

## Ames Place



Ames Place is a subdivision designed to be an upper-middle-class planned community following housing restrictions enforced by land indenture and maintained by private ownership.

Ames Place includes the Academy Building, which combines two storefronts with apartments. Eleven apartment buildings front on University Drive and Millbrook Avenue beyond it. The rest of the buildings in the subdivision are single-family houses of two to two-and-a-half stories, all of brick or stuccoed masonry construction. Although many contractors worked in Ames Place, all but three of the houses and apartments were built within a period of a dozen years, and thus they share many characteristics, particularly with regard to scale and construction materials. The most prolific contractors in Ames Place were George Bergfeld and E.L. Wagner, who built 63 of the 201 houses between them. The majority of the houses are in Period Revival styles, with Georgian and Tudor occurring the most often.

### **McGarry House, 6965 Pershing Ave., University City, 1924, NR**



The McGarry House is located within the Ames Place Historic District. While it is not outstanding with regard to exterior design, the interior is remarkable for its ceramic tile work floors and mantels. Architect Russell Conzelman designed the house for tile contractor T.J. McGarry. McGarry installed the interior to create a showcase for his product.

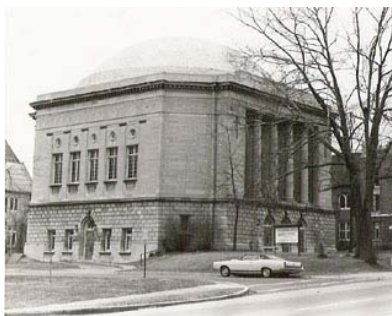
**Anchor Masonic Temple, 6901 Delmar Blvd., University City, 1925, T.P. Barnett & J.W. Leigh, NR**



Anchor Masonic Temple was built in 1925 for the University Masonic Lodge in the Second Egyptian Revival style. Its architect was Tom Barnett, who also designed the First Church of Christ Scientist across the street and Eden Seminary in Webster Groves. In 1937 the building was bought by the Anchor Hall Association, and the two Masonic institutions merged in the Anchor Temple Association.

Childgrove School acquired the building in 1977 and it was known by this name until 1991 when the small private school closed. Two years later, a proposal was made to convert the old but unusual and attractive building into an office complex. The proposal was supported by the neighborhood, which felt it would benefit from having the vacant building used. Architect Kimble Cohn restored the exterior and converted the interior into general office spaces. A parking lot was constructed and the grounds were landscaped. The project confirms that preservation and adaptation are important parts of contemporary architectural practice.

**Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 6900 Delmar Blvd., University City, 1924, NR**



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church was built in 1934 by T.P. Barnett Co. for the First Church of Christ Scientist. Thomas Barnett was an English immigrant who had led the architectural profession in St. Louis from the time of his arrival here in the 1850s and was responsible for many notable buildings including the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City.

The First Church of Christ Scientist, University City, which commissioned the building, had been organized in 1921 by members of the First and Fourth Churches in St.

Louis. It had originally met in a commercial building at 6640 Delmar. The first services were held in the completed structure in 1925.

The building was sold in 1958 when the Christian Scientists moved to the Clayton Masonic Temple. The new owner, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, had been founded in 1948 and had first been located at Academy and Vernon Streets in St. Louis. Now, after nearly a quarter of a century in University City, the church is planning to move further west.

### **B'nai Amoona Synagogue (COCA), 542 Trinity Ave., University City, 1945-1950, Eric Mendelsohn, NR**



B'nai Amoona Synagogue was the first American design of acclaimed architect Eric Mendelsohn, one of the developers of the International style in Europe before World War II. It was the first design to break away from traditional synagogue architecture, which up until that time largely employed Moorish, Byzantine or other historical revival styles.

Prior to his immigration to the United States in 1941, Mendelsohn had asserted himself as a leading modern architect and had formulated his own style based on the elastic continuity of space and flowing, integrated forms. These features became characteristic of B'nai Amoona. Mendelsohn created a continuous building which gives the impression of a complex, with its wings rising to different levels unified by a clean linear silhouette.

Most distinctive is the sanctuary which dominates the rest with its parabolic curved roof. Mendelsohn linked the interior spaces, using the then-revolutionary "flexible plan," which here was done for the first time in a large-scale building. To accommodate the increased attendance at the synagogue on high holidays, he placed movable doors between the sanctuary and the auditorium, expanding the seating area to 1500 seats.

