

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis
Additional Information Sheet

Location:

Magnolia Committee first meetings at residence of Glenda Dilley
3949 Magnolia

Additional Information:

Location where community members met and planned a 1980 Walk for Charity – the first governmentally recognized pride march in St. Louis.

A full history of this event is outlined by community historian J. Andris on the page *The Magnolia Committee*, <http://jandris.ipage.com/history/h80.12.html>. In this 2012 article he explains:

“Glenda Dilley, now Cea Hearth stated her specific motivation for founding the Magnolia Committee. Obtaining her masters as a teacher and coming to St. Louis to start her career, she felt compelled to go "back into the closet, and then was so aggravated by the circumstances that made that necessary, that I decided to make another gay organization in St. Louis." At that time, Glenda adopted the activist name of "Adrienne Rae," and called a meeting of interested individuals together in her basement apartment on Magnolia Avenue, she thought perhaps in October of 1979. Later a copy of the original letter of invitation to the initial meeting of the Magnolia Committee was found in the papers of Rev. Roy Birchard. The letter is dated 11/12/1979, and the proposed meeting date and place is 8:00 pm, Nov. 20, 1979 at 3949 Magnolia #15, the basement apartment of Glenda Dilley. By coincidence, the first meeting was held in an apartment building that faces the site of the current St. Louis Pride celebrations. [Note: After 2013, PrideFest moved from Tower Grove Park to downtown St. Louis.]”

For additional history see:

Andris, Jim, Interview of Cea Hearth, August 10, 2010.
Andris, Jim, Interview of Bill Spicer, October 30, 2011.
Andris, Jim, Interview of Frank Sprayberry, January 16, 2012.
Andris, Jim, Interview of John Hilgeman, February 16, 2012.
Kohn, Lisa, Interview of Jim Thomas, Dec. 1, 2003.
Magnolia Folder, Bill Spicer's. Donated to Jim Andris, Oct. 31, 2011.

Thomas, Jim, "St. Louis Activist Group for Lesbian, Gay Rights Founded." *No Bad News*, June, 1980, pp. 1.

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis is an interdisciplinary humanities project examining the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class & society in the metropolitan area of St. Louis, Missouri. We welcome questions, comments, and feedback. [Please contact the project team using this online form.](#)