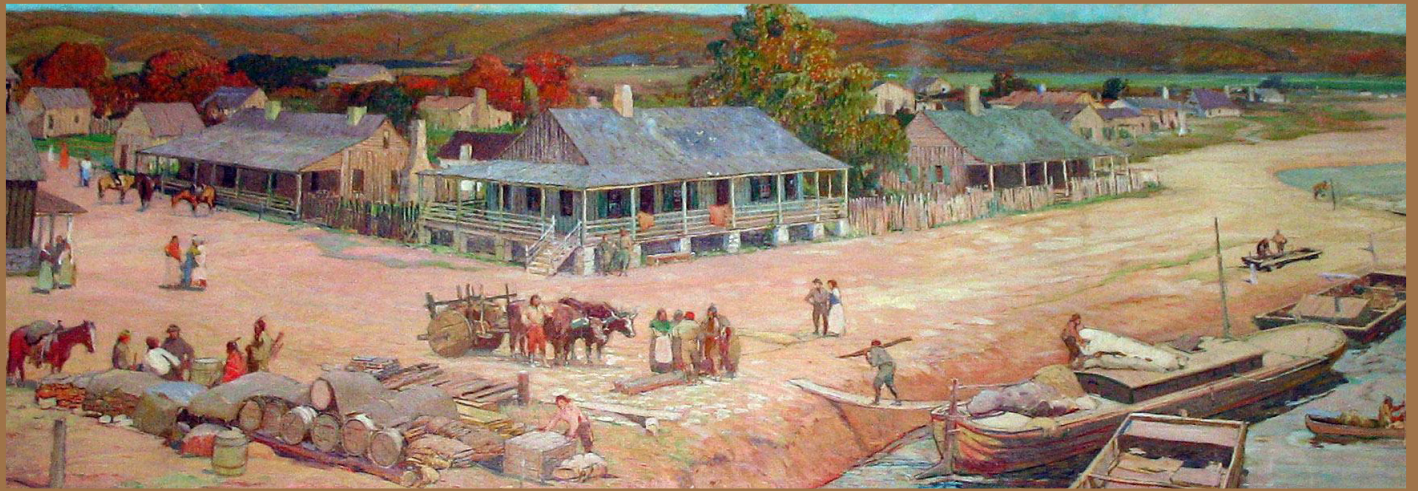




Bauvais-Amoureux House

Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park

Starting up America's newest national park!



Oscar E. Berninghaus, "Old Saint Genevieve" mural in the Missouri State Capitol building.

Message from the Midwest Regional Director

It is an honor for the National Park Service (NPS) to begin formal conversations with you about the future of Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park. This designation would not have happened without your support and strong leadership at the local, state, and federal levels. We are excited to begin developing the framework for managing the new park with you, and there is a lot to do. It is important that we have candid, transparent conversations about the next steps. Understanding our mutual objectives and setting clear expectations with each other are very important as we embark upon this process.

We have put this short newsletter together to help us all understand what has been accomplished so far and priorities for the future. The conversation and priorities will evolve as we move forward, but this is a start. Thank you again for the opportunity to work closely with you on how to shape the future of this new national park.

We look forward to keeping in touch with you as the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park takes shape.

Cameron H. Sholly

Primary Roles of the NPS

- Collaborate in partnership with organizations who share goals to preserve, protect, and interpret Ste. Genevieve resources.
- Coordinate a technical assistance program in the Historic District.
- Administer any real property acquired by the federal government.
- Identify appropriate staffing, funding, and operational requirements for NPS programs and assets.

The primary goal of the NPS is to develop a successful and sustainable unit of the national park system that protects and interprets Ste. Genevieve.

The NPS expects to have multiple partners at Ste. Genevieve, each filling a critical role to achieve success. The NPS will have a limited ownership role, and will focus on coordination, interpretation, and technical assistance. Our partners will continue to own and manage most of the historic properties in Ste. Genevieve, and continue to participate in the coordination of services within the historic district and national historical park.

The legislation does not require private landowners or others to work with the national historical park if they do not want to do so. It would be an opt-in relationship only. The legislation does not establish any eminent domain, zoning authority, or other land use authorities.

