

**Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park, Highway 109, Wildwood,
1935-1941, NR**



The businessman Jacob Babler donated over 800 acres of land in 1934 to establish the Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park honoring his late brother, a St. Louis surgeon. Subsequent gifts from the Babler family and state purchases brought the size of the park to over two thousand acres.

In 1935 the Civilian conservation Corps began developing Babler Park for public recreation, assisted by around 300 WPA relief workers. The results of their combined work between 1925 and 1941 are part of over 300 structures in fourteen Missouri state parks now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In Babler Park, the CCC and WPA workers constructed roads and twenty-two stone and timber structures, including a concession center, stables, shelters, bridges, equestrian underpasses, service buildings, comfort stations, and a lodge, which survive in excellent condition. They are significant as products of the social and economic efforts highlighting the New Deal era. The rustic architecture promoted by the National Park service in the years before World War II is admired today for its sturdiness, simplicity and high level of craftsmanship. The landscaping at Babler Park also reflects Park Service concepts: the buildings are widely separated and screened by hills and trees, giving primacy to the natural setting.

Camp Wyman, 600 Kiwanis Rd., Wildwood, 1910



Camp Wyman is the oldest member camp west of the Mississippi of the American Camping Association. It has from its beginning been dedicated to giving underprivileged children the benefit of outdoor activity in rural surroundings. The camping program came to this site in 1900, two summers after it had begun in Sullivan, Missouri. The

original concept, formulated in the fall of 1897, was to train underprivileged city boys in farming. The Children's Industrial Farm Association, as the organization was called, soon realized that summer was the wrong time to teach planting and harvesting, but the program's other benefits such as fresh air, good food, and supervised recreation made it worth continuing. The camp moved to the old Monroe farm near Eureka in 1910 because it was closer to St. Louis and easily accessible from the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

Frank Wyman was the son of a prominent St. Louis minister for whom the Wyman School was named. He had a career of thirty-two years with the Simmons Hardware Company and its predecessors, and then served as Postmaster of St. Louis from 1904 to 1909 under the administration of Theodore Roosevelt. Following this he organized the Silverine Company and served as president of the Scott Drill Company. He became active in the Children's Industrial Farm Association immediately after the move to Eureka. Over the years he gave much time and effort to the camp and encouraged many other people to do so too. In 1922 the camp was renamed in his honor, The Frank Wyman Outing Farm for Children. It became Camp Wyman, Incorporated, in 1937. In 1947 the Kiwanis Clubs of Greater St. Louis became the sponsors of Camp Wyman helping to stabilize the camp's financial basis.

Hoppenberg-Fick Store, 526 Old Eatherton Rd., Orrville vic., 1867 NR



The land which the Hoppenberg-Fick store stands was originally owned by John and Margaret Orr, whom the city of Orrville is named after. It was sold in 1866 to Gustav Hoppenberg who was soon operating the store and post office. He sold the property to Phillip A. Fick in 1883, and under Fick it became a prosperous and well-known establishment. Fick was the son of Bavarian immigrants who arrived in St. Louis in 1851. The store is a frame building that includes an ample residence. It is a rare surviving example of the once common rural general store.

Kreienkamp Store, 19160 Melrose Rd., Melrose, c. 1854, NR



The only reminder of the early “planned settlement” of Melrose is the Kreienkamp Store, which was operated by Herman Kreienkamp in the early 1870s, but which may have been constructed as early as 1854. Kreienkamp’s is a rare example of a nearly unaltered rural store. The building has two parts, the store at the east end and the residence running at right angles to it toward the west. Over the years, it also housed a post office and was a polling place. The large room upstairs was used as a dance hall and, from as early as 1883, as a meeting place for the Grand Army of the Republic. The Kreienkamp Store was operated by the family until 1978.

