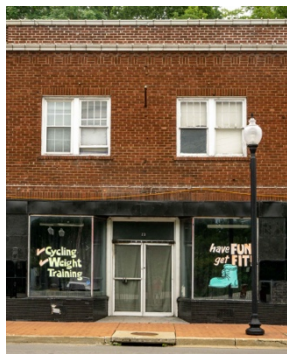


Ferguson Has A History Museum

Ferguson has a Historical Society and a History Museum. We encourage any people reading this article to join in the conversation. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.

Since 1894, Ferguson has primarily been a residential community – with a business district to serve the residents. Many of the residents were also businessmen or women – small business – “mom and pop” operations. In this article we will take a look at some of those businesses and the people who started and ran them. Most are no longer a business – many have not been one for quite a while – but, some have been replaced by a newer business. We are going to take a look at some of the historic buildings and discuss their earlier businesses. All of these buildings are along Florissant Road.

The most obvious of these buildings is the UMB Bank building. Originally it was the Bank of Ferguson and it began business in 1906. The vertical shaped building on the corner of Church and Florissant was constructed in 1925. The current photograph shows the original with the addition as the bank grew. The Bank of Ferguson, now the UMB Bank in Ferguson, has been doing business at that location for almost 100 years.



occupied by BKM Fitness Boot Camp.

Quillman’s Drug Store was the other well-known pharmacy. Quillman opened his drug store around the early 1930’s. It was a great location as the area to the north was the bus terminal with plenty of customers departing right next door. Parking was available behind the store. The store operated well into the 1970’s. As a kid, the greatest feature of Quillmans was the soda fountain and to the left of that was a giant rack of comics – Quillman was generous in allowing kids to peruse as long as they eventually bought. The building was later occupied by the Chinese Gourmet (now out of business). The building is now vacant.



Ferguson Bank building is an iconic building in Ferguson, however, just across Church Street is another iconic Ferguson building – The Bindbeutel building. Bindbeutel is a well-known name

in Ferguson history being one of the founders of the Bank of Ferguson. Bindbeutel operated a grocery store at the corner of Church and Florissant Road. In the 1890's he built the current building which, for over 120 years has offered business space to many businesses including (in the 1950's) a TV store (Fulbright's), a shoe store (Poll Parrot shoes) and a shoe repair, to name just a few. It continues to house businesses today including a long time Ferguson business, Pope Realty.



Ferguson Hardware began well before the 1940's when the future owners, Warren Dietze and Bud Guckes, began working there. The original store was located on Church Street just east of the Bank of Ferguson (about where the parking lot is located, today). As the store grew in size it moved to Airport Road, then to 110 S. Florissant Road

and, finally, immediately across the street. Warren and Bud were bought out in later years. The store ran successfully until the 2010's when it closed. From my standpoint, I really miss that store – well run – good service and right here in downtown Ferguson. The store is now empty.

Finally, is a name well known in Ferguson – Mannino. Phillip & Josephine Mannino opened the Day & Night Market on S. Florissant in 1929. It is often recognized as an early supermarket in the St. Louis area. The story goes that a young man named Schnuck visited the market and thought it was a good idea. It was such a good idea that Schnucks is now in Ferguson. In later years the Manninos operated a meat market in the same area. The original area has been taken over by the Loft Apartments – which continue to house several new businesses.



Ferguson has a history of bright and energetic people who started and successfully operated businesses over the years. A drive down Florissant Road today displays many new businesses which have been started with the same energy and drive of these past business people. Ferguson residents in the past have supported Ferguson businesses – we need to do the same today.

Information for this article came from Ferguson Notes, Summer issue 2017. Photos by Jerry Benner.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum later in the fall (hopefully).

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”