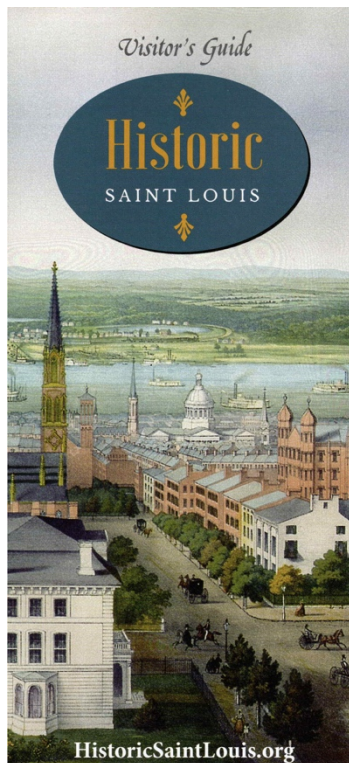




Ferguson Has a History Museum

Ferguson has a Historical Society and a History Museum. We encourage any people reading this article to join in the conversation and become a member.

The History House is the site of many interesting activities in 2025. The upcoming ones are listed at the end of the article. The most recent event was on the second Saturday in June. This open house was the result of the Ferguson Historical Society joining *Historic St. Louis* (see pamphlet at left).



Historic Saint Louis is an association of 25 St. Louis area historic sites, museums and houses that are open to the public. The participating members of *Historic Saint Louis* are dedicated to preserving the tangible evidence of the past and sharing the stories of yesteryear with guests of all ages. Some of the 25 sites include Bellefontaine Cemetery, the Campbell House, Gittemeier House (Historic Florissant), Taille de Noyer House (Florissant Valley History Society), the Daniel Boone Home along with other well-known historic homes.

With the exception of Bellefontaine Cemetery, all of the 25 listed are historical structures – Greek Revival, Federal, Italianate, French Creole, Georgian, Craftsman, German, Log Cabin and Mid-Century Modern (all structures were built between the 1790's and the 1960's). That last style is where the History House fits in. It can be hard to believe that a building built while you were alive is an historic style, but Mid-Century Modern (built in the 1950's and 1960's) is – and the History House, of the 25 buildings, is the only example of this style listed in *Historic Saint Louis*.

The History House was actually the nun's home for the Catholic Church and school, Good Shepherd, which was closed in the 2000's and purchased by the City of Ferguson for its Community Center. The nun's home, located behind the Community Center, was built in the late 1950's and certainly features most aspects of Mid-Century Modern architecture, a movement beginning in 1945 and ending around 1970. Popular in the USA, Brazil and Europe, it is

characterized by clean, simple lines and honest use of materials – it generally does not include decorative embellishments. The building is normally wide, partial brick or glass, has a low footprint with flat rooflines and tall modern



windows.

You can see all these features in the photo of the History House above. The kitchen shown right is also a feature which we have worked hard to keep and restore with the metal cabinets, The GE in-wall oven with counter-top range, an operating 1950's "fridge" and checkerboard floor.



Historic Saint Louis requests that its member homes hold two signature events a year, the *Landscapes of Summertime Past* (June) and *A Spirited Holiday Past* (December). Our most recent event was June's *Summertime Past*. We welcomed people from all over the metro area to the



History house for a chance to view the old nun's home and catch a brief history of Ferguson and of the Ferguson Historical Society. In the photo to the left, History House President, Mary Haux, welcomes the visitors and offers comments on the house. The picture below shows the beginnings of a restoration to bring one of the nun's rooms back to life. We are still

looking for authentic furniture and ultimately a 1950's nun's habit. Donations and ideas are always accepted!

As mentioned at the top of the article, we completed the summer event and are preparing for a second Summer event in July, *The History of Lucas Place*. This should give you a good idea of the many History House events.




At the *Historic Saint Louis* open house on June 14th, we decked the History House with appropriate outdoor furniture to see how Americans in the 1950 would enjoy a typical patio. A similar event will be the first Saturday in December ("A Spirited Holiday Past") featuring a 1950's Christmas holiday. You can look forward to a visit to the History House in December with all the holiday trimmings.

The July 17th event, *The History of Lucas Place*, will be in the Community Center – but - we will have a pre-show event in the History House from 5:00 to 6:00. The Lucas Place presentation is a follow-up to a trip we offered to the Campbell House, in downtown St. Louis, earlier this Spring. The Campbell house is one of many homes built in the 1850's & 60's in *Lucas Place* (and the only one left to tour). *Lucas Place* was the first real "Suburb" outside downtown St. Louis (around 15th Steet today).

Laura Watt will be our guest speaker for the evening. In case the name "Lucas" is hanging in your mind, you might recall a major street in north county, Lucas and Hunt. Lucas and Hunt is named for the very same Lucas – and the family and historic connections are fascinating. This will be a great story – all are welcome and admission is FREE. Make your plans for Thursday, July 17 at 5:00 for a tour of the History House and at 6:00 for the presentation.

UPCOMING EVENTS!



**FERGUSON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OPEN HOUSE**
Saturday, June 14
10am - 4pm at the History House
Located behind the Community Center.

Join us for history, conversation, refreshments, enter a free drawing for a fun experience! NEW - take a peek at a nun's bedroom!

In conjunction with Historic St. Louis "Summertime Past" event.
historicsaintlouis.org

**THE HISTORY
OF LUCAS PLACE**



Thursday, July 17
6pm - 8pm at the Community Center

First "suburb" of St. Louis built in 1850s
Guest speaker, Laura Watt

Lucas Place, circa 1865. Looking east towards the levee with the Mississippi River and Illinois in the background.
© Campbell House Foundation 2004

Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – membership levels range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”