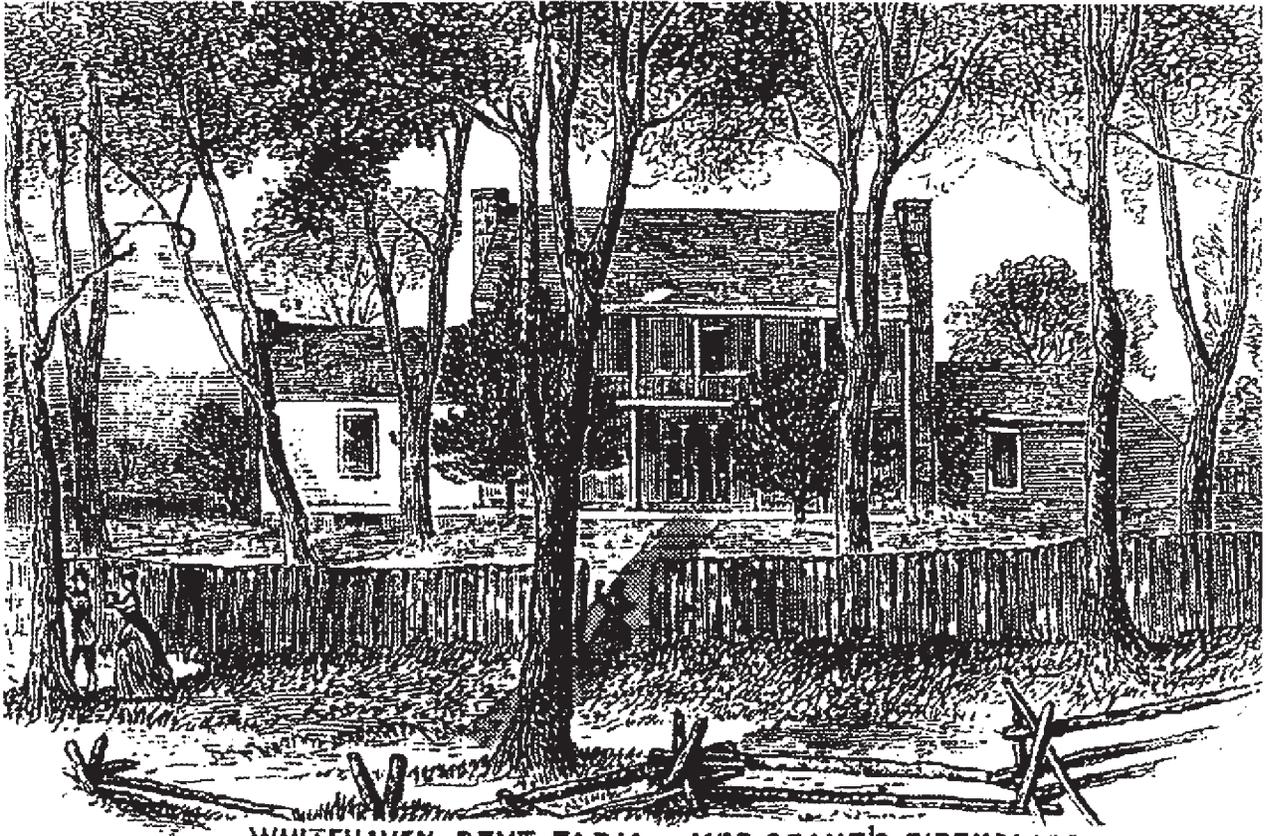


CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



WHITEHAVEN-DENT FARM MRS. GRANT'S BIRTHPLACE.

ULYSSES S. GRANT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mark Weekley
National Park Service
1993

B&W Scans

5/10/2002

ON MICROFILM

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF
ULYSSES S. GRANT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

Mark Weekley

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INTRODUCTION

This document is a preliminary summary and analysis of the research conducted, so far, regarding the landscape at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (ULSG). This effort has been undertaken to provide a preliminary analysis of the White Haven landscape before the development of the general management plan. While this document is in no manner a full cultural landscape report, it does provide an analysis of the landscape for each historic period, with a focus on extant features from each period. Analysis of this information clarifies potential treatment options for this site which are in accordance to the Cultural Resources Management Guidelines, NPS-28 (Draft Release No. 4 April chapter 7).

This document contains the following five sections:

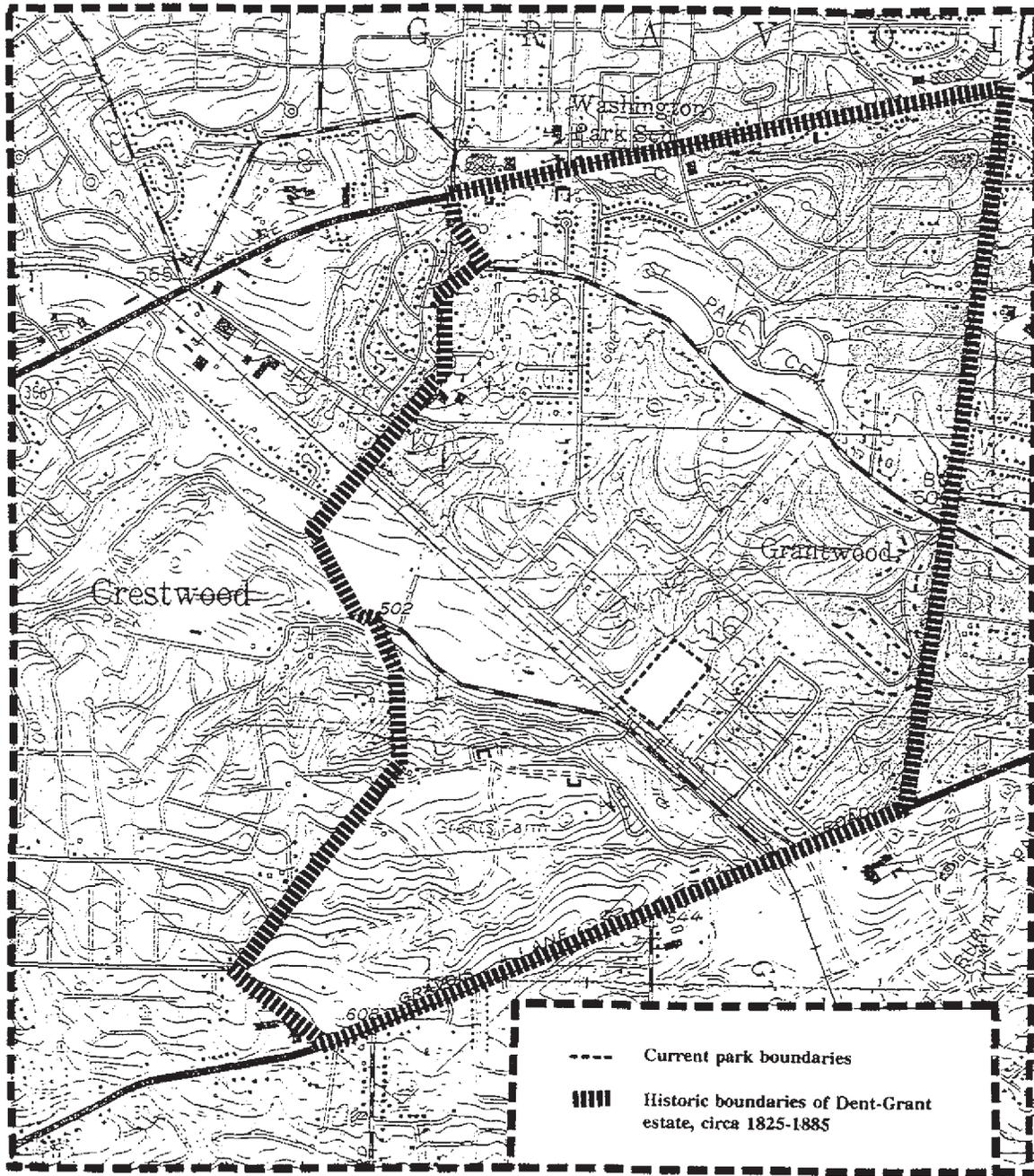
1. Existing conditions.
2. A brief history of the evolution of the site's landscape.
3. An analysis of the key issues and features for each historic period and a discussion of treatment options allowed under the terms of NPS-28 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
4. A consideration of future research needs.
5. An assessment of treatment options for the landscape.
6. Treatment recommendations.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site is located at 7400 Grant Road in south St. Louis County. The site was owned by Ulysses S. Grant, Union General and eighteenth President of the United States. After the period of Grant's ownership numerous other owners held the site.

Today the National Park Service is responsible for the historic 9.65 acre core of the larger historic farm. The lands adjacent to the site are currently occupied on three sides by residential housing. Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. operates a theme park on the south side of the property. Between the historic site and the theme park lies the remains of the rail line that served the area during the time Grant owned White Haven. Parallel to this rail line is Grant road, which serves as the primary access to the historic site (Figure 2).

The site has extensive tree cover and shrub cover, five historic buildings, and a limited road system. In addition to the historic buildings, a small house used as a caretaker's cottage during the first half of the twentieth century is located on the site. This building has been converted for use as an office building for the park's administration (Figures 2 and 8).



LOCATION OF ULYSSES S. GRANT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN SUBURBAN ST. LOUIS

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Figure 1: Location of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

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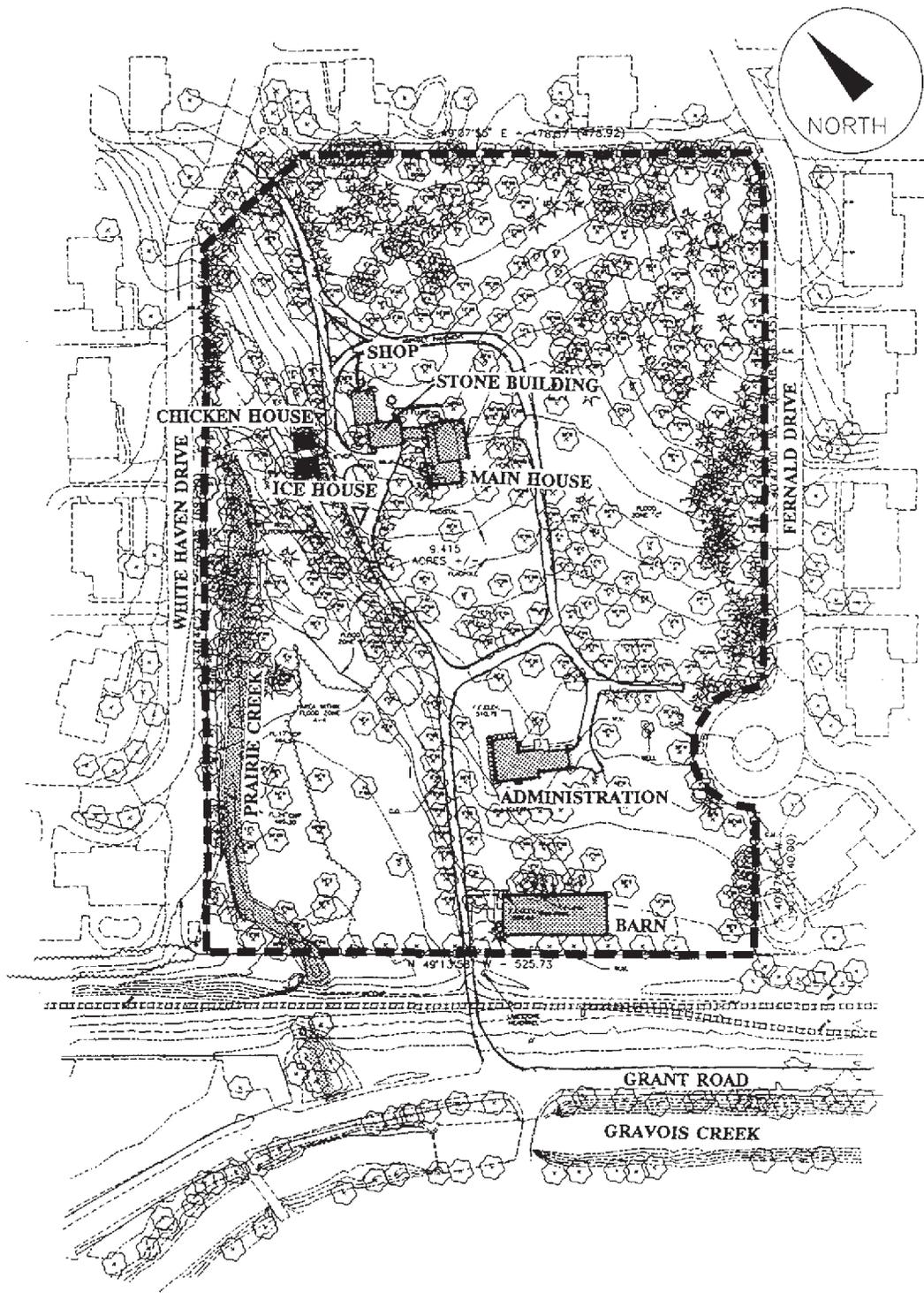


Figure 2: Site map including the building footprints of adjacent residential housing.

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Figure 3: View of main house with stone building and the shop addition.

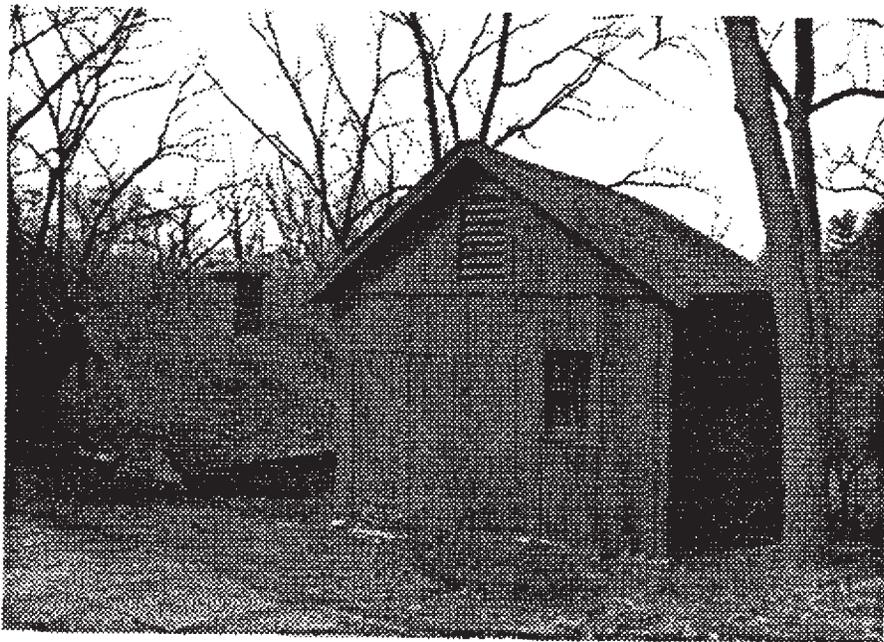


Figure 4: View of ice house on left, and chicken house on right. The chicken house has no known association with Grant or the Dents.

