



# The Soulard Renaissance

"The Neighborhood Magazine of Historic Soulard"

Volume XIV Issue IV

Soulard Fall House Tour 1989

## Soulard House Tour Showcases Homes and Neighborhood

by Connie Becker

The Soulard Restoration Group is hosting its 14th Annual Soulard House Tour on September 23 & 24, 1989. The tour features more than a dozen homes and apartments that are sure to thrill anyone who enjoys well-decorated homes or is interested in city living.

The house tour begins at the Jesus United Church of Christ at 12th & Victor Sts. From there guests will be able to stroll along the self-guided tour route and relax as a trolley tours the neighborhood with periodic stops along the route.

As visitors travel along the streets of historic Soulard they will see the late 1800's building styles that make Soulard unique and fascinating. Once inside, they will be treated to ultra-modern, stately and classical to utilitarian and efficient. "People will see many inspiring decorating ideas that are affordable and easy to do themselves," said Cyndi Tompkins, house tour co-chairman.

One unique feature on this year's tour that will excite any art lover is the Felling Pottery Gallery located on 12th St. Cathy Felling uses the gallery, which is in the front parlour of her restored Victorian home, to display and sell her beautiful one-of-a-kind stoneware and porcelain creations. A studio, where she makes the pieces is also on the property.

Although the century old house was "livable, but not very nice" when they initially moved in, the Fellings feel it was well worth the work in restoring it. "We knew we could find a house in Soulard that we could rehab for a lot less than a house costs in the suburbs," Cathy said. Of

the Soulard area, Felling said, "We love the architecture and convenience of living downtown."

The home of Ron and Judy Lentz is an example of a mix of old fashioned and modern styles. The Lentzes have been Soulard residents since July. "It's certainly got character," said Judy Lentz of the Soulard area. One reason she was attracted to the Soulard area was, "It really give you a fair amount of privacy without complete isolation and has a strong middle to upper class flavor."

Lentz feels that although her furniture is contemporary, the look goes well in her 140 year old restored home. This tour stop shows visitors that you can create a stunning effect by mixing modern and old fashioned motifs.

For those interested in do-it-yourself restoration, the home of Tim and Cindy Martin offers a chance to see what seven years of "time, money and gumption" can accomplish. "It was pretty rough!" said Tim Martin about the living area when he first bought the house. The 1987 house boasts three full stories; the first floor was converted into a rental apartment.

The Martin's have also found Soulard to be an exciting place to live. "We really enjoy living close to the city," said Martin. "There's always something going on. It's a lot more exciting than the country ever was. And people really care about the area."

Bob and Linda Styte live in a rehabbed carriage house that once only held horses. But now it suits them perfectly. "It's historic and roomy," said Linda Styte of the multi-

level home. "I really like the way the whole thing flows together. It's nice and light and has a nice backyard. We like that it's accessible to everything we do," she said.

"We think people will be impressed by the diversity of styles and tastes throughout Soulard," said Tompkins. "The homes cover such a wide variety that people will realize there's something here for everyone."

The tour is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. One of the houses will serve as an information center where developers, realtors and rental agencies will offer housing information for those considering living in Soulard.

"We think people will find that the city, especially Soulard, offers affordable housing in a fashionable surrounding. That's why Soulard attracts so many different people— young professionals, families and older people. This area has a real neighborhood feel with the convenience of being near all the cultural and entertainment attractions that the city has to offer," said Richard Hansen, house tour co-chairman.

Tour tickets are \$6.00 in advance from Ticketmaster, at the Eugene Field House and Toy Museum, or from the Soulard Restoration Group,



771-5563. Tickets are \$7.50 at Jesus United Church of Christ on the days of the tour. Groups of twenty or more can purchase tickets in advance for \$5.00 each from the SRG. Tickets from Ticketmaster will have a nominal service fee added. **HAVE A GREAT TOUR.**

## The "Come Home to Soulard" Walking Tour Guide

Begins on Page 4



## NOTES FROM THE BRICK HOUSE

As I mentioned in my last "Notes from the Brick House," September is fall house tour month for the Souard Restoration Group. No other single SRG activity involves as much volunteer time as this tour. And the result of the many hours of labor is always the most enjoyable house tour that is sponsored in the St. Louis metropolitan area. This year's tour promises to be the best ever.

People who have attended in the past always tell us that Souard tours are best because they are able to learn lots of information about the homes on tour and the neighborhood. Souard tours are not only about beautiful houses (although lots of beautiful homes are on tour). Our tours are about history, the unique and enjoyable style of urban living in St. Louis' oldest surviving residential neighborhood, and urban restoration. And they're about the great people — single, couples, and families — who live here. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

There are many people who should be thanked for their efforts for this year's tour. Foremost are Souard residents who are opening their homes. In addition, much thanks must be given to the Residential Promotion Committee and Renaissance Committee and all the volunteers. Lastly, a great debt is owed Anheuser-Busch for its annual sponsorship of our house tours. Through this sponsorship, A-B is responsible for many improvements that have been made in Souard.

