

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE PARK

PARK HISTORY

In 1808 General Daniel Bissell was appointed Commanding Officer of Fort Bellefontaine and Military Governor of Upper Louisiana by President Thomas Jefferson. He remained there until departing for active duty in the War of 1812. Fort Belle Fontaine, the predecessor of Jefferson Barracks, was located on the Missouri River.

The House was constructed by slave labor between 1814 and 1816 and was known as Franklinville Farms. In 1821 General Bissell retired from the military and built up his estate to a prosperous farm of 2300 acres. He died in his home in 1833.

From the time of Daniel Bissell until 1961, the House was continuously occupied by members of the Bissell family. Bissell was acquired in five 1/5-interest donations from Janet Bissell Dimond from 1960 to 1964. The deed states the “party of the second part shall at all times maintain the premises conveyed hereby solely and only for a public park for recreational purposes and as an historic monument, and that no part of such conveyed premises shall at any time be used by party of the second part for any other purpose.” It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.