

FLORISSANT WALK THROUGH HISTORY

January 16, 2020

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne
b. 8-29-1769 d. 11-18-1852

To the Native Americans, she was the Woman Who Always Prays. Born in France, she came to Florissant in 1819. Her convent home still stands and with Old St. Ferdinand's Shrine is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She opened the first school in Florissant for the village children and a boarding school for the daughters of wealthy St. Louis families. In her time, she was described as the foremost educator in the State of Missouri. She was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church in 1988.

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Francois Dunegant dit Boroister
b. Canada 1752 - d. Florissant September 43, 1825
Commissioned by the Spanish Governor as the Military and Civil Commandant of the Village of St. Ferdinand de Florissant throughout the Spanish regime, often described as a man of honesty and integrity who shaped and guided the little settlement of Florissant in its earliest days.

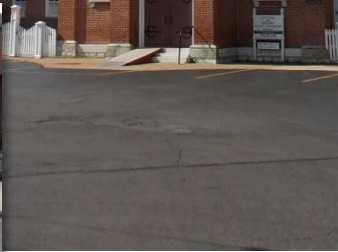


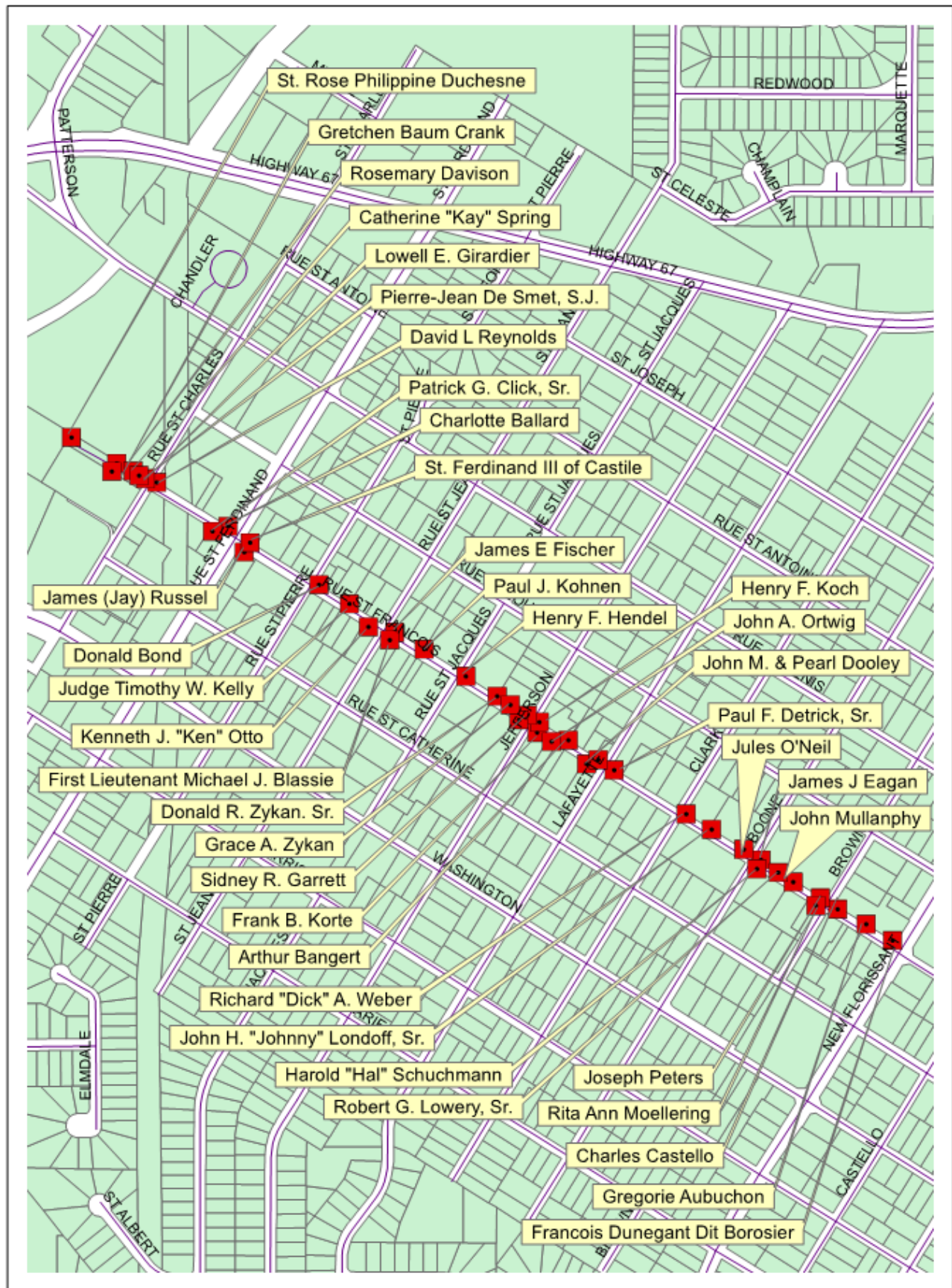


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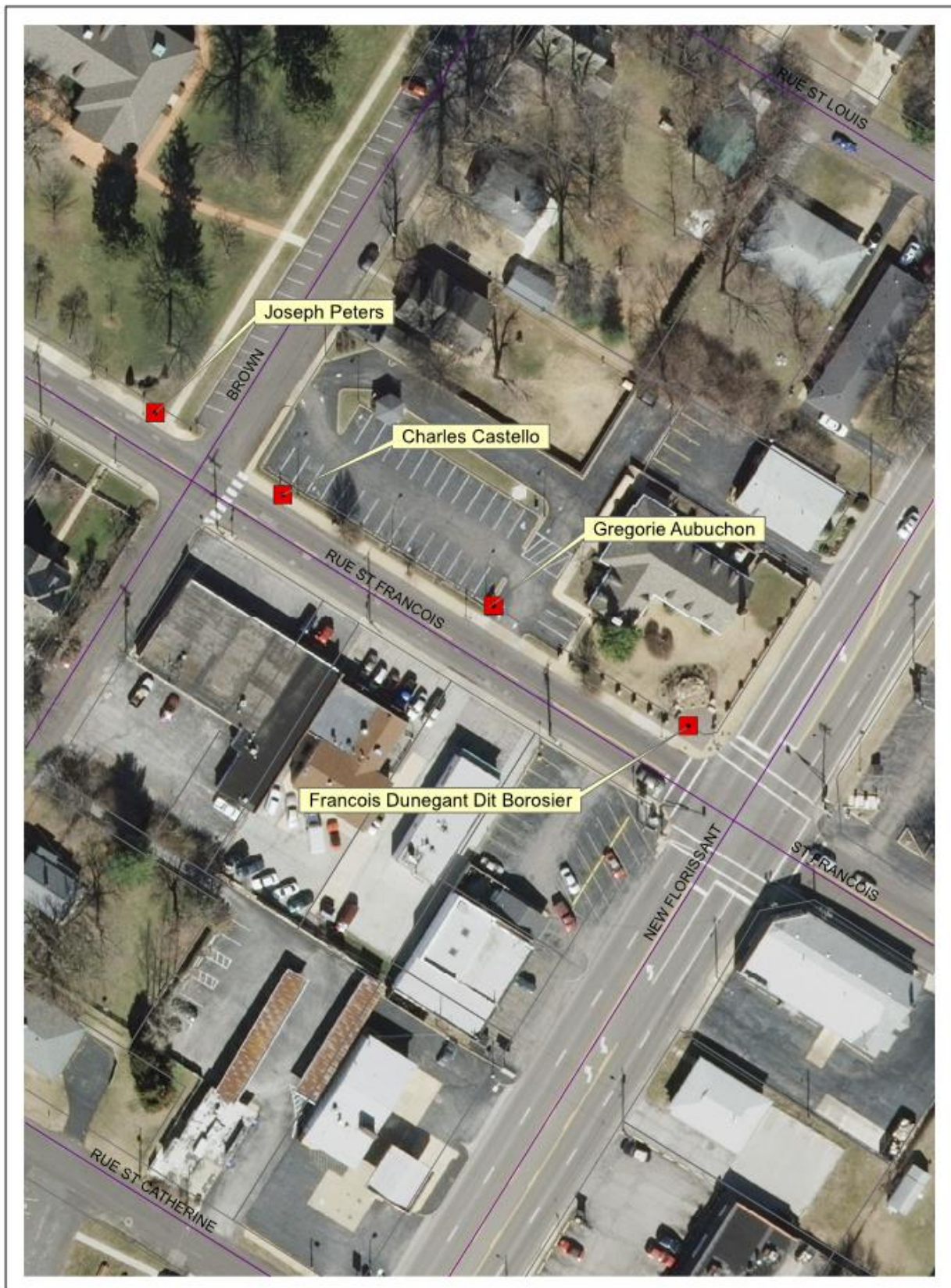
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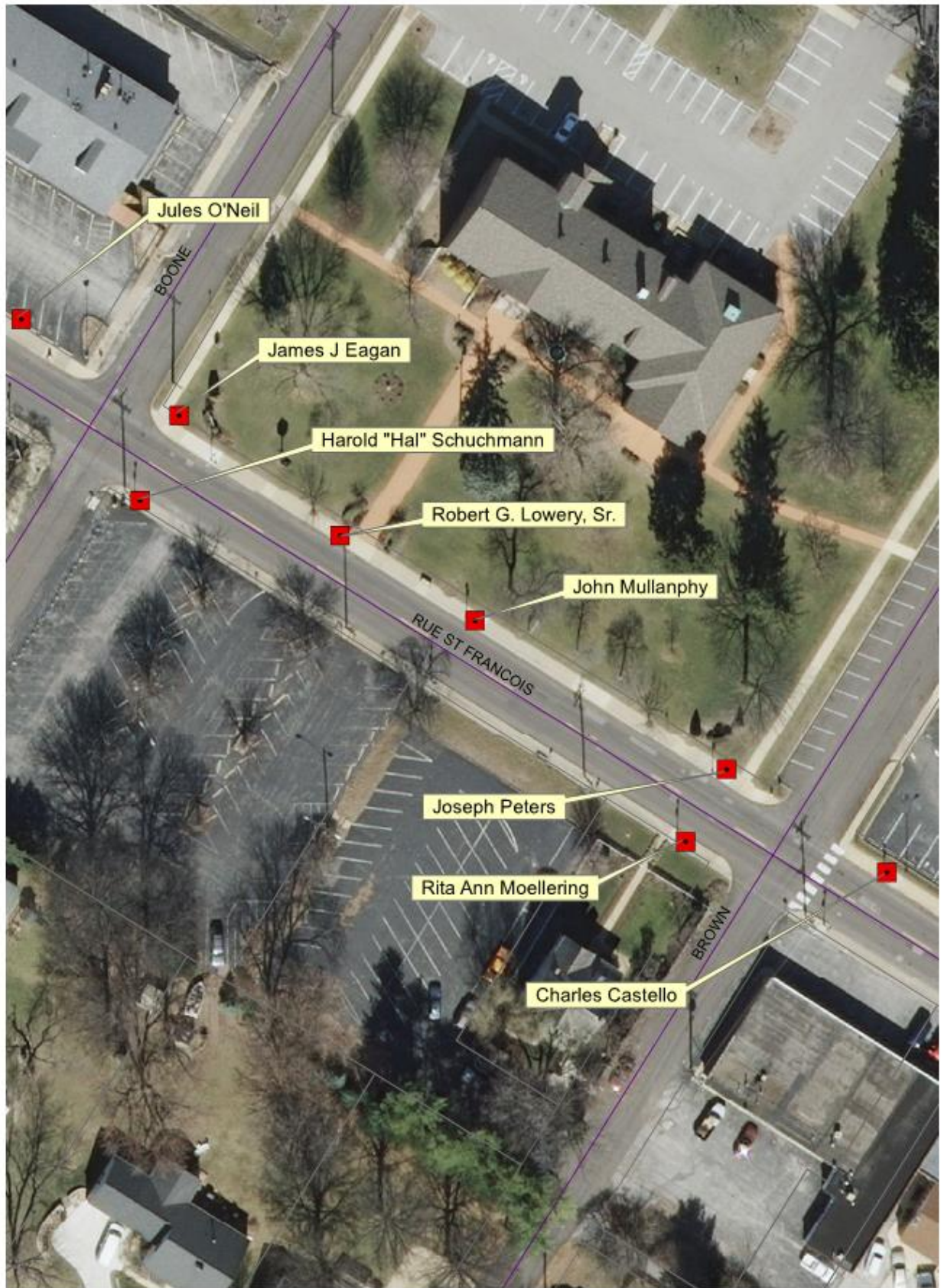
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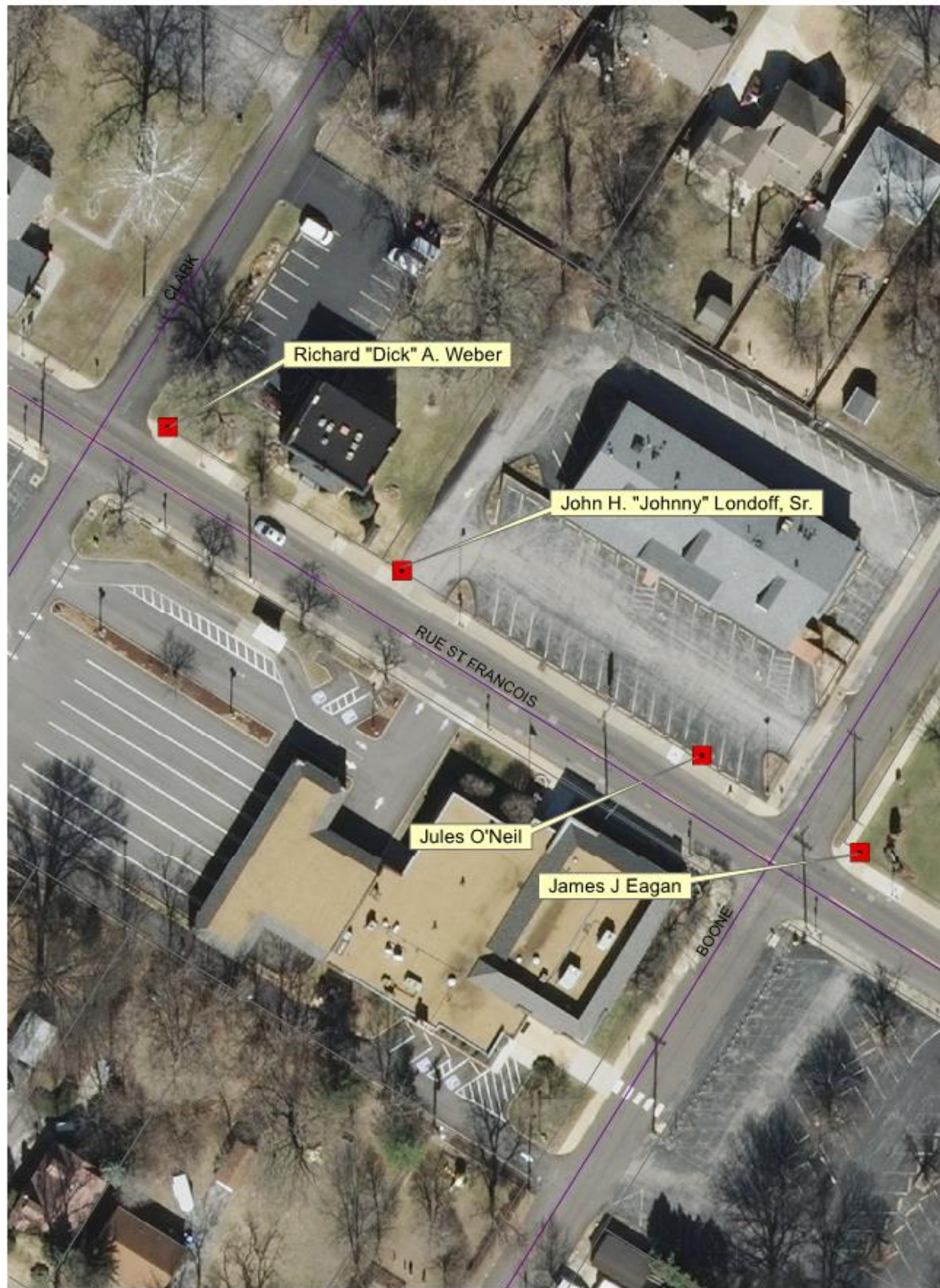
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WALK THROUGH HISTORY PLAQUE MAP