House tours are important to the SRG for many reasons. They allow us to promote our neighborhood to potential new residents. The tours also provide funds for vitally important neighborhood projects. As an example, the SRG has committed \$21,000 to plant trees in the Souard neighborhood. And every tree we purchase is matched with a second tree provided by the City of St. Louis.

On another subject, attendance at our monthly membership meetings continues to grow, as does the level of involvement in SRG activities. But there's always room for more at our meetings, and there's always lots of projects in need of volunteer help. SRG activity is a great way to have a lot of fun, meet your neighbors, and improve your neighborhood. I look forward to seeing even more new faces at our next meeting.

## SRG Fund Raising Committee Report

by Pete Grace

1) As mentioned in the summer issue of the Renaissance, the SRG was awarded a \$2000 grant from CITICORP in the spring for the purchase of permanent metal identification markers. These attractive aluminum signs (final graphic/color scheme yet to be determined) will be installed on existing light standards at 47 locations throughout Souard. Primary locations are around the perimeter of the neighborhood.

The signs measure 24 inches wide by 36 inches long. The signs will be hung from an aluminum tube extrusion bracket and aluminum hardware for a totally rust-proof unit.

We hope to have the signs in place for the Christmas "Home for the Holidays" tour.

2) The SRG has submitted an application to Southwestern Bell for a portion of the \$80,000 Neighborhood Growth Grant monies that SW Bell is funding. Our proposal is a joint effort between the SRG and the SBA (Souard Business Association). The proposal asks for funding to cover a feasibility study of the area north of Russell and west of 7th St. for the purpose of developing a "Commercial and Parking Masterplan" to attract new businesses.

Southwestern Bell will fund a minimum of two proposals (maximum of \$40,000 each) and the majority of the 125 city neighborhoods have applied. We should know whether the SRG was a finalist by September 20.

3) TRASH CANS!!! Last spring, the SRG in conjunction with funding from

the STEP-UP! St. Louis organization (a project of the St. Louis Ambassadors), authorized the purchase of 15 trash containers from the Operation Brightside campaign. Finally we are able to report that the trash cans are on the way! In fact, we are hopeful that these containers will be in place by the Fall House Tour week-end.

4) Permanent SRG Office. It is the ultimate goal of the group to obtain our own SRG Office Facility. A place where interested home and business buyers, renters, tourists, historians and the many other people interested in Souard can drop by and pick up information pertinent to the neighborhood.

The SRG is currently considering the property at the intersection of 12th and Gravois. The property is now being utilized as a used car lot. A selling price has been set by the owner and the SRG is pursuing purchase of that property.

5) Perhaps the most challenging goal of all is to find funding for an Executive Director. A full-time position for someone capable of coordinating the many activities and interests of our diverse neighborhood. We have sent funding requests to many corporations with Souard roots.

Volunteer "burnout" is all too common in an organization such as ours. The "few" do a majority of the work ... coordinate projects ... offer opinions ... answer the call.

PLEASE, Get Involved... Give Us Your Opinion... **JOIN THE SRG!**

## SPECIAL EVENTS SUMMARY REPORT

"We do more than just house tours!"

This year the SRG's Special Events/Membership Committee has been very busy. In February, our first special event was the entering of a float in the annual Mardi Gras Parade. Our New Orleans-style procession included an antique, horse drawn hearse complete with the deceased widow, minister, maid and many mourners. We also won third prize in the float competition. The weather was brutal but the Mardi Gras celebration was a success. Of course the parade was preceded Friday night by the formal/costumed Mardi Gras Ball...live music, great food, nice people...loads of fun!

In April a group of 30 SRG members and guests attended a Cardinal Baseball Game. First we went to Mike & Min's for a great meal. Then after the game we went to the Broadway Oyster Bar. Everyone had a good time despite the fact it was Monday.

In May there was the first annual "Soul of the City Bicycle Tour" The bike tour was designed for Sunday bikers, as it was a relatively leisurely tour of St. Louis' south side.

The bikers visited such landmarks as Tower Grove Park, the Missouri Botanical Garden, South Broadway, the Bevo Mill, the Anheuser-Busch Brewery and Bellerive Park overlooking the Mississippi River.

We'd especially like to thank Tom Schlaker and Sylvester Washington of 9th & Russell Restaurant for opening early to provide Sunday brunch to the hungry bikers.

On July 4th the SRG played against Lafayette Square in the annual softball match-up. Unfortunately, we lost for the second year in a row and will have to buy the beverages again for next year's match-up. We did win the second game though it didn't count...and of course fun was had by all there.

