

Bockrath-Wiese House, St. Ferdinand Park, Florissant, by 1870, NR



Bockrath-Wiese House is a typical example of a Missouri German vernacular farmhouse. It was built by a German immigrant, Henry Bockrath, a local landowner and businessman.

Coldwater Church, 15245 New Halls Ferry Rd. at Greenway Chase, Florissant, 1851



The Greek Revival building of the church was built on land which belonged to the pioneer John Patterson and to his son, Elisha. It was used jointly by Baptists and Methodists, whose churches were established early in the 1800s by members of the Patterson family.

The Florissant Historic District, c.1788, NR



This district preserves a city plan platted by the Spanish government and contains several of the earliest buildings in St. Louis. Buildings in the Florissant Historic District include, Archambault House, Abuchon-Herbst House, AugustAubchon House, Baptiste G. Aubuchon House, Bellissime House, Casa Alvarez, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Shrine of Old St. Ferdinand, and St. Stanislaus Seminary.

Archambault House, 603 Rue St. Jean, Florissant, c. 1850, NR



The Archambault House was built by Auguste Pierre Archambault (1817-1881), a Canadian born fur trader and trapper who worked with John C. Fremont from 1845 to 1847. This urbane Federal style townhouse with its original dependencies was restored by Historic Florissant in 1973 and is privately occupied.

Aubuchon-Herbst House, 695 Jefferson, Florissant, c.1790, NR



This house is an example of French pioneer architecture and is associated with the Aubochons, who came from Normandy by way of Canada and Ste. Genevieve. The house has vertical log construction of the “poteaux sur sole” variety hidden under later siding.

August Aubuchon House, 1002 Rue St. Louis, Florissant, c. 1800, NR



This house is an example of French pioneer architecture and is associated with the Aubochons, who came from Normandy by way of Canada and Ste. Genevieve. The house features horizontal log construction, but its overall lines typify the French colonial style of this era.

**Baptiste G. Aubuchon House, 450 Rue St. Jacques, Florissant, c. 1842,
NR**



The Aubuchons came from Normandy by way of Canada and Ste. Genevieve. The original owner of this house was the brother of Florissant's first Mayor, Gregory Aubuchon. The house is a classically derived residence typical of Missouri during this period.

Bellisime House, 359 Rue St. Jean, Florissant, c. 1820, NR



One of the more unusual examples of French architecture in “Old Town” is the Bellissime House. Although typical of the French Colonial style, it is a rare example of a French house built in brick. Early bricks had to be handmade from local Missouri River clay. Labor-intensive brick building was generally restricted to affluent slave holders. The Bellissime House was built in two matching sections over the course of years.

Casa Alvarez, 289 Rue St. Denis, Florissant, c. 1790, NR



Casa Alvarez, located within the Florissant Historic District, provides one of the few remaining links to the Spanish Colonial design, the structure was built for Eugenio Alvarez, the military storekeeper to the King of Spain. Casa Alvarez is a rare example of a “poteaux sur sole” structure, utilizing vertical logs on a sill. The house is also notable in that it is the oldest in Florissant and probably the oldest in St. Louis County.

Convent of the Sacred Heart, Florissant, c. 1790, NR



The Convent of the Sacred Heart was the first mother house of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart outside France. Mother Philippine Rose Duchesne (1769-1852) had the building constructed in 1819 of handmade brick in the Federal style, popular among the Eastern seaboard at that time, to house a novitiate and a boarding school for the daughters of St. Louis' early citizens. The school was taken over by the Sisters of Loretto from 1847 to 1887. The building was then taken over by the Friends of Old St. Ferdinand in 1959.

Shrine of Old St. Ferdinand, 1 Rue St. Francois, Florissant, 1821, c. 1880, NR



The Shrine of Old St. Ferdinand was named for the patron of the town and served a parish dating back to 1789. The present Victorian Romanesque appearance of the church dates from about 1880, when the spire and the front 26 feet of the building were added. After a new church was built farther west, the whole complex, including the church, convent, rectory, and school was taken over in 1959 by the Friends of Old St. Ferdinand. In spite of a fire, the whole complex has been restored.

