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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Sage Chapel Cemetery (Preferred)

Other names/site number O'Fallon Cemetery, O'Fallon City Cemetery, Osage Cemetery, Femme Osage Cemetery,

Colored Church Cemetery, Cravens Cemetery, Wishwell Cemetery, St. Shepard Cemetery

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location							_	-	
Street & numb	er On Veteran	s Mem	orial Park	way 0.3 miles east of	Highway K		n/a	not	for publication
City or town	O'Fallon						n/a	vic	inity
State Missou	uri Code	MO	County	St. Charles	Code	183	Zip c	ode	63376

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X local __statewide national

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A _D В С

Signature of certifying official/Title

Missouri Department of Natural Resources State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Date of Action

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

_ determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Sage Chapel Cemetery Name of Property

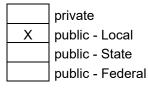
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

> St. Charles County, Missouri County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property (Check only one box.)



	building(s)
	district
Х	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Noncontributing Contributing

		buildings
1		sites
		structures
	2	objects
1	2	Total

.. ..

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
FUNERARY/Cemetery	FUNERARY/Cemetery
FUNERARY/Graves/burials	FUNERARY/Graves/burials
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
N/A	foundation: _N/A
	walls: <u>N/A</u>
	roof: N/A
	other: <u>N/A</u>
X	

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES

Sage Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property

St. Charles County, Missouri County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

|--|

Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.



Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.



D

Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

- C a birthplace or grave.
- X D a cemetery.
 - E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 - F a commemorative property.
 - G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

١	/
/	١

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUTATION PAGES 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data: preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency requested) previously listed in the National Register Federal agency previously determined eligible by the National Register Local government designated a National Historic Landmark University recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_ Other recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ____ Name of repository: recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Areas of Significance

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

Period of Significance

c.1881-1968

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900			National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018				
Sage Chapel Cemetery Name of Property				<u>.</u>	St. Charles Count County and State	y, Missouri	
10. Geographica	al Data						
Acreage of Prop	berty <u>1.0 a</u>	cres					
Latitude/Longitu Datum if other the (enter coordinate	an WGS84:						
1 <u>38.800034</u> Latitude:	-90.694 Longitue		3	Latitude:	Longitude:		
2 Latitude:	Longitue	de:	4	Latitude:	Longitude:		
UTM References (Place additional UTM NAD 192	/ references on a	a continuation shee	'				
1 Zone East	ing	Northing		3 Zone	Easting	Northing	
2 Zone East	ing	Northing		4 Zone	Easting	Northing	
Verbal Boundar	y Description	ı (On continuat	ion she	eet)			
Boundary Justif	ication (On o	continuation she	eet)				

name/title Dorris Keeven-Franke and Justin Watkins;	
organization	date <u>06/18/2018</u>
street & number 1355 Fairgrounds #430	telephone <u>636-221-1524</u>
city or town <u>St. Charles</u>	state MO zip code 633
e-mail Dorris.keevenfranke@gmail.com	

Additional Documentation

11. Form Prepared By

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps:
 - o A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all
 photographs to this map.
- Continuation Sheets
- Photographs
- Owner Name and Contact Information
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Sage Chapel Cemetery Name of Property

St. Charles County, Missouri County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property:	Sage Chapel Cemetery						
City or Vicinity:	O'Fallon						
County: St. Charle	es	_ State:	Missouri				
Photographer:	Dorris Keeven-Franke						
Date Photographed:	1/18/18-1/26/18						

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 9: Facing west, this is the gravestone of Priscilla Ball which is the oldest extant stone in the cemetery.

2 of 9: Facing north, this is the old road bed still visible, with Veterans Memorial Parkway intersecting it.

3 of 9: View from the Northeast corner looking towards the Southwest corner showing subdivision and neighbor's fencing

4 of 9: View from the Southwest corner looking towards the Northeast corner

5 of 9: Facing west, this is the homemade concrete marker of Delliah Dier

6 of 9: Facing west, this is an example of one of the broken stones.

7 of 9: Facing west, this is the Howard Morris stone which recently replaced a severely broken stone for this WWI veteran on 8/12/17, which was done by the neighboring V.F.W. Post 5077

8 of 9: Facing south, this is the first sign placed approximate fourteen years ago

9 of 9: Facing south, this is a new sign made and placed by a Boy Scout Eagle Project in 2015.

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1: Appendix A: List of the 117 people who research has identified as being buried in Sage Chapel Cemetery.

The * symbol identifies those able to be located by an extant marker.

Figure 2: Site Map

Figure 3: Context Map, GoogleMaps, 2018. Latitude/longitude coordinates: 38.800034, -90.694882

Figure 4: Plat Book of St. Charles County, Missouri (Des Moines, IA: Northwest Publishing Co., 1905)

Figure 5: 1994 USGS map with location of Sage Chapel Cemetery indicated.

Figure 6: Examples of pre-1968 extant grave markers

Figure 7: The original gravestone for Howard I. Morris and the replacement stone, donated by the V.F.W. Post 5077.

Figure 8: Examples of grave markers for burials added after 1968

Figure 9: Census data for St. Charles County and O'Fallon, 1860-1970.

Figure 10: Excerpt from 1905 map of O'Fallon showing the African American enclave along Sonderen.

Figure 11: Excerpt from 1932 map of O'Fallon showing the African American enclave along Sonderen.

Figure 12: Preacher Jefferson Franklin Sage

Figure 13: Extant African American School. Google Maps Street View from July 2017.

Sage Chapel Cemetery Name of Property St. Charles County, Missouri County and State

Figure 14: Willis Thornhill's former residence once associated with the local African American Odd Fellows Lodge, at 116 Sonderen Street. Google Maps Street View from July 2017.

Figure 15: Faces of some of those buried in Sage Chapel Cemetery. Personal photographs with digital copies in Dorris Keeven-Franke's personal collection.

Figure 16: Site Map for Photos

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Sage Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
St. Charles County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

<u>Summary</u>

Sage Chapel Cemetery is an African-American cemetery located on Veterans Memorial Parkway 0.3 miles east of Highway K in O'Fallon, St. Charles County, Missouri. The cemetery does not have a designated postal address. This is the only African-American cemetery still in existence in the City of O'Fallon; it most likely began as a burial ground for the former enslaved members of the Samuel Keithly household. It contains at least 117 burials (Figure 1) that have been documented by headstones, obituaries, death certificates and/or living family members. Of these at least 17 were born into slavery. It became a formal one-acre plot to be used as a cemetery when deeded to the Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in 1881; c.1881 therefore marks the start to the period of significance. However, it is likely this site was used as a burial ground for slaves prior to the land officially being deeded to the A.M.E. Church.¹ The period of significance ends in 1968, but the last internment was made in 2015. The earliest extant gravestone dates to 1900 (Photo 001). Area African-American families have used this cemetery for over 100 years. The church building that was originally associated with the cemetery was located 1/2 mile to the north, and despite exhaustive research, no records have ever been found that are associated with either that church congregation or this cemetery. The church building itself is no longer exists, and the congregation ceased meeting over seventy-five years ago.

The cemetery is largely a grassy lot with 32 grave markers still visible (Figure 2); four of these markers are for two individuals. Three graves are marked by handmade family memorials – which include garden ornaments and small statues – that do not have a gravestone. Several mature trees dot the landscape, which is flat. Overall, the cemetery looks much as it did historically, though some of its grave markers have been lost to time. One marker has been replaced (as discussed below). 12 burials are known to have been added after 1968 as the cemetery continued to accept occasional burials. The area around the cemetery now houses modern residences, a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, and some commercial development further west and across the street (Figures 2 and 3). A wooden privacy fence separates the cemetery from the neighboring yards on the south and west and a tree line associated with an old road bed marks the cemetery's eastern boundary. The northern boundary extends to the sidewalk running along Veterans Memorial Parkway. The cemetery grounds represent a single contiguous site of the same dimensions as it was historically.

There have been very few alterations to the cemetery grounds. Two signs were added in recent years in order to make the public aware of its existence. These are the **two noncontributing objects** in the resource count. They sit facing north and are visible

¹The land deeded for the church that was originally associated with the cemetery was ½ mile distant from Sage Chapel Cemetery's location, suggesting that the land specifically deeded for use as a cemetery was already being utilized for this purpose at this time. Local oral histories also indicate that the site was used as a burial ground for slaves prior to the land officially being deeded in 1881.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Sage Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
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from Veterans Memorial Parkway. The first is a small wooden sign made by localresidents' fourteen years ago (Photo 008); its fading white letters read "SAGE CHAPEL CEMETERY." The second sign is a recent Boy Scout Eagle project, completed in 2015 (Photo 009). This is a larger wooden sign that reads "SAGE CHAPEL CEMETERY Est. 1881."

