Ozark Rock Masonry

Ozark Rock Masonry is arguably the most distinctive genre of 20th century vernacular architecture found in Missouri. As the use of local materials and simple forms, Ozark Rock architecture can be compared to log construction of frontier times, the early 20th century rock structures of the Ozarks can be seen as the "log cabins" of the 1930s. The use of the word rock, as opposed to stone, is important—Ozark Rock Masonry is characterized by the use of fieldstone, or rocks, rather than quarried and refined blocks of stone. In many cases, the rocks used for these buildings and structures were right out of the ground of the building site, or from a streambed or hillside nearby. And, just as the design of the building itself, they influenced the design of the buildings and structures. Ozark Rock architecture is almost entirely the work of unknown designers, and in some cases, even unknown materials. The use of local materials and local handwork has created a rich stockpile of buildings and structures that are unique to the Ozarks. As the long-forgotten "Street of the Ozarks" Springfield houses a significant concentration of Ozark Rock Masonry.

Core Study Group

This group represents fifty of the most significant examples of Ozark Rock Masonry in the City of Springfield. The core study group contains a representative sampling of structures and architectural features that capture the essence of Ozark Rock Masonry for architectural interest. Study of these properties included mapping, black and white and color photography, field recording of physical characteristics, and basic historical research to identify approximate construction dates and early owners.