St. Stanislaus Seminary, 700 Howdershell Rd., Florissant, 1840-1849, NR



At the invitation of Bishop Louisiana Louis DuBourg, a group of Jesuits from France and Belgium settled on the Bishop's Farm near Florissant in 1823. The Jesuits began St. Stanislaus Seminary as a mission school for Indian boys, but it became a clerical seminary after 1830. The present stone building was constructed between 1840 and 1849, probably to designs of Robert S. Mitchell, one of the architects of the Old Courthouse. After the seminary closed in 1972, the "Rock House," as it was called, was retained by the Jesuits as the Museum of the Western Jesuit Missions.

Hendel's Market, 599 Rue St. Denis, Florissant, 1873, 1888, NR



The time of the railroad in old Florissant is alive in the building known as Hendel's Market. It was built by German immigrant, Henry Bockrath, a local landowner and businessman. Bockrath operated a grocery store in the commercial building until 1878. Nicholas Hendel acquired it in 1915, and after his death in 1936 his wife and sons took over the business for 78 years, growing from a country store to a successful competitor with new chain supermarkets. Sadly, it closed its doors in August 1993, but the building has been sensitively adapted for use as restaurant.

John B. Myers House, 180 Dunn Rd., Florissant, 1867-1869, NR



The John B. Myers House, once part of a fifty-acre farm, reflects its builders' sophisticated city tastes. Indeed, with its classical Palladian features and interior frescoes, it impressed earlier researchers as "no ordinary farmhouse." Some of the frescoes, painted in 1880, can be seen on the first floor. When the house was slated for demolition for the extension of I-270 in 1974, the preservation and restoration of the John B. Myers House were made possible by Historic Florissant, Inc. and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**Narrow Gauge Railroad Station, 1060 Rue St. Catherine, Florissant,
1878**



Thanks to the efforts of Historic Florissant Inc., the Narrow Gauge Railroad Station was rescued from demolition in 1967 when St. Ferdinand Street had to be widened. It was moved to St. Catherine Street and restored to its nineteenth-century appearance. Today it is the Visitors' Center and office of the Florissant Valley Chamber of Commerce.

**Lucy Patterson House, 15505 New Halls Ferry Rd., Florissant, c. 1860,
NR**



The Lucy Patterson House belonged to Elisha Patterson's widow and was perhaps built as her retirement or "dower" house. Its architecture is typical of the late 1850s and 1860s and reveals a new taste for finer details, such as the Italianate cornice on the front façade and frieze with angled brackets of the front porch.

"Taille de Noyer," 1 Rue Taille de Noyer, Florissant, 1800, 1817, 1830, 1840-50, 1922, NR



Named after the walnut grove on Hyacinth Deshetres' Spanish land grant, Taille de Noyer was acquired by the Irishman John Mullanphy in 1805. One of the most successful merchants in St. Louis, Mullanphy used the log cabin on the property as a hunting lodge. In 1817 he made it a wedding gift to his daughter Jane and her husband Charles Chambers, who developed Taille de Noyer into a working farm. The chambers expanded the small log house several times as their family grew to include thirteen children. The architectural history of Taille de Noyer spans over 120 years: from a "dog trot" cabin in the 1800s and a dormered cottage in the 1830s, through the large two-story wing in the 1850s, to the twenty-two-room mansion with its tall portico of slender columns added in 1922. Due to the efforts of Sara Chambers Polk, Mullanphy's great great granddaughter, and the Ferguson-Florissant School District, Taille de Noyer was saved from demolition and moved two hundred yards to its present location with money raised by the Florissant Valley Historical Society. It is now a house museum.

Ruiz Mexican Restaurant, 901 N. Highway 67, Florissant, 1966



Ruiz Mexican Restaurant played a central role in introducing St. Louisans to Mexican cuisine and culture. In addition, it is representative of a shift among Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in St. Louis toward being more expressive of their cultural identity. The Ruiz family arrived in St. Louis in 1920. It was the third generation of the family, Jose Ruiz III (born 1938) and his wife Hortensia, who opened the restaurant in 1966. The restaurant opened in a strip mall, constructed in 1960, which had eight businesses contained within it. The restaurant quickly expanded and soon occupied the entire building.

The restaurant was originally operated under the name La Cocina Mexicana but changed within its first few years to Ruiz Mexican Restaurant. Today, after over 50 years in business, Ruiz Mexican Restaurant stands as St. Louis's oldest continuously operating Mexican restaurant.