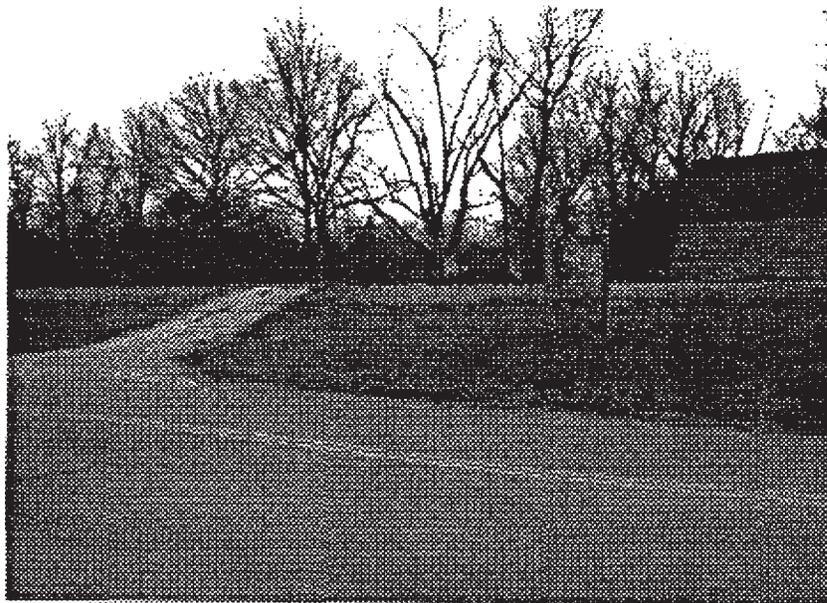


Figure 5: Entrance to Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site from Grant Road. The rail road bed and the former horse barn are visible in this photograph. April 1993, taken by author.



Figure 6: View into site from the rail road bed. April 1993, Mark Weekley.



Figure 7: View towards Grant Road showing former horse barn and a mill stone moved to the site in the late 1980s. March 1993, Mark Weekley.



Figure 8: View towards Grant Road showing the current administration building (previously the caretaker's cottage). Note the liner arrangement trees along the drive used to form an alley. April 1993, Mark Weekley.



Figure 9: View showing residential housing adjacent to the site and a well with a wood cover. The extant former horse barn was located just in front of the house until it was relocated in the 1960's.



Figure 10: View from the front porch of the house showing one of two circular brick cooling ponds/fountains that were used as part of an air conditioning system in the early twentieth century. April 1993, Mark Weekley.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHANGE ON THE WHITE HAVEN LANDSCAPE 1796-1993

Landscape change on the portion of White Haven that makes up Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (ULSG) has been closely tied to the people who owned and lived on the property.¹ Known settlement goes back to the early nineteenth century. Each of these owners had an impact on the land as they used it. As they made changes, they often modified or even erased the marks of their predecessors while leaving their own imprint on the land. In the case of the White Haven site, like many vernacular sites, the most recent changes are the ones which are most apparent and retain the highest degree of integrity. Consequently, the impacts of the earliest owners are not clearly evident.

Today, the National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for the 9.5 acre core of the larger historic White Haven farm. Even before the development of White Haven, the site was the home of earlier settlers. There is also evidence of prehistoric occupation.² The first person who can be documented as to having been an occupant of the site was Hugh Graham who received a grant from the Spanish government in St. Louis, in 1796. Around the turn of the century,

¹The name White Haven historically was used both as the name of the Dent family house and the larger agricultural operation associated with it. In this paper the name is used to reference the 9.5 acre site managed by the National Park Service (NPS), unless otherwise noted.

²MWAC

James Mackay acquired this property and retained ownership until he sold the property to William Long in 1808.

The changes that Graham and Mackay made to the landscape are unknown. How or even if they used the land for any particular purpose has not been documented. The extent and nature of the landscape changes that occurred during this period, as well as earlier periods is a matter of speculation, however. The tremendous changes that occurred in the following years may well have erased the physical clues that could help explain what happened to the land during this period.

During the time that William Long owned the property (1808-1818), he nearly completed a two story house which was purchased by Theodore Hunt and his wife Ann. They owned the property and lived in the house between 1818 and 1820. During the time that Hunt owned the property, a small addition was put on the house.³ While this addition was removed in the 1940's, the rest of the house is extant. The impacts that the Long and Hunt families made to the landscape are also unknown.

Around 1820, Frederick Dent acquired the property and owned it until 1865 when his son-in-law Ulysses S. Grant purchased the site. This was a period of active change during which time the site gained the name White Haven and was operated as a farm. It is possible that a stone building, portions of which

³Alan W. O'Bright and Kristen R. Marolf, Draft Historic Structures Report Architectural Data Section: Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. 12 March 1993, 2.124.

are still standing, was constructed during this time period.⁴ The construction and occupation of this building would have had some minor impacts on the landscape. The main residence was expanded and modified by the Dent family during this period.⁵ The landscape also underwent changes during this period.⁶ Determining what changes occurred and where they occurred is problematic, however. Even though it is known that the property was used for agricultural purposes, the precise layout of the portion of the farm the NPS now manages is largely unknown due to the lack of written and graphic documentation.

Between 1865 and 1885, Grant owned White Haven as well as a large area of adjacent lands. While Grant did not live at the site during this period, he did affect its development through the use of resident managers. When Grant learned, in 1875, that several of his St. Louis friends were involved in the Whiskey Ring Scandal he lost his desire to retire at White Haven. After this time the property was leased by tenants who managed the property with little or no input from Grant.⁷

⁴Alan W. O' Bright and Kristen Marolf, Draft Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section: Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. 12 March 1993, p. 3.1.

⁵ Ibid., p. 2.128-2.135.

⁶ During the summer of 1991 a Seasonal Landscape Architect, Linda Bullard, studied and later produced a draft landscape history for White Haven during the period between 1820-1885. The paper and the bibliography assembled by Bullard has been a valuable source of information regarding the nineteenth century White Haven Landscape.

⁷LeRoy H. Fischer, "Grant's Letters to His Missouri Farm Tenants," Agricultural History, Vol. 21 no. 1, January 1947, 27.

During the time of Grant's ownership, the site was operated as a farm where different crops were planted and livestock were kept. Grant's intent was to make this a retirement home where he could raise horses. To achieve this goal Grant had his tenants build a large barn, part of which remains on the site today, although not in its original location. It was also during this period that the railroad laid tracks adjacent to the White Haven following an alignment recommend by President Grant. While the tracks and ties were removed in 1993, the rail bed is still in place. Grant managed the property from Washington and elsewhere, ordering his tenants to build fences, build a horse barn, and plant various crops.⁸ In most instances the letters to his tenants do not provide the kind of information that allows for an understanding of where landscape features were placed. Many of the changes that Grant had his tenants make may have occurred outside of the current boundaries of the historic site. Grant's letters to his tenants also do not document the degree to which his wishes were actually implemented.

In 1885 Grant turned the property over to William H. Vanderbilt to settle some debts. What happened to the landscape until it was sold to Luther Conn in 1888 is unknown. During Conn's ownership there is no evidence that the landscape changed significantly. He used the site as a summer residence and had

⁸ Ibid., p 27-29.

tenants take care of the farm.⁹ In 1905 he sold the property. After he sold it, the property was owned by various land developers who in turn sold it to another developer in 1913, named Albert Wenzlick. During the part of the period that it was owned by developers, the city used the site as a place to keep their garbage wagon mules.¹⁰ The 28-year period between 1885 and 1913 is an era about which very little is known. This lack of knowledge does not mean that changes did not occur, but that if change occurred the nature of such change is unknown.

When Albert Wenzlick purchased White Haven he used the house as a summer residence between 1913-1937. The rest of the property was managed by the Davis family who farmed the land and raised livestock. During the time Albert Wenzlick owned the property many changes occurred. The process of modifying the site continued when Albert's son, Delbert, acquired the property in 1937. The Davis family were active participants in making the changes to the site. Some of the changes they made were related to their farm operation such as the mending and building of wire fences and the construction of a small dam on the Prairie Creek. Many of the other changes brought about by the Davis family, however, were done under the direction of the Wenzlicks.¹¹

⁹Hyde and Conrad, Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis, Volume 1 (New York: Southern History Co., 1899), 466.

¹⁰Felice, Margerie. Granddaughter of Delbert Wenzlick. Letter to Kim Little (Former NPS Historian), 19 March 1986.

¹¹Jim Davis conversation. Lived at White Haven site between 1913 to early 1940's. 12 April 1993.

Many of the changes that the Davis family helped implement involved significant changes to the landscape. The vegetation of the site was altered during this time. Numerous trees, shrubs and bulbs were added as ornamentation throughout the site. Ornamental flower gardens were installed and then removed. Buildings were modified, constructed and moved. Numerous topographic changes occurred. The creek was re-routed and a portion of it was run through a culvert. A drainage ditch was routed through a pipe and covered over. Utilities were added throughout the site.

A number of small scale features were added and then removed from the site while it was owned by the Wenzlicks. A corn crib, chicken coops, and a pig pen were all on the site and used at times by the Davis family. These were removed sometime in the late 1930's or early 1940's according to Jim Davis.¹² When these features were built is unknown. Other features such as an arbor over the front walk, a barbecue pit, tennis court, and a horse shoe pit all were built and then removed.

The process of active change did not continue when Delbert Wenzlick's son Bill acquired the property in 1979. In 1986, the site became public property and was cared for by St. Louis County. In 1990, the NPS became the owner of the property.

¹²Ibid.

EVALUATION OF HISTORIC PERIODS

Definition of historic periods

In order to evaluate the findings about the historic landscape at White Haven, the history of the site's landscape has been divided into four periods. The periods were primarily defined on the basis of ownership and landscape change associated with a particular owner or group of owners during that period. This division is logical in terms of the changes made by each owner.

This approach does not correspond, however, with the period of significance established in the National Register Nomination. The period of significance as defined in the nomination was the period that Grant was associated with the property, which was 1843-1885.¹³ This time period spans both the era when Dent and then Grant owned the property. It is known that Grant had a significant impact on the White Haven landscape when he was the actual owner of the property. There is very little information which reveals what role, if any, Grant played in shaping the landscape when the property was owned by his father-in-law. Even so, the two periods of his association have been considered here as a single period that has been sub-divided. This allows for recognition of the change that occurred during Grant's association with White Haven without treating it as two completely separate and distinct periods.

¹³ Hamilton, p. 8.

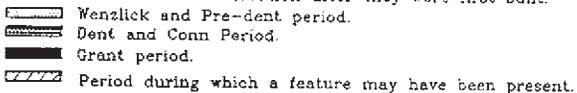
Method of evaluation

In order to evaluate the landscape at White Haven for each historic period, five key issues have been considered. Where appropriate, these issues are examined using the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places, NPS-28, and the Draft Guidelines for the Management of Cultural Landscapes. The five key issues considered when evaluating each period are:

1. Historical significance of the landscape.
2. Number and integrity of extant features (Figure 11).
3. Documentation available; archeological, written, graphic and other sources of data.
4. Consistency with the established or potential key historic period(s) and themes of the property.
5. Functional and maintenance concerns.

EXTANT FEATURES 1993 TIME PERIOD DURING WHICH THESE FEATURES WERE IN PLACE*	PRE-DENT 1796-1820	DENT 1821-1865	GRANT 1865-1885	CONN 1885-1913	WENZLICK 1913-1993	CONDITION BASED ON DRAFT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY CRITERIA
BARN						See HSR
BRICK GATE POSTS						Good
CARETAKER'S COTTAGE						See HSR
CHICKEN HOUSE						Unknown
CISTERN NEAR HOUSE						See HSR
CREEK ALIGNMENT						NA
CREEK (HISTORIC PORTION)						Good
CULVERT (RAILROAD CONCRETE)						Good
CULVERT (RAILROAD METAL)						Good
CULVERT (FROM STREET)						Good
CULVERT (CREEK)						Good
CULVERT OUTLET FENCE						Good
DRAINAGE PIPE ALONG DRIVE						Poor
ELECTRIC LIGHT POST ALONG DRIVE						Poor
FENCE						Good
FENCE GATE ON CUL-DE-SAC						Good
FLAG POLE						Fair
FOUNTAIN (LARGE)						Fair
FOUNTAIN SMALL						Fair
HOUSE (EXCEPT STONE BLDG.)						See HSR
ICE/MILK HOUSE						See HSR
LANE (ALIGNMENT)						NA
LANE (PAVING)						Fair
HILLSTONE						Good
RAILROAD						Good
STONE BUILDING						Good
STONE QUARRY SITE?						See HSR
SUNDIAL PEDESTAL						Good
UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE						Good
VEGETATION (OLDEST)						Varies with feature
WALK AND DRIVE TO BARN						Varies WIDE plant
WALK (STONE) TO COTTAGE						Fair
WALK AND RAMP (CONCRETE) TO COTTAGE						Fair
WALK TO HOUSE (PAVING)						Good
WALK TO HOUSE (ALIGNMENT)						Poor
WELL						NA
						Unknown

*This chart shows the period during which an extant feature was on the site. Some features may have been moved to their current location after they were first built.



 Wenzlick and Pre-dent period.
 Dent and Conn Period.
 Grant period.
 Period during which a feature may have been present.

DRAFT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY CONDITION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

GOOD: The features of the landscape need no intervention; only minor or routine maintenance is needed.

FAIR: Some deterioration, decline, or damage is noticeable; the feature may require immediate intervention; if the intervention is deferred, the feature will require extensive intervention in 3-5 years.

POOR: Deterioration, decline, or damage is serious; the feature is seriously deteriorated; damaged, or presents a hazardous condition; due to the level of deterioration, damage, or danger the feature requires extensive and immediate attention.

