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City Of Kirkwood, Missouri

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Cover art by Bob Whitesitt

Produced By The City Of Kirkwood Landmarks Commission  
October 2001

139 South Kirkwood Road  
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122  
Phone: (314) 822-5808  
Fax: (314) 822-5863  
E-mail: [williarf@kirkwoodmo.org](mailto:williarf@kirkwoodmo.org)

Printed On Recycled Paper  
[www.ci.kirkwood.mo.us](http://www.ci.kirkwood.mo.us)

# historic *Kirkwood* Landmarks



N↑

Historic Kirkwood Landmarks

No Scale

Landmark Designation # = 03

N↑

Old Kirkwood

No Scale

Landmark Designation # = 03





## Properties Eligible For Landmark Status



**St. Peter's Cemetery**  
**520 West Monroe Avenue, c. 1833**

Twenty years before the railroad came and the City of Kirkwood was established, St. Peter's parish was founded. In 1832, by the direction of the Most Reverend Bishop Rosati of St. Louis, the parish came into being, and in 1833, the cornerstone was laid for a small church. Many of the parishioners were Irish families, but this mission church was served mainly by French priests. In the St. Louis area, only the Old Cathedral and the parishes of Florissant and Carondelet are older than St. Peter's. After the City of Kirkwood was established in 1853, it was decided to build a new church on a more "central" site. The new church was built in 1868 on Main (now Argonne) and Clay Avenues, but the original piece of ground continues to be used for burials. A portion of the original property was previously sold for the railroad right-of-way. St. Peter's Cemetery is the oldest active Catholic cemetery in St. Louis city or county.

**Oak Hill Cemetery**  
**10305 Big Bend Boulevard, 1868**

In the nineteenth century, citizens became concerned about the possible health hazards and unattractiveness of overcrowded churchyards and family graveyards, and established large "rural cemeteries" beyond the city limits. A rural cemetery is characterized by elaborate landscape design with winding roadways, rolling hills, picturesque vistas and many family monuments. The first one in the United States was Mount Auburn Cemetery established in 1831 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. St. Louis leaders established this area's first rural cemetery, Bellefontaine, in 1849, the year of the great cholera epidemic. The next was Calvary Cemetery, dedicated to the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1867. The following year, Kirkwood and Webster Groves business leaders established Oak Ridge Cemetery on 53 acres in East Kirkwood. A high ridge through the property already contained a small pioneer graveyard for families from what was known as the Gravois settlement with burials dating from the 1840s. In 1879, the cemetery was reorganized as Oak Hill Cemetery with a new board of trustees who hired W. D. Green to be the superintendent. He lived on the grounds, and made the cemetery so beautiful with a profusion of dogwood trees and other plantings that it became a popular spot for carriage rides and tours, with tickets required for admission. Prominent Kirkwood and Webster Groves families have erected a great variety of markers and monuments throughout the cemetery, representing the many styles and periods of funerary art.



## Landmarks Designated By The Landmarks Commission

Listed by designation number, designation name, and owner.

- |    |   |  |    |   |                                      |
|----|---|--|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | Kirkwood Train Station  | Union Pacific Railroad                       | 34 | Robyn-Evans-Crosby House                            | Demolished 2000                      |
| 2  | McLagan-Black House   | William & Phyllis Ravensberg                 | 35 | Singleton House                                     | Robert & Marcelle Pearson            |
| 3  | Mudd's Grove  | Kirkwood Historical Society                  | 36 | Dionysius House                                     | Demolished 1993                      |
| 4  | Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church  | Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church                   | 37 | Wilson Place  | Robert & Sharon Wyman                |
| 5  | Smith-Keysor House  | Tom & Athalia Hewell                         | 38 | Couch House   | Constantin & June Franks             |
| 6  | Henry Bopp House  | University of Mo. Curators                   | 39 | Byars House   | Ralph & Sharon Thaman                |
| 7  | Gill Home   | Jim & Margot Holsen                          | 40 | Marquitz-Garesche House                             | Mary Glen                            |
| 8  | Talhurst-Burr House   | Lillian Munroe                               | 41 | Peter Bopp House                                    | Dennis Dufer & Ellen Gough           |
| 9  | Fishback House  | James & Kathleen Mannion                     | 42 | Levi House Store                                    | Jan Wise                             |
| 10 | Hoffman-Ward House  | Gary & Gail Andrews                          | 43 | William Bach House                                  | Veralda Bach                         |
| 11 | Hoch Farm:<br>211 Sugar Creek Ridge Dr.                           | Carl & Ann Polster                           | 44 | Bach-Nalley-Swoboda House                           | Mike & Sue Swoboda                   |
|    | 212 Sugar Creek Ridge Dr.   | Joaquin Ciecro                               | 45 | Lemp Estate "Cragwold"                              | James & Deborah Matush               |
| 12 | Yeats-Tutt House:<br>"Graystone Lodge"                            | William Freivogel &<br>Margaret Wolf         | 46 | Kiefer's-McConnell's<br>Beach House                 | Demolished 1998                      |
| 13 | Meramec Highlands<br>Frisco Station                               | Thomas Biggs                                 | 47 | Holmes-Schmitz House                                | Ted & Deb Jablonski                  |
| 14 | Henry Hough House   | Drennan & Lauren Bailey                      | 48 | Makles-McGrath House                                | Judith & Timothy Arnold              |
| 15 | Meramec Highlands<br>General Store                                | James & Terry Baker                          | 49 | Frisco Railroad Tunnel<br>"Meramec Highlands"       | Thomas Biggs                         |
| 16 | Hazard House  | Brian Clinton                                | 50 | Green Parrot Restaurant                             | James Holtzman                       |
| 17 | Murtfeldt-Douglass House  | Kenton & Patricia Knickmeyer                 | 51 | Unity Baptist Church                                | Unity Baptist Church                 |
| 18 | Swan Cottage  | Jonathan & Sharon Williams                   | 52 | McElroy-King Ambler House                           | Martin & Mary Daly                   |
| 19 | Abrams-Robertson-Kraft<br>House                                   | Betty Ranney                                 | 53 | Old Fire House No. 1                                | Herbert Jones                        |
| 20 | Unsell-Cabell House   | Hugh & Ann Mc Pheeters                       | 54 | Old Post Office                                     | Messenger Printing & Pub. Co.        |
| 21 | Kraus House:<br>"Frank Lloyd Wright"                              | Frank Lloyd Wright House<br>in Ebsworth Park | 55 | Brook Cottage                                       | Kathy Lewis                          |
| 22 | Clarke House: "Seven Gables"                                      | Charles Ross                                 | 56 | Hammond-Suits House                                 | Gary & Theresa Sibbitts              |
| 23 | World's Fair Wisconsin<br>House                                   | Leslie & William Mathieu                     | 57 | Admathy House                                       | Margaret Woods                       |
| 24 | Kyle-Essex-Gamble House   | David & Marla Bouchein                       | 58 | Beckstein House                                     | Richard & Kathy Crandall             |
| 25 | Holmes-Mitchell House   | Art & Barbara McDonnell                      | 59 | Gas Station   | J. C. Scott                          |
| 26 | Essex-Mudd House:<br>"Mudd-Hilton House"                          | Mark & Elizabeth Fogarty                     | 60 | Kinsella House                                      | Charles & Joyce Woodard              |
| 27 | W.F. Warner House   | Charles & Marianne Burnside                  | 61 | Good-Magoffin House                                 | Demolished 1984                      |
| 28 | Eliot Unitarian Chapel:<br>(Originally Grace Episcopal<br>Church) | Eliot Unitarian Chapel                       | 62 | Fry-Bodley-Hough House                              | Demolished 1999                      |
| 29 | Sutherland-Mitchell-<br>Shallcross House                          | Carson & Margaret Shelly                     | 63 | Gatz-Marshall House                                 | Thomas Dutton & Mary Sleater         |
| 30 | Grissom-Ewing House   | Susan B. Smith                               | 64 | Geyer and Rose Hill Grocery                         | Geyer Properties Ltd.                |
| 31 | Keith-Greensfelder House  | Don & Susan Marquess                         | 65 | Coulter Feed Store Building                         | Robert Whitesitt                     |
| 32 | Hoyt-Phelps House   | Allen Klippel & Kimberly Reid                | 66 | Fire Station No. 2                                  | City of Kirkwood                     |
| 33 | Halsey-Rode House   | Young Mens Christian Assn.                   | 67 | Nipher School: (Originally<br>Kirkwood High School) | Kirkwood School District R-7         |
|    |   |  | 68 | Quinette Cemetery                                   | City of Kirkwood                     |
|    |   |  | 69 | How Farm  | Daniel Watson                        |
|    |   |  | 70 | George C. Hammond House                             | Sean & Christina Barnett             |
|    |   |  | 71 | Royle Place   | Removed from Landmark<br>Status 1991 |
|    |   |  | 72 | Gerould Building                                    | Louis & Irene Rupprecht              |
|    |   |  | 73 | Couch-Heinzelman Store<br>Bldg.                     | Richard & Ruth Van Goor              |

## Landmarks Designated By Landmarks Commission

Listed By Designation Number , Designation Name, And Owner .

