

The French Colonial Gardens Driving Tour

Sunday June 11, 2017
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Enjoy a Sunday drive through the 'French Colonial Corridor' along the middle Mississippi River valley. Whether you begin your journey near Prairie du Rocher or Ste. Genevieve, these gardens and sites are sure to provide inspiration and enjoyment.

IN STE. GENEVIEVE MISSOURI,

see these historic gardens

- Jacques Guibourd House Garden
- Felix Valle State Historic Site Garden (Closes at 4 PM)

NEAR CHESTER ILLINOIS,

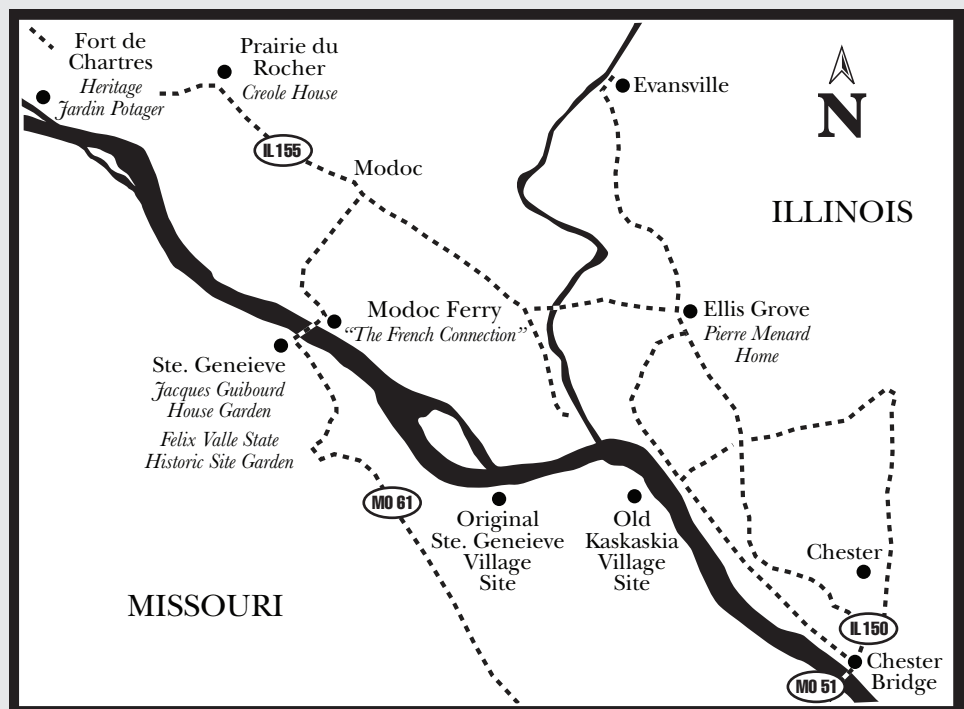
see this historic garden

- Pierre Menard Home Garden

NEAR PRAIRIE DU ROCHER ILLINOIS,

see these historic sites & gardens

- The Creole House
- The Fort de Chartres Heritage Garden (Jardin Potager)



From Illinois, the ferry provides a direct access to the shops, restaurants and historic sites of French Colonial Sainte Genevieve. From Ste. Genevieve, the ferry offers a quick route to Fort de Chartres, Pierre Menard Home and Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Parks - as well as other interesting attractions in Southern Illinois.

The ferry operates year-round, except when river conditions make ferry operation unsafe. The ferry Sunday schedule is 9 AM-6 PM (last run 5:30 PM) and accepts cash or check, and currently does not accept credit cards.

The Chester Bridge is a continuous truss bridge connecting Missouri's Route 51 with Illinois Route 150 across the Mississippi River between Perryville, Missouri and Chester, Illinois.



**FORT DE CHARTRES
HERITAGE GARDEN PROJECT**

The Fort de Chartres Heritage Garden is located on the Fort de Chartres Illinois State Historic Site grounds. This garden has been planted in the style of a French habitant jardin potager, generally tended by the women of the Illinois Country. This all-volunteer demonstration garden is planted with heirloom seeds researched to reflect the varieties cultivated in the eighteenth-century Illinois Country. The jardin potager's mission is to bring to life our region's history through its culinary traditions and encourages visitors to rediscover the flavor of the past by planting seeds and sampling the rich taste of heirloom produce.