Figure 11: Extant features 1993.¹⁴

¹⁴cite source for condition assessment criteria

PRE-DENT PERIOD, 1796-1820

Issue one: Evaluation of the landscape's historical significance

This pre-Dent period represents the era in which the site came into private ownership as a Spanish land grant to Hugh Graham in 1796. The initial development of the site possibly began around this time with the construction of the cabins along the Gravois.¹⁵ In 1818 the site was modified by the addition of a two story frame house by the owner, William L. Long. Between 1818 and 1821, a one story, two room addition was added to this structure by Theodore and Ann Hunt.¹⁶

The landscape during this period may have some significance in terms of the region's early settlement history. Most of the information about landscape during this period is from a letter Ann Lucus Hunt wrote to her father in 1818. While this letter provides a description of the farm, it does not give enough information to properly determine the significance or design of the landscape. Based on the information available, the landscape for the period can not be considered significant in using the criteria of National Register of Historic Places.

¹⁵Letter from Ann Hunt in St. Louis to her father in Washington D.C., 28 January 1818.

¹⁶O'Bright and Marolf, p. 2.124.

PRE-DENT OWNERSHIP PERIOD, 1796-1820

Historic features from this period that are extant are shaded.

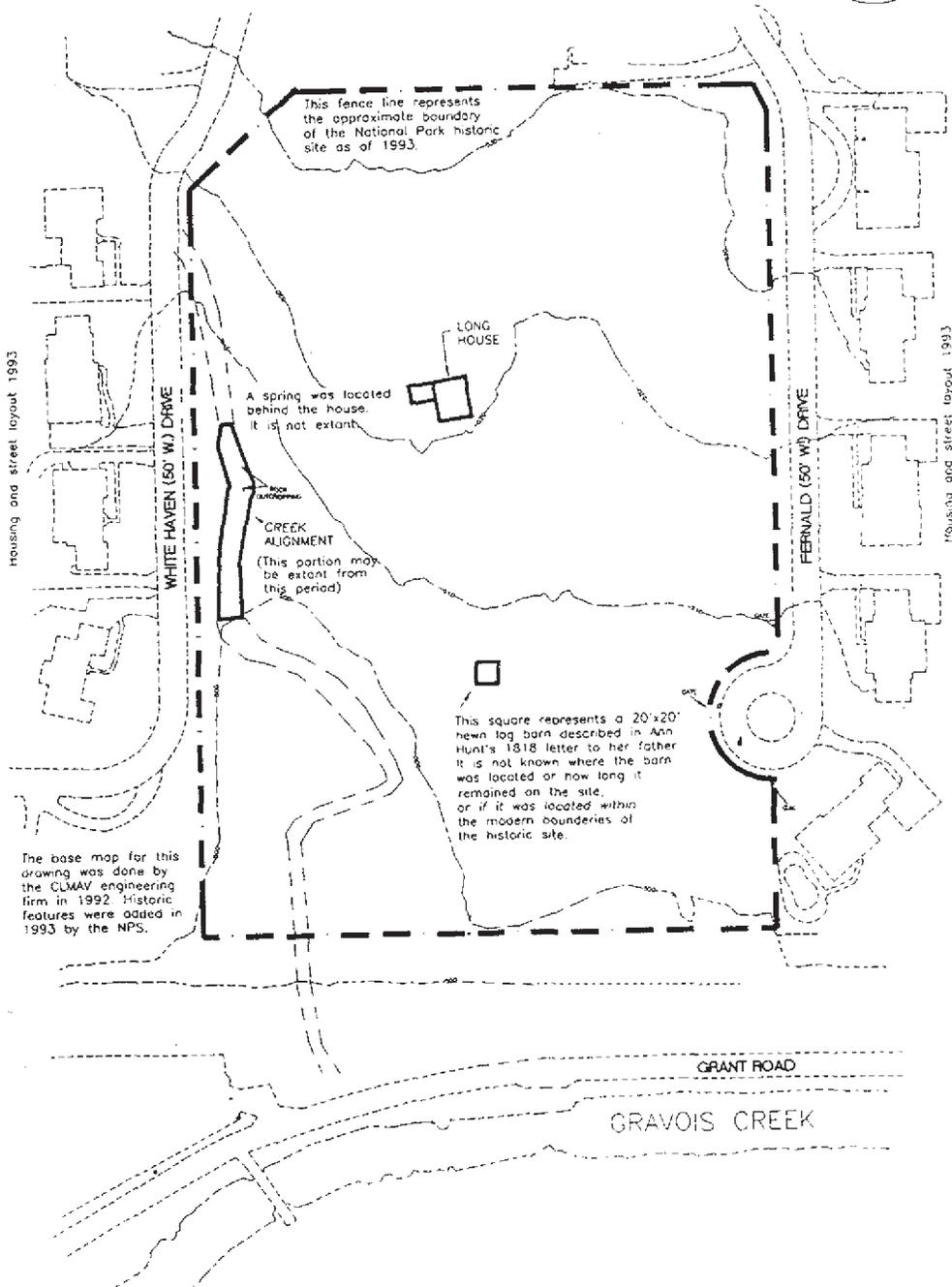


Figure 12: Map showing features extant from the Pre-Dent ownership period, 1796-1820.

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Issue two: Number, and integrity of extant features (Figure 11 and 12)

In a letter Ann Hunt wrote to her father she describes the property as, "...having 50 acres of land...under good fence 10 acres of which is meadow, and a small crop of wheat in the ground; a new frame house...a new hewn log barn 20 feet by 20 with shelves all round...also several good log cabins. There is also a very find spring near the house...." ¹⁷

This description indicates what was located on the farm in 1818. Unfortunately, this letter does not provide details explaining the physical layout of the farm. What it does indicate is that the creeks and portions of the house are extant from this period. However, the integrity of these features has been compromised by the actions of later owners.

Topography

It can be assumed that the construction of the buildings listed in the Hunt letter resulted in some topographic changes if earth was excavated and was deposited in another location. Where such soil may have been placed is unknown.

Integrity

This site still has some integrity from this period in terms of location and association with the person who owned it. There is no evidence that the landscape features, apart from the buildings, have any integrity in terms of design, setting, materials, and feeling.

¹⁷Ann Lucus Hunt to Her Father, 28 January 1818.

Issue three: Documentation available

There is no known graphic documentation of the site from this period. Records relating to the ownership of the property, the Hunt letter, and the research done for the Historic Structures Report (HSR) are the main sources of data for this period. These records provide very limited information on the development of the landscape.

Issue four: Consistency with the potential key historic period(s) and themes of the property

Interpretation of this period would not be consistent with an interpretation that focused on the later periods, such as the Grant era.

Issue five: Functional and maintenance concerns

Since so little is known about the landscape of this period functional and maintenance concerns can not be properly evaluated.

GRANT ASSOCIATION WITH WHITE HAVEN DURING DENT OWNERSHIP PERIOD, 1843-1865

Issue one: Evaluation of the landscape's historical significance

During this period the site was purchased by Frederick Dent and was operated as a farm with the use of slave labor. The changes Dent made to the landscape are not fully known. During this period the site acquired the name "White Haven". This was also the period during which Grant became associated with White Haven as a visitor and later as a resident son-in-law.

The significance of the landscape during this period is due primarily to its association with Grant and his wife Julia. Julia Dent was born in St. Louis, but grew up at White Haven. This was also the site where Grant met Julia and later proposed to her. Prior to the Civil War Grant lived at White Haven for a short time after their marriage. During part of the war Grant's wife and children resided there.

DENT OWNERSHIP PERIOD, 1821-1865

Historic features from this period that are extant are shaded. The unshaded portions of the creek and the lane are not extant.

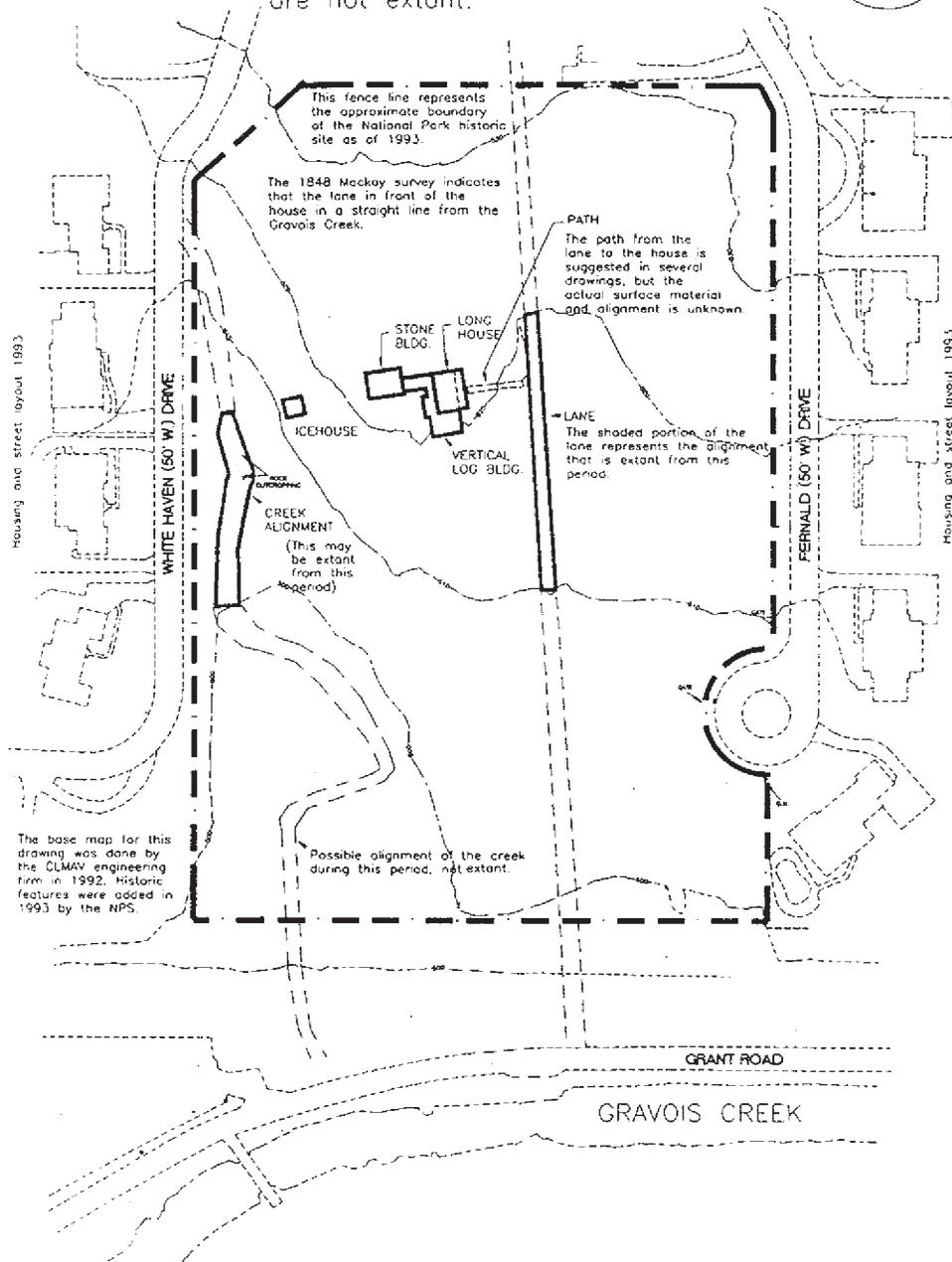


Figure 13: Map showing extant features from the Dent ownership period, 1821-1865 357/20004

ON MICROFILM

Issue two: Number, and integrity of extant features (Figure 11 and 13).

The only extant features which are known to have been a part of the White Haven Landscape during this period are the house, the stone building, the creek, the lane parallel to the front of the house and a path from the lane to the front door of the house.

The conditions of the house and the stone building are detailed in the HSR. Both features were present when Grant was at the site. While the importance of the stone building during the period of Grant's association is not clear, this building and the house help contribute to the integrity of the overall landscape.

Topography

Little is known about specific changes that may have been made to the site's topography during this period. Gardening, removal of vegetation, erosion, circulation patterns, drainage systems (natural and constructed) and numerous other factors may have changed the site's topography. There is little clear evidence of when and where such changes may have occurred. This makes it difficult to determine if any topographic features are extant, and if they have any integrity. The one topographic change that could be tied to this period is along the foundation of the stone building. Sometime after it was built the depth of the soil increased.¹⁸

¹⁸Ibid., p. 3.5.

Circulation-lane

The lane to the house as shown in the 1848 survey map appears to have a different alignment than that of the current lane (Figure 14). This may simply be an inaccuracy in this plat map. It is odd, however, that the lane today takes the turns that it does. The turns in the lane occurred possibly in response to an eroded ditch shown in the 1875 Leslie drawing (Figure 23). The current lane comes from Grant Road (contemporary name) at almost a right angle and then turns right and then left and then continues up past the house (Figure 16). The lane then circles the house and has an additional exit at the North East corner of the site. The lane in the 1848 plat comes directly from Gravois Creek and continues past the house without any turns.

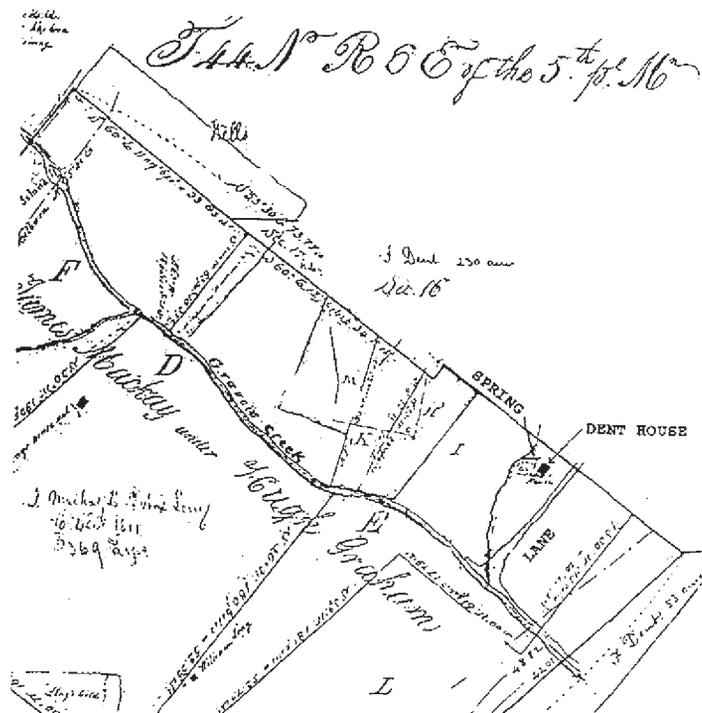


Figure 14: Detail of 1848 Mackay Survey of Quivre R. Tract. (Labels identifying the house, the spring and lane were added.)

