GRANT-RELATED SITES IN ST. LOUIS

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR
GRANT-RELATED SITES IN ST. LOUIS:
A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

presented by

ULYSSES S. GRANT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
7400 Grant Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63123
(314) 842-3298

Pamela K. Sanfilippo, Historian
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Grant Tour
Gr ant Tour

U lysses S. Grant National Historic Site was established in 1990 to preserve and interpret the core of the White Haven property as it relates to Ulysses S. and Julia Dent Grant. The approximately ten acres of land currently administered by the National Park Service was privately owned for most of the twentieth century. It was saved from demolition through the efforts of citizens committed to preservation of this historic home associated with the life of our eighteenth President and his wife. Unfortunately, many other properties in St. Louis identified with Grant did not meet such a happy fate. In addition, twentieth century modes of transportation and urban/suburban development have greatly changed the way we travel and the physical landscape we see today. The tour will take you past the locations where some of these structures formerly stood, as well as those which have been preserved throughout the years. With the aid of this booklet and your imagination, we hope you will be able to envision these sites as Ulysses and Julia saw them.

This booklet was originally designed to supplement a guided tour. It has been expanded to include written directions followed by additional materials mentioned verbally on the bus tour. While it is possible to complete the tour in one day, it can also be divided into mini-tours of several areas of the city.

Special thanks go to David Ohlemeyer, one of the dedicated volunteers at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. His extensive research of historical works on St. Louis brought many of the pictures and maps used in the booklet to light. He also participated as one of the guides for the inaugural bus tour held in October, 1997.
Jefferson Barracks County Park, Kingston Road
Starting from Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, 7400 Grant Road. Turn left out of site onto Grant Road to Gravois. Right on Gravois to Interstate 270. South (left) onto I-270, which changes to I-255 when it crosses I-55. Exit at Telegraph Road and head East (left) on Telegraph. Stay to the right where Telegraph splits and right fork becomes Kingston. Continue East on Kingston to entrance to Jefferson Barracks County Park on right. Signs will direct you to the Visitor Center. Or follow Grant Road to right on Hancock Road to right on Gregg Road to circle around the park past parade grounds and former location of the 19th century barracks. Grant reported to Jefferson Barracks with the 4th U.S. infantry after graduating from West Point.

White Haven and Wish-ton-Wish, Gravois, Eddie & Park, Pardee, Rock Hill Roads
From Jefferson Barracks County Park head West (left) on Kingston to Sigee, right before Kingston joins with Telegraph. Turn Right on Sigee, and then right on Telegraph. At the next block turn left onto Reavis Barracks. Reavis Barracks North to Mackenzie, to Gravois. West (left) on Gravois. The corner of the original White Haven estate begins at Laclede Station Road and Gravois, heading West to Eddie & Park. Grant visited his West Point roommate’s home, named White Haven, in 1843. Here he met and fell in love with the eldest Dent daughter, Julia, in early 1844. You will pass Grant’s Farm, and the current site of Hardscrabble cabin on your right, which was all part of the 19th century estate. Turn Right on Eddie & Park to Pardee. Today’s Odad Mountain is the probable location of Wish-ton-Wish, the home of Julia Grant’s brother, where the Grants lived for a time in the mid-1850s. Make a Right on Pardee and then Left at the intersection of Pardee and Grant Road (Pardee is the street name when you turn at this intersection). Continue on Pardee, the western boundary of the White Haven estate, to Rock Hill. The property boundary went as far as Watson Road, and then East to Laclede Station Road.

Original Site of Hardscrabble, St. Paul’s Cemetery, Rock Hill Road
At Pardee and Rock Hill, turn Right (East). On the left is St. Paul Cemetery, where a plaque marks the original location of Hardscrabble, the log cabin Grant built in 1856. While living in Wish-ton-Wish, Grant began building a home for his family on property Julia had been given by her father. The Grants lived there from September 1856 until January 1857, when Julia’s mother passed away and her father asked them to move back into the main house with him.