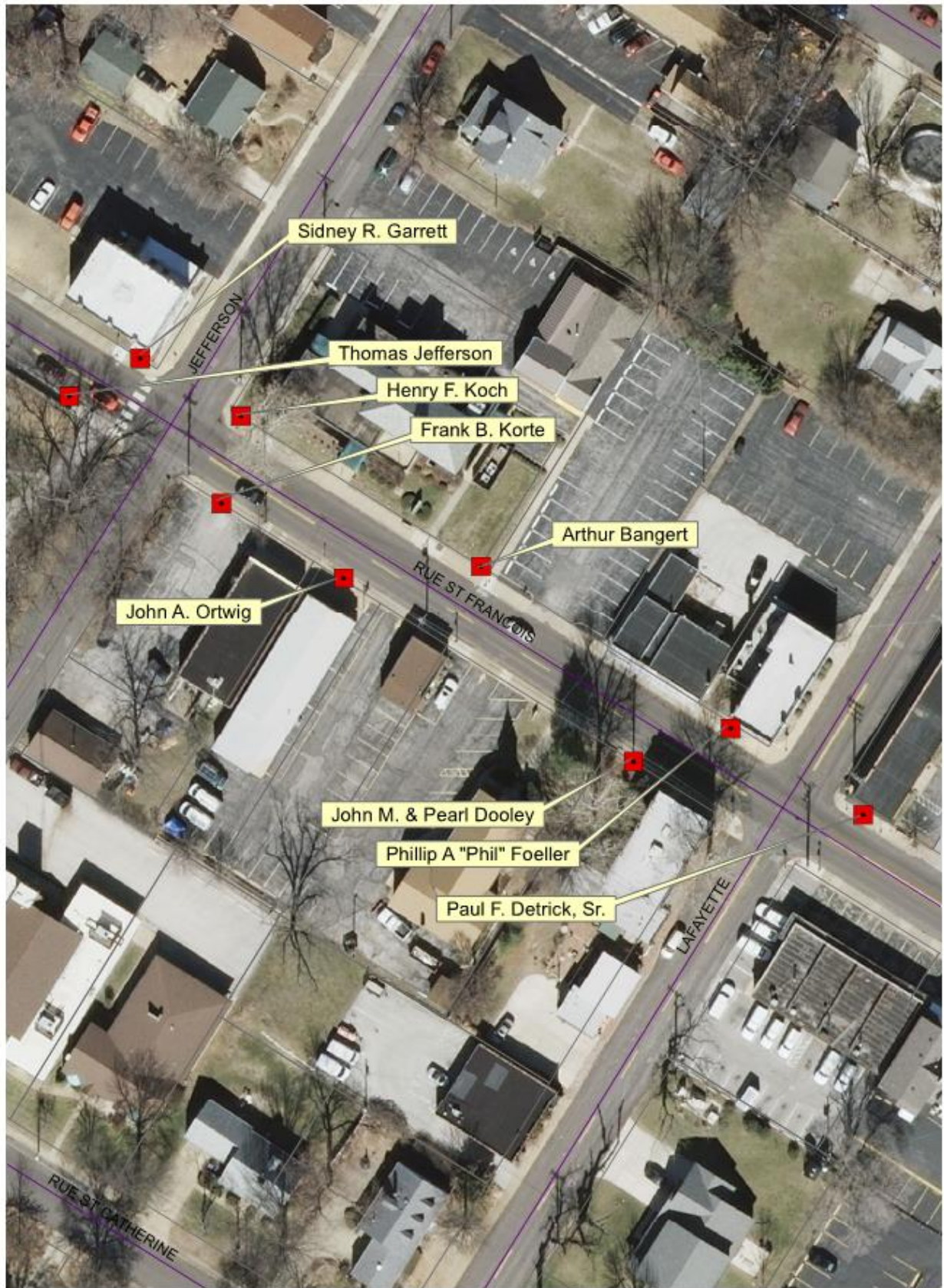
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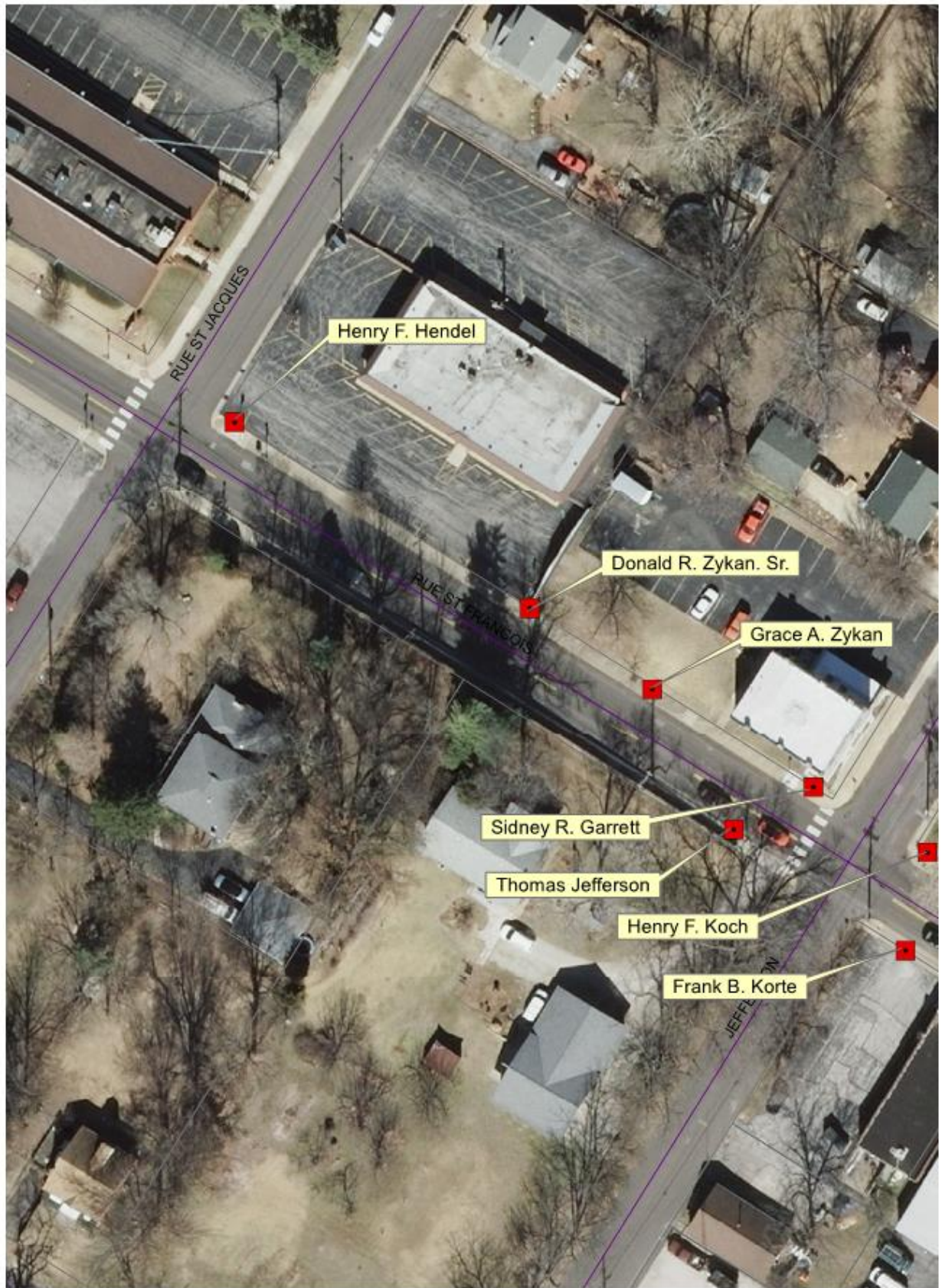
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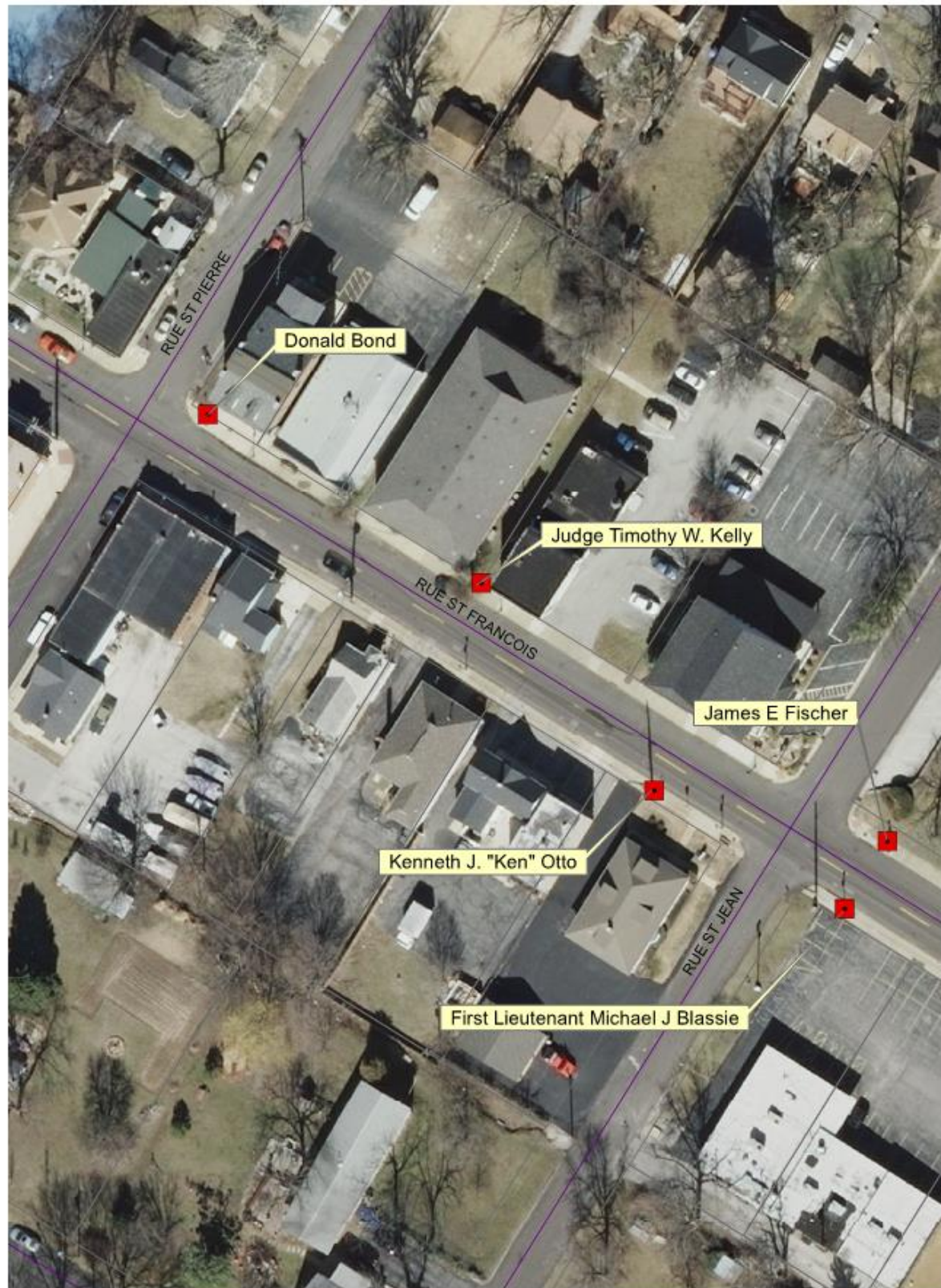
