

# *Chapter 1: Historical Trail Map and Information*

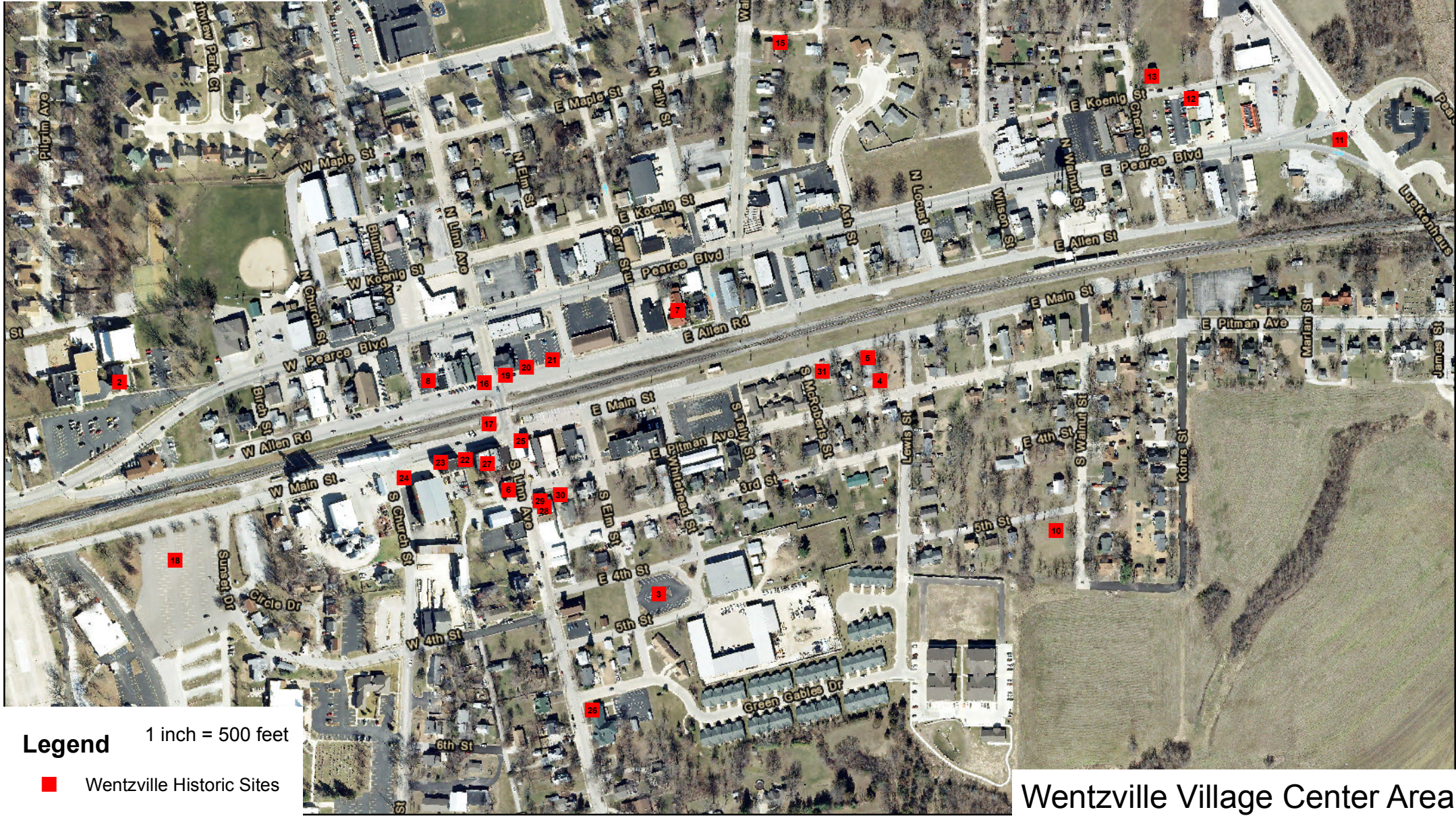
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The City of Wentzville's Downtown Committee, in cooperation with the Historical Society requested that the City Staff assist in the creation of a History Trail Map, displaying historical sites of interest. This information has been produced in two (2) components, an Interactive on-line story map, and a hard copy presentation map. The on-line story map can be found on the City of Wentzville's website at [www.wentzvillemo.org](http://www.wentzvillemo.org), in two different locations, under the City Maps, titled "Interactive History Map" and on the tab Your Government – History of Wentzville. The Presentation Map can be printed and purchased through the Wentzville Planning and Zoning Division, located at 200 E. Fourth Street in downtown Wentzville. The documentation offers a photo of each area of interest and offer comments on the location and use that was practiced in history. The mapping offers the user an aerial photo location map to see "where" in Wentzville the use was practiced so that the user may visit the actual field location.

