

**Barrett's Tunnels, Museum of Transport, 3015 Barrett Station Rd.,  
near Kirkwood, 1851-1853, NR**



The two Barretts Railroad Tunnels are notable as the first railroad tunnels west of the Mississippi River. Situated off Barrett Station Road near Kirkwood, they were part of the route laid out for the Pacific Railroad by Chief Engineer James P. Kirkwood to link St. Louis to the West. The first trains ran to Franklin County in 1853, but the line did not reach Kansas City until 1865. The railroad, recently acquired by Union Pacific, has been entirely rebuilt over the years, leaving the tunnels as the only structural reminder of the original line left in Missouri. The west tunnel is now on the grounds of the national Museum of Transport, while the east one is still owned by the railroad.

**“Brownhurst,” 1201 S. Lindbergh, Kirkwood, c. 1890**



Daniel Sidney Brown was the builder of a Richardsonian Shingle style frame house which he named “Brownhurst.” The house is an unusually large and well-designed example in this area of the taste for dark-brown shingles as a unifying design element. Born in 1854, the same year his father founded the Pioneer Cooperage Company, Brown ran the St. Louis branch of the national firm. When he wasn’t engaged in business, he enjoyed his interest in horticulture, growing many varieties of flowers, particularly orchids. He moved to Kirkwood to pursue his hobby eventually devoting forty acres to flower gardens and greenhouses. During the World’s Fair of 1904, internationally known botanists made trips on the Frisco Railroad to view Brown’s “famous collection of rare and beautiful palms, ferns, and orchids.” Fearing the death of his plants in the winter of 1918, Brown donated them to the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Shortly afterward he sold

Brownhurst to the Society of Mary. Most of the property is now occupied by Vianney High School.

### **“Cragwold,” 1455 Cragwold Dr., Kirkwood, 1911**



“Cragwold,” the Edwin Lemp Estate, was constructed in 1911 and is located in Kirkwood. Edwin was one of several German beer barons whose family operated the Lemp Brewery in South County prior to Prohibition. While many breweries existed in St. Louis at this time, the Lemp and Busch breweries rose to the top of the industry, making these families among the wealthiest in St. Louis. The extravagant and eccentric tastes of the brewery families were reflected in the estates they erected.

The Lemp Breweing Company was the largest brewing company in St. Louis at the turn of the century, brewing 125,000 bottles of beer a day. The brewery covered 16 city blocks. Several members of Edwin’s family succumbed to the pressures of the high-stress business and committed suicide. Edwin chose not to engage in the business but retired to a secluded life in the country.

He found 140 acres on the bluffs overlooking the Meramec River near Kirkwood as the site upon which to construct Cragwold. The main house is reminiscent of a German hunting lodge. “Inside the one-story house looks like a Roman senator’s home,” writes Don Crinklaw. “A hallway leads to a sunken atrium that fills the center of the building, and when Edwin Lemp was alive, the space was a domesticated jungle. Palms and ferns grew near to the ceiling, and a hundred birds -- Kentucky cardinals, parrots and tropical rarities – flew about.”

Beyond the extravagancies of his home, Edwin was known both in and outside the St. Louis area for his dinner parties. Entertaining illustrious visitors to the city, as well as his local circle, he often planned the menu with his personal chef for weeks in advance. Although he had an introverted nature, he hated to be alone, perhaps because of the untimely deaths of so many members of his family. Edwin Lemp was a benefactor of the St. Louis Zoo and the Municipal Opera, and his close friends included Geroge Vierheller, head of the zoo, Thomas Dooley, father of the noted doctor, and Helen Traubel, the opera singer.