Mendelsohn's successful integration of International style design with the symbolism of Jewish religion and functions of a temple was met with enthusiasm and appreciation. In a letter to his wife he wrote: "The building is visited daily by crowds of all denominations and the Congregation is very proud."

B'nai Amoona was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. When the congregation moved to West Count in 1986, it became a prime example of adaptive reuse of a historic building as the home of the newly established Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA).

## **Delmar Loop-Parkview Gardens, University City, 1913, 1920, NR**



The Delmar Loop, once the turnaround point for the Delmar street car line, has long been one of the primary attractions of University City. The Loop in the early 1900s was the site of the Delmar Garden Amusement Park as well as the Delmar Racetrack. The racetrack, which was closed in 1911, gave the streets Eastgate and Westgate their names, as they were the entrances to the grounds. After the amusement park was closed in 1915, the land was redeveloped. Taken together, these areas cover about eighty-four acres and form the “downtown” section of University City. Along Delmar, businesses set up on the ground floors drew crowds from the streetcar lines.

North of Delmar an apartment district grew up in two subdivisions, North Parkview (1913) and Delmar Garden (1920). North Parkview has curved streets and a variety of architectural details and building types creating a picturesque quality, while Delmar Garden designed by Henry Wright is more orderly, with straight streets, landscaped parkways, shallow building setbacks, and a predominant building type and style. Both subdivisions were built up almost exclusively of two- and three-story apartment buildings.

## **Donaldson Court Apartments, 601-615 Westgate, University City, 1922, Mauran, Russell & Crowell, NR**



The Donaldson Court Apartments consists of four buildings designed in 1922 by the St. Louis firm of Mauran, Russell & Crowell. Charles W. Donaldson was the developer of the project and the inventor of the system of reinforced concrete construction utilized in the buildings. The modern structural system was incorporated into a more traditional design, with leaded fanlights, ornamental escutcheons, and

sculptural keystones. The store front façade on Delmar was rebuilt in 1936 in Art deco style. The complex is listed separately on the National Register and has undergone extensive rehabilitation by the Westminster Development Corporation.

### **Egyptian Building, Delmar Blvd. at Trinity Ave., University City, 1905**



One of University City's early landmarks, the Egyptian building, was erected by the city's founder Edward G. Lewis to designs of muralist Ralph Chesley Ott. Imitating the Egyptian Temple of Karnak, the building was part of the ambitious plan for the University City Civic Plaza. Originally intended for a short lived bank, the grandiose edifice became editorial offices for Lewis' newspaper, the Woman's National Daily. After sitting vacant for many years, the Egyptian Building was torn down in 1930 to make way for Temple Shaare Emeth, which now houses the St. Louis Symphony Music School.

### **Linden Avenue Historic District, University City, c. 1905**



The Linden Historic District is part of the small portion lying in University City of the Bemiston Subdivision, most of which is in Clayton. First laid out in 1883, it remained largely undeveloped until after the turn of the century, when it was settled by prosperous middle-class families attracted by its topography, its proximity to the county seat, and its convenience to public transportation. The portion of the district in University City is notable for its concentration of houses built in the particularly American style that has come to be called the Shingle Style. The Shingle Style takes its name from its dominant material and was inspired by houses and utilitarian buildings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in New England and on Long Island.

## **Link Historic District, NR**



The Link Historic District is formed by three houses on Delmar Boulevard. Theodore C. Link had a long and distinguished career and he was one of the most outstanding architects working in St. Louis at the turn of the century. He is best known locally for his design of Union Station, which is a National Historic Landmark. The three houses on Delmar are representative of his best residential design.

Link was born in Germany and educated in Heidelberg, London and Paris. He came to the United States in 1870 and had worked in several places as an engineer before setting up an architectural partnership in St. Louis.

### **Rand Mansion, 7100 Delmar, University City, 1911, T.C. Link, NR**



The most striking of the three houses in the Link Historic District is the Rand Mansion, which Link designed for Frank C. Rand, the president of the International Shoe Company. Constructed in 1911 in the Georgian Revival style, the Rand Mansion is marked by a white two-story portico of six Corinthian columns. Inside, the third floor is finished as a ballroom.

