



NOMINEE

FIRST STATE CAPITOL BUILDING



200-216 South Main

With respect, the Historic Landmark Preservation and Architectural Review Board is pleased to nominate Mr. Henry Elmendorf for his contribution to historic preservation as a member of the First State Capitol Restoration Commission, the group responsible for leadership and organization in the successful historic preservation of the Missouri First State Capitol properties. Mr. Elmendorf served with local leaders, Dr. Clevenger, Chairman, Fred Baue and Lee White along with Dr. Richard Brownlee, Director of the Missouri Historical Society and five state representatives and five state senators. Their group, under Governors Blair and Hearnes, lead the effort to secure funding, acquire properties and complete the restoration of the Missouri First Capitol Building in St. Charles. The property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and represented a pivotal turning point in Main Street's preservation and restoration.

Recorded interest in the buildings dates to August 14, 1921, when as part of a centennial celebration, the buildings were recognized with a ceremony and plaque, but efforts to keep the restoration interest alive were hampered by a lack of money to support the project.

In 1959, however, the first of the three original Capitol buildings were purchased under Governor Blair for the State for \$39,000. With additional appropriations totaling \$355,732 and funds raised locally totaling \$205,000, the acquisition of most of the 100 South block site and the restoration of these significant buildings originally used by legislators was able to be completed in 1970. This property continues to be owned by the State of Missouri and is managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Elmendorf is the surviving member of the First State Capitol Restoration Commission and writing in the "Historical Program Book" the author stated: "Their interest and hard work have paid off. We are fortunate in another respect, too: that Henry Elmendorf thinks 'impossible' means the same as 'possible' because he doesn't know the meaning of 'no'."

To all local leaders who contributed research, money and other support and to the state legislators and officials who were part of this significant contribution to historic preservation in our community, we offer our continuing appreciation, respect and recognition as we further recognize the State of Missouri for the preservation of Missouri's First State Capitol Buildings in St. Charles.

**Source data taken from "Historical Program Book"
St. Charles, Missouri Bicentennial 1769-1969.*