### **Fishback Place, 440 E. Argonne Dr., Kirkwood, 1867**



Fishback Place has a solemn Greek Revival facade. Its builder, George Fishback, came to St. Louis from Ohio in 1854 with the intention of practicing law, but instead he became a reporter for the *Evening News* and the *St. Louis Intelligencer*. He transferred to the *Missouri Democrat* and became a co-owner in 1855. During the Civil War, Fishback was editorial manager of the paper, and in 1872 he became the sole owner. Three years later he sold out, and the *Democrat* consolidated with the *Globe*. The fancy details of Fishback Place, such as the carved balustrade, dentilled cornice gable, and the elegant brackets, expressed the taste and high social stature of its owner.

### **Gill House, 419 E. Argonne Dr, Kirkwood, 1858**



The Gill House was built in the Italianate style in 1858 by George Gill. Gill, a city trustee, lent interest-free money to the city of Kirkwood during times of need from 1873 to 1891. He was also a president of the school board. Another prominent owner was Edward Beecher, mayor of Kirkwood.

### **“Greystone Lodge” (Yeats-Tutt House), 348 Geyer Forest Dr., Kirkwood, 1830 on cornerstone**



“Greystone Lodge” was built by Thomas Yeats, one of Kirkwood’s earliest real estate speculators. The residence served as the Yeats family home after he purchased the property from Archibald Gamble in 1827. The Yeats children Joseph, Thomas, William and Ellen inherited the land in 1852 and later sold their holdings to Dr. John L. Matthews in 1864. Samuel J. and Mary D. Tutt bought the property from Matthews in 1867. In 1870, the property went to Dr. Thomas E. Tutt and his wife Sally who sold the eastern part of the farm to Daniel S. Brown founder of the world-famous orchid collection at Shaws Garden. Thomas Tutt was the local physician for Kirkwood. The bit of Stone construction with the carved date is believed to be the oldest remaining part of a building in Kirkwood visible to a casual by-passer, but according to family legend the stone was carved by one of the Tutt brothers as a young boy.

**Halsey-Rode House (Club 44), 126 E. Washington Ave., Kirkwood, 1860s**



The Halsey-Rode House in Kirkwood is a Victorian cottage built by E.E. Halsey, who also built the Gill House and Kirkwood’s first public school in 1869. The Rode family owned the house from 1903 to 1971, when the YMCA purchased it and leased it to Club 44, an affiliated organization which provides lunches and summer recreational programs for children of low-income families. The Halsey-Rode House was threatened by demolition in 1988 to make space for the YMCA’s parking lot. It was saved through the cooperation of Wefelmeyer Construction, Inc. and the Hoffman Partnership, who agreed to restore the house and update the kitchen and bathroom in return for being able to use the house as their office for one year. The fulfillment of this agreement resulted in a creative alternative to demolition. Today the house is still used by Club 44 and YMCA’s school-aged child care office.

### **Henry Bopp House, 115 W. Monroe Ave., Kirkwood, c. 1866**



In 1865, Peter Bopp Sr., moved his family from Des Peres to Kirkwood. He built a brick house similar to the Henry Bopp House, directly behind it on Madison Avenue. Peter had three sons, Henry, Peter junior, and Theodore. Henry, the oldest son, is the one who built the house in 1866, which was constructed in the vernacular brick style with a pediment portico projecting around the front door. The four Bopp men were instrumental in the organization and building of the Concordia Lutheran Church on Harrison Avenue in Kirkwood.

### **Hoch Farm Barn, 211 Sugar Creek Ridge Dr., Kirkwood, c. 1870**



Hoch Farm includes the main structure, a white frame farmhouse, a one-story dog-trot log cabin, a small stone building, and a two-story log barn. Henry Hoch purchased 40 acres along Sugar Creek from the U.S. Government in 1837. He built the dog-trot cabin with a space between the two end rooms for a horse and a cow. A year or two later the barn was built and the middle room of the log cabin was finished as a kitchen. In 1859, Margaret Hoch, the eldest child, quarried stone to build a store house for winter fruits and vegetables. The Hoch family quarried limestone on their property which was used for many foundations of the early homes in Kirkwood. Finally, in 1870, the Hoch family had Kossuth Strohm, a carpenter who lived across the Sugar Creek, build them a frame house. The farm has since been divided up for residential housing.