Fort de Chartres State Historic Site is located on 1350 State Rte 155, in Prairie du Rocher, Illinois. For more information about the site's jardin potager, please contact Carol Kuntz, the garden's volunteer curator via email at heritage@fdcjardin.com or follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fdcjardin. You can also call the site directly at (618) 284-7230.

THE CREOLE HOUSE

French settlers founded Prairie du Rocher circa 1722. The Creole House, built around 1800, was constructed in the French Colonial style by an unknown English-speaking immigrant from the eastern United States. The builder was one of Illinois' earliest American settlers; only about eight hundred Americans lived within the bounds of the present state of Illinois in 1800, including just one hundred within present-day Randolph County. This one room dwelling was used as a living room, kitchen, dining area, and sleeping quarters, by Dr. Robert McDonald, an emigrant from South Carolina. The open lawn is surrounded by peonies and a fence of cast iron.



Randolph County Historical Society is solely responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the Creole House in Prairie du Rocher. During the June 11th French Colonial Gardens Driving Tour, interpreters will be on site offering site tours and refreshments. Heirloom plants will be offered for sale along with free sample seed packets, allowing garden tour visitors to sample a bit of Illinois Country gardens.

Directions: The Creole House is located in the town of Prairie du Rocher, about an hour's drive south of St. Louis. Turn left on Market Street (near the grain elevator) and travel approximately 2 blocks until you reach the Creole House on the left side of Market Street.

Contact information: 618-284-7396 or email creole.colleen@gmail.com.

**PIERRE MENARD HOME HERB,
VEGETABLE, AND FLOWER
PERIOD GARDEN**

The Pierre Menard Home Period Garden is located behind the rear of the home, near the site's Summer Kitchen on the grounds of the Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site. The original location of the garden is uncertain, but must have been close to the kitchen. The current garden was built in a French Canadian manner, sometime after the state took possession of the home. History shows that herbs, vegetables, and flowers were grown together in the same area in soil plots. The period garden was designed into plots separated by cut stones from the local area and the current garden layout consists of old and new additions. Our goal is to keep the past present, for all to learn from and enjoy.

For more information, please call Michell Baker at the Menard Home at (618) 859-3031. The Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site is located at 4230 Kaskaskia Road, Ellis Grove, IL 62241, west of Illinois State Route 3, off of Shawneetown Trail. Site hours of operation are 9 AM to 5 PM, Wednesday thru Sunday. The home is open seasonally during the months of May to October each year.

**JACQUES GUIBOURD HOUSE
GARDEN**

The Guibourd House also known as La Maison de Guibourd, is an example of poteaux-sur-solle (vertical post on sill or foundation) sealed with bouzillage (usually a mixture of clay and grass) construction. The structure was built around 1806 and was the home of Jacques Jean Rene Guibourd and his family. It is located at the corner of 4th and Merchant streets in Ste. Genevieve and has a lovely garden. The house is owned and maintained by the Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve.

For more information call (573) 883-7544.

The Guibourd House address is: 1 N 4th St, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670. Open daily April thru October (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and November thru December (12:00-4:00 p.m.).

**FELIX VALLE STATE HISTORIC
SITE GARDEN**

Travel back to Missouri's early French roots at Felix Vallé House State Historic Site. The American-Federal style Valle house was built in 1818 and today is furnished in the style of the 1830s with a host of artifacts that show the American influence on the French community of Ste. Genevieve after the Louisiana Purchase.

This important Federal-style limestone building features the authentically restocked mercantile store of the historic trading firm of Menard & Valle. The site's charming garden has original brick and frame outbuildings.

Felix Valle House State Historic Site is located at 98 Merchant St, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670 and is open 10 AM-4 PM, Monday through Sunday. Owned and operated by the State of Missouri and the Park Office number is (573) 883-7102.