74	Heinzelmann Store & Rental Units	Richard & Ruth Van Goor
75	Meramec Highlands School	James & Mary Pritchard
76	Holekamp Lumber Co.	OK Hatchery Feed & Garden Store
77	Heinzelmann Bakery Building	Mike & Sue Swoboda
78	Kirkwood Cinema/ Osage Theatre	Characters & Company
79	Daniel S. Brown House: "Brownhurst"	Society of Mary Province of St. Louis
80	Spencer's Grill Sign	John & Vivian Katsoulis
81	Turner Elementary School	Lloyd Farrow
82	Francis E. Nipher House	Bertha Garesche
83	John J. Rowe School	Keith & Phebe Williams

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## Designated Historic Districts

### Central Place Historic District *300 Block of Central Place*

The prevalence of the Bungalow style house in Kirkwood attests to its popularity. The Bungalow style as a suburban residential type became popular in Kirkwood in the 1910s and 1920s. It was a form affordable to the working class and suited to the suburban setting on a modest lot with the standard suburban front and side yards typical of Kirkwood's original development. The quality of the craftsmanship and attention to detail, particular in the interiors, is significant. These homes symbolized the prosperity of the country, and the "American Dream" was available to a significantly broader socio-economic range. These homes were indicative of the new 20th century suburb, which was both affordable and accessible due to the advent of and popular usage of streetcars, automobiles and buses. The Central Place Historic District was designated locally in 1998. The historic district includes the most concentrated examples of Bungalow style homes in the city that have not changed from the original homes built between 1913 and 1928. Nineteen structures make up the historic district, including two houses that face North Harrison (519 and 533 North Harrison). They were built on small lots, which were the result of a pattern of subdivision and re-subdivision of larger properties (Leffingwell's First Addition to Kirkwood, 1866, and Maple Park, 1894, were the original subdivision and first re-subdivision, respectively), which accommodated the great increase in population in Kirkwood by the 1920s. The location of these lots just outside the comfortable walkable area of the original town may be due to the introduction of the use of the streetcar and the automobile in Kirkwood. The homes feature Craftsman and Prairie stylistic details. Three roof configurations are common to the type: side and front gables, side gambrels and low pyramidal roofs. The most characteristic feature of the Bungalow besides its roof with overhanging eaves, exposed rafter ends, decorative elbow brackets and dormers, is the front porch. The homes in the district have full or partial-width, projecting or recessed porches.



## Designated Historic Districts



### Meramec Highlands Historic District *Bounded by Big Bend Road, Barberrry Lane, and the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks*

The Meramec Highlands Historic District encompasses part of the area which was once an exclusive summer health spa and resort catering to affluent Midwesterners. The resort, headed by entrepreneur Marcus Bernheimer, operated swimming and boating concessions on the Meramec River as early as 1891, but officially opened in 1894. It included a grand summer hotel with 125 rooms and fifteen spacious guest cottages. The resort featured such amenities as the first electric lights in the area and running water provided by Bernheimer's Sunset Hill Electric Light Water and Power Company. It also included its own train station, general store, large dance pavilion, billiard hall, bowling alley, swimming beach and a boathouse. A centerpiece for the resort's health spa business was the mineral water bathhouse, which used sulfolthiated water for hot and cold baths. The resort had its own quarry, farm and dairy. An ambitious Meramec Highlands residential subdivision was well advertised in 1895, but lots never sold well. The exclusiveness of the resort waned once the streetcar lines connected it with the city. After a surge of business for the 1904 World's Fair, the Highlands Inn closed in 1905. It was refurbished and reopened in 1908, but was unsuccessful and closed once again. In 1925, the resort was sold to the company that opened Osage Hills Country Club. The hotel burned in 1926, and the cottages were sold to individual owners. The former resort area was annexed to Kirkwood in 1927. Important to the longevity of the resort as a Meramec River playground, picnic spot and as a location for dancing and night life were the St. Louis and Kirkwood Railroad and the St. Louis and Meramec River Railroad, which on a typical hot summer weekend day brought over 10,000 people to relax at the resort. After 1907, the two streetcar lines were known as the Kirkwood-Ferguson 01 and the Manchester 56. Streetcars stopped serving the area in 1932. Thirteen of the original cottages, each with its own name, remain today and have become year round residences. Three separately designated landmark structures are included in the historic district. In the resort's heyday, 12 trains a day stopped at the train station, which was built by the resort and deeded to the Frisco railroad for one dollar in exchange for service. Another marvel of the resort was the 20 foot high Frisco tunnel through Sunset Hill with its limestone block sides and its vaulted brick ceiling. It was better to look at than to ride through. Passengers suffered from smoke and soot entering the car windows as trains passed through the tunnel. Resort visitors and neighborhood residents were served by the Meramec Highlands Grocery, one of the first resort structures built in 1891. The structure housed a post office and general store. It later included a restaurant, barber shop and a primary school for the Meramec Highlands school district, and ultimately, became a single family residence. A walk in the historic district among the quaint resort cottages on Ponca Trail takes one back to the turn of the 20th century.



## Introduction

On March 5, 1981, the Kirkwood City Council established a Landmarks Commission "to make a continuous study of all the buildings and structures in the City, taking into account the age, design, period of construction, aesthetic value, past use and historical significance and to consider such buildings for designation as historical landmarks." The Commission has actively pursued its charge from its inception to the present. While most of the landmarks are residences, others include businesses, schools, churches and a cemetery. In addition, the Commission has advised property owners on exterior renovations in order to preserve the character of the landmarks. In 1988, the Commission declared Kirkwood's first historic district, honoring the Meramec Highlands area. The second historic district, Central Place, was designated in 1995.

The Commission is very proud of its efforts to preserve the rich heritage of Kirkwood and to insure that its unique character continues. We hope that this booklet provides a useful introduction for you to the landmarks of Kirkwood.



### No. 1 Kirkwood Train Station National Register Of Historic Places *110 West Argonne Drive, 1893*

This outstanding example of Richardsonian architecture was constructed by Douglass Donovan to replace the previous wooden station. The track for the Pacific Railroad to Kirkwood was completed in 1853. The first train arrived May 11, 1853, for an auction sale of lots, making Kirkwood the first planned suburb west of the Mississippi. The town was named for the chief engineer for the railroad, James P. Kirkwood. Commuter trains ran to and through Kirkwood until 1961. A train turn-table was located near the present Farmer's Market for the engines to be turned for the return trip to St. Louis and for the helper engines, which were used to help freight trains manage the "Kirkwood Hill," prior to the arrival of diesel engines. It is still an active station for Amtrak service and also serves as a visitors' center.

### No. 2 McLagan - Black House *549 East Argonne Drive, c. 1865*

This house exemplifies the frame Italianate style which features wood siding cut and beveled to resemble stone quoins at the curves. It was probably built for the McLagan family. In 1879, the house was purchased from the McLagans by Charles Black who later published the *Clayton Argus*, which contained a "Kirkwood Argus" section devoted to Kirkwood news. From 1904 until 1924, the house was occupied by Ethan Allen Taussig, formerly a primo basso with the San Carlo Opera Company in London, and his prima donna wife who also sang with the company. Philip Rau, a dry goods merchant, bought the house in 1924. Rau's avocation was entomology, and he authored two books on the subject, one of which was published by Princeton University. The Kirkwood Historical Society bought the house from the Saller family in 1972 and used it as a museum until 1992. Since then, it has been returned to private ownership.





**No. 3 Mudd's Grove**  
National Register Of Historic Places  
**302 West Argonne Drive, 1859**

This stately red brick Greek Revival home was built by John Hoffman in 1859. It takes its name from Henry T. Mudd, who purchased the house and 100 acres in 1866. Mudd helped frame the Missouri Constitution of 1875 while he served in the legislature. He was instrumental in the separation of the City of St. Louis from the county. Mudd was also a curator of the University of Missouri and president of the state horticultural society. George Dana, president of the Charter Oak Stove Company, and Virginia Dana, owners from 1889 until 1921, added the gate lodge and the wrap-around porch. The house was converted to a two-family dwelling by the Mahans in the 1920s. The Francis X. Muckermans converted it back to a single-family home in the early 1940s. William Bodley Lane, a restoration architect, purchased the house in 1955. In 1992, it became the museum home of the Kirkwood Historical Society.

**No. 4 Olive Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**307 South Harrison Avenue, 1896**

In Gothic Revival style, it was built by the Evangelische Gemeinde Lutheran congregation, which was breaking away from the Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. The division ended in the early 1920s and most of the members rejoined Concordia. The Olive Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in Kirkwood in 1853 by the Reverend Jordan Winston Early, purchased the building in 1923 and continues to use it. This small frame church has original stained glass windows of simple designs and colors and elegant wood tracery.



**No. 5 Smith-Keysor House**  
**306 East Jefferson Avenue (originally listed at 206 North Fillmore Avenue), c. 1850**

This Victorian Vernacular house was probably built for Spencer Smith who owned the land in 1853 when the original town of Kirkwood was laid out. The white frame house is cruciform in plan with a cross gable roof and one-story veranda. Details include brackets supporting roof eaves and fancy turned porch spindles. St. Louis city directories indicate Smith ran a private seminary for girls on North 6th Street in St. Louis. He must have commuted from Kirkwood to the school during the late 1850s because he was elected one of the first vestrymen of Grace Episcopal Church in 1859. In 1902, Judge William Winchester Keysor who had just become a professor at the Washington University School of Law bought the house. Mrs. Keysor was a pioneer in adult education and author of children's books.



