

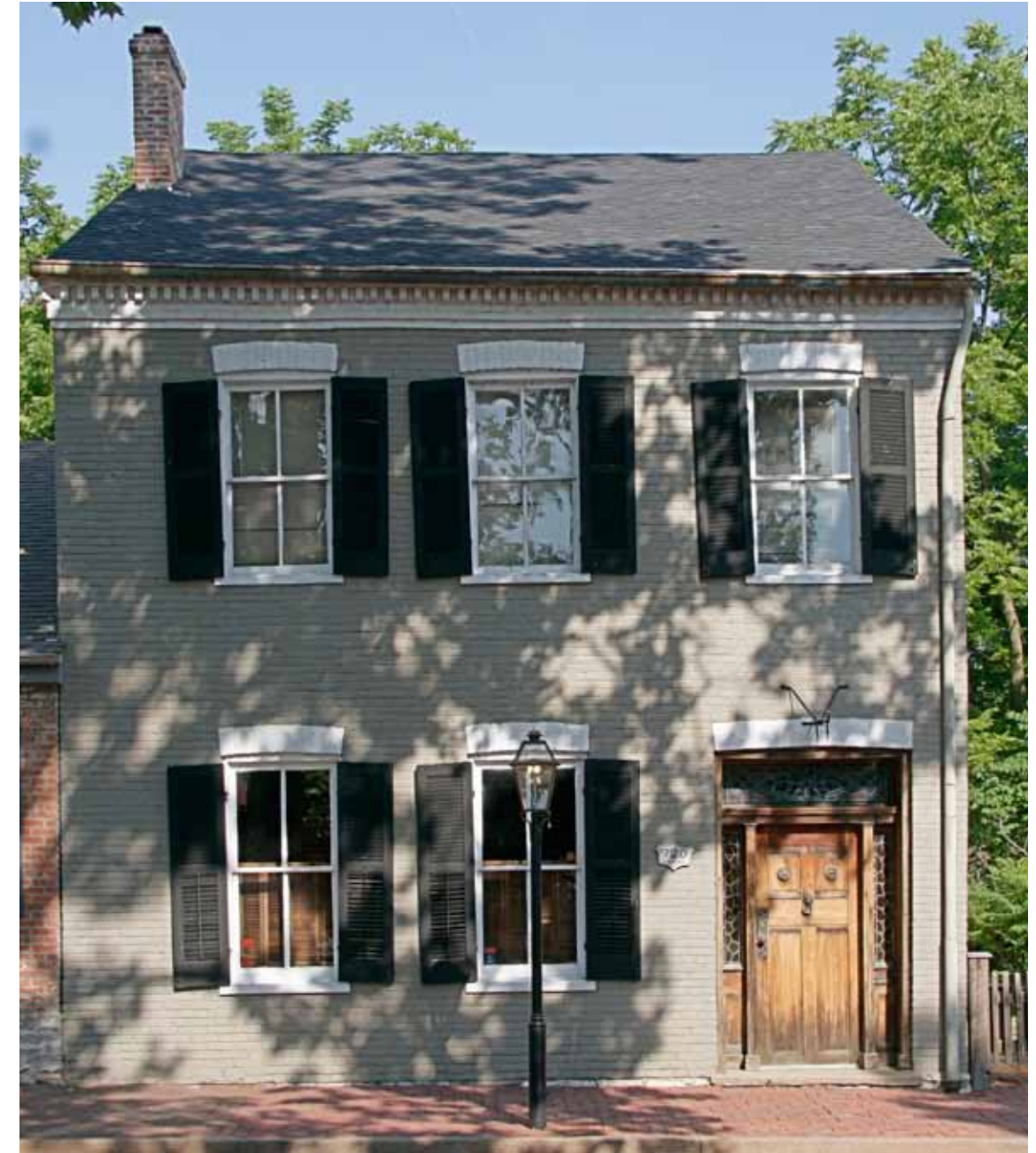
Archie Scott
Preservationist
1942 - 2007



