Archaeology at the new St. Louis Mississippi River Bridge and Poplar Street Bridge Projects

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Archaeological investigations should add incrementally to our accumulated knowledge and understanding of the past by examining how people:

- adapt to changes in their natural and social environment, and
- respond to contact with new ideas and different people.
What is an archaeological site?
The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge (MRB) Project Location
The MRB Project
St. Louis Mound Group (23SL4) & Big Mound (23SL3)

Estimated mound locations from Rogers and Pulcher 1987:20

Survey map (c. 1855) from the Louis La Beaume Collection
Big Mound (23SL3)

Daguerreotype by Thomas Easterly, taken c. 1854

Daguerreotype by Thomas Easterly, taken in Spring 1869
John C. Kupferle Foundry Site (23SL2295)
John C. Kupferle Foundry Site

Excavation of the machine shop and courtyard.
Gestring Wagon Factory Site (23SL2295)

Excavation of a water cistern at the factory.
Gestring Wagon Factory Site
Gestring Wagon Factory Site

Gestring farm wagon
(photograph courtesy of David Sneed)
Leudinghaus Site (23SL2322)
Worthy Woman’s Site (23SL2316)

1858 perspective map

1876 perspective map
Worthy Woman’s Site
Worthy Woman’s Site

Sample of Artifacts: a banded yellow ware chamber pot, a fractional gold coin, a black basalt tea pot, and an oil lamp reservoir and chimney.
Sample of Artifacts: a porcelain dolls and toy tea services, marbles, buttons, hard rubber hair combs or berets, and lotto pieces and poker chips
The Poplar Street Bridge (PSB) Project Area
The PSB Project
The PSB Project

Plat of St. Louis in 1780 with the current project area highlighted

The 1876 perspective map
The PSB Project
The PSB Project
Madam Haycraft Site (23SL2334)

Excavation reveals four periods of construction:

• Late 18th Century
• Early and Mid 19th Century
• Early 20th Century
Madam Haycraft Site: Bouchard Household
Madam Haycraft Site: Bouchard Household
Madam Haycraft Site: Coussot Household
Trench profile showing soil stratigraphy and possible privy or cistern below a nineteenth-century residence
Louis Beaudoin Site

West Wall Trench

Post-in-Earth (Poteau-en-Terre) Construction
Louis Beaudoin Site

18th century artifacts: Rouen Blue on White and Provence Yellow on White faience, a lead bale seal, a gun spall, and lead-glazed coarse earthenware
Fifi Site
(23SL2385)

Exposing a copper kettle lug
Excavating the copper kettle lug & a cache of glass trade beads

Exposed fragments of butchered animal bones & limestone