Gravois Road Coal Mines, Gravois Road East of Christy and Gravois
Continue East on Rock Hill to Gravois. Turn Left on Gravois headed Northwest toward the City of St. Louis. Grant traveled along this route to take wood to sell to friends in the city. There were several coal mines within close proximity to Gravois, where Grant sold stout saplings for shoring up the mines. These include the Christy Fire Clay Mine, at Morganford and Gravois; the Hunt & McDonald Mine east of Gustine and north of Gravois; and the Peter DeLores Mine south and West of Grand and Gravois. At this point you can continue on Gravois to the 12th Street Market site, or turn Right at Pestalozzi to the Barton Street residence.
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12th Street Market, Corner of Tucker and Market Streets
If you continue on Gravois, it changes names to Tucker Blvd., formerly 12th Street. At the Southwest corner of Tucker and Market is the location of the former 12th Street Market (also known as Lucas Market), where Grant occasionally sold wood. Today it is the site of St. Louis City Hall. At the corner is a statue of Ulysses S. Grant, erected in 1888.

Grant Family Home in 1859, 1008 Barton
Continue Northeast on Gravois to Pestalozzi. Right on Pestalozzi which dead ends at Anheuser-Busch brewery. Turn left and then right at Y onto 12th Street. Proceed four blocks to Barton. Right on Barton to 1008 Barton. This is the site of the home (today extensively remodeled) the Grants lived in for a brief time in late 1859. Grant traded Hardscabble for this home with Joseph White, who still had a mortgage on the Barton house when the Grants moved in. White neglected to pay the mortgage on this house and Hardscabble, and it took the Grants seven years to regain the Hardscabble farm.

Grant Rental Home in early 1859, 7th & Lynch
Proceed on Barton one block to 9th Street. Right on 9th to Lynch, and then left on Lynch to 7th. Grant lived in the 7th and Lynch home for a few months in early 1859 when he first took the real estate job with Julia’s cousin, Harry Boggs. Today this site is part of the Anheuser-Busch complex parking lot:

Dent City Home, Southwest Corner of 4th & Cerre
South on Lynch to Broadway. East (left) on Broadway becomes 4th Street and continue to Cerre. At the Southwest corner of 4th & Cerre (left side of the street) is the lot where the Dent city home stood. This is the site in which Ulysses and Julia were married on August 22, 1848. The home was built in 1845, and purchased by the Grant-Dent Memorial Association around 1917 to preserve and restore the structure as a museum. Sufficient funds were not available to carry this project to completion, and the home was torn down in 1940 when efforts to turn the property over to the National Park Service as part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial on the riverfront were unsuccessful.

Southern Hotel, Bounded between 4th & 5th and Elm & Walnut
Continue North on 4th Street to site of Southern Hotel. Completed in 1865, the hotel was considered the largest and finest in the city at that time. A banquet was held in Grant’s honor on September 14, 1865; receptions on June 12 and September 9, 1866; and he stayed at the Southern Hotel on December 25, 1866. The hotel burned down on April 11, 1877.

Planter’s Hotel, Bounded between 4th & 5th Streets and Chestnut & Pine Streets
Continue North on 4th Street to site of Planter’s Hotel. The second Planter’s Hotel was built in 1841. Grant visited the Planter’s Hotel during his trips to the city from White Haven, reportedly visiting friends and discussing the war with Mexico and current events over a friendly game of brag. Outside this hotel Grant, a poor farmer in 1858, returned the five dollar gold piece borrowed from James Longstreet some fifteen years earlier. On September 8, 1866, President Johnson, Grant and others dined at the Planter’s Hotel during Johnson’s “Swing Around the Circle” tour. This hotel also burned in 1887, a new one was constructed in 1891, and was replaced by the Boatmen’s Tower building.

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Boggs & Grant, #35 Pine
Continuing on 4th Street but looking East (right) to where the north leg of the St. Louis Gateway Arch presently stands is the original site of the building where the firm of Boggs & Grant stood. The partnership Grant formed with Harry Boggs to sell and lease real estate began in 1859 and lasted only a short time. Grant found himself sympathetic with acquaintances struggling to make ends meet and was unwilling to force them to pay overdue rents.

Courthouse, 4th Street between Market & Chestnut
Continue on 4th Street past what is today the Old Courthouse. This was a new building under construction in the 1850s. Grant, as a young man, had moved to St. Louis, and he is known to have owned a slave at his residence. In 1859, he was also the site of a public trial that ended in a hung jury. This is also the site of the St. Louis Whiskey Ring trials in 1875, in which many of Grant's friends, such as St. Louisan John Macintosh and Grant's personal secretary, Orville Babcock, were indicted. Babcock was found not guilty, while Macintosh was convicted and jailed.

