NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Taille de Noyer

AND/OR COMMON
Mullanphy-Chambers House

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
#1 Rue Taille de Noyer

CITY, TOWN
Florissant

VICINITY OF

STATE
Missouri

VICINITY OF

CODE
029

CITY, TOWN
Florissant

STATE
Missouri

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENT
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

1. Building owned by: Florissant Valley Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 298

CITY, TOWN
Florissant

STATE
Missouri

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
7900 Forsyth Boulevard

CITY, TOWN
Clayton

STATE
Missouri

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
1. Historic American Buildings Survey (#M0-1143)

DATE
1960

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.
### CONTINUATION SHEET

<table>
<thead>
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2. **Plot of land associated with house owned by:**

Ferguson-Florissant Reorganized School District
Administration Building
655 January
St. Louis, Missouri 63135

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<tr>
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</table>

2. **Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue**
   - 1963
   - State Historical Society of Missouri
   - Columbia

3. **Coombs and Elgin Report**
   - 1966
   - Kenneth E. Coombs and Robert Elgin, Architects
   - Kansas City

4. **100 Historic Buildings in St. Louis County**
   - 1970
   - Historic Buildings Commission
   - St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation
   - Clayton

5. **Historic Houses of America**
   - 1971
   - Editor: Beverly da Costa
   - Published by: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc.
   - New York

6. **Adventure in St. Louis**
   - 1972
   - Author: Harry M. Hagen
   - Published by: Riverside Press
   - St. Louis

7. **Missouri State Historical Survey**
   - 1979
   - Department of Natural Resources
   - P.O. Box 176
   - Jefferson City

8. **State Historical Society of Missouri**
   - Columbia

9. **Missouri State Historical Survey**
   - 1979
   - Department of Natural Resources
   - P.O. Box 176
   - Jefferson City

10. **State Historical Society of Missouri**
    - Columbia

11. **Missouri State Historical Survey**
    - 1979
    - Department of Natural Resources
    - P.O. Box 176
    - Jefferson City
# DESCRIPTION

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<tr>
<td>EXCELLENT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>RUINS</td>
<td>moved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNEXPOSED</td>
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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Taille de Noyer is a 2½ story house resting on a modern reinforced concrete foundation which exhibits a rectangular plan measuring 78'8" along its east and west sides and 33'8" along its north and south sides. The house includes several sections of varying dates (see plan). To the north is located the oldest wing which originally stood as two single room log cabins separated by a dog trot. This section is constructed of hand hewn 6"-14" oak and walnut logs disposed horizontally, cut and sliced inside and out with bark remaining along their horizontals embedded in a mortar of lime and sand. Window and door frames are of hand-planed oak panels which are pinned to the horizontal logs with wooden pegs. Sills and floor joists are hand-hewn walnut logs. Finishing treatment here includes wide, random width pine flooring and hand-split oak lath faced with a plaster of sand and lime on the walls. Some of the log construction, lath and original plaster have been left exposed in the library and the northern wall of the dog trot hall.

Additions to the east and south of the original log building are of frame construction. The entire building has been faced with weatherboard, painted white, and capped with gabled and hipped roofs covered with asphalt shingles.

Notable decorative features of Taille de Noyer include the several sizes of Tuscan columns which adorn the deep galleries to the west and south and the Greek Revival Style main entry with its flanking Tuscan pilasters, transom, sidelights and entablature head. In addition, the French influenced style of this house, characterized by deep sheltered porches beneath gabled roofs which are often peaked in the manner of the 1840 addition here, is typical of the architecture from Florissant's French past and survives with some technical modifications to the present day (see pending National Register Inventory-Nomination Form for the City of St. Ferdinand Multiple Resource Area).

Alterations to Taille de Noyer, in addition to those indicated on the accompanying plans, include the enclosure of the dog trot and the addition of millwork around doors and windows of the twin cabins prior to 1830 and the construction of dormers on the north end and the addition of the second story there between 1828 and 1830. The addition of steam heating, plumbing and electrical systems, the removal of the second story porch from the west side of the southern ¼ of house and its replacement with the present series of 16' wooden columns, the addition of the second story porch to the south facade, the addition of the second story porch on the east facade and the division of the second story longroom into two bedrooms separated by bath all occurred in 1922. Finally, in 1961 all chimneys and fireplace brick were removed when the house was moved 200 yards to the west and turned slightly to the west.

Taille de Noyer is presently in good condition in its role as a museum and headquarters for the Florissant Valley Historical Society. This organization constantly maintains this house and is presently completing the restoration of the second and third floors.
**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD**
- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- PHILOSOPHY
- ART
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INVENTION
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- HISTORY
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- POLITICAL GOVERNMENT

**SPECIFIC DATES**
- ca. 1800

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Taille de Noyer is significant as the former holding and the only remaining building in St. Louis directly associated with John Mullanphy, a noted St. Louis businessman, agricultural entrepreneur, humanist and philanthropist of the 19th century. Mullanphy was born in 1758 in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. In 1789 he came to America, landing in Philadelphia. By 1798 he was employed as a bookseller in Kentucky and is known to have outfitted at least one schooner for East Indian trade. After the Louisiana Purchase, his ability in the French language, learned during his service in the Irish army while stationed in France, and his desire for opportunities in real estate, led him to St. Louis where he eventually acquired extensive holdings both in that city and in the nearby City of St. Ferdinand (Florissant). In addition, Mullanphy was responsible for the organization of Sacred Heart Orphan Asylum, a hospital and a home for destitute and aged widows, all in St. Louis (Darby, 67-81; Gill, 146-147; Hyde and Conrad, 1591). In 1805 he purchased Taille de Noyer.

