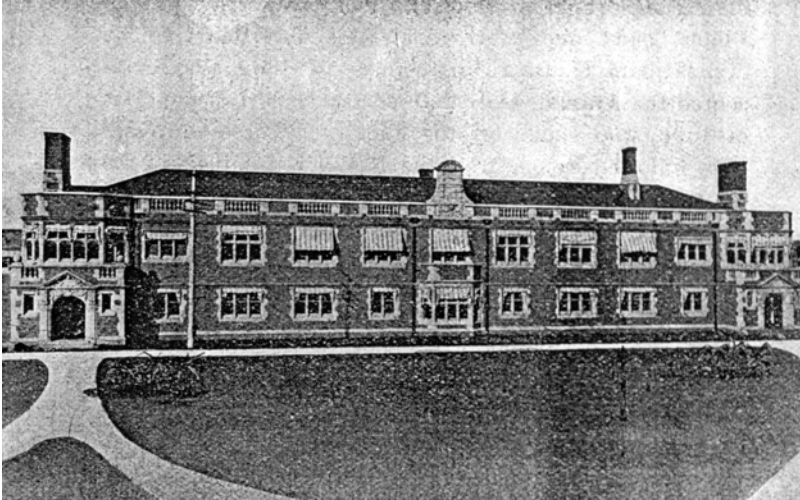


**Sightings... In St. Louis**  
Donald L. Snyder

St. Louis, Missouri USA is a city of approximately 2.5 million residents. It is located on the banks of the great Mississippi River at 38.7° N latitude and 90.3° W longitude. Visitors having an interest in sundials may find the following sites interesting.



From the October 1905 issue of the Washington University Record. "Cupples Hall No. 1 on the north side of the first quadrangle, erected by Mr. Samuel Cupples for the use of the departments of Civil Engineering and Architecture. The building is 262 feet long and 52 feet wide."

used for various outdoor events at the University, including commencement ceremonies in May each year. Cupples I and the Beaumont Pavilion form one side of a large quadrangle; the other three sides are formed by other buildings dating from around the time of the Fair, including the main administrative building of the University, Brookings Hall. On the south side of Cupples I, behind the Pavilion, there is a vertical sundial. Following is a quotation from the November 25, 1908 issue of *Washington University Student Life*, which was then and still is the campus newspaper:

*"The new sun dial on Cupples I is now being put into position upon the tablet on the south side of the building. The motto on the dial is very appropriate. We quote it in full:*

***I am a shadow  
So art thou;  
I mark time  
Dost thou?***

*At the bottom are appended the words:*

***Class of 1908.***

1. Sundial at Washington University

Washington University encompasses 2,267 acres with 150 major buildings. The School of Medicine is located at the east end of Forest Park, and the Hilltop Campus is at the west end of the park. Several of the buildings on the Hilltop Campus were erected around the time of the 1904 World's Fair, centered Forest Park. Among these is a building named Cupples I, which presently houses the Department of Mathematics. The cornerstone for Cupples I was laid on May 11, 1901. The building was used during the Fair by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Co. under the name of "Service Building," with an anthropological exhibition of mummies in the basement. It was occupied by the University in February, 1905. Beaumont Pavilion was added on the south side of Cupples I in 1965 and is



The sundial on Cupples I. Photograph taken on May 30, 2000 at 9:20 a.m. CDT. The top of Beaumont Pavilion is in the lower right part of the picture.

*It will be interesting to note the discrepancy between sun time and standard time by comparing with the Varsity clock."*

Varsity clock is a large time piece situated high on west wall of Brookings Hall. Both it and the sundial are visible from within the quadrangle. The quadrangle can be located on the university's web page at <http://www.wustl.edu/tour/hilltop>. The dial is in a position that makes direct measurements of it difficult. Some idea of its size can be obtained from the graphic and photo.