### **Hoffman-Ward House, 142 W. Monroe Ave., Kirkwood, 1880-1885**



Hoffman-Ward House is a square frame home with restrained Victorian detail. The house was built between 1880 and 1885 by John Hoffman as a gift to his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband Thomas H. Ward. The house was given to the Wards in 1886.

John Hoffman was very active in Kirkwood civic affairs. He was a member of the corporation which was formed in 1864 to aid Anna Sneed in establishing the Kirkwood Seminary. When the newly formed Kirkwood School district was in search of a parcel of land on which to construct the first school house, Hoffman sold them his property at Clay and Jefferson Avenues in 1866. He also headed a committee to widen and pave Kirkwood Avenue.

Thomas Ward was the son of Captain James Ward, president of the North Line Packet Company, one of the country's largest steamboat lines. Thomas became a business partner with his father in 1869 when Captain Ward sold his entire interest in his steamboat company and started a ship chandlery business. The Ward Chandlery Company proved to be quite successful until about the turn of the century and soon after Thomas Ward retired.

Both Thomas and Elizabeth Ward died between 1918 and 1919 and the property passed on to their two sons James and Harry. Harry Ward had always lived at the house with his parents and remained single. James and his wife, Fay, moved into the house with Harry after their parents died. In 1919, the Ward brothers sold their joint ownership of the house to James' wife, Fay Ward. After James died in 1921 Fay sold the house to Mary G.E. Thomas.

After passing through the hands of several owners the house became the home of Café Victorian and The Steamboat pub owned by Jim and Jeanie Benson who were awarded the "Excellence in Adaptive Re-Use of a Historic Building" award from St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission.

## **Holmes-Mitchell House, 598 M. Taylor Ave., Kirkwood, 1852**



The Holmes Mitchell House was built by prominent Kirkwoodians in a Victorian vernacular style. James Holmes, the original owner of the land, built a log cabin in the 1820s. Abram Mitchell, the Secretary of the Pacific Railway Company, bought the property in 1851 and built a house around the log cabin. By 1910, the house was deteriorating, prompting the neighbors to call it the “chicken coop.” The family of Charles Brown performed many structural and cosmetic changes in the 1930s under the direction of Beverly Nelson, a noted St. Louis architect. The arched porch across the front is said to have been styled after a Virginian mansion which burned in the Civil War. A large library was added next to the parlor, and Peter Seltzer, Kirkwood’s distinguished landscape architect, designed a garden with brick walls, wrought iron gates, and a fountain.

**Kirkwood Missouri Pacific Station, 100 W. Argonne Dr., Kirkwood,  
1893, NR**



The present building of the Kirkwood Missouri Pacific Station is the third built for the railroad station. Located on Argonne Drive, it is in the popular Richardsonian Romanesque style. Its interior was remodeled in 1941, but a plan to “colonize” the exterior met the protests of Kirkwood civic groups. In 1976 the station was renovated as a bicentennial project.

**Russell Kraus House, Ebsworth Park, 120 N. Ballas Rd., Kirkwood,  
1951-1955, Frank Lloyd Wright, NR**



The Russell Kraus House is one of the two Frank Lloyd Wright houses in the St. Louis area. It was built in 1951 for Russell Kraus, an artist. Mr. Kraus designed the stained glass windows in the house. Frank Lloyd Wright designed much of the furniture, which, like the house, avoids right angles. The design of the house is derived from a triangle. The house is built on the west side of a wooded hill, and the gently sloping hip-roof parallels the crest of the hill.