Our first annual SRG Picnic was held on August 27th. We had plenty of burgers, brats, hot dogs and sody pops provided by the SRG and cooked by brave volunteers who withstood the heat from the pit. The members brought plenty of delicious side dishes, not to mention a ton of desserts. Activities included three legged races, peanut on a spoon relays, water balloon and egg tossing. The little ones had fun prospecting for coins in the sand pile and playing with Hula Hoops as well as participating in relays. Plans are definitely on the board for a 2nd SRG Picnic.

In October we are planning a road rally/scavenger hunt in the neighborhood and in November possibly a Oldies Nite at Casa Loma.

We have received 30 New applications for SRG Membership this fiscal year. If you live in Souard and want to meet some nice, fun loving people, come to our next meeting! We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the auditorium of the Trinity Lutheran Church at 8th & Souard St.

We would love to have you attend!!!

by Jan Grace and Hilda Besand



Trinity Lutheran Church is this year celebrating 150 years of Christian ministry.

Trinity provides many opportunities for worship, education and service. You are invited to attend worship services on Sundays at 10:15 and on Saturdays at 5:00. You may also want to participate in our programs for persons with special needs, a social ministry for which Trinity has become well-known.

Trinity School, grades K-8, accepts students without regard to race, color, or religious denomination. Call 621-0228.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1805 South Eighth Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63104, 231-4092

## SPECIAL OFFER to Soulard Residents

Marge Cooper, who is known around the neighborhood for her wallpaper hanging skills has announced to me that she is going out of business. For a limited time only (two weeks), Marge is offering to sell her wallpaper inventory to neighborhood residents as a token of her appreciation. She has about 15,000 rolls to liquidate with many popular styles and designs to choose from. These wallpaper rolls are in excellent condition and range in price (retail) from \$9.00 to \$30.00 per roll. She is offering them to you do-it-yourselfers for a mere 25 cents to \$5.00 per roll. So you better hurry and call for your evening appointment with Marge Cooper at 772-9765 for this very generous offer. In two weeks they go up for auction and will no doubt be purchased complete by a similar business.

**Good luck Marge!**

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## Soulard Renaissance Reader Poll

In the 15 years that the newsletter has been published, neighborhood demographics have changed substantially. In an effort to further understand our readership, the Soulard Renaissance is conducting this poll. We would greatly appreciate if you would take a minute of your time and fill out the questionnaire and send it back to us. This will help us to learn more about Soulard and the people who read about through our newsletter. Our poll is completely anonymous...

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Salary: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own your home or rent? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been reading the Renaissance/Restorationist? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you subscribe to our newsletter if it was available? \_\_\_\_\_

What types of articles are you interested in reading? \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

That's it! Thank you for your time in answering our questions. Please send your completed questionnaires to:

**Soulard Renaissance Poll, 2218 South 12th. St., St. Louis, MO 63104-4131**

We will print the results in our Christmas Parlor Tour Issue. Thanks!

# "COME HOME TO SOULARD"

YOUR SOULARD HOUSE TOUR GUIDE  
FOR THE WALKING TOUR ROUTE — 1989

Why are people coming home to Soulard? Why is Soulard a great place to make your home? There are probably as many different answers to these questions as there are people living in the neighborhood.

Perhaps some come home to Soulard because they are intrigued by its past. Its rich history starts with the historic farmers market.

Beginning in the 1770's, farmers brought produce to the city by wagon and the market endured and prospered. By 1830, the growing city expanded to the market area and housing in the area began to attract newly arrived immigrants.

Another reason for coming home to Soulard is the homes built by and for these immigrants. They built sturdy, substantial

homes based on designs the remembered from their former homes in Europe. These homes were built to last, and indeed they have.

Perhaps the best reason for coming home to Soulard is the people who live here. Soulard has always had the welcome mat out.

First it welcomed the European immigrants, and today it welcomes the "new immigrants" from all over the St. Louis area as well as the United States.

A neighborhood is not just a collection of buildings. It is also the people and their shared history, hopes and dreams.

Perhaps you'll discover, after meeting some of the residents today, what is so appealing about **Coming Home to Soulard**.

## A JESUS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST "TOUR HEADQUARTERS"



The well-maintained church edifice at the corner of 12th and Victor Streets, featured on a number of Soulard House Tours, is Jesus United Church of Christ. The European-influenced structure, with its Gothic tracery, was built in 1895, and has undergone extensive restoration in recent years.

The art-glass windows are of Victorian design and each window in the sanctuary bears a message in the small circle at the top. Don't miss the blue-rose window in the front facade; it is backlit at night, showing its true beauty.

The small congregation of Jesus Church has the proud tradition of having been debt-free since 1910; currently, the congregation is gearing up to celebrate its 95th anniversary. The success of the church through the years of changes in Soulard can be attributed to the warm enthusiasm of its members, something you will experience as soon as you enter. You are invited to enjoy some of the refreshments available in the Fellowship Hall.

