

**Bacon Log Cabin (Old Trails Historical Society), 687 Henry Ave. at  
Spring Meadows Dr., Ballwin, 1820's**



The Bacon Log Cabin may have been started as early as the 1820s. The land was acquired in 1835 by William Bacon, who died the following year, leaving it to his son James. Grandson William D. Bacon inherited the property in 1849. The Bacon farm stretched along both sides of Henry Avenue and Woods Mill Road south of Clayton Road. At its greatest extent, the house had two stories facing Henry Avenue and two one-story log sections arranged end to end along the present Spring Meadows Drive. The house was reduced to its present size in 1932. It was acquired by Old Trails Historical Society in 1969 and is used a museum of local history.

**Barn at Lucerne (Ganahl Farm), 15444 Clayton Rd. at Kehrs Mills Rd.,  
Ballwin, 1916, Remodeled 1929, Maritz & Young**



The project at the Barn at Lucerne (1906) was realized in the early 1960s, transforming a vandalized and decaying old dairy barn into a modern commercial complex. At the turn of the century, the barn had been the main structure of a 550-acre dairy farm owned by John Ganahl, a native of Switzerland. Its design by the Swiss architect Spennelli drew from the style of mid-Renaissance cooperative barns built to serve small farms in Switzerland. The Ganahl Fram was made of reinforced concrete with steel window sash. It housed 250 Guernsey cows and was known for its ice cream. After the Ganahls, the barn passed through several ownerships, the stood vacant until 1962, when it was purchased by the developers Paul Londe and Associates. Preservation minded, the Londe group envisioned within the restored and expanded structure a business and commercial area that would resemble a Swiss village. Work on the interior

included partitioning with walls, connecting the upper floor shops and the ground level with cobblestone paths, and converting one of the four silos into a private dining area. The roof was painted bright red. A new west wing was made in the same style, linked to the main building by a glass-enclosed space. The success of the Barn's renovation was supported by its location, which in the 1970s was experiencing extensive residential and business development. Initially the center housed arts and craft shops, offices and workshops, restaurants, a discotheque, and a theater. Presently, the Barn's occupants are predominantly offices and classrooms of the St. Louis Community College.

### **Harrison-Schmidt-Dahlke Log House, Vlasis Park, Holloway & City Hall Dr., Ballwin, c.1849**



The city of Ballwin moved the Harrison-Schmidt-Dahlke Log House, to Vlasis Park in 1992, from a site about a quarter of a mile north. It is said to have been built in 1849 by Joshua Harrison (d. 1879), a native of Maryland, and his wife Martha Anne Shotwell. As restored, the two-story house has just one room downstairs and one up. The Harrisons sold a small part of their large farm in 1870 to William Schmidt, a native of Prussia. Charles and Wilhelmina Dahlke, also from Germany, bought the property in 1904. Their son Ted lived in the house from his birth in 1900 to his death in 1987.

### **Salem Methodist Church, 14825 Manchester Rd., Ballwin, 1870**



A reminder of the early years of Ballwin has survived in the Salem Methodist Church. John Ball's plan set aside a full block as the future site for a Methodist Episcopal Church and a school house, with an adjoining tract for a cemetery. Ball converted to Methodism in 1809 and then began to take responsibilities for the religious and educational enlightenment of his backwoodsmen and settler neighbors. While Ballwin was on the St. Louis County preaching circuit, the busy schedules of the circuit riders and the poor conditions of the roads made official church services few and far between. Ball acted as "class leader," holding the meetings in his cabin. By 1827 he was providing the space for services in his carding mill in Manchester. The official founding of the congregation came in 1847, and in 1855 a small white frame building was erected for a church. The present brick building in the Romanesque Revival style was constructed in 1870 and has been in continuous use since then.