

**S0202 Leland, Austin Porter (1907-1975)
Papers, 1959-1983
270 Folders**

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Austin Leland's widow Mrs. Dorothy Leland Follansbee, donated his papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis in March 1985.

Leland received an A.B. in Latin from Princeton University in 1928. He worked for a brokerage firm in St. Louis until 1931 when he became Secretary-Treasurer of Station List Publishing Company. In 1939 the company appointed Leland president, a position he retained until his death in 1975.

An ardent preservationist active in civic affairs, Leland became a member and director of Landmarks Association. In 1960 Landmarks endorsed the preservation of the St. Louis Post Office. Built in 1884, the building served as the United States court house, custom house, and post office. Court sessions ended in the courtrooms in November 1935. One by one, the other federal offices moved to different locations in the city, and the Post Office building was not properly maintained. After 1961 only a branch post office remained at the site.

The future of the structure became more uncertain when the National Park Service investigated and reported to the General Services Administration in 1961 that preservation of the Old Post Office as a historical monument was not feasible. However, it considered the building worthy for placement on the government's surplus property list. Leland, a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was aware of the architectural significance of the building and interested in preserving it. In 1963 Leland, now a trustee for the National Trust, agreed to chair and organize a committee to save the Old Post Office. Originally called the Committee to Save the Old Post Office, the name was changed to the Old Post Office Landmark Committee in 1971.

The Old Post Office Committee and Leland began enlisting local and national support. Petition drives, publicity, and a rally on April 2, 1965 helped win the endorsement of 52 St. Louis organizations and a resolution of support from the Board of Aldermen. In 1964 the General Services Administration announced its intention to demolish the Old Post Office and build a new federal office building on the site. As a counter-proposal, Leland's committee joined the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and Landmarks Association to suggest remodeling and retaining the Old Post Office building. The General Services Administration refused the offer.

In 1965 Leland organized a national Old Post Office Committee to broaden the support for saving the structure. Well-known architects, architectural critics, historians, and preservationists nationwide agreed to serve.

Leland also increased efforts to persuade federal officials to save the Old Post Office. He and the committee continued to submit proposals to the General Services Administration for renovating and using the building. Pleas went to members of Congress and the President to support legislation for preserving important landmarks like the St. Louis Old Post Office. President Lyndon Johnson received a telegram with 2201 signatures after the April 1965 rally urging him to support a preservation bill.

In 1966 President Johnson signed into law the Preservation Act creating the National Register of Historic Places. After nomination by Joseph Jaeger, Jr. of the Missouri State Park Board, the Old Post Office became the first property in Missouri entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1968. This gave the Old Post Office protection from being demolished without the approval of the Advisory Council on Preservation. In 1970, the council advised the Department of Interior that the St. Louis Old Post Office should be preserved, and the following year the Secretary of the Interior declared the structure a National Historic Monument.

In 1971 Leonor K. Sullivan, the U.S. Representative from Missouri's 3rd District, arranged a meeting of preservationists, downtown interests, and government officials to find a means of giving the Old Post Office to the City of St. Louis for revenue-producing use. It resulted in Sullivan's sponsorship of the 1972 "Old Post Office Bill." This law enabled state and local governments to use historic federal properties for commercial purposes as long as the historic character of the building is preserved. Another law was required, however, before restoration plans could be implemented for the Old Post Office. The GSA had decided to retain space in the building, but would permit some commercial use. In 1976 the Public Buildings Cooperative Act paved the way for the Old Post Office to become the GSA's first project combining historic preservation with joint governmental and commercial use.

Leland chaired the Committee to Save the Old Post Office from 1963 until his death in 1975. The committee's work continued after Leland's death under the co-chairmanship of Verner I. Burks and George H. Hall. Leland's widow, Mrs. Dorothy Leland Follansbee, was made honorary chairperson.

In 1977 Congress approved the GSA's Feasibility Study and Plan for the renovation of the Old Post Office. GSA awarded a contract for the work in 1978.

The Leland Committee won the Louise du Pont Crowninshield award for superlative preservation in 1979. Leland had previously been honored for his work as a preservationist. In 1974 the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects made him an honorary member. The same year he shared with Landmarks Association the distinguished service award for contributions to historic preservation from the Missouri Historical Society.

