

**“Amagraja” (Mahlon B. Wallace House), 601 S. Price Rd., Ladue, c.
1908**



“Amagraja” is notable as a reminder of the Neoclassical Colonial Revival style used by most of the state pavilions at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Its four-column portico of Renaissance Ionic columns is unique to the area. Mahon B. Wallace Sr. (1871-1936) was the son of Asa A. Wallace, and officer of the Cupples Corporation, of which Mahlon later served as president. His mother, the former Mary Jane Brookings, was the sister of Robert Brookings, another Cupples official who guided Washington University through great expansion and founded the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Busch’s Grove, 9160 Clayton Rd., Ladue, 1855-1860, NR (demolished)



Busch’s Grove is a two-story white frame building trimmed in green. It has functioned as a focal point for social gatherings for 130 years. Busch’s Grove was probably built between 1855 and 1860 by John Philip Litzsinger who purchased the property from James S. Forsyth for \$1,000. Litzsinger sold the property to John T. Harding in 1869 for \$6,000, and the increase in value was probably due to the construction of the establishment, which was then known as Woodlawn Garden. Its location on Clayton Road, a major early thoroughfare, suggests that it was used as a traveler’s spot or pleasure resort. According to local lore, it was also a ten-mile stop on the stage coach line.

Harding sold the property in 1873 to Charles Robyn who opened a combination saloon and grocery store in the building called the Claytonville Beer and Wine Saloon and Garden. Robyn also served as a postmaster.

Robyn sold the establishment to George Buente in 1891. Buente rented it to John Busch who opened a restaurant that year and gave the establishment its new name. Under Busch, the establishment continued to be a popular social gathering spot, growing in prestige as the community grew up around it. Busch's Grove was a popular resting stop during the Worlds Fair of 1904, and it also began to attract famous visitors, among them Theodore Roosevelt and Will Rogers.

The business continued to thrive after John Busch sold it to his son Henry and his friend Paul Kammerer in 1909. The restaurant earned a reputation for fine dining and began to be considered an annex to the St. Louis Country club. At the death of Henry Busch in 1941, the restaurant was passed to the children of Paul Kammerer, and it is still in the family.

Andrew Denny House 10041 Conway Rd., Ladue, c. 18765 (demolished)



The land which the Andrew Denny house currently sits was obtained by Samuel Denny in 1819 as a portion of 167.10 acres granted by President James Monroe. Samuel gave a twelve acre tract to Elizabeth Anne Hardin sometime after her 1860 marriage to his son Andrew Jackson Denny. By tradition, A.J. Denny built the present enclosed dog trot log house in 1865 on his return from the Confederate army. Samuel Denny died in 1879.

Andrew Jackson Denny died in 1910, at the age of 74. In his will he acknowledged his wife's ownership of the 12-acre tract. She survived until 1920, making provisions for her property to be held in trust during the life of her daughter Daisy. The property was then purchased by Roy Jackson Denny, another of their seven children.

Roy Denny made additions to the house, as did Robert Denny, an architect and A.J.'s grandson. The latter changes showed a Greek Revival influence and were completed after 1929. Robert Denny sold the house to Ethan Allen Hitchcock Shepley, the chancellor of Washington University, in 1937. Frederick Dunn, an outstanding St. Louis architect, remodeled the house, which Shepley called "Pepper Hill," in 1940. In 1947 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Johnson.

Benedict Farrar House, 8 Edgewood Rd., Ladue, 1926, Study & Farrar



Benedict Farrar designed the house at 8 Edgewood Road for his own residence. Born in St. Louis in 1885, he was the great grandson of Dr. Bernard Gaines Farrar, the first American physician in St. Louis. Benedict Farrar formed an architectural firm with Guy Study in 1915. Study & Farrar designed many notable houses in both University City and Clayton, as well as in Ladue.

Farrar was active within the village of McKnight, and after its incorporation into the city of Ladue in 1936, he became the building commissioner. Along with Study, he designed the Ladue Fire House/ City Hall, Mary Institute, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, as well as Price School. During World War II, Farrar served as chief assistant architect for the Pentagon construction project. He built two other houses for himself in Ladue, on the same street.