### **7104 Delmar Blvd., University City, 1911, T.C. Link, NR**



This house sometimes referred to as Niedringhaus is a two-and-a-half-foot structure made of brick, with a high pitched slate gable roof. The house was designed by Theodore C. Link and built by Merrill Construction. Lee I. Niedringhouse, the owner was a son of William F. Niedringhaus, who with his brother Frederick G. founded the Granite City Steel Company and laid out the town of Granite City, Illinois, on the American Bottoms opposite St. Louis. Lee Niedringhaus worked in the family corporation until the late 1920s, when he divorced the former Helen Johnson and took up farming in west St. Louis County.

**7108 Delmar Blvd., University City, 1911, T.C. Link, NR**



7108 Delmar Boulevard was originally owned by Bradford Shinkle who came from his home in Covington, Kentucky to marry Florence Johnson in 1910. He worked for International Shoe until 1916, when he formed the Johnson-Stephens and Shinkle Shoe Company with his brother-in-law Andrew W. Johnson and old friend Howard V. Stephens. Shinkle served as treasurer and later vice-president of the new firm and he was also noted as a sportsman and horse fancier.

**Lubrite Filling Station, 7201 Delmar Blvd. at Midland Blvd., University City, 1931**



The old Lubrite Filling station is located at the busy intersection of Delmar and Midland. Built for the Lubrite Refining Corporation, the Spanish and Tudor style building was extensively remodeled to house the offices of Pope's Cafeteria in the late 1970s. The Lubrite station is presently offered for lease after being an office of State Farm Insurance co. It also houses an architect's office and a fashion studio.

## **Maryland Terrace, University City, 1910**



Maryland Terrace, the neighborhood in University City, is actually composed of three separate subdivisions: Montclair, Maryland Terrace, and Maryland Terrace Amended Subdivision No. 2. Yet they were all developed as a unit. The two long straight streets of Maryland Terrace – Westmoreland Drive and Maryland Avenue – may appear conventional on paper, but their unusually broad widths and deep setbacks, particularly on Westmoreland, create a spacious ambiance that is distinct from any of the contemporary upper middleclass neighborhoods in the St. Louis region. While Maryland Terrace never achieved the social status of nearby Brentmoor Park and Forest Ridge in Clayton, it did attract a high level and great variety of architecture, including fine examples of most of the popular styles of the era by the leading architects of St. Louis. The first house was built in 1913, and the development was more than eighty percent complete by the end of the 1920s, with another twenty houses built to 1940. In both community planning and period architecture, Maryland Terrace is notable in the context of St. Louis area residences and planned neighborhoods. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

## **Parkview, Skinker and Millbrook, University City, 1905, Julius Pitzman, NR**



Parkview is a residential district which covers approximately 70 acres, two-thirds of which lie in University City, while the remaining third lies in the city of St. Louis. The seven named streets in the subdivision have a total of 254 houses. Parkview was designed in 1904 by Julius Pitzman. It was meant to attract an upper-middle-class section of the population, as deed restrictions in the charter required a minimum

construction cost of \$4,000. Most of the houses are architect designed. As in many of the “private places” that developed in the St. Louis area preceding half century, Parkview had limited street access and common areas held by the trustees. Parkview differed from most of the other developments of this type, however, as it was larger and the streets running through were designed in a curvilinear horseshoe pattern. About 85 percent of the houses in Parkview were built between 1906 and 1914, a transitional period with regard to the architectural tastes of homebuilders. The area is a catalogue of architectural styles popular during that period.

**Louis C. Perrill Filling Station, 7396 Pershing Ave., University City, 1937**



The Louis C. Perrill Filling Station is a brick building built in 1937 in a distinctive Tudor Revival style. It was remodeled in the 1980s for offices of psychologists.

**Theodore Salorgne House, 1340 Partridge Ave., University City, c. 1893**



This house was built in 1891 and 1892 by Theodore Salorgne, Jr. Theodore Salorgne, senior was a native of France and became a successful carriage maker in St. Louis. His son, Theodore, Jr., worked in the family business and continued to live with his family after his marriage to Agnes Conrad in 1873. The carriage business closed before 1886 after his father’s death in 1881. Theodore engaged in a variety of pursuits after this time, and began building this house.

The property was sold to the Sisters of St. Mary in 1909. The building became a residence for retired and convalescing nuns. In 1926, working with the Women’s Retreat

League, the house was converted into a retreat. The building was sold once again after the order had built a new hospital and convent. The property was sold to the St. Domenico Italian Orphan Home, later known as St. Dominic's.