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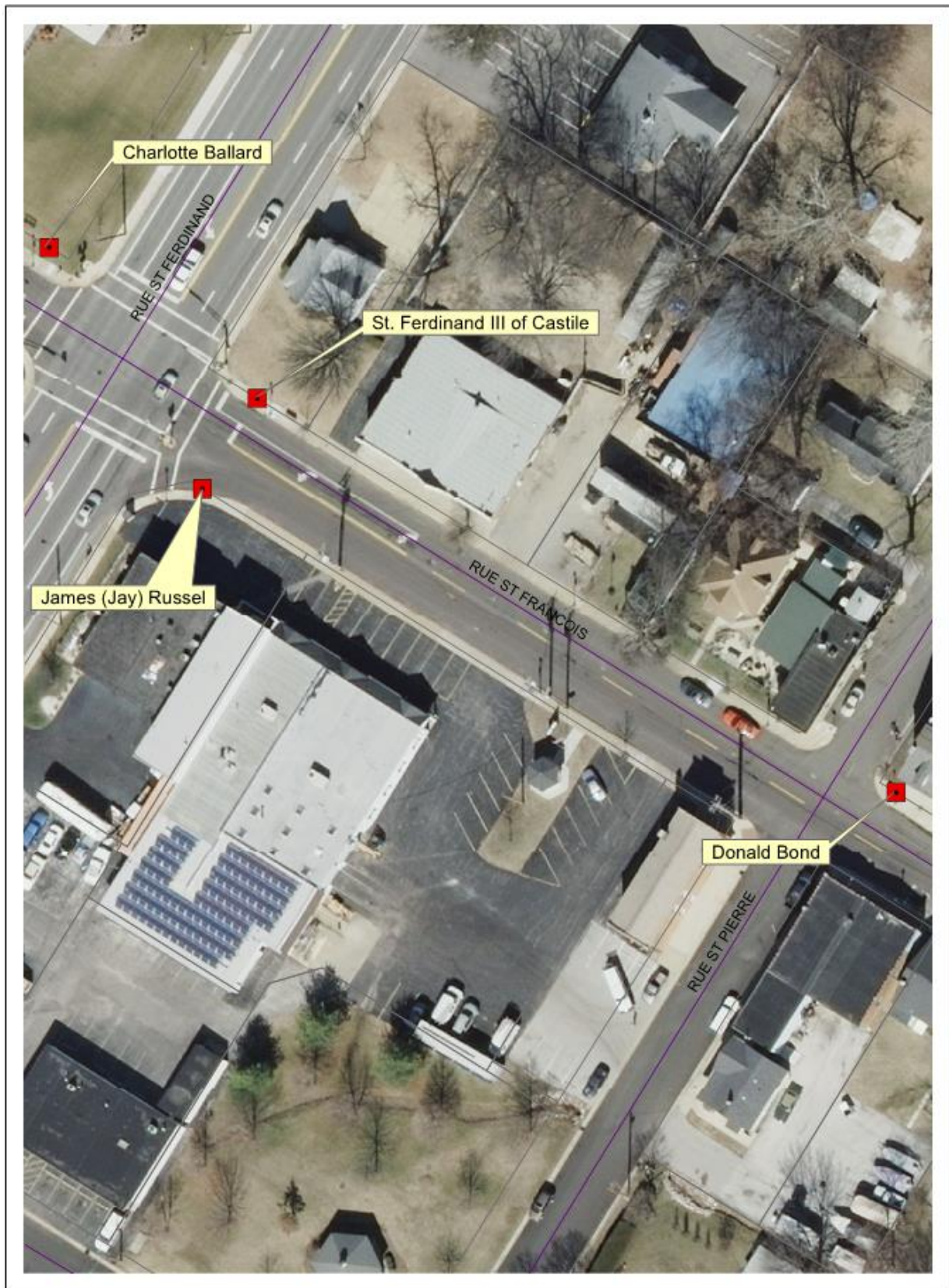
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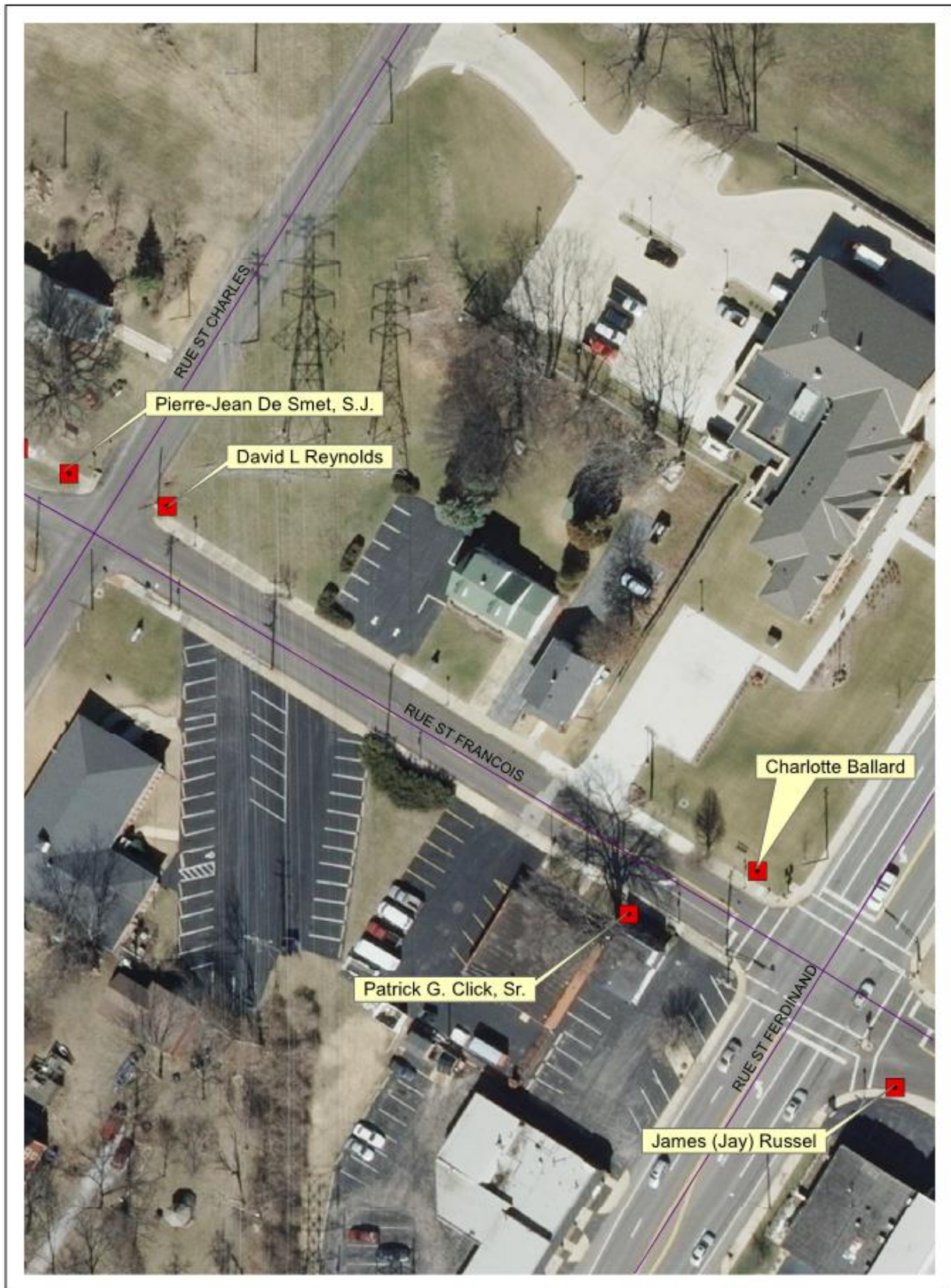
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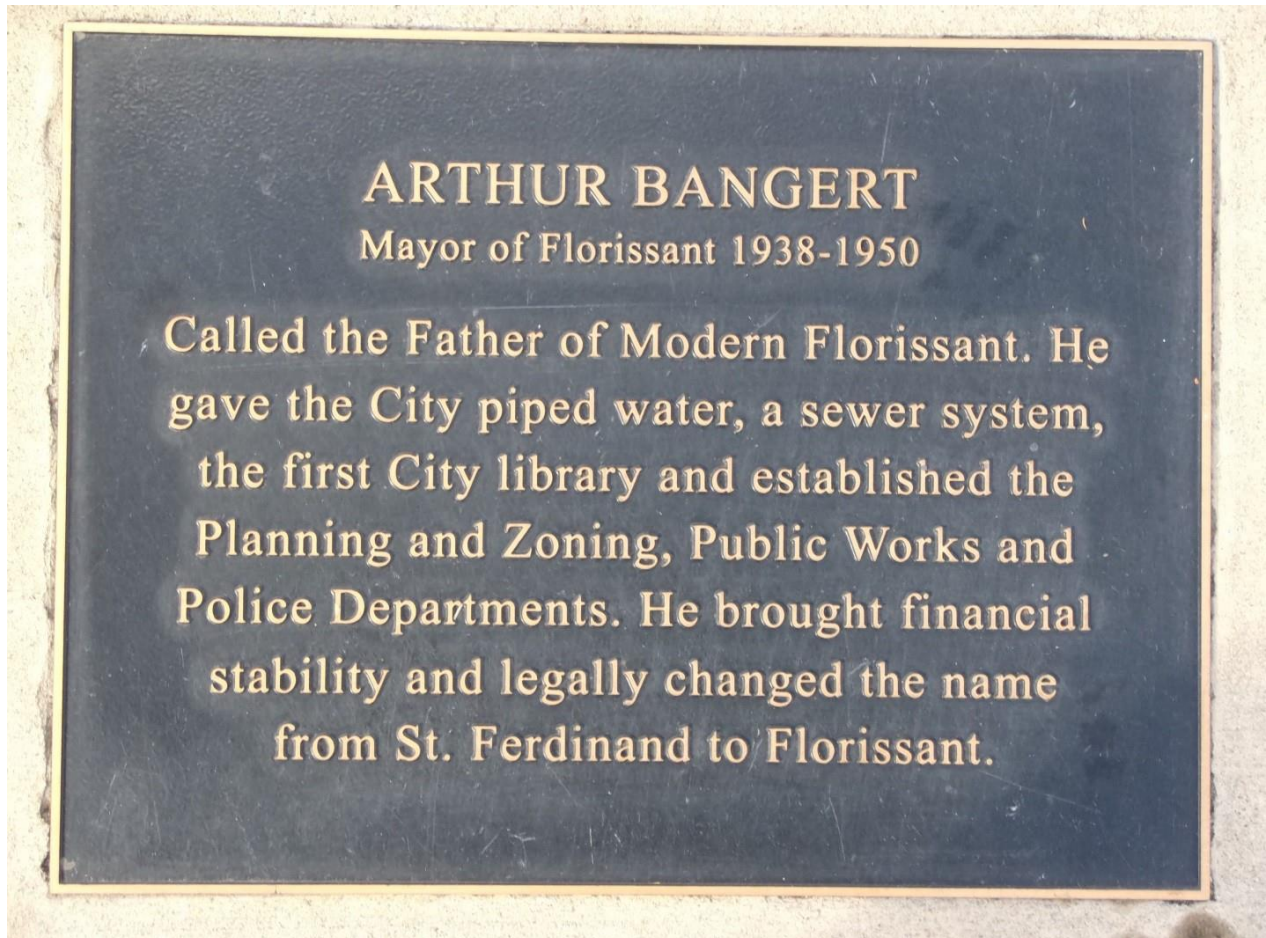


