



St. Louis Historic Preservation Discussion  
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Unseen STL History



# STL History & Preservation



STL History and Preservation Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stlhistorypreservation>

# Cultural Resources Office Areas of Review

View/download at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/planning/cultural-resources/cultural-resources/areas-of-review.cfm>

In the 1960s, the City of St. Louis took the first step in protecting its irreplaceable historic resources by creating the Landmarks and Urban Design Commission. Now, more than half a century later, that important objective continues through the efforts of the Cultural Resources Office, which oversees exterior alterations to structures in 18 local historic districts; reviews proposed demolitions in two-thirds of the city; and offers preservation guidance and expertise to rehabbers, developers, neighborhood groups, and individual property owners.

### City of St. Louis

The City of St. Louis is a web-based information resource created to serve the citizens of St. Louis, as well as city staff and elected officials, neighborhood leaders, and the public at large. It offers parcel-specific information such as a property's current and prior ownership, zoning, and neighborhood. It also notes whether a parcel is individually listed as a City Landmark or National Register site, or if a parcel is within a Local Historic District, National Register Historic District, or Preservation Review District.

### Preservation Board

The Preservation Board is a 5-member panel that meets monthly to review proposed exterior work and new construction in Local Historic Districts, demolitions and new construction in Preservation Review Districts, and appeals of decisions made by the Cultural Resources Office. Board members include a registered architect, a registered engineer, a landscape architect or urban planner, a paid assessor, an art or architectural historian, and the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety or their appointees.

### What is a Historic District?

A Historic District is a group of buildings and structures that together form an historically and architecturally significant area that has been adopted by the city council.

### Benefits of Being a Historic District

Local Historic Districts help safeguard a community's character and sense of place by limiting demolition, new construction, and/or changes to building exteriors. In St. Louis, each of the 18 local historic districts has a unique set of standards, developed in collaboration with the Cultural Resources Office and adopted by ordinance, created for the specific preservation goals of the community. Standards range from rules of demolition, addition, and new construction to more detailed rules regarding exterior materials, and more.

### Local Historic Districts

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### National Register Historic District

National Register Historic District designation does not require changes to building exteriors, but follows after several reported months. Demolitions can be reviewed by the Cultural Resources Office, which considers the historic, architectural, and historic qualities and proposed new construction to the structure. Listing in the Register requires a preservation plan for exterior and interior rehabilitation to meet the Secretary of the Interior's National Register Standards for historic preservation. The plan must include projects that may harm historic resources.

### How to Become a Historic District

Becoming a local historic district involves meeting with the Cultural Resources Office to develop an appropriate set of standards and ordinances. The Preservation Board, the Planning Commission, and the Council of Aldermen, discuss and approve the ordinance and standards. Once the ordinance is approved, the Cultural Resources Office will begin the process of designating the district. The process typically takes 12 to 18 months.

Becoming a National Register Historic District begins with submission of a well researched nomination to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office. Their nomination considers historic and architectural significance and historic qualities. The nomination is reviewed by the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places then sends the nomination, along with its recommendations, to the Secretary of the National Register who makes the final determination on listing.

### NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS

#### National Historic Landmarks

A National Historic Landmark designation recognizes a historic site, building, or object in a national significance. It is the highest honor bestowed by the National Park Service. National Historic Landmarks are associated with a specific period, event, or architectural style. The National Historic Landmarks Program was established in 1960. There are 23 National Historic Landmarks in the City of St. Louis.

#### National Register Historic Districts

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 created the National Register of Historic Places to identify, honor and protect our nation's historic and prehistoric resources. Established by the National Park Service, it is a national list of buildings, sites, structures and objects that possess national, state or local significance. Historic Register listing does not place any restrictions on private owners. But offers protection from potential negative impacts of federal, state or local government actions and federal rehabilitation tax credits to a user. There are 21 National Register Historic Districts in the City of St. Louis.

