



WALKING TOUR OF MANCHESTER FOR HOMECOMING

Til Kiel, Old Trails Historical Society devoted much of her life to preserving the area history and sharing the stories of the people who lived around here. She developed the Homecoming Walking Tour in the mid 80's. With addition of pictures, map and a bit of updating, the tour is now self-guided. It begins on the east end of Schroeder Park.

The park was named for Paul Schroeder, a native born life-long resident of the city who daily walked the park in caring surveillance during his retirement.

While going north and down the hill of Old Meramec Station Road, one can easily discern why the bicycle clubs who tried to pedal up this road to go to Valley Park nicknamed it "Heart Attack Hill".

#1 266 OLD MERAMEC STATION RD - AUGUST SCHROEDER HOUSE

This two-story home was built in 1912 by August Schroeder, uncle of Paul Schroeder. August was a partner in the Schroeder & Saur Cigar Company in town. He also had a general store, was the town's postmaster, and a county official during his lifetime.



#2 260 OLD MERAMEC STATION RD. FRED STOECKER HOUSE

Fred Stoecker built this bungalow in the early 1920's which was a popular design for a residence. He and his family ran the Stoecker Soda Company which first bottled the local spring water and later bottled a variety of sodas. The spring water was used to manufacture the soda until the plant closed in 1967.



#3 HARUGARI CEMETERY, Est. 1877

The Harugari Cemetery reflects a strong German heritage in Manchester. The Order of Harugari originated in New York in 1847 and was established to preserve German culture & language. Harugari Lodge #342 acquired the land for the cemetery from Henry & Anna Seibel in 1877. The group promoted German language singing. Saenger Hall was built at the corner of Manchester and Henry Rd in 1881 for this purpose. The first in St Louis, County. It burned down in 1908 and the men's choir was discontinued.



#4 121 OLD MERAMEC STATION RD - CHARLES SEIBEL HOUSE

Charles built this house c 1898 at the same time that his brother built one next door. Both houses are Queen Anne design. The sons were among the eight children to Henry and Anna Seibel a native of Germany who settled in Manchester 1868. Charles married Amelia Miller. The couple had one daughter, Alvera who married Clarence Stemme. Alvera played the piano at the Lyceum during the silent movies when she was 14 years old.





#5
211 OLD MERAMEC STATION RD - CONRAD SEIBEL HOUSE Conrad built this house c 1898. He was a carpenter in his father's Contracting business and later became co-owner with 3 of his brothers in the Seibel Bros Planing Mill & Construction Company.



#6
120 OLD MERAMEC STATION RD STOECKER SODA COMPANY A large predominantly one-story white building on the north side of First Street was the Fred Stoecker Soda Water Company until 1967. Fred Stoecker bought the Mehrkens Soda Company from his cousin in 1882. At the time it was located in a house at Manchester & Old Meramec Station Rd. Fred Stoecker purchased nearby land that included the Grand Glaize Spring along with an old hotel to expand the soda operation. He used lumber and materials from the hotel to build the plant. One of the glass window panes in the current building is said to have "1843" scratched in it. The Stoecker family operated the company for three generations and was considered the oldest continuously operated business in Manchester.



#7
GRAND GLAIZE SPRING Mostly overlooked by those traveling by automobile yet perhaps the most historic location in Manchester is the site of the Grand Glaize Spring located at the rear of #17 Nationalway Shopping Center. The spring is now confined with layers of rock and concrete but can be pumped to the surface for special occasions. At one time, it flowed from three sources and spread across a field as it drained into the Grand Glaize Creek. It has attracted people for thousands of years, back to the age of the Archaic Indians who traveled through this area. When they followed game and ripening wild plants in their search for food, they left their tools and weapons as evidence of their presence.



It was the spring which attracted later-day Indians to make semi-permanent camp, and the spring influenced settlers as Louis Solomon Mignerion who made flint-lock rifles, and Brisson O'Harra who made ox yokes, bows, and axe handles, to settle here about 1795. A log cabin was built by the Spring in 1815 by Starkes Cockrill and housed the first inn for the area.

Fur traders found the settlement the right distance into the territory for a day's journey from the Mississippi River. A trail that led to St. Louis, which had been established by Indians and fur traders, was originally called Rue de Bonhomme, and eventually became known as Manchester Road. Travelers came by foot, covered wagon, stage coach, or horseback, and looked forward to pausing at the spring for a refreshing rest stop.

It was a public spring until 1882, when the land was purchased by Fred Stoecker. He boxed in the spring, bottled the spring water for sale, and later made soft drinks from it. In 1967 the health department required the Company to start using St. Louis County water thus ending the many years of the spring's usefulness.