The Tudor Revival style house, constructed by 1926, is notable for its picturesque stone work laid in narrow courses with rounded outer edges. Unusual for the St. Louis area, it is one of Farrar's most sensitively designed residences.

“Ferrieres,” 3 Apple Tree Lane, Ladue, 1927, Beverly T. Nelson



“Ferrieres,” is a French Renaissance chateau constructed in 1927. Its designer, Beverly T. Nelson (1892-1954), was a prominent society architect of the time, and he designed this house for Virgil A. Lewis, who was the vice president of the Mound City Trust Company. The house is named after a Rothschild estate outside Paris. “Ferrieres” was the largest of many houses which Nelson, an architect known for his Williamsburg Colonial Residence and commercial buildings, designed in Ladue.

Harry F. Knight House, 2601 Warson Rd., Ladue, c. 1925, H.T. Lindeberg



The palatial Harry F. Knight House was constructed for the stockbroker Harry French Knight, who was a financial backer of Charles Lindbergh's historic flight. He is known to have entertained the famous aviator in the house. Knight became a vice president of A.G. Edwards & Sons Brokerage Co. in 1894. He bought this land in 1923 and built the house for himself and his new bride Lora Moore, the widow of a founder of U.S. Steel. The couple lived in the house only a short time before divorcing in 1927. Knight sold the house the next year to Mark and Etta Steinberg. Mrs. Steinberg, in 1957, gave the funds for Washington University's art gallery.

The Knight House was designed in the Tudor Revival style by the nationally known architect Harrie T. Lindeberg, best known for his many country houses in period styles. The exterior walls are constructed of Pennsylvania taprock, and the roof has 1-inch thick slates quarried in Vermont. The roof is supported by one-hundred 10-by-12 inch oak beams. The house has a total of 27 rooms, including a chauffeur's apartment of six rooms and a wine cellar with a vault door. The grounds contain a greenhouse, which was later converted to an indoor/outdoor swimming pool.

Due to its massive scale, the house has proven difficult for a single family to maintain, and the grounds have been subdivided. The gatehouse is now a separate property.

Ladue Market, 9155 Clayton Rd., Ladue, 1928



The Ladue Market is the oldest store in the city. In 1985 it was the recipient of an award from the St. Louis County Historic Building Commission, "In Recognition of Excellent Continuing Use" since 1928. The business has been run by four generations of the same family. With the growth of Ladue, the market has developed a distinguished clientele, and it is renowned for the steady flow of Mercedes and Rolls Royces driving through the parking lot.

The building permit for the brick structure in the Tudor Revival style was issued on January 28, 1928, to Charles and Minnie Meyer, and the store opened later that year as Meyer's Market. Charles had three sons who assisted him with running the shop: Charles (Bud), Chester, and Mel. In 1955, the market was enlarged, incorporated and renamed "Ladue Market." The family lived in residence at the back of the store until the death of Charles Meyer in 1963. By this time, Chester and Bud had left the business to their brother Mel and his family. Mel's wife and two children, Jerry Meyer and Betty Whiteman continue to operate the store along with their grandchildren.

May Lichtenstein House, 2222 S. Warson Rd., Ladue, 1941-1942, Samuel Marx (demolished 2006)



The May-Lichtenstein House is the largest among modernist houses of the time in the St. Louis area. It was designed by Samuel A. Marx for his nephew by marriage, Morton D. May (1914-1983), then a young executive and heir to the May Department Stores. It was completed in 1942 on nine carefully landscaped acres.

The May House was to hold the first place in many respects. Its styling was a novelty in St. Louis, a city which did not embrace the modern movement wholeheartedly until after World War II. At a time when residential air-conditioning was extremely rare, the May House had it. Its rooms are scaled generously but create a balanced alternation between intimate and expansive spaces. The living room looks onto the lawn from a fifty-six-foot-long glass wall. On the second floor four full-size-bedrooms, each with a bath, and three servants' bedrooms are joined by a darkroom, as May was a devoted amateur photographer. The house had furnishings specially designed to fit its spaces.

