

## Historic Information about the Stahl Stable and House

The history of the Stahl stable and the adjacent house start with one of the city's founding fathers. On October 7, 1837, the City of St. Louis deeded a large tract of land, including the Menard property, originally part of the Devalsy family claim, to John (or Jean) P. Cabanne (10-7-1837). Cabanne, along with August Chouteau, is considered one of the founding fathers and early leading citizens of St. Louis. Several years later, in late 1845, Cabanne deeded a portion of this tract, which included the Menard property, to his daughter Julia. She divided the land into sellable tracts. In April 1849, Julia Cabanne sold Lots 2 and 3 to Francis Cabanne for \$3667.50 and Lot 4 to Louis Reiss for \$262.50. The high price for Lots 2 and 3 indicates that the site had a valuable improvement on it: the house at 2412 Menard Street, then a one-and-a-half story Greek Revival cottage. The millwork pattern in the house today matches the original Greek key pattern, which is also found in the Old Courthouse downtown. The house faced east, away from Menard Street.



While Lots 2 and 3 would remain in the Cabanne family for several years, Lot 4 passed hands several times. Reiss sold the lot to Adolph Fischer later that year, who in turn sold it in 1853 to two single sisters, Catherine and Elizabeth Heller for \$365. Apparently, the property changed hands several times in the following years, until Herman Steinecke sold the lot with its two-story stable (2416 rear) to Jacob Stahl, a French immigrant, on September 29, 1866, for \$2850.

In December 1872, Jacob Stahl purchased Lots 2 and 3 from the guardian of Francis Cabanne for \$1500. A building permit issued in August 1877 corresponds to extensive remodeling of the house. Stahl reoriented the house to face Menard – although he left the staircase in its original position, where it remains today – and added a full second floor with mansard roof on the new front elevation.

Census records from that period list Jacob Stahl, along with his sons, George and Frederick, as teamsters, boarding horses and running wagons. They also record the differentiation of the lots as residential (Lot 4, 2412 Menard) and commercial (Lots 2 & 3, 2414-16 Menard). At the time, this area of Soulard was a popular area for teamsters to both live and work. A building permit issued in March 1888 dates to construction of a one-story frame wagon shed.

The two-story front section of the stable dates to a February 1891 building permit. The remains of the frame wagon shed could be found on the property as late as the 1970s, and the two-story brick stable is the same building found on the property today.

These three lots, as well as Lot 1, which Stahl purchased in 1877, remained in the Stahl family for the next several decades, although Jacob died in April 1880 at the age of 41. In his will, he bequeathed the property to his wife, Mary, fifteen years his senior. According to Jacob's will, at the event of her death, the property would then pass to their sons. The property remained in the Stahl family for over 30 years, until Josephine Stahl sold Lots 2, 3, and 4 to Lena Grohe in November 1912. In turn, she sold Lots 2 and 3 (the commercial buildings) on April 23, 1925, to Leopold and Olga Laciny, German immigrants. Later that year, she sold lot 4 (residential), to Leopold's brother Carl and his wife Helene. The Laciny's, who were Coppersmiths, Tinsmiths and Brass Finishers, set up shop and remained for well over 40 years.



Unfortunately, like many properties in the area during the late 1960s and 1970s, both the residential and commercial properties sat vacant for several years after the Laciny's relocated their business. The current owner, Larry Giles, purchased all three lots from the Laciny family in 1973 for \$1.00. He has spent the past three decades renovating and restoring the historic property. Until 2008, the stable was the headquarters and warehouse for the St. Louis Architectural Art Company, Giles' architectural recovery business.