

The Society of Architectural Historians
Missouri Valley Chapter

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News Letter

**THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
OF ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY (cont.)**
by David J. Simmons

THE ITALIANATE CAMPUS (cont.)

ROBERT S. MITCHELL

A Kentuckian by birth, Robert S. Mitchell lived from 1821 to 1863. At the age of 21 he arrived in St. Louis, where he joined his brother, John F. Mitchell, and found employment and training with Stewart Matthews. Mitchell established his own architectural firm in 1848 and soon became one of the pre-eminent practitioners of his profession in this city. He did extensive work for various Catholic institutions. Archbishop Kenrick commissioned Mitchell to design a new pro-cathedral. To gain some ideas for the new project, Mitchell sailed for Europe. On his return trip, the boat sank and he was lost at sea.

A listing of Robert S. Mitchell's most important works would include:

- St. Louis County Courthouse,
4th & Market, 1851-1857.
- Mercantile Library,
5th & Locust, 1852-1854.
- St. John's Episcopal Church,
6th & Spruce, 1852-1853.
- Visitation Convent and School,
19th & Cass, 1857-1858.
- St. Louis City House of Refuge,
Osage Avenue, 1857-1858.
- St. Bridget Catholic Church,
24th & Carr, 1859-1860.
- County Courthouse,
Belleville, IL, 1858-1860.

This picture taken by Father Charles Charroppin, S.J., scientist and astronomer at the University, probably dates from the 1870's. It shows a quiet Ninth Street in front of the University buildings and church.

CLASSROOM BUILDING

Following the completion of the Library-Hall Building, the university had no intention of erecting another building at this location. Limited space and approaching business congestion demanded that the school be relocated to a more appropriate setting. But when Washington University built at 17th and Washington in the mid-1850s, St. Louis University found itself in direct competition for students. Classrooms at the new school were more modern, attractive, and convenient. In order to be competitive, the Jesuits were compelled to build a new classroom facility.

With the death of Robert S. Mitchell, the Jesuits at the University chose his brother, John F. Mitchell, to undertake the project. He was informed that the new building would be located on Ninth Street between the church and the Library Hall. It must blend with its neighbors, not outshine them.

Comprising four stories and finished basement, the classroom building in the Italianate style had a nine-bay front measuring 80 feet and a depth of 40 feet. It was brick with white limestone trim, foundation, and basement walls. Decorative elements included a plain galvanized iron cornice at roofline, one-story entrance portico located



first floor center, a cornice between the first and second floors, and three string courses. All windows displayed rounded heads. First floor windows contained architraves. Rest of the windows were recessed.

Mitchell's simple interior arrangement divided part of the building into two sections through the use of a central hall which connected the front and rear entrance on the first floor. Close to each entrance was a staircase providing access to the upper floors. In the basement two classrooms were placed on one side of the hall and the furnace room and coal vault on the other side. Both the first and second floors had four classrooms. The third floor had a single large room dedicated to the Philalethic Society, and the top floor was an open dormitory for senior boys.

Certainly the most beautiful space in the building was the Philalethic Hall, which could seat 600 people. Its ceiling was frescoed by Leon Pomerade with two symbolic figure groups. The first group consisted of Literature, Art and Education, while the second depicted Patriotism, Justice, and Religion crowning Eloquence. Walls of the room had Gothic pilasters terminating in a Gothic cornice. Its corners contained sculptured medallions of famous orators. Wall hangings included steel engravings of Raphael's famous scriptural cartoons and photographs of University graduates. A platform stage was located at one end of the room.

Construction of the building started in February 1864 and was completed one year later at a cost of \$33,416. Mr. Mitchell received a modest fee of \$803 for planning and supervising this project.

SIDEBAR: JOHN F. MITCHELL

Born in Macon County, Kentucky in 1816, John F. Mitchell arrived in St. Louis on July 12, 1833. He apprenticed himself to the firm of Darst and Matthews. Stewart Matthews trained and employed him for fifteen years. He then joined his younger brother, Robert S. Mitchell, in the pursuit of an architectural career. In this arrangement, he usually performed the carpentry work or supervised the construction while his brother did the design work. Occasionally he engaged in architectural work on his own. During the late 1850s the city directories list him as an architectural superintendent employed by his brother.

After his brother's death in 1863, he established his own architectural office. There followed two important partnerships, which may be said to be his most productive periods. His first was with Rudolph Debonne, a pupil of his brother, lasted from 1866 to 1869. Among the fruits of this partnership are these works:

St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 19th & Lucas 1866

Sisters of Charity Asylum, addition	1867
Convent of the Good Shepherd, addition	1867
Sisters of Loreto School, Pine & Jefferson	1868
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Meramec St.	1868

A second partnership with Thomas Brady covered a period from 1871 to 1875. Its achievements include these works:

Baden Catholic Church, Bellefontaine Road	1872
St. Columbkille Catholic Church, Carondelet	1872
Guardian Savings Bank, 5 th & Washington	1872
St. Bridget's School, Jefferson & Stoddard	1871
St. Peter's Catholic Church, Kirkwood	1875

After the second partnership, Mitchell practiced alone until his death in 1893. During this later period he placed second in the County Courthouse competition at Clayton. His last known commission, a church design, was for Father Hardy and St. Leo's Catholic Parish, 1888.