#### National Register Historic Sites

Buildings, structures and objects that are significant to the city, state, or national level may be included in the National Register of Historic Places. The same protections and incentives available to National Register Historic Districts apply to properties listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. There are 23 National Register Historic Sites in the City of St. Louis.

### CITY DESIGNATIONS

#### City Landmarks

City Landmarks are individual sites, structures, or sites recognized by the city council as having historic or prehistoric value to the history or architecture of the City of St. Louis. Individuals or structures are recognized as landmarks by the city council. There are 132 City Landmarks in the City of St. Louis.

#### Local Historic Districts

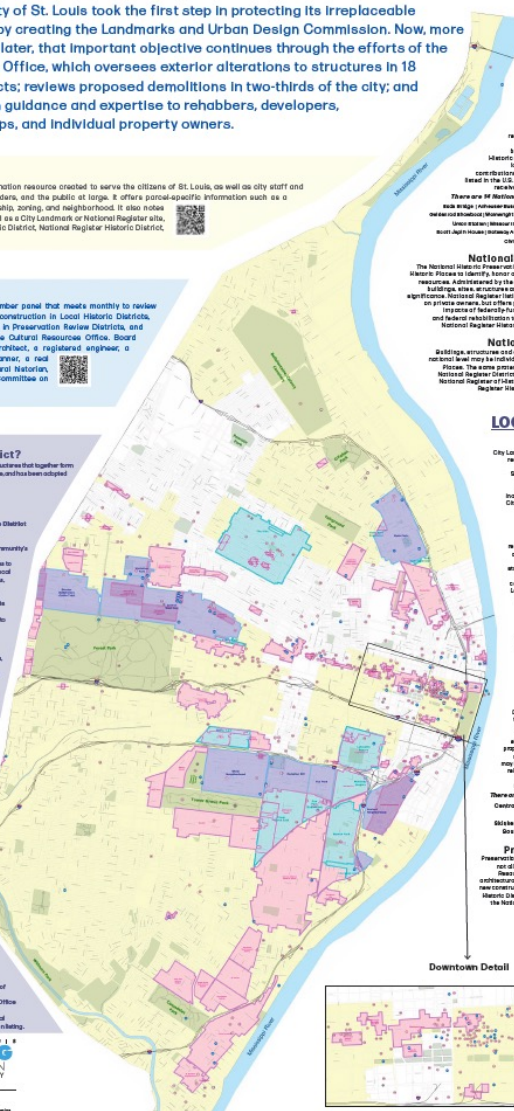
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#### Certified Local Districts

Certified Local Districts are areas of historic significance that are designated by the city council. The city council may designate a certified local district to protect the architectural character of an area. The city council may also designate a certified local district to protect the architectural character of an area. There are 10 Certified Local Districts in the City of St. Louis.

#### Preservation Review Districts

Preservation Review Districts are areas of historic significance that are designated by the city council. The city council may designate a preservation review district to protect the architectural character of an area. The city council may also designate a preservation review district to protect the architectural character of an area. There are 18 Preservation Review Districts in the City of St. Louis.