## B "A BUSINESS AND A HOME"



When native St. Louisans, Cathy and Jim, moved back to Soulard, they were attracted to this beautiful Victorian home for several reasons. First, it was a perfect setting for their treasured family heirlooms. Kathy had a vision beyond the dramatic 1920's wallpaper that hung throughout the lower level (you can still see some remains inside one of the large built-in wardrobes in the hallway). The home was also plenty large to raise two young boys, Matthew and Tom. But the real deciding factor was the outside garage that could be converted into Kathy's private pottery studio.

This building serves as both a home and a business, Felling Pottery. Cathy, a former art student at Washington University uses the front, "formal parlor" of their home as a studio to sell her one-of-a-kind pieces of stoneware and porcelain. The garage has been converted into her private studio, complete with a large gas kiln. The hours of operation for browsing or picking up some unique gifts are: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, noon to 5.

Notice the original antique lincrusta (an antique pressed linoleum product) on the walls of the hallway. This decoration was very popular during the 1920's. When you walk in the door, you can sense the Victorian ambiance of this magnificent home. But it's easy to appreciate the hand-crafted pottery, beautiful antiques and personal touches that really make this home livable. Kathy said it herself, "We wanted to live in a home, not a museum."

C

## "WHERE PAST MEETS PRESENT"



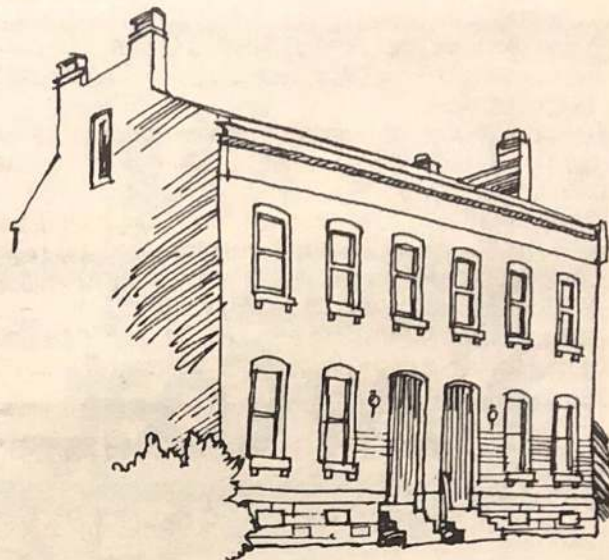
Cynthia's home illustrates that you don't have to be a rehabber yourself to find a unique style home in Soulard. Her quaint, 3-story townhome was completely renovated when she moved in last November. Still Cynthia could appreciate the work that the rehabbers did in her home, like keeping the home open throughout the stairway and saving much of the original pine woodwork that you'll see in her living room area.

When Cynthia's home was originally built, the luxury of air conditioning was a far-away dream, so notice the "summer kitchen" building that is in the backyard. The original purpose of this building was to prepare most of the summer meals — to avoid heating up the house on those hot, humid St. Louis evenings. But today, it serves as some extra storage space for Cynthia.

Make certain you notice the historical genealogy documents that are displayed throughout Cynthia's home. These original documents, all in German, were recently found in some of her family's belongings and they make a nice addition to the contemporary design of this townhouse. This touch is almost symbolic of the Soulard neighborhood itself — a place where past and present meet and blend together beautifully.

D

## "THE TRADITION CONTINUES"



Soulard is a community rich with tradition. Few could better represent the history of this neighborhood, than Dick and Kathy.

This home has been occupied by four generations of this family, including Dick's grandfather and father who both raised children here. Now the legacy continues, as Dick and his wife are bringing up the last of their six children in this home.

The pride of this family's home is apparent from the moment you walk in the door. The dramatic gallery above the living room is a hopeful resting space to future family portraits. Notice the beautifully framed antique baby coat in the living room; it once belonged to Kathy's father, and like this home, it has been passed down through the years.

Dick, although wanting to maintain a homey atmosphere while rehabbing, also wanted to bring in a bit of contemporary flair. You'll notice this most in the very livable kitchen, bar and family room area, in the exquisite master bath with whirlpool and in the unexpected pool/jacuzzi — just outside the back door. You can truly sense that this home means something special to its owners. Dick commented, "Fourteen years ago we moved to the country, but it feels good to move back home."

TOUR CONTINUES PG. 6

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## E "AN APARTMENT DWELLER'S DELIGHT"



When Dana and Scott moved to St. Louis from Oregon, they found an apartment in Soulard that met all of their needs. This rehabbed apartment is part of a turn-of-the-century six family building — with each of the six apartments unique. Dana and Scott were attracted to the airy, light, bright open spaces in their unit, as well as the basement kitchen, which maintains the perfect temperature for storing cases of wine — a hobby as well as part of Dana's career.

The couple is particularly proud of their pinball machine, brought here from Oregon and displayed in what they fondly refer to as their "game room." The wood trim and marble fireplace mantel provide a Victorian touch which juxtaposes nicely with the contemporary layout of the apartment.