Background

The creation of Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park (NHP) was authorized by Congress in 2018, and the park's legislated purpose is to: *preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form and farming on the frontier associated with Ste. Genevieve.*

Before the park can be officially designated as a unit of the national park system, the legislation specifies two key actions that must take place between the NPS and community members. The legislation stipulated that: ***“The Historical Park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that—***

(A) sufficient land has been acquired for the Historical Park to constitute a manageable unit; and


(B) the Secretary has entered into a written agreement providing that land owned by the State, the City of Ste. Genevieve, or other entity within the Historic District shall be managed consistent with the purposes of this section.”

The National Park Service is pleased to work with the community to identify appropriate levels of NPS ownership and operations to maximize the results of our partnership.

Text of the legislation, the legislative map, the special resource study, and more information can be found at:
parkplanning.nps.gov/stegenevieve

History

Ste. Genevieve was founded by French Canadian settlers, or *habitants*, most of whom came from earlier settlements in present-day Illinois. Ste. Genevieve was primarily an agricultural settlement, notable for the *Grand Champ*, or Common Field, a large area of privately held, long agricultural lots. Both free and enslaved residents worked in the Common Field. 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. Later, German Americans settled in the village. Ste. Genevieve retains many of its historic buildings, landscapes, and community characteristics from these different periods of settlement.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102-4226

I.A.1 (MWR-PO/L)
Tract 01-101, STGE
July 12, 2018

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

Through: Associate Regional Director, Park Operations, Midwest Region

From: Chief, Land Resources Division, Midwest Region *Daniel R. Boff*

Subject: Proposed Donation of Real Property at Ste. Genevieve

Attached is a July 11 letter from the Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources offering to donate a parcel of land containing 0.14 of an acre and improved with a historic structure in the City of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, to the United States. In our initial mapping of recently authorized Ste. Genevieve NHP (STGE), we have designated the subject property as Tract No. 01-101, which is depicted on the attached Segment 01 map.

Section (e) of the STGE enabling legislation authorizes our acquisition of this property as it is located within the boundary of the area identified for the park. Section (b)(2) of the legislation states “the Historical Park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that (A) sufficient land has been acquired for the Historical Park to constitute a manageable unit, and (B) the Secretary has entered into a written agreement providing that land owned by the State, the City of Ste. Genevieve, or other entity within the Historic District shall be managed consistent with the purposes of this section.”

If you approve the National Park Service's acceptance of this land donation, please sign and date below. With your approval we will proceed with acquisition of the property by donation. If you need additional information related to this donation, please contact me at extension 1780.

Attachment

APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE IDENTIFIED LAND DONATION:

[Signature] 7/17/18
Regional Director, Midwest Region Date

We have already made progress. During its 2018 legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly passed Senate Bill 907, authorizing the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to convey property in Ste. Genevieve to the United States for inclusion in this unit of the National Park Service. On July 17, 2018, the Midwest Regional Director of the National Park Service approved the acquisition through donation of the property known as the Bauvais-Amoureux House within the boundary of the area identified for the park. This is a positive first step toward establishing this new park unit.



Left, Lasource-Durand House. Above, Delassus-Kern House

Proposed Next Steps

- Conduct meetings and listening sessions with community leaders and partners.
- Evaluate properties identified by the Missouri General Assembly allowing for donation of certain structures to the NPS to determine the condition of structures, investment needs, and priority order for possible acquisition.
 - The NPS must vet any property acquisitions thoroughly to limit deferred maintenance and other challenges prior to NPS ownership.
- Develop partnership agreements to establish administrative and interpretive programs, and identify space to support NPS staff and visitors.
 - The NPS requires safe, accessible, and functional space for employees, with fiber optic networks, phone service, and basic office machinery for operations to begin.
 - The NPS seeks space for exhibits, classrooms, and special programs.
 - The NPS desires a location that offers a rich visitor experience, and partnerships that could expand over time as visitation and staffing grow.

- Solicit input from the community regarding future property acquisitions and partnerships.
- Use funding in the first years for preparation work, site condition assessments, land surveys, deeds, and similar work. Add staff as needs are clarified, space becomes available, and funding allows.
- Develop and offer technical assistance, interpretive and educational programs as capacity allows over time.

NPS Key Points of Contact

- Tim Good, Superintendent of Lincoln Home National Historic Site and Interim Superintendent of Ste. Genevieve NHP. tgood@nps.gov, 217-391-3222
- Tokey Boswell, Chief of Planning and Compliance for the Midwest Region. tokey_boswell@nps.gov, 402-661-1534



Bequette-Ribault House