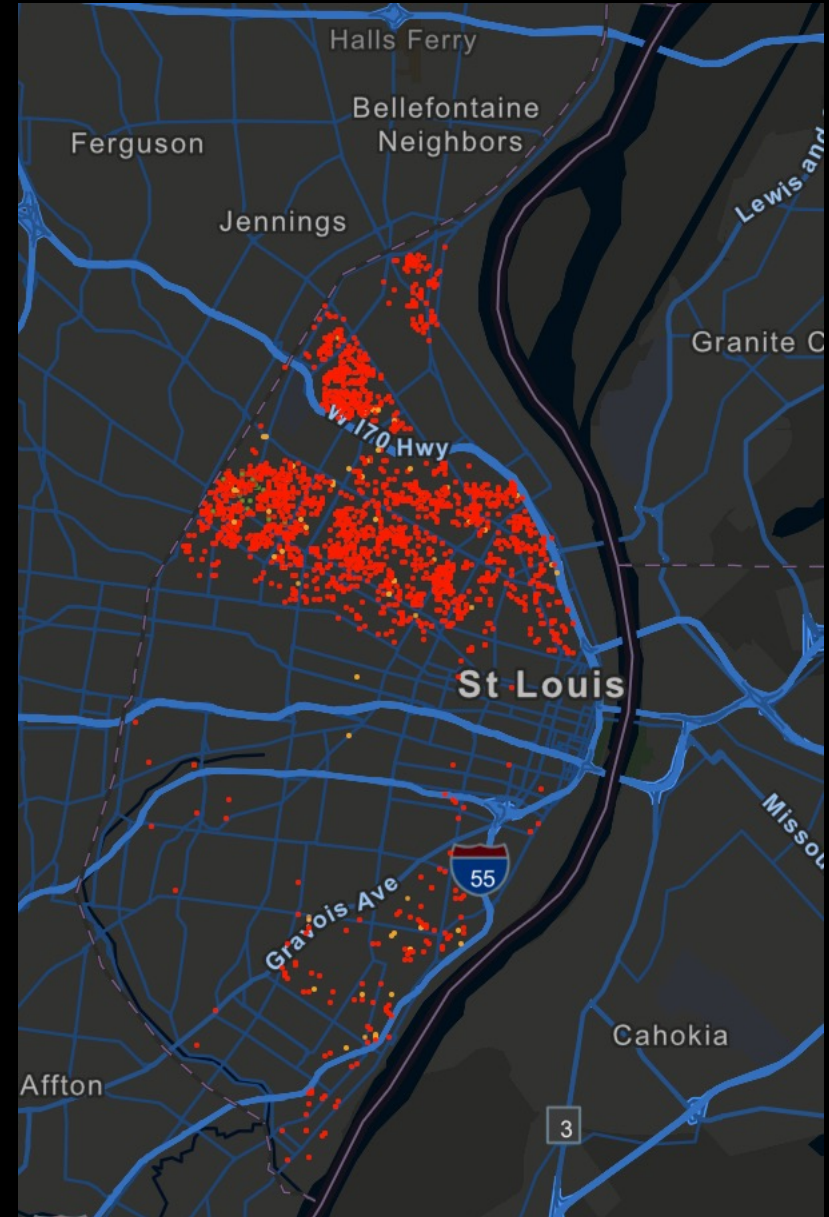
National Register Historic Sites

City Landmarks



# St. Louis Vacancy Data (Interactive Map)

View at <https://www.stlvacancy.com/demo.html>





# Lost Buildings





Mullanphy Emigrant Home  
1609 N. 14th Street  
Built in 1867  
Burned Sept. 14, 2023