Felling



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## F "INFORMATION CENTER"



Built in 1886, by a Soulard contractor, this Second-Empire townhouse was rehabbed in 1988 by a Soulard contractor to Doug and Cindy's specifications. The refinished pine floors and walnut staircase are original to the house. Almost everything else is of more recent vintage: the French antique glass of the front windows, the beautifully-carved fireplace mantels, and beveled glass door, for instance. The Greek-revival back porches and accompanying French doors provide ample light for Doug and Cindy's large, comfortable eat-in kitchen, where they spend much of their time. Their backyard, still in progress, will include a brick patio, walk and a fishpond.

Today Doug and Cindy's home serves as the Soulard Fall House Tour Center and herein lies a plethora of information regarding the Soulard neighborhood. For-sale housing lists, brochures describing neighborhood businesses and services and real estate agents with their information will be on hand to help the potential Soulardian realize this ambition. Neighborhood residents will be available to answer your questions and to ensure your tour is safe, entertaining, educational and pleasant.

## G "WOW"



Who would guess that behind this First Empire facade soars spectacular spaces? Jeff and Cyndi moved to St. Louis from Cincinnati looking for that special spacious home. Instead they found a dilapidated, vacant shell with half a roof and lots of possibilities. The architect designed a space to meet their needs and the rehabbed results speak for themselves.

The contemporary interior provides "incredible living space" and is the perfect backdrop for Cyndi and Jeff's furniture and art. Entertaining either large groups of intimate friends is a snap, especially with a kitchen that's perfect for simultaneous cooking and socializing. The cozy third floor family is Jeff's favorite area and don't skip the panoramic view of the Downtown skyline from the rooftop deck. That alone makes the climb worthwhile! The backyard is in the throes of construction, but soon will offer yet more entertaining possibilities.

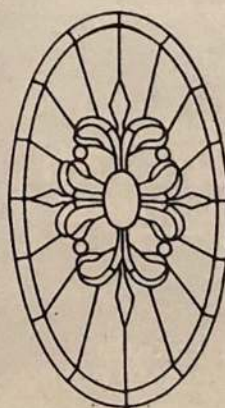
TOUR CONTINUES PG. 8



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In Historic Souldard

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# H

## "VICTORIAN MEETS MODERN"



This Victorian townhouse was originally built as a single family in 1885, however, much of its life was spent as a three family flat. During that time the Verderber family resided here for over 60 years! The house, at age 100, was renovated for CC and Doug to their specifications in 1985. Both traditional and modern tastes are well represented here today.

CC calls their furnishings "eclectic things we've accumulated from four states and three foreign countries." Despite these widely scattered origins, you'll agree that it's all "nicely coordinated", as Doug says. A prize possession is the dining room table: John C. Calhoun once sat at this walnut table from CC's great-great uncle.

Don't miss the smashing black and peach master bathroom. It along with the adjacent 2-story family room gives this mostly Victorian interior an exciting contemporary flair. Doug and CC's home is proof that traditional and contemporary decors can live in pleasant harmony together.

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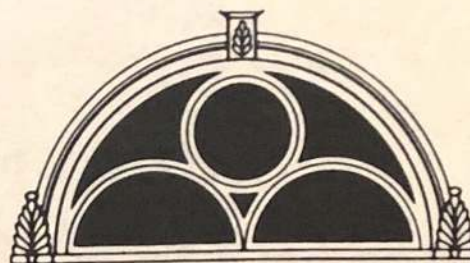
## I "ECLECTIC ELEGANCE"



This building was built in the 1880's as a Victorian Rowhouse and was beautifully rehabbed in 1988, just in time to save it from ruin. Steve and Claude have really enhanced the excellent renovation work of BSB Development.

Neither Steve nor Claude are home-grown St. Louisans--both were transferred to Edison Brothers headquarters. Still, they haven't had too much trouble adjusting to the city, as they have made an "art" out of discovering many of the city's hidden treasures. Their hobbies include finding shops with old pieces of would-be junk and making them into masterpieces. Be sure to look at their dining room table base; it's old pieces of concrete! Other eclectic decorations include "image posters" that you may have seen around Edison Brothers stores, specifically Oaktree. Although a mish-mash of Roman, Greek and homemade artifacts, it all blends together beautifully in eclectic elegance.

TOUR CONTINUES PG. 10



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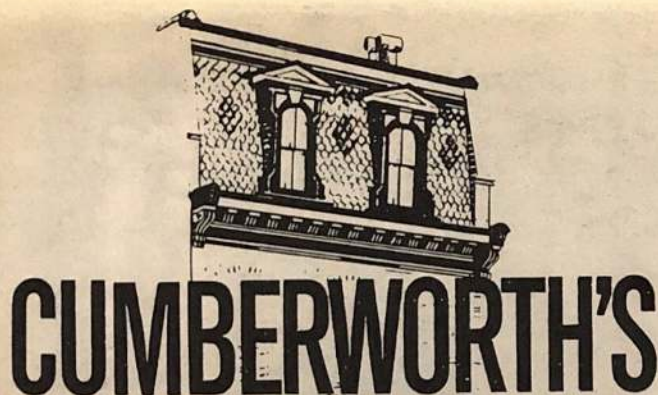
# J

## "A HIDDEN TREASURE"



One of Soulard's many surprises is that inside the most simple exterior, you can discover a showcase home. This breathtaking apartment is a perfect example. To look at the outside of this Mansard-style, four-family unit, you would never imagine the dramatic loft-space inside. Although this building was one of the pioneer efforts in the Soulard restoration movement, the space has a timeless style that looks just as good today.

