

Pierre Delassus Deluziere House
U.S. Route 61
Ste. Genevieve vicinity
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1283

HABS
MO,
97-SAIGEN.V,
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Addendum to
Pierre Delassus De Luziere House
U.S. Highway 61
Ste. Genevieve Vicinity
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1283

*HABS
MO,
97-SAIGEN.V,
5-*

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PIERRE DELASSUS DE LUZIERE HOUSE

HABS
MO
97-3AIGEN
5-
vic.

Location: U.S. Highway 61 (St. Mary's Road), Ste. Genevieve,
Ste. Genevieve, County, Missouri 63670

Present Owner: August and Shirley Kern

Present Occupant: none

Present Use: vacant

Significance: This house is built of vertical log construction on a stone foundation (poteaux sur sole) and is larger than any of the known French colonial houses in the region of Ste. Genevieve, a National Historic Landmark Historic District, with the original plan preserved.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: 1793. By January 29, 1793, Peirre Charles Dehault Delassus De Luziere had begun negotiations for a land cession in the Ste. Genevieve district. Probably shortly after and definitely before August 24 of that year, he had arrived in the community convalescing from some illness. His new house was finished about the end of October, just about the time his family joined him. Tree-ring analysis confirms the date, and confirms that the present house is the one discussed in documents of 1793.
2. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description:
Survey no. 2082?
Chain of title:
 - a. November 25, 1798, by land concession of Zenon Trudeau, lieutenant governor, conceded claim of 810 arpents (including 310 on which is the house) to Pierre Charles Dehault Delassus Deluziere; June 28, 1806, by testimony of Israel Dodge that in 1798 claimant built a cabin on the tract (310 arpents) which was constantly inhabited by a free black woman. American State Papers, Volume 5, page 467 is the source for both references. Volume 3, page 300 confirms the claim and concession.
 - b. February 4, 1819, deed of partition from Pierre Charles Dehault Delassus Deluziere deceased via executrix Marie Philipe Leduc to Charles Dehault

- Delassus for \$408.00 (310 arpents at \$1.60 arpent). Deed Book C, page 166-168.
- c. February 5, 1819, from Charles Dehault Delassus to Odile Delassus et al. Deed book C, page 168-169.
 - d. April 10, 1834, by deed of partition, between Odile Delassus, widow of Louis Valle, and heirs and representatives of Camille Delassus, deceased: Eleanore Delassus, Leon Delassus, and Martin Sweet. Odile drew the lot on which the house stands. Deed book E, pages 71-72.
 - e. March 8, 1836, by general warranty deed from Peter R. Pratt and Louise and heirs, legal representatives of Camille Delassus to Martin Sweet for \$200. Deed book E, pages 8-10.
 - f. July 5, 1837 by general warranty deed from Martin Sweet and wife Caroline to Ichabod Sargent for \$1,200.00. Deed book E, page 124.
 - g. September 18, 1848 (probate date) by will of Ichabod Sargent written August 29, 1848 to Austes Sargent, wife. Deed book H, page 118.
 - h. July 26, 1855 from Ichabod Sargent, deceased by Executor Jules Valle to John D. Kern for \$1,000. Deed book I, page 586.
 - i. July 26, 1855 by deed of trust from John D. Kern and Regina to Felix St. James and Jules Valle. Deed book I, page 587.
 - i. April 30, 1861 by deed of trust from John D. Kern and Regina to Relix Rozier and Francis C. Rozier. Deed book O, page 423.
 - j. September 28, 1875 from Regina Kern, Herman Koehler and Mary, Julia M. D. Kern heirs and legal representatives of John D. Kern deceased to Edward, William, August Kern for \$2,000. Deed book 26, page 469.
 - k. November 9, 1878 by general warranty deed from Kern heirs by sheriff to William Kern et al. Deed book 30, page 458.
 - l. December 16, 1878 by general warranty deed from William Kern to August Kern for \$1,000.00. Deed book 27, page 394.
 - m. October 31, 1955 by general warranty deed from Nettie Kern, Rachel Kern, and Edna Kern to August W. Kern and Shirley Kern, his wife. All that part of Survey Number 2082 and part of fractional Section Two in Township 37 North Range East which is described as follows to wit: Beginning at the northeast corner of Survey Number 451 and running south 18 degrees east 2.92 chains to a corner in the north line of a 124.25 acre parcel known as the Rozier tract. Thence, with said line, north 72 degrees 15 minutes, east 4.7 chains to the place of the beginning containing 6.25 acres. Above described parcel being a part of same 64.06

- acre parcel as is described in book 27, page 394, Ste. Genevieve land records.
- n. August 7, 1961 by quit claim from Nettie, Rachel, and Edna Kern to August W. Kern and Shirley M. Kern. Deed book 156, page 271.
 - o. November 16, 1961 by will of August Kern written June 1931 to daughters Rachel, Nettie and Edna. Deed book 160, page 361.
3. Original plans and construction: One story, six room plan.
4. Alterations and additions: About 1898-1900 a second floor was added above the three front rooms and the house lost its original French roof. Chimneys, closets, and a bathroom were added; the staircase was moved.

