

**Ben Ferrel
PLATTE COUNTY
MUSEUM**



**1882
VICTORIAN
Mini-Mansion**

**County Archives
&
Genealogical Library**

Third and Ferrel Streets
Platte City, Missouri



*Formal Dining Room and
Bringing Up Kitchen*

**HONORARIUMS
& MEMORIALS**

An honorarium or memorial for a loved one or friend to the Ben Ferrel Platte County Museum Perpetual Care Fund is a lasting gift!

Send all mail to:

Platte County Historical Society
P.O. Box 103
Platte City, MO 64079-0103
Phone: (816) 431-5121

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

Historical accounts and displays tell the story of Platte County in the Archives Room, and publications, census records, microfilm and family histories fill the library room.

RESTORATION

Great care has been given to selecting wallpaper, rugs, curtains, etc., that could have been purchased in the 1880s. Hand-grained woodwork has been restored, floors refinished and all furnishings in the home have a Platte County connection. Pictures do not do justice to the beauty of the rooms – you must see them to truly appreciate them!



Ben Ferrel

OWNERSHIP OF THE MANSION

The home remained in the Krause family until Mrs. Krause sold it in 1917 to the Thomas Perry, Sr. family. Mr. Perry had served two terms as a Sheriff of Platte County. The Perry's daughter, "Miss Jennie" Perry Harris, was a seamstress and later used the parlor room as her fitting room. She converted the home into a rooming house.

In 1973 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beals bought the house, to be used as a wood-working shop in the basement and a ceramic shop upstairs. In 1976, three men tried to buy the home, with the intention of tearing it down to use the beautiful woodwork and staircase in a Kansas City restaurant. But the home was preserved by a gift from Mr. Ben Ferrel, a former Platte Countyman. Mr. Ferrel had bequeathed \$38,000 to be equally divided between the Platte County Historical Society and the Platte Purchase Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for the purpose of building or buying a museum or meeting place to be located in Platte City. The two organizations pooled their funds and purchased Krause Mansion in 1977, thus saving this beautiful old home.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, one matching grant of \$100,000 was received from the state of Missouri. Over \$100,000 has been raised by gifts, memorials and fund raisers to restore the home. The Parlor Room has been elegantly restored by the Platte Purchase Daughters of the American Revolution. The remainder of the home is under the auspices of the Platte County Historical Society.



*Parlor Room
Elegantly Furnished*



1891 Photo of Frederick Krause on Porch

Located at Third and Ferrel Streets in Platte City, Missouri, the mini-mansion has long reminded people of the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City, Missouri. The mansard roofs, ornate grill-work and white cornerstones are quite similar. Built in 1882, the Mini-Mansion is very rare architecture for the area.

The exterior is a fine example of Renaissance Revival architecture with French influence. It is known that Mr. Krause was a friend of Governor Silas Woodson of Buchanan County, Missouri, and as he was later appointed the Missouri Ambassador to the World's Fair in his home-land, Prussia, it is reasonable to assume Mr. Krause was quite familiar with the Governor's Mansion. Although the exterior is definitely Victorian in appearance, the interior carries the heavy wood-on-wood motif of Mr. Krause's German heritage, including the tongue and groove wood ceiling in the kitchen.

No records have been found to identify the

architect or the cost of building the home, which took one year to complete. Mr. Krause owned the only brick burning plant in Platte City and dirt taken from the basement level has been baked off in a kiln that gives the same consistency as the bricks in the home. The west side of the house has no windows, creating a fire wall, and was tuck-pointed in a different manner than the other three sides of the house and was never painted. Tests show the remainder of the brick was always painted a Venetian Red, the ceilings of the two porches turquoise blue and the porch floors gray.

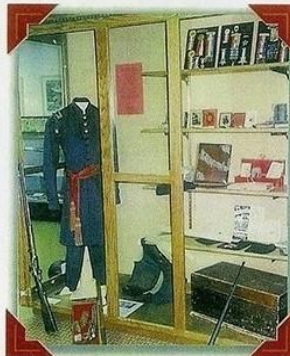
Only two changes have been made during the history of the house. The front doorway was changed from two solid wooden doors with small windows at the top, to a single glass door with tall, narrow windows on each side. A doorway was cut in the kitchen wall to give access to a pantry added on the back porch.

**Platte County
Historical & Genealogical Society
Ben Ferrel Platte County
Museum Membership**

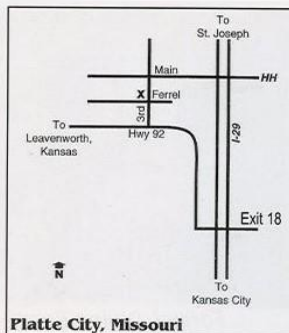
Membership is open to anyone interested in the history, architecture and genealogy of Platte County, Missouri. Call or go to website for rates.

**PLATTE COUNTY
BOOK SALES**

The sale of books on Platte County History and Genealogy help support the museum. For a list of the 20+ books, send a L-5ASE.



*Union Soldier's Complete
Uniform and Equipment*



Platte City, Missouri

**MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OPEN
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM
3RD THUR. APR. TO 3RD FRI. OCT.**

**Docent Guided Tours
Staffed Genealogy Library
Groups by appointment only
Small fee**

www.pchsi882.org



**Platte County Historical
and Genealogical Society, Inc.**

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