#8

14318 MANCHESTER RD - THE LYCEUM The Lyceum Hall was built by John Straszer in 1894. It is a frame building covered with stamped tin panels that give the appearance of brick. Originally, the building was situated closer to Manchester Road, but was moved back 40 feet when the road was widened in 1962. Approximately 2/3rds of the building still rests on the original rock foundation.

The first floor was originally a tin shop operated by John's sons, Dave and Ed Straszer. (Pictured on right.) Through the years it has housed a hardware store, grocery store, ice cream parlor, post office, upholstery shop, and vegetable market. The second floor has been used as the town's social hall for dancing, stage plays, movies, roller skating, and public meetings.

In early 1980, the building was purchased, renovated by the City of Manchester, and dedicated as the City Hall in 1981.



"When a Fellow Needs a Friend"
Play and Dance
Given by the
--- U. R. C. ---
LYCEUM HALL, MANCHESTER, MO.
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1925
8 P. M.---PULLMANN'S ORCHESTRA
Admission 50c Children 25c

#9

14322 MANCHESTER RD - ADAM SEIBEL HOUSE South of the City Hall West Parking Lot. Adam Seibel constructed this house in 1892. Adam was one of the eight children of Henry Seibel who was a German immigrant in 1868. Adam bought these lots in 1892 at a trustee sale from Ellen Tumulty. The building has been moved back and reversed from its original position which was facing Manchester Road. Additional construction has been added on both front and back sides of the house. The picture on the right features the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department and shows what the house was like when it was facing Manchester Road.



#10

14326 MANCHESTER RD - HENRY DIETRICH HOUSE This building was built in 1872 by Henry Dietrich who is listed as a tailor and hotel proprietor in the old business directories. The building has a stone foundation, and the bricks were made with clay dug from the clay pits located in the area behind the present Commerce Bank at 14317 Manchester Road. Legend says it was built in 1854 by George and Rachel Ann Loper who bought this lot in 1850 from William Triplett; they sold it in 1856.

In 1894, the building was owned by Mary Monnastes, the mother-in-law of John Straszer. It was John who opened the city's first bank here in 1903. It was known as The First National Bank of Manchester, Missouri. The Bank paid 4% interest on deposits and was authorized to mint money from 1905 to 1908.

In 1918, the building was purchased by Harvey and Viola Scheuer who returned it to residential use.

Dr. Edward Frederick, who began his practice in Manchester in 1921, bought the building in 1939, and used it for his home and office until his death in 1949.



#11

14340 MANCHESTER ROAD - TURNSTALL-HERZIG GENERAL STORE This building was built in 1880 by Richard C. Tunstall who ran a general store in it for a brief period. In that same year it was sold to Joseph Herzig, Sr. who operated a grocery and feed store.

Through the years, the building had a colorful history. It was used as a tavern and pool hall, and was operated by several different owners. It is known that a lot of moonshine whiskey bootlegging occurred out of the building during Prohibition.



#12

14346 MANCHESTER RD - BOPP - COCKRILL HOUSE

This two-story frame structure was built about 1870. It is presumed that Sebastian Bopp built it. Bopp was a native of Darmstadt, Germany. In 1873, Bopp sold the property to Mary A Cockrill. She later sold it to Joseph Herzig who remained active in Manchester through 1922. The exterior of the building has been completely altered without regard to its heritage.



#13

14352 MANCHESTER RD - MONNASTES HOUSE This building was also built in the 1880's from hand-made brick. It was the residence of Mary Monnastes, the mother of Amelia Straszer and John Straszer's wife.

The star washers on the east and west walls of the building are held in place with nuts that are screwed on the ends of long tie rods passing through the building. This is a common reinforcement to hold brick, especially soft brick walls together. The building at 14340 also used these reinforcement rods. This is the only Italianate design building constructed in Manchester.



#14

14319 MANCHESTER RD - ENGELMAN HOUSE This building was built in 1929 by Martin Engelman as his private residence. During the 1970's it opened as a commercial building. It is the only old building left standing on the north side after the widening of Manchester Road in 1962. (Note: Please view from a distance - it is not safe to cross Manchester Road on foot)



#15

14356 MANCHESTER RD - AMELIA STRASZER HOUSE

This building was built in 1896 and served as the private residence of the well-to-do John Straszer family. This house was one of the most elegant homes in Manchester at the time, and is one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in St. Louis County. It is of the Queen Anne design.

This house was the first Manchester home to have indoor plumbing. This was accomplished by constructing a water tower at the rear of the building. George Herzig, a neighbor, broke his arm when he attempted to fly off this tower with a pair of wooden wings he had built.





#16

197 OLD SULPHUR SPRINGS RD - OLD METHODIST PARSONAGE. Built in 1906, this house was part of Gates Farm and was located on Woods Mill Rd. DeWitt Clinton Taylor sold the house to Manchester Methodist Church for \$1 with the stipulation that it be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the Preachers of the Methodist Church.