The C. Rallo Construction Company completed the first phase of the Old Post Office restoration in 1982. On October 3, 1982 the GSA held a rededication ceremony, unveiling a bronze low-relief portrait of Austin Leland designed by sculptor, Richard Duhme. The next day the U.S. Post Office Department issued a commemorative postcard of the building. The completion of the renovation is expected by May 1986.

Leland was active in other civic organizations and projects in the St. Louis area. He served as

a trustee for the Jefferson Expansion Memorial Park and as director of Downtown St. Louis, Inc. He also belonged to the preservationist group that worked successfully to save the Wainwright Building from demolition (1973-1974).

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Austin Leland papers reflect his career as a civic leader and preservationist, but they primarily document the work of the Old Post Office Landmark Committee, originally called the Committee to Save the Old Post Office. The collection also includes material on Leland's involvement with other civic and preservation projects in St. Louis.

The Leland papers are arranged into three series: 1) the Old Post Office Landmark Committee Records, 1959-1983; 2) Other Civic Projects, 1962-1983; 3) Photographs, 1940-1965.

The first series contains the bulk of the collection. It documents the successful campaign to save the Old Post Office. The series contains articles, correspondence, legislation, newspaper clippings, presentations, reports, press releases, and a TV documentary transcript. Topics in the series include local and national support, the designation of the Old Post Office as a historical landmark, national legislation establishing a precedent for the preservation of historic buildings, and renovation plans for the Old Post Office.

The second series contains information on other St. Louis civic and preservation projects, most notably the efforts to save the Wainwright Building.

Twenty-six photographs of the Old Post Office, petition signing, and the April 2, 1965 rally comprise the third series.

The collection does not include Leland's personal papers. Duplicates and some undated newspaper clippings were discarded. Some newspaper clippings and pamphlets were incorporated in other collections.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1 - OLD POST OFFICE LANDMARK COMMITTEE RECORDS, 1959-1983. 235 FOLDERS

Arranged alphabetically, contains articles, awards, brochures, correspondence, legislation, newspaper clippings, presentations, reports, statements, and a TV documentary transcript. Major topics include: support and opposition to saving the Old Post Office, the successful campaign to get the Old Post Office declared a historic landmark; proposal and plans for restoration and renovation; award won for preservation efforts; and plans for rededication ceremonies. Principal correspondents include: Stephan Apted, Senator Thomas Curtis, Mayor Alfonso J. Cervantes, Senator Thomas Eagleton, William W. Crowder, Frank T. Hilliker, George E. Kassabaum, Gerhardt Kramer, William D. Peckham, Charles J. Peterson, Buford Pickens, U.S. Representative Melvin Price, U.S. Representative Leonor K. Sullivan, Senator Stuart Symington, Mayor Raymond Tucker, Clarence Turley, Walter Muir Whitehill. Other correspondents include officials of local, state, and federal agencies such as: the City Plan Commission, Bi-State Development Agency, Missouri Park Board, Missouri Historical Society, General Services Administration, National Park Service, and National Trust for

Historic Preservation.

SERIES 2 - OTHER CIVIC PROJECTS, 1962-1983. 29 FOLDERS

Arranged alphabetically in two sub-series. Folders 236-247 contain articles, brochures, correspondence, newsclippings, and press releases on other civic and preservation projects in St. Louis. Includes the Spanish Pavilion, Union Station, and Rapid Transit. Folders 248-264 concern the preservation of the Wainwright Building, and contain brochures, correspondence, newsclippings, press releases, plus John Randall's book *The Art of Office Buildings* (f. 264).

SERIES 3 - PHOTOGRAPHS, 1940-1965. 5 FOLDERS

Includes photographs of the Old Post Office Building c.1940-1945 (8267-8275); the building's interior, 1965 (8276-8281); Mayor Raymond Tucker signing a proclamation designating October 25 - October 31, 1964 as a Landmarks' week in St. Louis (8282); a 1965 petition signing at Maryville College (8283); the St. Louis rally on April 2, 1965 (8284-8292); and an undated photograph of an Old Post Office drawing (8293).