Archie Lee Scott

Archie Scott had a singular influence on the entire St. Charles community awareness of and interest in Historic Preservation. He expressed his love for St. Charles, its influence in our nation's history and its historically important structures at every opportunity. He 'fell in love' on his first visit, quickly purchasing a home on Main Street in 1966 and began a lifetime crusade for preservation, completing three additional personal restoration projects. He mentored others and encouraged investors, believing no restoration project was unworthy or so big or difficult that it could not be done - because it should be done, it must be done. He campaigned for preservation as a local government policy and for programs that included public funding of important projects which have proved beneficial to St. Charles citizens and visitors, and are still associated with his name. His influence has been ever present as he raised a banner for preservation in St. Charles high enough that everyone could see and be encouraged to join the effort.

*Cover Photo Courtesy of Streetscape Magazine
Photographer: Michael Schlueter*



720 South Main - Original Construction 1850

This was Archie's personal residence,
purchased 1966 and restored.

Archie's Influence

- South Main Preservation Society founding member, served four terms as President
- Member Landmarks Preservation Board
- Member Special Business District Board 1977-1984, served five years as Chairman
- St. Charles County Historical Society 1969-2007
- Project Area Committee member, Redevelopment Project 1970-1979
- Board member, Visitor Information Center 1984
- Member Missouri Heritage Trust and National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Organized Main Street Christmas Yule Log Lighting Procession during Las Posadas, the beginning activity in a month of Christmas Traditions attracting thousands of local citizens and visitors to Main Street St. Charles
- Columnist-writer for St. Charles Journal “Opinion Shaper” with columns influencing preservation activities in St. Charles
- Created numerous sketches, renderings and art work reflective of early life in St. Charles
- Produced promotional presentations to attract investors in restorations: Water Street Brewery campaign to save buildings, Waterworks Building campaign to restore and market property
- Lewis and Clark Rendezvous Committee: Designed official symbol of Rendezvous 180th Anniversary Celebration of Lewis and Clark expedition -1984
- Produced “Evolution of Main Street”, aired on St. Charles City cable channel

Awards

- Distinguished Service Award, St. Charles Jaycees
- Best Restoration Award, St. Charles Jaycee Wives
- Julian Nance Award for Outstanding Restoration and Preservation of the South Main Area
- Good Citizenship Award, Mutual Trust Life Insurance Co.
- Discovery Award, South Main Preservation Society
- St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year 2000



724 South Main - Original Construction 1807

Archie purchased the McNair Home in 1972 and restored it.



912 South Main - Original Construction circa 1850

Schmidt House was purchased 1976, restored 1977.



719 South Main - Original Construction circa 1769

Purchased 1978, restored 1979. The French Duplex is considered to be St. Charles' oldest home.



ONS

Future of Katy Depot rests in city's hands



Archie Scott

opinion

ed alongside him and out jumped five men with pistols. They ordered Thornhill out of the wagon, took the mail pouch and ordered him to lie down on the floor in the back of the car. Three men in the back seat threw a blanket over him. They held revolvers to his head and told him if he moved they would kill him.

They then drove over the 115 bridge (now closed). The bandits were spotted as they briefly halted at the ticket office (still standing at Adams and North Second Street). One bandit was reported half in the machine and half on the running board as they sped away.

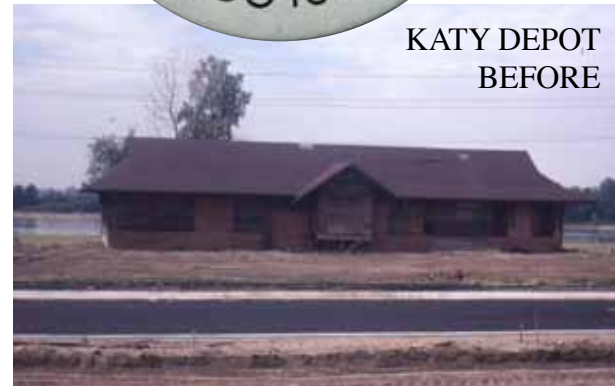
They then drove out of St. Charles on the St. Charles Rock Road and turned onto



