Mattison
September 1959



Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

Louis Bolduc House

Louis Bolduc erected this home around 1875. The restored building is now administered by the Colonial Dames. Front elevation.

Photo by Mattison

September, 1959

IONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

217



Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

J. B. Valle House

The Residence of Gene Baptiste Valle at the corner of Main and Market Streets was built in 1782. It was the "State House" for all citizens until the Louisiana Purchase.

Photo by Mattison

September, 1959

NATIONAL
HISTORIC
LANDMARK

HISTORIC
LANDMARK

W1



Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

Louis Bolduc House

Louis Bolduc erected this home around 1875. The restored building is now administered by the Colonial Dames. Front elevation.

Photo by Mattison

September, 1959



St. Gemme--Amoureux House. St. Genevieve, Missouri

NPS photo 1967



Green Tree Tavern (1790), Janis-Zieglor House, St. Genevieve, Mo.

NPS photo 1967



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Photo by Mattison
September, 1959

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Ste. Genevieve	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Ste. Genevieve Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

on Merchant and Main Streets, and Old St. Marys Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Illinois

STATE:

Missouri

CODE

COUNTY:

Ste. Genevieve

CODE

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Weingarten, Missouri-Illinois USGS 15 Minute series (Topographic)

SCALE: 1: 62,500

DATE: 1907

4. REQUIREMENTS

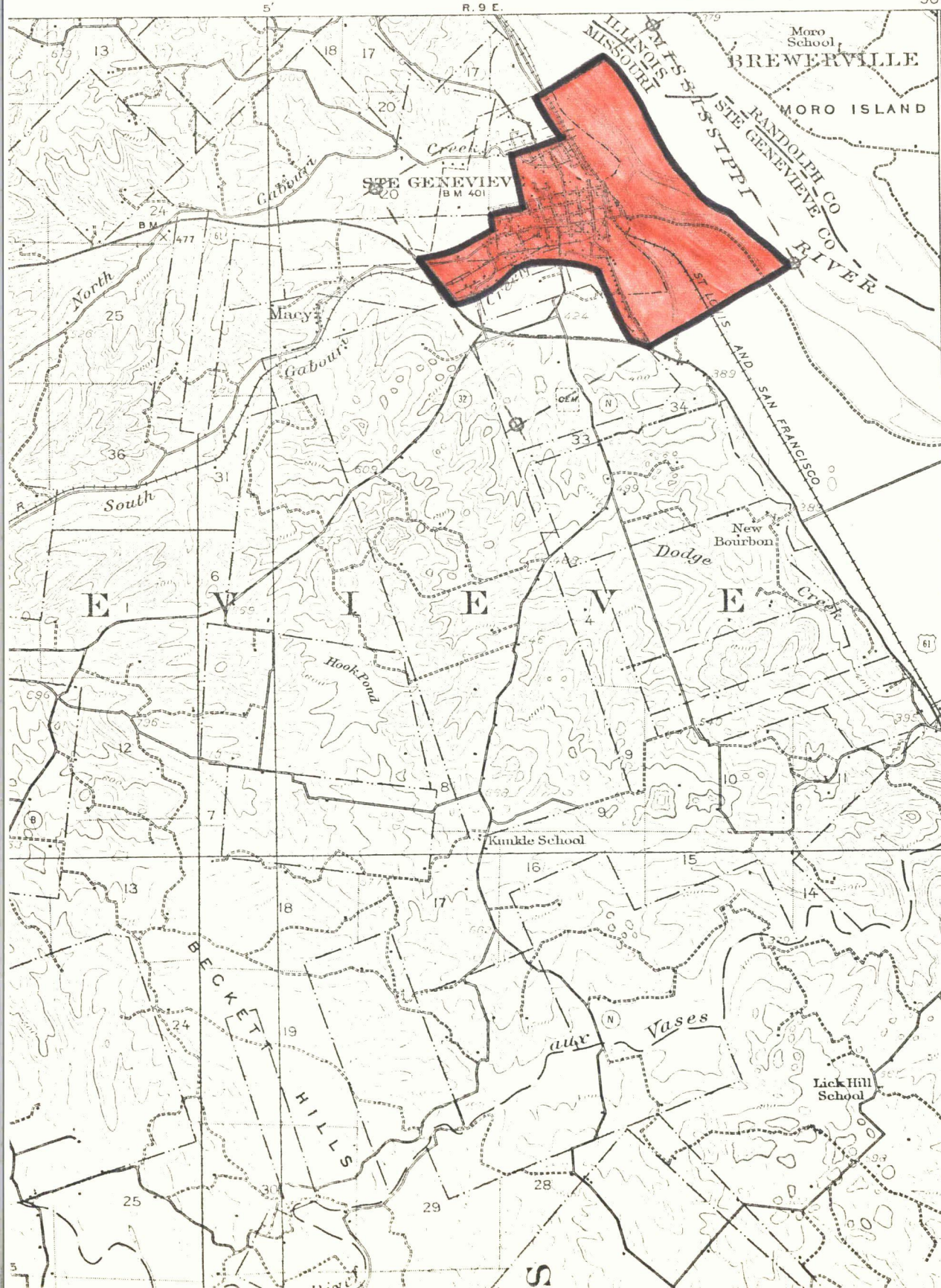
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

