Land Records Relating to French and Spanish Land Claims in Missouri, Especially St. Louis County

ATLASES AND MAPS — ST. LOUIS

Alpha Order

Atlas of St. Louis County. 5 volumes. St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1909. [Call no. R 912 A8812 (oversized)]

Plat map showing ownership of property in St. Louis County circa 1909.

Atlas of the City and County of St. Louis, by Congressional Townships: showing All the Surveys of the Public Lands and of the Confirmed French and Spanish Grants, New Madrid Locations, and Entries of Public Lands up to the 1st Day of January, 1838: With the Names of the Original Claimants and Number of Acres Claimed by Each. Jefferson City, Mo.: Capital City Family Research, 1985. [DuPrê] [Call no. R 977.865 A881]

Plat book showing the confirmed French & Spanish land claims (S), some unconfirmed claims, New Madrid locations (M), land reserved for public schools (School Land), and entries of public lands from the U.S. Federal government (E).

Atlas of the City of St. Louis. 10 vols. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1905. [Call no. R 912 A881 (oversized)]

Plat map showing ownership of property in the City of St. Louis circa 1905.

Hutawa, Julius. Atlas of St. Louis County. St. Louis, Mo.: J. Hutawa, [1868]. [Call no. R 912.7786 A881; scanned image of the original – available to staff on the server; microfiche copy – in the microfiche carousel labeled “Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?]”]

Plat map showing ownership of property in the city and county of St. Louis, Missouri.

Land Ownership Map 0406: MO, St. Louis County, 1857 Microfiche, 1 sheet [FHL #6079643]

The title on the map describes this as a topographic map. The occasional home that appears on the map includes the homeowner’s name, but ownership of the land is not always indicated.

Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?] Microfiche, 4 sheets. [FHL #6079644]

While the Library of Congress marks this as [1856–1865?], other existing copies of this unique map indicate that it was actually published in 1868 – after the Civil War. This shows ownership of land, not residency. This is a microfiche copy of Atlas of St. Louis County with lithography by Julius Hutawa. (see Hutawa, Julius, above)
Pitzman, Julius. *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri.* St. Louis, Mo.: Holcombe: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1878. [Call no. R 977.8 P692A]

Pitzman, Julius. *Pitzman's Atlas 1878 St. Louis, Missouri.* [Call no. CD-ROM R 977.8 P692P, CD–27F] The plates from Pitzman’s 1878 *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri* are in PDF format and are easy to enlarge or print.

Plat Book of St. Louis Co., Mo., 1909 [electronic resource]. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 2007. [CD-ROM R 977.865 P716, CD–27D] The map plates from the *Plat Book of St. Louis County Missouri* (1909) are available as jpg files which can be saved, then printed, cropped, or manipulated.

**Year Order**

1838 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

*Atlas of the City and County of St. Louis, by Congressional Townships: showing All the Surveys of the Public Lands and of the Confirmed French and Spanish Grants, New Madrid Locations, and Entries of Public Lands up to the 1st Day of January, 1838: With the Names of the Original Claimants and Number of Acres Claimed by Each.* Jefferson City, Mo.: Capital City Family Research, 1985. [DuPré] [Call no. R 977.865 A881] Plat book showing the confirmed French & Spanish land claims (S), some unconfirmed claims, New Madrid locations (M), land reserved for public schools (R), and entries of public lands from the U.S. Federal government (E).

1857 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Land Ownership Map 0406: MO, St. Louis County, 1857. Microfiche 1 sheet. [in the microfiche carousel; FHL 6079643] The title on the map describes this as a topographic map. The occasional home that appears on the map includes the homeowner’s name, but ownership of the land is not always indicated.

1868 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Hutawa, Julius. *Atlas of St. Louis County.* St. Louis, Mo.: J. Hutawa, [1868]. [Call no. R 912.7786 A881; scanned image of the original – on the server; microfiche copy – in the microfiche carousel labeled “Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?]”] Plat map showing ownership of land, not residency, in the city and county of St. Louis, Missouri.