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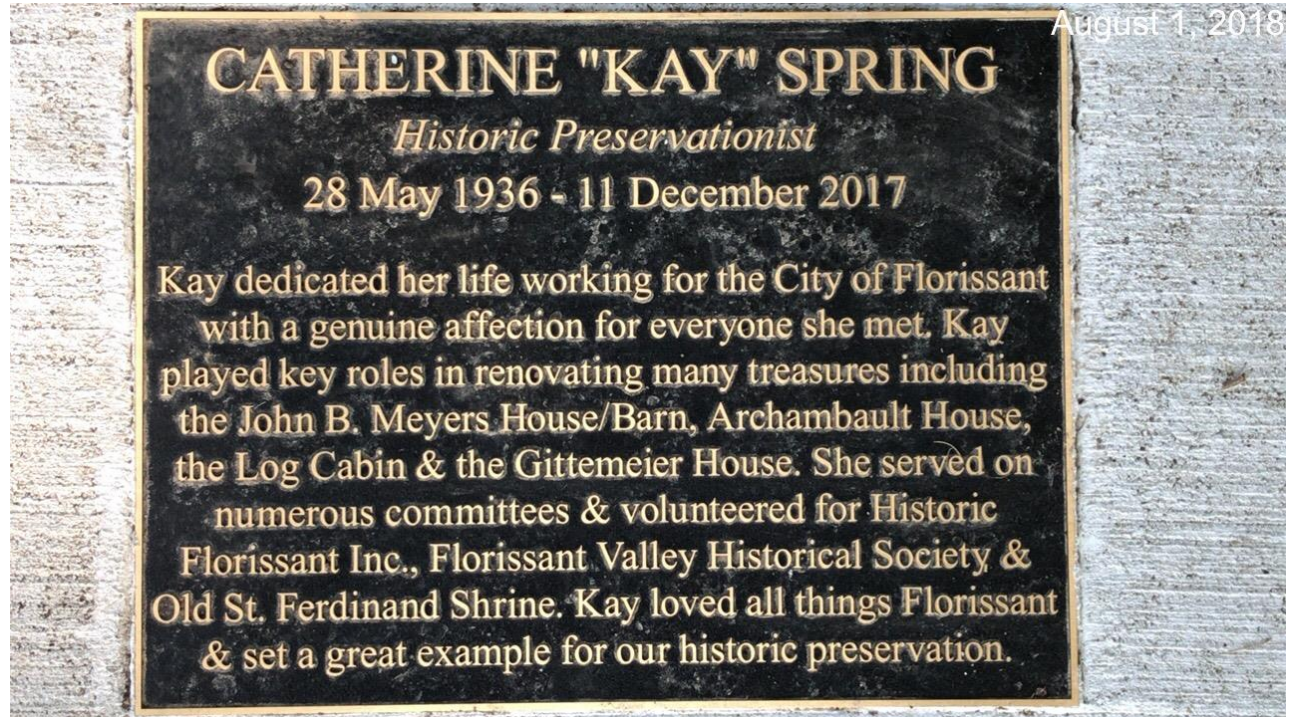