<u>Setting</u>

This property originally belonged to the Samuel Keithly family who arrived in Missouri by 1817 (discussed further below). Throughout history Sage Chapel Cemetery has been near a roadway. Today, two lines of trees (Photo 002) demark an old wagon road that originally ran along the east side of the cemetery. They delineate the first documented roadway which appears on the 1905 plat map (Figure 4). The westernmost line of trees associated with this old roadway marks the east side of the cemetery which adjoins the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.) Post No. 5077. There is a small expanse of grassy space on the other side of the roadbed before reaching the parking lot for the VFW Post. The VFW Post No. 5077 purchased their property in 1976.² The cemetery property is bounded, and fenced, on the south and west (Photo 003) by the Spring Hill Subdivision, which was platted in 1993. Subdivision property owners have erected the only known fences to have ever existed on the western and southern cemetery boundaries; some of these fences are partially on the cemetery's legal parcel, but are associated with the neighboring residences and so are not included in the resource count. In 1922, property to the north of the cemetery was deeded by Gerhard B. and Elizabeth Sonderen to the State of Missouri for a new highway, State Highway 2.³ The highway later changed names to United States Highway 40 in 1926.⁴ Today, this road is called Veterans Memorial Parkway, a street which serves as a service road for Interstate 70 (Figures 3 and 5). Immediately across the Parkway from the cemetery and the VFW Post are residences and some commercial development (Photo 002, 004).

Description

The cemetery is a level piece of grassy ground (Photos 003 and 004) where there are at least 117 burials (Figure 1). The property is one acre, as it was originally deeded. Mature trees line the border of the cemetery and are interspersed throughout the landscape, although a few have been lost. There are cedar trees at three of the four corners (Figure 2). The middle of the cemetery remains only sparsely populated by markers (Photo 003), but several of the families describe vividly that they know there are graves interspersed throughout the cemetery and centrally located. Documentation

² St. Charles County Plat Book 31, p. 196, Subdivision Plat 6 April 1993; St. Charles County Deed Book 737, p. 1270, 4 August 1976; VFW Hall Deed, Deed Book 792, p. 1375, 9 March 1978.

³ St. Charles County Deed Book 154, p. 82, 10 November 1922.

⁴ "Big Trans-Continental Traffic Increase This Year is Predicted," Joplin (MO) Globe, 14 February 1926 (Newspaper.com)

Sage Chapel Cemetery	
Name of Property	
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N/A	
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of burials through death certificates, obituaries, and local oral tradition substantiates this. 5

There is no organization, such as straight rows, for the cemetery. Families have simply added individual members as close as possible to other family members as they have passed. Many families were unable to afford markers and are known to have used wooden markers or relied upon temporary funeral home markers which have been lost over time.

Thirty-two extant gravestones in various states of disrepair mark some graves; this number includes those that were added after 1968 (discussed below). Four of these stones are for two individuals. The earliest extant stone dates to 1900 (Photo 001). Gravestones vary from rocks and homemade pieces of concrete with letters carved into them (Photo 005), to small plain granite markers. Many of the markers lack any stylistic detailing, but a good proportion do include common cemetery motifs such as flowers with leaves and Christian symbols such as crosses or praying hands (see Figure 6 for examples of extant stones dating prior to 1968). Crosses and flowers are the most common motifs seen on the extant stones. Some markers are currently broken (Photo 006), are flat on the ground, and many need some repair. There are also family memorials placed on three graves that do not have formal gravestones identifying who is buried in that specific location. These memorials include artificial flowers, garden stones or ornaments, small statues, and other simple, more temporary but maintained markers. Artificial flowers are in fact quite common and are present at most of the known gravesites.

A new marker was donated in August of 2017 by Sage Chapel Cemetery's neighbor V.F.W. Post 5077 to replace the World War I marker of veteran Howard Morris (Photo 007) that had fallen and become severely deteriorated. The replacement stone is in keeping with the first marker's appearance (Figure 7).

12 burials have been added since 1968. These more recent burials have markers that are generally in keeping with the extant historical markers (see Figure 8; the first photograph represents a family memorial with a garden stone, flowers, and simple name marker as there is no gravestone in place). Beyond the death date, most of these later markers are indistinguishable from the earlier stones and memorials and include similar motifs including crosses and flowers with leaves.

As noted above two signs (noncontributing objects) were added to the cemetery in recent years (Photos 008 and 009). It is unknown whether there would have ever been similar historic signage. The only intrusion to the cemetery grounds involves a small

⁵ Lucille Wiechens and Carrol Geerling, *Cemeteries of St. Charles County, Missouri*, Vol. V (Bridgeton, MO: Lineage Press, 1988), Sage Chapel Cemetery discussed on page 114.

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Sage Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
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portion of the privacy fencing associated with the residences that abut the cemetery to the west and south. A piece of the fencing cuts through a very small portion of the southwest corner of the cemetery. This likely occurred due to confusion over parcel lines and the lack of maintenance to the cemetery grounds occurring in the 1980s and 1990s which obscured parts of the cemetery. Regardless, no known burials are located in that far southwestern corner, and the fence only obscures a very small portion of the original cemetery grounds. The fencing now serves to protect and divide the cemetery from the backyards associated with the subdivision.

The cemetery is now maintained by the park system of the City of O'Fallon, and is serene, quiet and park like despite its now somewhat modernized location in the midst of a growing city.

Integrity

Today Sage Chapel Cemetery looks much like it has for well over 100 years and includes the historic acreage as deeded in 1881. Though 12 burials have been added after the 1968 end date to the period of significance, the markers for those burials are very similar to many of the extant earlier markers, and thus they do not impact the historic appearance of the cemetery. The families of those buried here maintained the cemetery up until the 1980s. Though no fencing remains that is associated with the cemetery, some do remember an iron fence that once ran along the front of the cemetery; it is unknown when this fencing might have been removed.⁶ In the late 1980s the cemetery became neglected and neighbors were not even aware that there was a cemetery on the property. The cemetery received some backhoe damage in 2012 because of a landscaper coming through the cemetery to work on the backyard of one of the homes bordering the south side. The following year, the O'Fallon Historic Preservation Commission visited Sage Chapel and placed flowers on marked and unmarked graves based on the research of area historian Mary Hogan-Smith. After that damage occurred in 2012, awareness of the cemetery and its condition increased. The cemetery was cleaned and the grass cutting began again and it has been steadily maintained to-date. Trees have occasionally been removed as needed.

The setting has been somewhat impacted by modern development around the cemetery, most of which is residential. However, the cemetery maintains integrity, especially as it relates to its historic location and boundaries, feeling and association. Today it appears just like residents, many of whom are nearly 90 years of age, say it always has. It still sits unchanged and serene providing an enduring testimony to those buried here.

⁶ Mary Patrick Stephenson (resident of O'Fallon born in 1928) in video interview with Dorris Keeven-Franke, April 2018.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Sage Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
St. Charles, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

<u>Summary</u>

Sage Chapel Cemetery is located on Veterans Memorial Parkway 0.3 miles east of Highway K in O'Fallon, St. Charles County, Missouri. It is locally significant under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage/Black. Sage Chapel Cemetery provided the African-American community of the City of O'Fallon a dedicated location for burial for well over 120 years. Now maintained by the City of O'Fallon, it provides not only a voice for the African-American community, but an opportunity for a greater discussion of local African-American history and heritage. According to the oral history of descendants, the cemetery may have begun as a burial ground for slaves owned by the Keithly family. Later, on the 20th of August 1881, it was conveyed by deed from Jasper N. Castlio and his wife Mahalah (daughter of Samuel Keithly) to the Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church: Walter Burl, Jack Patterson and Taylor Harris.⁷ The period of significance begins in c.1881, when the land for the cemetery was officially deeded to the African American community, though burials likely occurred prior to this date. The period ends in 1968, the 50 year mark, as no more specific end date to the period of significance could be determined. The cemetery continued to occasionally be utilized by the local African American community until the final burial in 2015. There were only 12 burials between 1968 and 2015. The cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D due to its association with the local African American community. Further, as will be discussed below, little else remains of this community both in regard to physical and documentary resources. It is one of only three known remaining resources associated with the local African American community in O'Fallon and it is the only extant resource that is still clearly associated with its original use. This cemetery serves as a visual reminder of a time of segregation and continues to educate the entire community. Many members of the community who are descendants of those buried there remain and take great pride in Sage Chapel Cemetery and appreciate the open dialogue it creates with its presence, feeling that it provides an opportunity for their voices to be heard. This nomination is being made on their behalf.

Brief History of O'Fallon, Missouri

The first settlement in what would become St. Charles County was established by Frenchman Louis Blanchette in 1769, though Native American tribes had lived in the area for some time, and the French had been exploring the territory since the 1710s.⁸ One of the first Americans to settle in the region was trailblazer Col. Daniel Boone and his family, who arrived in c. 1795.⁹ Jacob Zumwalt and his family arrived c. 1798 settling in what would become the city of O'Fallon several decades later.¹⁰ They constructed a log home (recently reconstructed) now known as Zumwalt's Fort: the Zumwalts allowed

⁷ St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Book 35 Page 16

⁸ *History of St. Charles County, Missouri (1765-1885)*, 88.; O'Fallon Historical Society "History," Accessed May 24, 2018, <u>https://ofallonmohistory.com/history/</u>

⁹ History of St. Charles County, Missouri (1765-1885), 95-96.

¹⁰ Ibid.