B. Historical Context:

The builder, Pierre Delassus de Luziere was Grand Chevalier of the cross of the Royal Order of St. Michel. He, his wife Domitille Joseph Dumont de Bequfort, and their children left France in 1790 because of the Revolution. After they acquired land in the Ste. Genevieve district in 1793 and their house was completed, the family was warmly welcomed by the community. They became prominent residents of the territory. Peirre was made Commandant of New Bourbon, then a rival settlement near Ste. Genevieve, and their son Charles became Lieutenant Govenor of upper Louisiana in St. Louis. The original plan of their house, the largest in the region, is fully preserved.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

- 1. Architectural character: This is an example of vertical log construciton on a stone foundation, what the French called "poteaux sur sole." Its original six room plan allow it to present a larger example than others in the region.
- 2. Condition of fabric: fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Over-all dimensions: Two stories on elevated cellar, 62'-6" across the front by 44'-8" deep.
- 2. Foundations: Random cut stone.
- 3. Walls: Vertical, hewn, white oak logs, mortised

into a sill, infilled with bouzillage, plastered or sheathed with horizontal clapboards.

4. Structural system, framing: Vertical log structure on a sill carrying a plate, hewn logs closely spaced, floor beams mortised into the sill and the plate.
5. Porches: Some evidence of a French colonial style gallery survives at the front of the house. Two sides of the house (the front and southeast) feature a covered porch.
6. Chimneys: Four stove chimneys with limestone pier foundation are later additions. No fireplaces survived, however the foundation reveals there were two original chimneys, each carrying a fireplace at either end (northwest and southeast) of the house.
7. Openings: Principal entrances at the center of both long sides open into the largest room at the center of the house. Separate entrances under the porch on the southeast side and front of the house also lead into the cellar.
 - a. Doorways and doors: probably date from the remodelling of c. 1898-1900.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung, with later two light sash.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: A gable roof with metal covering.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: simple boxed eaves.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: This six room plan is one of the best preserved plans of the largest house type used in French colonial Ste. Genevieve, with a large central room of mixed use flanked by two smaller rooms to either side across the front, and a similar combination of three rooms, but not as deep across the rear. It is a plan type known in Louisiana and northwestern France.
 - b. Cellar: unfinished cellar under the front half of

the house. The lot slopes down toward the front, putting the cellar nearly at ground level under the front porch.

- c. Attic: A second floor with bedrooms was added over the front portion of the house c. 1898-1900.
 2. Stairways: The present boxed stairway is an addition from the 1898-1900 remodelling.
 3. Flooring: wood.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: plaster.
 5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: wood panelled doors probably date to the c. 1898-1900 remodelling.
 - b. Windows: double hung windows in simple wood frames probably date to the c. 1898-1900 remodelling.
 6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: modern gas room heaters, connected to existing brick chimneys.
 - b. Lighting and plumbing are modern additions.
- D. Site:
1. General setting and orientation: The house faces northeast towards the common field and the site of the original settlement of Ste. Genevieve. On the bluffs behind it is the settlement of New Bourbon.
 2. Historic landscape design: A mixture of silver maple, elm, and pecan trees shade the area while a box elder and walnut tree are also on the premises.
 3. Outbuildings: The house has always been the center piece of a large farming establishment and many outbuildings and features survive around it, mostly built by earlier generations of the Kern family. A well, cistern, wood shed, utility shed, corn crib and two chicken houses exist while the location of a former hog house, barn, chicken houses, privy and smoke house have been determined.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Early Views: A view of the house c. 1894-95 before the second story was added is in the possession of the owners.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Deed records in the Ste. Genevieve County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse. Other records in the Ste. Genevieve Archives (SGA), collected on microfilm, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia. Valle papers in the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis.
2. Secondary and published sources:

Ekberg, Carl J., Colonial Ste. Genevieve, An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier (Gerald, Missouri: The Patrice Press, 1985).

Franzwa, Gregory M., The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1967).

Peterson, Charles E., "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," The Missouri Historical Review, XXXV:2 (January 1941), pp. 207-232.

Porterfield, Neil H. "Ste. Genevieve, Missouri," in John Francis McDermott, editor, Frenchmen and French Ways in the Mississippi Valley (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1969), pp. 141-177.

Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration, Missouri, A Guide to the "Show Me" State (Missouri State Highway Department, 1941).

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) team of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, under the direction of Historical Architect Thomas G. Keohan. Documentation was carried out during the summer of 1985 at the HABS field office in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, by project supervisor Osmund Overby (University of Missouri-Columbia), project architects James Q. Marsh (Hemet, California), William D. Cesaletti (Keaau, Hawaii), and Terance A. Gruenhagen (North Dakota State University), and project historian Claudia A. Barbero (University of Missouri-Columbia).

Prepared by: Osmund Overby
Professor of Art History
and Toni M. Prawl
Research Assistant
University of Missouri-Columbia
January 17, 1987

ADDENDUM TO
PIERRE DELASSUS DU LUZIERE HOUSE
U.S. Route 61
Ste. Genevieve
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1283

HABS
MO,
97-SAGEN.V,
5-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013