ARTHUR BANGERT





CATHERINE "KAY" SPRING





CHARLES CASTELLO

CHARLES CASTELLO

22 May 1839 - 11 December 1893

Elected twenty-seven times to the office of Mayor
he served from 1865 to 1890 and
then again from 1892 to 1893, dying in office.

He helped to bring the West End
Narrow Gauge Railroad to Florissant
and under his leadership Florissant offered land and
\$10,000 if it were made the county seat.

While Charles remained in Florissant
his father who is believed to have been the first
Republican Sheriff of St. Louis County
traveled to Colorado, settling there and giving the
name of his hometown to Florissant, Colorado.

Charles was Chairman of the St. Louis County
Democratic Committee from 1888 to 1892 and
a street in Florissant has been named for him.



CHARLOTTE BALLARD

CHARLOTTE BALLARD

19 November 1909 - 13 August 1999

Sole owner of Ballard Plumbing after her husband Lawrence died. First woman in MO to hold a Master Plumber license. Charter member Florissant Valley Historical Society and Florissant Old Town Partners. President Florissant Valley Sheltered Workshop. Founding Member Friends of Old St. Ferdinand, Soroptimist Member and TEAM volunteer. No matter how busy, she always made time to help others and did these kindnesses quietly, touching many lives. Her example of community service will always inspire us.



DAVID L. REYNOLDS

DAVID L. REYNOLDS

7 November 1936 - 9 January 2003

A United States Navy veteran, Dave served on the Florissant City Council from 1976 - 1994 and was Council President in 1979.

He served as President of the St. Louis County Municipal League in 1988 and was elected to four terms as a

Missouri State Representative, 1959 - 2003.

Former owner/editor of the Florissant Valley Reporter and member of many community organizations including Rotary, Knights of Columbus and Chamber of Commerce.



DONALD L. BOND

DONALD L. BOND

"Mr. North County"

17 June 1931 - 21 April 1990

Florissant Councilman 1959 - 1977

St. Louis County Councilman 1977 - 1990

Don earned a reputation for fighting for his constituents, and for a high quality of life in Florissant and North County. Always easily accessible, he hosted annual picnics that are legendary. First and foremost a family man, he and Loraine raised four children. Son Ken and daughter Jackie also served on the Florissant City Council. Don was also a successful businessman with an insurance office on St. Francois Street.



DONALD R. ZYKAN, SR.

DONALD R. ZYKAN, SR.

25 September 1932 - 1 March 1999

"If Nobody Can - Zykan"

Don Zykan, Sr. co-owned Zykan Bros. Solid Waste with his brothers Ed and Joe. Their Florissant based business was founded in 1932 by their father John M. Zykan. In 1951 Don married Florissant native Grace Ebbesmeyer and they raised 5 children and served their community on the boards of many civic organizations with a passion for philanthropy. His priorities were Family, Friends and Community Service with a mission to always give back and help others.



FIRST LIEUTENANT MICHAEL J. BLASSIE

FIRST LIEUTENANT MICHAEL J. BLASSIE

Vietnam Era Unknown Soldier

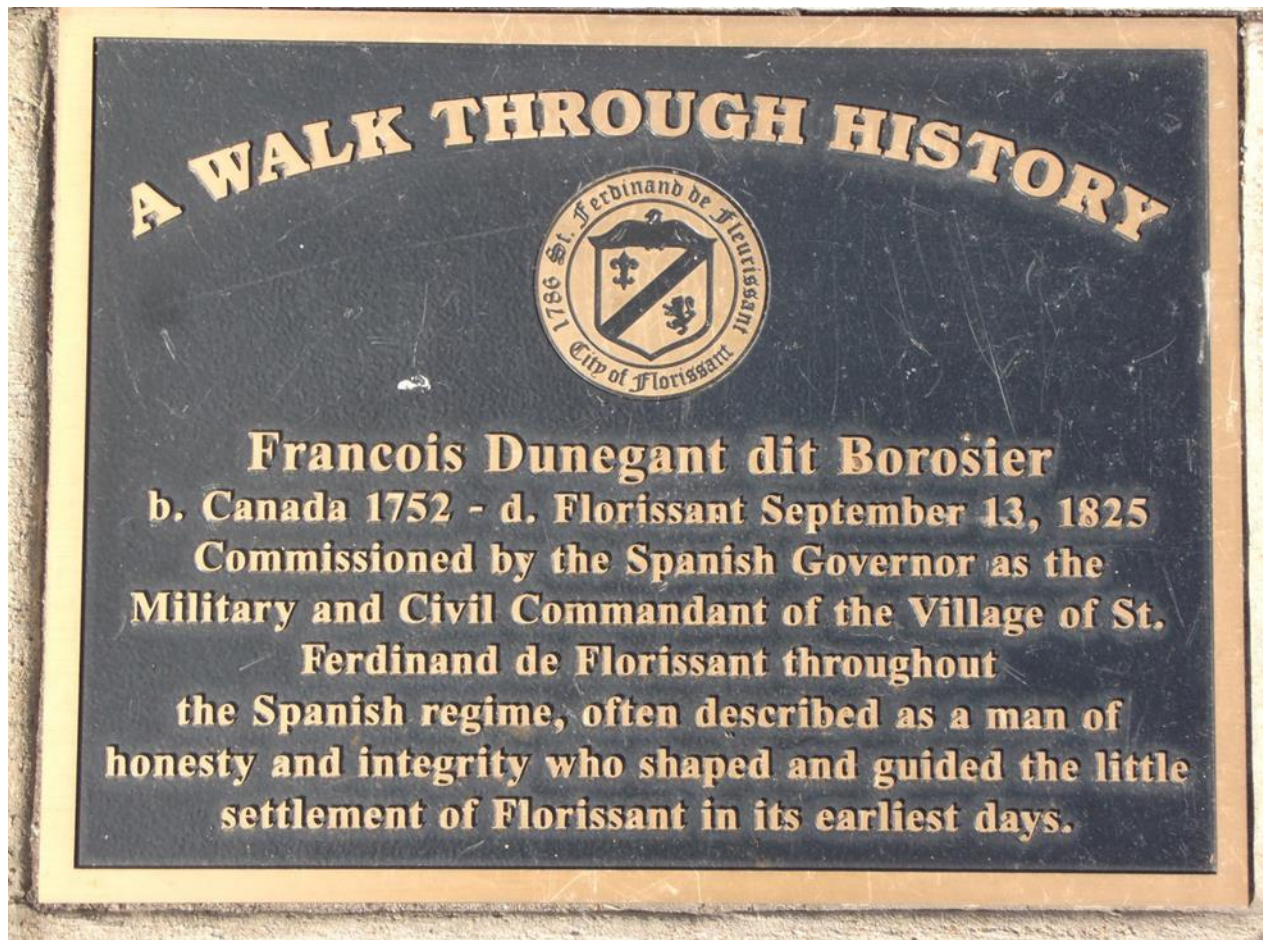
4 April 1948 - 11 May 1972

Florissant patriot graduated Air Force Academy, fighter pilot 8th Special Ops Squadron Vietnam. Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal. May 11, 1972 his A-37 Dragonfly was shot down during his 138th combat mission. His remains, classified "unknown but to God", randomly chosen Vietnam Unknown Soldier at Arlington with full military honors, Medal of Honor by President Reagan. Advances in DNA identified remains in 1998 & he returned home to Florissant for funeral at St. Dismas, internment at Jefferson Barracks.

