

Federhofer's Bakery Sign, 9005 Gravois Rd., Affton, c. 1957



This sign, with five colors of neon including birthday candles, is the most elaborate in the southern part of the county. Carl and Dorothy Mueller founded the bakery in 1957 and sold it to William Federhofer in 1970.

“Oakland,” 7801 Genesta, Affton vic., 1853, George I. Barnett, NR



“Oakland” is the main building form one of the oldest country estates in the county. It was the home of one of St. Louis’ first bankers and millionaires, Louis A. Benoist. Benoist was the son of a pioneer fur-trading Canadian. In 1852 and ’53 he acquired 476 acres west of the city. Located at the highest point on the property, Oakland is a towered stone villa constructed of locally quarried limestone. It was designed in a popular revival style of the era, the Italianate or Italian Villa style, by St. Louis’ most prominent early architect, George Ingham Barnett. A native of Nottingham, England who immigrated to St. Louis in 1839, Barnett built the most distinguished buildings in rapidly growing St. Louis over the next two decades. Oakland is the best preserved of several mansions he built for wealthy St. Louisans. Beyond the main house, Benoist’s estate consisted of several barns, a smokehouse, servants’ quarters, landscaped gardens, and a four-acre lake for which a stone boat house was later built. The western half of the estate was purchased by the Lakewood Park cemetery in 1920, and Oakland became the administration building and superintendent’s residence. The Affton Historical Society purchased the house and surrounding grounds in 1977. The house was restored under the guidance of William Bodley Lane.

**Velvet Freeze Ice Cream Cone, Mesnier School, 6930 Weber Rd.,
Affton, c. 1942**



This giant ice cream cone sculpture, now standing in front of the Mesnier School, was originally an advertisement for the Velvet Freeze ice cream store at Gravois and Weber roads. The company was founded in 1934, and this sign was fabricated of fiberglass about 1942. The Affton School District acquired the cone in 1992 with the help of the Affton Chamber of Commerce.