Fire photos by Jackie Dana

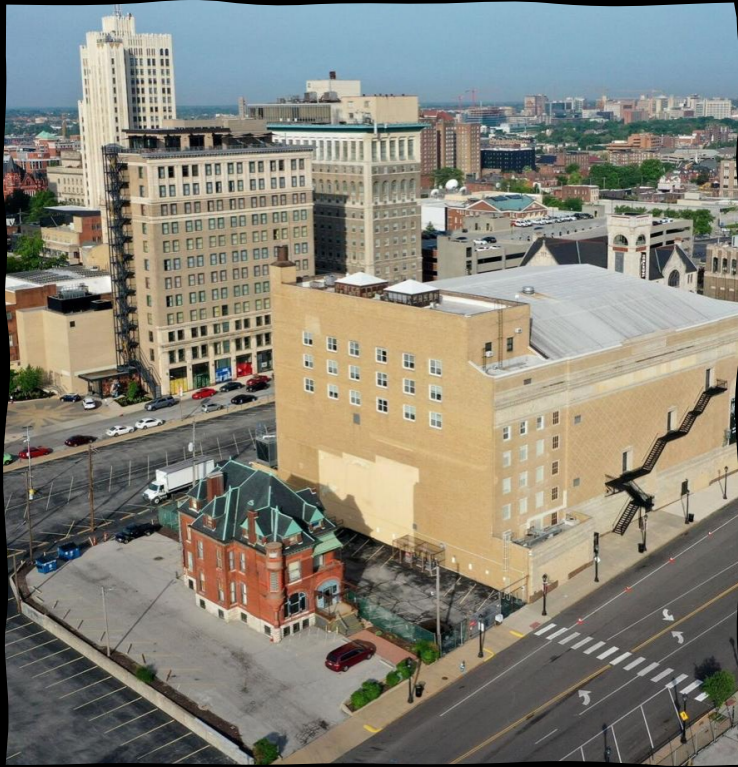




Shapleigh Warehouse  
1<sup>st</sup> and O'Fallon  
Built 1904-1906  
Burned Feb 3, 2024

Fire photos by Jackie Dana





Culver House  
3514 Delmar Blvd  
Built in 1880s  
Demolished for St. Louis Symphony expansion in July 2022

Photos: St Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Public Radio





St. Augustine Church  
3114 Lismore Avenue  
Built in 1896  
Burned March 17, 2024

Photos: St Louis Patina (Chris Naffziger) and James Hofherr





James Clemens House  
1849 Cass Ave  
Built in 1858-60  
Burned in July 2017

Modern photos: St Louis Patina (Chris Naffziger)

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# Endangered Buildings

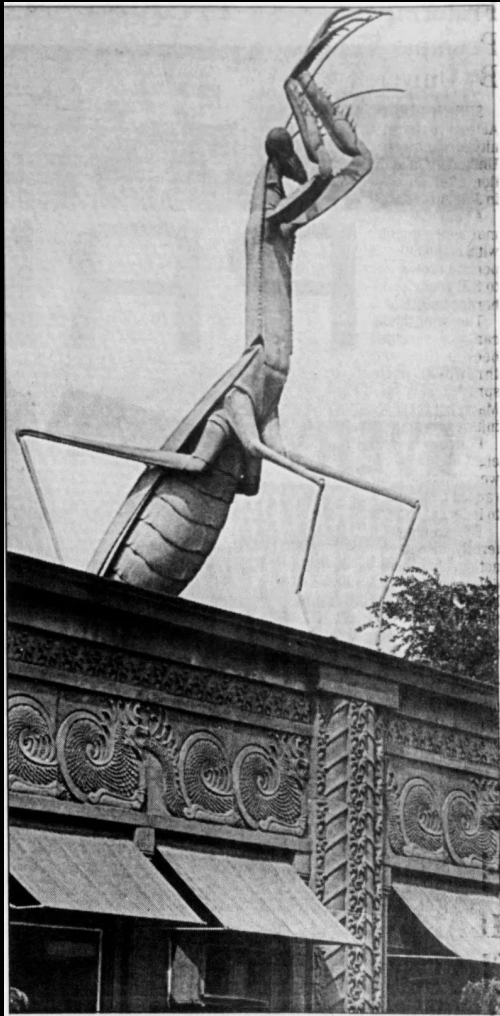




Railway Exchange Building  
Address: 615 Olive  
Built in 1913  
Status: Uncertain

Modern photos: Built St. Louis and Jackie Dana





Former Cassilly & Cassilly Studio  
Address: 2645 Lafayette  
Built in 1895  
Status: Uncertain. Pending demolition?

Photos: Post-Dispatch and Jackie Dana



Saved (at least for now)





Buildings threatened with demolition by St Louis University

3221-3223 and 3225 Olive

Built in 1887

Bryan Hadley sounded the alarm about these buildings; Saved by the  
Kranzberg Arts Foundation with Landmarks Association

Photo: LoopNet





Before and After:  
A restoration success story

Photos courtesy of Meg Lousteau