This is how the depot looked that year at the foot of



KATY DEPOT BEFORE



- Archie was chairman of ad hoc committee for the Katy Depot, (Save the Depot Committee).
- 1976: Organized and headed campaign to acquire, relocate and restore the 'Katy' railroad station.
- Relocation and restoration funded with Community Development Block Grants, Restoration completed 1978
- Named to MKT Restored Liaison Committee for the depot interior restoration by City Parks & Recreation Department in 1978.
- Searched out and acquired original authentic furnishings.
- Chaired MKT Depot Restoration to Save the Depot in 1990 after severe structural problems, resulting from original reconstruction defects, had left the Depot in need of serious costly repair.
- Lead campaign for third restoration after structure was damaged by flood 1993.

The Katy Depot is proudly located in Frontier Park adjacent to the original 'Katy' railroad right of way and only a few hundred feet from its original location. Owned and maintained by the City of St. Charles Parks and Recreation Department.



SHINING EXAMPLES — South Main Preservation Society members (from left) JoAnne Bishop, John Dengler, Archie Scott

and Michael Heusler ready MKT furniture for refinishing classes and use in the restored station. Restoration classes begin July 12 and information about the four-wheels series may be obtained by calling 946-6899, 724-3623 or 724-7982. (South Main Preservation Society Photo)



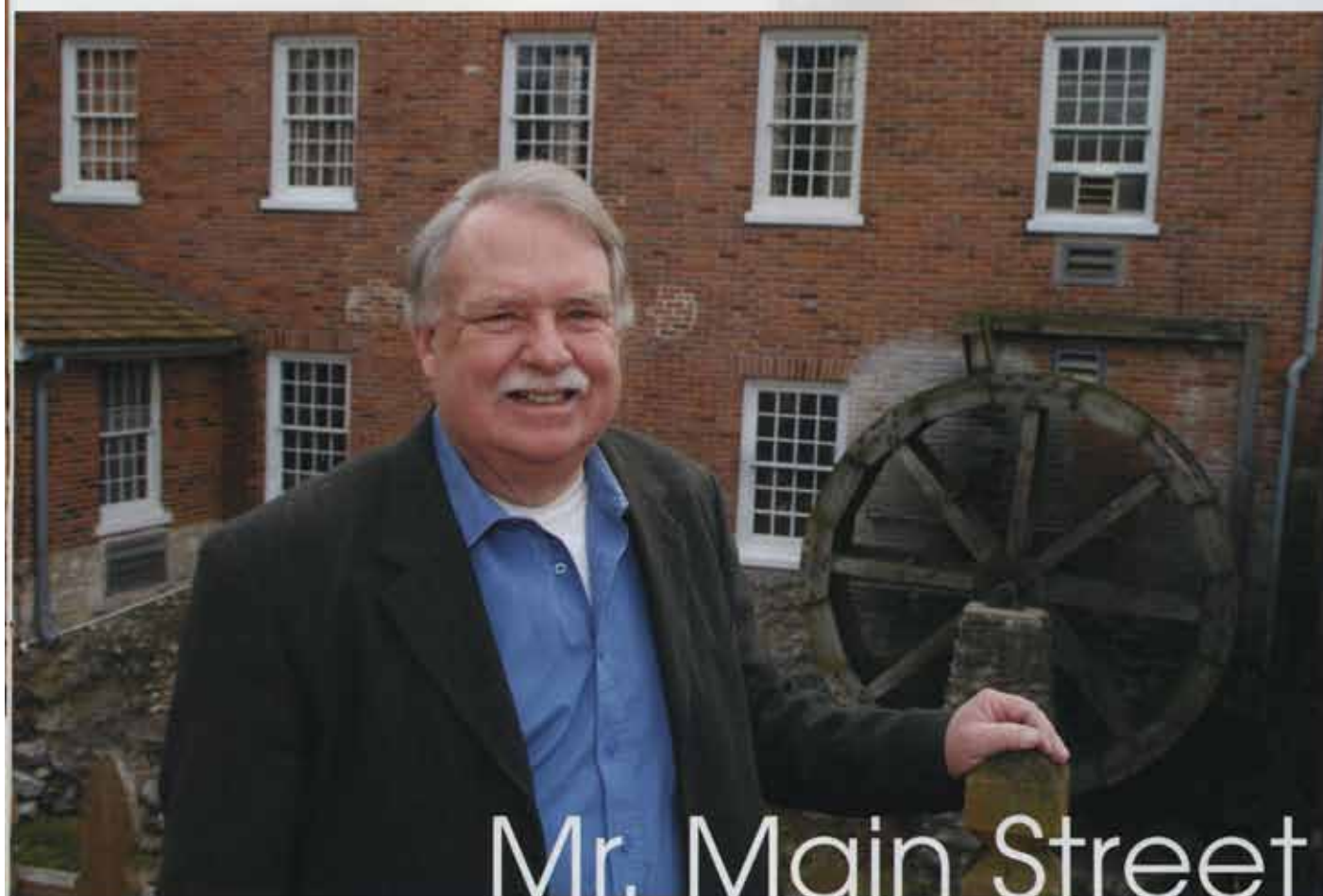
Campaign to save and restore the 'Woolen Mill' 1976. Produced film to interest investors. Restored 1980. Building was damaged in flood 1993. Second restoration with expansion 1995. This restored property is the feature image in the promotion package for Economic Development Department, City of St. Charles, 2008.