St. Dominic's organization had been founded in 1921 through a bequest of Domenico and Maria Signaigo. The house was placed in the care of Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, whose mother house was in O'Fallon Missouri. The home started with ten children. St. Dominic's attracted the support of many prominent families in the St. Louis Italian community, and when it was able to rebuild the chapel wing in 1938, many of them contributed art-glass windows. As time passed the need for full-service orphanages decreased, and in 1962 the property became Mercita Hall, a home for teenage girls who were not being served by foster homes. Mercita Hall was operated by the Sisters of Mercy.

In 1988 the property was transferred to the Archbishop. The original ten acres was laid out by St. Dominic's as St. Domenico Court, which was never developed. It was later subdivided by Mary Stock as Penn Park and Roberts Court was laid out after 1950.

### **Sutter-Meyer House, 6826 Chamberlain Ct., University City, c. 1873, NR**



In University City only the humble scale of the Sutter-Meyer House can suggest the rural predecessor of the modern suburb. A University City historic landmark since 1986, the Sutter-Meyer House is the oldest known residence in the city. The homestead was established by John Sutter, who came from Germany in 1831. He developed a dairy farm and together with his partner Lucien Cabanne supplied some of the major hotels in St. Louis. Sutter's son, William, received part of the farm, and there he built the present house. He and his wife sold the property only two years later to Roman Meyer, a German gardener. Roman's grandson Edward Meyer continued the family's reputation as good gardeners; well into his later years he kept an extensive flower garden famous for its roses. The Meyers lived in the house until 1969.

The Sutter-Meyer House is significant also as the only remainder of the long-gone settlement of Sutter, Missouri. After the Central Plank road (now Olive Street Road) was built in 1851, a small community grew up around Sutter's farm. In 1887 a Sutter Post Office was established. By 1904, however, Edward G. Lewis, an ambitious publisher, entrepreneur, and speculator, had started his subdivision, University Heights, which soon attracted residents. Consequently, the post office was moved closer to the developing

urban area. In 1906 Lewis' newly incorporated municipality of University City included the former Sutter lands.

**Temple Shaare Emeth (St. Louis Symphony Community Music School),  
560 Trinity Ave., University City, 1931, Alfred S. Alschuler, NR**



The Temple Shaare Emeth has survived as the St. Louis Conservatory and School for the Arts (CASA), a music school training professional musicians. The Art Deco building of Temple Shaare Emeth, one of the country's oldest Reform congregations, was completed in 1931. As the Jewish population in St. Louis gradually moved west, Shaare Emeth built a new temple in Creve Coeur. CASA moved into the old temple's education facilities in 1971 and three years later bought the building with the help of Ruth Fischlowitz Marget, a member of the Shaare Emeth congregation.

Relatively little renovation of the interior was required to meet the needs of the school. In recognition of the success of the adaptive reuse of Shaare Emeth, CASA was given the newly established University City Historic Preservation Award in 1989. It received this prestigious award for a second time in 1993 for the most recent extensive improvements to the concert hall. CASA became the St. Louis Symphony Music School in 1994.

**University City Civic Plaza, 1904-1909 and 1925, NR**



The earliest of the notable community planned historic districts is the Civic Plaza Historic District in University City. It was created by Edward G. Lewis. Lewis was part con-man and part entrepreneurial genius. Arriving in St. Louis near the turn of the century Lewis created and marketed "Wonderful Bug Chalk" and "Anti-Skeet" mosquito repellant. Within the span of approximately thirteen years, he had built up a monumental

publishing company, founded and incorporated his own city, then served as its mayor, and was well on his way to completing his own personal vision of the “City Beautiful.” In the same years however, he had also crated his own demise, as questionable business practices and troubles with the law caused him to abandon his project. He left the St. Louis area in 1913.

**City Hall, 6801 Delmar, University City, 1903, Herbert Chivers, NR**



City Hall now occupies the building which Edward G. Lewis used as the Woman’s Magazine Building. It is a 135-foot octagonal tower measuring 85 feet in diameter with a domed roof. Its Beaux Arts interior includes sculptures by William Bailey and murals by Ralph Chesley Ott. Lewis placed a spotlight (reportedly the world’s largest) from the dome of the building to attract people from the World’s Fair.

**Lewis Center, 725 Kingsland, University city, 1909, Eames & Young, NR**



Northeast of City Hall is the Lewis Center, formerly the Ward Building. It once housed the Art Institute of the People’s University, which was widely known for the quality of its ceramics. Its faculty included such leaders as Taxile Doat from France and Adelaide Robineau form Syracuse. It has been partially restored to its former role, currently housing part of the Fine Arts Department of Washington University, as well as residential apartments. The Lewis Center was designed by architects Eames and Young.

