

# Ulysses S. Grant

National Historic Site  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



"President Grant's Farm Near St. Louis" from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, October 16, 1875.

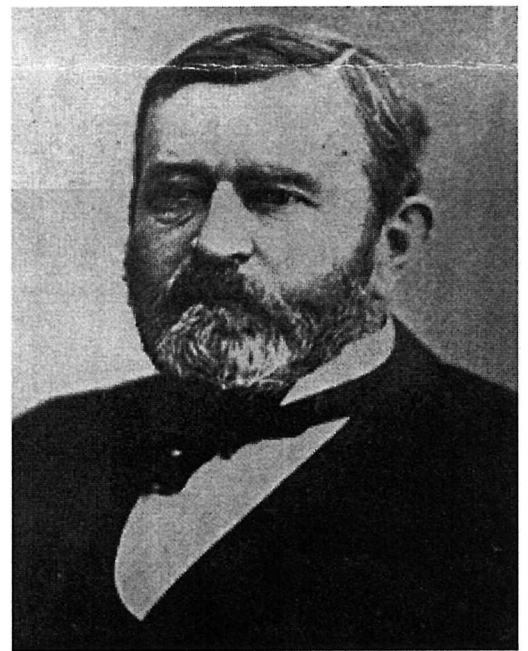
***On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant established Yellowstone as the country's first National Park. Grant could not have imagined that 117 years and some 360 park units later, President George Bush would sign legislation authorizing his home, White Haven, as Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The National Park Service is restoring White Haven as a tangible reminder of the man, his wife Julia, their lives, and their family.***

***Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site consists of five historic structures (a two-story residence, a stone Summer Kitchen, a barn, an ice house, and a chicken house) on 9.65 acres of land. The grounds feature several hundred trees and are a haven for a variety of wildlife such as raccoon, woodchuck, rabbit, squirrel, red fox, and an assortment of birds.***

## Ulysses S. Grant and White Haven

Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant was assigned to St. Louis' nearby Jefferson Barracks following his graduation from West Point in 1843. Soon after arriving in the city, he visited the family of his former roommate, Frederick Dent, at their plantation on Gravois Creek. There he met Fred's sister Julia, and afterwards his visits became quite regular. Upon learning of his regiment's impending transfer, Grant proposed to Julia in 1844, and the couple eventually married in 1848.

The White Haven property was a focal point in Ulysses' and Julia's lives for four decades. The Grants lived here off and on during the 1850s. Although the family moved to Galena, Illinois, in 1860, the Grants continued to think of White Haven as their family home. By 1870, President Grant owned nearly 650 acres of the White Haven farm and began readying the property for a relaxing retirement. Although circumstances caused him to abandon those retirement plans, Grant retained ownership of the property until a few months before his death in 1885.



***President Ulysses S. Grant***

## About Your Visit

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri, on Grant Road, off Gravois Road (Route 30) and adjacent to the privately-owned and operated Grant's Farm. It is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is free. The park's Visitor Center is located in the historic barn, and includes a staffed information desk, exhibits about the Grants and White Haven, a library, public restrooms, and a sales area offering books and other items.

An introductory park video is shown throughout the day. Self-guided tours of the grounds are always available. The availability of ranger-led house tours and other interpretive programs is subject to change; please check at the Visitor Center for the most current information. For groups of 10 or more, tours are available by reservation, and off-site programs can also be arranged. Special programs are presented periodically. To make a group reservation, or if you have any questions, please call the Visitor Center at (314)842-3298.

## Accessibility



Parking is available at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site for visitors with physical disabilities. The Visitor Center is fully accessible, and includes an accessible restroom and drinking fountain.

Most of the main house is accessible to visitors in wheelchairs or others who have difficulty walking or managing steps. Use the wooden walkway to access the right side of the front porch. A wheelchair is available in the Visitor Center. For further information and assistance, please contact the park in advance of your visit.

## Safety Considerations

While at the site, please be alert to potential safety hazards. Roads at the site are narrow; follow signs carefully, and watch for other cars and pedestrians. Be aware of moving vehicles when walking the grounds. Watch your step - the grounds are uneven, and walking surfaces may be slippery. There may be construction activity within the site during your visit; please keep a safe distance away from work areas, and heed any caution tape or signs posted near hazardous areas. Children must be supervised at all times. For their safety, please ensure that pets left in enclosed vehicles have access to fresh air.

Visiting the site will require walking outdoors. St. Louis weather can be uncomfortably hot and humid or cold and damp, depending upon the season. In the summer heat, drink plenty of fluids. Drinking water is available in the climate-controlled Visitor Center; however, the other historic structures do not have air-conditioning or drinking water available. Whatever the season, please wear suitable clothing and footwear during your visit to the park.

For the protection of the resources, smoking is not allowed in or near the historic structures. Please deposit all refuse and used smoking materials in the containers provided.

Park rangers and volunteers are available to ensure your safety and enhance your appreciation of the park's resources. If you experience health or first aid problems of any kind, contact a park ranger or volunteer immediately for assistance. If you observe someone endangering the safety of our visitors or the site's resources, please notify park personnel immediately.

## Volunteering - A Rewarding Experience

Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs) are an essential part of the work being accomplished at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. With a wide range of possible duties (staffing the visitor center, conducting research, or assisting with maintenance activities are just a few), VIPs provide an important public service. For further information about the Volunteers-in-Parks program, call the Visitor Center at (314)842-3298 or the park's Chief of Interpretation at (314)842-1867x25, or simply stop by the site.

## A Personal Message

*We welcome you to White Haven, the historic home of Ulysses S. and Julia Dent Grant. Ulysses Grant, upon graduating from West Point, began his military career in St. Louis, Missouri, where he met and married Julia Dent. The years spent at White Haven with Julia and her family helped shape the character of the man who led the army that saved the Union and would later become a two-term President of the United States. Much of Ulysses and Julia's strong character was borne in the struggles they endured and the happiness they enjoyed at White Haven.*

*We are a "work-in-progress." The development of the site continues with utmost care and dedication. The National Park Service invites you to enjoy your visit to White Haven.*

-- Randall Wester, Site Manager

## General Information

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, an agency of the United States Department of the Interior.

For more information call (314)842-3298, or address inquiries to: Superintendent, Ulysses S. Grant NHS, 7400 Grant Road, St. Louis, MO 63123.

You may also access the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/ulsg](http://www.nps.gov/ulsg), and e-mail inquiries may be sent to [ULSG\\_Interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:ULSG_Interpretation@nps.gov).