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1. Adams, William Howard - correspondence, 1965
2. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation - Correspondence, 1970-1971
3. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation - re Hearing, August 5, 1970
4. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation - pamphlets, 1972-1973, Digest of Cases, 1967-1973
5. Airport, St. Louis Location - correspondence, newsclippings, 1971-1976
6. American Institute of Architects - correspondence, memos, resolutions, 1964-1972
7. American Institute of Architects, St. Louis Chapter -correspondence, statements, resolutions, 1964-1974
8. American Association for State and Local History, 1971
9. Antiques Magazine - correspondence, 1976
10. Apted, Stephan J. - clippings, correspondence, 1965-1973
11. Apted, Stephan J. - correspondence, proposals, 1974-1973
12. Apted, Stephan J. - brochures, correspondence, proposal, 1972-1973
13. Architectural Forum - articles, 1961-1965
14. Architectural Heritage, Inc. - clippings, correspondence, 1970-1979
15. Arteaga, Robert F. - correspondence, 1968, 1979
16. Articles - re Old Post Office (other than newspapers), 1954-1973
17. Associated Council of the Arts - brochures, correspondence, 1974, 1976
18. Aydt, Arthur E. - correspondence, 1965-1971
19. Bi-State Development Agency - Annual Report, July 1971 - June 1972
20. Bi-State Development Agency - correspondence, memos, newsclippings, Nov. 1968 - Nov. 1971

21. Bi-State Development Agency - correspondence, memos, newsclippings, Jan. 1972 - Oct. 1972
22. Bi-State Development Agency - legal aspects, 1949-1972
23. Board of Alderman - correspondence, ordinance, resolution, 1964-1972
24. Boatmen's National Bank - correspondence, newsclippings, 1973-1975
25. Boyd, Stephen M. - correspondence, 1965-1966
26. Brochure, "Proposal for a St. Louis Civic Center" (old version), n.d.
27. Brochure, "Proposal for a St. Louis Civic Center" 1970
28. Brooks, U.S. Representative Jack Brooks -correspondence, 1971-1972
29. Brown, James E. - correspondence, 1975-1982
30. Bundy, Mrs. McGeorge - correspondence, 1970-1971
31. Burks, Verner I. - correspondence, statements, 1964-1982
32. Cartoons - Re: Old Post Office, 1964-1972
33. Cervantes, Alfonso J. - correspondence, newsclippings, statements, 1965-1966
34. Cervantes, Alfonso J. - correspondence, newsclippings, statements, 1967-1971
35. City Plan Commission - correspondence, membership lists, statements, 1964-1974
36. City Plan Commission, "Meeting the Challenge of the 70s" 1971
37. City Plan Commission, "Visual Environment and Urban Design Subsystem" n.d.
38. Civic Center - correspondence, newsclippings, statements, 1965-1973
39. Civic Progress - membership list, 1972
40. Chicago Old Court House - correspondence, 1965
41. Clay, U.S. Representative William L. - correspondence, 1972
42. Collins, Patricia, Department of Justice - correspondence, 1972
43. Committee Members - correspondence, 1964-1965
44. Committee Members - correspondence and membership lists, 1966-1972
45. Committee Members - correspondence, membership lists, 1972-1978
46. Congressmen - correspondence, statements, 1961-1966
47. Cranston Development Co. - correspondence, 1980-1983
48. Crowds, William W. - correspondence, newsclippings, 1964-1974
49. Crowninshield Award - award, correspondence, photo xeroxes, 1978-1979
50. Curtis, Thomas B. - correspondence, 1964-1967
51. Custom House - correspondence, pamphlets, 1970-1972
52. Dale, Mrs. William - article and correspondence, 1971-1972
53. Dalton, Mrs. John M.(Jerry) - correspondence, 1964-1965
54. Dickmann, Bernard F. - correspondence, proposal, 1965
55. Downtown St. Louis, Inc. - correspondence, meeting agenda, statements, 1964-1972
56. Downtown St. Louis, Inc. - activities, correspondence, newsclippings, 1972-1983
57. Eagleton, Thomas F. - correspondence, 1971-1977
58. Egbert, Donald D. - correspondence, 1965-1970
59. Executive Committee - lists and memos, 1970-1975
60. Feasibility Studies, 1964-1970
61. Federal Aviation Administration - correspondence, newsclippings, 1971-1972
62. Federal Aviation Administration - meeting, February 11, 1972
63. Feiss, Carl - correspondence, 1970, 1979
64. First National Bank, St. Louis - correspondence, 1975
65. Ford Foundation - correspondence, 1975