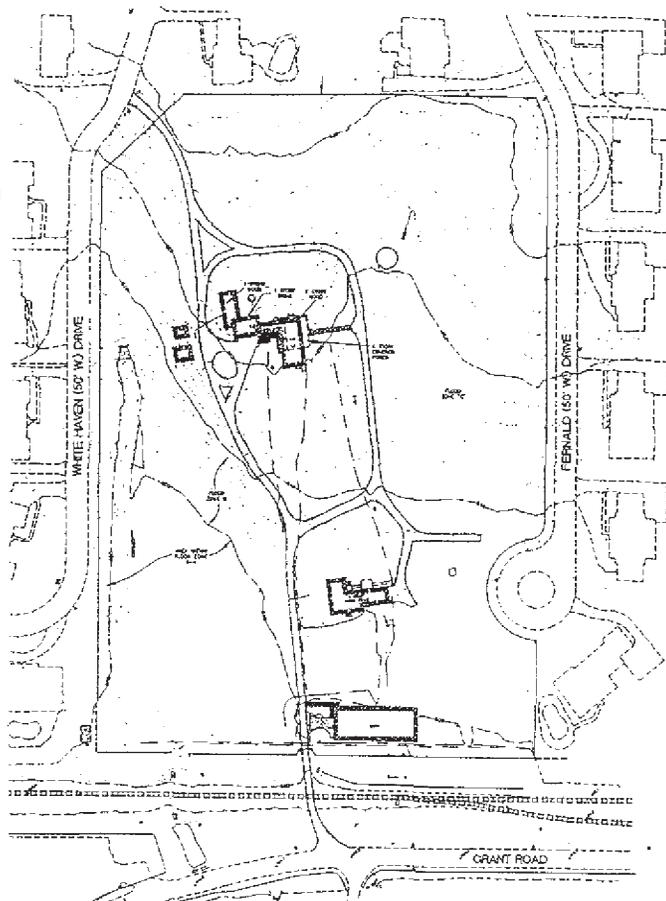


Figure 15: Existing alignment of lane.

The turns in the contemporary lane represent a significant departure from the alignment shown in 1848 survey. If the 1848 survey is accurate, the alignment of the current lane has no integrity except for the small portion that is parallel to the front of the house. The current paving is not extant from this period, but there may be material under the present paving that is extant.

Circulation-Front walk and fences

The walk from the lane to the house appears in the painting of the Long House (Figure 16). The alignment of the path in the painting does not appear to follow the contemporary path. The

current path is oriented at a right angle to the house. In the painting of the Long House the gate does not appear to be aligned directly in front of the front door of the house. This would mean that the path would have been angled in some manner between the front of the house and the gate. If this is an accurate painting the alignment of the current path has little integrity.

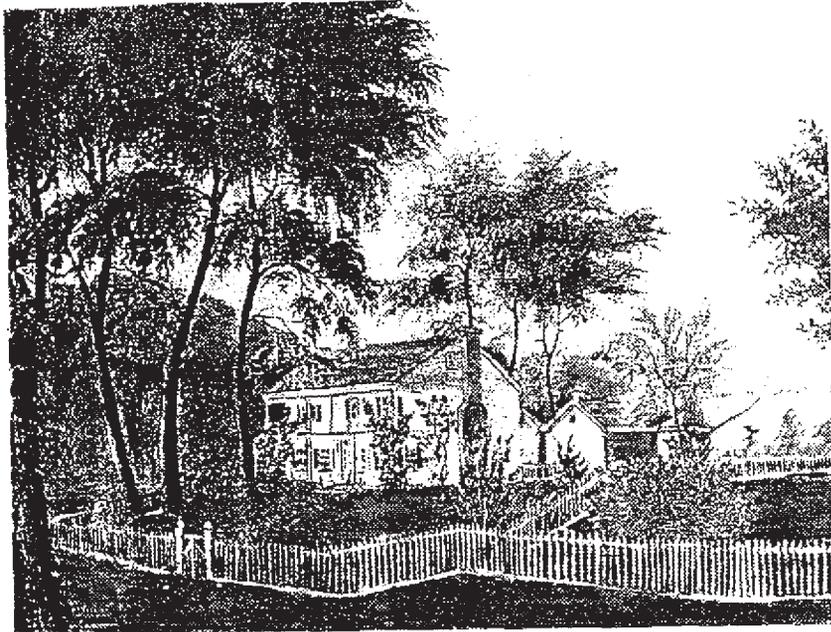


Figure 16: "White Haven, the house in which and where I was born-August 29, 1816." Photograph of album print of a painting done about 1840. (Source: Missouri Historical Society)

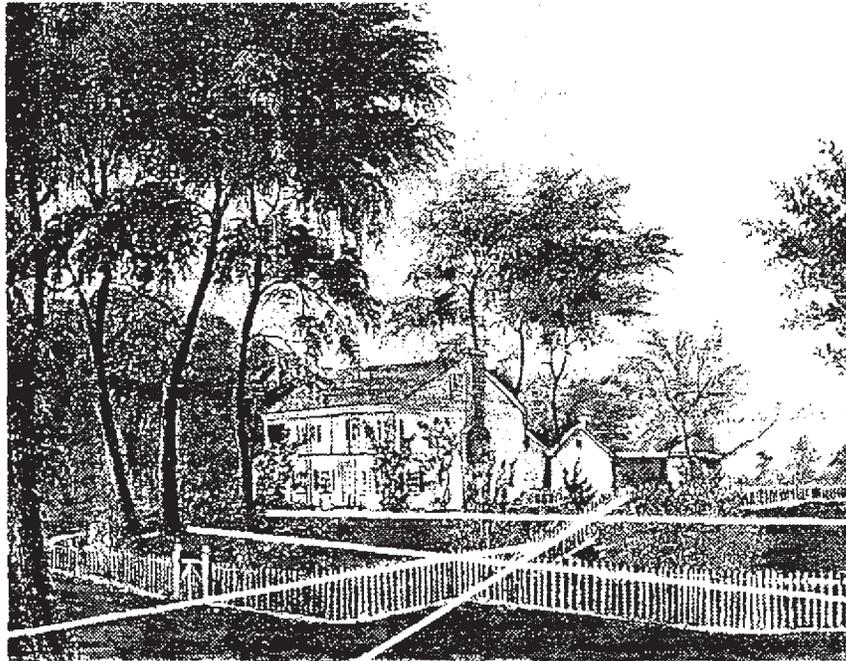


Figure 17: Same as figure 16 except lines were added to show that the fence sections are not parallel to one another or the front of the house. The gate has been drawn to the right of the front door. (see Figures 21 and 23)

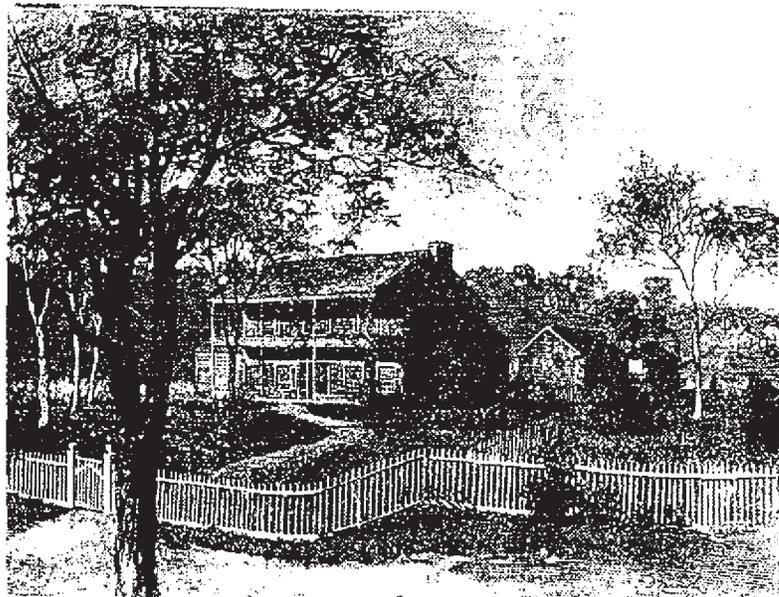


Figure 18: Painting of White Haven (undated) possibly a redrawing of the painting of the 1840 painting (see Figure 16). (Source: Missouri Historical Society)

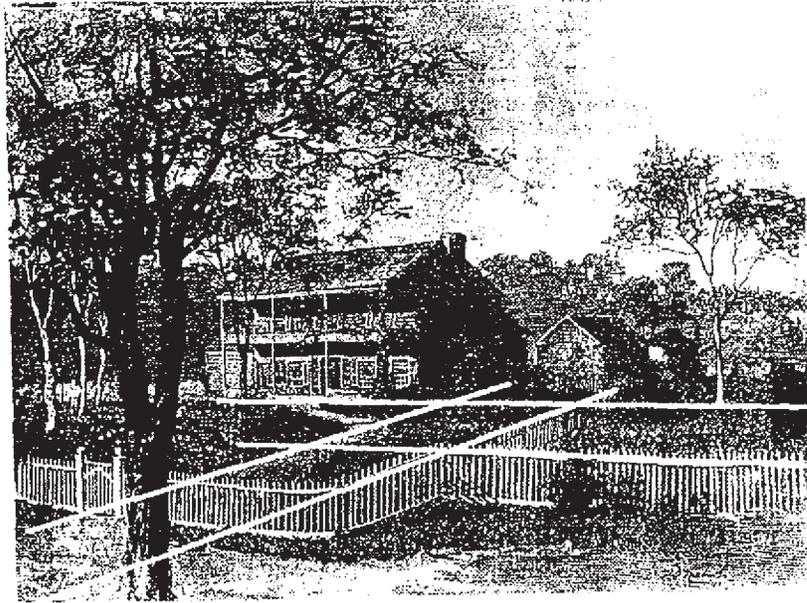


Figure 19: Same as Figure 18 except that lines have been added to show how the fences, the walk and house have been drawn to correct the graphic problems of Figure 18.

The accuracy of this painting, however, should not be taken for granted. The fence lines do not appear to run parallel to each other or to the house (Figure 16). In a drawing that appears to have been made from this painting, the path is laid out at a right angle to the fence with a curve to the left and then to the right at which point it straightens out until it reaches the front steps (Figure 18). The fence lines in this image run at right angles to each other and the house. This suggests that the artist of this later work cleaned up the mistakes in the earlier image. While this image solves some of the graphic problems in the painting of the Long House, it can not be taken as an accurate representation of the fence lines or of the alignment of the walk to the house (Figure 19).

It appears that only a portion of the contemporary walk alignment is extant from this period. The flag stones that exist today are not evident in any of the images from this period. This suggests that the current paving material has no integrity for this period.

Circulation-General

Circulation patterns throughout the site would have certainly existed in addition to the lane and the front walk. Many "informal" paths would have existed and been influenced by site features such as buildings, fields, privies, natural features, wells, fences, gates and other features. As such features were lost, or new ones were added, the number of extant Dent-era circulation patterns would have been decreased. The later changes in the creek's alignment, the addition of the railroad, the Grant barn, the caretaker's cottage and the loss of much of the original site would have changed most of the circulation patterns that existed during this period. Consequently, the circulation system from this period has been lost for the site as a whole, as well as for the area around the house.

Structures-cistern and well

The dates when the cistern and well were constructed are unknown. This needs to be determined in order to evaluate if these features contribute to the overall integrity of the landscape for this period (Figure 20).



Figure 20: Cistern near house, this feature may date to mid nineteenth century. June 1993, Mark Weekley.

Vegetation

There is no evidence that any of the current vegetation on the site dates from this period. Tree coring has shown that none of the trees date from this period. It is likely that some of the current vegetation has descended from this period, but again there is no clear record indicating the placement of vegetation that is believed to have been present during the Dent/Grant era. Thus, the vegetation on the site today does not have any known integrity in terms of this period.

Water features-creek, spring

While the Prairie Creek is an extant feature of this period, the twentieth century realignment and placement, or a portion of it, into a culvert greatly decreases the integrity of this

feature (Figure 21). The 1848 plat shows the location of the spring. Since this feature is no longer present, the integrity of the landscape from this period has been decreased.



Figure 21: View of culvert outlet which part of the Prairie Creek was diverted through in the 1960's. April 1993, Mark Weekley.

Spatial relationships

The organization and pattern of spaces in the Dent era landscape is largely unknown. While this was an agricultural landscape, the historic spatial patterns in the parcel managed by the NPS is only documented by the painting of the Long house. Given the fact that buildings such as barns, the spring house, privies and other features which were known to have been present at this time are not extant, the integrity of the site's spatial relationships impacted by these features has been lost. The integrity of spatial relationships has been further degraded by the

loss of fences that are seen in period images and the fact that new fences now enclose a greatly reduced site. The addition of the 1872 barn, the chicken house, and caretaker's cottage further decreased the integrity of the period's extant spatial organization.

Surroundings/Setting

Even though the details of the site's surroundings are not well documented, it is known that it was an agricultural landscape. The setting of the extant portion of White Haven lacks integrity due to the loss of its context and many of its features.

Today, the houses and sounds of a sub-division have replaced the sights, sounds and smells of the agricultural landscape. This means that the integrity of feeling and setting has been lost for the landscape as a whole. While the current vegetation is not historically appropriate, it is useful to the extent that it helps screen out the intrusions of the current setting.

Issue Three: Amount of documentation available (especially graphic)

There are very few good sources of information regarding the White Haven landscape during this period. Three survey maps exist from 1848, 1854, and 1866. Field notes for the 1848 survey, provide general descriptions of the topography and vegetation. Undated survey field notes also exist which may be for the 1854 survey. General land plats from 1854 are available. An 1862 county atlas is also available as is a map of St. Louis County roads between 1864-72. The best image from this period is the

photograph of the painting showing the Long House which was done approximately in 1840. Most of the sources that do exist fail to show more than only a small portion of the NPS site.

