“...my wedding was necessarily a simple one. The season was unfavorable for a large gathering, and our temporary home in St. Louis was small. We were married about eight o’clock, and received during the evening all of our old friends in the city... A table was set at the end of the back parlor upon which were served ices, fruits, and all that papa’s hospitality and good taste could suggest for the occasion. My wedding cake, I was assured, was a marvel of beauty.”

(Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, p. 55.)
Grant Tour

White Haven Map

MAP
1850s

Sketch of the Grant and Dent Farms and roads to St. Louis and Jefferson Barracks
Courtesy of Major J. E. Pitman
Grant Tour

Wish-ton-Wish and Hardscrabble, Grant's Farm

Wish-ton-Wish

"In the spring, we went up to Wish-ton-wish, which belonged to my brother Louis (Judge Louis Dent), but, as he was called back to California, he was delighted to have us occupy it." (The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, p. 76)

The home was destroyed by fire in 1873, during Grant's Presidency.

Hardscrabble

"The little house looked so unattractive that we facetiously decided to call it Hardscrabble." (The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, p. 79)
Grant received four dollars a cord for the wood. He usually had customers secured in advance but occasionally waited on the Lucas market place, now Twelfth street, for a buyer.” (Grant in Saint Louis, p. 27.) Today, City Hall occupies this block. At the corner is a statue of Ulysses S. Grant, originally dedicated in 1888.

Grant worked hard alongside the Dent and other hired slaves, but the farm could not provide sufficiently for all at White Haven. Grant hit upon several ideas to increase the family income. One of these was to sell wood from the land he was clearing as firewood or coal mine props for the mines along Gravois Road.
Boggs & Grant

"Captain Grant soon made arrangements to enter into partnership with Mr. [Harry] Boggs, a cousin of mine, who bought and sold real estate, negotiated loans, etc." (The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, p. 80)

When efforts to provide sufficiently for the family on the White Haven estate failed due to bad weather, the 1857 depression, and family illness, Grant looked to the city of St. Louis for income opportunities. The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial replaced the business district along the riverfront in the 1960s.
"The Captain went in March and secured a neat little house for us which was simply but comfortably furnished." (The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, p. 80) Grant wrote his father, "We have one spare room and also a spare bed in the childrens room so that we can accommodate any of our friends that are likely to come see us." (USG to Jesse R. Grant, Sr., March 12, 1859, Papers, I, 346.)

"Next month I get possession of my own house when my expenses will be reduced so much that a very moderate salary will support me." (USG to Jesse R. Grant, Sr., Sept. 23, 1859, Papers, I, 351.)
"...Grant wrote home that his name had been forwarded for the appointment of superintendent of the custom house. 'I am still unemployed,' he said, 'but expect to have a place in the custom house from the first of next month.' He explained that if he was not appointed superintendent he was to get a desk as clerk in the custom house. He did receive the clerkship, but it lasted only about a month." (Grant in Saint Louis, p. 59.)
Grant Tour

The Old Courthouse, 4th Street

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Old Courthouse

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[signature]

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site 23
Grant Tour

Grant in St. Louis

1861-1865

"A Soldier Once More"

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site  25
St. Louis
1861-1865
1861  Eads begins ironclad gunboat yard in Carondelet.
      Board of Police Commissioners, appointed by Secessionist Governor
      Jackson, banned large gatherings in an attempt to discourage Union
      gatherings. Federal Capt. Nathaniel Lyon marched on Southern-
      sympathizing Missouri militia at Camp Jackson.
      Grant in St. Louis to witness the Camp Jackson incident.

1863  Lindell Hotel opened.

1864  Eads Bridge begun.
      Grant rushes to St. Louis to see Fred, who was very ill. By the time
      he arrived the crisis had passed and he accepted an invitation to
      attend a reception at the Lindell Hotel.
      Sanitary Fair held in St. Louis. Nellie Grant portrays “Old Woman
      in the Shoe” to raise money for the war effort.

1865  First public library established in St. Louis.
      Missouri voters approve a new Constitution without slavery.
      Southern Hotel opened.
“...I went down to the arsenal in the morning to see the troops start out. I had known Lyon for two years at West Point and in the old army afterwards. Blair I knew very well by sight... Camp Jackson surrendered without a fight and the garrison was marched down to the arsenal as prisoners of war... The Union men ordered the rebel flag taken down from the building on Pine Street. The command was given in tones of authority and it was taken down, never to be raised again in St. Louis.” (Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, p. 141)
“Your highly complimentary invitation to meet 'old acquaintances and to make new ones' at a dinner to be given by citizens of St. Louis, is just received....I will state that I have only visited St. Louis on this occasion [sic] to see a sick child. Finding however that he has passed the crisis of his disease, and is pronounced out of danger by his physician, I accept the invitation.” (USG to John O'Fallon et al. January 27, 1864, Papers X, 69.)
"I was happy to be at home again, bustled myself putting my house in order, and hoped soon to have the pleasure of a visit from my husband... How lovely our little villa was, with its cool new India matting and muslin curtains, and how happy we all were on our rose-covered piazza, dear papa so entertained by all I had to tell him. The trees and grounds around our home were large and handsome. We had a great deal of company..." (Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, p. 137)