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FRANCOIS DUNEGANT DIT BOROSIER





FRANK B. KORTE & JOSEPHINE "JO" KORTE

FRANK B. KORTE

8 Sept. 1916 - 05 Nov. 2002

JOSEPHINE "JO" KORTE

23 Jan. 1920 - 12 April 2015

Frank and Jo married in 1943 and opened Korte Hardware, 610 St. Francois, in 1946. Devoted to family and faith they put a priority on community service with leadership roles in Fire Department, Hospital, Chamber, Valley of Flowers, Historical Preservation, St. Ferdinand Shrine, Knights, Rotary, Marygrove and others receiving prestigious recognition. Married over 50 years raising 11 children, their successful hard work and commitment is an example of dedication to inspire future generations of Florissant Families.



GRACE A. ZYKAN

GRACE A. ZYKAN

22 June 1932 - 4 May 2017

"Amazing Grace"

Grace Ebbesmeyer, the second youngest of 9. Married Don Zykan, Sr. in 1951 & mother of 5. Officer & Owner Zykan Bros. Family Business. Chamber Outstanding Person of the Year 2006, Past President OTP & STL Soroptomist Club. Receiver of Christian Hospital Paul Detrick Award. Also member of TEAM, Chamber, Marygrove & Valley Industries. Amazing Grace loved her huge family & countless number of friends. Grace touched the lives of many & was an inspiration to all.



GREGORIE AUBUCHON

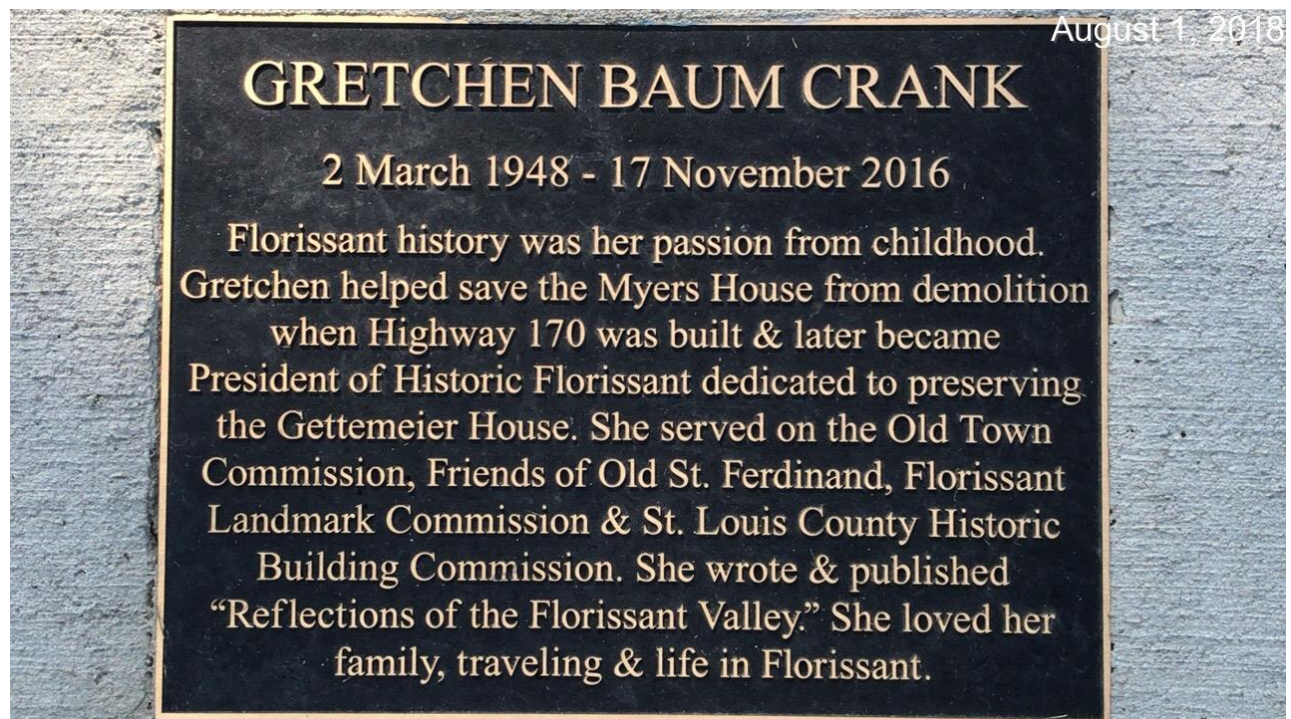
GREGORIE AUBUCHON FLORISSANT'S FIRST MAYOR

He was a descendant of Joseph Aubuchon
who was in Florissant as early as 1799.

In 1857 when the
Missouri State Legislature changed
Florissant's form of government
from trusteeship to mayor-council
he became the first mayor
under the Special Charter.

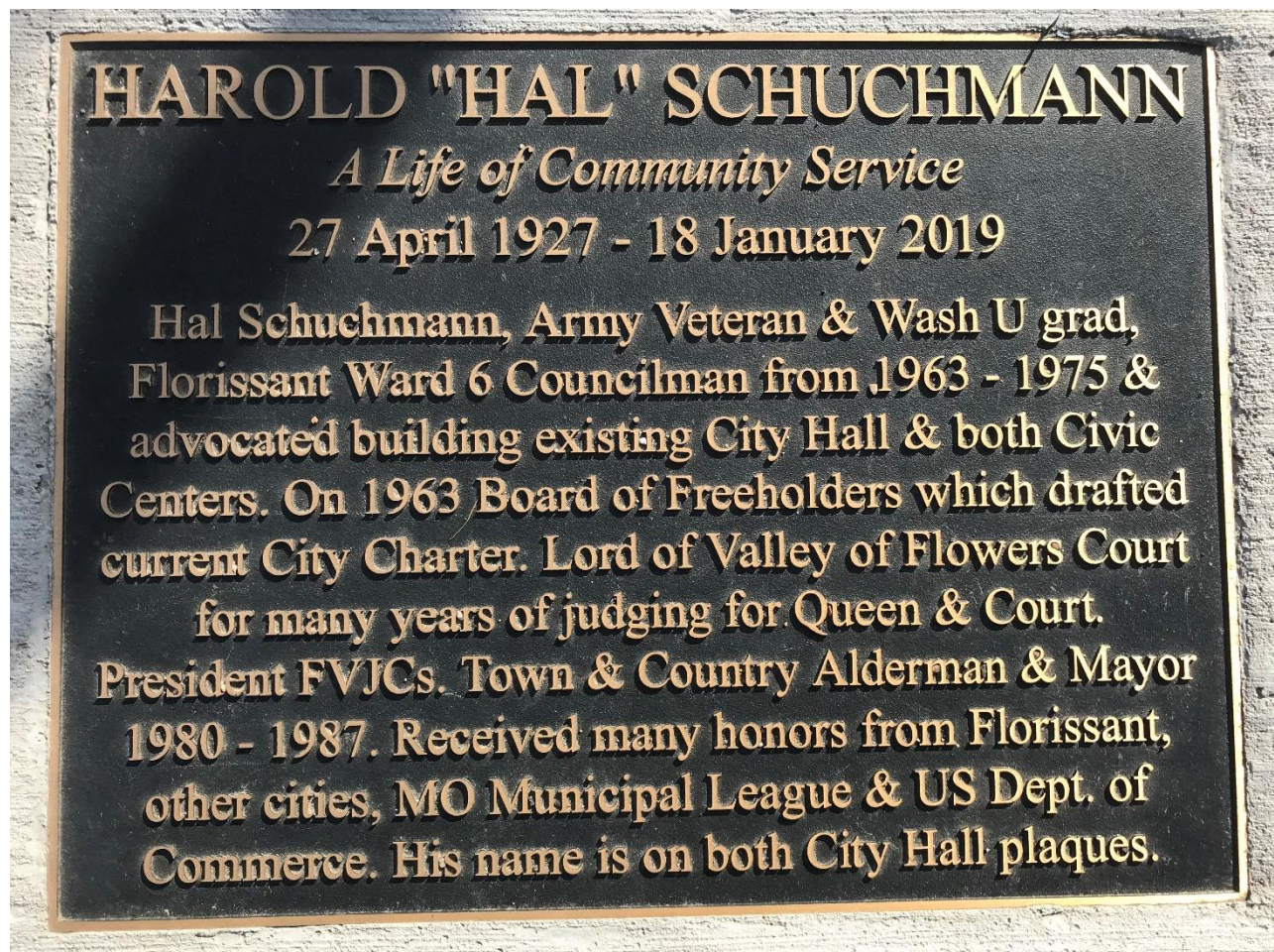


GRETCHEN BAUM CRANK





HAROLD "HAL" SCHUCHMANN





HENRY F. HENDEL

HENRY F. HENDEL

11 October 1917 - 1 August 2011

A life-long resident of Florissant and World War II Army Veteran. He was an active member of American Legion Post 444 and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Henry operated Hendel's Market for forty-seven years as a popular neighborhood grocery store. He loved Florissant and was an Ambassador for the City. The Legacy of Hendel's Market continues.