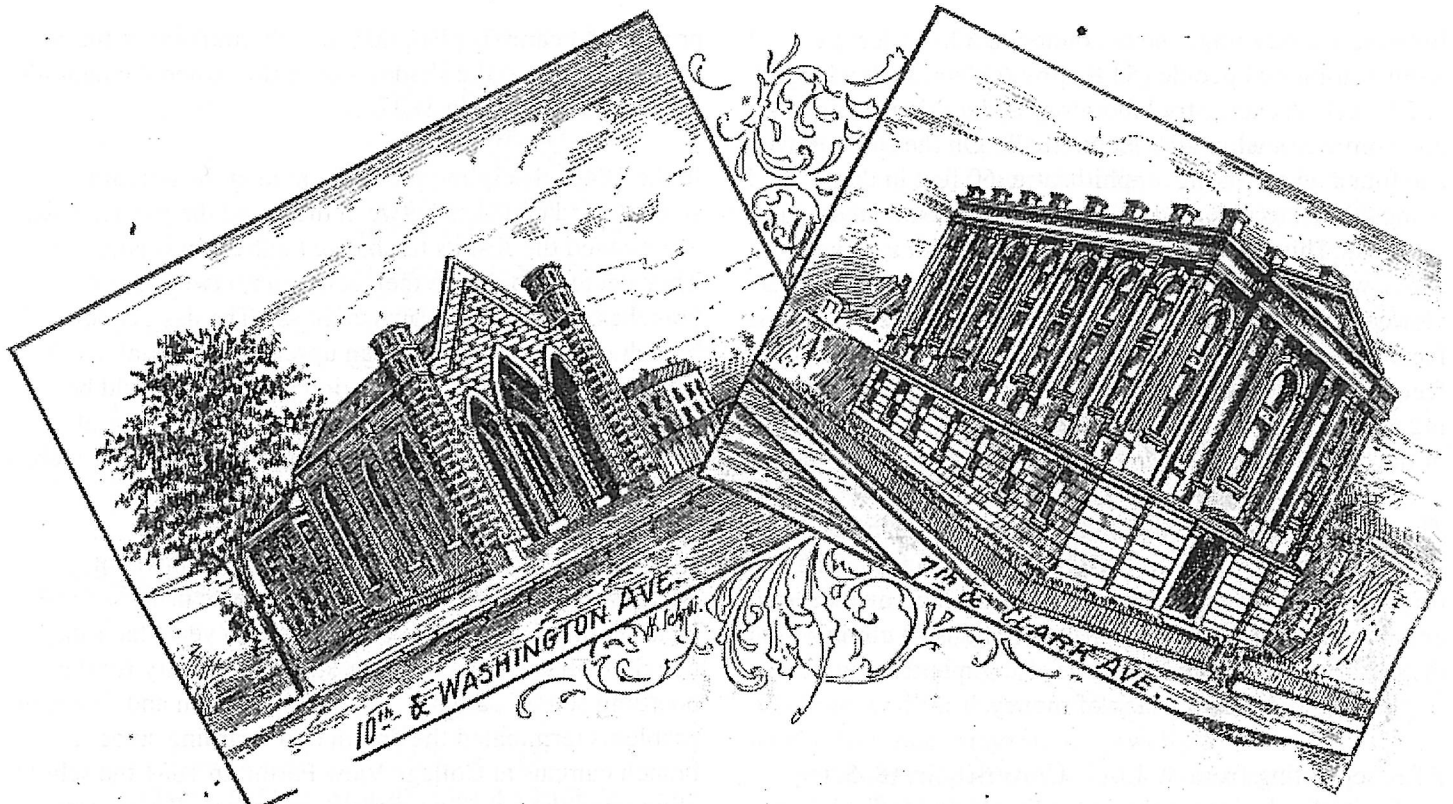
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY'S MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

St. Louis University was first associated with a medical school from 1842 to 1855. It operated with its own faculty, constitution, regulations, board of trustees, and financial responsibility. During its operation two buildings were erected to house its activities. Both were built by private parties and leased to the school. Eventually the university purchased the first building. Both buildings are part of the university's architectural heritage.

PRATHER MEDICAL BUILDING

St. Louis University approved the creation of a medical department on October 13, 1841. In the spring of 1842 the school was organized, and Dr. James Vance Prather was selected as dean. At his own expense Prather purchased a lot with a house on the north side of Washington Avenue immediately west of the college campus. The school started instructional activities at this house on November 1, 1842. Six months later Prather began construction of a new medical building attached to the house, and it was ready to receive students in the spring of 1844.

This brick building with stone trim used a Gothic design, one of the earliest St. Louis buildings to adopt the Gothic style. Probable architect was James Johnson, an itinerant architect and builder who moved in and out of St. Louis in the 1840s and 1850s. At the St. Louis Mechanics Fair of 1842 he exhibited a church design in the Gothic style. Four years later, he planned the Gothic interior of the Odd Fellows Hall at Fourth and Locust. On June 16, 1854, the *Missouri Democrat* reported that Johnson helped Oliver



Hart design the new First Presbyterian Church located at the northwest corner of 14th and Lucas Place. The *Missouri Republican* dated May 25, 1857 reported the acceptance of Johnson's design for the Insane Asylum at Jacksonville, Illinois.