**No. 82 Francis E. Nipher House**  
**435-437 North Harrison Avenue, 1907**

This early English Tudor is typical of those built in the United States before 1920 with its clapboard and stucco exterior walls with half-timber gable treatment. Tall narrow windows are grouped in twos and threes. The chimney is crowned with decorative chimney pots. Gable ends have wide overhangs and open eaves with exposed rafters, indicating some Arts and Crafts influence. The house was built by internationally recognized physicist Professor Francis E. Nipher for his family. He taught astrophysics at Washington University, and established the first Missouri Weather Service. Nipher School is named in his honor. When he died in 1926, an addition was added to the north side and rear to allow the house to be used as a duplex by his widow and two daughters, hence the double street address. His daughters lived there until it was sold to William Garesché in 1971, and it has remained in the Garesché family since.



**No. 83 John J. Rowe School**  
**115 North Ballas Road, 1931-1932**

The John J. Rowe one-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1931-1932 on an acre of farmland in Kirkwood's Sugar Creek Valley. The land was donated by Lydia Rowe, widow of John Rowe, a local farmer who is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Construction was funded by a Civil Works Administration (CWA) grant. The CWA was the predecessor of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a government program of the 1930s in existence for only a year or so. The CWA offered grants to local units of the government whereas the WPA was a jobs program. Unemployed workmen and local farmers built the school in the Meramec Highlands District #51, established in 1894. The school struggled to exist for 16 years, until 1949, when the area was annexed to Kirkwood and the school absorbed into the Kirkwood system. The building is a one-story rectangular structure with a walkout basement. Its foundation is coursed rubble limestone with brick walls. The original gabled roof was made with asbestos shingles, now replaced with asphalt. Double hung multipane windows and a column-supported gable over the front door give it a Colonial or Georgian appearance. When the school was sold for a residence, it was partitioned off and altered by the addition of two clapboard clad wings. The original schoolhouse exterior remains intact.



**No. 80 Spencer's Grill Sign**  
**223 South Kirkwood Road, c. 1939**

Though the appearance of the exterior of the building at 223 S. Kirkwood Road, currently Spencer's Grill, has changed numerous times since the building was built, the Spencer's Grill sign has remained a constant for over fifty years. The Art Deco style metal and neon sign, which features a round black faced analog clock with white numbers and hands, is a Kirkwood Road landmark that has remained while other signs have been removed, replaced and modernized. The sign is attached to the second floor and is perpendicular to Kirkwood Road so that auto traffic going both ways can see it from a distance. It is believed to have been installed in 1939 when a new store front was completed. Characteristic of the period when it was fabricated and installed, it features neon light tubing that frames the outline of the sign and traces the painted cream colored block lettering. The main body of the sign is reddish brown in color and serves as a background for the "Spencer's Grill" lettering and the clock. A blue section at the top highlights the sign's instructions to "Park In Rear." Just a glimpse of the sign reminds the viewer of the longevity of the restaurant and elicits nostalgic memories about the days before fast food restaurants when personal service and neighborliness was the rule in Kirkwood restaurants.

**No. 81 Turner Elementary School**  
**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**238 Meacham Street, 1932**

The Meacham Park School was opened by the Kirkwood School District in 1925 to serve the African-American students in the southeast part of the district. In 1932, the school was renamed in honor of James Milton Turner. Born a slave in St. Louis County, Mr. Turner helped found Lincoln University and was appointed as U. S. representative to Liberia by President Grant. The original wooden structure was demolished after two brick additions were constructed in 1937 (north section) and 1948 (U-shaped south front of the building), giving the school its current form. It is a two-story U-shaped brick building with squared rubble, broken course foundation and a flat roof concealed by a parapet. The building is utilitarian with Moderne features such as banding and simplified buttresses. The building has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because it is the most important school building remaining in St. Louis County from the period of segregated school systems. In the 1975-1976 school year, the school was closed. It was sold in 1980 to an investment company.



**No. 6 Henry Bopp House**  
**115 West Monroe Avenue, c. 1866**

Originally a brick structure built in the Country Classic manner, this house was covered with vinyl siding within the last decade. The first known owner was Henry Bopp, the oldest son of Peter Bopp, Sr., who had moved his family from Des Peres to Kirkwood. A few years later, Peter built a brick house on West Madison Avenue similar to this one belonging to his son.



**No. 7 Gil House**  
**419 East Argonne Drive, 1858**

This Victorian frame house was purchased in 1862 by George Gill. The property extended north to what is now Gill Avenue, named after the owner. Gill served as a trustee of the Town of Kirkwood and president of the school board, and in times of need, lent the town of Kirkwood interest-free money. The Gill family owned the house until it was sold to Robert Forsyth, a local physician. After Dr. Forsyth died in the influenza epidemic of 1918, his widow sold the property to Edward Beecher. The very extensive gardens created by the Gills were maintained by the Forsyths and Beechers. Edward Beecher was a mayor of Kirkwood, and his family owned the house for 44 years, until 1964.

**No. 8 Talhurst-Burr House**  
**345 East Argonne Drive, c. 1874**

This Italianate Villa style house is irregular in shape with hip roofs, a three-story tower with pagoda-like roof, one-story porch with roof supported by turned posts and frieze of spindles under the eaves. Pairs of brackets support the eaves of the roofs, and fancy Eastlake-style carved frames surround each window. The siding consists of very wide, beveled boards. The house was built in 1874 by G.W. Talhurst on land that was part of Kirkwood's first subdivision. It was purchased in 1888 by George and Josephine Burr. Mr. Burr was a trustee of the City of Kirkwood from 1894 to 1896 and was instrumental in the installation of the first electric street lights in Kirkwood.





**No. 9 Fishback House**  
**440 East Argonne Drive, 1867**

This large two-story Greek Revival house has some Italianate details such as a dentiled cornice and pairs of fancy brackets under the eaves. Of the front five bays, the center three are sheltered by a monumental pedimented portico supported by four large, square paneled posts. A porch on the second floor, under the portico, has fancy carved grill work forming a balustrade connecting the posts. It was built for George W. Fishback, who had come from Ohio to St. Louis in 1854 to practice law. In 1855, he married Virginia Welton of Kentucky, and perhaps this explains why the house has more Ante-Bellum characteristics than any other in Kirkwood. Instead of practicing law, he became a reporter and by 1872, was the sole owner of the *Missouri Democrat*. When he sold the paper in 1875, it was merged with the *Globe* and became the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

**No. 10 Hoffman-Ward House**  
**142 West Monroe Avenue, c. 1880**

This Italianate house was built by John Hoffman, Kirkwood builder and developer, between 1880 and 1886 and was given as a gift to his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Thomas H. Ward. It was John Hoffman who sold the land on Clay Avenue to the newly formed Kirkwood School District. The Kirkwood High School, Jefferson Avenue Elementary School, and Katherine Tracy Kindergarten were built on this land. Thomas Ward, a steamship pilot, later became a business partner with his father and, eventually, president of the Ward Chandlery Company. The house remained in the Ward family until the early 1920s when the last son of Elizabeth and Thomas died. Today, the structure houses an antique store and is a fine example of adaptive reuse.



**No. 11 Hoch Farm**  
**211-212 Sugar Creek Ridge Drive,**  
**1837 through 1870**

Henry Hoch purchased 40 acres along Sugar Creek from the U.S. Government in 1837 for a farmstead which grew to include a dogtrot cabin, farmhouse, barn and stone smoke house. The property ran up the side of a steep hill and was heavily wooded. First he built the dogtrot cabin with space between the two end rooms for a horse and cow. When a barn was built a year or two later, the cabin's middle room was converted to a kitchen. In 1870, the Hoch family hired Kossuth Strohm, a carpenter who lived across Sugar Creek, to build a two-story frame house. During the years, family quarried limestone on their property for the foundations of early Kirkwood buildings. Philip and Mary Hallet Gronemeyer, nationally recognized artists, made this farmstead their home for many years. The property has been subdivided and ten new houses have been built. The cabin was carefully dismantled and reassembled elsewhere. The barn and stone smoke house remain.



**No. 78 Kirkwood Cinema/Osage Theatre**  
**338 South Kirkwood Road, c. 1936**

This Art Deco commercial building constructed of brick and concrete was built as a theater by Roloff Development Corporation around 1930. It is a Vernacular version of Art Deco, featuring multiple brick string courses and art deco chevron motifs. It has a stepped (rather than planar) facade. As a movie theater, it was owned by the Osage Amusement Company in 1936 and purchased by the Mid-America Theatre Management Company in 1979. RKO-Mid America Theatres sold out to American Multi-Cinema, Inc. in 1985. In 1999, Characters & Company, a multigenerational live theater company, purchased the cinema, converted it into a live theater and presents family-oriented musical productions year round.



