

THE HISTORY OF

FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

The first settlements in the St. Louis area were made by mound-building indigenous peoples of the Mississippian culture, followed by other migrating tribal groups such as the Illini, Missouri, and Osage. French explorers arrived in the late 17th century, followed by the Spanish. In 1764, a fur trading company led by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau established the settlement of St. Louis.¹ The present area of the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood was comprised a series of long narrow surveys which originally had been French farm tracts in the Cul-de-Sac Common Fields.

By the middle of the nineteenth century most of this land was held by William G. McRee, Charles Gibson and the estate of Peter Chouteau. It consisted of rolling hills, ponds, and forested areas. This area was also home to the source of Mill Creek, which rose in a spring near the railroad tracks of what is now Tower Grove Avenue. It provided enough flow to furnish water power for a grist mill on Chouteau's Pond (where Union Station now sits), built in 1766. Chouteau's Pond was drained after a cholera epidemic and the spring and creek were diverted into a new municipal sewer system.

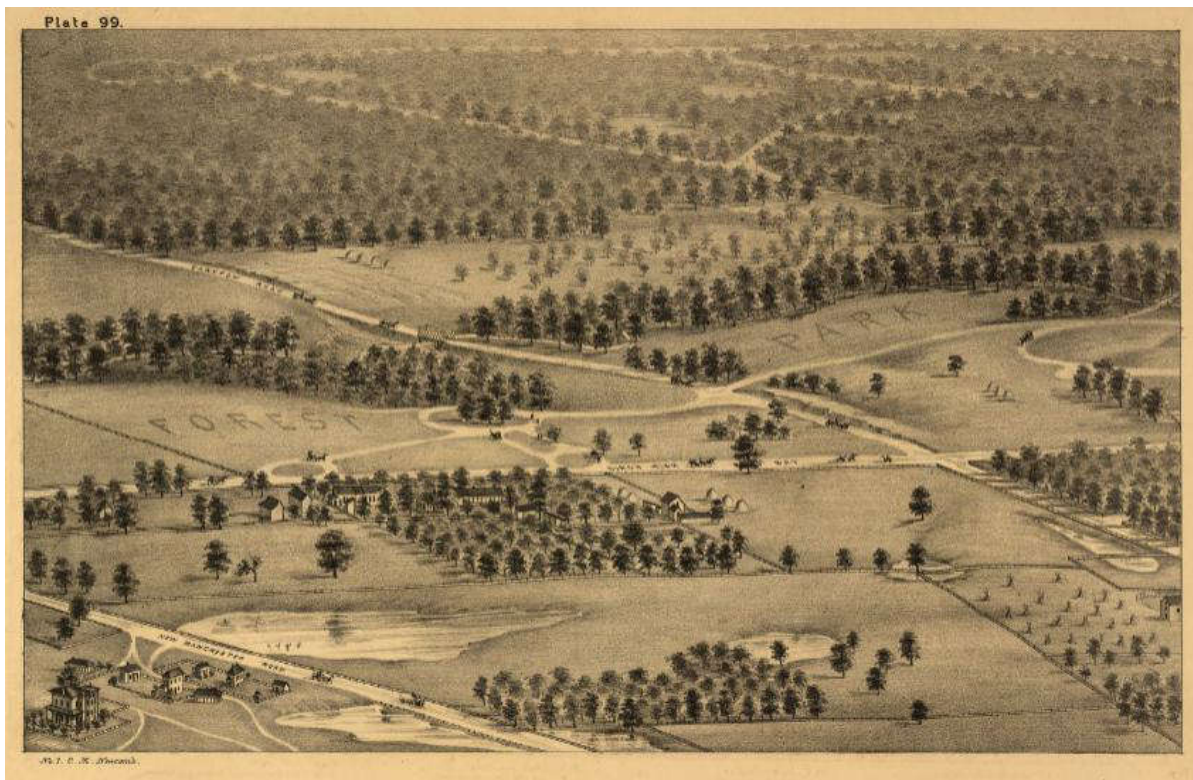


Figure 1: 1875 Compton & Dry Atlas showing area of Kingshighway, Clayton, and Manchester Roads

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The first path of the area, Manchester Road, originated as a farm-to-market route and was the old trade route extension of Market Street west - it was one of the state's first six official highways (HWY 100), authorized in 1822, to provide access to the new state capital in Jefferson City. It was known by many names, such as "Old State Road" "Road to Jefferson City" "Market Street Road" and "Bonhomme Road". As such, the road attracted industry and

commerce and was also the route roughly followed by the city's first major railroad, the Pacific RR (1852), as well as serving as a streetcar thoroughfare in the 1890.

