



**RESOLUTION ON STE. GENEVIEVE
24 October 1999**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION expressing its concern about significant cultural resources in and near the state historic site in Ste. Genevieve and its intent to monitor and encourage preservation and interpretation of these resources.

WHEREAS the Missouri Parks Association (MPA) in a resolution of 29 October 1989 while meeting in Ste. Genevieve, strongly supported expansion of the Felix Valle Home State Historic Site to include a vertical log structure from the 18th century French colonial tradition, the remaining portion of the original town site of Ste. Genevieve, and the Mississippian Indian mounds in the common field, and protection of the cultural landscape of the common field through scenic easements or other means; and

WHEREAS the Division of State Parks (DSP) has since acquired two vertical log houses, the Beauvais-Amoureux and the Delassus-Kern properties; and

WHEREAS research conducted at the two homes to date has revealed complexities and uncertainties about the history of the two structures and the families who occupied them as well as, at the Delassus-Kern, the possibility of relocation of the structure from a foundation site on the bluff above the house which commands a more sweeping view of the common field; and

WHEREAS few if any furnishings directly attributable to the families who occupied the two houses survive but there is substantial documentation of the roles of the families in the social and economic history of Ste. Genevieve in the 18th and 19th centuries; and

WHEREAS a Corps of Engineers levee currently under construction in Ste. Genevieve, justified in large part by the historic values it would protect, reportedly has induced land speculation in the common field that may result in efforts to develop newly protected portions of the field within the levee in visual proximity to the Beauvais-Amoureux house; and

WHEREAS a New Bourbon port authority currently under development on the Mississippi River directly riverward from the original town site and the Indian mounds may involve road improvement and other development potentially detrimental to the sites themselves and to the cultural landscape of the common field in visual proximity to the Delassus-Kern house; and

WHEREAS MPA desires to do everything it can to encourage the protection of the cultural landscape of the common field and the key archaeological sites located there, especially within sight of the Delassus-Kern and Beauvais-Amoureux houses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Missouri Parks Association, meeting in Ste. Genevieve on 24 October 1999:

1) MPA commends DSP for its acquisition of the Delassus-Kern and Beauvais-Amoureux houses and its initial archaeological and historical research;

2) MPS urges DSP to arrange for continued archaeological, architectural, and archival research that may illuminate some of the complexities and uncertainties, including archaeological research in the immediate vicinity of the two houses and on the bluff above the Delassus-Kern house;

- 3) MPA supports the stabilization and restoration of the structures in a manner that will preserve potentially significant historical fabric and allow flexibility for incorporating the findings of future research;
- 4) MPA encourages interpretive exhibits to demonstrate the evolution of the structures and the social and economic roles of their occupants within the broader context of the history of Ste. Genevieve as well as the history of the common field, without seeking to furnish the buildings as historical period residences or to limit the time period of significance;
- 5) MPA encourages DSP to acquire the original town site of Ste. Genevieve and the nearby Mississippian Indian mounds in order to protect both sites from further erosion and destruction and make both available for archaeological research;
- 6) MPA encourages efforts to protect the cultural landscape of the common field through scenic easements and vigilant efforts to prevent inappropriate development;
- 7) MPA will monitor, provide testimony, and encourage DSP, other state and local organizations, and the media to monitor developments that might have adverse impact on the integrity of the common field and the vistas from the Beauvais-Amoureux and Delassus-Kern houses.

Adopted this 24th day of October 1999.