Campaigned for upgrading/expansion of gas lights along Historic Main Street, funded by City of St. Charles Capital Improvements Project, completed 2004.

Organized and campaigned for Boone's Lick Corridor improvements. Developed concept design 2000, and prepared grant applications. Project completion 2005. Funded with matching grants from East-West Gateway Coordinating Council and City of St. Charles.





Archie Scott (above) started out as an antique collector. It was during one of his "junk hunts" that he discovered the city on the West side of the Missouri river. St. Charles was a lot different then. A couple of antique dealers and dry goods stores as well as a pharmacy and several other businesses lined the sides of Main Street. But along with them were the bums, the hobos, the dilapidated buildings and a used-car lot. That was 1964.

But Scott saw something more along that street and he made it his life's work to discover what the city and his favorite street could become. It was fall when Scott stood on the brick cobblestones of rich, dark red earthen colors from another era. He was in front of the Schemmer Brothers Wagon and Blacksmith Shop at 709 South Main Street. "A huge elm tree overshadowed the German-built blacksmith shop and me," he said. "It

was in that instant that I felt I was in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, 'The Village Smithie'. I was given a glimpse of what Main Street once was and what it could become. It changed my life."

Scott said he saw a slice of an early American town, virtually untouched and at one time on the edge of civilization. "In a flash, I saw the boomtown era of the 1849 Gold Rush to California. I walked the streets and alleys. I saw a derelict railroad station still in operation. I saw the stream and waterfall next to what once must have been the town's mill, plus numerous buildings dating back to the 1800's."

Forty years later, Scott is still working on his vision. "St. Charles is 95 percent complete in restoring its original historic buildings. Eighty-five percent of it is still the original buildings," Scott said. "That is unheard of. This is Missouri's first historic district."

Scott said he remembers the Boone's Trail Inn in the 1960's prior to restoration when hippies resided there. They tore out the wood of the interior to use for firewood, he said.

Considered an early pioneer in the development of the historic district on South Main, Scott has in many ways single handedly breathed life back into one of Missouri's most historic and treasured landscapes.

