In 1852, the committee for the Kirkwood Association purchased 240 acres 13 miles west of St. Louis on the route of the Pacific Railroad for $19,000. The Association quickly established a system of government and was granted a charter of incorporation by the state legislature on February 9, 1853. The site was platted into 40 blocks; streets and alleys were named to honor past presidents of the United States.

The first auction of the properties was held on May 26, 1853 to correspond with the completion of the railroad line to Kirkwood. By the end of 1863, all of the original property had been sold, establishing the first planned suburb west of the Mississippi River. In 1899 and 1909 the village limits were extended two blocks east, west, north and south.

This tour lies within the earliest section of Kirkwood where some of the more distinctive and historic properties were designated Kirkwood Landmarks by the City. Some properties have been included in the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the U.S. Department of Interior. These properties are indicated with NR. Building dates are approximate.

Many of these Kirkwood Landmarks are private homes. This walking tour is intended to view only the exteriors of the houses. Please respect the owners’ privacy.
1. Kirkwood Train Station 1893 NR - In 1853 the first Missouri Pacific depot was erected on this site. Real estate speculators hoped to entice buyers to settle in this first planned suburb west of the Mississippi River. This Richardsonian Romanesque style depot was constructed by Douglas Donnan to replace the previous wooden structure. The stately depot with its massive stone walls, circular tower and broad eaves is still an active Amtrak Station and visitors' center.

2. Coulter Feed Store Building 1912 NR - An earlier building on this site was destroyed in an 1899 fire that swept the downtown district. Joseph Coulter moved his feed store here in 1912 and advertised the business with a large painted sign, since restored on the building's front wall. Coulter was a Kirkwood Alderman from 1922 to 1925 and a charter member of the Kirkwood Rotary Club. The building now houses a retail store.

3. Old Fire House No. 1 1920 NR - Completed by Fred Howell at a cost of $7,500, this Mission style building housed the first paid fire department in Kirkwood. The current triple storefront window and entrance were originally a large opening for the firehouse. Notice the b parallelepiped with the "No. 1" shield.

4. Old Post Office 1932 NR - In the early 1900s, home mail delivery started in Kirkwood and the new street numbering system was centered at Main Street (now Argonne Drive) and Webster Avenue (now Kirkwood Road). From 1932-52, the Post Office occupied this Neo-Classical style building. Today a wood embaltage still spans the facade and a triangular wood portico crowns the roof.

5. Gas Station 1932 NR - Dr. Doc Weber built this small 12'x16' cottage-style, brick structure as a gasoline station. Its various uses over the years have included a cab stand, a garden shop and a seasonal custard stand.

6. F. K. Hagemann Bakery Building 1899 NR - Frederick Hagemann opened a bakery on this site in 1879. A fire in 1889, the present brick structure, with a cast iron and wood facade and a pressed metal cornice, was built on the old-shaped lot between the street and the railroad track. The retail store displays the old cast iron facade left in Kirkwood. The vintage Missouri Pacific caboose was added in the 1930s.

7. Brook Cottage 1880 NR - Although this late Victorian folk cottage was originally a private residence, it has been used as retail or office space for many decades. The open-frame entry porch was rebuilt as part of a meticulous restoration.

8. Mudd's Grove 1859 NR - Originally built by John Hoffman, this red brick, Greek Revival style house and "100 surrounding acres were purchased by Henry T. Mudd in 1868. Mudd served in the State Legislature and helped frame the Missouri Constitution. George and Virginia Dahn owned the home from 1898 to 1921 and added the garage, wrap-around porch and 3-car garage. Since 1992, it has been the museum home of the Kirkwood Historical Society, open for visitors on Sunday and Thursday afternoons.

9. Swan Cottage 1859 NR - William B. Swan, a Union Army veteran, purchased this one-story, Greek Revival home from James and Mary Way in 1867. The home is a simple rectangle with a cross-gable roof. Swan's four daughters were frequently mentioned in Kirkwood Society in the late 1800s.

10. Robertson-Kraft House 1860 - This Federal style, double house has a wrought iron window’s walk and four chimneys. The bricks were allegedly handmade on the property. The Robertson's were one of the earliest owners. In 1934 electrical engineer Christopher Kraft bought the house and added indoor plumbing and electrical wiring.