Jeanne and Steve, already Soulard residents couldn't pass up on the opportunity to move in to John Pertzborne's former abode. Jeanne sensed that her homemade lamps and Steve's artwork would blend harmoniously with the decorative art glass and exposed brick walls. Steve, a local freelance artist, took time away from developing a Soulard Artist Alliance to use his artistic eye to convert the otherwise unused furnace room space into Jeanne's own private dressing/makeup room. "It's perfect!" Jeanne says. She adds, "We love Soulard — the people are friendly; the neighborhood's safe; there's a real sense of community; and besides, we didn't want a cookie-cutter apartment — we wanted something unique." You'll have to agree, they found it.



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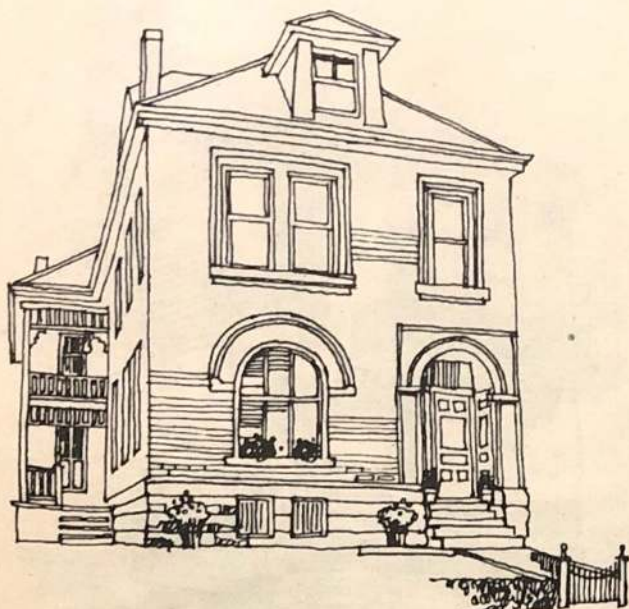
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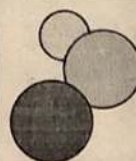
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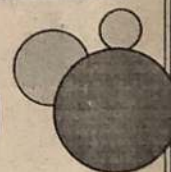
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Outside, two secluded, country-quiet decks provide an oasis from busy days and have led Ron and Judy to declare, "We're not tempted to go back to the suburbs!" Copious space, a woody, charming interior and quiet evenings deck-side make this home ideal for the couple who plan to call Soulard home for years to come.

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Bob and Linda are not strangers to living in old barns; they resided in a similar type structure in Pennsylvania. They found this space perfect for their furnishings, such as their sectional couch in the living room. There aren't too many apartments large enough to hold such a large piece of furniture. The lower room serves as a private and spacious bedroom for the couple; the upper, loft-like room has become a library and sitting room. Note the custom Art Deco tulip-style dining room light fixture installed by Bob and Linda — it was carefully transported from Pennsylvania and has found a beautiful home over their dining room table. The beautiful patio and flower garden were also created by Bob and Linda, self-described "outdoor people." This unique home shows the imaginative re-use of unusual space, a hallmark of the rebirth of Soulard.

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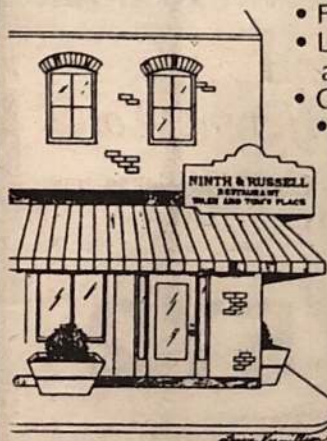
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**Howard and Brooke Perry**  
"Riding our bikes with  
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neighborhood and  
to other neighborhoods."



**Aaron Ludwig**  
"I like going to the  
best school in the city,  
Trinity Lutheran School  
at 8th and Soulard."



**Jamie Maxdra**  
"I like all the  
friendly people  
around Soulard."



**Maggie, Alex and Anne  
Maksimovich**  
"Going to Preschool,  
Little League, Notre  
Dame School, helping  
Dad work on our new  
fence."

## The Sixth Annual Fire Engine Rally Scheduled for Oct. 8

The History Museum in St. Louis sounds the alarm for the sixth annual fire engine rally on Sunday, October 8th, 1989. The Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park will be the destination for a parade, which begins at 9AM, of hand pumpers, hose carts, steamers, chemical trucks and motorized firefighting apparatus of all years, makes and models.