Measuring 45 feet front by 101 feet deep, the medical building had two floors. Two turret towers at the front corners flanked an open vestibule of three hooded lancet arches supported by cluster columns. A large gable crowned the pitched roof. Side walls exhibited two-story lancet-arched windows separated by pier buttresses.

The school had seven rooms. At the front of the first floor was a large lecture hall featuring sloped seating, a center forum, and corridor access on two sides. Immediately behind this room was the library and museum. In the rear of this structure were a chemistry laboratory, a faculty room, and a student experiment area. The anatomical theatre and dissecting room occupied the entire second floor. It had angled seating, center forum, and several skylights. Access to the room was provided by a winding staircase in each tower. A gallery was located above the seating.

In 1849 the medical school moved into new quarters. Dr. Prather sold his building to St. Louis University, which converted it into a dormitory and study hall for junior boys. Like the rest of the campus it was demolished in 1890.

POPE MEDICAL BUILDING

In the late 1840s Dr. Charles A. Pope became dean of the school. He convinced John O'Fallon, his father-in-law, to finance a new medical structure for the school. It cost \$80,000 plus an additional \$30,000 for equipment. Charles H. Peck and George I. Barnett designed it in the Italian Renaissance style. During their five-year association, Peck and Barnett created many important buildings:

Yeatman's Row, 11 th & Olive	1847
National Hotel, 3 rd & Market	1847
St. George's Episcopal Church	1848
Tower Grove House, Henry Shaw estate	1849
Bates Theatre	1850
City Hall Bldgs., Levee, Market & Walnut	1850

After the St. Louis fire in 1849, the *St. Louis Weekly Reveille* reported that this firm had built 31 buildings in the burned out area of the city at a total cost of \$131,000.

Located at the northeast corner of Seventh and Clark (eight blocks south of the main campus), this three-story building with limestone exterior covered an area 60 feet wide by 90 feet long. Its three-bay front elevation rose to a height of 72 feet. A central entrance framed by pilasters and pediment was the main feature of rusticated the lower floor. Architectural elements of the two upper floors included two-story Doric pilasters supporting an entablature, cornice and central pediment. Second and third floor windows were linked in arched surrounds like niches or aedicules.

Entering the building, one encountered a large lecture room seating 600 people (54 feet by 60 feet, with a height of 23 feet). A chemistry laboratory and a science apparatus room were behind the lecture hall. On the floor above, one found an operating amphitheatre, 60 feet in diameter, rising 48 feet to a domed ceiling complete with an oculus skylight. This room had circular seating with a gallery above where the museum medical exhibits could be viewed in cases. Around the amphitheatre were rooms for faculty use. Two dissecting rooms, each 25 feet by 60 feet, a library, curator's office, janitor's room, and meeting room, occupied the rear of the second and third stories of the building.

This building was intended to be one wing of a much larger building with a combined front of 135 feet. The original design contained another wing joined by a central entrance section to this one. It was to house a clinic, dispensary, and hospital. Failure to complete the building as planned was due to a lack of money.

After separating from St. Louis University in 1855, the medical school adopted the name St. Louis Medical College. The building and lot remained the property of Dr. Charles A. Pope until 1870, when his estate sold it to the Medical Fund Society. The school continued to use it for another 21 years. At that point the school associated itself with Washington University and new quarters designed by the architectural firm of Eames and Young were erected. As a result, the old campus was sold to developers, who demolished the old medical building and erected a warehouse on the site.

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY'S DREAM CAMPUSES

Bishop DuBourg's gift to St. Louis University, its campus at 9th and Washington, was an urban site rooted in the European collegiate tradition. Americans preferred picturesque rural settings for their educational facilities. One of the chief virtues of an urban location was access for day students. On the other hand, the close proximity of St. Louis University to the city's business district would present it with many future problems. A small campus in an already built-up area presented limited space to expand, high cost of land, business congestion, lack of recreational opportunities, and the temptations of city life for the boarding students.

During the great economic expansion of the early 1830s, university officials saw their campus threatened by the approach of the business community. They sought to remedy the problem by moving to a more appropriate location, College Hill Farm. After purchasing the site and

preparing a campus plan, they saw their dream of the new campus fade into the shadows of reality when the nation's economy collapsed in 1837.

In the 1840s discipline problems among the boarding students and conflicts between them and the day students encouraged the Jesuits to change their campus approach. They decided to divide their school into two separate branches, each with its own campus. The day school branch would be located in an upscale residential neighborhood with good transportation access. It would be some distance from the business community. A rural setting would accommodate the boarding student branch, where discipline could be enforced.

After the distractions of the Civil War, the university purchased their present Grand Avenue site in 1867 for the location of the day student branch. Two years later they bought College View Farm in St. Louis County for the boarding school campus. But transportation and financial problems terminated the dream of a boarding student branch campus at College View Farm. In 1881 the school eliminated the boarding student operation. Seven years later the university relocated its day student campus to the Grand Avenue site.