**No. 79 Daniel S. Brown House,**  
**"Brownhurst"**  
**1201 South Kirkwood Road, 1880**

This is a large Tudor style home erected by Daniel S. Brown in 1880. It features a steeply pitched slate roof with multiple gables, dormers, double-hung wood windows and massive chimneys. A prominent feature is the wrap-around veranda. Stone wall cladding is featured on the first story, and dark wood shingle wall cladding is the primary wall treatment for the second story. These rather uncommon features give the house a medieval flavor. Mr. Brown purchased a 140-acre tract of land with approximately forty acres soon devoted to flower gardens, conservatories and greenhouses. He eventually assembled the finest private collection in the United States of rare and beautiful palms, ferns and orchids. When it became apparent that his plants might be damaged due to lack of heat with the shortage of coal during World War I, he gave them to the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Shortly after his collection was properly placed, he sold his estate to the Society of Mary and the former home was remodeled for a noviate known as Maryhurst, a combination of the two names. In the 1950s, St. John Vianney High School was constructed on a section of the Maryhurst property, the old Brown mansion was remodeled once again for the use of the Catholic Authors Press, and a print shop was constructed. At this date, 2001, the mansion lies dormant and in disrepair.





**No. 75 Meramec Highlands School**  
**39 Barberry Lane, c. 1894**

Meramec Highlands Elementary School District #51 was established in 1894. Its school was a one-room structure constructed of limestone from the Meramec Highlands Quarry. The one-story structure featured two separate cloakrooms, one for the girls and one for the boys, and a belfry complete with its bell. The school was used by the district until Kirkwood took over education responsibilities for students in an annexed section of the Meramec Highlands District. Kirkwood utilized the school until the new Osage Hills School was completed in 1938. In 1945, the school and three lots were sold by the Kirkwood district to Henry and Edna Bergmann for \$2,000. The Bergmanns removed the belfry, added a breezeway and a two-car garage and raised the roof, making the one-story building into a one-and-a-half story residence. The matched dormers in front were later additions. With the symmetry of the main structure, the multipane sash windows, the roof treatment and the facade dormers, the structure today has a style with the flavor of the Colonial period.

**No. 76 Holekamp Lumber Company**  
**109 East Argonne Drive, c. 1920**

The structure is typical of lumberyards of that period. Richard Holekamp was active in Kirkwood civic affairs. His lumberyard operated for many years in this location. It currently houses the OK Hatchery, Feed and Garden Store.



**No. 77 Heinzelmänn Bakery Building**  
**150-156 West Argonne Drive, 1899**

Rudolph Heinzelmänn opened a bakery at this location in 1875. His son Leo took over the business when Rudolph died in 1896. After a fire in 1899, it was rebuilt with a cast iron and wood facade with pressed metal cornice that remains today. Meanwhile, Leo had moved the bakery across the street to 157 West Argonne and expanded it to include meats and groceries, and later, a drug store. This building has continued in various commercial uses to the present. The building is unique in its design because it was built to fit an odd-shaped lot between the street, the railroad track and the Clay Avenue bridge. The current owners, the Swobodas, added a caboose in the late 1980s to the "Down by the Station" business, which operates on the entire first floor. The store displays the only cast iron facade left in Kirkwood.



**No. 12 Yeats-Tutt House:**  
**"Greystone Lodge"**  
**348 Geyer Forest Drive, 1827**

The original T-shaped limestone house, which has had many additions over the years, was built by Thomas Yeats, one of the area's earliest real estate speculators. The front portion is probably one of the oldest existing buildings in Kirkwood; 1830 is the date on the cornerstone. It served as the Yeats family home until the property was sold to Dr. John Matthews in 1864. Matthews then sold it in 1867 to Samuel and Mary Tutt. In 1870, the property went to Dr. Thomas E. Tutt and his wife, Mary, who sold the eastern part of the farm to Daniel S. Brown, founder of the world-famous orchid collection at Shaw's Garden. Brown's house, "Brownhurst," is on a site south of Geyer Forest and is also a Kirkwood landmark.



**No. 13 Meramec Highlands Frisco Station**  
**1022 Barberry Lane, 1891**

The Richardson Romanesque station was built by the Meramec Highlands Company in 1891 to serve the Meramec Highlands Resort, "St. Louis' Only Exclusive Health and Pleasure Resort." The stone structure was deeded to the Frisco Railroad for the sum of one dollar in exchange for service to the resort. It had separate waiting rooms for men and women with a ticket office in the base of the cupola tower. The station did dual service as a station and home of Della Snyder, the first woman station agent on the Frisco. In the mid-thirties after the station was closed, the York family moved in without Frisco Railroad permission. Rather than fight to remove them, the Frisco hired Gussie and Tom York for one dollar a year to be caretakers of the property. For over thirty years "Grandma" York provided demonstrations of rug weaving and use of her spinning wheel to several generations of students from the nearby Osage School. In 1972, the property was sold by the Frisco Railroad to Thomas Biggs. Since then, it has been vacant.



**No. 14 Henry Hough House**  
**217 East Adams Avenue, 1859**

Built for Henry Hough, this is one of the few examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Kirkwood. The distinctive stylistic features of vertical board and batten siding and ornate brick chimneys were covered with stucco in the 1920s. Other than that, its original form has been little changed, retaining its ornamental iron work and scalloped wood trim on the porch. A skillfully designed two-story addition at the rear was done in 1991. Henry Hough was a member of the Kirkwood School Board between 1879 and 1911. This was the second of three houses he occupied in the area.





**No. 15 Meramec Highlands General Store**  
**1015 Barberry Lane, c. 1891**

The general store built in a Queen Anne style served visitors to the Meramec Highlands Resort as well as year round residents. In 1892, a U.S. Post Office was added to the store. The storekeeper served as postmaster and station agent for the nearby Frisco station. Over time, the business of the store shifted to groceries and a restaurant. The store's most notorious claim to fame was as the hideout of Pretty Boy Floyd and his accomplices while they planned and executed the September 1925 Kroger Baking Company payroll robbery. For a short time, the storekeeper's portion of part of the loot was buried behind the store; however, the police recovered all of the stolen money. An attached large screened dining area served double duty as a restaurant by day and a gathering place used for square dances and parties by night. Later the screened porch was enclosed for use as a one-room primary school for Meramec Highlands District #51 students. The store also housed a barbershop circa 1930. In the midthirties, the store closed for good and served as rental housing. In 1954, the store was in danger of being demolished. Local contractor Eugene Thumm rescued it and converted the store to a residence, demolishing the attached restaurant and adding a one-car garage in its place.

**No. 16 Hazard House**  
**401 Clark Avenue, 1875**

This Victorian Vernacular house was built for William T. Hazard, a commercial merchant. Basically a four square with truncated hip roof, it has a two-story square tower with cross-gable roof projecting on the north bay of the front, giving it an Italianate feeling. The house and its residents became the center of attention in Kirkwood as the women's suffrage movement gained momentum. Mrs. William T. (Rebecca Naylor) Hazard assisted in organizing the Woman's Suffrage Association of Missouri in 1867. She became secretary and then president. She was elected president of the National Woman's Suffragist Association in 1878 and was co-founder of the St. Louis School of Design, which is now known as The Woman's Exchange. Mrs. Hazard's intellectual leadership and influence as a suffragist was largely responsible for the active role of Kirkwood women in the suffrage movement.



**No. 17 Murtfeldt-Douglass House**  
**10 Douglass Lane, 1870**

This house was originally built in 1870 for Charles W. Murtfeldt who was secretary of the Missouri State Agricultural Society. The next owner was Stephen Douglass, principal of Central High School in St. Louis and one of the founders of the Kirkwood Public Library. This white frame Victorian Italianate structure has segmental arched windows and fancy brackets under the eaves supporting the side return of the gables. The back door is now the front entrance. The original front of the house faced south toward East Adams Avenue.

**No. 72 Gerould Building**  
**207-209 North Kirkwood Road, c. 1906**

This commercial building was first owned by Martin Gerould, a physician who died in 1904, leaving it to his brother Samuel. The two-story brick structure housed a variety of businesses in the two storefronts facing Webster Avenue (Kirkwood Road) and on the second floor which was reached by a steep stairway with its entry located between the stores. An early business on the ground floor was the Berg Meat Market. The Harris Grocery store in the late thirties occupied 209 Kirkwood Road. Perhaps the best-known and longest running business in the structure was the second floor photography studio of Francis Scheidegger, long time Kirkwood city council member, recycling enthusiast and beekeeper. In the early days a skylight in the roof served the photography studio, but was later roofed over after damage by a fire.



**No. 73 Couch-Heinzelmann Store Building**  
**157-159 West Argonne Drive, c. 1878**

George Couch owned the building and operated it as an upholstery, wallpaper and paint store during the 1890s. In 1899, Leo E. Heinzelmann established a general store in the two-story frame structure following a fire in the family bakery at another location. He expanded his business to include bakery goods, meats, groceries, and later on, a drug store. The building featured a second story balcony, which spanned the facade and wrapped around onto the Clay Avenue side, which has since been removed. The drugstore was operated by Gus Kinkhorst in the thirties. At some point wooden lap siding was covered with stucco. Ownership passed from the Heinzelmann family in 1962. In 1979, Richard and Ruth Van Goor purchased the property. Ruth later served as a city council member.