**Lion Gates, Delmar Blvd., University City, 1903-1909, Eames & Young,  
NR**



The Lion Gates are the Entrance Pylons to University City. The Pylons were designed by Eames and Young in collaboration with sculptor George J. Zolnay. Each consists of six Ionic pilasters supporting a classic entablature. Atop the pylons are massive cast concrete sculptures of a lion and a tiger by Zolnay. The sculptures on the pylons were recently recast.

**University City Education District, Jackson & Balson Aves., University  
City, 1930 & 1933, Trueblood & Graf and William B. Ittner, NR**



The University City Education District encompasses three school buildings and their setting. University City High School, Hanley Junior High School, and Jackson Park elementary School are visually related by the mixed beige-orange-brown brick of which they were constructed, by their limestone trim, red tile roofs and their composition as two-and-three-story structures on high basements.

The High School was designed in 1928 by Trueblood and Graf and opened two years later. Jackson Park Elementary School was designed in 1932 by William B. Ittner. Ittner also later designed Hanley Junior High School in 1936, both displays many design details drawn from the Italian Romanesque.

Wilbur Tyson Trueblood was a native of St. Louis and born in 1874. He trained as an architect for a year at Columbia University and another year at the Atelier Duquesne in Paris. After two years as an instructor at Washington University he became a partner of Theodore C. Link in 1911. Trueblood formed a partnership in 1923 with Hugo K. Graf, a graduate of Washington University.

William B. Ittner graduated from Cornell and opened his own office in 1889. He became Commissioner of School Buildings to the St. Louis Board of Education in 1897

and became known for his designs for school buildings. Such notoriety was greatly due to the buildings' functionality such as lighting, spaciousness, ventilation and convenience.

### **University Heights Subdivision Number One, University City, 1902, NR**



University Subdivision Number One, founded in 1902, is a planned residential neighborhood encompassing ten blocks, 258 houses, and a park, located on a hill sloping down from Delmar Avenue to the River De Peres. The subdivision's streets curve gently into K and Y figurations, resembling a landscaped park more than an urban residential neighborhood. The houses within the subdivision vary greatly in size and style. Lewis established minimum costs for the house to be built on the lots he sold, and the costs diminished from the most expensive part on Delmar and Princeton at the top of the hill to Dartmouth at the bottom. In this way, he opened up the private place, which had traditionally been the exclusive enclave of the wealthy, to a range of incomes. Motifs characteristic of the Queen Anne, Tudor, Colonial and Georgian revivals are present and the Shingle, Craftsman, Prairie, and Bungalow styles are also seen. Two of the houses, 748 Trinity and 784 Yale, though designed by other architects, are closely based on early designs by Frank Lloyd Wright.

### **University Hills, University City, 1923**



University Hills comprises 184 residential buildings, one school and one church on the 96 acres that Cyrus Crane Willmore bought from James G. Creveling in 1922. Willmore, an energetic land developer then in his early thirties had come to St. Louis from the University of Illinois intending a career in law, but had been encouraged to get into real estate. University Hills is visually defined by the gates at the major entrances. Julius Pitzman was chosen to design the subdivision. Pitzman was a German immigrant born in 1837 and is known for laying out Forest Park and several other private streets in

St. Louis. The streets of the subdivision seem to be randomly winding, but were actually adapted to the topography of the area so that nearly all the lots are higher than the streets they frame, which was considered desirable at the time.

### **West End Bank (Fitz's Restaurant), 6605 Delmar, University City, 1928**



The former West End Bank in University City is a good example of the remodeling of a commercial structure. In 1944, architect Fred Nauman altered the building, including the modernistic façade with brick piers topped with foliated terra cotta motifs, medallions and decorative wreaths, eagles, and griffins around the entry. The bank moved across the street in 1959 and became a branch of Commerce Bank ten years later.

In the early 1970s the west End Bank building was adapted by the Lantern House Restaurant. It was sold to the present owner, Fitz's Restaurant, in 1992. The new restaurant includes a root beer bottling facility. The two-story interior space and the Art Deco façade were preserved, the mezzanine level was extended to the front of the building, and the large concrete vault which took up the back third of the building was removed to accommodate the bottling area. Some new Art Deco details were added to the interior, and the entrance was moved to the west. Tom Cohen, co-owner of Fitz's was the architect for the remodeling.