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,

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local area families and their slaves who fled to the fort protection during the War of 1812.¹¹

Settlement and growth of the area continued well into the 1800s due, in large part, to westward expansion. With the purchase of the Louisiana territory in 1803, a large number of new settlers began to arrive.¹² With the U.S. financial crisis in 1837, families moved west with their slaves to snap up inexpensive land. This influx of settlers arrived from not only the east coast and states like Virginia and Kentucky but Europe as well. In Europe, books such as Gottfried Duden's *Report on a Journey to the Western States* inspired Germans in particular, seeking political refuge and better opportunities for their families, to immigrate to the area. The first influx of German settlers arrived in 1833, many of whom settled in St. Charles County.¹³

Thus St. Charles County, and ultimately the city of O'Fallon, was established largely by American settlers, many of whom arrived from states where slavery was common practice and thus brought slaves with them, and German settlers, the majority of whom were abolitionists.¹⁴ As the state developed, so did the coexistence of these two cultures, with several families intermarrying. This often created a cultural anomaly: German immigrants who were slave owners. By the 1850s the community was a mix of early American slave owners and German abolitionists who sometimes owned slaves themselves.

O'Fallon itself was founded by the Krekel family who were German immigrants. O'Fallon's first land owner, Arnold Krekel, was an early immigrant who arrived in St. Charles County with his father and siblings in 1832. He did own a slave in 1860, though he was an abolitionist.¹⁵ He served as a Provost Marshall for St. Charles County and as a Colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War.¹⁶ He also served as the head of Missouri's Constitutional Convention and signed Missouri's Emancipation Proclamation of January 11, 1865.¹⁷ His younger brother Nicholas Krekel built the first residence and

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² *History of St. Charles County, Missouri (1765-1885)*; Lorenzo J. Greene, Gary R. Kremer, and Antonio F. Holland, *Missouri's Black Heritage*. Revised and updated by Gary R. Kremer and Antonio F. Holland (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1993), 20.

¹³ History of St. Charles County, Missouri (1765-1885), 103-104.

¹⁴ Ibid. 180.

¹⁵ Abolitionist German families owning slaves was not necessarily uncommon: "Most were of the belief, that until the practice of slavery was abolished, they could provide a much better living environment for the African-Americans than they would encounter in the south."; Dorris Keeven-Franke, "Arnold Krekel," St. Charles County History, February 26, 2018, accessed May 24, 2018, https://stcharlescountyhistory.org/2018/02/26/arnold-krekel/

¹⁶ İbid.

¹⁷ Dorris Keeven-Franke, "Missouri's Slaves Emancipated," St. Charles County History. January 11, 2016. Accessed May 24, 2018, <u>https://stcharlescountyhistory.org/2016/01/11/missouris-slaves-emancipated/</u>

OMB No. 1024-001

	Sage Chapel Cemetery
	Name of Property
laces	St. Charles, Missouri
	County and State
	N/A
	Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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served as the first retailer in 1856, and by 1857 served as U.S. Postmaster, and Station Master for what became the Wabash Railroad.¹⁸

With the railroad's expansion in 1856 O'Fallon saw growth, and the sale of Public Lots occurred on July 22, 1870. The town was not incorporated until 1912, when it had approximately 600 residents.¹⁹

History of O'Fallon's African American Community

As touched on above, the first African Americans to arrive in Missouri (and St. Charles County) were typically slaves who moved with American settlers from slave states such as Virginia and Kentucky. Earlier arrivals – of which there would only have been a few – may have been black Africans who were enslaved by the French who first settled the area in the 1700s.²⁰

In 1803, the total population of what would become Missouri was 10,340, of which 1,320 (close to 13%) were slaves.²¹ Many of the early American settlers of Missouri (and St. Charles County) brought not only their slaves with them but also their ideas about slavery. As early as 1804 Black or Slave Codes were enacted and based on those established in Virginia; this code "made no distinction between slaves and other property."²²

The issue of slavery ultimately became a key issue for Missouri's statehood, with controversy focused on whether Missouri should be established as a "free" or "slave" state.²³ Missouri was finally able to gain admission to the Union in 1821 as a slave state with Maine joining as a free state.²⁴

At the state level, the new state legislature in the nearby town of Saint Charles passed a law prohibiting free blacks from entering or settling in the state in 1825. There was also legislation passed allowing citizens to arrest runaway slaves.²⁵ In 1837, The Missouri General Assembly in Jefferson City passed an act prohibiting abolitionist publications from being published or circulated in the State of Missouri.²⁶ However, as home to a

https://s1.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/aahi/earlyslavelaws/slavelaws

 ¹⁸ O'Fallon Historical Society, "History," Accessed May 24, 2018, <u>https://www.ofallon.mo.us/ofallon-history</u>
 ¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Greene, Kremer and Holland, 8.

²¹ Ibid, 20.

²² Ibid, 21.

²³ Ibid, 22.

²⁴ Ibid, 22-23. "Missouri Compromise," A+E Networks, 2009, accessed May 24, 2018, <u>https://www.history.com/topics/missouri-compromise</u>

²⁵ "Missouri's Early Slave Laws: A History in Documents," Missouri State Archives: Missouri Digital Heritage, accessed May 24, 2018,

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large German population, Missouri was also home to large number of abolitionists, and thus was a hotly contested state during the Civil War. Immigration from Ireland and northeastern states in the decade prior to the outbreak of the war also contributed to a population often split between Union loyalists and Southern sympathizers.²⁷

Missouri freed their slaves on January 11, 1865 and slaves were freed nationally with the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865.²⁸ However, in the decades to come freed African Americans began to see a loss of freedoms, rather than the gains they had hoped for, particularly in the former slave states.²⁹ Missouri's 1875 constitution, for example, allowed separate schools for black and white students and there were instances where desegregated schools were re-segregated.³⁰

Statistics show a drop in the African American population in St. Charles County after the Civil War. The population then began to rise and was higher than prior to the Civil War by 1880; this is likely due to the large number of freed African Americans that were arriving in St. Louis from other former slave states as they made their way to regions considered friendlier to African Americans, such as Kansas.³¹ As individuals arriving in the region ran out of funds to continue traveling they may have ultimately settled in the area, including St. Charles County and O'Fallon, which is approximately 35 miles from St. Louis. However, *proportionally* the local African American population continued to dwindle compared to pre-Civil War numbers. In 1860, St. Charles County had a population of which a little over 15% was African American. By 1970, just over 1% of the population was African American. See Figure 9 for available census data for St. Charles County and O'Fallon,³²

Despite these population changes, African American communities began to establish themselves throughout Missouri. After the Civil War, an African-American enclave, or "community of freed blacks"³³ developed along a north-south road at the eastern town limits of O'Fallon, extending from the Wabash Railroad to the south (see Figure 10 which depicts a portion of this enclave in 1905 and Figure 11, showing the area in

²⁷ "Guide to American Civil War in Missouri: A Brief History," The State Historical Society of Missouri, adapted from Prologue to *The Civil War's First Blood: Missouri, 1854-1861* by James Denny and John Bradbury, published by Missouri Life Media. Accessed May 24, 2018, https://shsmo.org/research/guides/civilwar/abriefhistory.html

²⁸ Greene, Kremer and Holland, 88.

²⁹ Ibid, 104.

³⁰ Ibid.107.

³¹ Ibid, 104-105.

³² The City of O'Fallon has seen exponential growth since 1970. In 2010 the city of O'Fallon had a total population of 79,329. Of this population approximately 10% were minorities, with an African American population of 3,164, or about 4%. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, CPH-1-27, Missouri U.S. Government Printing Office, (Washington D.C. 2012), Accessed April 27, 2018, https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/cph-1-27.pdf
³³ O'Fallon Historical Society, "History," Accessed May 24, 2018, https://ofallonmohistory.com/history/

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1932). Later, it became Sonderen Street, so named for Gerhard B. Sonderen, who initially owned much of the property. There they had residences, an African-American school and three churches: Wishwell Baptist Church (also referred to as the African Baptist Church³⁴), Cravens Chapel³⁵ (the Methodist Episcopal Church, North) and the African Methodist Episcopal Church that was first associated with Sage Chapel Cemetery and referred to as Sage Chapel. All of these churches are visible in Figure 10. The school remains (discussed further below) but the churches and most of the residences have been lost. There was a "colored Odd Fellows Lodge" in Willis Thornhill's house, which is the only extant residence (also discussed further below).³⁶

The first of the three African-American churches to serve the community was located on property owned by German born Henry Ernst and had been sold or gifted out of his estate to African Americans John C. Edwards and William D. Williams.³⁷ In 1872, Edwards and Williams deeded a square sixty feet on all sides to Joshua Wayne, James Dyer, and Washington Gibson, trustees for the A.M.E. Church, North, which eventually acquired the name Cravens Chapel (not extant).³⁸ Cravens stood along Sonderen near the railroad tracks.

This community along Sonderen continued to grow on property that oral tradition states was gifted to them by their former owners, but the community's status as an African American enclave was also documented by U.S. Censuses from 1870 to 1940. The 1920 Census taker Warren Barebo referred to the area running from the Wabash Railroad south to Sage Chapel Cemetery as "Nigger Hill"; this is also noted on the 1930 federal census.³⁹ The land was part of the former plantation of Samuel Keithly. The distance from the railroad to Sage Chapel Cemetery is just one mile.

