This is the first of a series of *Yesterday & Today* articles discussing the history of Jefferson City through various periods of time, from its founding to the present. The articles will discuss major developments in the city, and highlight many of the existing buildings from each period.

**When Missouri became a state** in 1821, Jefferson City was selected as a site for the new state capital. Known as Howard’s Bluff, this undeveloped site was incorporated as a city in 1825 and became the county seat in 1829.

The city was divided into 1,000 “In-Lots” of ½ acre and “Out-Lots” of 5 to 40 acres each in 1823. The State Capitol was completed, the first hotel and other businesses established, and the legislature arrived in 1826. The penitentiary opened in 1836. In 1837 the Capitol burned, with a replacement opening in 1842. The city grew through the 1830s with the addition of state and local government buildings.

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Burials began in 1831 where Woodland Cemetery was established in 1838. Major cholera outbreaks occurred in 1832, 1849 and 1866, brought to the city by riverboats, and resulting in the death of large numbers of people. By 1840 the city had a population of 1,174 people, both black and white.

Pigs still wandered in the unpaved streets, but modern steamboats and stage coaches brought travelers and products to the city, facilitating the growth of local industries such as mills, tanneries and distilleries.

With the coming of the Pacific Railroad, business boomed in the 1850s. Jefferson City became a transfer point for goods coming from the east by rail and heading west by steamboat. Then development ceased during the Civil War, as Jefferson City was occupied and managed by Union troops.

The Missouri Constitution of 1875 marked a period of expansion, and within 10 years a bridge was built across the Missouri River, further encouraging development. This article focuses on the beginning years from 1825 to 1870.

The early inhabitants of Jefferson City were mostly born in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee. Starting in the 1830s, an influx of immigrants from Germany changed the look and the culture of our city. While settlers from the southern states tended to be farmers, many of the Germans were skilled in masonry, blacksmithing, carpentry and other trades. Our abundant clay resources, combined with the German’s preference for masonry construction, continues to be reflected in our community today.

This map, dated 1849, shows the extent of the original town and gives us an idea of the size of the community at that time. The eastern boundary is shown as Linn Street, just east of the Old City Cemetery on Chestnut Street. Beyond the eastern and southern boundaries are the larger “Out-Lots.” The southern boundary is Dunklin and Atchison Streets. The map ends with a short piece...
of Clay Street, just west of Bolivar Street. Other features, such as the Governor’s Mansion, can be identified.

Frank Miller, a Jefferson City architect, recalled that development in the late 1860s and early 1870s stopped at the Catholic cemetery to the west. This would place the western boundary just west of the Missouri Water Company facility, where Heisinger Bluffs is located, at 1002 W. Main St.

Another map from this period is the “Bird’s Eye View of Jefferson City, the capitol of Missouri 1869,” available at the Library of Congress website (www.loc.gov). This interactive map enables the viewer to zoom in on specific neighborhoods or properties, and try to locate structures that remain today. Through use of this drawing and previously conducted research surveys, the extensive list below of buildings that date to before the Civil War has been developed.

However, this article discusses over 45 structures that remain in Jefferson City from this period.

### Buildings Constructed prior to 1870

**Lohman’s Landing, 100 Jefferson St.** Built in 1839 as a grocery store, warehouse, tavern and hotel. In 1852, Charles Maus and his brother-in-law, Charles Lohman, opened a general store in the eastern portion of what we know now as Lohman’s Landing. (SHS)(NR)(LL)

**Union Hotel.** Maus built a hotel across Jefferson street in 1855. The hotel had a couple of names, then when Maus returned home from the Civil War, he renamed it the Union Hotel as a declaration of his loyalties. (SHS)(NR)

**Maus House.** Charles Maus’ brother, Christopher Maus, built a home a few yards south of the Union Hotel in the 1850s. The sturdy brick house exemplifies the small, red brick residences common in Jefferson City during this time period. (SHS) (NR)