## 2. Sundial at Forest Park

Forest Park, site of the 1904 World's Fair, is a large city park containing many attractions for St. Louis residents and visitors. A zoo, outdoor theater, ice-skating rink, art museum, science center, and golf courses are among its attractions. The Jewel Box, located on a 17-acre site in Forest Park, was built by the City of St. Louis in 1936. It has special flower shows at Christmas, early spring, Easter, Mother's Day, a summer show and the chrysanthemum show in the fall. There is a large vertical sundial in the flower gardens adjacent to the Jewel Box. More about Forest Park and the location of the Jewel Box in it can be found at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/forest.park>. The following description of the dial is taken from a brochure published by the St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry:



"Korean War Memorial. Sundial designed by Mel Meyer, SM. Installed in 1989. Stainless steel. In 1951, a floral clock was installed in Forest Park near the Jewel Box as a memorial for those who served during the Korean War. Deterioration and mechanical problems caused that memorial to be decommissioned in 1985. A new memorial, an eight-foot stainless steel sundial, was designed to replace it. The new memorial was surrounded by plantings of viburnum, ivy, and barberry."

A plaque near the dial has the following inscription:

### IT'S ABOUT TIME

**This unique sculpture is a precise sundial. Unique as an upright sundial is, it symbolizes this community's response to the need to remember forever our veterans of the Korean War. We genuinely remember and respect these veterans, living and dead.**

The Korean War Memorial sundial in Forest Park. Photograph taken on May 29, 2000 at 3:30 p.m. CDT. The height of the gnomon is 85", and the length of the gnomon's base is 106", so an arctangent calculation has the gnomon inclining  $38.7^\circ$  to its base; an inclinometer measurement has it inclining  $39^\circ$  to the horizontal. The width of the gnomon is 3.5". The dial appears to face directly south.

## 3. Sundial in the Missouri Botanical Garden

The Missouri Botanical Garden is a St. Louis landmark for the display of many types of plants and trees. It is an educational center both for scholars wanting to learn about diverse aspects of plants and for homeowners wanting to learn about home gardening. Henry Shaw, a singularly private man, set the standard for philanthropy in the St. Louis region. He founded not only the Garden but contributed to and influenced hundreds of other St. Louis institutions. He was born in Sheffield, England, in 1800, came to St. Louis in 1819, became a United States citizen in 1843, and died at Tower Grove House in 1889. He lies at rest in the Garden. More about the Missouri Botanical Garden can be found at <http://www.mobot.org>. Located in the herb section of the Garden is the "Child Sundial" shown below.





"Child Sundial" in the herb garden of the Missouri Botanical Garden. It was installed in 1965 as a gift from Mrs. Herman Husch, made by an anonymous English artist. Quoting from information provided by the Garden, "The daydreaming child figure with sundial is at ground level in a bed of creeping thyme, perhaps a gentle Herb garden pun. The sundial is adjusted to show standard time in St. Louis." The height of the gnomon is about 5.5", and its inclination to the horizontal, measured using an inclinometer, is about 38. The photograph was taken at about 2:45 p.m. CDT on June 4, 2000.



Woodhenge, a solar calendar located at Cahokia Mounds State Historical Site near Collinsville, Illinois, 20 minutes outside of St. Louis.

#### 4. Sun Calendar

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is located near Collinsville, Illinois, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis and about a 20 minute drive away. The following is taken from an Illinois Historic Preservation Agency brochure describing the site. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1982 designated Cahokia Mounds a World Heritage site for its importance to understanding the prehistory of North America. It is an ancient city that was inhabited from about 700 to 1400 A. D. At its peak, the city covered nearly six square miles and had a population as great as 20,000. More can be learned about Cahokia Mounds

from the web pages at <http://www.cahokiamounds.com>. The "Woodhenge" solar calendar is located at the Cahokia Mounds site. This was discovered in the early 1960s during excavations and has been reconstructed. There is a series of posts in multiple circles that indicate various solar events, such as the solstices, equinoxes, and what are thought to be special festival dates related to the agricultural cycle of the region. Critical posts also align with the mounds of the site on certain dates. The third of the circles has a diameter of 410 feet and has 48 equispaced posts, each post being 15 to 20 inches in diameter and probably 20 feet high. Equinox and solstice sunrise observations are held at the site on the Sunday morning closest to the event.

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