Set for demolition with the widening of Hiway 141 in 1977, the building was saved by Robert Willman and moved to its current location.

#17

14360 MANCHESTER RD - WAGONMAKER'S HOUSE

The original portion of this building, which possibly is log, was built in the 1840's, and was to become the home of George Kropp who was a blacksmith and wagon maker. It is one of oldest buildings still standing in Manchester. Legend says a private school was housed in this building before Manchester had a public school. It was for the education of the children of anyone who could afford the tuition.

Later, the building was a residence for Emma Schutz before she sold it to Paul Langenbeck.

Mr. Langenbeck opened an upholstery shop here about 1910, He was widely known for the quality mattresses that he made.

The building was an antique shop between 1964 to 1984 and a bicycle shop beginning in 1984.



#18

14364 MANCHESTER RD - LANGENBECK HOUSE This building was built by Paul Langenbeck about 1905. The Langenbeck family lived upstairs, and operated a saddle shop downstairs, They made and sold shoes, saddles, harnesses, and other leather goods.

A shed that once stood behind the house served as the first fire house when the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1908. A hand-operated water pump mounted on a hand-pulled wagon, as well as other equipment, was kept there.

There was a fire bell, mounted in a tower by the shed, that would be rung by anyone who saw a fire. The fire bell is now part of a monument in front of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District Administration Offices at 223 Henry Ave.



#19

14366 MANCHESTER RD - DUPARRI HOUSE This building was built after the Civil War around 1871. It was owned by Frederick DuParri who lived upstairs and operated a grocery and feed store downstairs, The building has had several additions.

In the early 1900's, George Klein ran the business. His daughter Blance Klein Kreig and her husband Delmare Kreig were the last proprietors of the grocery store.





#20

14372 MANCHESTER RD - MUNCH STORE This building was built in the 1890's for Timotheus Munsch. He ran a barber and jewelry shop in it. A haircut cost 25 cents, and a shave was 10 cents. He ran the business until he took his life in 1909.

Shortly thereafter, Julius Buerman rented the barber and jewelry shop area from Eugenia Munsch and reopened the business for a time.



#21

MANCHESTER BALL PARK - BATES CAMP In the middle 1800's, this ground belonged to Judge Alexander McElhinney. During the Civil War, the Union Army had a campground there known as Camp Bates, The Union troops would camp there when they were passing through the area. Others report that Confederate irregular troops would camp there as well.

The picture on the right is titled - Fats vs. Leans , Manchester Oct 4 1914 Benefit to the Red Cross War Fund. After the war, local people began playing ball at this site. They eventually formed the Manchester Athletic Association in 1935, and bought the ground from Judge John McElhinney, Alexander's son.



#22

14388 MANCHESTER RD - HELLMANN HOUSE This house was built by George Hellmann as his private residence in 1843. A portion of the house was rebuilt after a fire in 1845. The property was willed to William Hellmann, George's son.

Harry Strothkamp Sr. and his wife Florence, moved into the house in 1948. Florence was William Hellmann's daughter. Until 2007, a private residence for the Strothkamp family, it has housed four generations of Hellmann descendants.



#23

14394 MANCHESTER RD - SCHREINER REINHARD HOUSE This building was constructed in 1875 by Jacob Schreiner. It was sold by his widow Mary to William Reinhard in 1885. William Reinhard & subsequent owner George Gregg in the 1890's ran a grocery and feed store in it. Also, Mr. Gregg operated the Postal Telegraph Office and the Kinloch Telephone Office there.

The Postal Telegraph operated on the south side of Manchester Road, while Western Union operated on the north side of Manchester Road. Also, Kinloch Telephone was the telephone service for calling out of the area, while Ballwin Mutual Telephone operated in the local area.

About 1900, Tim Munsch bought the building as a residence for his son-in-law and daughter, Arthur and Ida Kieinsorge. Arthur ran the grocery and feed store until 1920 when he took his life there.



#24

14396 MANCHESTER RD - IGNATZ OBERFOELL

HOUSE Frederick Bartold sold lots 1 & 2 with this house for \$110.04 in 1855 to Ignatz Oberfoell, a successful butcher and owner of a slaughter house in St Louis. It is believed to conceal a log cabin clad in wood siding. Catherina Oberfoell, his widow, sold the property to Jacob Schreiner in 1875. Mary Schreiner, his widow, sold both lots to William Reinhard, a merchant for \$1,800. In 1909, the property was listed in the Timothy Munch estate and occupied by Jim Hennan paying \$5 per month rent.