**No. 74 Heinzelmann Store And Rental Units**  
**102-110 North Clay Avenue, c. 1915**

Taking advantage of the prime location next to the streetcar line, Leo and Lulu Heinzelmann constructed on their property, between the Heinzelmann store on Argonne and the alley to the north, a two-story structure that provided residential space on the upper level and rental commercial space on the lower level. Heinzelmann operated a real estate office in the structure, which took care of the rentals. It features a balcony for the second floor units with the exception of 110 North Clay, which was constructed as a street front store replacing an earlier Heinzelmann building, which burned in 1913. In 1930, the store at 110 North Clay was the Style Shoppe. Since then a variety of businesses ranging from delicatessens to the Stages St. Louis ticket office have utilized the structure. The property followed the same ownership pattern of the other Heinzelmann property at 157-159 West Argonne.





**No. 68 Quinette Cemetery**  
**12188 Old Big Bend Road, c. 1860**

Quinette Cemetery is a tiny African-American cemetery which predates incorporation into Kirkwood. The first recorded owner of the land was Luke Brockway. He allowed his slaves and others living nearby to use the parcel of land as a cemetery. Its use as a cemetery is believed to date back to before the Civil War. In 1873, Olive Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church obtained title to the cemetery and for many years used it for burials. The 2.7-acre property was at one time surrounded by a wrought iron fence and is believed to hold about 100 graves though only a few headstones remain today. The last burial in Quinette Cemetery was in 1973. It is no longer owned by Olive Chapel.

**No. 69 How Farm**  
**518 Scottsdale Road, c. 1836**

The original hewn log two-story pioneer farmhouse was built about 1836. It later became a two-story rectangular block with side gables and a full-width bi-level veranda. It is reputed to have been a stagecoach stop and was later a tavern and saddlery on old Manchester Road. When the current subdivision was created from the farm, sold by Mabel Scott in 1961 to the Charles Construction Company, the front of the home became the rear, facing away from Scottsdale, the new subdivision street. Over the years, several additions to the main structure have given the house an irregular plan.



**No. 70 George C. Hammond House**  
**315 West Adams Avenue, c. 1880**

The east half of block eight in the original square mile plat of Kirkwood was purchased by G.C. Hammond from the St. Louis Cooperative Building Association in 1878 for \$1,500. The two-story frame house was probably built soon after. Its Victorian treatments and bracketed eaves faced the street with a front porch and two gables accented by decorative trim. Hammond died in 1882. His widow sold the property in 1926. It was subdivided in 1927. Charles and Myrtle Wilson owned the home until 1939 when it was sold to Floyd S. Edwards. In the 1950s, the Barnett family purchased the home, and family members inhabited it for over 40 years.



**No. 18 Swan Cottage**  
**305 North Harrison Avenue, 1859**

This modest house of the Greek Revival style is a one-story frame structure. The front section is a simple rectangle with a cross gable roof. The gable that faces the front makes a pedimented portico over the center three bays supported by posts connected by a simple wood railing. William B. Swan, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, bought this property from James W. and Mary J. Way in 1867, with Hiram W. Leffingwell acting as trustee for Mary. Way Avenue in Kirkwood is named for James Way, a chief engineer of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Kirkwood's Swan Avenue is named for William Swan. William Hoeman, an optician, and his family lived here from the 1920s until the 1970s.



**No. 19 Abrams-Robertson-Kraft House**  
**434 North Harrison Avenue, c. 1860s**

Mr. Abrams built this Federal brick double house in the 1860s. The hand-made bricks, painted white for protection, are said to have been made on the property. The house has a truncated hip roof with a wrought iron widow's walk on top and four large chimneys. All of the windows are segmented arches, two over two, with the original arched shutters, many with the original glass. Charles A.A. Trenchevant de St. Aubin bought the house from Ellen and Archie Robertson in 1878. His father-in-law was a landscape gardener who laid out a formal knot garden to the south of the house. He adapted the house as a two-family dwelling for himself and his parents. The house had five subsequent owners before it was sold to Christopher Kraft, an electrical engineer, in 1932. After the purchase, Mr. Kraft oversaw extensive interior renovations of the house, which included the first indoor plumbing and state-of-the-art electrical wiring. The house is still owned by descendants of Mr. Kraft.

**No. 20 Unsell-Cabell House**  
**615 East Monroe Avenue, 1873**

This large home of the Victorian Italianate style is a two-story frame structure with wood siding beveled around the edges to look like stone. The front part of the house is L-shaped with two bays of windows and a square projection in the middle containing the big double front door. Gables, eaves and the porch roof are supported by fancy brackets and scrollwork. This house and the McLagen-Black house at 549 East Argonne could well have been the work of the same architect. Captain Elias (Elijah) J. Unsell, a riverboat captain and manager of a ship chandlers Davidson Boat Stores, built this residence. It is said that while he was building the house, he had such trouble with thefts of lumber that he had to hire a night watchman. Captain Unsell is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. His widow, Emily Lander, eventually married Dr. John Pitman, Kirkwood's well-known doctor. A notable resident in 1907 was Margaret Cabell, who was the Veil Prophet Queen for that year.





Photograph by Bob Kolbrener

**No. 21 Kraus House:  
"Frank Lloyd Wright House  
In Ebsworth Park"**  
National Register Of Historic Places  
**120 North Ballas Road, 1955**

One of only two buildings designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the St. Louis area, this was planned as a custom house for Russell Kraus, an artist, and his wife, Ruth, an attorney. With sweeping cantilevered roofs and projecting terraces typical of Mr. Wright's Prairie Style work, the house hugs the west side of a hill in a grove of persimmon trees. Throughout the design, Wright adhered to a strict geometry of two superimposed parallelograms. There is only one right angle in the entire structure. The materials are cedar and specially shaped red brick. All of the interior furnishings were designed by Wright. The 10.5-acre site, house and furnishings were purchased from Mr. Kraus in 2001 by a foundation, "Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park," which will restore and manage the house as a museum. The St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department will maintain the property as a public park.

**No. 22 Clarke House "Seven Gables"**  
**503 East Monroe Avenue, c. 1913**

The original house, built in 1867, was called "Woodlawn," the same as a railroad station at the southern terminus of the street. After the house burned, a second house was built for Judge Enos Clarke about 1913 following the death of his wife. Judge Clarke was one of the seventy "Radical Union Men of Missouri" who went to Washington in 1863 to see President Lincoln to protest federal policies. This large, irregularly shaped house has a Revival Tudor appearance because of the timbering and the white stucco. The three-story residence has many steeply pitched gables, ten rather than seven as named, balconies, porches and a round tower, all contributing to a massive exterior. The unusual house sits on a huge, heavily wooded corner lot, which originally encompassed a city block. Percy Grainger, composer, was said to be inspired by the lavish formal gardens surrounding the second residence to write the composition "Country Gardens." The first Kirkwood Garden Club named after Clarke's daughter, Rowena, was founded in 1919.



**No. 23 World's Fair Wisconsin House**  
**415 Scott Avenue, 1904**

Of English Tudor Vernacular design, this house was the Wisconsin Hospitality House at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904. The house has three bays plus a two-story screened porch in the front. The center bay contains the front door, which is sheltered by a one-story porch with a steep gable roof. The yard is heavily wooded, a nice buffer from the railroad tracks across the street. It was moved to Kirkwood in 1905, most likely by rail, and was substantially altered. Inside, the living room and dining room are spacious reception rooms that retain the flavor of the World's Fair construction. It remains a residence.

**No. 65 Coulter Feed Store Building**  
**111-113 West Argonne Drive, 1912**

In 1904, Joseph Coulter bought out John Q. Murphy's feed store business at what is now 113 N. Kirkwood Road and operated the Coulter Feed Company there until he moved to the current location in 1912. It is believed that an earlier building, which housed an express company, stood at the Argonne site before it was destroyed by a fire that swept the downtown district in 1896. The "flour and seed" store, as it was listed in a 1912 directory, advertised its presence with a large painted sign on the store's front wall complete with the checkerboard squares of the Purina Mills. A large painted advertisement for Bull Durham Tobacco was painted on the store's west wall. Besides being a prominent businessman, Coulter was a Kirkwood alderman in 1924-1925 and was a charter member of the Kirkwood Rotary Club. This is an example of a successful adaptive reuse of a feed store, which now houses a retail store and an artist studio upstairs.



**No. 66 Fire House No. 2**  
**11804 Big Bend Road, 1929**

This Craftsman-Tudor style firehouse was designed by Clayton, Missouri, based architect, Dan H. Mullen in 1929 after Kirkwood's second attempt at a bond issue passed. The contract for the construction of the new firehouse was awarded for \$18,088. The style is Tudor Gothic pushed toward Spanish Colonial. Tudor elements of the building include steeply pitched cross gables, arched window openings, stucco and half-timber wall treatment and flagstone window surrounds. The front features a wide-sweeping gable and a crenelated hose tower. In November 2000, another bond issue was passed, which included money to build a new fire station behind the old station and to restore the original structure for use as a training facility.