COLLEGE HILL FARM

By 1835 the great economic expansion reached its zenith. It seemed all but certain that the business community would engulf the area around the university. Alarmed by this turn of events, University trustees appointed a committee composed of fathers DeTheux, Verhaegen, and Smedts to select and purchase a new campus site for the school.

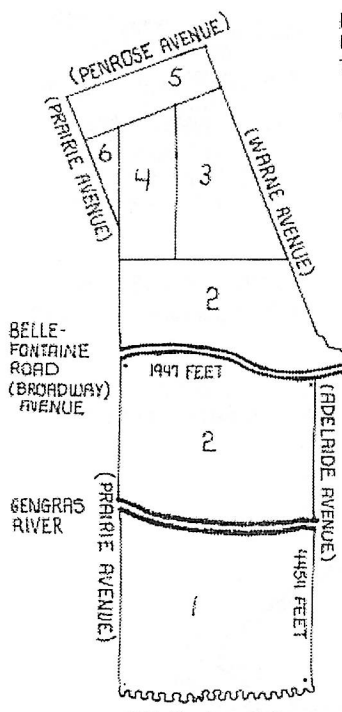
They chose "Fount Hill" farm owned by Meriwether Lewis Clark. It was located 3 ½ miles north of the city on Bellefontaine Road (now North Broadway) just south of the O'Fallon estate (part of which became O'Fallon Park in 1876). Mr. Clark asked \$30,000 for the property, to be arranged on easy terms — \$5,000 down and the balance in payments over the next two years. Purchase of the property occurred on June 23, 1836. Clark was happy to sell because he needed the money to finance his dream — construction of the St. Louis Theatre.

The deed claimed the acreage to be more or less 400 acres. The Clark homestead consisted of seven parcels covering the area from the Mississippi River (frontage 2/5 of a mile) to the bluffs, rising to a height of sixty feet. Bellefontaine Road divided the farm into two almost equal parts. Land titles of the period were nebulous. They required careful examination before being confirmed.

FOUNT HILL FARM = COLLEGE HILL FARM (CONFIRMED)
(CIRCA 1846)

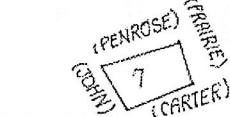
PURCHASE - JUNE 23, 1836 - TRANSFER
FROM MERIWETHER LEWIS CLARK
TO DETHOUX, VERHAEGEN, & SMEDTS
(ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY)
MORE OR LESS 400 ACRES
(ACTUAL: 370.95 ACRES)
PAYMENT \$30000 DP \$5000

1. LOUIS BRAZEAU - JOHN O'FALLON TRACT 112 ACRES
2. GABRIEL CERRE - JOHN O'FALLON TRACT 142 ACRES
3. JOHN BROOKS - JOHN O'FALLON TRACT 54 ACRES



JOHN O'FALLON ESTATE

4. LEWIS BISSELL - BENJAMIN O'FALLON TRACT 40 ACRES
5. GALLATIN - EDWARD TRACY TRACT 17 ACRES
6. GALLATIN - EDWARD DAUGHERTY TRACT 5 ACRES



7. GALLATIN - EDWARD DAUGHERTY TRACT 8 ACRES (NOT CONFIRMED)

Drawing by David Simmons

Eventually, the legal process confirmed six of these parcels, representing 370.95 acres, as belonging to the university. However, the river swallowed six of these acres reducing the total to 364.95 acres. Current boundaries of the farm would be Adelaide Avenue, East Warne and Warne Avenues, Penrose Street, Prairie and East Prairie Avenues, and the river.

To pay for this property, the university plans called for cutting some of its timber for sale and developing some of its land for purchase. To raise money for the new college building, the Jesuits sought to secure a buyer for the downtown campus, which had been valued at \$80,000. As their scheme unfolded, they appointed an architect who prepared plans for the new campus. A mason was hired to excavate the site and install the foundation for a new building on the bluff overlooking the river.

Information about the architect and his has not been uncovered. However, he is likely to have been either Joseph Laveille or Stewart Matthews, both of whom had previously worked for the university. We know that the foundation of the structure measured 200 feet by 68 feet, suggesting a very imposing building. Suddenly the mason in charge of the construction died. Work stopped never to be resumed. Then the great booming economy of the 1830s crashed in the Panic of 1837. Real estate values plummeted, land sales dwindled, and business expansion stalled. Faced with the reality of hard times, the university Jesuits secured a loan from their friends in Belgium to

help pay off the debt on the Clark homestead. Plans for the new campus were postponed.

As the economy improved in the 1840s, the idea of building the new campus resurfaced. Two problems remained, however. Transportation to this location on a regular basis was deficient. Day students would find it very difficult to commute to this campus. Another uncertainty was the future direction of the neighborhood around the new campus. The campus relocation project faded.

In 1849 Dr. Josephus Wells Hall, one of the original medical professors at St. Louis University, purchased 187 acres of College Hill Farm at \$175 an acre. This purchase consisted of all the land owned by the school between the river and Bellefontaine Road. He wanted to develop it into a residential area to be called the Township of Lowell. This would insure a suitable neighborhood for the new college campus. Unfortunately, land sales stagnated. Lowell developed at a much slower pace than its owners anticipated. In twenty years Lowell would become a mixed neighborhood - residential and industrial. Eventually it became an extension of the Salisbury industrial complex.

