

## **Research on 6035, 6060, and 6052 Grimshaw Ave.**

### **Early History**

The properties located at 6035, 6050, and 6052 Grimshaw Avenue in Pine Lawn, MO sit within the sizable Survey # 1913 (4128 acres), which was originally granted to Joseph Alvarez Hortiz, a prominent Spanish soldier stationed in St. Louis in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The full survey was the property of Peter Chouteau by 1838 when the United States Government confirmed the grant.<sup>1</sup>

The grant was heavily divided over the years. The subdivision containing our properties of concern (a roughly 10 acre area) belonged to George Grimshaw and Fred Krant (or Kraut) by 1878. The street name Grimshaw likely comes from the property owner's name. Small portions of the area had different owners in the intervening years, but the ownership was essentially the same by 1909.<sup>2</sup>

In February of 1920, the area was platted as a subdivision called Industrial Park by the Qwendo Realty Company, the President of which was Thomas J. Hogan.<sup>3</sup>

The development of the subdivision occurred over the next two decades. In 1922, only six homes were listed as occupied in the St. Louis County Directory. Four years later half the subdivision (roughly 20 homes) were listed. By 1939, the area had just over 30 homes. Finally by 1943, an additional 10 homes were listed and an apartment complex had been constructed at 6122 Grimshaw.

### **6035 Grimshaw Ave**

The property at 6035 Grimshaw was most likely constructed between 1936 and 1939. A full investigation of its occupancy was not done for this report, but between 1941 and 1944 the property was home to Otto D. Blechle who worked as a clerk in the City of St. Louis.

### **6050 Grimshaw Ave**

The property at 6050 Grimshaw Ave was most likely constructed between 1939 and 1941. A full investigation of its occupancy was not done for this report, but in 1941, the property was owned by Fred and Roses Kall. Fred worked as a moulder in the City of St. Louis. By 1943, the property was home to Walter F. Duffin, whose occupation is listed in the County Directory as technician.

### **6052 Grimshaw Ave**

The property at 6052 Grimshaw Ave was most likely constructed between 1926 and 1928 making it one of the older properties in the neighborhood. During the WWII era it was home to Mrs. Georgia Mittong. She is listed in the County Directory as the widow of John G. Mittong. Also living in the home during this period were Eugene, Logan, Joseph, and Robert Mittong, who were perhaps her sons. While no

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<sup>1</sup> Zion in the Valley: The Jewish Community of St ..., Volume 1; Volumes 1807-1907

By Walter Ehrlich pg 8, Dupre, E. Atlas of the city and county of St. Louis: by congressional townships; showing all the surveys of the public lands, and of the confirmed French and Spanish grants, New-Madrid locations, and entries of public lands, up to the 1st day of January, 1838: with the names of the original claimants, and number of acres claimed by each. St. Louis: E. Dupre, 1838.

<sup>2</sup> Pitzman, Julius. Pitzman's new atlas of the city and county of Saint Louis, Missouri: constructed from actual surveys and official records/by Julius Pitzman. Philadelphia: A. B. Holcombe, 1878.; Plat book of St. Louis County, Missouri. Des Moines, Iowa: Northwest Publishing Co., 1909.

<sup>3</sup> Subdivision Plat for Industrial Park, Filed with St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds February 18<sup>th</sup> 1920.

occupation is known for Mrs. Mittong, the following is listed in the 1941 County Directory about the occupations of the homes other residents:

Eugene – Inspector in the City of St. Louis

Logan- Clerk in the City of St. Louis

Joseph- Coal Dealer in the City of St. Louis

Robert- Machinist

In 1943, Robert and Joseph's occupations were the same, but Eugene and Logan were serving in the U.S. Army.<sup>4</sup>

**St. Louis Ordnance Plant-** Operating 24 hours a day during WWII, the St. Louis Ordnance Plant located at 4300 Goodfellow Blvd, just east of the properties we are concerned with, produced 250 million cartridges a month. When it opened in December of 1941 it was the world's largest maker of .30 caliber and .50 caliber ammunition for rifles and machine guns. It employed 35,000 people on a 291 acre complex of 300 buildings.<sup>5</sup> The plant closed in 1945, but resumed production during the Korean and Vietnam Wars before shutting its doors for good in 1979.<sup>6</sup> The Olin Corporation, which managed the plant, remains in business in the St. Louis region. As of 2012, it received over \$ 87 million in defense contracts.<sup>7</sup> The Industrial Park Subdivision containing our properties of concern was firmly established, and roughly two-thirds developed by the time the Ordinance Plant opened. However, a number of homes were built in the subdivision during the WWII period as was an Apartment complex.

Of the properties we are concerned with, all were constructed prior to the opening of the Ordinance Plant, and only 6050 Grimshaw could have been constructed during a time when the planned construction of the plant was known. Additionally, based on their occupations, as listed in the County Directories, it seems that few if any of the occupants of our three properties of concern were employees of the Ordinance Plant in 1943.

**Marais Castor-** The estate of William Clark in St. Louis County was known as Marais Castor. Our properties of concern lay in or just adjacent to where his estate was located. By 1870, the property had been subdivided and sold, but Clark's son Jefferson K. Clark continued to own large portions of property North and West of the area.<sup>8</sup> Council Grove Avenue which runs into Grimshaw Avenue just west of the properties we are concerned with is said to mark the location of "Castor Hill" where William Clark met with the Osage in 1825 to sign a treaty in which the tribe surrendered, all lands in Missouri, Arkansas, and present day Kansas.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> St. Louis County Directories 1922-1943

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/a-look-back-st-louis-factory-loaded-america-s-weapons/article\\_3485624f-ef86-51ee-b100-858060b47c9f.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/a-look-back-st-louis-factory-loaded-america-s-weapons/article_3485624f-ef86-51ee-b100-858060b47c9f.html)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/docs/sloppp2010.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/blog/2012/11/top-st-louis-area-defense-contractors.html>

<sup>8</sup> Map of St. Louis County/Lithographed and published by Julius Hutawa. St. Louis: J. Hutawa, c. 1867-1872(?)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.stlmag.com/news/the-lucas-family/>