1868 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?] Microfiche, 4 sheets. [FHL #6079644] While the Library of Congress marks this as [1856–1865?], other existing copies of this unique map indicate that it was actually published in 1868 – after the Civil War. This shows ownership of land, not residency, in the city and county of St. Louis, Missouri.

1878 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Pitzman, Julius. *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri.* St. Louis, Mo.: Holcombe: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1878. [Call no. R 977.8 P692A]
1878 – St. Louis County Including St. Louis City
The plates from Pitzman’s 1878 *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri* are in PDF format and are easy to enlarge or print.

1905 – City of St. Louis Only
*Atlas of the City of St. Louis*. 10 vols. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1905. [Call no. R 912 A881 (oversized)]
Plat map showing ownership of property in the City of St. Louis circa 1905.

1909 – St. Louis County Only
The map plates from the *Plat Book of St. Louis County Missouri* (1909) are available as jpg files which can be saved, then printed, cropped, or manipulated.

1909 – St. Louis County Only
*Atlas of St. Louis County*. 5 volumes. St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1909. [Call no. R 912 A8812 (oversized)]
Plat map showing ownership of property in St. Louis County circa 1909.

PRINTED BOOK SOURCES


Includes correspondence regarding Missouri land claims and related matters. Indexed by volume.

Collet, Oscar. *General Index to St. Louis County Archives*. N.p.: n.p., nd. [Call no. R 977.865 C698G]; shelved on index table beside the stairs
Index is also available in microfilm format in film SLD-1 in drawer 103.

Collet, Oscar. *Index to Instruments Affecting Real Estate Grantees and Grantors, 1804–1854*, [Call no. R 977.865 C69812 (Grantee) and R 977.865 C6981 (Grantor); shelved on index table beside the stairs]
These indexes are available in book format and in microfilm format in film drawer 103.


This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: doc. no. 1340 (24th Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512] and contains the same “Final Reports…” as found in Missouri Land Claims. [Call no. R 977.8 M678 and 977.8 M678]


From Arpents to Acres: French and Spanish Land Grants at the Missouri State Archives. [Jefferson City]: Missouri State Archives, [1990?] [Call No. R 977.8 F931]


Provides an historic background for land records in and around St. Louis during the crucial time period of acquiring land from the French or Spanish governments, the 1804 Louisiana Purchase, and the formation and activities of the first Board of Land Commissioners. Also includes excellent citations and bibliography, which can direct further study.

Hodes, Frederick A. Rising on the River: St. Louis 1822 to 1850, Explosive Growth from Town to City. Tooele, Utah: Patrice Press, 2009. [ Call no. R 977.866 H687R and 977.866 H687R]

Includes some excellent maps for St. Louis during this time period.

Index to the Minutes of the First and Second Board of Land Commissioners, Missouri, 1805-1812, 1832-1835. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1983. [Call no. R 977.8 I38 and 977.8 I38]


The author has abstracted the “Minutes of the Board of Land Commissioners.”


Each volume includes a name index. Vol. one covers the years 1787–1810, vol. 2 covers 1810–1812, and vol. 3 covers “To – 1835.” The author has abstracted the “Minutes of the Board of Land Commissioners.”


Land Claims in Missouri: House of Representatives 24th Congress, First Session - Document Numbered 1538. Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. Q 977.8 L253; includes index.]

This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 8, pp. 789–871: doc. no. 1538 (24th Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 3, pp.313–370: doc. no. 273 (15th Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

Land Claims in Missouri and Arkansas from Patents Withheld: Records from the 19th Congress Second Session. Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, 1999. [Call no. R 977.8 L253; book includes name index. Documents begin in 1826.]

This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 4, pp. 807–854: doc. no. 534 (19th Congress – 2nd Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].


This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: doc. no. 206 (12th Congress – 2nd Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].


This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: doc. no. 206 (12th Congress – 2nd Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

McDermott, John Francis, ed. The Early Histories of St. Louis. St. Louis: St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, 1952. [Call no. R 977.866 M134E and 977.866 M134E]

Includes maps of the Mississippi River (1762) and St. Louis (1780, 1796, and 1804–1805).


