

Historic Florissant

Florissant was established in 1786 by French creole "habitants", or farmers, in the Spanish owned Upper Louisiana Territory. The residents named it "Fleurissant" due to its lush and fertile land, however, the Spanish referred to the community as St. Ferdinand in honor of their king's patron saint. Florissant remained a small, predominately French village until 1840, when an influx of German immigrants settled the area. In the mid 19th century, the Florissant Valley became a haven for wealthy St. Louisians looking to escape the pollution of the city. The population of the town grew in the mid-20th century when there was a large movement of people from St. Louis city to the county.

Florissant offers many historical sites and buildings open to the public. Some of these include:

Old St. Ferdinand's Shrine - #1 rue St. Francois

Constructed as a convent in 1819 for Rose Philippine Duchesne and the Sisters of Sacred Heart, a church was added to the complex in 1821. *For more information contact Friends of Old St. Ferdinand.*



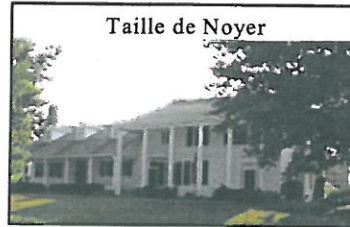
Aubuchon-Herbst House - 657 Jefferson

Built ca. 1790, it is believed to be the oldest house in Florissant. The house was constructed in the French Colonial architectural style of *poteaux sur sole*, or posts on sill.

Casa Alvarez - 289 rue St. Denis

Dating to ca. 1790, the original portion of this home is a good example of French Colonial style architecture. The water tower was added in 1914 by Hermann Von Schrenk to care for his extensive gardens of rare botanicals.

Taille de Noyer - 1896 S. Florissant Road



Constructed ca. 1790 as a two-room, log hunting lodge, the building and land was purchased by John Mullanphy in 1807. In

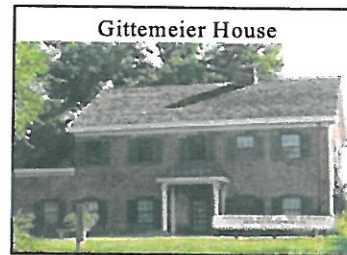
1817, he gave the home and land to his daughter, Jane, and her husband, Charles Chambers, as a wedding gift. The property remained within the Chambers family until 1960.

Magill House - 410 Harrison

Built ca. 1840, this home is considered a fine example of Missouri German style construction.

Franz Gittemeier House - 1067 Dunn Road

Constructed ca. 1860 by Franz Gittemeier. Born in Westphalia, Germany in 1826, Gittemeier emigrated to the United States in 1850 where he made his money in the California gold rush. The home remained in the Gittemeier family until 1920.



For more information about historic sites and tours of Florissant, please visit the Historic Florissant, Inc. at the Gittemeier House, 1067 Dunn Road.

12,000 Years of Florissant History



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