Since the purchase of the Clark homestead, the University Jesuits had used its farm buildings as a summer retreat. One of the rooms in the farmhouse was converted into a chapel. Occasionally, the place had been rented out for short periods. Soon summer students joined the Jesuits at the retreat. In 1857 Father Vinson built a new retreat house called the "Villa." Robert S. Mitchell designed this Italianate structure, which cost \$12,000. It faced Bellefontaine Road south of College Avenue. This three-story brick building with limestone trim had a verandah across its entire front of one hundred feet, sheltered by a sloping roof and supported by stone piers. The upper two stories of the porch had graceful pillars terminating in a series of elegant arches.

Some months later, the Missouri Jesuit Province decided to convert the Villa into a theology training center for Jesuits. During the spring and summer of 1858, an addition was built under the guidance of Robert S. Mitchell at a cost of \$5,200. Classes at the "theologate," as the program was called, commenced on September 11, 1858. After two years of operation, the training was discontinued, and Jesuit trainees were sent to Boston.

By 1860 it became clear that the College Hill Farm would never be used for any campus of St. Louis University. After the departure of the theologate, the

“Villa” reverted to its use as a retreat for Jesuits and students. Throughout the rest of the nineteenth century, the Jesuits gradually developed and sold the land of College Hill Farm, realizing a handsome profit of more than \$350,000, which helped to fund many university projects. They sold the last parcel of land in 1903.



The Villa,
circa 1860
Drawing by
David Simmons

COLLEGE VIEW FARM

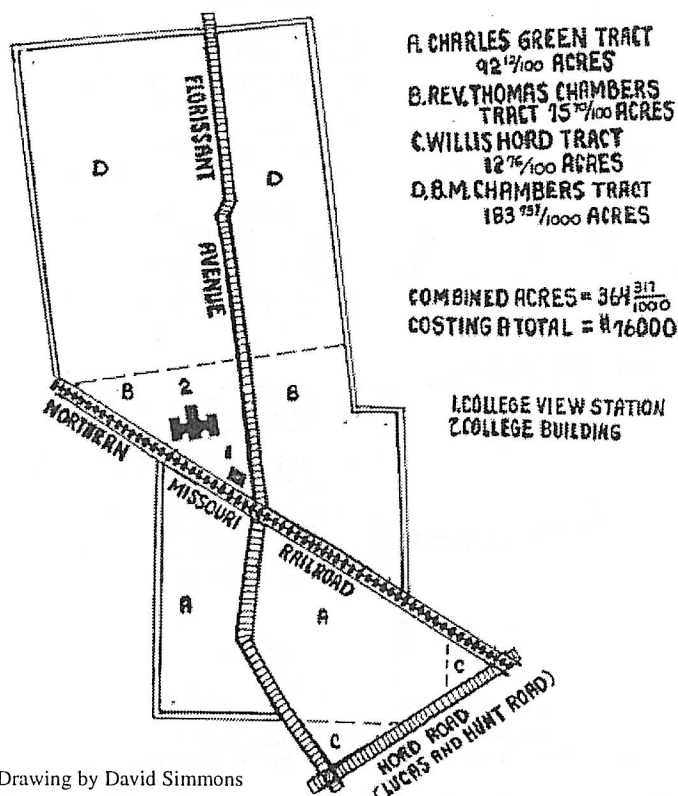
Continuing discipline problems among the university boarding students after the Civil War incited school officials to create a campus in St. Louis County strictly for them. After a two-year search, Father F. H. Stuntebeck recommended to the University Board of Trustees the purchase of a tract of land in St. Louis County located nine miles from the city along the North Missouri Railroad (later the Wabash) between the Jennings and Ferguson stations. Florissant Avenue (now West Florissant Road) ran through the property, which lay northwest of Lucas and Hunt Road.

On June 15, 1871, the Board of Trustees authorized the purchase of this tract of 364 acres for \$76,000. It included four parcels of land (Charles Green tract 92 acres, Rev. Thomas Chambers tract 75 ¾ acres; Willis Hord tract 12 ¾ acres, and the B. M Chambers tract 183 ¾ acres). At the same time the Board gave permission for a depot and switching facility to be erected on the property at the junction of the railroad crossing. The school appointed Father F. Coosemans and Father F. H. Stuntebeck to find an architect to design the campus. After an informal competition, they selected Francis D. Lee for the project.

Lee worked on the new campus design for more than a year, receiving for his efforts \$7,300 from school officials. This payment amounted to one and one half percent of the projected cost of the new building, which was \$480,000.