South of the current Manchester Road is Old Manchester Road. The road was mapped as Old Manchester Road in 1853, indicating that by that time, the route had already been replaced by the new and improved New Manchester Road (present day Manchester). The route of Old Manchester Road in 1853, as it ran between Kingshighway and Manchester Roads, followed the routes of present day Southwest and Vandeventer Avenues.³ Mrs. Mary McRee laid out the Laclede Race Course subdivision in McRee City in 1865.⁴

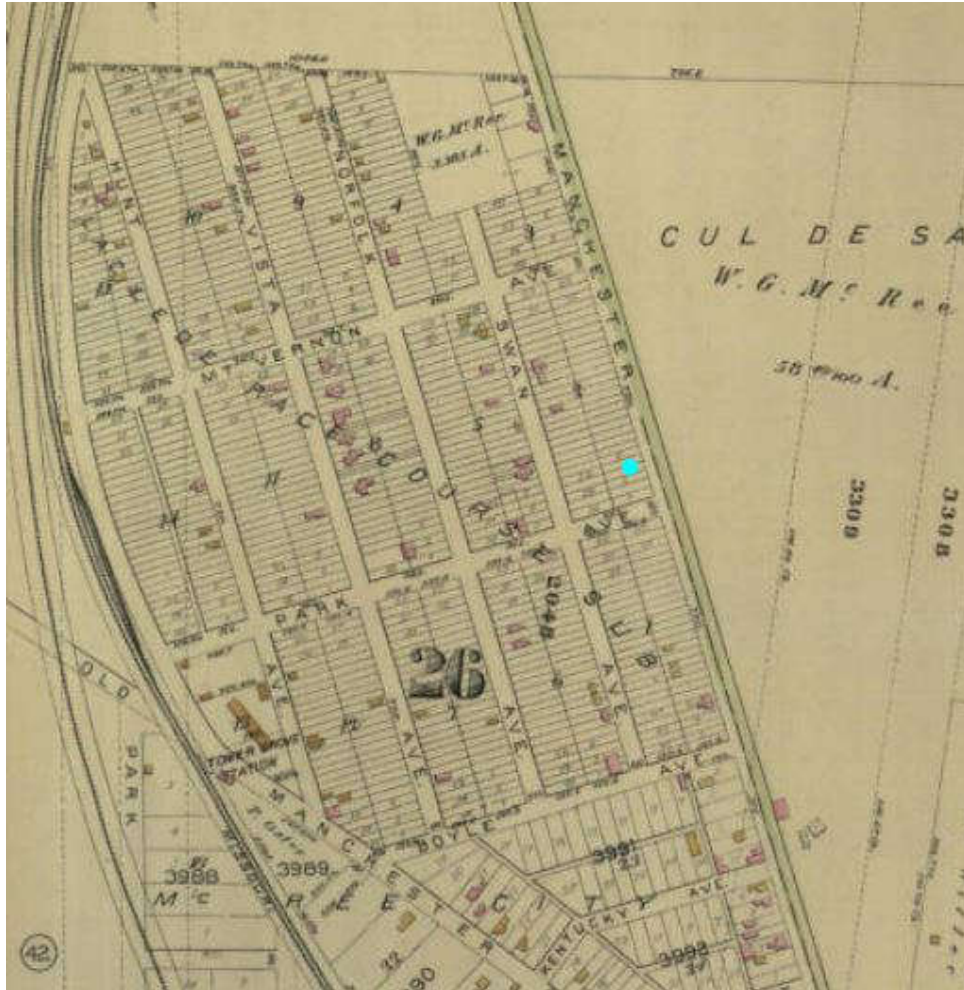


Figure 2: 1883 Hopkins Atlas showing approx location of [redacted] Park is Tower Grove and Mt Vernon is Newstead