#25

120 HENRY - MANCHESTER SCHOOL Visible north of Manchester Road the School was the site of the first public school building in Manchester. The original school was a one room frame building which was built about 1880. A second room was added to the building by 1900. The original building was torn down, and the present brick schoolhouse was built in 1907. On right - Teacher & Students of Room One pose for a class picture on the steps in March 1940. (Note: Please view from a distance - it is not safe to cross Manchester Road on foot)



#26

211 HENRY - LOUIS DEPENDAHL HOUSE Visible from Manchester Road the Dependahl Home was built in 1910 on the 350 acre Dependahl farm. The house was restored by Dependahl's Great Grandson Ken Aston in 2001. Also pictured - the Andrew Miller cabin built in 1820 was relocated from Moscow Mills, Missouri and rebuilt on the site of the original Dependahl log home in 2006. (Note: Please view from a distance - it is not safe to cross Manchester Road on foot)



#27

210 HENRY - WILLIAM SAUER HOUSE Queen Anne style house built in 1899 for William & Caroline Sauer. William Sauer was a cigar maker. Caroline was the sister of August Schroeder who built 266 Old Meramec Station Rd and daughter of William Schroeder who had been making cigars in Manchester since 1868.



The house is now used as a commercial property and was renovated in 2012. (Note: Please view from automobile - it is not safe to cross Manchester Road on foot)

#28

14422 - 14424 MANCHESTER RD - WEIDNER HOTEL

The original part of this building was a two-family duplex that was built in the 1890's. One of the first homes to have indoor plumbing. It was owned by William Reinhard. The property was purchased by Valentine and Margaret Weidner in 1907. In the early 1920's they added to the original building and opened the Weidner Hotel. The hotel was later run by Henry and Lorine Ruck (Weidners' daughter) until it closed in the early 1940's.



In 1987 a large addition, shown in the picture on the right, more than doubled the size of this building which is now a commercial enterprise.



#29

14430 MANCHESTER RD - SEIBERT BUNGALOW This bungalow type building was built by Joseph Seibert and his brothers in 1923. The home was shared with his wife Antoinette and their daughter Juanita. Joseph served as the town's first Mayor and was actively involved with establishing and then heading up the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department, a position he kept for 24 years. Joseph was proclaimed Honorary Fire Chief when he was 100 years old. He died at the age of 103.



#30

14436 MANCHESTER RD - SIEBERT BUILDING In 1933 Joseph Seibert built this structure. Joseph, the son of a carpenter when young worked as a mechanic on Model-T's. He opened the Manchester Motor Company sold and serviced Chrysler and Plymouth cars, as well as Massey-Ferguson tractors. The business closed in 1957.



#31

14444 MANCHESTER RD - STAEBELL'S HOTEL c1890. Andrew Coleman operated a saloon here until he sold to Joseph Staebell in the early 1900's. Staebell not only ran the saloon, he offered sleeping quarters and stables for travelers proceeding to or from St. Louis. When Joseph Staebell died, the inventory described the property as "occupied by his family of 5 children, restaurant fixtures, a quantity of whiskey, rye, and other spirits". After Staebell's death in 1909, his widow, Katie, married John Hellman who ran the business until he closed it in the early 1920's. In 1983 the building was restored and opened as a bank.



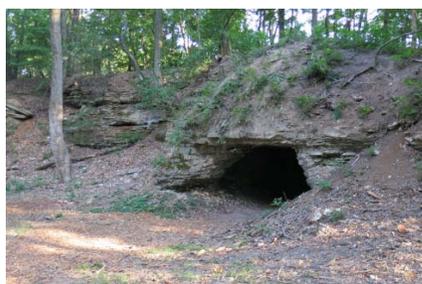
#32

GRAND GLAIZE CREEK The quiet creek runs the entire east west length of the City but at times has been a dangerous place when heavy rains caused flash flood conditions. It was named by early French explorers who identified it as a major water way that the Indians used to paddle down to the Meramec River. There were numerous camp sites on the banks of the creek, but no evidence that the Indians built permanent dwellings in the area. The creek has been a favorite site for swimming, picnicking since early settlement days. Picture on right is entitled "Picnic at Grove, Now Manchester c 1915"



#33

SEIBERT PARK -MANCHESTER CAVE Seibert Park is the location of a cave that has historical significance for Manchester. The cave was hand dug from the hillside in the early 1850's. It was used to store barrels of beer produced by a brewery that once stood in the vicinity of Manchester Road and Louis Avenue. The brewery was built in 1850 and operated by various owners until it burned down for the second time in 1870.



At times from 1861 -1865 the towns people would hide in the cave whenever the Union or Confederate Army troops were in the area because the soldiers would make them carry water and do other work for them.

In 1979 the cave and surrounding ground was donated to the City of Manchester as well as to St. John United Church of Christ, by Joseph Seibert so the cave could be preserved for future generations.



Information assembled from:
St Louis County Parks Historic
Inventory 1983
Public Tax & Real Estate Records
Members of the Old Trails Historical
Society