Lee’s immense college building design reflected the Romanesque architectural style of northern Italy, which he equated to Anglo-Norman. He placed the structure shaped like a Greek cross on a north-south axis facing south toward the railroad tracks and College View Station just west West Florissant Avenue. Its brick superstructure with white limestone foundation, basement, and trim contained

COLLEGE VIEW FARM (CIRCA 1872)

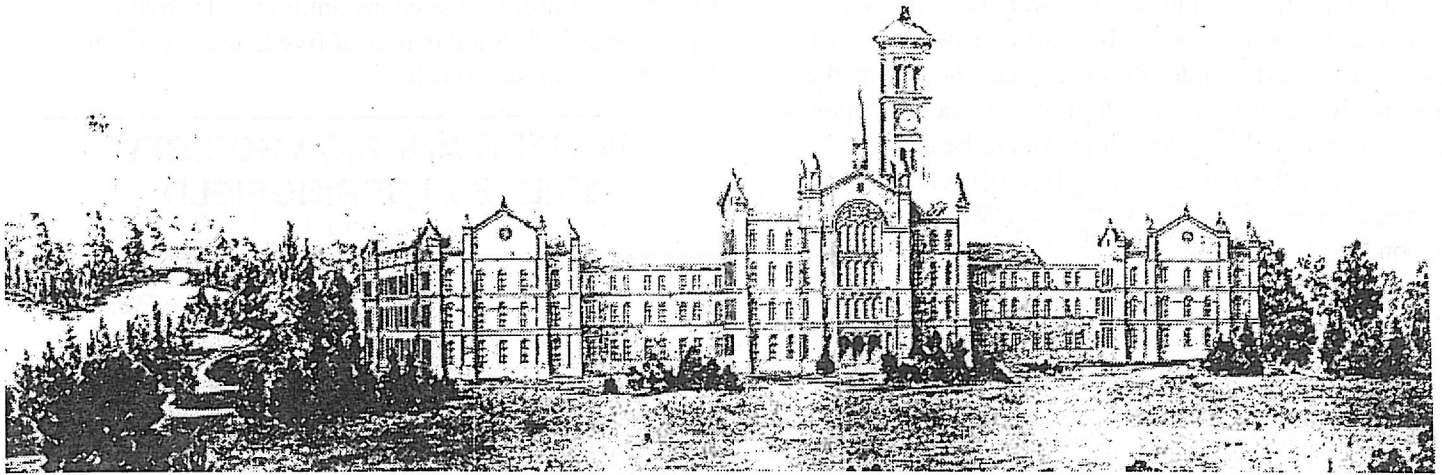


Drawing by David Simmons

three pavilions (center and two wings) and two connecting sections. Each of its five sections displayed impressive dimensions: center pavilion 90 feet by 310 feet; each wing pavilion 60 feet by 180 feet; and each connecting section 80 feet by 54 feet. Except for the center pavilion with an added floor, all had three stories and full basement.

Distinguishing features of the front façade included buttress wall piers, string courses, high pitched roof of tile, gables with ornamentation, bracketed cornices, and for the most part windows with round heads. The central focus of the buildings was the arcaded main entrance, five arcaded windows on the second and third floors, and the great window with Gothic tracery on the top story. Above the grand entrance the Jesuits carved their motto: “Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.” Above the roof the great tower with clock and observation deck rose to a height of 167 feet. In the rear of the building could be found two playing fields and associated gymnasiums.

Interior arrangements housed the Jesuit community, school officials and teachers, servants, and boarding students. The school could accommodate three hundred students. University officials divided the students into the college division located in the west section of the building and the high school division stationed on the east side. Most of their facilities remained separated. All classrooms for both divisions occupied the rear area of the central pavilion.



First floor front embraced community activity – wash rooms, recreational rooms, student refectories, kitchen areas, school offices, rotunda with grand staircase, halls, parlors, and entrance vestibule. The Jesuit community utilized the second floor front with an assortment of spaces – residential rooms, private refectory, library, private chapel, bath rooms, and recreational areas. On the third floor student dormitories, study halls, toilet and wash facilities, wardrobe rooms, and recreational spaces filled the front area. School officials planned the top floor in the central pavilion as a medical facility complete with dispensary, clinic, and hospital. At the front of the fourth floor was the main school chapel. The furnace and building mechanical systems, storage, and apartments for the servants were in the basement. A boiler house was placed in the rear of the building in the vicinity of the playing fields.

Construction of this building was scheduled for the summer of 1872. Then the railroad made a change in its main line which affected the campus railroad connection. Railroad officials deflected the main line at Ferguson Station two miles west of the College View campus in order to reach the St. Louis Union Station faster. Without main line railroad service, school transportation would be seriously restricted. School officials were very upset over this unexpected turn of events.

Even before the occurrence of this transportation problem, the Jesuits had serious reservations about constructing this campus. Could they finance the expensive building without selling the downtown campus? Could they obtain additional funds to operate two branch campuses? Could they attract enough boarding students to make the new campus a success? These questions remained unanswered. The Jesuits wisely dropped the project. Subsequently, history has proven that they made the right decision. Less than a decade later, school officials eliminated the boarding

school operation. This College View campus represented St. Louis University’s “pipe dream,” an experiment motivated by delusions of grandeur.

Eventually, the land of College View Farm was sold by the school to developers and land speculators.