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Catherine O Long owned the property at [redacted] and willed it to the St Philomena's Female Orphan Asylum & School upon her death in 1871.⁶ She had also owned property at Summit (now Ewing) and Clark and that is where the Asylum and School were built in 1868.⁷ She and her husband Thomas, who was a grocer, resided at Summit/Clark in 1870.⁸

Franzisca Grimm bought the property at [redacted] from the St Philomena's Female Orphan Asylum & School in 1893 for \$1750, from which one can assume means that there were no improvements on the property at the time of the sale.⁹ Her husband took out several building permits in 1894 and it is highly likely that the first building at [redacted] was built at this time as other buildings around the intersection of Tower Grove and Manchester were also being built.^{10 11} The Sanborn Fire Insurance map also shows a large building occupying the site (see image).¹²

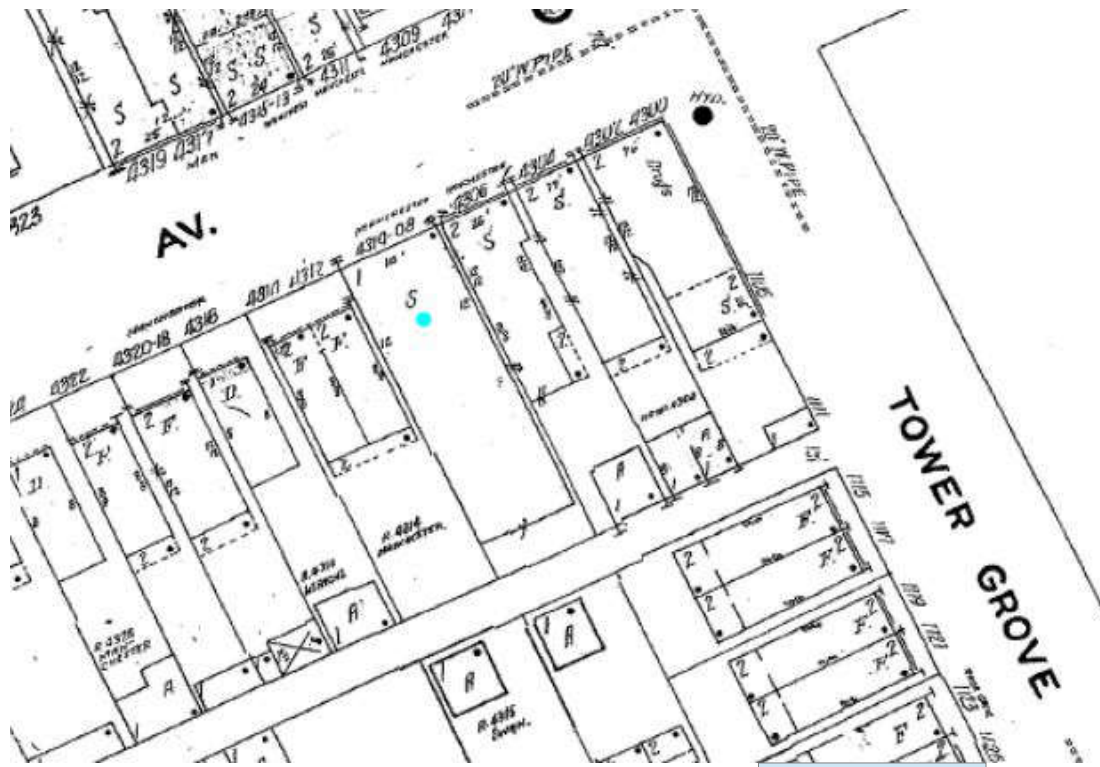


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance map showing location of [redacted]