Fire departments and private owners of vintage rigs will participate in the day-long activities, which will be the culmination of Firehouse Magazine's Annual meeting and muster in St. Louis. This special day also marks the opening of Fire Prevention Week.

The Fire Engine Rally is organized by the Missouri Historical Society, which operates the History Museum; the Gateway Fire Historical Society, the local chapter of SPAAMFAA (Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America); and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The annual event began in 1984 in conjunction with the History Museum's exhibition on volunteer firefighting in mid-19th century St. Louis and has grown to one of the largest musters in the United States.

This year participating fire depart-



ments will be encouraged to set up displays and demonstrations that show fire safety. Teams of firefighters will again compete in contests of skill, such as the bucket brigade. Dash plaques and prizes will be awarded in a larger number of areas. No entry fee is charged.

Fire engine owners and fire departments from the St. Louis region and surrounding states may obtain information by writing or calling Suzanne C. Jones at the History Museum, Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO 63112 or (314) 361-1424.

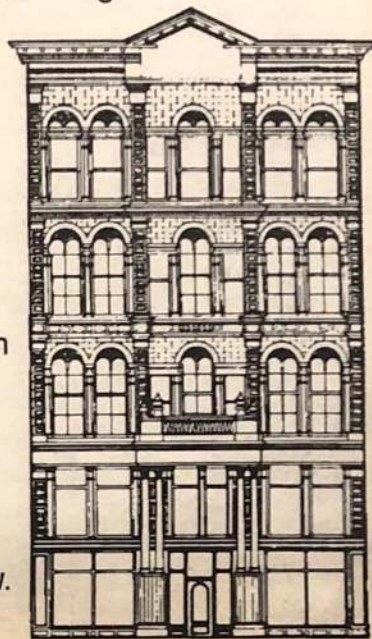
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# David Hyslop, Executive Director, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

by Jeanne C. Weber

A native of New York state who has served as Assistant General Manager in Oregon, David Hyslop is currently in his twelfth year as the Executive Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He was awarded one of two Martha Baird Rockefeller Foundation Grants from the American Symphony Orchestra in 1966, after receiving a music degree at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. We met at his Soulard home and discussed his position as Executive Director, the St. Louis Symphony and Soulard.

**Soulard Renaissance:** What are some of the responsibilities of your position as Executive Director?

**David Hyslop:** I am the Chief Manager and Leonard Slatkin is the Music Director. I take care of the day to day operations. We have a staff of sixty to sixty-five that handles, among other things, the orchestra, youth orchestra, chorus, and the hall. We also run our own box office. The staff reports to me and I in turn report to Board of Directors. It is a very big operation.

**SR:** Eleven years seems like a long tenure for an executive director of the Symphony. Is that unusual?

**DH:** Eleven years is a long time, but St. Louis has a history of keeping people. My predecessor was here for twelve years, and his predecessor for twenty-four years. In forty-eight years the Symphony has had only three executive directors. That is unusual!

**SR:** What can you do beyond this position that would be "better" than what you are doing here?

**DH:** In my case, there would only be a few that would be "better" and there would be a few lateral moves, but that's about it. It's gone so well musically here.

**SR:** Would a larger city and larger orchestra have more to offer someone in your position?

**DH:** That depends. The relationship here with Leonard (Slatkin) is so good. Another market might be bigger, but that doesn't make it better by any means. Let's take the New York Philharmonic for example. They can become somewhat jaded by doing the same thing all the time. I'm from that area so I can relate to it. One of the fun things about the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is that everything that we have done has been done for the first time. Going to Europe, going to Japan, winning Emmys and Grammys were all done for the first time. That keeps it fun.

**SR:** What types of things are changing in the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra now that keeps it interesting?

**DH:** The tax district is coming up, that's a big thing that's going on. Musically it's always been Leonard. Leonard is a great attraction. St. Louis is an attraction. St. Louis is easier to live in than New York or Los Angeles.

**SR:** What do you mean when you say the "tax district"?

**DH:** There is a big campaign going on now for us to go into the tax district. There will be a vote in November for us to get into the tax district and open us up to phenomenal funding. Our reputation nationally is that we've accomplished miracles, but we've done it with bailing wire and band-aids. With additional funding we could also expand the things we do educationally. I started out as a teacher.

**SR:** Besides getting into the tax district with a November vote, what are your other goals for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra?

**DH:** We're working on the endowment campaign. That's a big goal. We're doing some restructuring on the Board of Directors. We are working in partnership with Leonard to keep the music at the level we have attained. That's been the thrill, to play all around the world and get the kind of response that we do.