HENRY F. KOCH

HENRY F. KOCH

Born September 2, 1921 Died May 21, 1988

He was Florissant's first full-time salaried City Clerk, serving from 1950 to 1960. In that ten year period, the population of Florissant increased 921%. In 1960, he was elected as the first full-time Mayor and the last Mayor under the 1857 Charter. He spent 10 years with the St. Louis Cardinals as a pitcher.



JAMES (JAY) RUSSELL

JAMES (JAY) RUSSELL

Born on November 4, 1928 in St. Louis.
Statesman and Florissant businessman. Jay was
Missouri State Legislator from 1962 -1990
Lewis & Clark Democratic Committeeman 1970 -
2008 House of Representatives - Chairman -
Appropriations - member of numerous
committees. He appropriated funds with MSD
to contain many creeks eroding resident and city
properties. He authored the bill creating The School
of Optometry at University of Missouri - St. Louis.
Jay sponsored the law for sports medicine.
Established BJ's Bar and Restaurant in 1955.
MO State Committeeman - 4th Degree Knight of
Columbus. Veteran of Mar 27, 2017, 10:59 AM



JAMES E. FISCHER

JAMES E. FISCHER

29 March 1924 - 1 August 2012

Co-Owned Fischer's Department Store with his brother Al, the oldest business in Florissant still in operation. Served as a Flight Engineer on a B17 Crew during World War II. Charter Member and past President of Florissant Rotary Club and Rotary District Governor. He was active on many Boards and had a strong passion for the Business Community in Florissant and the people that live here.



JAMES J. EAGAN

JAMES J. EAGAN

Born March 4, 1926 Died in office November 2, 2000

He was the first Mayor elected under the 1963 Charter. During his administration a new Community Center and Civic Center were built. He initiated the LSV program and free bus service for older residents.

Proud of his Irish ancestry, he was affectionately referred to as the "Jolly Green Giant". A lawyer and judge, he served as Mayor for thirty-seven years.



JOHN A. ORTWIG

JOHN A. ORTWIG

27 November 1940 - 30 July 2019

Chamber Member since 1987, Outstanding Business Person of the Year 2015. Owned Florissant Glass Co. since 1972 & Old Town Wedding Chapel since 1990. Elks Member since 1969, Trustee 18 years, Chairman of the Trustees, Dare supporter, organized Hoop Shoot, received Citizen of the Year two times & Elk of the Year in 2014. Sponsored baseball & softball teams for over 30 years. Member OTP, VP for four years, Fall Festival Committee Member. Family, Friends & Florissant was his life.



JOHN H. "JOHNNY" LONDOFF, SR.

JOHN H. "JOHNNY" LONDOFF, SR.

"Family Businessman, Veteran, Philanthropist & Celebrity"

24 August 1924 - 11 May 2010

In 1940, John Londoff, Sr. founded a Motor Co. with his dad Harry. Then joined the Marines in WWII. Famous jingle, Florissant building and lot and scholarships circa 1960. Variety Club Telethon Man of the Year, raised millions for children helped by celebrity friends. His newspaper column promoted citizenship, philanthropy & community. In 1999, John Londoff, Jr. became President of Johnny Londoff Chevrolet & with his sons continues his father's legacy of customer satisfaction & community service.



JOHN M. & PEARL DOOLEY

JOHN M. & PEARL DOOLEY

15 May 1927 - 5 March 1986 * 18 June 1924 - 13 May 2015

John & Pearl opened Dooley's Florist July, 1966 raising 6 children & 1 niece in the family business with all working at the store. Pearl ran the accredited florist shop while John, a WWII veteran was a proud member of the Pipefitters Local 562 & later opened Dooley Travel Svc. They both felt family, church & community were important & were active members in the Chamber, Rotary, Soroptimist, Lions, Historic Florissant & Old Town Partners.

Mar 27, 2017, 11:05 AM



JOHN MULLANPHY

JOHN MULLANPHY

Born 1758 In Enniskillen, Ireland
Died In St. Louis September 29, 1833

It has been said "One man's name towers above all others
as a giant among the great men of North County's past."

When Missouri became a State,
he offered to build the State House at his own expense if
Florissant were made the capital.

He founded the first hospital west of the Mississippi and paid
one-sixth of the cost of building St. Ferdinand's Church.

He acquired Taille de Noyer in 1804 and his
descendants lived there until 1961.



JOSEPH PETERS

JOSEPH PETERS

1832-1913

A founder of the first bank in Florissant
and of the Florissant Canning Factory,
he owned the
Joseph Peters Furniture Company in St. Louis.

He has been described as
“one of the industrial builders of St. Louis.”

His home stood on the grounds of the
1970 City Hall and he is responsible
for many of its beautiful trees.



JUDGE TIMOTHY W. KELLY, SR.

JUDGE TIMOTHY W. KELLY, SR.

Presided over Florissant Municipal Court
For thirty-two years (1979-2011)

5 OCTOBER 1947 - 4 JUNE 2011

Second son of Florissant Judge
John J. Kelly (1956-1958).

Tim grew up in Florissant attending Fatima and St. Thomas Aquinas. He presided over a firm but fair court and was elected eleven times. Tim Kelly inspired troubled young adults to strive to be good citizens and promoted leadership through athletics. Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Kelly served in the US Navy J.A.G. Corps Reserve.



JULES O'NEIL

JULES ONEIL

He served as Mayor from 1955 to 1959.

He was a staunch supporter of the 1821

St. Ferdinand Church recognizing its historical significance. Through his efforts and with community support, the building was saved. The preservation movement in Florissant began during his administration.



KENNETH J. "KEN" OTTO

KENNETH J. "KEN" OTTO

"Handyman Hardware Humanitarian"

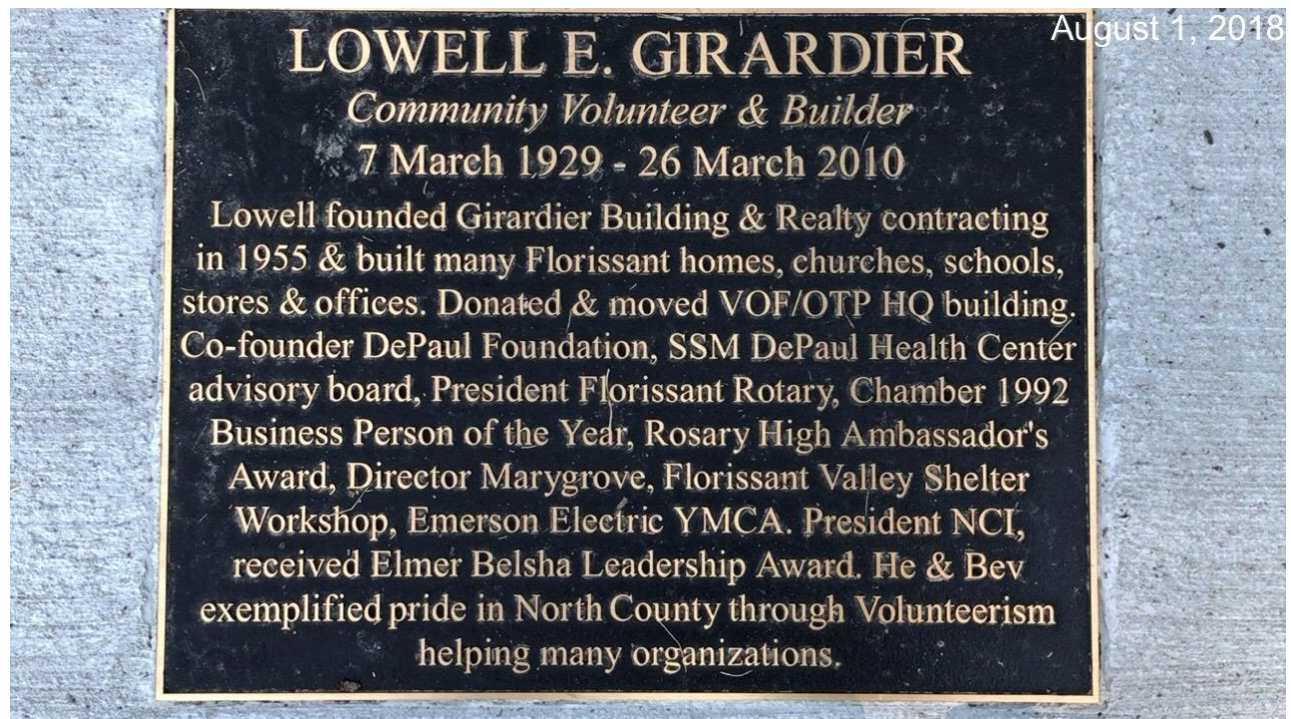
16 November 1927 - 6 January 2006

Ken had a lifetime of community service in two cities & St. Louis County. He served Pine Lawn as Mayor, Alderman & businessman. In Florissant he owned two popular hi touch Handyman Hardware stores with wife Kathleen & sons Dave & Glenn, was Marygrove Man of the Year & Business Person of the Year & was a leader in the Florissant Rotary efforts to help others. He served 20 years on the County Planning Commission.

ALICE 2016



LOWELLE E. GIRARDIER





PATRICK G. CLICK SR.

PATRICK G. CLICK, SR.

17 March 1940 - 18 October 2015

Pat co-owned Click Heating & Cooling with his wife Lora during 50 years of marriage. A mainstay on "Old Town" St. Francois for 41 years. Pat served 10 years in the U.S. Navy, & was at tip of spear during Cuban Missile Crisis. Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, Old Town Partners, Fine Arts Council & Valley of Flowers. Pat & Lora were honored as Business Couple of the year by GNC Chamber. Pat served his Church, supported Veterans & lived for his family.

