

August Kassebaum House, 5009 Lemay Ferry Rd., Lemay, 1907, W. Wedemeyer



Mattese was an unplanned settlement at the intersection of Lemay Ferry and Butler Hill Roads, near Mattese Creek. In the early years of the century Mattese and Oakville provided the only commercial centers for “the Point.” The building that housed the general merchandise and produce store operated by August Kassebaum and Kassebam’s own residence both survive at this intersection. The two buildings were spared by a recent highway widening. August Kassebaum was the son of Henry Kassebaum, who immigrated to this area from Germany in the 1840s. August grew up in the Mattese area and opened a store there in 1884, dealing in general merchandise and farm implements. Two years later he expanded into St. Louis, opening a produce and commission business in what is now Laclede’s Landing. He served as the postmaster of Mattese and was elected Collector in 1910. He married Catherine Brummer in 1885, and the couple had 11 children, eight of whom survived. His son J. Harry took over the business.

The August Kassebaum House is a Georgian Revival style brick structure. It was constructed in 1907 and is unusual as an architect-designed house erected in the midst of a rural community. The architect was William Wedemeyer, who was born in St. Louis and had established his own practice by 1893. He designed factories, theaters, and office buildings in the St. Louis area, and he may have designed Kassebaum’s nearby store as well.

Forder House, 2225 Telegraph Rd., Lemay, c. 1852



The Forder House presents an interesting, eclectic look at the history of South County. This group dates back to the days of Anglo settlement of the area, when the site

was part of the Carondelet Commons. The complex consists of the main house of frame construction, a log cabin, and a stone storage building. Samuel W. Forder was a migrant from Shelly County, Kentucky, who purchased the land upon which the complex now rests in 1852. He married Anna Vista Conn, whose family may have already constructed a log cabin on the site. Descendents of the Forder Family still live on the property.

The primary residence is a two-story building with a one-and-a-half-story ell, which was in part a detached kitchen that was joined to the larger section in 1900. The intervening space, which has been enclosed, rests atop what was originally a root cellar. Exterior remodeling on the two-story section in 1870 resulted in the Victorian character which the building now displays.

Kassebaum Building, 5049 Lemay Ferry Rd., Lemay, 1913



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The store, called the Kassebaum building, was built in 1913 at the corner of Butler Hill Road. Large letters spelling “Kassebaum” are incorporated in a glazed plaque on the parapet.

Laborer’s House, Jefferson Barracks Park, Broadway and Grant Rd., Lemay, 1851, NR



The Laborer's House, located within Jefferson Barracks Park was built in 1851 for civilians working at the ordinance depot. The building has since been restored from original plans in the National Archives. Jefferson Barracks was established in 1826 and became one of the largest and most important military establishments in the United States. It became the training and outfitting center for the military effort of the entire western half of the U.S. After the Civil War, the strategic importance of the Barracks lessened, but did play an important role during both world wars as an induction and training center for new recruits. In the 1930s and early 1940s it was a training center and headquarters for workers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, a depression era federal employment program dedicated to making improvements to the parks, forests and other natural areas. St. Louis County acquired nearly 400 acres after it was deactivated in 1946.

Powder Magazine, Jefferson Barracks Park, Lemay, 1857, NR



The Powder Magazine is now a museum located in Jefferson Barracks that tells of its history. Originally the magazine was used to store gun powder, weapons and ammunition for the soldiers at the Barracks and to the west. Jefferson Barracks was established in 1826 and became one of the largest and most important military establishments in the United States. It became the training and outfitting center for the military effort of the entire western half of the U.S. After the Civil War, the strategic importance of the Barracks lessened, but did play an important role during both world wars as an induction and training center for new recruits. In the 1930s and early 1940s it was a training center and headquarters for workers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, a depression era federal employment program dedicated to making improvements to the parks, forests and other natural areas. St. Louis County acquired nearly 400 acres after it was deactivated in 1946.

**Sisters of Notre Dame Convent (“Sancta Maria in Ripa”), 320 E. Ripa,
Lemay, 1895-1910, Schnetzky & Lieberts**



The Sisters of Notre Dame Convent is one of the few institutions in the St. Louis area directly overlooking the Mississippi River. The Latin name means “Saint Mary on the Riverbank.” This large institutional building is constructed of brick in the Italianate style and has an “E”-shaped floor plan. The building is the third motherhouse of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in North America. It was authorized on June 3, 1892, and the cornerstone was laid October 15, 1895. While it has been said that the building was designed by the Reverend P.M. Abbelen of Milwaukee, Father Spiritual of the Congregation of North America, who selected the site, records show that Abbelen hired the architectural firm of Schnetzky and Liebert from Milwaukee, a firm known for work which is characterized by a distinctly German character. The north wing was added by Victor Klutho in 1908-1910.