**225-227 Capitol Avenue, 1870 rowhouses.** (S)

**423 E. High St.** The early Missouri-German characteristics of this house are somewhat obscured by the large dormer window and 1-story front porch. Shown on the Historic East Survey as built circa 1870, this could have been built earlier. (NR)

**Parsons House, 105 Jackson St.** Built circa 1830, this part stone, part frame house was bought by Gustavus Adolphus Parsons, a native of Charlottesville, Virginia in 1847. Parsons served as a secretary to former President Thomas Jefferson, who encouraged Parsons to visit the city named for him. This house appears in the Bird’s Eye View of Jefferson City, 1869, but without the 2-story porch. (NR)(LL)

**Housing Unit #4 or A Hall, MSP,** 1868. Oldest structure remaining on penitentiary site. (LL)

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Designations are shown as:
- State Historic Site (SHS)
- Listed on National Register (NR)
- Local Landmark (LL)
- Grant Funded Survey (S)
Sugarbaker House, 503 E. High St. Built around 1860, along with two remaining outbuildings. Significant for both its antebellum architecture and for its use as a cutting edge cancer clinic by Dr. Everett Sugarbaker. (S)

716 E. High St., 1868. Early Missouri-German building. (S)

720 E. High St., 1868. Early Missouri-German building. (LL) (S)

827 E. High St., 1860. Gothic Revival style influenced brick house, with later period porch. (S)

909 E. High St., former C&H Tavern. Built around 1856 by E.L. Edwards, brother to Governor John C. Edwards. E.L. Edwards’ home was located at the corner of Cherry and E. High Streets (now Sipi’s). (S)

1122 Moreau Drive, 1847. Known as Vineyard Place, it was built by Governor John C. Edwards. (NR)

1302 Moreau Drive, 1870. Brick 2½-story house at the corner of Moreau and Leslie, built as part of the Leslie Dairy Farm. (NR)

Kelly-Bolton Home, 1916 Green Berry Road, 1831-1835. Local legend holds that Gen. Sterling Price may have spent the night at the home Oct. 6, 1864. Price’s 20,000 troops had burned the Pacific Railroad bridge over the Osage River and fired several buildings in Osage City before crossing the Missouri River by the house at the end of that day. (LL)

There are several downtown buildings that are listed on the National Register with pre-Civil War construction dates. This was a very early nomination with few footnotes for verification, and some of these buildings have been significantly altered. On the corner of Madison and High is the Hope Building, 201-203 E. High, the most notable pre-Civil War downtown building (LL). Adjacent to Cottonstone Gallery is 114 E. High, dated 1851-1857. Also listed are 129 E. High (1850), 120 E. High (1867), 122 E. High (1868)(LL), 105 E. High (1860), 115-117 Madison (1850s) and 333 Madison (1860s). (NR)(S)

Upschulte House, circa 1865, originally located in the 300 block of West High Street. It is an excellent example of traditional German architecture. In 1980 the Upschulte House was moved to its current location behind the Cole County Historical Society. (NR)

Dr. Joseph P. and Effie Porth House, 631 W. Main St. Originally a 1-story stone house with a walk-out basement opening onto W. Main built circa 1830, this house was altered in 1885-1888 by addition of an upper floor under a Second Empire style mansard roof. (NR)(LL)

Richmond Hill Grocery, 630 W. Main. Appears to be of the period. (LL)

Byrd-Haar House. This 1859 house was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, with photos available on the Library of Congress website (www.loc.gov) Originally at 614 W. Main St., the house was moved in the 1970s to make way for the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center at 600 W. Main St. Now home to Polished, located behind Paddy Malone’s. (NR)(LL)

Cliff Manor, 1866. Now a bed and breakfast inn (Victoria’s Place by the River) located at 722 Cliff St., along the river bluff. Cliff Manor was built by federal judge Arnold Krekel, who was appointed to the bench by President Abraham Lincoln. Krekel was a strident abolitionist and one of the first presidents of Lincoln University. (LL)