The early tenants of [redacted] were Frank Glaub, a fireman (1895), August Petersen, an electrician (1895), and Elias Christophel, a real estate agent (1899).¹³ In 1900, tenants of [redacted] were Louis Freimuth, a grocer salesman, his wife Margaret and their son Louis; John Pamplin, a railroad agent, and his wife Anna also rented. Renting at [redacted] were Henry Clagett, a city policeman, his two daughters Mary and Flora, and a servant Elizabeth Cox; George Kienzle, a stenographer, his wife Mary, and his brothers Charles and Gottlieb, both day laborers.¹⁴ The birth of a son to Charles and Clara Strathmann was recorded in the 11 August 1903 St Louis Republic. The marriage license of Grace Pamplin [redacted] to Thomas Immell was recorded in the 26 April 1905 Post Dispatch.

[redacted] was sold to Henry Himer in 1901 who turned it quickly to Ernest and Marie Massard in 1902.¹⁵ The Swiss born Massards were saloon and boarding house owners and continued to rent out the property.

In 1910, residents of [redacted] were Ammon Budke, a brickyard worker, his wife Dorothy, and their two sons Earl and Robert; Frank Eberhardt, a wire weaver, his wife Louise, and their two children Edward, an electrician, and Estelle, a bookstore stenographer. [redacted] housed Jacob Helfrisch, a German music teacher, his wife Philippena, and their daughters Matilda, Philippena, a candy store saleslady, Johanna, and Gertrude.¹⁶ Other tenants in the 1910s were Chester Woolem, a machinist, Mary Millsap, Arthur and James Wease, Edward Thefeld, a machinist, and his mother Mary. Edward Thefeld died of injuries due to a motorcycle accident on 21 November, 1915 at age 26.¹⁷

Ammon Budke continued to rent at [redacted] in 1920 with his wife and the addition of children Roy, Harold and Dorothy; the other side was occupied by widow Kate Meyer, a packing house forelady, son William, a truck driver, daughter Louise, a wrapper, son Henry, and daughter Catherine. [redacted] housed John Perry, a mine laborer, his wife Frances, and their daughter Hazel; the other side lived Emil Sondag, a decorative painter, his wife Helen, and their son Richard.¹⁸ Other tenants in the 1920s included Clarence Dyer, a barber, and Henry Groover, a shoemaker.¹⁹

In 1930, [redacted] was rented out to John and Fanny Perry for \$35/month; 4310 rented at \$25/month to Asa Ballance, a tobacco wrapper, his wife Minnie, daughter Mildred, a bakery worker, son Floyd, a wholesale order clerk,

daughter Mary, and sons Cecil and Homer. They boarded Earl Love, a Pevely Dairy worker.²⁰ Other tenants in the 1930s included Sadie Merrit, a waitress, Ernest and Ruth Elder, and Marie Abrahams, an upholsterer.²¹

1940 saw [redacted] occupied by Alfred Riley, a steel worker, his wife Augusta May, their son Donald, and a lodger John Massard, a furniture installer; another unit housed Ernest Elder, a box maker, his wife Ruth, and his adult step children Loring, Pearl, and Homer. [redacted] was rented still by Asa Ballance and his family, as well as Ray Bradley, a tinner, his wife Dorothy, her father Gideon Lay, and her brothers Clarence, Stanley, and Leonard. Rent for all the units was \$17.50/month.²²

[redacted] was sold to Charles Grady and August Kucharski in 1941, who wrecked the dwelling and built a brick store at a cost of \$7000.²³ The first tenant in the building was Kroger Grocery and Baking Company. The company remained in the location into the 1950s, during which the name changed to Kroger Company.

SHOP IN ONE OF THE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED KROGER SUPER STORES LISTED IN THIS AD . . . AND MAKE GREAT SAVINGS ON YOUR DAILY FOOD PURCHASES . . . IN ST. LOUIS . . . IT'S KROGER
 PRICES GOOD IN ALL KROGER-PIGGY WIGGLY STORES IN ST. LOUIS AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY UNTIL SATURDAY NITE, NOV. 29TH.