In 1881 there was no official burying ground established for the African-American community in O'Fallon. The closest known location with African-American burials at this time was the Catholic cemetery associated with St. Paul Catholic Church. That cemetery has both white and African-American burials. This church and associated cemetery are still extant (1223 Church Road, St. Paul) and still in use. St. Paul, Missouri is a community established by German immigrants in 1834 and adjoins O'Fallon on the northwest side of O'Fallon. The earliest African-American burial in St. Paul Catholic

 ³⁴ Many of these churches had several names historically, often very similar to the names of other local African American churches. To avoid confusion they are referred to by their most identifiable name.
 ³⁵ Some maps, including Figure 10, label Cravens as African Methodist Episcopal Church, North. This church is more accurately referred to as Northern Methodist. It was most commonly known as Cravens Chapel (O'Fallon Centennial 1856-1956, page 23).

³⁶ St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Book 105, page 455.

³⁷ St. Charles County Deed Book 7, p. 154, 27 January 1869

³⁸ St. Charles County Deed Book 28, p. 13, 16 April 1872

³⁹ 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Missouri, St. Charles County, Dardenne Twshp, O'Fallon City, Sheet 2 B, taken the 8 January 1920 by Warren Barebo; 1930 U.S. Federal Census, Missouri, St. Charles County Ward 1, O'Fallon City, Sheet 2B taken the 3 April 1930 by Warren Barebo.

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Cemetery was Eleanora Hayden, who was buried there on April 1, 1871.⁴⁰ These burials were segregated within the cemetery. St. Paul continued to receive African American burials well into the twentieth century.⁴¹ The lack of a burying ground for all the members of the African-American community in O'Fallon would be solved by the formation of the second church to serve the local African-American community: the A.M.E. Church that would become Sage Chapel.

History of Sage Chapel Cemetery

Slave owner Samuel Keithly/Keithley Sr. (it is spelled both ways in legal documents) was born March 31, 1789 in Green County, Kentucky and died October 12, 1870 in O'Fallon, Missouri.⁴² According to the 1850 U.S. Census Slave Schedule for St. Charles County, Keithly owned twelve slaves.⁴³ In 1860 Keithly owned 19 slaves.⁴⁴

Of the 117 documented burials in Sage Chapel Cemetery (Figure 1), at least 17 were born as slaves. Of the 32 extant stones, six are known to mark the graves of former slaves. At least four of these individuals were former slaves of Samuel Keithly.⁴⁵

Jasper Newton Castlio's wife Mahala Castlio inherited this land from her late father, Samuel Keithly. This included Lots 6, 7, and 8 of what is described as the Keithly partition of 1871. Ten years later, this couple decided to deed a portion of their property to the newly formed A. M. E. congregation that would become Sage Chapel. On August 20, 1881, the Castlios deeded a half-acre plot of ground out of Lot 6 of Keithly's partition and one acre out of Lot 8 of Keithly's partition to Walter Burrell, Jack Patterson, and Taylor Harris, as Trustees of the A.M.E. Church. The half-acre lot was deeded for the site of their church and the one-acre lot was deeded specifically for the site of the church's cemetery.⁴⁶ The church property was located on what is today Sonderen Street about half-way between the Railroad tracks and Sage Chapel Cemetery, or a distance of about ½ mile (see Figures 10 and 11, it is the African M.E. Church at the bottom of the cutout in Figure 10). The lands for the church trustees.⁴⁷ By 1883, Patterson had left as a trustee of the A.M.E. Church in O'Fallon, leaving only two trustees. Burrell and Harris deeded the east half of the church's half-acre lot to James Edwards in 1883. The

⁴⁶ Deed Book 35, p. 16, 20 August 1881

⁴⁰ St. Paul Catholic Church Burial Index at the St. Charles County Historical Society; some of the later Hayden family members are buried at Sage Chapel Cemetery.

⁴¹ The latest identified is Mary Dryden, who died at the age of 103 on 19 July 1965 in St. Louis and was buried in St. Paul, MO: <u>https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1965/1965_00029330.PDF</u>

⁴² "Samuel Keithly," Find A Grave, Added July 18, 2006. Accessed May 9, 2018, <u>https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=14975562</u>

⁴³ 1850 U.S. Census Slave Schedules, District 78, St. Charles Co., MO, <u>www.ancestry.com</u>

⁴⁴ 1860 U.S. Census, Slave Schedules, District 78, St. Charles Co., MO, <u>www.ancestry.com</u>

⁴⁵ 1850 United States Census Slave Schedules, District 78, St. Charles Co., MO & 1860 United States Census Slave Schedules, District 78, St. Charles Co., MO, <u>www.ancestry.com</u>

⁴⁷ Deed Book 34, p. 164, 1 December 1881

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deed shows that a church building had been built by that time.⁴⁸ Although the cemetery was officially deeded and established in 1881, the earliest death date on an extant gravestone at Sage Chapel Cemetery is 1900.⁴⁹ Earlier markers have been lost to time.

At the same time as the Trustees acquired the property, the St. Charles African Methodist Episcopal Conference had a Pastor named Jefferson Franklin Sage who preached in this area (see Figure 12).⁵⁰ Sage, born a slave in Missouri in 1854, made his home in Jonesburg, Missouri, and ministered in the A.M.E. St. Charles Church Conference in 1881. He appears on the Missouri State Census in Jonesburg. Montgomery County for 1876, with his wife Eliza and their two small sons Dick and John.⁵¹ From the A.M.E. Conference reports made by Brother Samuel Jenkins on November 28, 1878, we know that Sage is noted as a "Local Preacher ... Jefferson Sage of Jonesburg," indicating he is a member and a Minister of the St. Charles Conference.⁵² By 1880, Preacher Sage moved to St. Charles, Missouri with his second wife. Mary.⁵³ Preacher Sage is then noted in the records of the A.M.E. St. Charles Church Conference as a traveling Pastor in 1886 and in 1888.⁵⁴ His mission is along a route between the City of St. Charles, Missouri, and his former home of Jonesburg. This route coincides with today's Veterans Memorial Parkway. Research shows that Jefferson Franklin Sage had left the O'Fallon area by 1894, because his daughter Ruth is born in Kansas in May of 1894, where he is an A.M.E Minister of the Gospel there.⁵⁵ However, his early association with O'Fallon may be the reason this A.M.E. Church was referred to as Sage Chapel and the cemetery as Sage Chapel Cemetery.⁵⁶

African American Resources in O'Fallon and the Surrounding Area

⁵² African-Methodist Church Book, Donated by Wardell Reed to the St. Charles County Historical Society, St. Charles County, MO. in 2010. These are Conference Records of the St. Charles African-Methodist Episcopal Churches in St. Charles County.

⁵⁴ African-Methodist Church Book.

⁴⁸ Deed Book 33, p. 460, 12 November 1883

⁴⁹ Lucille Wiechens and Carrol Geerling, *Cemeteries of St. Charles County, Missouri* V (Bridgeton, MO: Lineage Press, 1988): 114

⁵⁰ Dorris Keeven-Franke, "Preacher Jefferson Franklin Sage," St. Charles County History, October 16, 2017, accessed May 24, 2018, <u>https://stcharlescountyhistory.org/2017/10/16/preacher-jefferson-franklin-</u>

<u>sage/</u>

⁵¹ 1910 Missouri State Census, Montgomery County, Roll MOSC_4716

⁵³ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, St. Charles County, Saint Charles, Enumeration District 201, Roll 714, Page 72A

⁵⁵ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Ottawa Kansas, Enumeration District 0086 Ward 2, Franklin Roll 480, Page 10A

⁵⁶ In addition to the above citations, some of this information is also corroborated by Lloyd Monroe, descendent of Rev. Jefferson Franklin Sage.

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A third African-American congregation to form was Wishwell Baptist Church (not extant). It too acquired property that was formerly part of the Keithly partition for a church building. It was on Sonderen Street, equidistant between Cravens Church and Sage Chapel, and about ³/₄ of a mile from Sage Chapel Cemetery (it is labeled as the African Baptist Church in Figure 10). George and Martha Murray deeded land in the northwest corner of a one-acre lot to W. C. Long, George Washington, and Daniel Frost, Trustees of the African Baptist Church, in 1899.⁵⁷

The Wishwell Baptist and Cravens Methodist churches jointly purchased a one-acre parcel of land for a burial ground in 1901 and named it Union Cemetery (not extant). Only 3 burials were able to be located there in 1988.⁵⁸ All three seemed to have happened at Union Cemetery by 1909. There is no indication that the Union Cemetery was receiving any burials after 1929, and no trace of this cemetery remains today. We do know that both Cravens and Wishwell members were buried after 1909 in Sage Chapel Cemetery, making this a community cemetery, rather than one affiliated with a specific religious group or denomination. The Sage Chapel associated A.M.E. church operated from 1881 to c. 1932, Wishwell Baptist from 1899 to 1966, and Cravens Chapel from 1872 to c. 1957. To date no records associated with these churches have been located and all three are no longer extant.

There are no other African-American cemeteries located in O'Fallon. Other than Sage Chapel Cemetery, only two extant resources in O'Fallon are known to have been associated with the local African-American community historically. These resources are essentially all that remains of the enclave along Sonderen, an area that has largely been redeveloped. The school is still extant at 315 E. Elm Street. It has been altered over time with vinyl siding and changes allowing for its current function as a restaurant (see Figure 13). Across the street Willis Thornhill's house at 116 Sonderen Street, once utilized by the members of the African American Odd Fellows Lodge, still stands, though it too has seen some alterations including vinyl siding (Figure 14).