Written documentation

A notice that the site was for sale in 1846 provides a list of structures but little else.¹⁹ Julia Dent Grant's memoirs provide a very general description of the White Haven site and the plants and animals (domestic and wild) that were present during her childhood. This description does not provide any answers as to where things were planted.²⁰

A combination of magnetometry and soil resistivity data was gathered in June 1992 in an effort to find evidence of cultural resources that might be present in areas being considered for future development. The analysis of this information has not been completed at this time.

Issue four: Consistency with the potential key historic period(s) and themes of the property

This period would be consistent with historic themes that emphasized the life of Julia Dent and Ulysses S. Grant. This period should be considered in conjunction with the Grant ownership period in order to remain consistent with the period of significance as determined in the National Register nomination done

¹⁹"Improved and Unimproved Land for Sale," Missouri Republican, 5 August 1846.

²⁰Julia Dent Grant, p. 33.

for the site.

Issue five: *Functional and maintenance concerns*

Currently there is an insufficient amount of information to evaluate maintenance and functional concerns for the agricultural landscape of this period.

Grant ownership era, 1865-1885

Issue one: Historical significance of the landscape

This era represents a period when Grant owned White Haven and landscape changes occurred as a direct result of his actions. While Grant did not live at the site during this period, he ordered changes through resident managers. His association with the site gives it its historical significance.

The changes that occurred due to Grant's direct orders were the last historically significant changes. The key changes Grant implemented included the construction of out buildings, fences, the planting of crops and a vineyard.

Issue two: Number, condition and quality of extant features (Figures 11 and 22).

The extant features from this period are the house, the barn, the creek (not its alignment), the ice house, the rail line, at least a portion of the lane from Grant Road to the house and a portion of the walk to house. The well and cistern also may date to this period. An article written in 1873 states that the property contained, "...a fine well and cistern..."²¹ The location of these features is not provided in this article. Additional research on these resources may provide more information about when they were built.

²¹"President Grant's Farm: Destruction of Residence by Fire," Missouri Republican, 22 February 1873, p. 4.

GRANT OWNERSHIP PERIOD 1865-1885

Extant features that are known or believed to have been on the site during this period.

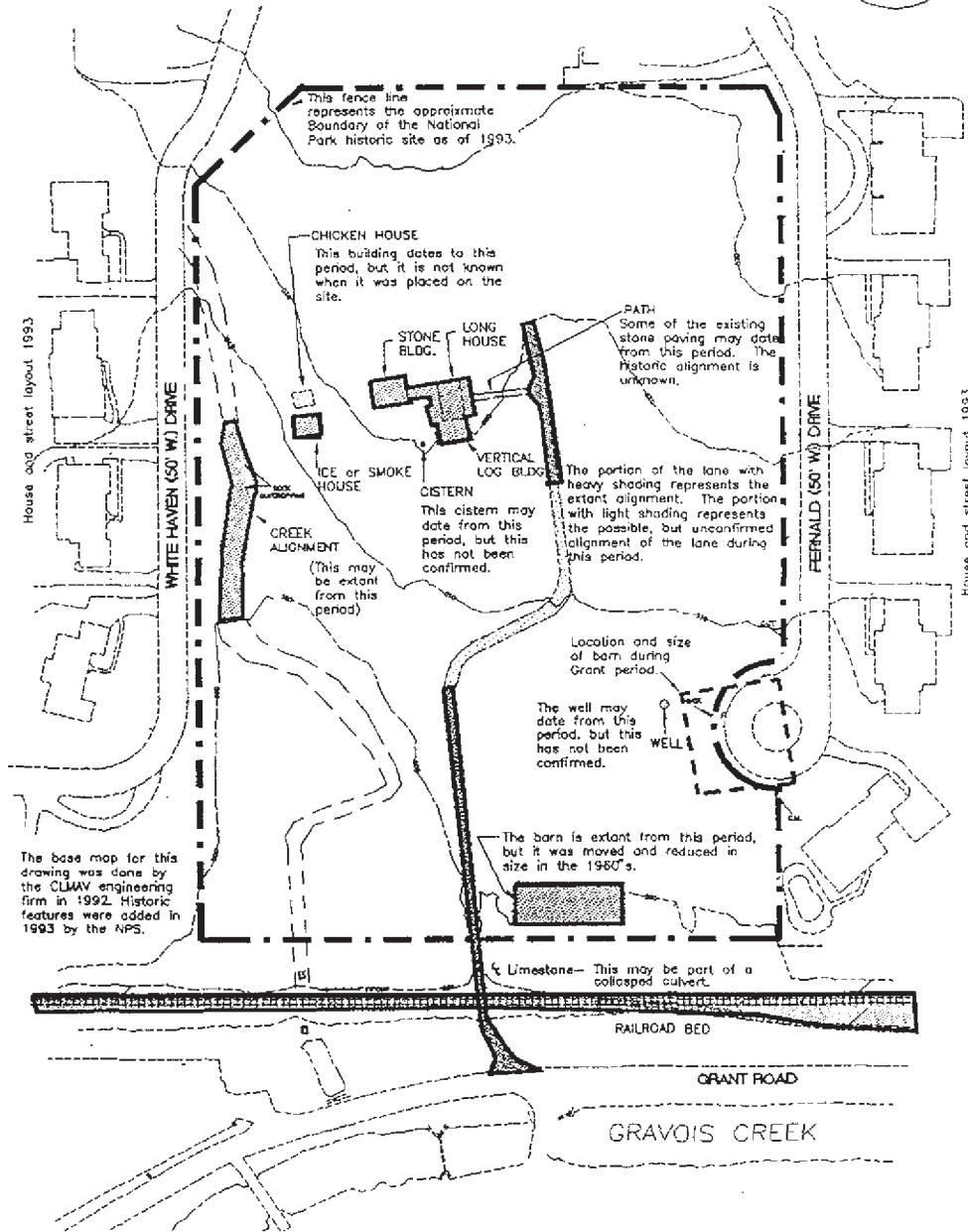


Figure 22: Map showing extant features from the Grant ownership era.

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Topography

The main source of information concerning the topography during this period is the 1875 engraving in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (Figure 23). While this engraving can serve as a guide to past topographic forms, it must be remembered that the artist's goals were not necessarily to capture the topography and landscape in an accurate fashion. The etching was in fact created from a drawing. This means that another artist may have had an opportunity to embellish the final product. The emphasis of the image seems to have been on the buildings. The barn appears to have been drawn accurately. Whenever trees are shown in front of buildings, however, they are drawn with few limbs in order to allow the buildings to be seen. Two additional

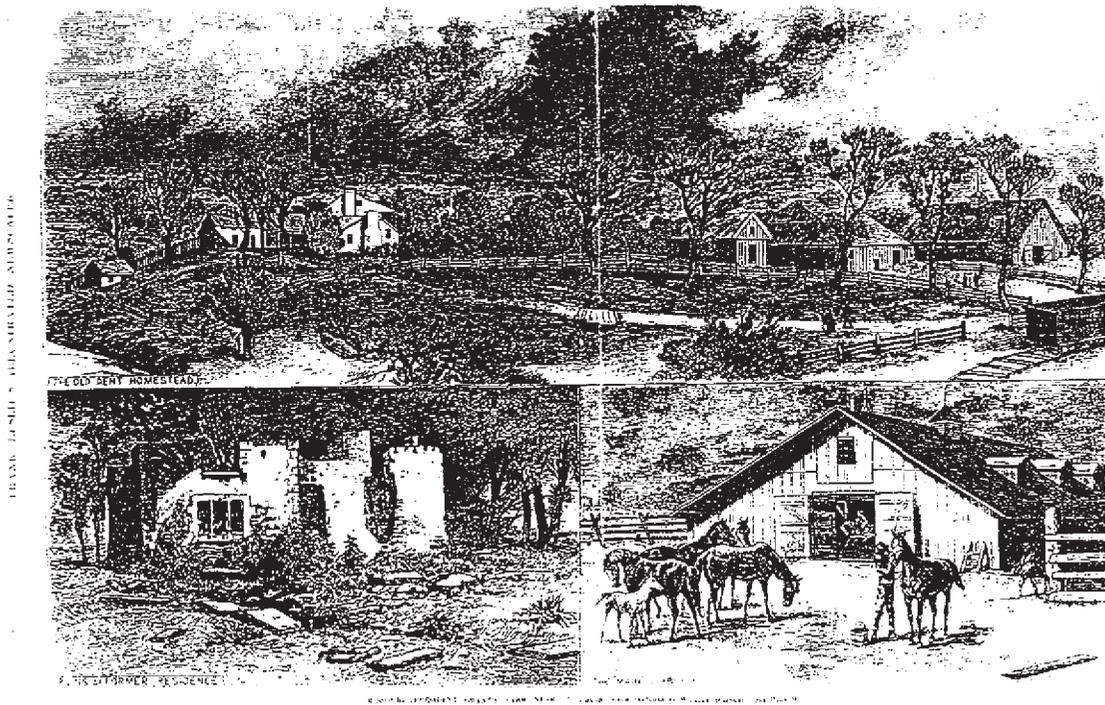


Figure 23: Engraving done from a sketch by William Staengel in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 16 October 1875.

drawings which accompanied this drawing emphasized buildings only. When this was drawn Grant was the President of the United States. The artist certainly could have been tempted to make the landscape of White Haven appear more stately and orderly than it was in reality.

This drawing has a number of graphic problems that make its accuracy highly suspect. Not only do the trees have few limbs, they are drawn in very similar, stylized manner. This generic way of drawing trees suggests that the drawing does not reflect an accurate representation of the vegetation, but rather an artistic convention. The perspective is not accurate. The vantage point that this was drawn from must have been very high since the top of the box car is visible. The tracks curve oddly in a direction that they did not go. The fence line which is parallel to the end of the house becomes parallel to the barns even though it is not shown to turn or bend at any point. The artistic nature of this drawing means that it cannot be assumed that it is an accurate representation of the White Haven landscape in 1875.

While the accuracy of this drawing is highly suspect, the current topography clearly differs from the one illustrated. The illustration shows a drainage ditch that runs under the lane leading to the house. A ditch in a similar location was routed through a culvert in the 1920's. The railroad does not appear to be built up above the surrounding topography, but this is not entirely clear. The portion of the creek that is shown appears to have had been more of an eroded gully than a creek.

Integrity

The changed alignment of the creek, the use of culverts in the drainage ditch and the addition of the twentieth century caretaker's cottage has changed the topography which had existed at this time. The topography which is extant from this period has lost a great deal of integrity in terms of its form.

The question of whether or not the railroad was historically as high as it is today is also important. The height of the railroad bed today greatly limits access to the site and views into the site. If the bed was historically as high as it is today then this feature adds integrity to the site's landscape. The removal of the tracks and ties in 1993 slightly decreased the integrity of this feature.

Efforts to document the historic elevation of the railroad bed, to date, have not been successful. There is, however, circumstantial evidence that the railroad bed has not been raised significantly since 1872 when it was installed. Jim Davis, who lived on the site between 1913 and the mid-1940's, did not recall any work ever being done on the railroad that increased the height of the railroad bed.²² More importantly, the lowest topographic elevation that the railroad crosses on the historic portion of Grant's property is at the creek near the entrance to White Haven. The topography that the line crosses through northwest of the White Haven entrance has clearly been cut down to allow the tracks to remain at a constant grade. The topography that the railroad

²²Jim Davis, Conversation with author, April 1993.

crosses south-east of the White Haven entrance is essentially level with the grade of the tracks. The general practice in constructing railroads would have been to maintain as level a grade as possible with only gradual grade changes. This can be achieved by cutting high points and by bridging over or building up low points. On the historic White Haven property the lowest spot the tracks crossed occurred adjacent to the current entrance of White Haven, near Prairie Creek (Figure 24). This suggests that the elevation of the bed was built up at the time the railroad bed was first constructed, and was not raised after that time.

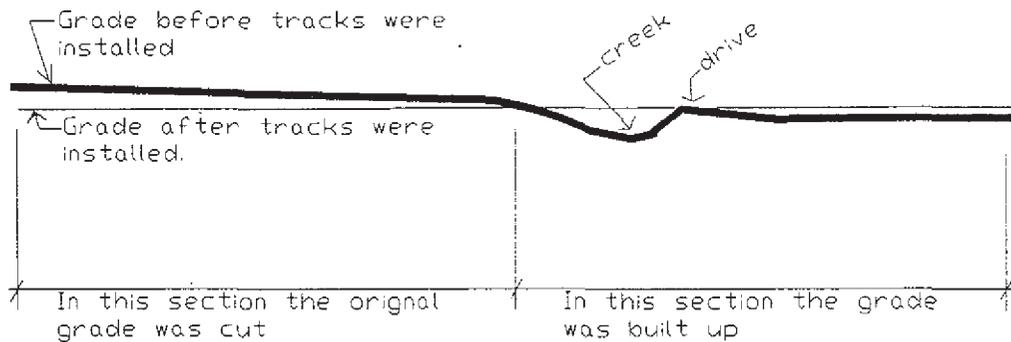


Figure 24: Approximate section of railroad line in relationship to the topography. No scale.

Circulation

The 1875 image shows little about circulation patterns. An opening in the fence leading to the barns shows that this was one pathway that has not been documented in the earlier periods. The cluster of three barns on the right side of the image indicates that circulation patterns would have existed between these buildings. The exact nature of such patterns cannot be determined from this image.

Using this image as a guide, the only extant circulation

patterns would be the portion of the lane from the railroad to the fence. The 1875 image shows the lane to the house passing through an opening in a fence. It is logical that the lane turns right after it passes through this fence (Figure 23). Most likely the lane continued up towards the house, but its route may or may not have been the same as the route the lane follows today. Where the lane ended near the house, or if it ended, needs to be determined. It also needs to be determined if there was any kind of carriage turnaround near the house. Archeological investigations may be helpful in answering these questions.

Most of the circulation patterns that presumably existed during the Grant period have been lost, with the possible exception of the lane. Certainly, all of the circulation patterns associated with the barns have been lost with their destruction or relocation. The circulation patterns associated with the house, the spring house (if it was present at this time), and the ice house are difficult to assess, given the fact that so many of the historic features from the Grant era are gone. The changing uses of the existing features altered the circulation patterns associated with them.