JRI
D MINES

MISSOURI-ILLINOIS
WEINGARTEN QUADRANGLE

90°00' (Baldwin)
38°00'



T.38 N.

SAINT MARYS 4.6 MI.
PERRYVILLE 18 MI.

55'

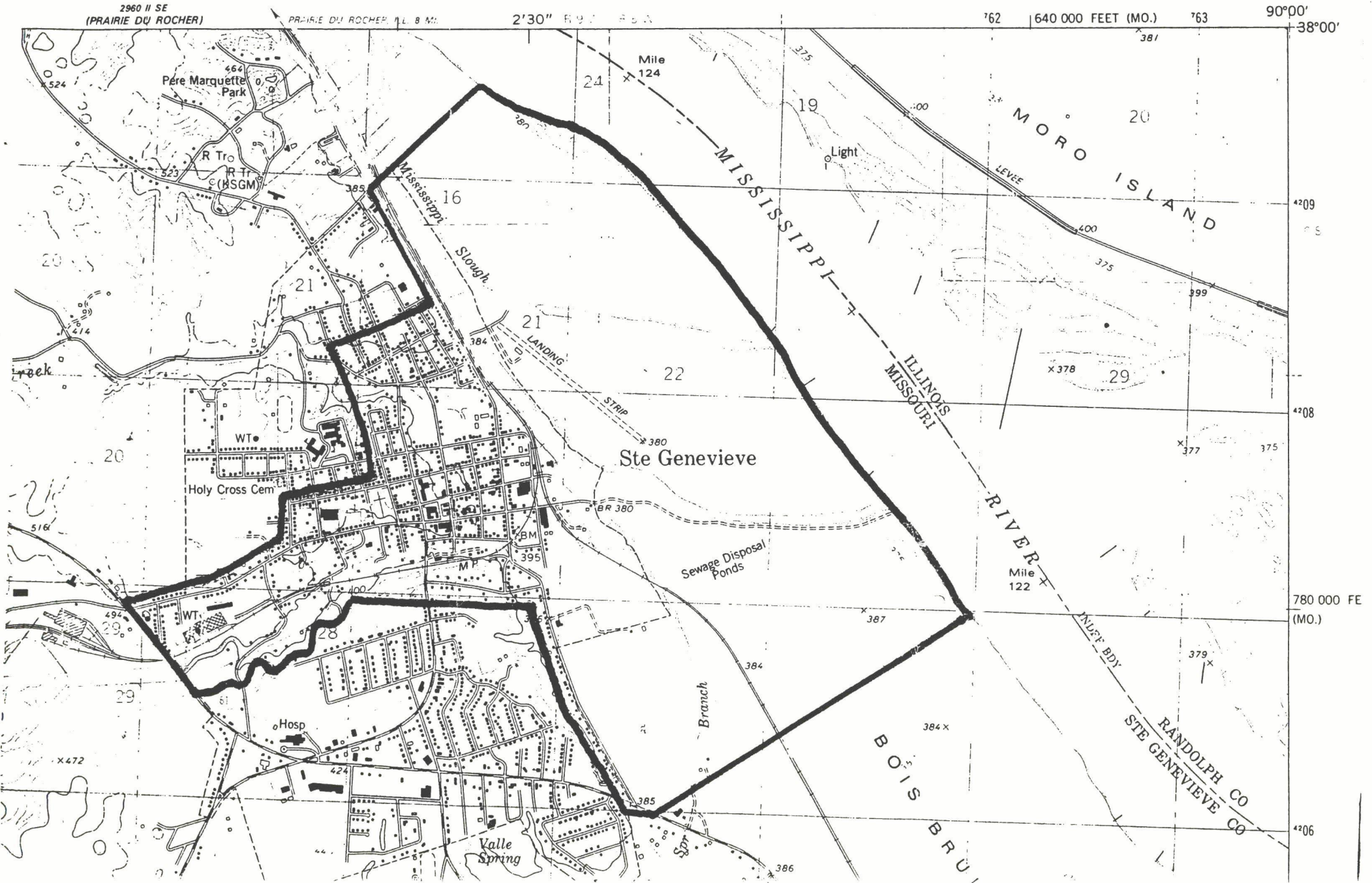
T.37 N.