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black & Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries

Sage Chapel Cemetery is significant under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage/Black for its important association with the local African-American community. It meets Criteria Consideration D for Cemeteries. It is not only one of the few extant local resources associated with African-Americans, it is the only one that remains clearly tied to and still utilized by this community. Though there will be no future burials in the cemetery, it remains a place where local African Americans can go to remember and acknowledge their predecessors.

⁵⁷ Deed Book 84, p. 56, 16 November 1899

⁵⁸ Lucille Wiechens and Carrol Geerling, St. Charles County Cemetery Books Vol V, Union Cemetery discussed on page 107.

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As the African-American population of St. Charles County and O'Fallon dwindled in the century after the Civil War, so did the resources associated with this community. This is especially true as the area has seen such dramatic population growth – and therefore modernization and loss of historic resources – in a short amount of time. Not only has Sage Chapel Cemetery remained largely unaltered, it retains the same acreage as originally deeded.

Additionally, this cemetery reflects many decades of local African-American heritage. It includes burials of those who were born into slavery, those who were freed, those who were among the first generation of African-Americans who were born free, and those who faced and lived through decades of segregation and discrimination. Those buried here were of various religious denominations (Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic, see below) and from a variety of social classes (see the variation in gravestones). Those buried here include railroad workers, artists, carpenters, mechanics, pastors, laundresses, farmers, church trustees, and military veterans, to name only a few. The cemetery provides a crucial snapshot of O'Fallon's African-American community from c.1881 to 1968 and beyond.

Additional Discussion

In 1929, Charles E. Sallee died in his home north of Wright City, Missouri on February 8th or 9th and was buried in the "O'Fallon Colored Church Cemetery": another name for Sage Chapel Cemetery.⁵⁹ When his daughter, Georgia Mae (death certificate) or Schylar (tombstone) Sallee, died two years later, the cemetery was called "Osage Cemetery" on her death certificate.⁶⁰ Both Charles and "Schylar" have tombstones at Sage Chapel Cemetery. Charles Sallee's widow, Ardalia, remarried to one Edward Welch. Her obituary states that she joined Wishwell Baptist Church in May 1898 "under the pastorate of Rev. Long."⁶¹ This would indicate that the family may have been affiliated with Wishwell. If so, this would also be an indication that, by 1929, Wishwell Baptist Church was no longer burying in Union Cemetery but also using Sage Chapel Cemetery from this point on until its dissolution in 1966.⁶² The first mention of Sage Chapel Cemetery by that name appears on the 1954 death certificate for John Rafferty,

⁵⁹ Warrenton (MO) Banner, 15 February 1929 (says he died 8 February); death certificate says he died 9 February and that he was buried in O'Fallon Colored Church Cemetery,

https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1929/1929_00009563.PDF ⁶⁰ Georgia Mae "Schylar" Sallee died 27 July 1931, https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1931/1931_00027960.PDF

⁶¹ "Obituary of Mrs. Ardalia Welch," *Warrenton* (MD *Banner*, 4 February 1960 (Newspapers.com); her sister Cora

married Simon Leslie White and is buried with him at Sage Chapel Cemetery

⁶² Deed Book 447, p. 532, 17 March 1966

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an unmarked burial.⁶³ Oral histories from his descendants relay that Rafferty was born a slave on the Keithly family estate (his property is noted on the 1932 map, Figure 11). His is also the first documented burial in Sage Chapel Cemetery from Cravens Methodist Church.⁶⁴ Over time, not only has the reason for the name Sage Chapel Cemetery become speculation, but other names have been attached to it through those who came to reside there. Oral history of African Americans in O'Fallon state that it was named Sage Chapel because "the blacks liked to worship in a field of Sage."⁶⁵

Sage Chapel Cemetery's association with the entire African-American community of O'Fallon contributed to its being referred to by many names, including O'Fallon Cemetery, O'Fallon City Cemetery, Osage or Femme Osage Cemetery, Colored Church Cemetery, St. Shepherd Cemetery, Hayden Cemetery, and even Cravens Cemetery and Wishwell Cemetery. Those known to have been buried here may have their burial site listed as any of the above on their death certificate. However, the cemetery is most commonly known as Sage Chapel Cemetery, and it is the name preferred by the local community.

There were a few burials in Sage Chapel Cemetery during the 1960s, but few illustrate the story of the African-American community and their relationship to the larger community of O'Fallon better than that of Claude (on the tombstone) or Clyde (obituary) Dierker.⁶⁶ He is fondly remembered by his family and his community, and his story shares a description of an unusual burial in the Sage Chapel Cemetery. Born on July 5, 1922, to Edward and Bettie (Williams) Dierker, he was the fourth son of their ten children. The family lived near the intersection of Elm and Sonderen, next to the Cravens Methodist Episcopal Church (not extant) and O'Fallon's small black one room schoolhouse (Figure 13). On Friday, October 27, 1967 forty-five-year-old Clyde's home was engulfed in a fire at just ten minutes past 9 p.m. He was home alone at the time, and even though O'Fallon Fire chief Bill Steiner battled the blaze for several hours, the entire house was destroyed, and Clyde perished. It was difficult to keep the fire from spreading to the neighboring buildings. He left behind four brothers – Louis, Frank, Bill and Julius Dierker – and two sisters – Arie Harvey and Mae White.

Dierker's Funeral services were held by the Parish Priest Father Raymond Diermann at the nearby Assumption Parish where the family were members. At a meeting of the O'Fallon Historic Preservation Commission, Commissioner Don Dietrich, who had served as a twelve-year-old altar boy for the funeral, recalled "It was so emotional!" Everyone was distraught as Clyde was well-loved and single. This was a rare event for

⁶⁵ Interviews with Phyllis Hayden, Betty White, Mary Stephenson

⁶³ John Rafferty Jr. was born in 1860 and died 7 April 1954;

<u>https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1954/1954_00013057.PDF</u> John was born a Keithly slave, as was his father, John Rafferty Sr. who was born in 1835 and died c. 1880. It is likely that his was the first burial in Sage Chapel Cemetery.

⁶⁴ "John Rafferty Funeral Held Sunday April 11," O'Fallon Community News, 7 April 1954

⁶⁶ Obituary in O'Fallon Community News, 1 November 1967

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Dietrich, too, who could not remember another traditional Catholic funeral held in Sage Chapel Cemetery. This was not a staid and solemn burial, but one complete with many emotional outbursts from the women attending that day. Claude and his cousins, the Williams, Lucketts, and Haydens, are only two generations removed from slavery. His neighbors in life were the Edwards, Claiborne and White families, who were also his relations (see Figures 10 and 11: the 1905 map of Sonderen includes properties owned by the Claiborne, White, and Edwards families). All of these families have loved ones buried at Sage Chapel Cemetery. This was a close-knit community, where everyone was related somehow. It apparently did not matter which Church they attended, they were all joined by not only their color but by family relationship. Many of those who lived along Sonderen are buried in Sage Chapel Cemetery (see Figure 15 for a photograph of Simon and Cora White who lived along Sonderen and are buried in Sage Chapel Cemetery, along with photos of other members of this community buried here; Figure 11, the 1932 map of Sonderen, shows Simon White's property).

We close the period of historical significance in 1968, but there have been a few modern developments since then. Sage Chapel Cemetery has received twelve burials from 1968 to 2015. The first cemetery sign was placed in Sage Chapel Cemetery in 2004 by the David Hinman and Louis Swinger families. The cemetery received a second sign from a Boy Scout project in May 2015.⁶⁷ Both signs stand today. Members of the African-American community do not wish for the first one to be removed, and are extra fond of it.

Sage Chapel Cemetery is a memorial to the O'Fallon African-American community that still exists today. It became a final resting place for many with connections to that community. Those interred there died in O'Fallon, St. Peters, St. Charles, Wright City, Kinloch, and St. Louis, Missouri, and in Vinton, Louisiana. It is the final resting place for at least two veterans, Howard I. Morris and Leo Larue Hart.

When O'Fallon resident Jim Frain first visited the Sage Chapel Cemetery in June 2013, he noticed that the headstone for Howard Morris, a World War I veteran, was broken and in danger of being lost. He approached his friend, Sheldon Hartsfield, also a veteran, and a member of the V.F.W. Post 5077, Sage Chapel Cemetery's neighbor to the east. Taking further action, Frain, and a few other members of the community came together, wanting to draw attention to the plight of the derelict cemetery.

Since then, area historians have researched the cemetery's history and the City of O'Fallon began to maintain the cemetery. They have not only cut the grass, but when large trees were toppled, they addressed the situation. The African-American

⁶⁷ See <u>https://archive.org/details/O_FallonTV__Sage_Chapel_Cemetery_Sign_Dedication_O_Fallon_Missouri</u> for a video on the dedication of the cemetery sign.