U.S. Custom House and Post Office, 3rd and Olive Streets
One block east of 4th and Olive, at the corner of what is today Memorial Drive South and Olive is the original location of the U.S. Custom House where Grant was employed as a clerk for one month late in 1859. After his unprofitable venture with Boggs & Grant, he obtained a position at the Custom House, but when the Superintendent died and a new Superintendent wanted to make his own appointments, Grant lost the position. He then sought assistance from his father, and moved his family to Galena, Illinois, where he worked in the leather goods store that his younger brother Simpson managed.

Campbell House, 1508 Locust Street
Continue North on 4th Street, turn Left (West) on Locust, to Campbell House. Robert Campbell arrived in St. Louis in 1823 and became a prosperous fur trader. His success in that business led to other ventures in retailing, banking, and as owner of the Southern Hotel. He moved to this home in the then-prestigious Lucas Place in 1854. The Grants were honored at receptions at the Campbells' home in 1873 and 1874. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is maintained as a museum today.

Lindell Hotel, Bounded by 6th & 7th Streets and Washington & Green Streets
Continue West on Locust to 18th Street. Turn Right on 18th Street and then Right (East) on Washington to former site of Lindell Hotel. The Lindell Hotel was completed in 1863, and on President Johnson's "Swing Around the Circle" tour in September 1866 he, General Grant, Admiral Farragut, General Hancock, and Secretary of State Seward stayed there. On the evening of March 30, 1867, a fire destroyed the building, to be replaced by a new Lindell Hotel in September of 1874. This was later demolished to make room for a department store. Today this site is being redeveloped.

(continued...)
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Bellefontaine Cemetery, West Florissant Avenue
Continue East on Washington to I-70. Take I-70 West to Broadway exit. Continue on Broadway to Calvary (South). Turn left onto Calvary (S) and go up the hill along Broadway, then make another left onto Calvary to West Florissant Avenue. Turn Left onto West Florissant Avenue to the entrance to Bellefontaine Cemetery, Willow Road. (Street names are on small signs close to the ground.) Turn Right from Willow onto Laurel. Proceed around loop, and across from the Thomas Hart Benton monument (on the left) is the Dent family plot. The cemetery was begun early in 1849 as the Rural Cemetery Association, immediately increasing in size during the cholera epidemic of that year. The name was changed to Bellefontaine Cemetery later. While President, Grant accompanied Colonel Dent’s remains to St. Louis for burial in December, 1873. At that time Mrs. Ellen Dent’s remains were exhumed from the White Haven farm and placed alongside her husband.

DIRECTIONS

O’Fallon Home, “Athlone,” O’Fallon Park
Follow the loop of Laurel to end at Vine. Turn Left at Vine, then back to Willow to exit of Bellefontaine Cemetery. Turn left onto West Florissant Avenue, past O’Fallon Park on the left. O’Fallon Park is maintained by the City of St. Louis. This is part of the property originally owned by Colonel John O’Fallon, whose wife was a relative of the Dents. Julia visited their home, named Athlone, after completing school in the city, and Mrs. O’Fallon presented Julia with her wedding dress in 1848. The home no longer stands today, but their 19th century property extended throughout the north St. Louis area, including much of what is today St. Louis University.

Fairgrounds Park, Natural Bridge Road
Continue on West Florissant Avenue to Warne. Turn Right on Warne until it dead ends at Kossuth at Fairgrounds Park. Between 1871 and 1874 Grant entered horses and dairy cattle in the annual St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Fair, held in early October. He took several first and second awards for some of his entries.

Camp Jackson, Lindell and Grand
Turn left onto Kossuth to Grand Blvd. Turn Right (South) on Grand Boulevard to Lindell. The site is part of St. Louis University today, but was the location for Camp Jackson at the beginning of the Civil War. Grant was in St. Louis on May 10, 1861, the day of the Camp Jackson incident. The St. Louis arsenal was held by Union troops, and it was expected that the state militia, sympathetic to the secessionists, would try to capture it. Capt. Nathaniel Lyon led Union forces to Camp Jackson and took the garrison without incident. As the rebel prisoners were being marched to the arsenal, crowds began throwing rocks and in the resulting riot 20 people were killed and numerous wounded.

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Grant in St. Louis
1843-1844

Soldier
GRANT TOUR

Boundary of 1841

St. Louis
1843-1844

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
1840 Census of St. Louis: 16,469

1841 City limits extended to 18th Street.
Charles Dickens visited St. Louis. Reportedly, he wasn't impressed with the frontier town, considering it too expensive.
Planter's Hotel Opened.