This is a reproduction of the “Gales & Seaton” printing of the “Final Reports from the Board of Commissioners at St. Louis, under the act of 9th July, 1832” authorized by the 24th Congress – 1st Session. This is also the same “Final Reports…” as found in the American State Papers, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: doc. no. 1340 (24th Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512], and Final Adjustments of Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1832: House of Representatives Document 1340, 24th Congress – First Session, 1835. [Call no. Q 977.8 F494]


This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 6, pp. 703–900: doc. no. 1173 (23rd Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].


Part 2 – “Private Land Claims in Missouri: The Board of Land Commissioners”  
Part 3 – “Private Land Claims in Missouri: The Era of Increasing Liberality”

Page 5 of 10

This includes numerous images of documents relating to land ownership beginning in the pre-1804 period down to the 1900s. It illustrates the process surrounding New Madrid Certificates – how they were acquired, and how a person used them to acquire land elsewhere.


Contains the names from all “name lists” found in *The Territorial Papers of the United States* for Louisiana Missouri Territory. Other names from correspondence, etc. are not included. At that time, the Louisiana Missouri territory included part of Arkansas so some Arkansas residents also appear in this source.

United States. General Land Office. *Letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office Transmitting the Report (supplemental) of the Board of Commissioners for the Settlement of Land Claims in Missouri: March 3, 1835, Read and Laid on the Table*. [St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis County Library, Special Collections Dept., 2006] [Call no. R 977.8 U58L. Does not include an index.]

This is a reproduction of House **doc. no. 197 (23rd Congress – 2nd Session)**.

Williams, Betty Harvey, comp. *Index to French and Spanish Land Grants Recorded in Registers of Land Titles in Missouri: Books A, B, C, D, E*. The author: Warrensburg, Mo., 1977. [Call no. R 977.8 W721I]

Williams indexed the *Record of Land Titles in Missouri: French and Spanish Land Grants, 1804–1829* found on microfilms F390–F392 in film drawer 103.

**GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ABOUT MO. LAND CLAIMS PRINTED AS SEPARATE BOOKS**

*(listed in Congress & Session order)*

**Doc. no. 206, 12th Congress – 2nd Session**


This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: **doc. no. 206 (12th Congress – 2nd Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

**Doc. no. 206, 12th Congress – 2nd Session**

1812 *Early Settlers of Missouri as Taken from Land Claims in the Missouri Territory*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986. [Call no. R 977.8 E12 and R 977.8 E12]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: **doc. no. 206 (12th Congress – 2nd Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

**Doc. no. 273, 15th Congress – 1st Session**


This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 3, pp.313–370: **doc. no. 273 (15th Congress – 1st Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].
Doc. no. 534, 19th Congress – 2nd Session

This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 4, pp. 807–854: doc. no. 534 (19th Congress – 2nd Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

Doc. no. 1173, 23rd Congress – 1st Session

This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 6, pp. 703–900: doc. no. 1173 (23rd Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

Doc. no. 197, 23rd Congress – 2nd Session
1835 United States. General Land Office. Letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office Transmitting the Report (supplemental) of the Board of Commissioners for the Settlement of Land Claims in Missouri: March 3, 1835, Read and Laid on the Table. [St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis County Library, Special Collections Dept., 2006] [Call no. R 977.8 U58L; Does not include an index.]

This is a reproduction of House doc. no. 197 (23rd Congress – 2nd Session).

Doc. no. 1340, 24th Congress – 1st Session

This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: doc. no. 1340 (24th Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512] and contains the same “Final Reports…” as found in Missouri Land Claims. [Call no. R 977.8 M678 and 977.8 M678].

Doc. no. 1340, 24th Congress – 1st Session

This is a reproduction of the “Gales & Seaton” printing of the “Final Reports from the Board of Commissioners at St. Louis, under the act of 9th July, 1832” authorized by the 24th Congress –1st Session. This is also the same “Final Reports…” as found in the American State Papers, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: doc. no. 1340 (24th Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512] and Final Adjustments of Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1832: House of Representatives Document 1340, 24th Congress – First Session, 1835. [Call no. Q 977.8 F494].