**No. 67 Nipher School (Original I y  
Kirkwood High School )**  
**700 South Kirkwood Road, 1922 and 1930**

Following approval of a bond issue in 1920, plans for a new high school were developed by renowned architect William B. Itner. After consideration of numerous sites, the 7.205-acre A.G. Edwards property at Kirkwood Road and Woodbine Avenues was purchased for \$10,807.50. Specifications were for a brick two-story high school building (164 by 142 feet) containing 20 classrooms, a kitchen, locker and shower room for both boys and girls, a stage and dressing rooms, a study hall, and assembly-gymnasium room (60 by 80 feet), which would also serve as a cafeteria. William Bopp, a local contractor, was the low bidder and began construction in August 1921. In June 1922, the senior class held the first graduation in the auditorium, though the rest of the building was not ready for use until the next fall. In May of 1929, voters agreed to borrow money to construct a junior high school next to the high school. The connected building consisted of nine classrooms, two manual training shops, a cafeteria and administrative offices. It was opened in September 1930. The new building was named in honor of Francis E. Nipher, a world-renowned scientist and professor who lived in Kirkwood. When a new high school was opened in 1955, Nipher Junior High took over the adjoining building. Education trends later dictated a change from a junior high to a middle school concept in which grades six, seven and eight are served by teams of teachers.





**No. 60 Kinsella House**  
**745 North Taylor Avenue, c. 1872**

A simple country house of mid-Victorian design was part of a parcel owned by William Marquitz of 751 North Taylor. It passed to various early Kirkwood families with the names of Gill and Warner after the original Kinsella family moved on. The present owners have been told that at least one Kinsella daughter was married under the buckeye tree in the front yard. Ira E. and Helen Berry, of real estate renown, owned the house for twenty years until 1961.

**No. 63 Gratz-Marshall House**  
**124 North Taylor Avenue, c. 1890**

In 1882, Hiram and Susan Leffingwell sold their Kirkwood property and moved to Florida. A portion was purchased by Robert M. Fry, who sold it two years later to Miriam G. Bodley, a daughter of Harry I. Bodley. When she died in 1886, she bequeathed this property and another to her sisters, Euphemia Essex, Ella Hough, and Laura Gratz. When they divided the property, Euphemia Essex received 428 North Taylor; Ella Hough, 116 North Taylor; and Laura Gratz, 124 North Taylor. Presumably, this late Queen Anne style residence was built soon after. Anderson Gratz was a partner in a baggage and rope business that was very successful and was notable as a supporter of the community. Laura Gratz died in 1912, leaving the house to her sister Euphemia Essex. The owner of the house, which was stuccoed in the 1920s, had the stucco removed in the early 1980s, revealing beveled siding and ornate wood shingles.



**No. 64 Geyer And Rose Hill Grocery**  
**800 South Geyer Road, c. 1915**

A favorite hangout for many generations of neighborhood kids, the Vernacular frame two-story grocery and general store survived the closures that affected most neighborhood stores, in part because of its location adjacent to the Meramec Community College and its shift toward food service, selling sandwiches, pizza, cold drinks and snacks. The building is an excellent example of a neighborhood grocery and general store with living quarters above and a porch extending over the sidewalk. The store was known for many years as "Jake's."



**No. 24 Kyle-Essex-Gamble House**  
**428 North Taylor Avenue, c. 1860s**

Built by C. Kyle, this former Vernacular farmhouse sits close to the southeast corner of the lot. Mrs. William T. Essex inherited this house from her sister, Miriam G. Bodley, in 1886. She and her husband moved from the house across the street, 425 North Taylor, and remained at 428 North Taylor until their deaths. The property was purchased by Mr. Anton Lindahl, city forester of Kirkwood, when Mrs. Essex died in 1911. It remained unchanged until Mr. and Mrs. George P. Gamble secured it in 1934 and made extensive improvements. In 1937, new front and north porches were built. The Gambles sold the property in 1956.



**No. 25 Holmes-Mitchell House**  
**598 North Taylor Avenue, c. 1820s**

In 1821, James Holmes purchased 153.06 acres of land on which he built a 16' by 18' log cabin. He conveyed it to his wife in 1830 "for better maintenance." Since a Roman Catholic Church was not available, worship services were held in the James Holmes house, among others. These families, the Sappingtons, Collins, McLoughlins and Holmes, and other Roman Catholic land owners, eventually built the first St. Peter's Church in 1833. In 1851, Eliza Calvert bought the property at auction and sold it to Abram S. Mitchell, secretary of the Pacific Railroad, who built a house around the cabin, supported by hand hewn oak beams. When Mitchell left the state, he sold the property to William T. Essex. The house deteriorated as ownership changed until it was bought by Laura Bodley Gratz to rid the neighborhood of

an eyesore. The neighbors referred to the house as the "chicken coop." In the 1930s, Beverly Nelson, a noted St. Louis architect, executed many structural and cosmetic changes. He designed a Southern Colonial porch and added a large handsome library. Around the same time, Peter Seltzer, Kirkwood's famous landscape architect, designed a formal garden with brick walls, wrought iron gates and a fountain. A recent owner of the house uncovered an old well under the garage floor with 1816 etched into the fieldstone wall. The Holmes' log cabin is still encapsulated within the walls at the back of the large frame farmhouse.

**No. 26 Essex-Mudd House:**  
**"Mudd-Hilton House"**  
**705 North Taylor Avenue, 1862**

William T. Essex built this Victorian Vernacular house when he moved to Kirkwood in 1862. The house has an irregular shape with intersecting hip roofs and fancy brackets supporting the eaves. A one-story screened porch with a flat roof surrounded by a balustrade filled in the south half of the back of the house and a one-story garage with a gable roof was later attached to the back. William Essex was an insurance agent in the firm of Bodley and Essex and married Mr. Bodley's daughter, Effie Hensley, in 1863. They lived here until Mr. Essex built "Ivy Lodge," a large stone house on Bodley and North Taylor, in 1870. The Essexes retained ownership of this house and rented it. Oscar J. Mudd, a lawyer, bought it at the turn of the century. The Hilton family owned the house in the 1940s. A recent owner was Charles Menees, a collector of jazz and big band recordings, and a music critic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The living room floors were especially reinforced to support his weighty record collections.





**No. 27 W.F. Warner House**  
**750 North Taylor Avenue, c. 1884**

This house is Eclectic and monumental, almost a cross between a Spanish villa and a Chinese pagoda. It is stucco with a red tile roof. Special tiles on its corners give it the Chinese feeling. A variety of detailing suggests that the house was remodeled on several occasions. Wilbur F. Warner had this house built around 1884. Mr. Warner was born in Roscoe, Illinois, in 1850 and came to St. Louis in 1873. He established W.F. Warner and Company, an international fur dealership and wool company with business interests throughout the United States and Europe. He owned considerable land in north Kirkwood and served on the board of aldermen from 1900-1902.

**No. 28 Eliot Unitarian Chapel**  
**(Original Holy Grace Episcopal Church)**  
 National Register of Historic Places  
**106 South Taylor Avenue, 1860**

This limestone Gothic Revival church was built in 1860 as Grace Episcopal Church and is the earliest surviving Kirkwood church. In 1854, a lay reader, Harry I. Bodley, began the first Episcopal services in St. Louis County in his home. Later, a parish was organized, and the church was constructed at a cost of \$12,000. It operated without a rector until the debt was paid off in 1884. After a fire in 1914 caused considerable damage, the structure was restored according to the original plan. When Grace Church built a new building at Argonne and Woodlawn in 1960, the old church was sold and became Eliot Unitarian Chapel. There have been alterations and major additions to the building since 1960. The original main stone structure is the only portion locally designated as a landmark.



**No. 29 Sutherland-Mitchell - Shallcross House**  
**217 South Woodlawn Avenue, 1862**

John W. Sutherland built this Victorian Vernacular two-and-a-half story brick house in 1862. The main part of the house is T-shaped with a cross gable roof. The home's original wrap-around front porch was restored in 2001. John Sutherland was an attorney elected to the Missouri Legislature in 1864. He was the second chairman of the board of trustees of the City of Kirkwood and president of the Kirkwood School Board from its beginning in 1865. Having introduced and passed the laws incorporating the City of Kirkwood, he is the unrecognized founder of the city. Sutherland died in 1889 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Zach Mitchell owned this house from 1879 until the end



of the 1890s. He was a famous criminal lawyer in the City of St. Louis, and also a member of the Missouri Legislature. The third owner of the house was Wyatt Shallcross who likely commuted by rail to his printing and stationery company in the city. When the house was purchased by Mary and Francis "Bud" Barnes in 1973, he became the third state representative to occupy the house. Mr. Barnes was extremely active in the Missouri Historical Society, and was a major advocate for preservation causes around Kirkwood and throughout the state.