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community took notice, and the City's Communications Department became involved and created videos in recognition of O'Fallon's Black History Month. Flowers were donated, and members of the Historic Preservation Commission placed them on all the visible graves. Community involvement grew larger with other programs about the African-American Community, bringing Mayors and representatives from neighboring cities. Most recently, in August of 2017, the community's concern for this local landmark came together with a most moving tribute in realization of its importance. The family of Howard Morris, Ms. Phyllis Hayden, was presented a brand-new headstone for her uncle, with a full military funeral conducted by the V.F.W. Post 5077. One of the most beautiful ceremonies, attended by hundreds, this was a genuine demonstration of the love the O'Fallon community has for this landmark and the people associated with it.⁶⁸

Conclusion

Sage Chapel Cemetery is being nominated under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, for its association with the local African-American community. Its period of significance begins in c.1881, the year the site was officially deeded to the local African American community for use as a cemetery (though some burials likely occurred earlier) to 1968. Use of the cemetery continued beyond 1968 with the addition of 12 burials. The cemetery largely retains its historic appearance, including its original acreage, as deeded. This cemetery is significant to more than the African-American community of O'Fallon. While this may be only a portion of the city's rich history, it is a very necessary part. It provides dialogue and an opportunity to reach out and seek greater understanding. It is significant in an educational role: as the stories of over one-hundred of our residents are shared, everyone will be able to learn. Furthermore, it is one of the few remaining resources associated with - and the only one that remains intimately connected to - this local African-American community. Sage Chapel Cemetery is already significant as a burying ground where people's lives should never be forgotten. But even more important is the role the cemetery continues to play in our community's history which also needs to be acknowledged, and the voices of these individuals heard.

⁶⁸ See <u>https://sagechapel.com/2017/08/24/howard-morris-ceremony/</u> for photographs and a video of the ceremony held at Sage Chapel Cemetery for Howard Morris on August 12, 2017. This link includes other videos concerning Sage Chapel Cemetery and its history.

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Verbal Boundary Description: Sage Chapel Cemetery is a 1.02 square acre bounded on the north by Veterans Memorial Parkway, on the east by the property of Post 5077 of the Veterans of the Foreign Wars, on the south and the west by the Spring Hill Subdivision. See Figure 2.

Boundary Justification This is the same one acre tract of land deeded to the Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to be used as a cemetery in 1881.

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Figure 1. Appendix A: List of burials in Sage Chapel Cemetery as documented by grave markers, family members, death certificates and obituaries.

1898-1968

- 1. Abbington/Abington, Edward Hayner 23 Aug 1902 30 May 1966
- 2. Abbington, Liberty M. 21 Dec 1857 14 Jun 1931
- 3. Abernathy, Mable Tucker Edwards Claiborne 8 Jul 1887 28 Oct 1935
- 4. Abington, Eldora Welch 15 Jun 1863 25 Mar 1921*
- 5. Abington, Frank McKennie 3 Sep 1882 26 Oct 1919
- 6. Abington, Zone d. 24 Jul 1904
- 7. Ball, Thomas Hubert 14 Apr 1904 27 Feb 1933
- 8. Ball, Priscilla Admire 1812 25 May 1900*
- 9. Brady, Frank 2 Feb 1863 16 Mar 1942
- 10. Brady, Maria/Mary Carter Aug 1858 8 Mar 1924*
- 11. Brady, Myrtle Sep 1889 27 Jan 1913
- 12. Burrell, Martha J. Williams Apr 1854 25 Jan 1908*
- 13. Carter, Elvira Elizabeth Luckett 24 Dec 1885/1884 18 Sep 1957
- 14. Carter, Fred 21 Aug 1890 4 Nov 1918
- 15. Carter, William 17 Nov 1884 12 Oct 1938
- 16. Claiborne, Amos W. 23 Feb 1869 2 Aug 1910
- 17. Claiborne, Clarence 4 Mar 1909 2 Feb 1945
- 18. Claiborne, Hilda Abington 14 Oct 1869 23 Sep 1903
- 19. Claiborne, Lucy Whitehead Mar 1848 5 Mar 1922
- 20. Claiborne, Mary Smith Feb 1855 19 Mar 1917
- 21. Claiborne, Sparrel 1830 21 Mar 1915
- 22. Clarence, Jane E. Hayden 9 Sep 1876 23 Dec 1946*
- 23. Clarence, Thomas 1877/1881 23 Oct 1923*
- 24. Clarence, William Harrison 23 Dec 1888 29 Sep 1965*
- 25. Cooper, Infant d/o Albert & Nellie M. (Luckett) b/d 22 Apr 1939
- 26. Crowder, Albina 15 Oct 1905 20 Nov 1920
- 27. Crowder, Berniss 6 Feb 1916 8 Jun 1920
- 28. Crowder, Joe 20 Feb 1886 30 Mar 1926
- 29. Crowder, Lizzie age 10m 30 Mar 1925
- 30. Davis, Winston d. 19 May 1907*
- 31. Dierker, Alice 25 Aug 1910 2 Sep 1910
- 32. Dierker, Annie 24 Nov 1899 26 Apr 1917

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- 33. Dierker, Claude/Clyde 5 Jul 1922 27 Oct 1967*
- 34. Dierker, Ed 7 Apr 1870 27 Apr 1940
- 35. Dryden, Frances Rafferty Letcher 15 Aug 1860 2 Mar 1938
- 36. Dyer, Delia D. Nash 1 Jan 1884/1878 9 Apr 1953*
- 37. Edwards, Alvin/Treny/Trevy Nov 1889 13 Jun 1907
- 38. Edwards/Vardeman, Arthur M. 28 Aug 1881 25 Jun 1951 -
- 39. Edwards, Dorothy Patrick Smith Hart Turner 28 Feb 1904 2 Feb 1952*
- 40. Edwards, Ernest 5 Nov 1916 9 Mar 1966
- 41. Edwards, Fred 9 Mar 1912 9 Mar 1931
- 42. Edwards, Georgia Clark Benton Mar 1882 29 Feb 1932
- 43. Edwards, John 10 Jun 1883 21 Dec 1910
- 44. Edwards, Marshal 3 Feb 1874 26 Jun 1902*
- 45. Edwards, Mary J. Stone 18 Jun 1856 20 Nov 1921*
- 46. Edwards, Artie Mishey Letcher Vardeman Hubbard 10 Nov 1881 30 Sep 1957*
- 47. Edwards, Roman V. 2 Aug 1893 29 Oct 1898*
- 48. Edwards, Virginia Hayden c1910 18 Jul 1958
- 49. Edwards, Wesley 12 Mar 1888 10 May 1945
- 50. Hubbard, Gilbert 7 Jul 1898 10 Apr 1919
- 51. Hughes, Infant d/o Georgie b/d 9 Mar 1910
- 52. Luckett, Albert J. 18 Apr 1903 16 Aug 1926
- 53. Luckett, John Leslie 27 Jun 1915 16 Jan 1916
- 54. Luckett, Margaret Lee Hughes 8 May 1889 3 May 1953*
- 55. Luckett, Nellie Rafferty 27 Feb 1894 23 Jan 1923
- 56. Morgan, Ester Maria 27 Dec 1912 6 Mar 1913
- 57. Morris, Howard I. 8 Oct 1889/1887 29 Apr 1957*
- 58. Morris, Mary Truelove Luckett Vardeman 22 Mar 1885 8 Jan 1961
- 59. O'Day, Albert 7 Feb 1896/1894/1897 28 Aug 1940
- 60. O'Day/Otey, Ed 7 Jul 1920 7 Mar 1922
- 61. O'Day, Edith 1 Jun 1922 1 Apr 1923
- 62. O'Day, Jim 23 Sep 1916 2 Feb 1919
- 63. Owens, George Lewis 1880 6 Jul 1935
- 64. Rafferty, Alena B. Burrell Oct 1868 27 Jul 1925
- 65. Rafferty, John, Jr. 12 Aug 1860 7 Apr 1954
- 66. Robinson, Coattie/Cody Cleveland 24 Nov 1885 23 Sep 1927
- 67. Robinson, Erma 27 Apr 1925 7 Sep 1927
- 68. Sallee, Charles Edward 2 Apr 1876/3 Apr 1878 9 Feb 1929*
- 69. Sallee, David Grant 4 Jul 1910 5 Jul 1910

