

**“Bee Tree Farm” (Eugene Nims House), Bee Tree Park, Oakville, 1929,
Maritz & Young**



Bee Tree Park is located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Meramec Rivers. Originally, it was the weekend estate of Eugene Nims and his wife Latawana Flateau, whose primary residence was in the city. They called the 192-acre estate “Bee Tree Farm.” The 1929 house is of stone construction in the Tudor Revival style and was designed by the architectural firm of Maritz & Young.

Eugene Dutton Nims was widely known as the father of the telephone business in the Southwest. Born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in 1865 to a family of French Huguenots, Nims organized the Arkansas Valley Telephone Company in 1896, with a wire mileage of 27 miles. From these humble beginnings grew the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph, a statewide company in Oklahoma. Pioneer merged with three other companies in 1914 and became Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1917. Nims served as president of the organization from 1919 to 1930 and remained active with various civic organizations until his death in 1954.

After the death of Mrs. Nims in 1966, the estate was purchased by the County with the help of the Open Space Council under the leadership of Lindell Gordon and R. Walston Chubb. The house is now the home of the Golden Eagle River Museum, devoted to the collection of river relics, picture, and books.

Fassen-Eiler Farmhouse, 7676 Fine Rd., Oakville, c. 1850



The land which this house was built was part of a disputed land grant not released for sale until after 1847. But Melsor Fine claimed “preemption right” to 87 acres, and although he died in 1843, his claim was later made good for his heirs by William K.

Knott, his wife Margaret's second husband. Melsor Fine was one of five sons of Philip Fine who was given a Spanish land grant of 400 arpents. In 1837 another son, Benjamin Fine, platted Finestown, but the town was never established. Melsor Fine's son Charles Lawson Fine inherited the property and built the present house around 1857. By 1869 he and his wife were living near Springfield, Missouri, and the mortgaged their farm property to Perry Sappington. When the couple was unable to pay the farm was sold to Sebastian Sappington. In 1874 the tract of land was sold once again, this time to Philip Eiler. The house still remains in the Eiler family today. The property is called the Fassen-Eiler farm because John Frederick Fassen bought nine acres from Charles Lawson Fine in 1858, but never owned the site of the present house.

**John Fried Place, 5288-92 Lemay Ferry Rd. at Ringer Rd., Oakville,
1867**



The John Fried Place was built in the Federal style around 1867. John Fried bought the land the house lies on in 1866 from Henry Erb. Erb was the father of Margaret, John Fried's wife. John Fried continued to own the property until at least 1909. The small size of the plot of land and original form of the building with three doors opening onto the front porch of the main section suggests this may have been used as an inn or tavern, but there has been no documentation to verify.

Herger-Studer House, 2660 Erb Rd., Oakville vic., c. 1895 (demolished)



In the Oakville vicinity is the Heger-Studer House, one of the least altered examples of the work of the contractor William Baumgartner. Baumgartner houses were once numerous in the area; they are Victorian Vernacular frame buildings characterized by a center gable. The house was part of the Heger estate. Johannes Heger leased this house to Darwin Schulte in 1895, at which point the house was probably constructed. The Hegers sold the property to George Struder in 1904 and his family remained here until about 1935.

Heinrich Schmitz House, 3327 Old Baumgartner Rd., Oakville, 1870-1878



Heinrich Schmitz, the pastor of St. Paul's Church bought this property in 1870 from Frederick William Meyer and his wife Hannah Fredericka. The house may have been built with volunteer labor from the church. When Schmitz died in 1878 the house was still not finished. Schmitz left a wife Christine and a daughter Martha who continued to live in the house. Martha lived there until her death in the 1920's.

St. Paul's Parsonage, 3317 Old Baumgartner Rd., Oakville, by 1878



St. Paul's Parsonage was built by St. Paul's Church for a parsonage after the death of Pastor Heinrich Schmitz in 1878. Schmitz had lived south of this site on property he owned himself, but this house was on property the church is said to have owned since 1844. The church building itself was also on this site until 1919 when a new church had been erected on Telegraph Road. A new parsonage had already been built there in 1905. Thereafter this house was used by the cemetery caretaker. In the 1940's the church sold

the house to the incumbent caretaker Fred Aulbach. Fred Jr. succeeded his father as caretaker until his death in the 1970's.