

## **Bristol Building, Lockwood Ave. and N. Gore, Webster Groves, 1896**



An architectural and commercial focal point of Webster Groves, the brick Bristol Building was built by Dr. Bennett Bristol in the Queen Anne style. Its first floor had cast iron storefronts and housed Webster Groves' first pharmacy, the Ambrose Mueller Drug Store, and, after 1901, William Straub's new fine foods grocery. The third floor had a large hall and a place for entertainment and town meetings. In 1972 the Bristol Building was torn down and replaced by the modern glass Farm and Home Savings Association building.

## **Central Webster Historic District, Cedar, Plant, Maple, Jackson & Gray, Webster Groves, NR**



The Central Webster Historic District is a residential area located at the geographic and historic center of Webster Groves. It consists of 140 acres containing 299 buildings mostly single family frame houses in a variety of styles popular with the upper middle class and middle class suburban commuters from the 1860s through the 1920s. The district reflects the early development of Webster Groves and of St. Louis County as a residential suburb for commuters along the railroads and street car lines. Men of local historical significance built homes in this district and even have streets and elementary schools named in their honor. These men include William Plant, the founder of Plant Brothers Seed Company, William H. Gore, partner in the St. Louis firm of Helfenstein and Gore Wholesale Merchants, and several mayors. Residents created the boundaries for this historic district in 1984 when plans for a four lane highway along Elm Avenue threatened to destroy the area. The residents were successful in stopping the plan.

**William S. Eames House, 414 Selma Ave., Webster Groves, 1893 Eames  
& Young**



The William S. Eames House is an excellent example of the Shingle style, then becoming popular. It was designed by Eames himself and his partner Thomas Young who together later designed the Palace of Education for the 1904 world's Fair.

**Eden Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, 1924 Tom P.  
Barnett, NR**



Eden Seminary, as deigned by Tom P. Barnett, is situated across the street from Webster University. Eden Seminary began in 1850 in Marthasville, Missouri as the Ministers' Seminary of the German Evangelical Synod of the West. Its aim was to train ministers for the German frontier settlements. In 1883 the school moved to Normandy, close to the railway stop called Eden, and this gave the school its name. In 1924 the expanded school moved to the spacious new campus in Webster Groves. A distinct new architectural feature, the tower of its main building was modeled after the Magdalen Tower at Oxford.

**Charles W. Ferguson House, 15-17 W. Lockwood Ave., Webster  
Groves, 1888, NR**



The Colonial Revival Charles Ferguson House in Webster Groves has a long history of adaptive reuse. It was built for the family of Charles Ferguson, vice president of the Collier White Lead Company and an early suburban commuter to St. Louis. The Fergusons lived there until 1920 when the house became YWCA's community center and tearoom. In 1922 Laura Parker turned the building into her undertaking business and living quarters. The Victorian Mansion was once again remodeled in 1982: bought by Group Three Development, a real estate firm, it was extensively and tastefully renovated into offices, for which its owners received historic preservation awards from the county and the city of Webster Groves. Presently, the Ferguson House is home of The Lockwood Group, successors of Group Three Development.

**John Fulton House, 300 N. Gore Ave., Webster Groves, 1867, P.  
Griffith, J. Bigelow**



John and Mary Fulton built a two-story Victorian Italianate brick house in 1867. Fulton, a lawyer, was also an interpreter for the Mexican consul and a writer on Mexico. In 1967, the 100-year-old house was marked as the first century home in Webster Groves.

**Goodall School, Colebrook at Chestnut, Webster Groves, 1911 & 1932,  
William Ittner**



The present building replaced the original Selma School built in 1896 on Edgar Road. A bond issue permitted the east center part of the present building to be constructed in 1911. The north and south wings were added in 1929. The auditorium-gymnasium and cafeteria weren't added until 1947. In 1965 new kindergarten facilities were built to the north but were removed in 1981. In the early 1920s the school was called the Mark Twain School, but after the death in 1929 of Margaret M. Goodall, who had served as principal since 1917, the newly enlarged building was renamed for her. The school was sold in 1980 to Curzon Construction Co. who began condominium conversion in 1981 and transferred ownership of the unsold units to the present owner in 1983.