Through growth and redevelopment many of the areas have been converted to different uses or the original uses removed. In the future, the City has discussed a project to offer signage and bar code scan information that would interact with a visitor's Android or Apple mobile devices, which can offer the interested party information about the site where they are visiting. This project is not yet developed toward implementation. The history of Wentzville can be read about in the City of Wentzville's Comprehensive Plan, also found at the above website address, under Departments – Community Development – Planning and Zoning Division, under the Quick Links, early in the Plan under the Chapter titled, "Executive Summary". This History Trail Project allows residents and visitors to know of our rich heritage in the Village Center area, allowing the reader to embrace yesterday, while envisioning tomorrow.



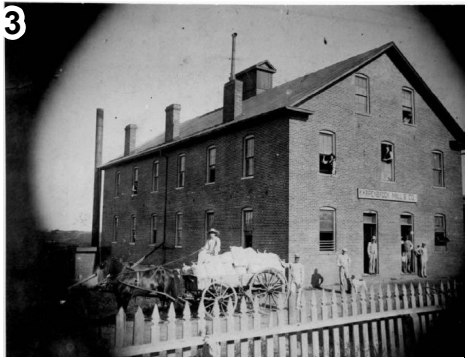
# Historic Locations in the Wentzville, Missouri area



The Walker Cemetery, also known as the Old Walker Burying Ground, is of national interest and is one of the oldest cemeteries in St. Charles County. It is the final resting place of Revolutionary War soldier, John Castillo, as well as Micajah McClenny, who was a Captain during the War of 1812. Also in the cemetery is the son-in-law of Micajah McClenny, William F. Cook. A fourth grave commemorated simply as WRM is believed to be the grave of William R. May, who died in 1837 at the age of six months. He is believed to have been part of the Walker family, who owned the graveyard.



Immanuel Lutheran Church on Pearce Blvd. was built in 1899. A one-room schoolhouse sat just to the east of the church and was built in 1900; it was bought by George Freese and used as a storehouse in one of his many junkyards in the 1950s until it was torn down.



The Dula and Carr Tobacco factory No. 1 had a long and rich history in Wentzville. It is believed to have been built in the 1860s. With a shortage of free labor after the Civil War, it was sold and became the Karrenbrock Flour Mill. Karrenbrock operated the mill until it was abandoned a number of years later. In the 1930s it was purchased by the Wentzville Community Club and was loaned to the ACME Garment Company, who provided jobs for unemployed Wentzville citizens through the Great Depression to the late 1960s. When it closed in 1968, it once again sat unoccupied for another 10 years, at which time it was given to the Wentzville Historical Society. Although they tried, the fledgling Historical Society could not maintain the large building. It was placed on the State Registry of Historic Buildings and was donated to the City, who razed it and turned it into the parking lot for the Public Works.



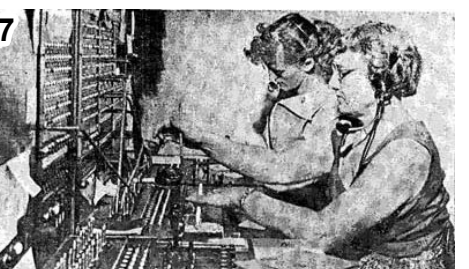
The Dula and Carr Tobacco Factory No. 2 still stands on Pitman Avenue behind the once-home of Robert Dula at 408 East Main Street. It is the last remaining brick tobacco factory in Western St. Charles County. The two-story brick structure is believed to have been built in the early to mid 1860s. It served as a curing house for tobacco, which was hung on the second floor and converted into plug tobacco on the ground floor. From there it was transported to the railroad freight station to be shipped to St. Louis, Kansas City, and other major cities.