**No. 57 Admathy House**  
**641 East Madison Avenue, c. 1880**

A Vernacular two-story frame structure with center entrance and rear ell, this is a typical workingman's house of the period. These modest dwellings were built in Kirkwood to house the growing population of workers needed to support the community. They were often located on smaller parcels of land subdivided from the larger holdings of the original Kirkwood founders. This house passed through numerous hands according to deeds and records until an application for an occupancy permit was obtained in 1949 by William Admathy and Charlotte Ish. Other history is unknown except that the John Sutherland mentioned in the Trustees Deed of 1881 was a member of the 1867-1870 board of trustees of Kirkwood and president of the first Kirkwood School Board in 1865.



**No. 58 Beckstein House**  
**736 North Kirkwood Road, c. 1850**

This Victorian Country house was constructed around 1850. A tombstone on the property shows that three children of a Sarah and Levi Ashley were buried there in the early 1850s. From 1878 until 1917, names associated with ownership were illegible or missing from county directories, but in 1926, John Beckstein, a mechanic from Maplewood, and his wife, Amanda, were identified in a title search. In 1979 the property described as "part of plat 4 of Hough and Essex subdivision of H.W. Leffingwell's 2nd Addition to Kirkwood" was sold to Richard C. and Kathleen McBride.

**No. 59 Gas Station**  
**140 West Argonne, 1932**

DeRoo Weber built this small 12' by 16' one-story brick structure for a gasoline station on West Argonne Place. It has had various uses including a cabstand and a garden shop. Since 1985, Jeremiah's Custard Stand brings life to the structure each summer.





**No. 54 Old Post Office**  
**125 West Argonne Drive, c. 1930s**

The Old Post Office building, Neo-Classical in design detail, was constructed in the 1930s. Messenger Printing now occupies this building and the Old Fire House next door. Prior to 1900, it was necessary for citizens to pick up their mail at the post office, which had been located in several buildings around Kirkwood. At the turn of the century, a large parcel of land was annexed to Kirkwood. Home delivery was inaugurated for the original portion of Kirkwood. But the people in the newly annexed area still picked up their mail at the post office. Beginning in 1903, the aldermen attempted to establish a house numbering system which would meet the needs of the growing community. In May 1904, the aldermen made the decision that the present Argonne Drive was established as the north-south dividing line, and the present Kirkwood Road was established as the east-west dividing line for the numbering system.

**No. 55 Brook Cottage**  
**161 West Jefferson Avenue, c. 1880**

A late Victorian folk cottage, the prominent features of this small frame structure are its symmetry, its centered secondary facade gable with returns and its open-frame entry porch. The facade gable is emphasized by its contrast with the building's squat hipped roof. The entry porch has a low hipped roof supported by wood posts with stylized capitals spanned by decorative wood molding, which forms a Tudor arch. Originally a private residence, it has been used for downtown retail or office space for the past four decades. The current owner has rebuilt both front and rear porches as part of a meticulous restoration.



**No. 56 Hammond-Suits House**  
**321 North Harrison Avenue, 1866**

This large frame Victorian house has a low-pitched hipped roof with broadly overhanging boxed eaves and decorative paired brackets beneath. The front veranda is screened and features wood posts with stylized capitals; its flat roof is shared with a three-sided bay window. The first level entry is in the center of the facade, with a door directly above on the second floor. The rear two-story frame addition is probably not original. The house was built for the G.C. Hammond family. Between 1910 and 1974, the house was home to several generations of the Suits family, prominent in art and literary circles. In 1924, Mrs. Hollis Suits organized a group of women to organize the first public library in Kirkwood, which became the first tax-supported public library in St. Louis County in 1926. Mr. Hollis Suits was president of the Kirkwood School Board from 1932 to 1940.



**No. 30 Grissom-Ewing House**  
**400 South Woodlawn Avenue, 1865**

Daniel M. Grissom built this house in a style common to the area and era. Grissom came to St. Louis in 1853 when he was 24 years old. He became a reporter for the *Evening News*. In 1855, he fortunately survived the maiden voyage of the Pacific Railroad train from St. Louis to Jefferson City, when the trestle over the Gasconade River collapsed and many dignitaries were killed. He covered that story among others and also the Lincoln Douglas debates of the 1860s. Grissom became editor of the *Evening News*, and after merging with the *St. Louis Union*, changed the name to the *Evening Dispatch*. He was later affiliated with the *St. Louis Republic*. He lived to be 101 years old and died in 1930. He was the first resident of the Kirkwood Old Folks Home on Washington Avenue, now relocated and known as Manor Grove. At the turn of the century, the house was owned by Dr. Fayette C. Ewing, a Kirkwood physician, who rented it to Blanche and Katherine Byars for their private school.



**No. 31 Keith-Greensfelder House**  
**116 North Woodlawn Avenue, 1850**

This Victorian Italianate house was constructed in 1850 as the residence for David Keith. In the late 1890s, Joseph B. Greensfelder purchased the house. He was a justice of the peace in Clayton, known as the "marrying justice," until 1906. He was also a founder of Kirkwood Savings Bank and served as its first president. The building's wood siding is beveled on the edges to look like stone. The corners of the main part of the house feature wooden quoins while the eaves feature a dentiled frieze and fancy brackets at the corners.

**No. 32 Hoyt-Phelps House**  
**235 East Jefferson Avenue, c. 1850s**

The style of this Victorian Italianate house suggests a construction date of the 1850s or 1860s. Catherine Hoyt, the widow of Cyrus Hoyt, resided in the house through much of the 1870s. Toward the end of that decade, Harlow Phelps purchased the property. Prior to the Civil War, Phelps had been president of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange and owned riverboats. He fought for the Confederacy. After the war, he brought the family of a fallen comrade to Kirkwood and raised the Donovan children in the house. One of them, Douglass Donovan, was the builder of the Missouri Pacific Kirkwood Train Station in 1893.





**No. 33 Hal sey-Rode House**  
**126 East Washington Avenue, c. 1860**

This small frame one-and-a-half story Carpenter Gothic Vernacular cottage displays fine gingerbread trim on the front. It was built by E.W. Halsey for his own use in the 1860s. In 1869, he built the first public school in Kirkwood. Edwin Rode purchased the house in 1903. The Rode family owned the house from 1903 to 1971. In 1974, it was purchased by the YMCA for office space and used by Club 44.

**No. 35 Singleton House**  
**306 North Woodlawn Avenue, c. 1853**

The original house and barn were built by Henry and Marsenia Singleton, who helped found the First Presbyterian Church in Kirkwood in 1854 and held services in their home until a church building was constructed. Tradition holds that the first train to come to Kirkwood in 1853 brought lumber for construction of the house, in which the siding was beveled to look like stone. The house was remodeled in the 1880s with Queen Anne details. Circa 1900, a porte cochere was added to the north and a front porch was added to the west to match. Later, a back wing with a third floor sunroom was added. The outbuilding with its cupola was also embellished with Queen Anne details circa 1885. A number of prominent St. Louis families lived in the house: the Forsyths, who once owned part of Forest Park; the Boyd family, who owned a chain of clothing stores; and the Fisk family, who in 1909 named the property "The Lindens." Linden trees still remain on the property.



**No. 37 Wilson Place**  
**309 Danworth Court, c. 1865**

This brick Victorian Vernacular house was the residence of Benjamin Wilson from the 1870s into the 1890s. The house is little changed except for the addition of a sunroom and a screened porch. It retains much of the original woodwork including double doors on the north front entry. The property was subdivided around 1950. Since the house was built to face Big Bend Road, the rear faces Danworth Court.

**No. 51 Unity Baptist Church**  
**328 South Taylor Avenue, c. 1880**

Formerly the Second Baptist Church, Unity was founded in 1878 by African-American residents of Kirkwood. The church was organized under the leadership of the Reverend George Clark with 33 charter members. The group was extremely active, and by 1880, the members had erected a frame church building at a cost of approximately \$1000.00, located near the corner of Taylor and Monroe. The building is a rectangular block with a front facing gable. A projecting vestibule features a gable roof stepped down from the main roof. The primary entry is central with a Gothic style arch set off by radiating stones. The windows are double-hung wood sash with Gothic arches. The structure is little changed except that it was stuccoed circa 1920.

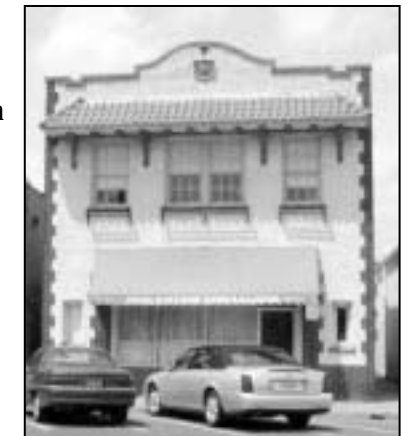


**No. 52 McElroy-King Ambler House**  
**525 East Argonne Drive, c. 1860**

In the Italianate style, the house was originally the home of several generations of the McElroy family. According to research of St. Louis County records, it was sold around 1938 to Wyllys King Ambler, descendent of two prominent Kirkwood families, King and Ambler. In addition to being one of the founders of the Kirkwood YMCA in 1950, Ambler wrote and published *A Simplified Description of the Methods Used in Making Old Prints with Particular Attention to Flowers and Fruit Prints of the 18th Century*.