SIDEBAR FRANCIS D. LEE

Born at Charleston, South Carolina in 1826, Francis D. Lee graduated from Charleston College as a civil engineer in 1846. After teaching for a short time, he entered the office of Edward Jones, a prominent Charleston architect. Two years of training for Lee followed. In 1850 Jones and Lee laid out the famous Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston. Two years later they formed a partnership which would last until 1857. They soon became Charleston’s most important antebellum architectural firm. When the partnership dissolved, Lee continued his practice alone through 1861. Two of Lee’s buildings in Charleston are now National Historic Landmarks (the National Park Service’s highest designation of historic significance): The Unitarian Church was remodeled by Lee in 1852 in striking Perpendicular Gothic style, complete with (plaster) pendent fan vaulting, while the Farmers and Exchange Bank of 1853 was designed in Moorish style. Other leading works of Lee’s Charleston period include these:

State Bank of South Carolina	Charleston	1852
Walker, Evans & Cogswell Bldg.,	Charleston,	1853
Wofford College	Spartanburg	1854
Citadel Square Baptist Church	Charleston	1855
Fish Market	Charleston	1856
Planters & Mechanics Bank	Charleston	1857
County Courthouse	Greenville	1858
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church	Charleston	1859
Hotel	Florence, SC	1860

During the Civil War, Lee held the rank of major in the engineering corps of the Confederate army. He designed and erected the extensive harbor fortifications of Charles-

ton and adjacent areas plus an elaborate breastwork on Hilton Head Island. Later he became attached to General Beauregard's staff. Under these auspices, he invented a defensive water torpedo. He deployed the new weapon in the Charleston harbor, where it proved to be a great success. After the war, Lee visited Emperor Napoleon III in France and provided him with details of his new weapon.

Upon his return to Charleston in 1867, Lee decided to make a new home in St. Louis. His St. Louis architectural career lasted from 1868 to 1885. During this period he participated in two partnerships. In 1868 Charles K. Ramsey (later to be associated in Louis Sullivan's St. Louis projects) served as his partner. Lee associated with Thomas B. Annan between 1873 and 1876. Lee placed fourth in the City Hall competition of 1870. Eleven years later he designed the Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church (later replaced by the Fox Theater). On August 26, 1885, he died at Ottenville, Minnesota from a brain hemorrhage. His chief contribution to St. Louis architecture was a series of large, imposing and costly business blocks, some of which are listed here:

Anne Hunt Bldg., 4 th & Olive, NW cor.	1869
D. K. Ferguson Bldg. 5 th & Pine, NW cor.	1871
Third National Bank., Olive bet. 3 rd & 4 th , N side	1873
Merchants Exchange, 3 rd , Chestnut & Pine	1875
Bradford-Martin Bldg. (now 555 Washington), 6 th & Washington, NE cor.	1875
Shinkle-Harrison Store, 9 th & Washington, SW cor.	1878
Gay Building, 3 rd & Pine	1882
Louderman-Tutt Bldg., 10 th & Washington	1883
Roe Estate Bldg., 5 th & Pine, SW cor.	1884
Baroness de Fahrenberg Bldg., 3 rd & Washington, SE cor.	1885

STE GENEVIEVE CONFERENCE ON FRENCH SETTLEMENTS

From Friday, November 15 through Sunday, November 17, the topic of French settlements and culture in North America and the Caribbean will be discussed in Ste. Genevieve. Organized by Elizabeth M. Scott of Illinois State University and Donna C. Charron of Lindenwood University, it brings together scholars studying Acadians, Creoles, Canadians, Icarians, Huguenots, and Bourbon refugees, as well as French-influenced Africans, Native Americans, Mulattos, Metis, and other peoples of color. For more information and to register, write by October 25 to Elizabeth M. Scott, Box 285, St. Mary MO 63673. You may register for each event separately: Friday evening reception at the Felix Valle State Historic Site is

\$3/person; conference sessions Saturday \$15; Saturday night dinner \$15; Sunday tour of five houses (with an all-star cast of guides) is \$7.

PIONEER AMERICA SOCIETY MEETS IN SPRINGFIELD

October 17-19

Tracey and Keith Sculle of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency are among the organizers of this year's national meeting of the Pioneer America Society, which this year will be practically next door in Springfield, Illinois. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Conference on Historical Archaeology in Illinois at the Hilton Hotel just east of the Old State Capitol in downtown Springfield. This year's theme is "Cultural Crossroads." Two concurrent tracks on Friday, October 18 will include presentations on country grain elevators and county courthouses; Swedish, Amish and Russian settlements; ethnicity in buildings; historic preservation; and cemeteries, temporary memorials and yard art. A daylong tour of historic sites in the Springfield area will fill Saturday. The registration fee is only \$55, with another \$35 for the field trip. Contact Tracey Sculle at 217-785-4324 or Tracey_Sculle@IHPA.state.il.us for more information. The final deadline for registration is September 30.

PRAIRIE: A NEW QUARTERLY

New, original research into American and international architectural history will be the basis for *Prairie*, a quarterly publication to be introduced in the last quarter of 2002. The new journal will incorporate the *Geo. W. Maher Quarterly*, which started in 1991, but will more broadly cover popular and progressive American and world architecture, 1880-1930. The early issues will offer expanded information on the careers and work of Prairie School era architects Robert Spencer, Lawrence Buck and Percy Dwight Bentley, all previously under-researched. Spencer and Bentley were born in Wisconsin and had offices, variously, in Chicago; La Crosse, Wisconsin; St. Paul; Eugene, Oregon, and elsewhere. Buck was born in New Orleans and worked in Chicago and its suburbs. Communities with unexpectedly large numbers of Prairie era buildings will be covered, too. The first of several small towns to be featured in Crandon, a small North Wisconsin city once touted as a health resort. The first issue will appear in November 2002. Yearly subscriptions for four issues, each about 20 well-illustrated pages, will be \$27. Send to Donald Michael Aucutt Editor-Publisher, 413 Jackson Street, Sauk City, WI 53583.