Conservation Federation, 728 W. Main St. Family records indicate that Bernard Eveler built this house in 1860. Eveler built several homes in the immediate area, but this is the only one constructed of stone, so it may have been built between 1836 – 1854 by the previous owner John Chappell. The Conservation Federation of Missouri bought the house from the Eveler family and uses it as their headquarters. (LL)

200 Block of Clay St. There are two houses that may date to before the Civil War.

Dulle Home
800 St. Mary’s Blvd., 1858. When Union troops occupied Jefferson City, Gen. John C. Fremont used the house as his headquarters and set up Camp Lilly on the hillside in front of the home. Built by G.H. Dulle, who owned a mill in the nearby Millbottom area, the house now shelters the fifth generation of his family. (LL)
513 Broadway, 1865. Gothic influenced brick house above a tall stone retaining wall. Stone addition to the north side may have been built with stone from the State Capitol after it burned in 1911. One of the earliest houses built in Munichberg. (S)

Outbuilding – 610 Broadway, 1860. This brick outbuilding is depicted in the Bird’s Eye View of 1869. The house in front, facing Broadway, is much newer. (NR)

816 and 817 Mulberry St. These two houses are Missouri-German style in design and detail, and could have been built prior to the Civil War.

306 Cedar Way, Missouri-German cottage in alley behind Kas A Design.

Phillip Hess House, 714 Washington St., circa late 1850s. Philip Hess, a butcher and meat processor, had a meat wagon which he used to sell his goods locally. He also operated a grocery store in this house, with living quarters above. (Presumably the basement entrance on the north side was used for that purpose.) (NR)(LL)

Wendeln and Margaret Bodenschatz Buehrle House, 707 Washington St. 1864. This tiny Missouri-German brick house is one of a very few that remain in Jefferson City, as most were considered too small for modern use. Remodeled and expanded for commercial use in recent years. (LL)(S)

400 E. Ashley, 1860. A wonderfully intact Missouri-German vernacular house.

Nelson and Gertrude Burch House, 115 W. Atchison St., 1868. One of the oldest houses in Munichberg. Nelson and his brother Oscar Burch bought 5 acres at the corner of Jefferson and W. Atchison Streets in 1867, and built a house facing each street. The brothers had many business interests in Jefferson City. It is unknown why Nelson, his family and several of Oscar’s children relocated to California in 1888. (NR)(LL)

1100 block of W. Miller St. Near Stockman Feed, there are two Missouri-German style houses, one brick and one possibly frame, that may date to before the Civil War.

John & Elizabeth Wallendorf House, circa 1830, by Missouri Farm Bureau. One of very few log houses remaining in Jefferson City, this house was dismantled, moved and reassembled in its original form by Missouri Farm Bureau in 2010 next to their headquarters. Confederate General Sterling Price stayed at the house, with his troops camped nearby, when he chose not to attack Jefferson City. Family legend states that the general paid the family $27 in Confederate currency for his room and board. (NR)(LL)

Other buildings from this era may remain, but most have been altered. One example is Paddy Malone’s, located at 700-702 W. Main St., originally a 2-story brick 1863 building that shared a wall with a ½-story adjacent frame building. Between 1892 – 1898 it was expanded into a 3-story Second Empire style building, then storefront windows were added in the early 1900s. (NR)

Two similar style houses at 211 Lafayette St. and 801 Washington St. have not been surveyed, but may be early Missouri-German style houses on a tall foundation, disguised as Bungalow style houses due to a later period porch and roof. Stories of a log house remaining on an alley in Old Munichberg are unconfirmed at this time. Other alley houses in the area may date from this period as well. The Missouri-German vernacular house at 320 Cherry St. is listed as built circa 1870, but could be older, and has two layers of siding over the brick. (S)

If you think you’ve identified a pre-Civil War era building that is not listed in this article, please let us know!  – Jane Beetem