The walk to the front of the house is suggested in an image in Albert Richardson's 1868 history (Figure 26). A very similar image also appears in Herman Dieck's 1885 history (Figure 27). These images seem to indicate that the front gate is aligned in front, slightly to the left of the main entrance. This position of the gate is also shown in an 1885 engraving in the St. Louis Republican

(Figure 28). If these images are correct they indicate that the alignment of the front walk changed sometime after 1840 (Figure 18). This, in turn, indicates that the current alignment of the walk is the same as it was during the Grant ownership period. None of these images shows a paved walk. In terms of alignment, however, the current walk appears to retain integrity from this period.

The change of the surrounding agricultural landscape to an urban residential setting may also have altered the circulation of the core of the White Haven site in relation to the surrounding area. Today the site is surrounded by a fence which directs access to specific points. The integrity of the circulation patterns from this period have been greatly diminished due to the changes that have occurred since this time.

Buildings

All of the buildings have been altered to some extent. These changes are explained in the HSR. Even so, the buildings contribute to the overall integrity of the landscape. In terms of the landscape, the barn is a particularly significant surviving feature of this period because it is the only feature remaining that was constructed as a direct result of Grant's actions. Since the barn was moved and downsized after this period, however, it does not contribute significantly to the integrity of the site for the historic period. In fact, the barn in its present location decreases the integrity of the site in terms of circulation and spatial organization.

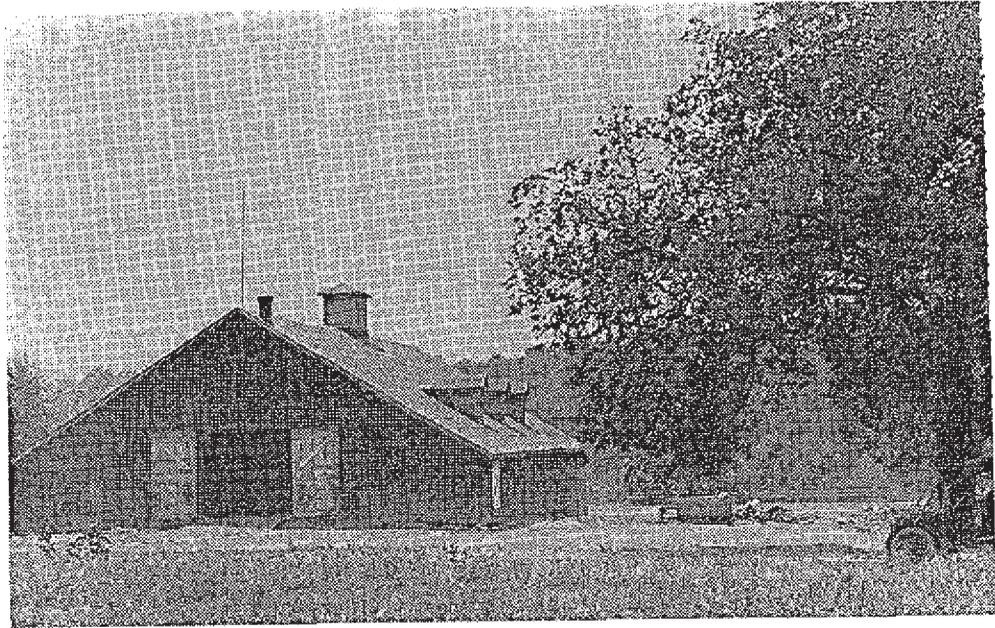


Figure 25: This photograph taken in the early twentieth century shows the barn that Grant ordered his tenants to build. In this picture the barn was still in the location in which it had been built. Note that the appearance of the barn was very similar at this time to the picture drawn in 1875 (see Figure 23).

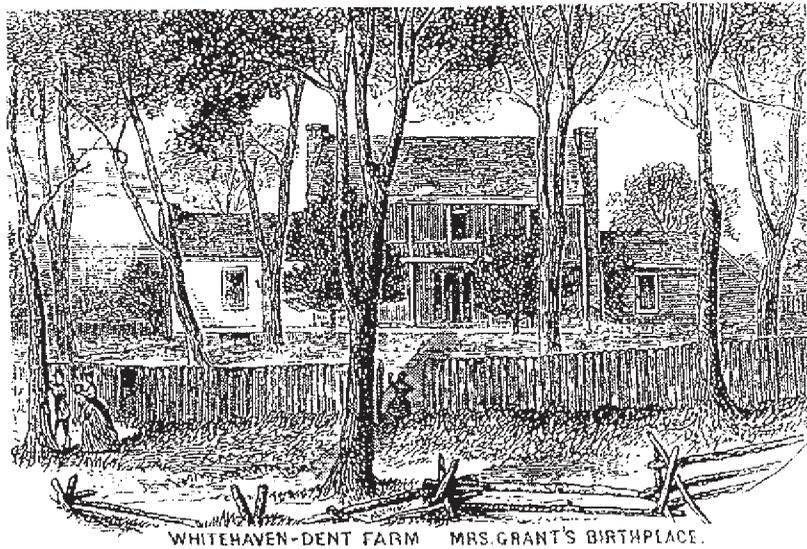


Figure 26: "White Haven-Dent Farm, Mrs. Grant's Birthplace." Portion of engraving from Albert D. Richardson's book, A Personal History of U. S. Grant, 1868. (Source: Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site Collection)

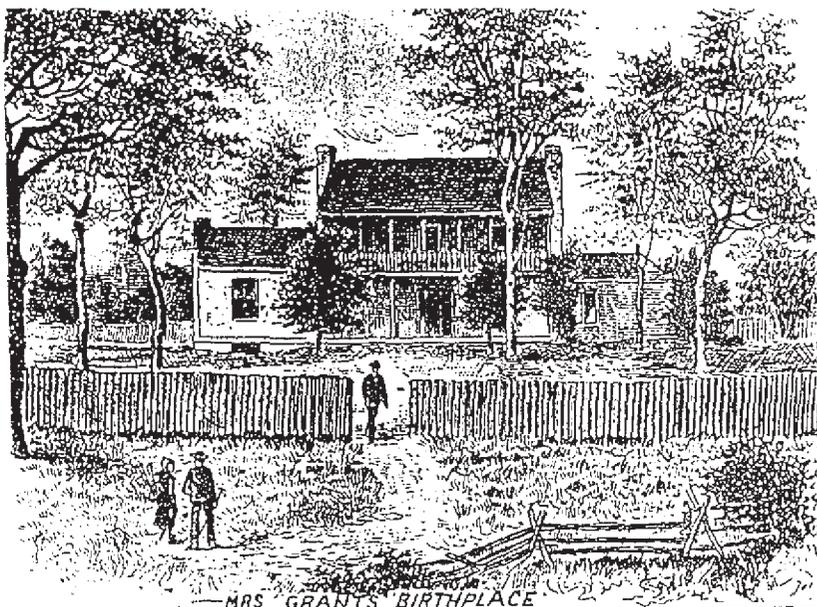


Figure 27: "Residence of Captain and Mrs. Grant in and about St. Louis." This engraving was located in Herman Dieck's, The Most Complete and Authentic History of the Life and Public Service of General Ulysses S. Grant, 1885. (Source: Missouri Historical Society Collection)



Figure 28: "White Haven." Engraving in the St. Louis Republican, 24 July 1885. (Source: Missouri Historical Society Collection)

Vegetation

There is no evidence that there is any vegetation which is extant from this period. While some of the herbaceous and woody plant material may have descended from this period, this can not be documented. Tree coring done in 1993 has shown that none of the trees on the site today are from this historic period.

The rumor that Grant planted trees at White Haven which were received as gifts on his world tour has never been verified. A newspaper article which discusses the gifts that Grant received on his world tour makes no mention of any trees.²³ If he did receive any trees as gifts they either were never planted at White Haven, or they are no longer surviving.

In 1986, a disk was cut from a Linden tree which had fallen over. This disk was examined by Osmund Overby of the Department of Art/History and Archaeology at the University of Missouri Columbia. While this disk came from one of the trees rumored to have been one of the gift trees, Overby's conclusion was that the tree was only about 78 years old. Overby did note that the tree had two centers which, "... could well be caused by a couple of sprouts starting and then growing together."²⁴ This suggests that this tree could have grown from the stump of an older tree. However, with no evidence that there ever were any gift trees, there is no reason to

²³"Grant's Farm Sold," 22 June 1888.

²⁴Letter from Osmund Overby, University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Art/History to Virginia Stith, Director of Historic Sites and Preservation, St. Louis County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. 11 September 1986.

assume that this Linden is the descendant of an original gift tree.

Water features

See "water features" in the section on the Dent era landscape.

Spatial relationships

The spatial relationships associated with the Grant-era landscape have essentially been lost with the loss of many of the features that defined spaces at that time. In a limited sense the cluster formed by the house, the stone building, and the icehouse still functions as a spatially cohesive unit. This "unit" does not have the relationship with the other parts of the White Haven landscape that previously existed. The loss of the group of barns and adjacent field patterns means that the cluster of buildings near the house exists without the larger context that helped give it definition as a cluster. The movement of the horse barn to a new location in the 1960's greatly changed the spatial relationships that would have existed in this historic period.

The significant increase in vegetation since the Grant-era landscape has also changed the spatial relationships. The images from the Grant period suggest that the vegetation was denser around the house than elsewhere on the landscape. Today the vegetation is heavy across the entire site. Heavy brush along the creek up to the icehouse creates a particularly heavy mass that greatly changes the spatial characteristics from those depicted in the images of the Grant period.

Surroundings/Setting

See "Surroundings/Setting" in section on Dent-era landscape.

Issue three: Amount of documentation available (especially graphic)

Several sources of information are available from this period. These include Grant's letters to his tenants, newspaper articles, and several images.

Images and articles:

Richardson, Albert. A Personal History of Ulysses S. Grant. Hartford: American Publishing Company, 1868.

Dieck, Herman. The Most Complete and Authentic History of the Life and Public Service of General U. S. Grant. Chicago: B. F. Jones and Co., 1885.

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. 1875.

Every Saturday: An Illustrated Journal. 1872.

1870 road map (image only)

1883 Photograph of Leis family on porch of White Haven

Photo of the front of the house which may be circa 1860's

St. Louis Republican. 24 July 1885

Missouri Republican. 1873.

Grant, Julia Dent. The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant. ed. John Simon. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1975.

Fischer, Leroy. "Grant's Letters to His Missouri Farm Tenants," Agricultural History. Vol. 21, No. 1 January 1947.

The most important of these images, other than the Leslie print, are the graphics and the possibly, circa 1860s photograph

which show the front of White Haven. It seems clear that a degree of artistic license was practiced in at least some images which are drawings. The fences which are shown in the Richardson print of 1868 and Dieck print of 1885 are both constructed from tightly fitted vertical board fences (Figures 26 and 27). The image printed in Every Saturday, circa 1872, shows a picket fence in the yard near the house (Figure 29). Another image printed in the St. Louis Republican in 1885 shows a rail fence (Figure 28). The result is that the available evidence is contradictory with regard to fence styles. The images do not make it clear if the lane parallel to the front of the house was in front of these fences or behind them. The Richardson and Dieck prints also show a rail fence with cross posts in front of the vertical board fence. It may be that the lane to the house ran between these two fences. Use the drawings alone makes it very hard to restore a fence without an unacceptable level of conjecture as to style and location.

The photograph that is believed to be circa 1860's may help answers a few questions regarding the style of fence that was have been in place during this time. The date of the photograph, however, has not been confirmed. None of the other graphics from prior to the 1885 show a fence of this type near the house. This strongly suggests that the photograph may in fact have been taken during the Conn ownership period or towards the very end of the time that Grant was associated with the property. If the date of this document is verified to in fact be from a period when Grant

was associated with White Haven, it might then be possible to use it to determine the location of at least part of the fence line during this period.

These same images also provide confusing and contradictory information about the vegetation in the front yard. None of images is drawn in such a fashion that the genus and species can be identified with any degree of certainty. The photograph (if it is from this period) might be used to used to identify the location and genus and species of a few trees, but overall, it provides very little information regarding the vegetation from this time. With the exception of the engraving in Every Saturday, all of the images show some type of tree with a conical form on either side of the front door. The photograph does not show the front of the house clearly enough to determine if there are conical trees here. Other than these conical trees, no other trees appear in the same form and location in the different images. The most that can be inferred from these images is that there were a number of deciduous trees in the area around the house.

Issue four: Consistency with the potential key historic period(s) and themes of the property.

The strong association that Grant had with this site and his direct involvement in ordering specific changes (crop selection, fencing, construction of the horse barn, alignment of the railway etc.) makes this period highly significant and consistent with themes that emphasize Grant's post-Civil War life.



Figure 29: Black and white photograph of colored engraving in Every Saturday, circa 1872. (Source: State Historical Society of Missouri)

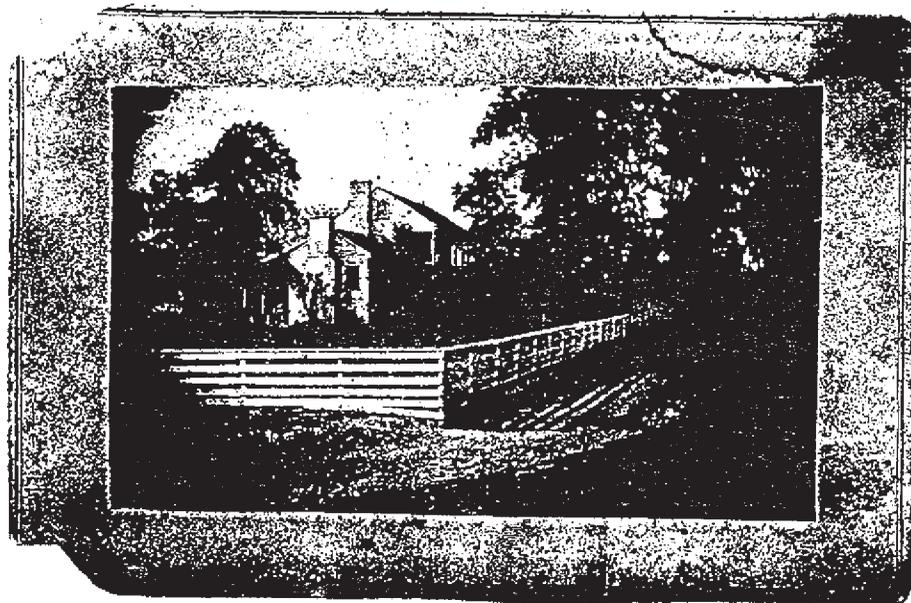


Figure 30: Photograph of White Haven taken sometime between the mid-nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. (Source: Ulysses S. Grant Historic Site collection)

Issue five: Functional and maintenance concerns

These concerns can only be fully addressed when more complete management and interpretive goals have been established, but any re-creation of the historic landscape would pose several difficulties. The lack of paved surfaces would make accessibility difficult for many people. The removal of the vegetation on the site would make all of the surrounding twentieth century houses so visible that the site would have a very strong feeling of being in suburbia. The plants which provided the historic ground cover are not known. Although the current ground cover which is a mix of over 40 flowers and grasses may in fact be more representative of the historic ground cover than a mono-culture lawn. Consequently, any efforts to "upgrade" the ground cover to suit contemporary aesthetics, or to create a grass lawn would be highly speculative and at odds with NPS management policy. Until additional information is available the current lawn should be maintained as it is to prevent erosion near the creek and throughout the site as a whole.