**No. 53 Old Fire House No. 1**  
**123 West Argonne Drive, 1920**

The Old Fire House in the Mission style was completed by local contractor Fred Howell in May 1920 at a cost of \$7,900. Kirkwood had recently voted to establish a paid Fire Department to replace the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department. This dedicated volunteer group had been established in 1904 when the Armory on the northeast corner of Kirkwood Road and Adams burned. Coincidentally, this occurred the night the St. Louis World's Fair opened in May of 1904. In 1918, the Volunteer Fire Department announced that they would disband, but would continue service until the paid force was established. Messenger Printing now occupies this building and the Old Post Office Building next door.





**No. 48 Makles-McGrath House**  
**1441 Dougherty Ferry Road, c. 1830**

Incorporated into this small frame house that has seen numerous additions over the years, is a pioneer log structure, 400 feet square, with a loft. A second main room was added in 1845. The first owner of record was Francis Makles (or Makler) in 1873, when the property was 41.12 acres. In 1893, the owner was listed as Jeremiah McGrath, Jr. By 1923, St. Louis County records show that the property had shrunk to .58 acres and had frontage on Dougherty Ferry Road.

**No. 49 Frisco Rail road Tunnel**  
**(Meramec Highl ands Tunnel )**  
**1022 Barberrry Lane, 1883**

In 1883, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad bored a 400-foot long tunnel through the solid rock of Sunset Hill. The tunnel was built to decrease the grade from Valley Park to Kirkwood. It was one of only three tunnels on Frisco lines in the early 1900s. It is 20 feet high and 12 feet wide with limestone block walls and a vaulted brick ceiling. By the early 1900s, the tunnel height limited the size of the freight trains. In 1922, the Frisco began a cut south of the tunnel in order to lay a double track. The tracks in the tunnel were then used as a siding until they were removed in 1929. In 1931, the tunnel entrances were bricked over to form a commercial mushroom growing operation, which lasted until World War II. In 1972, new owner Thomas Biggs proposed a restaurant to be built in the tunnel, but his plan was rejected by the City of Kirkwood.



**No. 50 Green Parrot Restaurant**  
**12120 Old Big Bend Road, c. 1925**

Built by William Bopp, the builder of Kirkwood High School (Nipher Middle), as his residence, the one-and-a-half story stone eclectic Craftsman style house features an entrance/sun-room set off by a projecting gable which intersects the main roof. It stretches across the front of the house with a central entrance. A Victorian round dormer with a wooden keystone is situated on each side of the entrance gable. Two unique stone chimneys, which are split on the lower level and converge after encasing a round window, are located one per each main gable. The roof line has a moderate overhang with regularly spaced wood brackets giving a dentiled appearance. The rear porch of the original structure features graceful stone archways. With a large addition, the home was converted prior to 1940 into a restaurant, which was

a popular stop for St. Louis area diners. Known for its family style dinners and especially its fried chicken and honey butter, the Green Parrot was a memorable dining spot in part because of the parrot which spoke to guests from its perch in the foyer. The John Toothmans ran the Green Parrot for many decades. In 1983, it was sold and converted to a banquet center. A similarly constructed stone one-and-a-half story outbuilding with a hipped roof and four identical hipped dormers stands to the rear of the main building, barely seen from Big Bend Road.

**No. 38 Couch House**  
**315 Altus Place, c. 1850**

This Gothic Revival house was built around 1860 on 59.33 acres. In 1878, it was owned by George Couch, owner of a decorating and furniture store located at Clay and Main (Argonne) Avenues. By 1909, the property was subdivided into Louisa Heights with the Couch house standing as one of four houses on the west side of Rose Avenue (Altus Place). The home retains its original large porch on three sides. Stucco covered the exterior walls circa 1920. It is one of only four or five surviving Gothic Revival buildings in Kirkwood. None of its original outbuildings remain.



**No. 39 Byars House**  
**425 North Taylor Avenue, 1865**

This Victorian Country Classic home was built in 1865 by Isaac and Anna Warren. In 1887, William V. Byars purchased the house. The home's covered front porch and bay window were added around 1891. In 1899, Theodore Bopp, a local contractor, built a two-room addition to the rear of the house, which included a library on the lower floor and an additional bedroom on the second floor. Byars was a well-known writer with articles published in every major St. Louis newspaper and in national magazines and books. He died in 1938, leaving behind a vast written record as well as 14 children. Dorothy Byars lived in the home until 1989.

**No. 40 Marquitz-Garesche House**  
**751 North Taylor Avenue, 1858**

This Italianate structure originally consisted of two bays in a long narrow "shotgun" fashion. Around 1870, additions extended the front parlor to the south, making it a three-bay structure to the rear and a two-story porch to the south side. William Marquitz, the owner of a grocery store on Webster Avenue (Kirkwood Road), owned the home in 1878. In 1910, it was purchased by W.E. Warner, a fur merchant who served four years on the board of aldermen and was a member of the Kirkwood Building and Loan Association. The Charles Garesche family, descendants of an early St. Louis French family, owned and occupied the house until the 1930s.





**No. 41 Peter Bopp House**  
*120 West Madison Avenue, c. 1870*

This simple brick two-story Victorian Country Classic building with a centered front door and symmetrically placed windows was built circa 1870 for Peter Bopp, Sr., who had moved to Kirkwood in 1865. The Bopp family was instrumental in the establishment of the Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. The house was later occupied by Peter Bopp, Jr., who carried on his father's business as a boot and shoemaker. In 1904, Theodore Bopp, a local carpenter, was named as the executor of Peter Bopp, Sr.'s estate. He sold the property to a friend to settle the estate, only to repurchase it one minute later. The property left the Bopp family ownership in 1918.

**No. 42 Levi House Store**  
*201 North Kirkwood Road, c. 1865*

It is believed that this two-story brick mid-Victorian store was built circa 1865. Its exterior has changed little since its front porch was eliminated when large canvas awnings became available in the 1900s. Levi House, a member of the Kirkwood Board of Trustees from 1875-78, is believed to have built the building. His home stood on the same lot just to the west of the store. On April 1, 1869, the Kirkwood Board of Trustees rented the upper story of the building for "official town business." The upper floor of the building served as Kirkwood's first town hall until October 1, 1871. About 1879, Hemm's Drug Store leased the store from owner Jason M. Sheer. Kirkwood's first public telephone was located in Hemm's store. Circa 1904, "Doc" Henry Osdieck became the owner of the building and proprietor of the drug store. It remains in commercial use.



**No. 43 William Bach House**  
*12231 Old Big Bend Road, c. 1866*

The exterior of this simple mid-19th century Victorian farmhouse with its eyebrow windows under the eaves has changed very little over the years. After serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, William Bach built this house on 49.15 acres purchased from the Jacob Schwenn farm and raised a family here. The house remains in the hands of the descendants of one son. Two other sons built the Bach-Nalley-Swoboda house at 615 South Ballas Road on the north part of the Bach farm. The Bachs are a well-known pioneer family in western Kirkwood.



**No. 44 Bach-Nalley-Swoboda House**  
*615 South Ballas Road, c. 1885*

This Victorian Country home was built as a farmhouse for his personal use by Jacob Bach. The house was built on the north part of his father's (William Bach, Sr.) farm and vineyard, which was located north of Quinette Road (Old Big Bend) and west of Bach Road. Jacob Bach was known to have built other houses in the area. The frame two-story house with beveled wood lap siding and stone foundation was originally an L-shaped house. A well integrated T addition, which keeps the character of the original, was added by the Swoboda family on the house's north side. The house retains most of the original woodwork and four panel doors. The property was annexed to Kirkwood as lot 41 of the Woodbine Heights subdivision. The Richard Nalley family obtained the house in the early 1930s. Several generations of Nalleys lived there. Mrs. Sue Nalley Swoboda and Mayor Mike Swoboda continue the Nalley family presence in the old Bach house. Today the house sits on a spacious piece of property with a rural feeling, a curving drive and several outbuildings including a rebuilt barn/garage, which was honored by the Landmarks Commission in 2000.



**No. 45 Lemp Estate: "Cragwold"**  
*Built 1911*

Built into a bluff overlooking the Meramec River, this rustic stone and stucco house was constructed for Edwin A. Lemp. The style is predominately Prairie School with curious Tudor touches. It is one of several palatial houses built by the Lemp brewery family before prohibition. The main floor features a formal enclosed sunken courtyard onto which all rooms open; originally it was a "domesticated jungle" with hundreds of birds and a glass ceiling, now roofed over. The barn, garage/guest house, swimming pool and tennis courts are recent additions.

**No. 47 Holmes-Schmitz House**  
*429 Miriam Avenue, c. 1881*

When it was built, this frame Country Victorian farmhouse faced north on Scott Avenue. Since then, the property has been subdivided and Miriam Street opened up to provide access, leaving the house facing the adjacent property. It has several unique features not found in other Kirkwood houses of this style. The front has a one-story porch and an ornamental cornice extending across the one-and-a-half story facade. Dormer type pediments are located on the main roof directly over the three upper story windows. Several alterations and additions were made to the rear which faces the Missouri Pacific Railroad. John P. Schmitz, a Kirkwood alderman from 1903-1908, owned the property from 1909 until 1950.