66. General Correspondence, 1964
67. General Correspondence, Jan. 7, 1965 - Feb. 4, 1965
68. General Correspondence, Feb. 5, 1965 - Feb. 15, 1965
69. General Correspondence, Feb. 17, 1965 - Mar. 3, 1965
70. General Correspondence, Mar. 16, 1965 - Mar. 31, 1965

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72. General Correspondence, Apr. 16, 1965 - Dec. 16, 1965
73. General Correspondence, Jan. 2, 1966 - Dec. 14, 1967
74. General Correspondence, Jun. 27, 1968 - Sept. 9, 1970
75. General Correspondence, Jan. 17, 1971 - Dec. 22, 1971
76. General Correspondence, 1972-1979
77. General Services Administration - re Hearing, Oct. 8, 1964, correspondence, statements, testimony, Sept. 23, 1964 - Jan. 25, 1965

78. General Services Administration - GSA witness biographies at hearing, Oct. 8, 1964

79. GSA - re hearing, Jan. 12, 1966, correspondence, statements, Feb. 19, 1965 - Feb. 23, 1966

80. GSA - meeting, July 18, 1972
81. GSA - application for obtaining property for historic monument purposes, 1972

82. GSA - Noonday Club Meeting, Aug. 12, 1972
83. GSA - Steven R. Ruttenbaum, correspondence, 1972-1975
84. GSA - Feasibility Study, Apr. 2, 1972
85. GSA - Feasibility Study, Apr. 12, 1972, pp. 78-117 Appendix
86. GSA - Restoration Plan, 1976
87. GSA - correspondence, May 5, 1961 - Dec. 15, 1964
88. GSA - correspondence, Jan. 6, 1965 - May 20, 1966
89. GSA - correspondence, 1967-1974
90. GSA - correspondence, 1975-1977
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92. Gephardt, Richard A. - correspondence, 1974-1977
93. Grants - correspondence, 1970-1974
94. Hall, George - correspondence, newsclippings, 1965-1980
95. Harvard University - correspondence, 1965
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97. Hellmuth, George F. - correspondence, 1970
98. Hetlage, Richard A. - correspondence, 1971-1972
99. Hilliker, Frank T. - correspondence, statements, 1939-1972
100. Horsbrugh, Patrick - correspondence, 1965-1982
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102. Jordan, Eugene F. - correspondence, 1966-1972
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104. Kassabaum, George E. - correspondence, 1964-1968

105. KMOX-TV - correspondence, 1964, 1965
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107. Kramer, Gerhardt - correspondence, newsclippings, 1966-1978
108. KSD-TV - OPO Documentary, transcript, Nov. 1971
109. KSD-TV - OPO Documentary, correspondence, 1971-1972
110. KSD-TV - OPO Documentary, comments, Nov. - Dec. 1971
111. KSD-TV - OPO Documentary, Washington D.C. showing, Jan. and Feb. 1972

112. Landmarks Association of St. Louis - brochure, pamphlets, newsclippings, 1964-1977

113. Landmarks Association of St. Louis - correspondence, 1964-1982
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115. Landmarks Association - meetings, membership lists, reports, 1962-1972
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124. Long, Edward V. - correspondence, 1964-1965
125. Love, E.K., Jr. - correspondence, 1964-1967
126. McCue, George and Mary Pat - correspondence, statements, 1964-1972
127. Manigault, Peter - correspondence, 1965
128. Meetings - OPO Committee, agenda, memos, 1964-1967
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131. Missouri Association of Consulting Engineers, correspondence, 1964
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134. Missouri State Park Board - correspondence, 1970-1972
135. Moss, Myron - correspondence, 1969

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137. Murphy, Joseph - correspondence, 1960-1974
138. Nagel, Charles - correspondence, 1964-1967
139. National Heritage Limited - correspondence, 1964-1967
140. National Committee OPO - correspondence, Jul. - Aug. 1965
141. National Committee OPO - correspondence, Sept. 1965 - Mar. 1972
142. National Committee OPO - correspondence, 1975
143. National Park Service - correspondence, statements, 1961-1966
144. National Park Service - correspondence, 1968-1975
145. National Park Service - booklet, certificate on OPO, 1966-1970
146. National Gallery of Art - correspondence, 1972
147. National Register of Historic Places Inventory (Nominating OPO), 1969
148. National Trust for Historic Preservation, correspondence, May 1961 - Jul. 1964