<p>★ NORTH ★ 8235 N. BROADWAY BADEN 4524 EASTON 1348 N. KINGSHIGHWAY 2525 NATURAL BRIDGE 4314 N. NEWSTEAD 2700 N. FOURTEENTH 4962 N. UNION</p> <p>★ SOUTH ★ 3819 S. BROADWAY 9625 S. BROADWAY 2710 CHEROKEE 5755 CHIPPEWA</p>	<p>3732 S. GRAND 5009 GRAYOIS 6923 GRAYOIS 3236 IVANHOE 405 LEMAY FERRY 116 LEMAY FERRY 3409 ROGERS PLACE 5351 SOUTHWEST 5435 VIRGINIA 4255 WATSON 4025 WILMINGTON (At Leona)</p> <p>★ EAST ★ 1601 S. BROADWAY 1726 LAFAYETTE</p>	<p>3145 LAFAYETTE ★ WEST ★ 15 W. BIG BEND Webster Groves 617 E. BIG BEND Old Orchard 1411 BIG BEND Richmond Heights 2345 BRENTWOOD Brentwood 6411 CLAYTON 7807 CLAYTON Clayton, Mo. 5701 DELMAR 6616 DELMAR University City</p>	<p>6122 EASTON Wellston, Mo. 6216 EASTON Piggly Wiggly Wellston, Mo. 107 FLOISSANT Ferguson, Mo. 7008 W. FLOISSANT 112 W. JEFFERSON Kirkwood, Mo. 5960 KINGSBURY Piggly Wiggly 307 KIRKWOOD RD. Kirkwood, Mo. 29 W. LOCKWOOD Webster Groves, Mo. LILLIAN & JENNINGS</p>	<p>[redacted] Maplewood, Mo. 9500 MANCHESTER (At Rock Hill Rd.) 101 N. MERAMEC Clayton, Mo. 559 N. & S. ROAD 7401 NATURAL BRIDGE 8466 NATURAL BRIDGE 6279 NATURAL BRIDGE 7591 OLIVE ST. RD. 422 N. SARAH 8824 ST. CHARLES ROAD St. John, Mo. 2731 SUITON Maplewood, Mo.</p>	<p>2545 WOODSON Overland, Mo. 2409 EAST BROADWAY ALTON, ILL. FREE PARKING LOT 411 ST. LOUIS AVE. EAST ALTON, ILL. 131 FERGUSON AVE. WOODRIVER, ILL. 213-215 N. SECOND ST. ST. CHARLES, MO. PARKING LOT Special Meat Prices at Woodriver, St. Charles and Alton Stores</p>
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KROGER **Super Markets**

Figure 4: Advertisement from 25 Dec 1941 Post Dispatch

GUNMAN GETS \$200 IN GROCERY HOLDUP
 A bandit armed with a sawed-off shotgun this afternoon held up James Mott, 1454 Chouteau av., clerk in a Kroger Co. grocery store at [redacted] and escaped with \$200 in cash he forced Mott to hand over from a cash register while eight customers watched.

Figure 5: 5 Dec 1947 St Louis Star & Times

The property remained a Krogers store until 1962, when it became Cook's Market, managed by Albert Cook. In 1965 the business transferred to Alco Supermarket, remaining Cook's 'Tom Boy' Market.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 NOTICE UNDER 400.6-103(7)
 Albert T. Cook, sole proprietor of Cook's Tom Boy Market located at [redacted] Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, will transfer the assets of his business over to Alco Super Market, Inc., a corporation, on or about November 1st, 1965. The corporation will continue the present business at the above address and assume the debts of said business.
 ALBERT T. COOK Owner
 Cook's Tom Boy Market
 St. Louis, Missouri
 ,1965

Figure 6: 12 Nov 1965 Post Dispatch

There was a fire at [redacted] in August of 1969 and after the repair, the store was opened as Jack's Ready to Wear, managed by Jack Zimmerman.²⁴ The store went out of business in 1974.



FROM CLOTHING STORE,
Going out of business, counters,
tables, hanging racks, plate glass
and wood shelving, mirrors, cash
and wrap station. Must sell, make offer.
[redacted] 652-6023

Figure 7: 6 Oct 1974 Post Dispatch

The property was then occupied by a TV repair store and then [redacted] was purchased by Cooke & Cooke Properties in 1984 after the death of Benjamin Friedman.