### **The Magic House (George Lane Edwards House), 516 S. Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood, 1901**



The land on which the Magic House sits was part of the estate of J.O. Sturdy. The estate was subdivided into 18 individual lots. In 1901 Florence Noble Edwards purchased a tract of this land from a previous owner. She was the wife of George Lane Edwards, a son of A.G. Edwards and grandson of Ninian Edwards, the first territorial governor of Illinois, for whom Edwardsville is named. Albert Gallatin Edwards moved to Kirkwood in 1864 and became one of the first trustees of the newly incorporated town the following year, as well as a founding director of the Kirkwood School Board. George Lane Edwards was born in Kirkwood in 1869 and married there in 1892, and when the brokerage firm of A.G. Edwards and Sons was incorporated in the latter year he became the first president. He was the director of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in 1904 and died unexpectedly in 1919.

The house was probably built in 1901. And by 1904 it, other real-estate, stocks and securities were put into a trust for Mrs. Edwards and their children. Mrs. Edwards kept the house throughout her lifetime, but never returned to live in it after her husband's

death. The trustees encouraged the sale of the property in 1923 to Katherine M. Schmick whose husband was George M. Schmick who, in 1927, served on Kirkwood's first Zoning Commission. The property was purchased by the Kirkwood School Board in 1954 and was remodeled by the architectural firm of William B. Ittner for use as administrative offices. The school board sold the property to Riviera Investment Corporation in 1975, and plans for the magic house were made in 1977.

### **Mary Schaffer House, 510 McLain Lane, Kirkwood, 1875**



The Mary Schaffer House was built in 1875 by her and her husband John Schaffer. The house is one and a half stories built in the second enterprise vernacular style. The Schaffers had six children, and after John and Mary passed away their daughter Emma K. Morris became owner of the property.

### **McLagan House, 549 E. Argonne Dr., Kirkwood, 1875**



Among the most attractive houses in Kirkwood is the McLagan House, known until recently as the History House. A typical Italianate Villa, it has the distinctive tower, deep eaves, and asymmetrical plan of this architectural style. An interesting feature of the McLagan House is the wood siding which was cut at the corners to resemble stone quoins, the usual material of Italianate buildings. This house also boasts a list of distinguished occupants. Charles Black, publisher of the *Clayton Argus*, acquired the house from the McLagans in 1879 and was succeeded in 1904 by Ethan Allen Taussig and his wife Edith, both opera singers with the touring San Carlo Opera Company. They sold the house to Phil Rau, a successful dry goods merchant and amateur entomologist,

who kept bees and published studies on them. The last owners of the McLagan House passed it to the Kirkwood Historical Society, which operated it as a house museum until 1992, when it became a residence again.

**“Mooreland” (De Pombiray-Moore-Lockett House), 850 Rochdale Dr.,  
Kirkwood, 1850, 1867, 1934**



Perhaps the only building in Kirkwood to suggest the rural past of the area is “Mooreland” which started as a small brick house by Charles Nicholas and Marie Louise Charlotte de Pomibray. In 1867 Alexander Moor bought the property and enlarged the house to its present size. Moore’s son John Moore named the place “Mooreland Stock Farm.”

**“Mudd’s Grove” 302 W. Argonne Dr., Kirkwood, 1859, NR**



Just west of the Kirkwood Missouri Pacific Station stands “Mudd’s Grove.” The block it was built on was purchased from the Kirkwood Association by John Hoffman after the house was completed, he sold it in 1866 to Henry Mudd, who was the county auditor and trustee of the city of Kirkwood, and who helped frame the Missouri constitution of 1875. Among the later owners was George Dana, who was also a city trustee and a founder of the Charter Oak Stove Company. The present porch and gate house were added about the turn of the century, to the designs of Klipstein and Rathmann. The house was acquired in 1992 by the Kirkwood Historical Society, which is working on its restoration.

**Old Grace Church, 216 E. Argonne Dr., Kirkwood, 1860 R.S. Mitchell,  
NR**



The first Episcopal services in St. Louis County took place in 1854 in the home of H.I. Bodley, a lay reader. In 1859 a parish was organized and admitted to the Diocese of Missouri. In 1860 Old Grace church was designed by R.S. Mitchell and built with limestone in the Gothic Revival style. The beautiful stained glass on the east side was presented by Mr. James S. Wilgus. A bell was presented by Mr. Hanna of Frankfort, Kentucky and an organ by Mr. H.W. Leffingwell of Kirkwood, and the stone front by St. John's Church of St. Louis. The church operated without a minister until after the debt from building the church was paid off in 1864. In 1914, a fire caused considerable damage to the oldest section of the church but it was restored as it had previously been.