The Robert Dula Home sits at 408 East Main and was originally a four-room two-story frame structure. Over the years, rooms were added, and today the house has ten rooms. Robert Dula lived there during the time he and his partner Caleb Dula operated their two tobacco factories in Wentzville until 1885, when the business was sold to a St. Charles interest. It was donated by the Hoekelman family to the Wentzville Historical Society two years ago with the promise that the Historical Society would try to save the historic home. Owned by a number of prominent people throughout history such as Judge and six-term Mayor J.C. Brown, this home was an upscale residence of the time.



The Pitman Carriage House was built in 1905 as a blacksmith shop and acquired in 1922 by Tarlton E. Pitman. It was used to house Pitman's horse-drawn procession carriages, caskets, and assorted embalming equipment and supplies until 1942. The Wentzville Historical Society placed a bronze plaque designating it a historic building. Today this building is home to The Olde Towne Pub.



The Wentzville Farmer's Telephone Company was granted a franchise on July 7, 1913

William M. Allen a large landowner in western St. Charles County founded the city of Wentzville through the donation of a tract of land along the recently established Railroad Right-of-Way to establish a station to serve the local area. The region around the community was originally devoted to the production of tobacco and Wentzville's earliest history was that of a small agricultural village.

Through a joint effort of the City of Wentzville and the Wentzville Historical society a map was produced to highlight areas of historical interest within the city. This map was developed in two components: an interactive online story map for the urban explorer and a hard copy presentation map.





The Hupmobile dealership operated for three years until the first Ford automobile dealership was established by George H. Freese about 1918.



Linn Cemetery came into being around 1880. Before Interstate 70 came through Wentzville, Linn Avenue ended at the cemetery where most of Wentzville's founding fathers and prominent citizens are buried. Its most important resident is the founder of Wentzville, Mr. William M. Allen.



The Lutheran Cemetery, sometimes referred to as the Koenig Cemetery, is located at the intersection of Fifth Street and South Walnut Avenue. Some graves date back to just before the turn of the twentieth century, but most are of prominent members of the Koenig and Buescher families, who were active in Wentzville and were successful merchants. John F. Koenig, Wentzville's 14th Mayor who served from 1926 to 1930, and first Vice President of the Wentzville Community Club, who died February 21, 1963, is also interred in the Lutheran Cemetery.



The Y-Cafe was more of a landmark business than a historic place until the 1930s, when Wentzville resident Highway Patrol Officer Fred Hagen received a call from the Chicago branch of the FBI notifying him that a car carrying John Dillinger was headed down Highway 61 going to St. Louis. Hagen took up post at the Y-Cafe, waiting to intercept Dillinger. The Y-Cafe sat in the middle of then Highway 40, now Pearce Blvd. and Luetkenhaus Blvd, where the large flagpole is today. Early in the morning before dawn, as Dillinger approached the intersection, Hagen opened fire, only to receive bursts from Dillinger's Thompson 45 submachine gun. Bullets hit the building but Hagen took cover. Unfortunately, Hagen was unsuccessful in trying to apprehend Dillinger and the criminal escaped down Highway 40 to St. Louis. It is said that the boards were replaced where Dillinger' bullets were lodged, but no one seems to know their whereabouts.



The African American School was located in the rear of the building now housing Harris Automotive on Pearce Blvd. The current owner has preserved the old blackboard and displays photographs of the school on his walls. The school was discontinued in 1950, when it was integrated into the public school system. Most of the school's students attended the church across the street. Since post-Civil War days, that area of town bordered by Pearce Boulevard, Hickory Avenue, Lincoln Street, Koenig Avenue, Walnut Street, and Cherry Street had been known as "Needmore," a term commonly used into the mid to late 1970s by the Wentzville Union Newspaper. Of note, the south side of Pearce bordered by East Allen, Walnut Avenue, to Hickory Avenue was referred to as "Giltmore." These area names were synonymous with the black section of town. After the Civil War, when tobacco plantation owners and businesses freed blacks, they settled into this area of Wentzville.