Doc. no. 1538, 24th Congress – 1st Session

This is a reproduction of the American State Papers, vol. 8, pp. 789–871: doc. no. 1538 (24th Congress – 1st Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].
MICROFILMS

Pre-1804 (French & Spanish)

- Collet, Oscar. General Index to St. Louis County Archives, roll SLD–1, item 1 [Film drawer 103]
  Index is also available in printed book form (Call no. R 977.865 C698G), which is shelved on the index table beside the stairs.

- Index to French & Spanish Archives, 1771–1803, 3 rolls, 16mm, [Roll 69 (F-504), Roll 70 (F-507), Roll 71 (F-511), Film drawer 103]
  Original index cards made by the WPA are at the Old Courthouse Archives.

- St. Louis, Mo., Deed Records [St. Louis County Archives] (recorded in French and Spanish), 6 volumes on 3 rolls, SLD–1 through SLD–3. [Film drawer 103]
  Recorded loose papers (documents) including land, marriage, wills, for St. Louis

- St. Louis, Mo., Deed Records [St. Louis County Archives] (written in French, Spanish, English), 6 volumes on 6 rolls, SLD–4 through SLD–10 [Film drawer 103]
  Includes English translations of the St. Louis County Archives.

1804 and later (United States)

- Land Commissioners Minutes, 2 rolls, LndCo-1 and LndCo-2 [Film drawer 103]
  Includes minutes for both the 1st Commission (1805–1812) and for the 2nd Commission (1832–1835). [Mo. State Archive film numbers for these rolls are F393 and F394.]

- Collet, Oscar. Index to Instruments Affecting Real Estate Grantees and Grantors, 1804–1854. rolls SLD–1a and SLD–1b [microfilm drawer 103]
  These indexes are also available in book format shelved on index table beside the stairs [Call no. R 977.865 C698I2 (Grantee) and R 977.865 C698I (Grantor)]. Photocopies may only be made from the microfilm rolls.

- Hunt’s Minutes, 1825–: 3 books; typewritten index for book no. 2 precedes that book; handwritten index for books no. 1, some of no. 2 and some of no. 3 appears at the end of the roll, MoLAND–26 [Film drawer 104]
  Proof testimony taken by Missouri Recorder of Land Titles, Theodore Hunt, regarding ownership of townlots, outlots, and claims for land. Testimony sometimes came from neighbors or mentions neighbors. The land was in or adjacent to the communities listed below.
    - St. Louis
    - Portage des Sious
    - St. Charles
    - St. Ferdinand
    - Village a Robert
    - Carondelet
    - Ste. Genevieve
    - New Madrid
    - Little Prairie in Missouri

- New Madrid Records: roll MoLAND–25 [Film drawer 104]
  Includes records of land damaged by the New Madrid earthquake: testimony regarding damages; New Madrid location certificates; New Madrid original documents; and locations of earthquake damage.
• Record of Land Titles in Mo.: *French and Spanish Land Grants, 1805–1829*
  
  - Rolls F390 – F391. [Film drawer 103] Volumes A, B, C, and D appear on these films. (Volume E is missing per the Missouri State Archives.) Included in these volumes are French and Spanish land claims recorded after the 1804 Louisiana Purchase, but before the approval process for land claims began. Volumes A, B, C, D, and E are indexed by *Index to French and Spanish Land Grants Recorded in Registers of Land Titles in Missouri: Books A, B, C, D, E.* (Call no. R 977.8 W721I). If a name is listed in this index with the record in missing volume E, then check that name in *Grassroots of America: A Computerized Index to the American State Papers* (Call no. R 333.1 M168G or R 333.1 M168G). Next, look up the references found there in the *American State Papers. 8., Public Lands* (Call no. R 333.1 A512 or 333.1 A512).
  