(hoster)

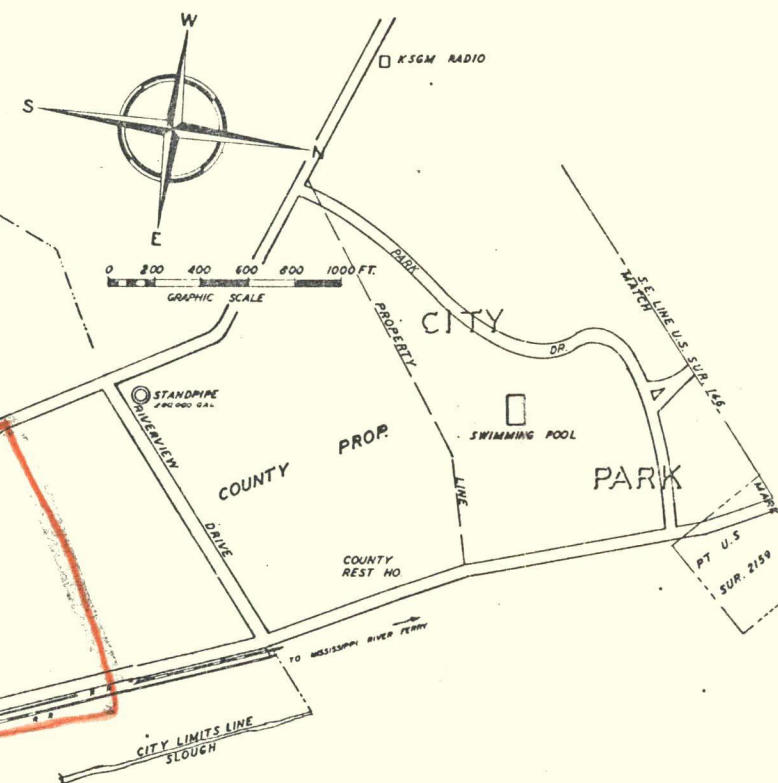
Ste Genevieve National Historic
Landmark Boundary

STE. GENEVIEVE QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI-ILLINOIS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 WEINGARTEN 15' QUADRANGLE

3080 III SW
(EVANSVILLE)



CITY OF STE. GENEVIEVE
STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY, MISSOURI



CITY OF STE. GENEVIEVE
STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Historic District Boundary Suggestion

D. THOMPSON 11/17/70

PREPARED BY
FR FRIEDEWALD
CONSULTING CIVIL ENGINEER
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
FREDERICK
POLLED
FRIEDBERG
B. 1904
E-6120