The current entrance across the railroad tracks is a hazard. Efforts to lower the elevation of the railroad bed and to widen the lane into the property to two lanes would make the entrance safer and more functional. This is necessary in order to make the site accessible for large emergency vehicles. Even though these actions would further damage the integrity of the site's landscape, safety issues should be given first consideration.

Conn-era, 1885-1913 (Including ownership by Vanderbilt, Conn, Hughes/St Louis Development Corporation)

Issue one: Historical significance of the landscape

In 1885 Grant ended his association with White Haven. Between 1885 and 1913 five different owners held the White Haven site. Very little change to the landscape is known to have occurred during this time. The greatest significance of this period may be that Luther Conn, the owner between 1888 and 1905, named the White Haven site Grantwood. This suggests that Conn saw the property as a memorial to Grant.

Conn acquired the property several years after the end of the Civil War. He fought in the war on the Confederate side earning the rank of Captain. During most of the war he was in various prison camps. He was released in a prisoner exchange in 1864. In 1865 he was part of the command that served as a special escort for Jefferson Davis on his retreat into Georgia. While in the St. Louis area, during the late 19th century, Conn was a successful businessman. He also worked to promote the establishment of Forest Park in St. Louis and was the commissioner of Lafayette Park for many years. ²⁵

While Conn was a prominent figure locally, his significance is not comparable to Grant's national prominence and historical significance. For this reason, apparently, Conn's association with

²⁵Hyde and Conrad, Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis. New York: Southern History Co. 1899, p. 466.

White Haven has not been considered significant in terms of the National Register of Historic Places nomination process.

Conn sold the property in 1905 to the J. G. Hughes Land Development Company. In 1906 the Grant Park Land Company acquired the property, and held it until selling it in 1913 to Albert Wenzlick, the president of a realty and investment company.

Issue two: Number, condition and quality of extant features (Figures 11 and 31).

While it is believed that this was a period of little change, little is really known. Luther Conn operated the site as a horse ranch. Given the fact that this was the purpose for which Grant was developing the site, it is possible that Conn did not have to make many modifications. He did, however, own the property for seventeen years. During this period it seems likely that Conn would certainly have left his imprint on the landscape. The changes that occurred during this period are not known.

After Conn sold the property, little is known about the site until the Wenzlicks acquired the property. When the Wenzlicks first purchased the site, "...the ground was pockmarked from the hoofs of the city's garbage-wagon mules being pastured there."²⁶ The pasturing of the mules would have contributed to erosion that would have altered the site's topography to some degree. The mules also would have damaged the vegetation on the site. There are 3 or 4 trees on the site that are extant from this period.

²⁶Felice, Margerie. Granddaughter of Delbert Wenzlick. Letter to letter to Kim Little (Former NPS Historian), 19 March 1986.

CONN OWNERSHIP AND PRE-WENZLICK OWNERSHIP PERIOD 1885-1913

Extant features that are known or believed to have been on the site during this period.

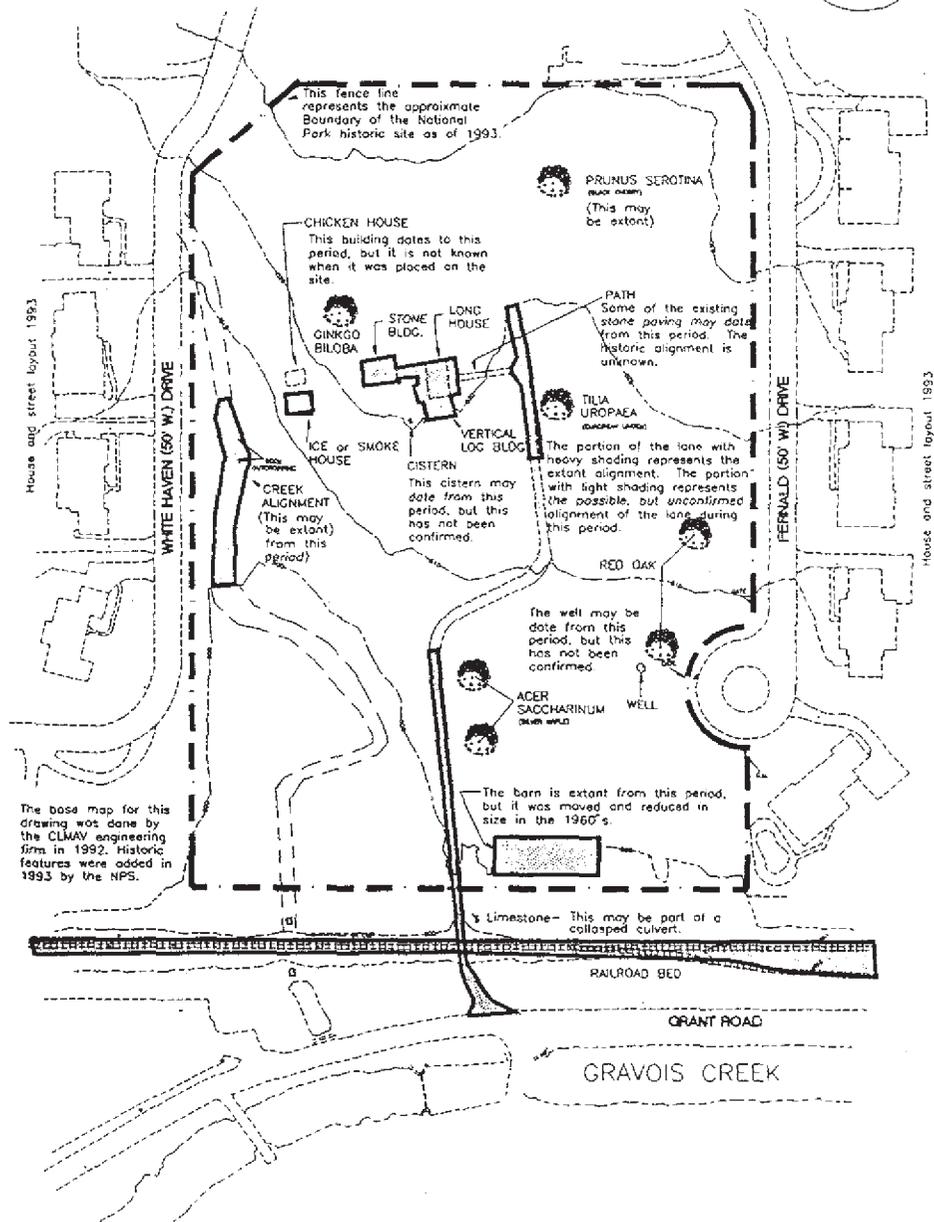


Figure 31: Map showing the extant features from the Conn-era.

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One photograph has been found from this period which shows the front of the house (Figure 32). A number of plants can be seen, but none of these exists today. The image does show a portion of a walk running from the front step towards the lane. Unfortunately, only a small portion of the lane can be seen in this picture. It cannot be determined from this image how the walk is aligned, although the walk appears to have been paved with stone.

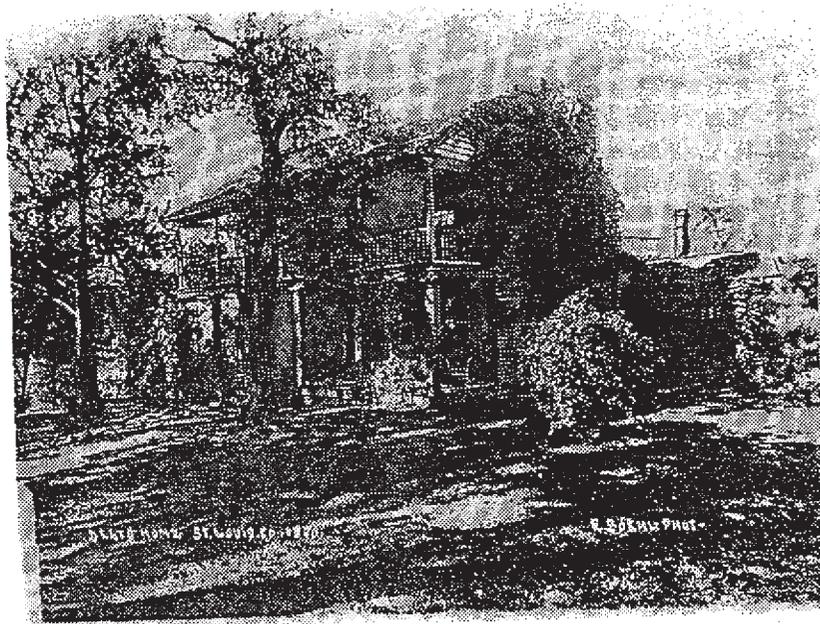


Figure 32: Photograph taken of the front of White Haven by Emile Boehl 1890. (Source: Missouri Historical Society)

Issue three: Amount of documentation available (especially graphic)

Boehl (photograph/painting) 1890

Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis 1899.

Article on Julia's 1894 visit to White Haven in the Watchman.

Issue four: Consistency with the potential key historic period(s) and themes of the property

This period is not consistent with historic themes which emphasize the life of Grant.

Issue five: Functional and maintenance concerns

With the exception of the trees that are extant from this period, the functional and maintenance concerns would be the same as for the Grant ownership period.

Wenzlick Period 1913-1993 (Including ownership by Albert Wenzlick, Delbert Wenzlick, Bill Wenzlick, the St. Louis County, and the National Park Service.)

Issue one: Historical significance of the landscape

The White Haven site changed greatly, during this period. The adjacent land that had been a part of Grant's extended holdings was developed for residential housing. The way White Haven was used changed slowly. During the time that Delbert Wenzlick owned the property (1913-1937), the house was used as a summer residence by the Wenzlicks. The caretaker used it as a farm. Over time, as the farm land was sold off for development, the site lost its connection to agriculture.

In an effort to evaluate the significance of the site's landscape, its twentieth century history was examined. An effort was made to determine if there were persons, designs, or features which gave significance to the landscape for this period. While deliberate efforts and thought clearly went into the planting and general development of the site, none of the designs, site features, or persons associated with the site during this period give the site significance in terms of any National Register criteria.

Issue two: Number and integrity of extant features (Figures 11 and 33).

Buildings
(See HSR)

WENZLICK OWNERSHIP PERIOD 1913-1986

Extant landscape features from this period
(vegetation listed on engineering survey)

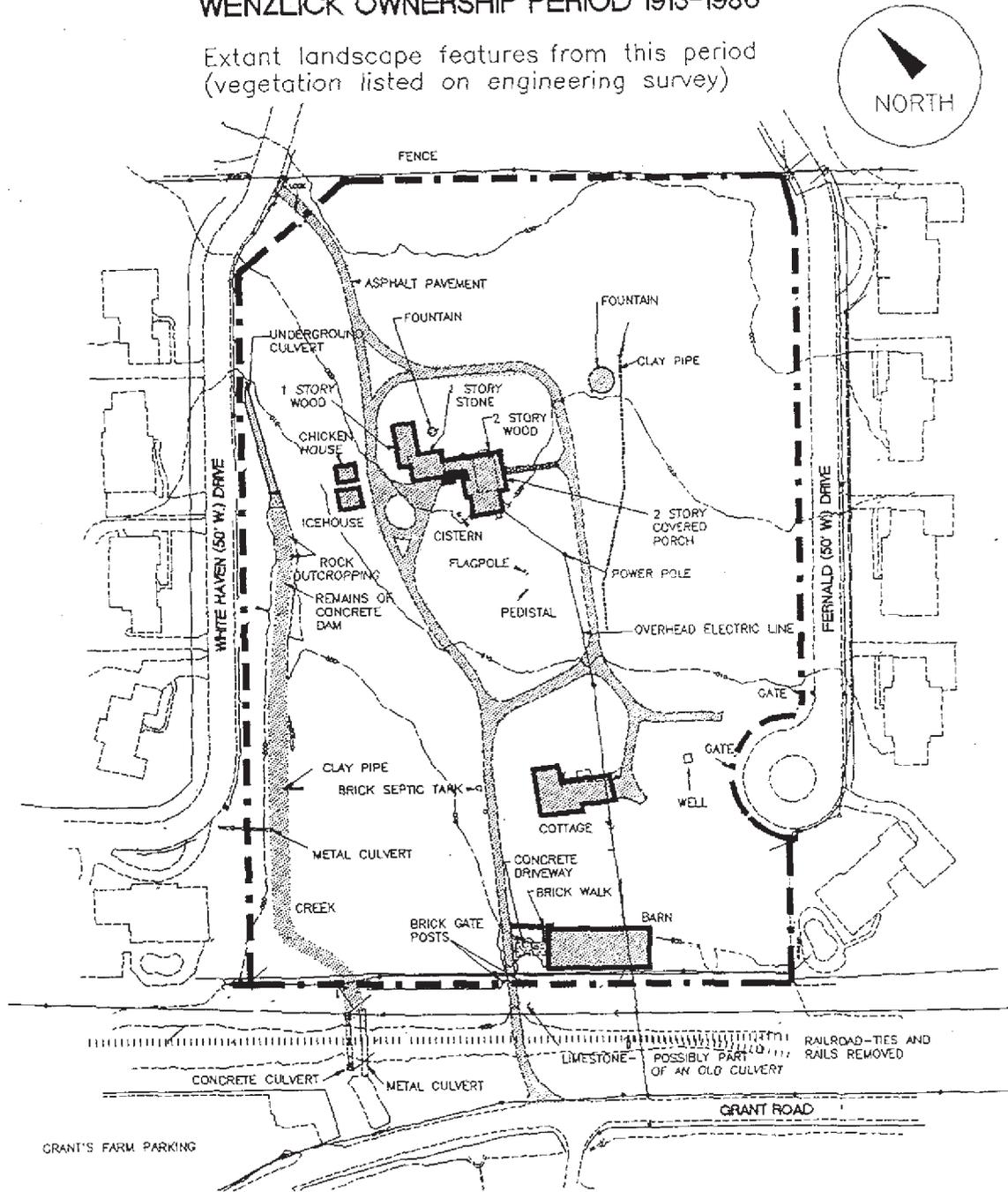


Figure 33: Map showing extant features from the Wenzlick-era.