2 TV Sets, Tubes Taken In Robbery

Two deliverymen for the North American TV Sales and Service Co., 4308 Manchester Avenue, were robbed at gunpoint of two television sets and 300 television tubes valued at \$1,235 Thursday afternoon, police said. The van in which they were carrying the television equipment was taken also, but it was recovered a short time later.

Keith Mueller, 18, and Kirk Mueller, 15, told police they were making a delivery in the 1600 block of Elliott Avenue about 4 p.m. when they were approached by a man, about 23 years old, who displayed a revolver and took the keys to the van, containing a load of television sets.

A few minutes later, Patrolman Thomas Murphy spotted the van parked in the 2100 block of Maiden Lane. Only the two sets and the television tubes were missing, police said.

Figure 8: 21 Jul 1978 Post Dispatch



- 1 Primm, James N. *Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri, 1764-1980*. Missouri Historical Soc. P, 1998.
- 2 Compton, Richard J, and Dry, Camille. *Pictorial St. Louis: The Great Metropolis of the Mississippi Valley: a Topographical Survey Drawn in Perspective A.D. 1875*. Plate 99. Compton & Co, 1876.
- 3 Baxter, Karen Bode, *Manchester Avenue Commercial District: National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, 2005.
- 4 Wayman, Norbury L. *History of St. Louis Neighborhoods*. St. Louis CDA. 1981.
- 5 Hopkins, G. M. *Atlas of the city of St. Louis, Missouri; plate 27*. map. 1883.
- 6 St. Louis City Deed Records. Assessor's Office. St. Louis City Hall.
- 7 Swekosky Notre Dame College Collection: South St. Louis Religious Buildings Manuscripts SNDC 2-05-007 - 2-05-021. mohistory.org
- 8 1870 US Census. *St Louis Ward 5, St Louis, Missouri*; Roll: M593_815; Page: 74B. Ancestry.com
- 9 St. Louis City Deed Records. Assessor's Office. St. Louis City Hall.
- 10 Baxter, Karen Bode, *Manchester Avenue Commercial District: National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, 2005.
- 11 "Microfilm Roll 42." *St. Louis City Inactive Building Permits*. Records Retention. St. Louis City Hall.
- 12 "St Louis City." *Sanborn Maps for Missouri*, Saint Louis 1903-Dec.1951vol.5, Sheet 110 , Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company, *University of Missouri Digital Library*
- 13 *City Directories for St. Louis City*. Gould Directory Co., *Fold3.com*.
- 14 1900 US Census. *St Louis Ward 25, St Louis (Independent City), Missouri*; Roll: 899; Page: 15A; Enumeration District: 0373. Ancestry.com
- 15 St. Louis City Deed Records. Assessor's Office. St. Louis City Hall.
- 16 1910 US Census. *St Louis Ward 23, Saint Louis City, Missouri*; Roll: T624_821; Page: 11B; Enumeration District: 0356. Ancestry.com
- 17 Edward Thefeld. Certificate of Death. 21 Nov 1915. Missouri State Archives.
- 18 1920 US Census. *St Louis Ward 23, St Louis (Independent City), Missouri*; Roll: T625_959; Page: 9A; Enumeration District: 441. Ancestry.com
- 19 *City Directories for St. Louis City*. Gould Directory Co., *Fold3.com*.
- 20 1930 US Census. *St Louis, St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri*; Roll: 1242; Page: 14A; Enumeration District: 0183. Ancestry.com
- 21 *City Directories for St. Louis City*. Gould Directory Co., *Fold3.com*.
- 22 1940 US Census. *St Louis, St Louis City, Missouri*; Roll: m-t0627-02207; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 96-652. Ancestry.com
- 23 "Microfilm Roll 78." *St. Louis City Active Building Permits*. Records Retention. St. Louis City Hall.
- 24 "Microfilm Roll 78." *St. Louis City Active Building Permits*. Records Retention. St. Louis City Hall.
- 25 St. Louis City Deed Records. Assessor's Office. St. Louis City Hall.