**SR:** How long have you lived in Soulard?

**DH:** I moved here in 1986. Our principal second violinist live two doors down from here.

**SR:** What attracted you to Soulard?

**DH:** I moved to St. Louis for the job. I had a home in University City for the first eight years that I lived in St. Louis. I moved here for a couple of reasons. The location; it is not far from Powell Symphony Hall. I use the Missouri Athletic Club a lot, and Soulard is very close to that.

**SR:** How did you choose your home?

**DH:** The layout. The house is smaller and more compact than the one in U. City. The design is very good. The open ceilings and skylites are beautiful. Sedg Mead and Ann McDonnell originally designed the house. Sedg lived here before moving to their present home in Soulard. The place is contemporary, but the attraction was also the European feel of the yard and the area. I also like it because of the brick structure. It's very easy to take care of.

**SR:** With your goals defined, do you plan to remain with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra for an undetermined length of time?

**DH:** I plan on staying at this point. I'm not sure what I'll do long term because in my field eleven years is a long time to be in one place.

**SR:** Do you also plan to stay in Soulard as long as you're with the Symphony?

**DH:** Oh yes, of course. I've enjoyed living here.

**SR:** Thank you very much for your time in answering our questions. Good luck to you and to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

## Good Luck to Soulard House Tour '89

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| 1929 South Ninth          | \$ 54,750 |
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### MULTI-FAMILY HOMES

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# BENTON PARK PROVIDES PERFECT BACKDROP FOR BED AND BREAKFAST BUSINESS

by Doug Howe

If you have passed by the corner of Lemp & Wyoming Streets in the Historic Benton Park neighborhood recently, you may have noticed that the southwest corner of this intersection is now occupied by the River Country Bed and Breakfast of Missouri and Illinois.

River Country is a member of the National Network, an association of regional Bed and Breakfast Reservation Services which provides accommodations in quality inspected homes, small inns, and guest cottages.

River Country owner, Michael "Mike", Warner moved her business to its present location from the Kirkwood area. Now in her tenth year of operation, Warner, who is a past president of the National Network, is considered a pioneer in the industry. Her business is the fourth oldest of its kind in the nation. Warner asserts that her business has evolved from one of defining what is meant by the concept of Bed and Breakfast to one of actually selling the service.

A unique aspect of the service River Country offers is that all loca-

tions listed have been carefully screened and chosen on the basis of hospitality, comfort, cleanliness and the personalities of the hosts.

River Country represents the Greater St. Louis area as well as portions of Missouri and Illinois. The Benton Park business publishes an extensive directory of locations including sketches and narratives of the homes.

Warner challenges herself to get to know her clients personally; their likes and dislikes, etc., as many of her clientele are repeat patrons. She invites interested parties to contact her directly if they are not exactly sure of what type of arrangement would best suit their specific needs. As Mike Warner explains, she makes reservations for hundreds of different situations from private homes, small inns, guest apartments, and condominiums.

If you think that the concept of a Bed and Breakfast appeals to you, give Mike and her staff a call at 965-4328. They look forward to making your reservation for a warm and personable visit.



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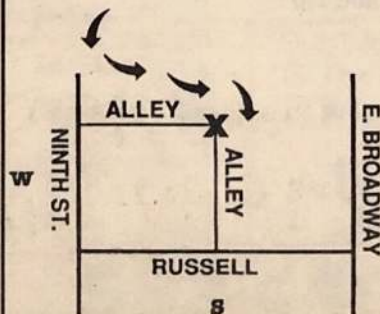
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## Neighborhood Fabric

by Jay Gable

When they were built in the 1880's, the trio of Victorian rowhouses at 2420-22-24 So. 18th St. were gracious single family homes. By the 1920's, tastes and housing needs had changed: a storefront was added, interiors were substantially altered, and the homes were divided into apartment flats. By the 1980's, the buildings were abandoned, fire and weather damaged, and almost beyond salvaging.

Enter BSB Development: Ann McDonnell's 'rehabbers eye' saw the possibilities in the wreckage. Though this was Ann's most difficult project ever, the finished product shows BSB's mixture of rehab vision, expertise and determination.

The happy result is that these 18th St. rowhouses have been returned to their original single family configurations, and that these former eyesores are now worthy of inclusion on this year's Fall House Tour, **Come Home To Souland**.



*These three shells were hardly an inviting sight. In the throes of gut rehab, the storefront was removed, new floors, roofs and dormers were built. The historic cornice, windows and door were salvaged or recreated.*



*The restored facades and rebuilt interiors attest to the quality of this renovation, and showcase the results of rehab vision, resources, and resolve. Come see for yourself on the Fall House Tour, September 22 & 23.*

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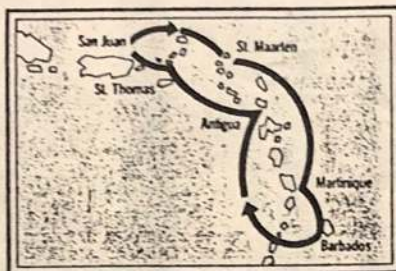
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