

ST. CHARLES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Society was formed in 1956 “to foster the idea of preserving the uniqueness that truly is St. Charles”. From a humble beginning of 15 folks gathered, their next meeting included 234 people who banded together for an official organization. In 1962, the Society purchased 515 South Main, known as Eckert’s Tavern, and began a restoration project to house the collection of documents already being assembled. The Society set an example in rehabilitation, began collecting and archiving documents and photos, and generated interest in preservation of the Main Street buildings which had been the beginning of life and commerce in St. Charles.



515 South Main

St. Charles County Historical Society, realizing the importance of the Main Street buildings to the history of Missouri, began the process of research and documentation to nominate the South Main area from Boone’s Lick Road north to Madison, including the Missouri First Capitol site, to the National Register of Historic Places. The district was recognized and placed on the National Register in 1970 as the first area in the State of Missouri with so many buildings of historical and architectural importance to our nation’s history that it should be recognized as a district.



625 South Main

101 South Main

The Society continued to grow, influencing public policy, participating in the fund raising for the purchase of the First Capitol site properties, and expanding its own restoration efforts to include the purchase and restoration of the Newbill McElhiney House and Collier’s Cottage at 625 South Main and the Martin Becker House on First Capitol Drive. These properties are now each in private ownership with their continued restoration and maintenance having been influenced by the Historical Society.



Today, over 50 years later, the St. Charles County Historical Society museum is now housed in the ‘old City Hall’ and Market Place building at 101 South Main. It’s collection of documents and over 10,000 historical photographs are available for research at the museum and on-line. The Society’s collection is recognized as the first and primary source for anyone who wishes to authenticate a property’s history, begin an accurate restoration project, research a family history or simply learn more about St. Charles City and County and its importance in our state and nation’s history.

The St. Charles County Historical Society is nominated for recognition by the Historical Landmarks Preservation and Architectural Review Board with appreciation and respect for its continued outstanding contribution to Historic Preservation and for recognition of its pioneering and signature project, the restoration of Eckert’s Tavern, 515 South Main Street.