

Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, Conway Rd., Chesterfield vic., 1841



A survivor of the earliest settlement of the Chesterfield area is the Bonhomme Presbyterian Church. It is now called the Old Bonhomme Church to distinguish it from the new building farther west on Conway Road. It is a rectangular structure executed in rough-cut stone laid in irregular courses. An unusual aspect of its design is the full-height basement, originally used to house a school. Beyond its design, the Old Bonhomme Church is also significant in the role it played relative to the growth of Presbyterianism. The building housed the second congregation of the denomination west of the Mississippi River and the first in the St. Louis area, founded in 1816. The church was erected by James Sappington and John Baxter under the supervision of Judge Joseph Conway, who donated the land for it.

Davis Log House, Faust Park, Chesterfield



This house located in Faust Park features a square notching, a technique very rare in the St. Louis County area. Although the log construction on the Davis House has been covered over with clapboarding, a photograph taken during its reconstruction illustrates the method of the notching employed. The Davis House has a long and interesting history extending back to the original settlers of the county. In the mid-1800s it was closely associated with Rinkel's Market, which was once the heart of the crossroads settlement of Bellefontaine or Hilltown, which was located at Olive and Chesterfield Parkway. Several of the successive owners of Rinkel's Market lived in the Davis House.

**Farmers State Bank of Chesterfield, 16676 Chesterfield Airport Rd.,
Chesterfield, 1914**



The new building for the Farmers State Bank of Chesterfield was built in 1914 to serve the rural community of Chesterfield, which had grown up in the last two decades of the nineteenth century around railroad line in west St. Louis County, Missouri. The building also housed the Chesterfield Post Office and the offices of the builder, Edward Burkhardt. Burkhardt's father had founded the community and built the general store across the street. The design, incorporating ornamental sheet metal, reflected a style that had been popular since the 1890s. After the bank closed in the 1950s, the building was crudely adapted for apartments, and in the 1990s, the site was encroached on by a new multilane highway. Lauren Strutman of Lutz & Strutman Architects saw the potential of the building, both for itself and as an anchor for the remaining buildings of the original community, and she was able to enlist another architect, Dick Busch, as her partner. Strutman was able to replicate the missing storefronts with considerable accuracy, even replacing the finials at the corners of the rooftop balustrade.

Mertz Log Cabin, Faust Park, 15185 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, 1848



This house was built on land which was purchased in what is now Town and Country in 1848 by Ludwig or Lewis Mertz, a native of Alsace. The house seems to have been built in two phases, because one window now opens into the center hall. This house is also an excellent example of the “V” notching technique, which was the most common in the area. The house moved to Faust Park in 1986 when the original site became the Maryville Centre.

Miles Seed Carriage House, Faust Park, 15185 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, c. 1888, NR



The surviving carriage house of the former Miles A. Seed estate is a one-and-a-half story L-shaped frame structure with board-and-batten siding built in the Queen Anne style. The carriage house was moved from its original location in Jennings to Faust Park in 1990.

The carriage house dates to the ownership of the property by Miles A. Seed, who acquired it in 1887 and retained ownership until 1910. Born in England in 1842, Seed began a career as a portrait photographer in St. Louis after the Civil War. By the early 1870s he began manufacturing photographic supplies, and in 1883 he incorporated the Miles A. Seed Dry Plate Company specifically to be located in the village of Woodland. It was an attractive location for the fabrication of photographic plates because of its clean air and pure water. The production of these plates caused the whole town to prosper, but by 1902 the company sold out due to competition.

Ravens-Queatham House, 14319 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, c. 1860, c. 1900 & later



The land which Ravens-Queatham house is located was purchased by Jacob Ravens where he established a farm with his wife Anna Catherine (Behmann). After Jacob's death in 1875 Anna remarried Henry Nau and continued to reside in the house. After Anna's death and a subsequent remarriage Henry Nau sold the land to Herman Schaeper in 1892. Six years later the property was sold to two Belgian natives, Felix and Pauline Queatham. The Queatham family continued to own the property for 47 years and made several changes, including a rear wing and porch. While the Queathams owned the property the basement was a haven for runaway slaves to stop for the night during their escape up the Missouri River. In 1945 the house was sold once again, this time to Emil E. and Elsa A. Hoeschst.

St. Louis Carousel, Faust Park, 15185 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield



The St. Louis Carousel was made by the Dentzel Company and first came to St. Louis' Forest Park Highlands amusement park in 1929. It consists of 61 horses and two chariots both made of wood. The St. Louis Carousel is one of only five 1920s Park-type-four-bank Dentzel carousels operating. The carousel has been moved twice, the first location being Sylvan Springs Park in south St. Louis County in 1966 after it was purchased by Howard Ohlendorf. It was later moved to its current location in Faust Park due to preservation issues. The Historic Buildings Commission of St. Louis County recommended that the carousel be closed until it could be properly restored and protected. With much help from the Historic Buildings Commission and the organization Friends of the Carousel, the carousel was restored and placed in a climate controlled

facility in Faust Park. 1987 marked the grand opening of the carousel in its present location.

**“Thornhill,” Faust Park, 15185 Olive Street Rd., Chesterfield, c.1819,
NR**



This was the home of Missouri’s second governor, Frederick Bates. The house reflects the traditions of Bates’ native Virginia in its high ceilings, fine woodwork, and symmetrical floor plan. Carpentry detailing suggests a construction date of about 1820, which would be the time of Bates’ marriage. Frederick Bates was born in Virginia into a large and prominent family. At the age of 18 he began to study law while acting as postmaster and deputy clerk of Goochland County, Virginia. From 1800 he served in the quartermaster’s department in Detroit, then engaged in business and held the positions of judge, receiver of public monies, and land commissioner. In 1807 he was named secretary of the Louisiana Territory by Thomas Jefferson, and he held that position until Missouri became a state in 1821. On March 4, 1819, Bates married Nancy Opie Ball, and the two made their home at “Thornhill,” an estate of a thousand acres in what was then called the Bonhomme settlement and is now part of Chesterfield. They had four children. Frederick Bates was elected governor of Missouri in 1824 but remained in office less than a year before his death in 1825. He and his family are buried near the house.