The Grant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church has moved from its original location at the corner of East Koenig Avenue and Cherry Street, but the building is still there. The Church was established in 1868 in a log cabin located just south of Wentzville along Highway Z (Church Street) next to Perque Creek. In 1887, under the leadership of Rev. William H Hamilton, a building was erected at the corner of Cherry Street and East Koenig Avenue. The designer of the building was Mr. George Abington. A parsonage was later built from material of the A.M.E. church in O'Fallon after its congregation had either moved or died.



Grant Chapel Graveyard is located directly north of the Grant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on East Koenig Avenue. The oldest headstones are those of Sarah Robinson, who died in 1880 at the age of 57 years, Ethel Jones (1894-1899), Hannah Scott Cosby (1861-1900), and Martha Brown (1832-1901). The cemetery has been in some disarray for a number of years. Headstones have fallen over; some have been covered with limbs with branches piled on top of them, and others have broken or become damaged.



The Peerless Flour Mill was located about a quarter-mile north of Pearce Boulevard on Mill Street (now Wall Street). Information is scant, but it was built in the late 1800s, and a portion of the building still stands as a house today.



1861 (Wentzville House Hotel) - George & Henry Dierker built a three-story frame hotel on the corner of N. Linn Avenue and W. Main (now West Allen). In the same year, it burned down. Six years later, in 1867, the Dierker brothers rebuilt the Wentzville House Hotel. This time the inside and outside walls were of brick, 16 inches thick. In August 15, 1872, George Dierker was granted a saloon license.



The Wentzville Northern Missouri Train Station was built in 1855/1856 by the founder of the village, William M. Allen. The first train came through Wentzville in 1857, and Allen was the first stationmaster.



Musick Grove today is roughly bordered by Church Street west to Highway 70 and from West Main south to Highway 70. It was owned by Charles E. (C.E.) Musick, and his mansion sat just about where the current MFA is located. C.E. Musick was involved in Wentzville politics from 1890 to 1906, serving five terms as Councilman and Alderman of Ward 1, and in 1904 he was elected Mayor. He hosted many town celebrations on his land, Musick Grove, where townspeople would have huge barbecues for the 4th of July and other events. Wentzville's Craven's Band would play period John Phillips Sousa marches to entertain. Musick Grove is now owned by the Wentzville Community Club, where they hold the weekly flea market and bingo. Musick Grove has been the home of celebrations and entertainment for Wentzville citizens for over a hundred years.



The Schierbaum Home is located on the corner of what is now Linn and West Allen Avenues. Over the years it has served the community as home, hotel and numerous businesses, including the bank and post office. Today it serves as "Old Friends" guitar shop. Fritz Schierbaum, wagon maker and businessman, was born in Germany and came to Wentzville in 1876. He met and married his wife Marie Heitgerd on January 4, 1877. Marie was born near Harvester, Missouri, February 17, 1854. He built his home in 1878, and the brick structure has lasted the test of time. During their life together, they had three sons: Edward, George, and Theodore, all of whom became an integral part of his business in 1888 when Fritz bought out his partners. Fritz was involved in our city and held the office of Ward 2 Alderman in the 1890s, and his son George ran for that same position in 1903. Today, under new ownership, the old Schierbaum home has been restored to almost its original state. The vacated doughnut shop is now a guitar store.



Shierbaum's Wagon Maker and Implement Company was located just east of his home and became a landmark of early Wentzville. It had the appearance of an early west settlement business with its huge false front and oversized sign. The Schierbaum Implement Company was sold in the 1920s and became Reuter's Blacksmith shop, which operated until the 1940s, when it was razed and a new building went up to become the American Theater and the Kroger Store. In the 1970s it was sold to Rock n' Roll legend Chuck Berry, who operated it until 1973 when it burned to the ground. Today it is a parking lot.



Musick Livery stable was built in 1890 by Henry Benus for Ed S. Walker and Fred Chauncey. Sam and Tom Sidebottoms were the first managers. At different times it had as its managers and owners A.L. Goodfellow and George Cravens; C.E. Musick owned it from 1905 until he sold it in 1924.