The original log cabin on the property, which is incorporated in the present building, was probably constructed ca. 1800 by the original owner of the property, Hyacinthe Deshetres, one of the founding fathers of the City of St. Ferdinand (Deeds, Bk. A, 213). Taille de Noyer was acquired by John Mullanphy about 1805 and doubled as a hunting lodge and trading post for several years. In 1817, on the occasion of the marriage of his youngest daughter, Jane, to Charles Chambers, Mullanphy sold Taille de Noyer to the couple for $1.00 as a wedding gift (Deeds, Bk. H, p. 355). The Chambers developed the property into a working farm. Their descendants remained on the property for nearly 140 years and enlarged it to its present condition. By 1954, the land associated with the house had dwindled from the 340 acres of the original Spanish land grant to Hyacinthe Deshetres, to 27 acres. In that year, 20 acres were purchased by the R-2 School District. By 1960 School District Expansion was again necessary and the house was condemned against the protests of its owner, Mrs. Julius Polk, the great, great granddaughter of John Mullanphy. In 1960, after negotiations between the Florissant Valley Historical Society and the R-2 School District, the Historical Society raised $10,000 and financed the moving of the house 200 yards to the west, to a plot of land leased to the school district. Unfortunately, the associated garconnière, which was constructed in 1830 adjoining the north side of the house, could not be moved and was demolished for lack of funds. In 1961, the Florissant Valley Historical Society began the restoration of the house which continues today.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

QUADRANT NAME: "Florissant, Mo."

UTM REFERENCES

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<td>B</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the north line of Walnut Grove Hills, said line having a bearing of South 87°20'30" East, assumed, at the common lot corner between lots 95 and 94 of said Walnut Grove Hills; thence North 59°25' East a distance of

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Noelle Soren, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
TAILLE de NOYER

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1


ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

326.67 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 83.30 feet to a point; thence South 94.16 feet to a point; thence West 56.70 feet to a point; thence North 5.80 feet to the point of beginning.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Miss Kay Spring, Researcher
Florissant Survey Office
City Hall
955 Rue St. Francois
Florissant Missouri 63031
**Missouri**

**State**: Missouri  
**County**: St. Louis  
**Town**: Florissant  
**Street No.**: 1892 S. Florissant Road  
**Vicinity**: Florissant

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<th>1. STATE</th>
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<td>3. STREET NO.</td>
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### Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

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<tr>
<td>3. DATE OR PERIOD</td>
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<td>4. STYLE</td>
<td>Pioneer French, et. seq.</td>
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<td>5. ARCHITECT</td>
<td>Florissant Valley Hist. Soc.</td>
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<td>6. CONSTRUCTION</td>
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<td>7. NO. OF STORIES</td>
<td>One and one half and two</td>
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### Notable Features, Historical Significance and Description

The earliest portion of this building is believed to have been built by a French fur trader about 1790. Many additions dating from the early 19th century obscure original lines. However, evidence of early craftsmanship can be found within the fabric of the building.

A land grant of 1798 gives the owner as Hyacinthe Deshetre. Mullanphy, an early and prosperous merchant, took title soon after. He bequeathed the house to his daughter Jane who became Mrs. Charles Chambers.

In 1961, highway construction forced relocation of this building from its original site. It is now situated within the campus complex of the McCluer High School, some 200 yards from its original location.

Restoration work is being undertaken by the Florissant Valley Historical Society. Eventually the building will be re-opened to the public though much of its charm and atmosphere has been lost.

### Physical Condition of Structure

<table>
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<th>1. MATERIALS</th>
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<td>3. EXTERIOR</td>
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### Location Map (Plan Optional)

- **SCHOOL CAMPUS**
- **EARLY PORTION**

### Photograph

![Photograph of Taille De Noier]

### Published Sources

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missouri Historic Sites Catalog</td>
<td>p 165</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HABS Catalog Supplement AO 1143</td>
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### Name, Address and Title of Recorder

- Kenneth E. Coombs  
- Robert L. Elgin  
- 18 East 11th  
- Kansas City, Missouri  
- Date of Record: June 23, 1965
TAILLE de NOYER
1790

Architects:
G. Kramer consulted

Style:

Ownership, Operators:
Owned by Florissant Valley Historical Society, operated by same
Ground under house owned by Ferguson-Florissant School District

Restoration Costs:
$11,000 to move house 200 yards and give half turn

General Funds:
Historical Society
Admissions, gifts
Revenue from shops

Additional Features:
Building used as headquarters for Historical Society
Country Store
Trading Post (used items)

Upkeep:
Historical Society
Furnishings donated

Attendance:

Admissions: adults-50 cents
children-25 cents
free field trips for School District pupils
Photo Log:

Name of Property:  Taille de Noyer

City or Vicinity:  Florissant

County:  St. Louis County  State:  MO

Photographer:  Noelle Soren

Date Photographed:  Aug. 1979

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 12. View toward NE.
2 of 12. W side, detail of entranceway in 1850 addition.
3 of 12. W side, N section, original house circa 1800.
4 of 12. View of S side toward N.
5 of 12. E side.
6 of 12. View of N side of original building.
7 of 12. View toward SE of house on its original site. Note the corner of the garconniere, which was demolished at the time of the move in 1960, at the extreme left.
8 of 12. View to SE of house on its original site. Note second floor porch on S section still in place.
9 of 12. Interior, NE corner of library in original N section of the house showing log construction.
10 of 12. Interior, dog trot hall in original N section of the house, detail of N wall showing hand split oak lath and original sand and lime plaster remnants.
11 of 12. Interior, first floor, living room, view to SW showing donated antique furnishings.
12 of 12. Interior, living room, view to NW showing donated antique furnishings.