The architect of Goodall School, William B. Ittner, was internationally known for his progressive school designs. A native of St. Louis, he was the son of a brick manufacturer and became known for the sensitive use of brick in his own work. He studied at Cornell and served as Commissioner of School Buildings in St. Louis from 1897. He became known for his innovative, light filled and airy plans and picturesque styling. In his long career, Ittner deigned about 500 schools in 28 states. Goodall is typical of his work in plan; stylistically it combines his use of motifs form English Tudor and Jacobean architecture with the more progressive Arts and Crafts movement of the turn of the century.

### **Gorlock Building, 101-113 W. Lockwood Ave. at Gore, 1910-1911, Klipstein & Rathmann, NR**



The largest and most elegant commercial building in Webster Groves' original business district is the Gorlock Building. It occupies the site of S.A. Moody's old real estate office, where the first City Hall was located until 1907. The Gorlock Building was built through the efforts of the merchants on North Gore, who opposed moving the

commercial district to the west of the Lockwood-Gore intersection. They persuaded the municipal offices to erect a new building in place of Moody's office and to move there. At its dedication, the Gorlock Building housed retail shops, offices, the post office, the city hall, and the city jail. It was designed with many Beaux Arts details reflective perhaps of the architect Ernest Klipstein's education at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. The distinctive cornice and ornate carved stone molds over the doors give the building an extravagant look, new and unexpected in a still young suburb.

**Peers Griffith House, 224 College Ave., Webster Groves, 1867, P.  
Griffith, J. Bigelow**



A rare example of a Federal style building in Webster Groves is the Peers Griffith House, which stands out among the Victorian houses with its more conservative style. Griffith was a local architect and contractor who built many other Webster Groves homes in partnership with his cousin Jotham Bigelow.

**Hawken House, 1155 S. Rock Rd., Webster Groves, 1857, NR**



The Hawken House is a brick building in the Federal style with Greek Revival and Victorian Elements. It was built by Christopher Hawken with the intention to farm the land surrounding it. He was the son of Jacob Hawken, manufacturer of the Hawken rifle, which was used extensively by the pioneers of the West. Before changing careers, Christopher had worked for his father, then joined the Gold Rush to California in 1849. He came back to St. Louis in 1854 and engaged briefly in cabinet-making and the livery trade, but he decided not to stay in the unhealthy city, which had claimed his father's life

during the cholera epidemic of 1849. He farmed his land in Webster Groves until his death in 1905

The Hawken House was saved from demolition in 1970 when it was moved to its present location in Southwest Park by the city of Webster Groves and HUD. The Webster Groves Historical Society restored it and operates it as a museum.

### **Helfenstein House, 135 S. Rock Hill Rd., Webster Groves, 1857-1861, R.S. Mitchell**



The Italianate Helfenstein House was designed by Robert S. Mitchell, one of the architects of the Old Courthouse in St. Louis. John Philip Helfenstein, the owner, was one of the most prominent Webster Groves citizens. He was a Maryland native of German descent. He married Mary Ann, the sister of Stephen Gore, his partner in a wholesale grocery business. He was also active in railroads and banking. Helfenstein's descendants lived in the house until 1944.

### **Edward Jackson House, 133 Gray Ave., Webster Groves, 1868**



The ornate Edward Jackson House was built for Edward and Nancy Jackson, who came to St. Louis from New England in 1856. Charles Simmons, the secretary of the Cotton Exchange in St. Louis, bought the Jackson House in 1875, raising his fourteen children in it. Originally, the house was even larger than it is now with a widow's walk, summer kitchen and greenhouse.

## **Marshall Place Historic District, Marshall Place, N. Gore and Elm, Webster Groves, 1860-1910, NR**



Marshall Place Historic District was an immediate result of the newly established railroad stop at Webster Groves. The District constitutes a well preserved sample of a nineteenth century commuter suburb. The buildings at Marshall Place and North Gore include the station, several commercial buildings built by the residents of these streets, and Victorian residences, ranging in date from the 1860s to the 1930s.

Marshall Place was platted in 1860 by John Marshall, brother of James Marshall. The affluent residents of Marshall Place held jobs typical of the city environment – teachers, bankers, businessmen, physicians. Socially and politically active, many of them had financial interests in St. Louis. Webster Groves also had its own economic life, and many of its merchants lived on Marshall Place. Henry Prehn started a grocery and dry-goods store in 1867. Henry Schulz ran a feed and grain business at 60 North Gore in 1893, which proved to be important enough for the Pacific Railroad to build a spur to accommodate it.