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- 70. Sallee, Mary Elizabeth 4 Jun 1918 26 May 1919*
- 71. Sallee, Skylar/Georgia Mae 24 Jun 1913 27 Jul 1931*
- 72. Sanders, Adell 1 Aug 1909 1 Feb 1911
- 73. Sanders, Agnes 24 Dec 1912 29 Jan 1915
- 74. Sanders, Carl Rodger 2 Feb 1900 13 Apr 1937*
- 75. Sanders, George 30 Mar 1845 6 May 1940*
- 76. Sanders, Mary J. 3 Aug 1909 8 Nov 1948
- 77. Sanders, Mary Ellen Thomas Mar 1874 1 Dec 1915
- 78. Sanders, Taylor M. 1 Apr 1900 10 Feb 1953
- 79. Stewart, Granville 1 Oct 1886 26 Feb 1957
- 80. Stewart, Raymond 4 Jun 1906 6 Jan 1946
- 81. Taylor, Marie 28 Dec 1911 12 Jul 1912
- 82. Taylor, Smith d. 28 Dec 1909
- 83. Thomas, Andrew Okay Jun 1857 17 Feb 1912
- 84. Thomas, Dorothy May 15 Oct 1929 7 Feb 1930
- 85. Thomas, Eugene E. "Slick" 15 Feb 1930 23 Jul 1963
- 86. Thomas, George 17 Oct 1870 15 Jul 1911
- 87. Thomas, Henry C. 21 Aug 1889 21 Oct 1913
- 88. Thomas, Infant d/o Nathaniel & Lovetta (Hayden) b/d 25 Jul 1934
- 89. Thomas, John E. 22 Dec 1895 23 Oct 1911
- 90. Thomas, Nathaniel George 8 Jul 1902 27 Mar 1947
- 91. Thomas, Sedalia "Selley" Letcher Jun 1885 17 Jul 1910
- 92. Tucker, Henry 1871 25 Dec 1950
- 93. Tucker, Mary 1866 26 Feb 1934
- 94. Tyler, Elenora Stewart Jul 1874 23 Apr 1905
- 95. Vardeman, Florence Beatrice 7/8 Aug 1902 28 Feb 1911*
- 96. Vardeman, John W. 1 Mar 1875 29 Jan 1918
- 97. Vordiman, Rolf Chester 5 May 1912 12 Jun 1912
- 98. Washington, Lottie M. Thomas O'Day 5 Jun 1900/11 Jun 1898 16 Jun 1961*
- 99. White, Frona May 4 Feb 1912 26 Mar 1912
- 100. White, Jessie L. 4 Nov 1908/1910 20 Nov 1927*
- 101. White, Lucy Singleton Hughes St. Clair 16 Feb 1864 22/23 Jan 1958*
- 102. White, Rufus Mar 1852 27 Feb 1919
- 103. White, Simon Leslie 7 Aug 1881 13 Aug 1966*
- 104. Williams, Infant s/o Frank & Stella Marie (Luckett) b/d 26 Oct 1937
- 105. Wyatt, Elizabeth Claiborne Mar 1884 4 Apr 1919

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1969-2018

- 106. Furlow, Lovetta/Vetta/Velta/Veltha Hayden Thomas 13 Jan 1906 Jan 1981
- 107. Hart, Leo Larue (AKA Leon Baskerville) 25 Jun 1931 12 Mar 2007*
- 108. Hayden, Catherine Marie Williams 16 Oct 1927 7 Jul 1988
- 109. Hayden, Elizabeth Ashley 5 Aug 1891 3 Mar 1978*
- 110. Luckett, Leslie/Lester H. 12 Apr 1898 18 Apr 1972*
- 111. Norris, Betty Mae Elizabeth Hart Shorty 4 Mar 1933 28 Dec 1981*
- 112. Riley, Douglas Dean 5 Jan 1956 10 Apr 2015
- 113. Thomas, Delories Ruth "Dee Dee" Locke Bergesch 27 Aug 1946 8 Nov 2003
- 114. Thornton, Cora LuLurean White/LuLurean Cora 20 Apr 1922 18 Dec 1986/1990*
- 115. Vardeman, John Bearl 11 Nov 1910 17 Jun 1976
- 116. Vardeman, Mary Elizabeth Mozee 27 Sep 1914 23 Aug 1976
- 117. White, Cora E. Abington 10 Sep 1882 23 Nov 1972*
- * denotes those with extant markers

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Figure 2. Site Map, created utilizing GoogleMaps, 2018. Latitude/longitude coordinates are centered within the below boundary: 38.800034, -90.694882

The two red rectangles indicate the location of the two noncontributing signs.



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Figure 3. Context Map, GoogleMaps, 2018. Latitude/longitude coordinates: 38.800034, -90.694882

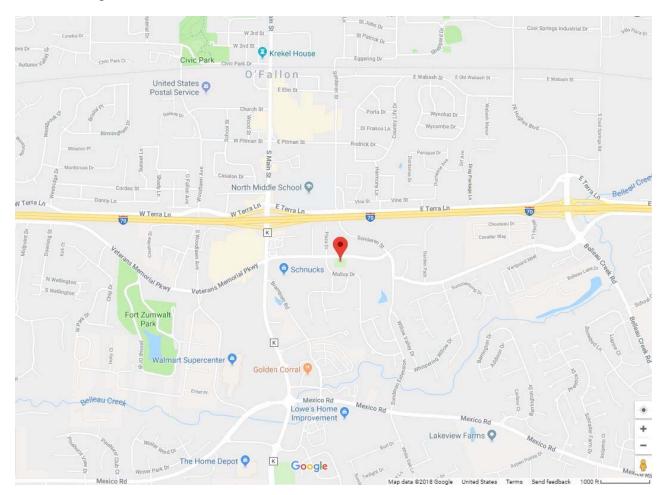


Figure 4: *Plat Book of St. Charles County, Missouri* (Des Moines, IA: Northwest Publishing Co., 1905)

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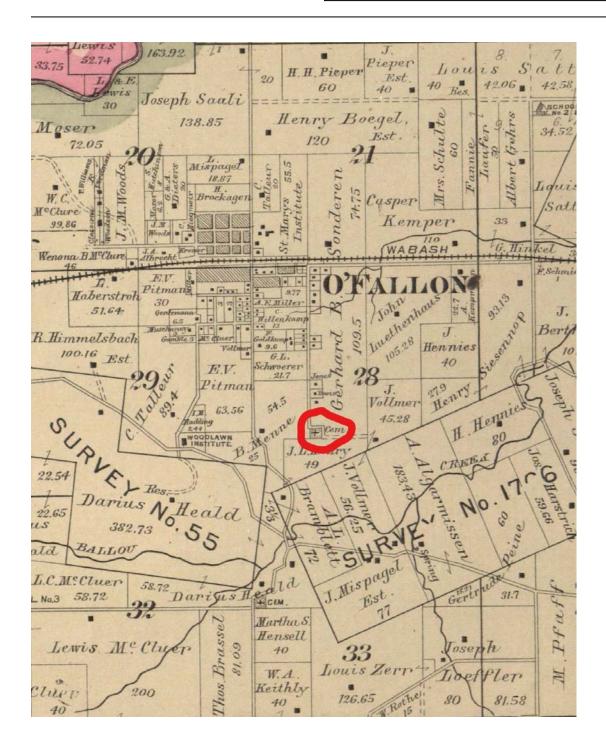


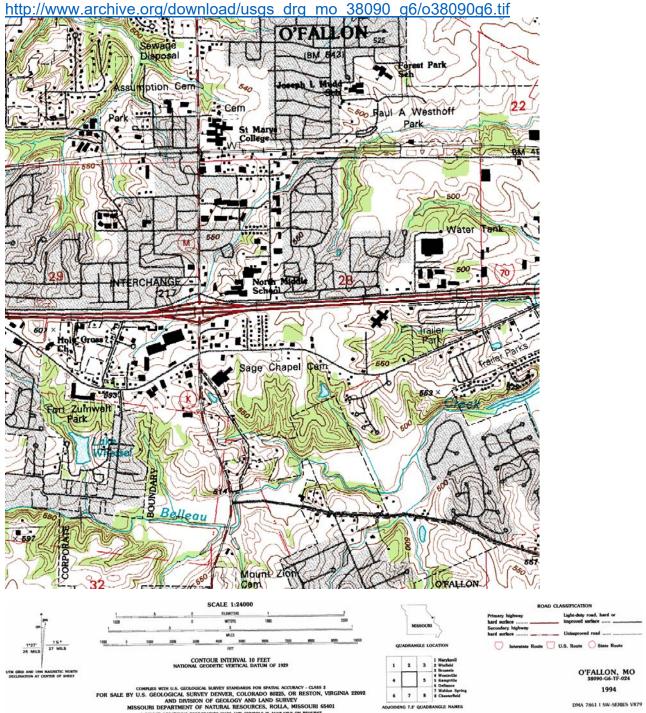
Figure 5. O'Fallon 1994 USGS map with location of Sage Chapel Cemetery indicated.

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Available online via the Internet Archive, <u>https://archive.org/details/usgs_mo?&sort=-downloads&page=4</u>, direct download link:



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Figure 6. Examples of pre-1968 extant grave markers. Photographed by Justin Watkins and Dorris Keeven-Franke.



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Figure 7. The original gravestone for Howard I. Morris and the replacement stone, donated by the V.F.W. Post 5077. Photographed by Justin Watkins and Dorris Keeven-Franke.



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Figure 8. Examples of grave markers for burials added after 1968. The first photograph represents a family memorial with a garden stone, flowers, and simple name marker as there is no gravestone in place. Photographed by Justin Watkins and Dorris Keeven-Franke.



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Figure 9. Census data for St. Charles County and O'Fallon, 1860-1970. Pulled from "Census of Population and Housing," U.S. Census Bureau, 1860-1970. Accessed April 27, 2018. <u>https://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html</u>

Census	St. Charles County				O'Fallon		
Year	White	Black	Total	White	Black	Total	
1860	14,313	2,210	16,523				
1870	19,381	1,922	21,304				
1880	20,652	2,411	23,065			295	
1890	20,656	2,315	22,977				
1900	22,332	2,139	24,474				
1910	22,974	1,718	24,695			600*	
1920	21,578	1,249	22,828			588	
1930	23,290	1,063	24,354			594	
1940	24,542	1,019	25,562			618	
1950	29,069	765	29,834			789	
1960	52,054	916**	52,970	3,729	34	3,770	
1970	91,546	1,155	92,954	6,994	15	7,018	

*According to a November 1912, Sanborn Map, O'Fallon's population in 1912 was 600. Source: "O'Fallon, Missouri, 1912 November," Sanborn Map Company, Digital Library, University of Missouri, Accessed April 27, 2018,

https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A143247

**Some census data, depending on the year, reports minorities as "Nonwhites", thus it does not differentiate between African Americans and other races. However, in those years where they were differentiated, the numbers of other races were very low; thus most of the population within St. Charles County historically was made up primarily of those identifying as "White" – sometimes foreign born, which is not differentiated here – and African Americans. For example, in 1970 O'Fallon, 6,994 individuals were classified as "White", and 15 were classified as "Negro." Thus there were only 9 counted as another race (for that census year: Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and "All other"). In 1920, St. Charles County, only one individual was counted as another race.