Scott has literally been the conscience of an area that may have turned out very different had he not "discovered it." Known to some as Mr. Main Street, to others as "the guardian" of the historic area, Scott has led campaigns to save and restore the MKT depot and the Blanchette-Chouteau Mill. The mill would have been condemned, but Scott not only saved it, he produced a movie and marketed it throughout the Special

Article Courtesy of Streetscape Magazine, Spring 2007
Writer: Robin Seaton Jefferson
Photographer: Michael Schlueter

Business District in 1980. He personally restored the early French home at 719 South Main—considered the oldest in the historic district; the home of the brother of Missouri's first governor, David McNair, at 724 South Main; and the Mill Stream Inn building at 912 South Main. He designed the first board walk entry way and planted the first tree pits on South Main Street.

Scott helped save from demolition the former Pops General Store, the Carriage Houses behind the Farmer's Home, the California House and Boone's Lick Trail Inn.

An artist and designer, Scott graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's Art School in 1963 with a degree in commercial art. He went on to be a senior designer at Emerson Electric and later art director and set designer for KTVI-TV Channel 2 in St. Louis. He also did a stint in the U.S. National Guard during the Vietnam war and held a couple of advertising agency jobs.

When Scott moved to Main Street the landscape was quite different from today. "I was the first to do any kind of restoration," Scott said. "There were two antique shops, but mostly derelict, run-down and ramshackled buildings. It was pretty much a town untouched by the urban sprawl when I discovered it."

Scott said he had, before coming to St. Charles, "fallen in love with the French Quarter" in New Orleans, and he saw similar promise in St. Charles' mixture of German and French architecture. He was 24 years old when he bought his first building on Main Street.

At the time, a homeless man was living in a car in the back yard of Scott's home. "He caught himself on fire trying to stay warm," Scott said. The man later died at the hospital.

The house at 719 South Main wasn't much

better than the car out back. "There were extension cords running upstairs for heat and we used the oven for heat," Scott said.

Scott served for years on every board that related to the Historic District, including the Architectural Review Board (now Landmarks Preservation Board), the Visitors Center Board (now Greater St. Charles Convention and Visitors Board), the Historical Society Board and Special Business District Advisory Board where he was chairman for five years. A founding member, Scott served as president of the South Main Preservation Society for four terms.

Scott has discovered many treasures over the years including Abraham Lincoln's re-election committee letter and a great deal of memorabilia from the 1800's.

"For over 40 years, Historic Main Street has been a labor of love," Scott said. "I have somehow fit many roles as a visionary, artist, preservationist and building designer. It has been a passion, a mission, a purpose and a dedication I've been unable to describe."

Scott said when he looks back over the years of evolution from being the first resident to move into the Historic District for restoration to raising family in a "once slum area to holding fast to a belief of a completed, restored Main Street, complete with railroad station, a mill, a blacksmith shop and a fire house," he can scarcely believe it himself.

"Now over a million visitors come and experience where history comes alive," he said. "Success has brought new

pressures and challenges that are now facing the Historic District. It is imperative to guide, protect and direct this unique slice of an early American Main Street for future generations."

Scott continues his work in the historic district, mostly as an advocate and guardian of its treasures. He said if he could be remembered for anything it would be what he saved—but especially what others can continue to preserve.

"It's all about streetscape to me. This area is sacred and needs to be preserved and honored as a part of history. Unbridled development is the enemy of both our past and our future."

ROBIN SEATON JEFFERSON



Old Woolen Mill, 1851 (above) Trailhead, 2007 (below)



Designed by Archie Scott

The wheel represents our industrial growth, with St. Charles in the hub of America with its spokes spiraling outward. The riverboat symbolizes the Missouri River and the development it brought to St. Charles. The wagon symbolizes the Boone's Lick Trail and Salt River Trail that began in St. Charles, with the train representing another era of development as St. Charles had the first iron-span rail bridge that aided westward movement. The train track leading into the horizon symbolizes our future, represented by the bright sun of a new day and new generations.

*Prepared in 2008 for
Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation
by Charlotte Worthington and Holly Haddox*