In 1960 a new church was built at 514 E. Argonne, and this building was sold to the Eliot Unitarian Chapel. A low modern brick Sunday school was added to the south side of the church in 1962. It was designed by Smith and Entzeroth Architects.

**Olive Chapel AME, 301 S. Harrison Ave., Kirkwood, 1860s**



The Friedens Evangelische Gemeinde Lutheran congregation, which was breaking away from the Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, built its own church on Harrison Avenue in 1896. After the schism ended in 1923, with most of the members rejoining Concordia, the Olive Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church purchased the building and is still there today. The Olive Chapel congregation is an old

one, established in 1853 by the Rev. Jordan Winston and served for many years by circuit riders.

**Robertson-Kraft House, 434 N. Harrison Ave., Kirkwood, 1860s**



The Robertson-Kraft house stands out as a conservative landmark among the Victorian and Italianate Kirkwood residences. Its date of construction is not certain. It is thought that it was built in the 1860s with bricks made on the property. It was restored and modernized by the family of Christopher Kraft, who bought the house in 1932.

**Smith-Keysor House, 122 N. Fillmore Ave. at Jefferson, Kirkwood, 1850s**



The Smith-Keysor House was built for Spencer Smith, who ran a seminary for girls in the city during the 1850s. He was a professor of natural sciences at the City University of St. Louis in 1866. Judge William Winchester and his wife Jennie purchased the house in 1912. Keysor was a professor of law at Washington University. Mrs. Keysor was a pioneer in adult education and gave lessons in poetry, art, and literature at her home. She was the author of two sets of children's books, *Great Artists* and *Sketches of American Authors*.

**Tallhurst-Burr House, 345 E. Argonne Dr., Kirkwood, 1874**



Walking East on Argonne Drive, you see the Talhurst-Burr House. Built by G.W. Tallhurst, it was bought by George and Josephine Burr in 1888. Burr was a trustee of the city of Kirkwood from 1894 to 1896 and helped to arrange for the first electric street lights there.

### **Turner School, 234 Meacham St. Kirkwood, 1937, Bonsack & Pearce, NR**



The present J. Milton Turner School had its origins as the Meacham Park School. It opened in 1924 as a direct response to the pressure black parents had been directing to the Kirkwood Board of Education since the end of World War I because of the obviously inadequate educational opportunities for black students in the district.

The J. Milton Turner School was opened in 1925 by the Kirkwood School District for its African-American students in the southeast part of the district, and particularly for those in the Meacham Park Subdivision, which was an unincorporated area (within the school district but outside the city limits) that had been developing as a largely African-American neighborhood since 1892. In spite of changes in use, the J. Milton Turner School is the most important school building remaining in St. Louis County from the period of segregated school systems.

James Milton Turner was born a slave in St. Louis County. Turner's father was able to purchase his freedom in 1844, and he was educated at in the clandestine school run by John Berry Meachum (1789-1854), another former slave. From about 1855 to about 1857, Turner studied at Oberlin College in Ohio. Then in 1871, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Turner as Minister to the Republic of Liberia, making him the second African-American to represent the United States in a foreign diplomatic post.

The building was brought to its present size in 1948, with enough room to accommodate the whole elementary school. The U.S Supreme Court ruled to end

segregation through the Brown vs. Board of Education case in 1954. Even though this was enacted the Turner School still remained predominately black due to the division of neighborhoods between blacks and whites. It wasn't until 1975-1976 school year that Turner's students were moved to another building inside the Kirkwood city limits and the building was closed. The school has been closed since then, but plans are currently under way to restore the building and adapt it for use as a community center.