The Thompson Hotel was built in the 1860s by John and Swan Thompson, and two sisters, it was originally erected to be used as a hotel but never used as such. Located on East South Main Street, on the site where the new Trinity building sets the Building was destroyed by fire in 1886. Businesses housed there over the years were numerous, they included; Wentzville's first Post Office, J.F. Bornhop Cigar Factory, S.A. Grantham Tobacco Factory, and a brothel of unknown name.



The Marley Hotel was built in 1925 on the site of the original Thompson Hotel building on east South Main Street. A year after it was built it was sold and became the Hotel Wentzville, often referred to as the Southside Hotel. It sat just across the street from the Wabash Train Station and when passenger service was discontinued, the hotel was sold once again and used as a long-term rooming house. That venture lasted into the early 1980s when it was left vacant until it was sold about 2005 and converted into the Trinity Building. The Trinity Building houses several offices and various businesses today.



The Wentzville Mercantile was built in the late 1850s by the founder of Wentzville, William M. Allen. Mr. Allen and his partner, W.A. Abington operated the first general merchandising store in Wentzville out of this three-stow frame structure. It changed hands several times over the next 120 years, last owned by Tarlton E. Pitman, until it was razed in 1973.



The Masonic Hall Building was a three-story Frame building situated on the northeast corner of East South Main Street and Linn Avenue. Erected c.1858, it burned shortly after and rebuilt in brick in 1866. The 1866 structure standing today is the oldest surviving building in the City of Wentzville. Through the years, the Masonic Lodge occupied the third floor, with the Wentzville public school on the second floor, and a drug store owned by D.B. Van Huffle on the first. This iconic building had balconies on the second and third floors, a wood sidewalk and hitching rails on Main Street.



The first Wentzville Public High School is located 506 South Linn Avenue. Some reports date the building to 1895-96. Today, the original high school is called The Green Lantern and used for senior services.



Compton's Saddle Shop was located on the northeast corner of East Main Street and Church Street where the MFA is today. Little exists in the Historical Society archives other than photographic. We do know that it was built in the 1850s and was still standing in 1915. It was Wentzville's first saddle shop and offered saddles, harnesses, reins and other such leather goods, few blacksmithing services were offered due to the large number of blacksmiths in town.



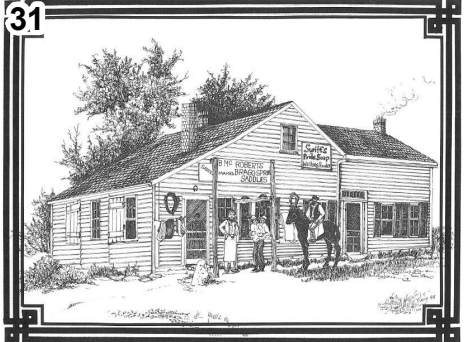
The Wentzville Union news papaper was originally located on east South Main Street and operated by William McRacken from 1890 until he went into the Army to serve during WWI.



The Wentzville Union Newspaper was purchased by Postmaster, John F. Bornhop in 1917 and moved the business to a two-story brick building at the corner of Second Street (Pitman Avenue) and South Linn Avenue. In August of 1931 a fire broke out in the National Petroleum Company on South Linn Avenue and destroyed seven businesses and several homes, the two-story Union building was lost. In its place was an exact replica of the original building but having only one story. It operated there for a few years when it moved to Pearce Blvd. and subsequently sold in the 1970s to the St. Charles Business Review.



The Pitman Funeral Home was founded in 1922 by Tarlton E. Pitman, and originally located at the southeast corner of Second Street (Pitman Avenue) and South Linn Avenue. It was here that the first open casket viewing at a funeral parlor in the history of the County.



McRoberts Blacksmith and Saddle Shop was located at the northwest corner of South Main Street and McRoberts Street. The founder, Fenton Blackburn McRoberts and his brother-in-law invented, manufactured, and distributed the famous Bragg Spring Saddle. This saddle was used widely by the U.S. Calvary from the Civil War into the twentieth century.

Descriptions of all historical locations and photos for locations 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27 & 30 provided by the Wentzville Historical Society