  - Roll F392. [Film drawer 103] Volumes F and G appear on this film. Volume F (1805–1829) contains documents in French, Spanish, and English and the order of entry appears to be by the date each entry was recorded. Volume F includes copies of the 6 volumes or “books” of the *Livres Terriens* on the following pages:
    - Book 1 - p. 146
    - Book 2 - p. 162
    - Book 3 - p. 178
    - Book 4 - p. 189
    - Book 5 - p. 200
    - Book 6 - p. 210

  Volume G (1830–1872) is by survey number and has a name index at the end listing the survey and page number.

• Record of Land Titles in Mo.: Private Land Claims, roll F1498 [Film drawer 103]
  This film includes exhibits for successfully completed claims as follows:
    
    A. Confirmation by the Old Board of Commissioners
    B. Bates’ Confirmations of Village Claims
    C. Bates’ Confirmations of Extensions
    D. Bates’ confirmations of Concessions
    E. Bates’ Confirmations of Settlement rights
    Ee. Bates’ Confirmations to Wm. Russell
    F. New Madrid Certificates, locations and Surveys
    G. Hunt’s list of proofs under the act of 26th May 1824
    H. Claims confirmed by the act of 4th July 1836
    I. Grants made and completed before the change of Government
    K. Confirmations by the United States Courts
    L. Confirmation by special acts
    M. Claims reported by the old Board as valid but not finally confirmed

• St. Louis City
  
  - Record of Sales City Commons, City of St. Louis, 1842, roll C13427 [Film drawer 103]
  - Record of Deeds for Lots Sold in Commons under Ordinances 1843, City of St. Louis, roll C13428 [Film drawer 103]
  - St. Louis Lands: Blocks of the City of St. Louis and Carondelet and Common Fields of St. Louis, 1840, roll C13429 [Film drawer 103]
  - Record of Deeds to City of St. Louis, 1830–1888, roll C13430 [Film drawer 103, includes land deeded to the City of St. Louis only]
• St. Louis County (includes both city and county prior to 1876 and only the city after 1876)
drawers 103–104]
drawer 103]
drawer 103]

• U.S. Surveyor General
  o Field Notes & Plats Index (Mo.) [in map format] roll MoLAND–1 [microfilm
drawer 103]
    How to use: Images are divided into 3 parts:
    ✓ West of the 5th Prin. Meridian & North of the Missouri River
    ✓ West of the 5th Prin. Meridian & South of the Missouri River
    ✓ East of the 5th Prin. Meridian
    Each part has a map index for Field Notes and one for Plats. Also, each map is shown
in multiple shots ranging from light to dark.

  o Field Notes of Private Surveys (Mo.): Vols. 1–71 (Vol. 8 and 52 are missing. Sometimes
there is a volume #A and #B.) rolls MoLAND–10 through MoLAND–17 [Film
drawer 104]
    How to use: In order to locate a specific private survey, you must know in which
township (such as T46N R3E) that survey lays. When you know that, pull
MoLAND–1 and examine the “Field Notes & Plats Index (Mo.)” in map format and
find the township where the private survey lays. The “Pr. Vol. #” is listed in the
square for your township (T46N R3E).

  o Individual Private Land Surveys (Mo.): Surveys 1–3342, rolls MoLAND–22 through
MoLAND–24 [Film drawer 104]
    How to use: Survey numbers are needed to use this source and they can be found on
plat maps, country road maps, etc. as “SUR #____”. These are images of the surveys
of French and Spanish land claims AFTER they were approved and accepted by the
federal government as valid claims.

  o Plats (Mo.): Vols. 1–49 & Miscellaneous Plats: rolls MoLAND–2 through MoLAND–9
[Film drawer 104]
    How to use: Check the “Field Notes & Plats Index (Mo.)” in map format
(MoLAND–1 listed above) to locate the rectangle on the map grid representing that
township. The volume or range of volumes is written in that rectangle.

  o Record of Private Surveys (Mo.): Vol. 1-20, (index at beginning of each vol.) rolls
MoLAND–18 through MoLAND–21 [Film drawer 104]
    How to use: Check the index at the beginning of each roll. This is a written record of
the private surveys copied into a permanent record book.