1843 First Street Commissioner appointed.
First Health Department created.
Naturalist John James Audubon visited St. Louis.
First Harbormaster appointed.
Ulysses S. Grant reported to Jefferson Barracks, 4th Infantry.
First Missouri observation of Thanksgiving, set as 4th Thursday in November.

1844 Lafayette Park acquired.
Steamboat speed record set: 1,200 miles from New Orleans in just under 4 days.
Flood, East St. Louis under water; St. Louis flooded to Broadway.
River was ten miles wide, surpassing floods of 1785, 1811 and 1826.

1845 Lucas Market at 12th & Market opened.

1847 First Dred Scott trial heard at today's Old Courthouse.
“Grant Tour

O’Fallon’s “Athlone”, O’Fallon Park

“Athlone”

“I went up to St. Louis to spend the winter with friends of my parents, Colonel and Mrs. O’Fallon, who lived in more elegance than any other family in St. Louis.” (The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, p. 47)

Mrs. O’Fallon was a second cousin to Frederick Dent. The O’Fallons were large benefactors of St. Louis, donating the land that is Fairgrounds Park, Bellefontaine Cemetery, and portions of St. Louis University today. Their home no longer stands, but the property is a city park today.
Grant Tour

Jefferson Barracks, South St. Louis County

Ulysses S. Grant reported to Jefferson Barracks on September 30, 1843. He later wrote, "Colonel Steven Kearney, one of the ablest officers of the day, commanded the post, and under him discipline was kept at a high standard, but without vexatious rules or regulations." (Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, p. 32)

Jefferson Barracks was established in 1826 as the site for the first Infantry School of Practice in the United States of America, for the Army of the West.

The infantry school closed after only two years, but Jefferson Barracks continued to play a vital role in the westward expansion and military success of the nation. Prior to the Civil War, troops stationed at the barracks provided protection to emigrants and merchants heading west. During the Civil War the Barracks served as a major medical facility and a primary ordnance depot for the Union Army.

Many significant members of the Army have been stationed at or visited the Barracks. Some of these people include Jefferson Davis, Zachary Taylor, Robert E. Lee, William T. Sherman, Phillip Sheridan, Albert Sidney Johnston, Joseph Johnston, Braxton Bragg, John J. Pershing and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Grant’s grandson and namesake, Ulysses S. Grant III, served as commanding officer in the 20th century.

During Grant's assignment there, Jefferson Barracks became the largest U.S. military post. (Brochure, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis County Parks.)
GRANT TOUR

Grant in St. Louis

1845-1860

Family Man
Farmer
Businessman
Grant Tour

St. Louis
1848-1859
1848  First telegraph line to St. Louis from Eastern United States  
Ulysses S. Grant and Julia Dent married.

1849  Great River flood.  
Greatest fire in St. Louis history, May 17, over $3 million loss.  
Cholera epidemic resulted in over 4,000 deaths.  
Bellefontaine Cemetery incorporated.  
St. Louis is major starting point for emigration to gold mines in California.  
National Railroad Convention held in St. Louis at Courthouse.  
Concordia Seminary moved to St. Louis.

1850  Census of St. Louis: 77,860.  
First underground sewer built.  
Eugene Field born.  
Second Dred Scott trial, Scott wins, appealed.  
Public schools become free, tax supported institutions.  
Frederick Dent Grant born.

1851  Christian Brothers College opened.  
Missouri School for the Blind opened.  
First railroad entered St. Louis.  
Carondelet incorporated.  
Lafayette Park created.

1852  New Courthouse started.  
Ulysses S. Grant Jr. born in Ohio

1853  Gas lighting installed in Courthouse.  
Central High School opened with principal, 4 teachers, and 70 pupils.

1855  City limits extended west of Grand.  
Ellen (Nellie) Grant born.

1856  Merchant’s Exchange Building on Walnut Street erected.  
Academy of Science Library founded.  
City Census of St. Louis: 125,200.

1857  St. Louis Normal School opened.  
Dred Scott decision handed down by Supreme Court.  
Paid Fire Department established.  
Adolphus Busch arrived in St. Louis from Germany.  
Washington University opened.

1858  First overland mail for California left St. Louis.  
First fire alarm telegraph in operation.  
Jesse Grant, Jr., born.  
Senator Thomas Hart Benton dies.  
Shaw’s Garden opened to the public by Henry Shaw.

1859  Designs started for new dome of Courthouse.  
Horse cars began operating in city.