## **Monday Club, 37 S. Maple Ave., Webster Groves, 1929, Harris Armstrong**



The building which houses the Monday Club, the oldest women's club in the St. Louis area, is relatively new, but the organization traces its origin to 1887. By 1892 the Monday Club became a permanent organization holding regular meetings at members' homes and at the Bristol Building, the Empire Building and the Congregational Church. In 1911 William Yeager donated land for a building to house the club's library. The Monday Club also had a dining room, a kitchen, and an assembly hall. It worked to establish a lunch room at the high school, to pass pure food laws, and to promote civil service reform. The club laid the foundation for the first chapter of the American Red

Cross west of the Mississippi. In 1929, the well-known modern architect Harris Armstrong designed an extension which has a distinctive south façade with an arched wooden door framed in Mediterranean style.

**Old Webster School (Webster College), 330 N. Gore Ave., Webster Groves, 1852, 1911, NR**



The land for Webster College was donated by the Marshall family after Rev. Artemus Bullard conceived the idea of a school for boys. The \$10,000 for the building was donated by the business man Carlos Greely. The school was completed and opened in 1854. The school was named Webster College after Senator Daniel Webster, whom Reverend Bullard greatly admired. The school started with four students and eventually reached thirty-six.

Webster College was forced to close by the beginning of the Civil War. Afterward it was used as a home for soldiers' orphans, merging with the St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum in 1870. The school was rebuilt in 1911 after a fire and in 1943 the name changed to Edgewood Children's Center, focusing on work with emotionally disturbed children.

**Spencer House, 428 California Ave., Webster Groves, 1845, 1850s**



The Spencer House is a remainder of the earliest years of the county. Its southeast portion is made of vertical logs and stucco, probably dating from 1800, suggesting that the original builder was of French ancestry. The main part of the house is an Italianate vernacular structure, built by James Spencer, who came to America from Lancaster, England in 1830.

**Studley-Blackmer House, 225 Blackmer Pl., Webster Groves, 1865**



The elegant Studley-Blackmer House was home of Robert and Mary Studley, who came to St. Louis from New England in 1853. They moved into their new Italianate home on New Year's Day of 1866 after living in a log cabin near Webster College. Studley owned one of the first printing companies in St. Louis. In 1891 Lucien Blackmer bought the house. Before then his family lived on Marshall Place. Blackmer was owner of the Blackmer and Post Company, which manufactured sewer pipes, and was a founder in 1884 of the Webster Groves Building Loan Association.

**Tuxedo Park Station, 643 Glen Rd. at Tuxedo Blvd., Webster Groves, 1890, NR**



The Tuxedo Park Station is a classic small commuter station in the Romanesque style reminiscent of those designed by Henry Hobson Richardson in the 1880s in Massachusetts. At the time of its building it was the only stone station along the Pacific Railway, all other being board and batten.

**Webster Groves Missouri Pacific Station, 44 N. Gore Ave., Webster Groves, 1909**



The original Webster Station, which had opened in 1854, was replaced in 1909 with a brick building along the Missouri Pacific Railroad. After the closing of the rail service in 1963, it remained open as a dress shop, and in 1991 it was converted into a preschool.

### **Webster Park, Webster Groves, 1893**



Webster Park is a residential subdivision established in 1891 by the Webster Real Estate Company for upper class families. The landscaping of the subdivision was undertaken by Elias Long who designed the streets to fit with the contours of the natural environment. The area consists of 160 acres and 210 lots.

(source: *Webster Park: A Community Profile* by Ann Morris)

### **Webster University, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, 1916, George D. Barnett, NR**



The buildings of Webster University were designed by George D. Barnett, son of prominent architect George I. Barnett, in the Collegiate Gothic style. Webster University was an outgrowth of Loretto Seminary, a girls' preparatory school founded by the Order

of the Sisters of Loretto in 1898. The present buildings were constructed in 1916, and in 1924 Loretto College and Academy changed its name to Webster College. The New Loretto-Hilton Theater opened in 1966. The next year the school gained secular and coeducational status, developing into Webster University, which presently has several American and European campuses.

**Thomas Young House, 440 Selma Ave., Webster Groves, 1893, Eames & Young**



The Thomas Young House was designed by Young himself, and his partner William S. Eames. The two later designed the Palace of Education for the 1904 World's Fair. Young also served as Webster Groves' second Mayor after its incorporation in 1896. The house is built in the shingle style which was then becoming popular.