History Hike: Old Town Florissant Saturday, September 21, 9 to 11 a.m

Meet at the Shrine of St. Ferdinand, west end of Rue St. François in Coldwater Commons Park. Florissant is the oldest community in the county, and years of preservation effort have maintained the old-time look of the historic district. It includes houses dating from as early as the 1790s, historic churches and commercial buildings, and the convent started by St. Philippine Duchesne in 1819. Cost \$3, free to members of the Hiking Club.

Exhibit: "Work in Progress: the MetroLink Extension"

September 28 to January 25

Opening Reception, September 27, 5-7 p.m.
Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture,
Sheldon Galleries, 3648 Washington Blvd.

Plans, models, photographs and descriptive text panels produced by Arts in Transit portray the Cross County MetroLink Extension, that will add 8 miles and 9 new stations, extending from the West End to Clayton and Shrewsbury. Two color diptychs by artist Sally Apfelbaum will also be on view. Hours: Tuesdays, 9 a./m. to 8 p.m., Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and prior to Sheldon concerts.

History Hike: Kirkwood

Saturday, October 5, 9 to 11 a.m.:

Meet in the east parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, 100 East Adams between Kirkwood Road and Taylor. Kirkwood was started in 1853 as a planned community focusing on the new Pacific Railroad, with only four residential lots per block. It retains much of its original business district along with a surprising number of those early residences. This walk will look at the east half of the city. Cost \$3, free to members of the Hiking Club.

Panel Discussion: "Public Works Projects: Collaboration, Evolution and Process"

Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to noon
Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd.

A group of artists and architects will discuss their experiences in planning local and national public works projects. Admission is free.

History Hike: Webster Valley Saturday, October 19, 9 to 11 a.m.

Meet at Webster Groves City Hall, 4 East Lockwood at Elm. Continuing our series of walks developed by Ann Morris for the Webster Groves Historical Society, we look at the residential district east of Elm Avenue, which includes a wealth of impressive houses, built on large, shady lots between the 1860s and 1920. Cost \$3, free to members of the Hiking Club.

Talk and Tour: Maritz & Young at Bee Tree Park

Finestown Road, Oakville
Sunday, October 27, 2 p.m.

Sponsored by Landmarks Association, this afternoon will include a tour of the impressive 1929 Tudor Revival house at Bee Tree Park and a slide talk by Esley Hamilton about its architects, Maritz & Young. The house, with one of the most beautiful views of the Mississippi River in the region, was built for Eugene Nims, founder of Southwestern Bell Telephone, and his wife Lotawana, a fashion trend-setter of that time. Their 200-acre estate is now a county park and the house is the Golden Eagle River Museum, a collection of models, photographs and memorabilia recounting steamboat days on the western rivers. For reservations phone Landmarks, 314-421-6474.

Directions: From I-270 take Telegraph Road (Missouri 231) south. Turn left at the Becker Road light, then where Becker Road turns right, bear left into Finestown Road, which goes directly into the park. Parking is past the house on the right.

Tour: Watson Science Building Addition Principia College, Elsah, Illinois

Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Architect John Guenther of Mackey Mitchell Associates and Principia Archivist Jane Pfeifer will lead a special chapter tour of the seldom accessible campus of Principia College, one of the region's architectural treasures. Its many striking works by architectural great Bernard Maybeck have been named a National Historic Landmark by the National Service. Principia also has several notable buildings from the 1960s by Smith & Entzeroth, and Mackey Mitchell recently won an AIA/CPC Honor Award for Sustainable Architecture for their 1997 addition to Maybeck's Watson Science Building (featured in the *Post-*

**Tour: Watson Science Building Addition
Principia College, Elsah, Illinois (cont.)
Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Dispatch this September 9, page BP8). It is partly built into a berm for natural warmth and coolness and has extensive natural daylight, glass blocks and energy-efficient lighting fixtures. The atrium features a rain forest and live birds. The Principia archives have Maybeck's original plans and correspondence, including several large and luminous pastel sketches. And of course the Principia site has panoramic views across the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Please RSVP 314-615-0357, to Esley Hamilton, who will attempt to organize car pooling as needed.



Image from *CONTRACT commercial interior design and architecture*, April 2001
Courtesy of Mackey Mitchell Associates

News Letter

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Please mail editorial correspondence and submissions for publication to: Esley Hamilton, Editor 7346 Balson Avenue, University City, Missouri 63130 or contact him by telephone: (314) 615-0357, by facsimile: (314) 615-4696, or by email: Esley_Hamilton@stlouisco.com. Deadlines for submission of material for publication in **NewsLetter** are as follows:

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**St. Louis and Missouri Valley Chapters
Society of Architectural Historians
Post Office Box 23110
St. Louis, Missouri 63108**