149. National Trust for Historic Preservation, correspondence, Aug. 1964 - Jul. 1965
150. National Trust for Historic Preservation, correspondence, reports, Oct. 1965 - Oct. 1966
151. National Trust for Historic Preservation, correspondence, meetings, memos, reports, 1967-1971
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175. Omaha Landmarks, Inc. - correspondence, 1965-1968
176. Opera Theatre of St. Louis - correspondence, invitation, newsclippings, 1982
177. Organizations favoring OPO Preservation, correspondence, list, 1966
178. Passonneau, Joseph R. - correspondence, 1964-1972
179. Peckham, William D. - correspondence, 1964-1975
180. Peterson, Charles E. - correspondence, 1964-1966
181. Petitions (sample signature sheets), 1964-1967
182. Pickens, Buford - correspondence, statements, 1959-1977
183. Planning and Review Committee - lists, reports, 1979
184. Preservation News, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1973
185. President's Council on Environmental Quality correspondence, 1970-1971
186. Presidents of the United States - correspondence, 1965-1973
187. Price, Melvin - correspondence, 1964
188. Public Relations - ads, correspondence, 1961, 1965
189. Pulitzer, Joseph, Jr. - correspondence, 1970-1972
190. Rally, Apr. 2, 1965
191. Rapid Transit, re OPO - newsclippings, 1971
192. Real Estate Research Corp. - "Appraisal of OPO Development," 1973
193. Red Cross - correspondence, proposals, 1968
194. Rededication OPO - correspondence, membership lists, 1982
195. Rededication OPO - brochures, programs, commemorative postcard, 1982

196. Resolutions, 1964-1968

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197. Renovation OPO - correspondence, prospectus, 1977-1978

198. Renovation OPO - newsclippings, releases, 1977-1978

199. Rouse Company - correspondence, 1979

200. Ruesing, Edward A - correspondence, 1970-1971

201. St. Louis Art Museum - correspondence, 1970-1972

202. St. Louis Globe-Democrat - correspondence, 1964-1965

203. St. Louis Globe-Democrat - clippings, 1964-1977

204. St. Louis Post-Dispatch - correspondence, 1964-1977

205. St. Louis Post-Dispatch - clippings, 1959-1974

206. St. Louis Visitors' Center - clippings, press releases, 1964-1975

207. Saarinen, Aileen - correspondence, 1965

208. Songs and Poems, 1965

209. San Francisco Mint - correspondence, 1970-1971

210. Sayre, Joel - correspondence, 1965

211. Smithsonian Institute - correspondence, 1965-1970

212. Spencer, Mary - TV commentary, correspondence, 1965-1975

213. Stationery, OPO Committee, 1971-1975

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216. Sullivan, Leonor K. - correspondence, 1964-1971

217. Sullivan, Leonor K. - correspondence, press releases, 1972-1976

218. Sullivan, Leonor K. - meeting, Jan. 6, 1971

219. Sullivan, Leonor K. - clippings, 1978

220. Symington, Stuart - correspondence, 1971-1975

221. Symington, Stuart - correspondence, 1964-1974

222. Telegram to President Johnson, Apr. 5, 1965

223. Torno, Laurent J., Jr. - correspondence, 1965-1969

224. Tucker, Raymond - correspondence, 1964-1965

225. Turley, Clarence M. - correspondence, 1964-1965

226. Turley Martin Company - correspondence, 1967-1975

227. Van Ravensway, Charles - correspondence, 1964-1977

228. United Missouri Bancshares - correspondence, 1974

229. U.S. Department of Transportation - correspondence, 1972

230. White House Press Releases, 1971

231. Whitehill, Walter Muir, 1966-1973

232. Women's Clubs - correspondence, lists, 1964-1966

233. Woodward, Charles H. - correspondence, 1968-1969

234. Yalem, Charles H. - clipping, correspondence, gift list, 1960, 1967

235. Williams, Eugene F., Jr. - correspondence, 1971

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- 239. Eads Bridge - clippings, 1965-1974
- 240. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial - clippings, notices, report, 1966, 1972
- 241. Laclede's Landing - clipping, notice, 1974-1977
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- 260. Newspaper clippings, 1967-1974
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