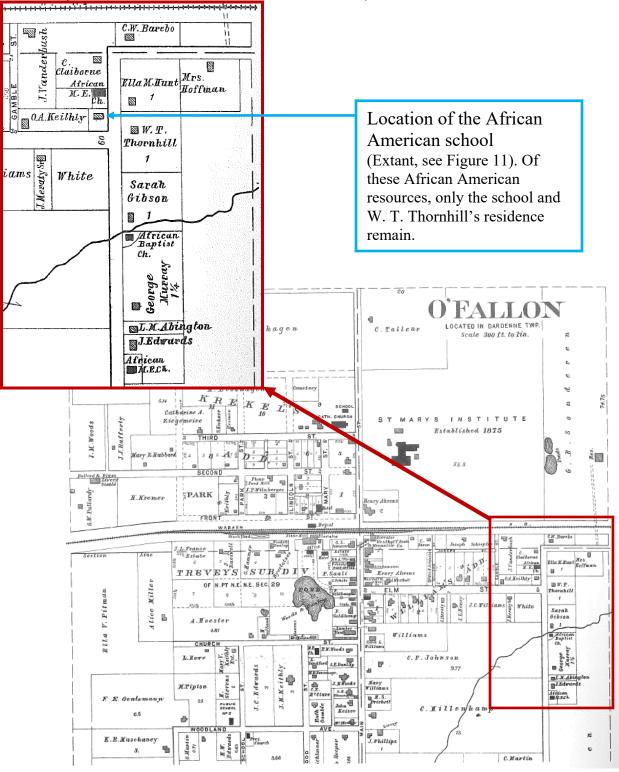
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Figure 10. Excerpt from 1905 map of O'Fallon showing the African American enclave along Sonderen. Source: Malcolm C. Drummond, *Historic Sites In St. Charles County Missouri* (Harland Bartholomew & Associates, 1976)



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Figure 11. Excerpt from 1932 map of O'Fallon showing the African American enclave along Sonderen.



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Figure 12. Preacher Jefferson Franklin Sage.

Source: Keeven-Franke, Dorris. "Preacher Jefferson Franklin Sage." St. Charles County History. October 16,

2017. Accessed May 24, 2018. <u>https://stcharlescountyhistory.org/2017/10/16/preacher-jefferson-franklin-sage/</u>



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Figure 13: Extant African American School at 315 E. Elm Street, now utilized as a restaurant. Google Maps Street View from July 2017. Accessed May 7, 2018.



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Figure 14: Willis Thornhill's former residence at 116 Sonderen Street, once associated with the local African American Odd Fellows Lodge. Google Maps Street View from July 2017. Accessed May 7, 2018.



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Figure 15: Faces of some of those buried in Sage Chapel Cemetery. Personal photographs; digital copies in Dorris Keeven-Franke's personal collection.

1) Simon and Cora White, with Arlene, Betty, and Michael – they lived on Sonderen Avenue 2) Dorothy Edwards 3) Frances Rafferty Dryden 4) Frank Brady 5) Nellie Luckett



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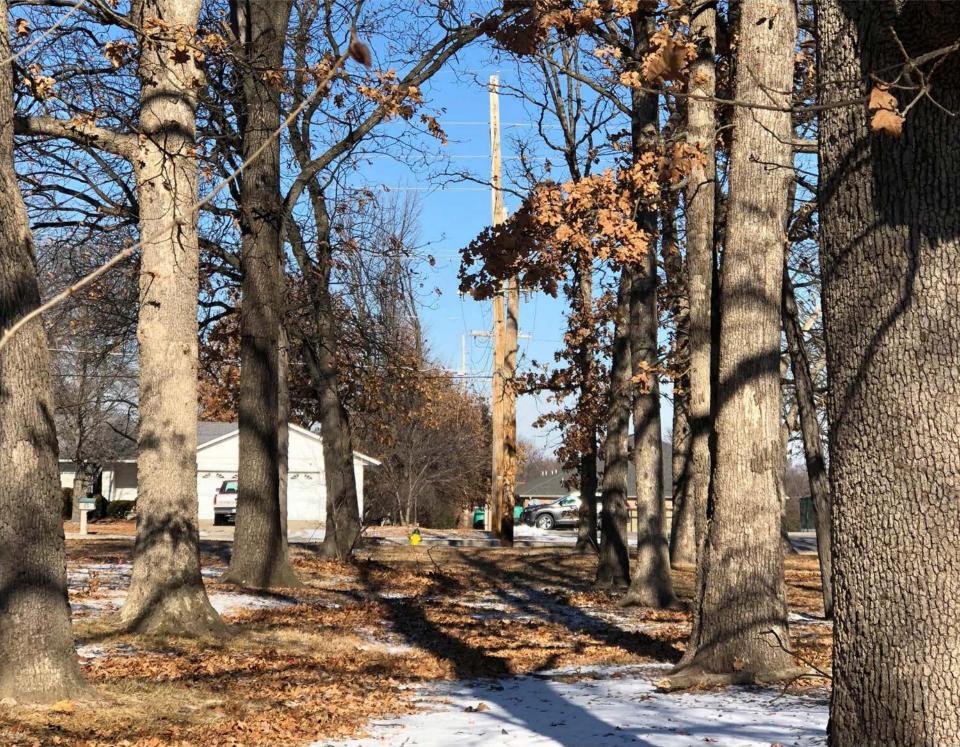
 N/A

 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 16: Site Map for Photos, Source: GoogleMaps, 2018















HOWARD I MORRIS MISSOURI PVT HO CO 65 PIONEER INF WORLD W. J. OCT 8 1869 APR 29 1957





SAGE CHAPEL

CEMETERY

Est. 1881

a we diding



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination				
Property Name:	Sage Chapel Cemetery				
Multiple Name:					
State & County:	MISSOURI, St. Charles				
Date Recei 9/27/201		Pending List: Date of 16th 7/2018 11/1/20	n Day: Date of 45th Day: 18 11/13/2018	Date of Weekly List: 11/2/2018	
Reference number:	SG100003087				
Nominator:	State				
Reason For Review:					
Appeal		PDIL	Text/E	Data Issue	
SHPO	Request	Landscape	Photo		
Waiver		National	Map/E	Map/Boundary	
Resubr	mission	Mobile Resource	e Period	Period	
Other		TCP	Less t	han 50 years	
		<u>X</u> CLG			
X Accept	Return	Reject	11/2/2018 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:					
Recommendation/ Criteria					
Reviewer Control Unit		Dis	cipline		
Telephone		Da	te		
DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No					

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



100 NORTH MAIN STREET O'FALLON, MISSOURI 63366 636.240.2000 FACSIMILE 636.978.4144 www.ofallon.mo.us

August 8, 2018

Dr. Toni M. Prawl Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer and Director, Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

RE: National Register Nomination for the Sage Chapel Cemetery

Dear Dr. Prawl:

As the Chair of the O'Fallon Missouri Historic Preservation Commission, a Certified Local Government, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission has reviewed the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Sage Chapel Cemetery located on Veterans Memorial Parkway, 0.3 miles east of Highway K, O'Fallon, Missouri. The nomination was reviewed at the August 7, 2018, meeting of the O'Fallon Historic Preservation Commission, and a motion made to recommend approval of the nomination of Sage Chapel Cemetery. The motion passed unanimously.

Public notice of the Commission Meeting, including the review of this nomination, was posted in accordance with City policy and there was an opportunity for public comment at the meeting. Neither City staff nor the Commission received any calls or letters in opposition to the nomination and no public comments in opposition were made at the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at <u>Karolyn.terpstra@gmail.com</u> or 612-325-9181.

Sincerely,

Karolyn Terpstra Chair, O'Fallon Historic Preservation Commission

cc: Mayor Bill Hennessy Mr. David Strahl, O'Fallon City Administrator Mr. John Griesenauer, O'Fallon Administrative Services Director



Memorandum

ECEIVED 2280

Date:	SEP 2 1 2018	SEP 3 7 2018
То:	Joy Beasley, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places	NAT, REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE
From:	Mike Sutherland, Deputy SHPO	EDUTORIAL PARAGEMENTED
Subject:	Sage Chapel Cemetery, O'Fallon, St. Charles County, MO, Nat Nomination	ional Register

Our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, approved the above nomination on August 10th, 2018. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with Section 36CFR60.6, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please find enclosed the following documentation:

1 CD with original National Register of Historic Places registration form and CLG letter

_____ Multiple Property Documentation Form

_____ Photographs

1 CD with electronic images

_____ Original USGS map(s)

<u>2</u> Piece(s) of correspondence (cover letter and signature page)

Other:

Comments:

Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed

_____ The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.