The second owner, David B. Lichtenstien, retired chairman of the Liberty Loan Corporation, purchased the property in 1952. After moving into the empty house, the Lichtenstiens discovered that their furniture did not fit. They then purchased all the original furnishings from May and kept them until their deaths in 1985. In recent years, the future of the house has been uncertain.

Liebich, Ackerman House 9131 Clayton Rd., Ladue, c. 1900



Within the Summit Tract at 9131 Clayton Road is the Liebich-Ackerman House. This two-and-a-half story Vernacular style residence sits on a portion of the Summit Tract which was once owned by the Eckelkamp family, who were farmers. The house was probably built by Joseph Liebich, a fur dealer, who purchased the property from Joseph Eckelkamp in 1889. He sold it to Leopold Ackerman, the president of the Sonnenfield Millinery Company, in 1907. The house was occupied briefly in the 1940s by Harriet Rodes Bakewell, who later became widely known as a landscape architect.

McKnight Farm, 8956 Moydalgan Lane, Ladue, c. 1850



John McKnight was an orphan who was brought to Missouri from Virginia by an Uncle, also named John McKnight. The elder McKnight in partnership with Thomas Brady had formed one of the most successful real estate firms in the St. Louis area after his arrival there in 1815. The younger McKnight studied law under Henry S. Geyer, but became a merchant rather than a lawyer. He went to Santa Fe and then to Chihuahua, Mexico in 1826, but returned to St. Louis in 1838. He married his cousin, Martha A. McCutcheon of Virginia, in 1850. They acquired land from the widow Lacourse who had obtained a large tract of land in compensation for losses she suffered during the new Madrid earthquake of 1811-1812. This newly acquired property is where the present German vernacular style house was built.

The northern portion of the tract of land was owned by N.R. McKnight and William McKnight. When John McKnight died in 1875 his portion went to his widow

who continued living there. The land to the north owned by N.R. and William McKnight began to be divided in 1909 and was platted as the West Clayton subdivision.

The property on which the present buildings and residences stand was acquired in the early years of the twentieth century by Hugh McKittrick. He named it Moydalgan after his family's estate in County Down, Ireland. In the 1920s part of this land was sold and was developed into the Tanglewood subdivision. In 1963 Moydalgan Subdivision was laid out around the original house on McKnight farm.

Samuel Plant House, 800 Cella Rd., 1912, Norman Vegley, NR



The Samuel Plant house is an exceptionally well constructed and well preserved example of the Georgian Revival style, executed during America's more professionally informed revival period. The architect, Norman Vegley, had been associated with the architectural firm of Cope & Stewardson, who produced Georgian houses in the St. Louis area, including outstanding examples on Forsyth and in Brentmoor Park

Samuel P. Plant was the great nephew of George P. Plant who came to this region in 1837 as a railroad engineer and surveyor. He then moved to St. Louis, where he organized a successful milling company that, by 1906 shipped its products to all parts of the United States, Europe, and the West Indies.

George P. Plant was joined in the business by his brother Samuel in 1840. Samuel Plant's son, George H. Plant, joined the company at age 18 and was active in its management for more than sixty years. He turned the company over to his son Samuel in 1918 but remained president until the company was sold to Texas and Oklahoma interests in 1926. The Plant family was the only one to provide three presidents of the St. Louis Merchant's Exchange: George P. Plant served in 1869, George H. in 1907, and Samuel in 1924.

Price School, 103 Price School Lane, Ladue, 1925, 1933, Study & Farrar, NR



The Price School is unusual in that it is an example of high-style architecture executed for a rural single-school district. The original Price school was a one-room building constructed in 1872, and it was replaced by a two-room structure in 1898. The present building dates to 1925 and was enlarged in 1933. Throughout the time of the school's growth, the area surrounding it was also transforming from a rural community to one of the wealthiest residential communities in the country. The new constituents of the district wanted a building which reflected their sense of refinement and sophistication. They hired the well-known firm of Study and Farrar to create a design which would go beyond the standard schoolhouse.

The Price School combines classical detailing with the materials, scale, and proportions of the arts and Crafts movement. Of particular interest are the decorative panels, which combine Aztec and Jacobean styles in allegorical scenes of the early exploration of America.

The Price School had recently been adapted for use by the Churchill School, a not-for-profit school for high potential children with learning disabilities.