

The courthouse was dismantled in 1901, re-erected twice (once at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis) and reconstructed on its original site in 1939. It's an excellent example of early French log construction known as poteaux-sur-solle (post-on-sill foundation). The upright hewn logs are seated on a horizontal sill log. The courthouse rests on its original foundation of stone nearly two feet thick and is filled with interpretive exhibits.

- **Fort de Chartres**

Fort de Chartres was a massive fortress built by the French in the early 1700s. The Fort, with walls 15 feet high and 3 feet thick, enclosed approximately four acres and was the center of French control in the Illinois Country. Fort de Chartres has been partially rebuilt to provide a view of what life was like during the French colonial period.

- **Pierre Menard Home**

This elegant home was completed in 1802 for Pierre Menard, a fur trader and entrepreneur, who later became Illinois' first lieutenant governor. This beautiful residence provides a glimpse into the upper class French-American lifestyle of the past. It also is an example of the French post-on-sill frame architecture.

- **Fort Kaskaskia**

This archaeological site features remnants of structures built by the French in the mid-1700s. The site also offers one of the finest views of the Mississippi River from the top of the high limestone bluffs.

- **Ste. Genevieve**

Ste. Genevieve is the only original French colonial village left in the United States and while the original date is unknown, scholars believe the city was founded in the late 1740's. The tour will include lunch at Hotel Ste. Genevieve, situated in the historic district. Tour participants also will see the:

- Amoureux House, built in 1792, overlooking Le Grand Champs, agricultural fields. This is a French Creole vernacular poteaux-en-terre (post in ground) construction, which means the log walls are set directly into the earth, without a foundation. It is only one of five remaining buildings of this type in the country; three of which are in Ste. Genevieve.
- Bolduc House, built in 1770, is of vertical log construction and is considered by many to be the best restoration of a French Colonial house in this hemisphere.
- Jean Baptiste Valle House is a French Creole vernacular vertical log construction. It belonged to the last commandant of Ste. Genevieve and was a center of government activity during the final days of Spanish rule before the French regained the territory and sold it to the Americans. Remnants of an early 18th century formal garden served as a model for the present garden.

Buses will depart from the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis at 8:30 a.m. (boarding at 8:15 a.m.) and return about 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person. For more information or to make reservations, call Judy Piel Travel at 800.626.2577, ext. 117.

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The Louisiana Purchase Three Flags Festival in St. Louis, March 10-14, 2004, will commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial and the treaty's role in the history of the United States and Missouri. Leading up to the anniversary of the final transfer of the Louisiana Territory, which took place in St. Louis on March 10, 1804, the public events and other programming of the Three Flags Festival will highlight the continuing importance of the Louisiana Purchase in American politics and culture. The Three Flags Festival has been developed by the National Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee, which is a coalition of major St. Louis, regional and national public and private organizations and citizens.

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