Old Bethel Methodist Church, 25000 Wild House Creek Road, Wildwood, 1859



Located in the new municipality of Wildwood, off Wild Horse Creek Road on the Alvin Steines Farm, is the original Bethel Methodist Church. While Wild Hose Creek was not the location of a hamlet per se, the old stone church, constructed in 1859, served the Southern Methodists of the outlying rural farming community prior to heavy German settlement of the area. Bethel Methodist was on the Meramec Circuit at the time and the pastor was Wesley J. Browning. Churches on the Meramec circuit included those at Eureka and Glencoe, as well as others in Franklin and Jefferson Counties. As most of its members held Southern sympathies, the congregation of Bethel Methodist suffered greatly during the Civil War. The land on which the little church was built was never owned by the congregation, and in 1866 it was bought by Frederick Solf, who refused to sell it. The congregation then constructed a new edifice further down Wild Horse Creek Road. In 1875, Bethel Methodist Church erected the building at 17500 Manchester Road where they still worship. The old church was purchased in 1876 by Dorothea, the widow of Herman Steines, a German immigrant from the Ruhr area. The church was used as a residence for a time, then for storage. The old stone church, constructed of some stone and rubble in the Federal style, is currently in a state of deterioration and will be lost if measures are not taken soon to preserve it.

Orrville School, 553 Old Eatherton Rd., Orville vic., c. 1871 NR



The Old Orrville School is a building which survives from the settlement at Orrville. The school probably dates to about 1871, when Margaret Orr, by then a widow, sold the land. The school is a vernacular frame structure unusual for an early school building in that its floor plan is “L” shaped. After the Orrville school district was merged with that of Eureka in 1949, the building was sold along with several other rural schools. It is now a private residence.

“Overbrook,” 1333 Pond Rd., Wildwood, 1830s and 1870s



One of the important farms in the Pond vicinity is “Overbrook,” the Frederick W. Steines farm. The Vernacular style frame farmhouse on the property was constructed in the 1830s, and additions were made in the 1870s. The land was originally granted to William Hamilton. It then passed through a series of owners including John Ball, until it became the property of Frederick Steines. Steines fought with the Missouri volunteer infantry and Missouri militia during the Civil War and was active with his father, Westholz Steines, in organizing the Republican Party in Meramec Township. Frederick married Johanna Von Gruben in 1869 and purchased this farm the same year. He was elected justice of the peace in 1876, a post which he served until 1912. He also served as school director for over thirty years.

Pond Hotel, 17300 Manchester Rd. at Pod Rd., Pond, 1841, 1876



Cyrus Speers, a prominent citizen of Pond opened a store in 1835 on a portion of his 160-acre tract of land that was east of Pond Road, straddling what is now Old Manchester Road. Frederick Essen Jr., took over the store later in 1835. His widow and children later converted the business into the Pond Hotel, which retained popularity as a rural inn into the twentieth century.

Pond School, 17123 Manchester Rd., Wildwood, 1912



The land for the Pond School came from the estate of John Frederick Dreinhofer, sold by his heirs to the R-6 School District before the final settlements of his estate in 1886. The present building, however, appears to date from the 1920s. It has been replaced by a new Pond School at 17200 Manchester Road. The building was constructed in the Arts & Crafts style.

Stuart Log Cabin, 2261 Valley Rd., Wildwood, 1832



Although the Stuart Log Cabin grew over the years into a six-room house with a low second story, it has reverted to its original single ground floor with a low-ceilinged space above. The house was started by Samuel Stuart in anticipation of a land grant he received in 1835. Stuart's son built a new house nearby in 1913, and the old one was dismantled in the 1940s, leaving one of the fireplaces of the remaining chimney outdoors.

**Tyler House, 340 Laurey Lane off Wild Horse Creek Rd. Wildwood, c.
1837**



The Tyler House on Laurey Lane in West County is a rare example of the Federal style architecture of Tidewater Virginia in Missouri. The broad overall proportions, tall roof and narrow gabled dormers were characteristic of that region. The cornice is ornamented with an unusual row of light bulb shaped pendants. William Tyler, who died in 1860, came from Caroline County, Virginia, and he built this house about 1837. James R. Eatherton lived in the house from 1865 until his death in 1901.