

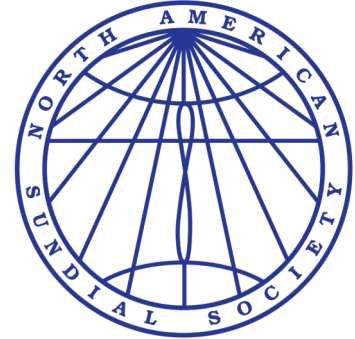
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*The Compendium**

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Coming events cast their shadows before

- Nineteenth century English proverb

* *Compendium...* "giving the sense and substance of the topic within small compass." In dialing, a compendium is a single instrument incorporating a variety of dial types and ancillary tools.

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Sighting: a sundial at the historic Bryan Mullanphy School in St. Louis, Missouri

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William B. Ittner (1864 - 1936) was a St. Louis architect who designed many of the school buildings in St. Louis. In 1897, Ittner became Commissioner of School Buildings for the city's Board of Education. Many of the approximately 48 school buildings designed and created under his guidance in and around St. Louis while he served as Commissioner continue to this day as active schools; others now provide housing, and some stand empty in poor condition.

The last school designed by Ittner is still open, now serving as a magnet school for about 430 students attending pre-kindergarten to fifth-grade classes. It is the Bryan

Mullanphy School, located at 4221 Shaw Boulevard (38.617°N, 90.255°W), now sometimes called the Mullanphy Botanical Gardens Elementary School because of its proximity to and interaction with the nearby Missouri Botanical Garden, and also sometimes called the Mullanphy Investigative Learning Center. Classes having a science orientation are offered, with support from the Missouri Botanical Garden, the St. Louis Science Center and the St. Louis Zoo.

The name of the school varies these days, but Ittner named it in 1897 after Bryan Mullanphy (1809 - 1851) when Mullanphy was elected mayor of St. Louis; Ittner named others of his schools after well-known people of the time: Eliot School (after Washington University's founder William Greenleaf Eliot), Jackson School (after President Andrew Jackson), Monroe School (after President James Monroe), Sherman School (after William Tecumseh Sherman), Field School (after Eugene Field), Emerson School (after Ralph Waldo Emerson), McKinley School (after President William McKinley), Farragut School (after Admiral David Farragut), Henry School (after Patrick Henry), Clark School (after William Clark), etc. (see Ref. 1).

A vertical dial of simple design is located on the south wall of the school building.¹ It is not presently functional for much of the day due to shadows cast by a nearby tree. Figure 1 shows a portion of the south wall of the school, including the dial masked by the tree. The dial, with its downward-sloping gnomon, is seen behind the tree in Figure 2. The photograph in Figure 3 was taken at 1:41 PM CDT on 7 May 2019.

Using the relation $T_{\text{sundial}} = T_{\text{civil}} + EOT - D - L$, where $EOT \approx 3.3$ minutes on the May 7 date, $D = 1$ hour to account for Daylight Saving Time being in force, and $L = 4$ ($90.255 - 90 \approx 1$ minute for latitude correction, the dial should show

$$T_{\text{sundial}} \approx 13:41:00 + 0:03:31 - 1:00:00 - 0:01:00 \approx 12:43:31.$$

This result suggests that Ittner's sundial at the Mullanphy School displays this sundial time to a reasonable approximation, especially considering that its only time markings are hour lines.



Figure 1. South wall of the Mullanphy School.

¹ The wall on which the sundial is mounted declines approximately 7° west of south, as estimated using Google Earth.



Figure 2 A view of the sundial displaying its gnomon.



Fig. 3 Sundial at 1:41 PM CDT on 7 May 2019.

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