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PAUL F. DETRICK SR.

PAUL F. DETRICK, SR.

Christian Hospital Founding Father

6 September 1923 - 31 August 1999

Paul Detrick named President of Christian Hospital 1960. Paul & Mary raised three children in North County, their home for life. His vision & leadership instrumental developing Florissant healthcare services opening Christian Hospital Northwest 1968 & Northeast Campus 1973. Worked with Florissant civic leaders & board member of community organizations including Boatmen's Bank. Committed to the prosperity & well being of Florissant area residents & businesses. He & family were proud to serve the community.

August 1, 2018



PAUL J KOHNEN

PAUL J. KOHNEN

17 April 1922 - 31 October 2009

Paul was a lifelong resident of Florissant. In 1945 he married Thelma Korte & raised 6 children. Sergeant Kohnen served with the US Army Air Corps in England during WWII. In 1955 he opened Bergjan's Dairy later renamed Kohnen's Dairy. Past President Florissant Rotary Club & Chamber of Commerce. Board member Florissant Bank, Citizens Bank, & Christian Hospital. Lifelong parishioner at Sacred Heart Church. Paul lived for his family & invested in his church & community.

Mar 27, 2017, 10:53 AM



PHILIP A "PHIL" FOELLER

PHILIP A. "PHIL" FOELLER

"Business Owner & Community Volunteer"

5 December 1929 - 25 November 2013

One of the original German families of Sacred Heart Church. A lifelong community oriented resident & businessman of Florissant. He & his wife Rose Marie raised five children in Old Town & founded Florissant Auto Radiator still at 865 N. Lafayette. U.S. Army Veteran, 1979 Chamber President, 1980 Sacred Heart Man of the Year, 4th Degree Knight of Columbus. He never met a stranger & was always willing to lend a helping hand to his Florissant friends.



PIERRE-JEAN DE SMET, S.J.

Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J.

b. 1-30-1801

d.5-23-1873

Born in Termonde, Belgium, he came to the United States in 1821 and entered the Jesuit novitiate at White Marsh, Maryland. In 1823, he was sent to establish a new Jesuit mission in Florissant where he was ordained on September 23, 1827. Called the Black Robe by the Indians, it is said he traveled more than 180,000 miles on foot, horseback and ship, crossing the ocean 18 times to bring Christianity to the Native Americans.



RITA ANN MOELLERING

RITA ANN MOELLERING

All American Girls Pro Baseball Player

12 February 1927 - 16 June 1992

Rita Meyer born in Old Town Florissant, oldest of seven children. Member of AAGPBL 1946 to 1949 for the Peoria Redwings, played shortstop & pitcher. RBI leader 1948. Nicknamed "Slats" after Cardinal shortstop Marty Marion. Married Robert Moellering 1949, lived in the Historic August Aubuchon house. Supporter of public school sports entire life. 1988 Rita & others from AAGPBL honored in Cooperstown. The Rita "Slats" Meyer Moellering Memorial Awards honors women in individual sports. Was depicted in the movie *League of Their Own*.



ROBERT G. LOWERY, SR.

ROBERT G. LOWERY, SR.

Police Chief 1979-2001, Mayor 2001-2011

29 December 1938 - 30 July 2018

Bob Lowery began his 50 year career of service to Florissant residents as a Patrolman in 1961 advancing to Chief in 1979 & excelling in that position until elected Mayor in 2001. He loved Carol & his family. He loved people & always placed a priority on their safety. Mayor Lowery delivered excellent municipal services, completed major renovations to recreations facilities, business development thrived & surrounding subdivisions were annexed increasing the size & prestige of Florissant.



RICHARD "DICK" A. WEBER

RICHARD "DICK" A. WEBER

23 December 1929 - 14 February 2005

Dick moved to Florissant in 1955 and opened Dick Weber Lanes in 1971. Founding member and longtime star of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) from 1950's to 1990's. He was a bowling legend and one of the sport's most popular figures. Dick promoted bowling around the world and was a frequent competitor on the ABC broadcasts of PBA events. Along with his son Pete Weber, he is a member of the US Bowling Congress Hall of Fame. He is in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame and on the St. Louis Walk of Fame.



ROSEMARY STRAUB DAVISON

ROSEMARY STRAUB DAVISON

7 August 1918 - 23 September 2014

"Preservationist & Historian"

Rosemary was committed to preserving historically significant homes and buildings that helped shape Florissant. She was on the Board of Freeholders that formed our current city charter, was City Clerk from 1963 - 1979 and was a founding member of the Missouri Heritage Trust, Florissant Valley Historical Society, Friends of Old St. Ferdinand, Heritage Foundation, and Historic Florissant, Inc. For years she was a columnist for the Florissant Valley Reporter and was the author of the book "Florissant, Missouri" published in 2002.



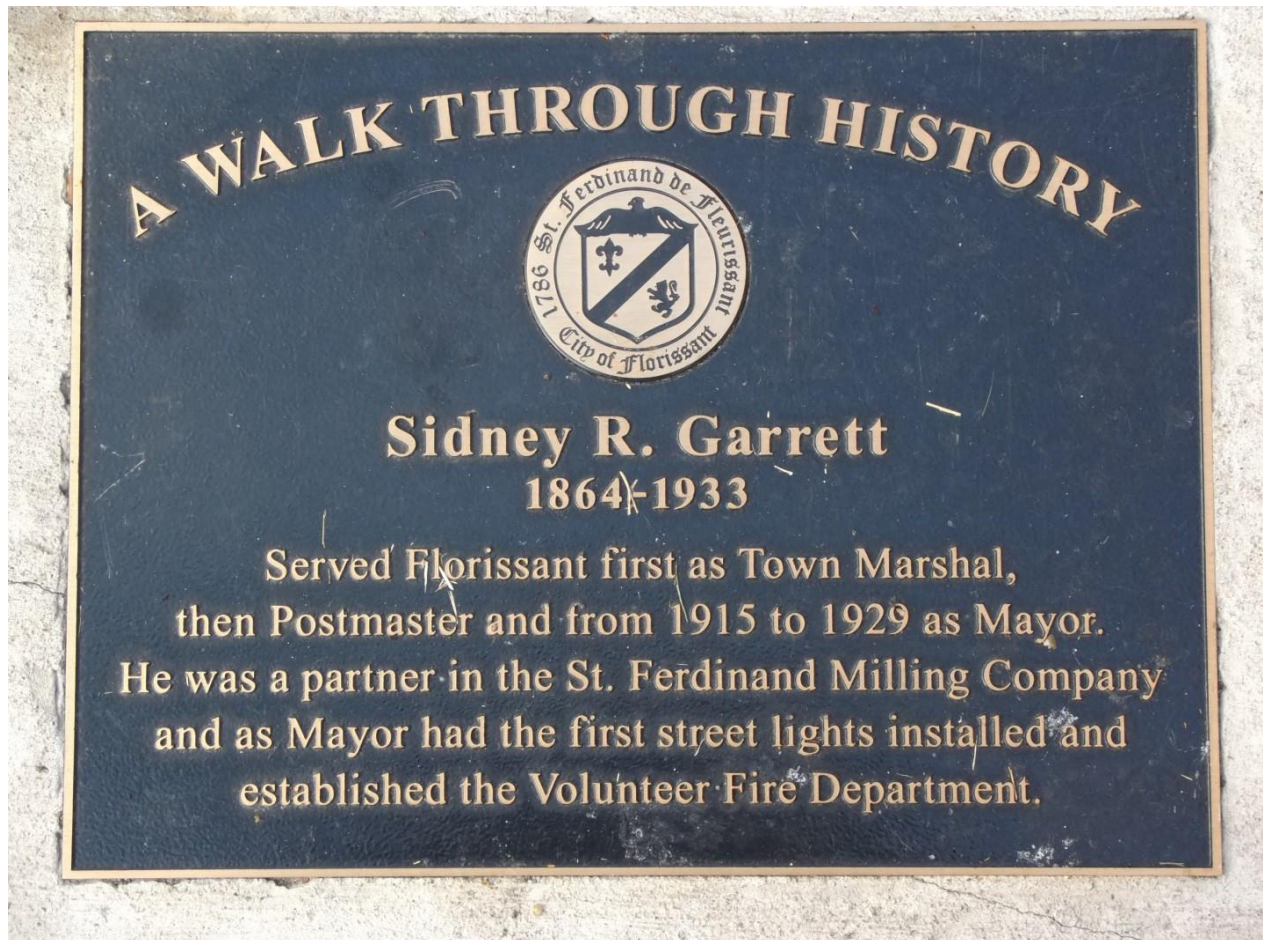
SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHENSE

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne
b. 8-29-1769 d. 11-18-1852

To the Native Americans, she was the Woman Who Always Prays. Born in France, she came to Florissant in 1819. Her convent home still stands and with Old St. Ferdinand's Shrine is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She opened the first school in Florissant for the village children and a boarding school for the daughters of wealthy St. Louis families. In her time, she was described as the foremost educator in the State of Missouri. She was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church in 1988.



SIDNEY R. GARRETT





ST. FERDINAND III OF CASTILLE

St. Ferdinand III of Castile
b. 1199 d.5-30-1252

King of Spain from 1217 to 1252, he was canonized by Pope Clement X in 1671. He was a capable and just administrator, spreading Christianity throughout his kingdom. He drove the Moors out of most of Spain, founded monasteries, established the University of Salamanca and endowed hospitals.



THOMAS JEFFERSON

THOMAS JEFFERSON

13 April 1743 - 4 July 1826 (50th annv. of 1776)

Third President of the United States from 1801 to 1809; a principal American founding father & author of the Declaration of Independence; Father of the 1804 Louisiana Purchase that doubled the Nation's size bringing St. Ferdinand De Fleurissant into the USA & enabling Missouri to become a State with a capital named in his honor; He used his intellect & eloquence to advance democracy, republicanism & science.