ON MICROFILM

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Topography

The landscape's topography is known to have undergone several changes during the period of Wenzlick ownership. The topographic survey of the site still shows a slight depression where the lane was extended past the house by August A. Busch, Sr. in the 1920's. This section of the lane is no longer extant. The 1848 plat map shows the lane following a very similar route (Figure 14). It may be that Busch simply rejuvenated the old lane. It can not be assumed that Busch directed the original construction of this road. The 1940 HABS landscape plan shows the lane that Busch used (Figure 34). Archeological investigations may reveal whether any material relating to the lane is extant from earlier periods.

The lane was also extended around the house for access to the garage (former stone building). An additional exit was added at the northern corner of the site. These changes in circulation patterns have also altered the topography to an undetermined extent. The addition of the large and small cooling fountains for the house's air conditioning system in the 1950's has slightly altered the landscape's topography.

The most significant topographic change occurred when the creek on the site was routed through a culvert and the alignment of the creek was changed to limit flooding. The area between the drive and the realigned creek was filled.

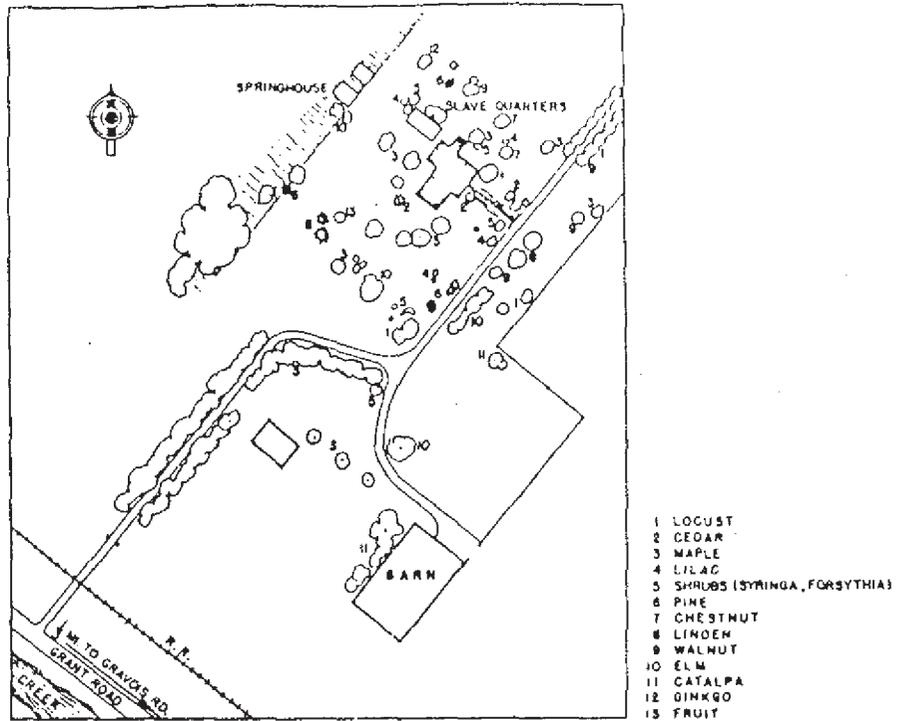


Figure 34: Cover sheet of 1940 HABS drawings showing plan view of White Haven.

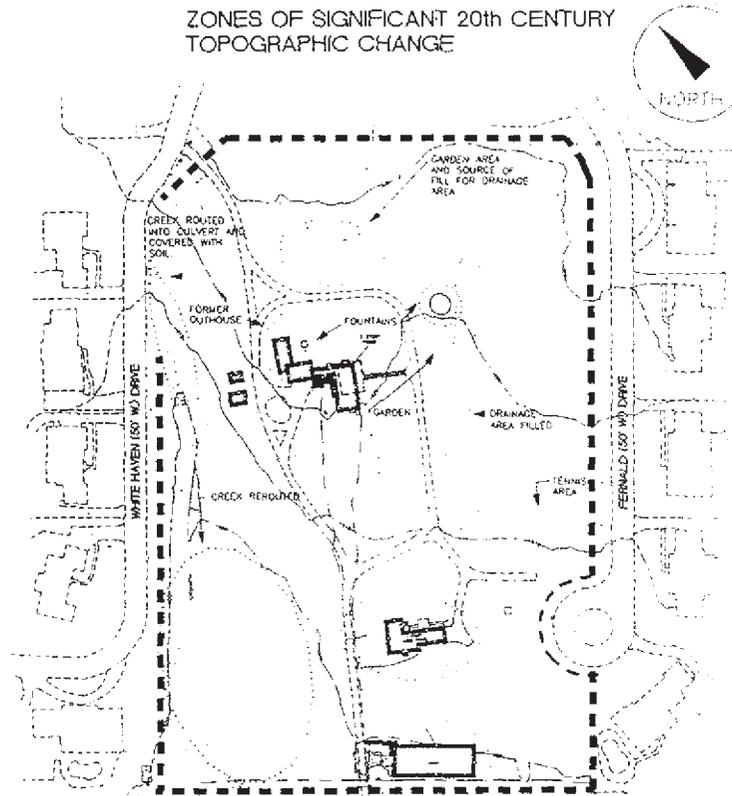


Figure 35: Map showing areas where significant topographic change has taken place in the twentieth century.

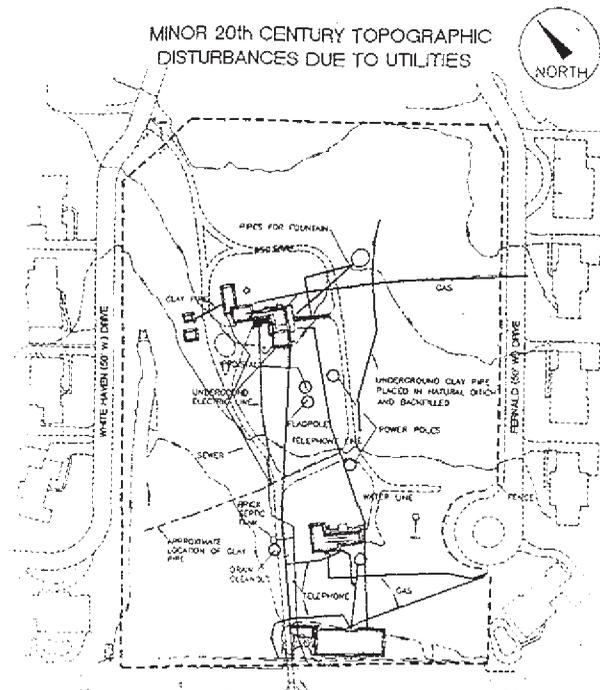


Figure 36: Map showing areas of topographic disturbance due to utility installation. 357/20009

A second significant topographic change occurred when a vitrified clay drain pipe was installed in a drainage gully that ran along the lane to the creek. This line was then filled so that the gully was no longer evident. This was first installed in the 1920's. In 1965, this drain line was extended when the creek alignment was changed. (The junction of the 1920 and 1965 lines may provide a good indication as to where the creek bed was prior to realignment.)

Circulation

The circulation patterns during the time that the Wenzlicks owned the property changed with the addition and removal of the lane by Busch, and the completion of the lane around the house. Circulation patterns also were changed as site features were added and removed (barn, creek alignment, tennis court, barbecue pit,

corn crib, flag pole and sundial pedestal).

See also the first two paragraphs of "Topography"

Structures/site furnishings/buildings

The following structures, site furnishings, and buildings are extant and were present during all or part of the Wenzlick period.

- Brick gate posts
- Caretaker's cottage and cistern
- Chicken house (next to the ice house)
- Cistern
- Creek
- Dam on creek (ruins)
- Fence
- Fence gates
- Flag stone walk
- Flag pole
- Grant Barn (partial)
- Large fountain
- Main house
- Paved interior lane
- Small fountain
- Stone quarry site
- Stone building
- Sundial pedestal
- Well

The following structures, site furnishings and buildings were present during the Wenzlick period, but are no longer present.

- Arbor
- Barbecue pit
- Chicken coop (next to the Grant barn)
- Corn crib
- Cow barn
- Electric lights along drive
- Pig pen
- Spring House (ruins)
- Tennis court
- Wishing well

Vegetation

With the exception of a few trees that date to the Conn period, all of the trees on the site date from Wenzlick era. There

is, however, no clearly identifiable design style. A 1914 newspaper article indicates that Wenzlick planned to hire a landscape designer. Bill Wenzlick, however, was certain that there was never a professional hired for either the placement or installation of plant materials.²⁷

While numerous plants were added, there is no evidence that a specific recognized style of design was every implemented. Trees of the same species on the site were frequently planted in rows of 4 to 6 in the 1950's. In some place these rows of trees were planted along site features such as the lane, paths, and fence lines. In other places the trees seem to simply be lined up as specimens on display. This may in fact have been exactly what was done. The site contains a very wide variety of native and exotic trees which suggests there may have been an effort to collect and display unusual trees. Leni Williams, a worker at the site in the 1950's, was responsible for planting most of the trees that are on the site today.²⁸ Unfortunately, he was in very poor health and was not available for an interview. If it is possible in the future to interview this person and discuss the work that he did, it could help explain the logic of the planting scheme.

Even though the vegetation on the site includes a wide variety of different plants, these plants are not particularly significant individually. The dawn redwoods are probably the most unusual trees on the site. These plants were thought to have been extinct

²⁷Bill Wenzlick, interview with author, 15 April 1993.

²⁸Bill Wenzlick, interview with author, 15 April 1993.

until their discovery in China in 1943, and seeds from these trees were distributed around the world in the mid 1940s. The dawn redwoods at White Haven were planted in the 1950s. Such plantings are not uncommon in St. Louis County. Many of these plantings at other locations are older than the ones at White Haven.²⁹ Consequently, the dawn redwoods at White Haven are a curiosity, but are not significant in terms of any National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Even though the vegetation on this site is not historically significant, it does have value. Collectively, the vegetation creates a nice park-like setting in a residential subdivision. The vegetation also helps control erosion on a site that has significant grade changes. In addition to screening out views of the surrounding houses, the vegetation also has some value as a wildlife habitat. The variety and quality of the plants of the site have value in their own right. Skip Kincaid, an urban forester, felt that the community would be opposed to any sudden removal of the tree cover. Although he has never actually heard these concerns expressed by anyone in the adjacent community, he has seen the removal of vegetation from large lots in suburban St. Louis create a great deal of opposition.³⁰

Water features

In addition to the fountains and the creek discussed in the

²⁹Skip Kincaid, phone conversation with author, 6 April 1993. Mr. Kincaid is an urban forester in the St. Louis area, and he is an associate with Kincaid and Associates.

³⁰ Skip Kincaid, phone conversation with author, 6 April 1993.

section on "Topography" of the Wenzlick era, the spring that was located behind the house dried up at some point prior to the time the Wenzlicks acquired the property.

Issue three: Amount of documentation available (especially graphic)

Photos, home movies, aerial photos, and HABS drawings, 1940

Interviews with Bill Wenzlick, owner from 1979 to 1986

Interview with Bill Hayes, worked at the site in the late 1940s

Interview with Jim Davis, lived and worked at the site between 1913 and mid 1940s

Issue four: Consistency with the potential key historic period(s) and themes of the property

This period is not consistent with themes that emphasize the Grant period.

Issue Five: Functional and maintenance concerns

Not applicable

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH NEEDS

Additional evidence regarding the landscape may greatly bolster any arguments for a restoration of the landscape to the Grant era, particularly in an area immediately around the house. It is reasonable to assume that photographs from the Grant period were taken. Efforts should be made to let any source that might have photographs know of the need the NPS has for these. It is possible that other Grant sites may have photos of White Haven. Private collectors may also have photos that are yet unknown to the NPS.

Archeological research may help determine where fence lines were in the past. It may be very difficult, however, to determine from which period a specific fence line belonged. The known placement of fence lines in the early twentieth century may have followed the placement of earlier fence lines. The images from the Grant period also may provide useful clues as to where fences and other features were located. It is also important to try to determine when the well and cisterns were built. Such an effort could involve an enormous amount of work which may not provide any solid answers. Even so, the park management should consult with the Midwest Archeological Center to evaluate this possibility.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR THE LANDSCAPE

Evaluating treatment options for this landscape prior to the development of the General Management Plan is difficult, but may provide the basis for further discussions. The lack of an approved period of interpretation, interpretive themes, and facility needs means that some issues cannot be completely addressed at this point. The advantage of considering treatment options at this time is that it provides information that can help create an integrated General Management Plan that is sensitive to all of the site's cultural resources. The Draft Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes recommends the selection of a single treatment option for all of the cultural resources on a site.³¹ While this may not be entirely feasible at White Haven, this approach should be considered to the extent that it is possible.

The dilemma that the landscape at this site (and most sites) presents is that as the integrity and the level of knowledge increases for each period, the historic significance for it decreases. The Wenzlick era has a high level of integrity and information, however the historical significance is minimal. The majority of the landscape during the period which Grant was associated with the property has limited integrity, but it is the period which is considered to be the period of significance in the

³¹Draft Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.
Washington D. C. : National Park Service, May 1991, p. 6.

National Register nomination.

Even though an interpretative period has not been officially determined, the general period of Ulysses Grant's and Julia Dent's association with White Haven is clearly the most significant period for this site. Given this fact, there is little value in considering treatment options for the periods prior to and after this time. These other periods, which were discussed, have little known significance.

The National Park Service recognizes four treatment options for cultural landscapes.³² These are:

Preservation. A cultural landscape will be preserved in its present condition if (1) that condition allows for satisfactory protection, maintenance, use, and interpretation, of (2) another treatment is warranted but cannot be accomplished until some future time.

Rehabilitation. A cultural landscape may be rehabilitated for contemporary use if (1) it cannot adequately serve an appropriate use in its present condition, and (2) rehabilitation will retain its essential features and will not alter the integrity and character or conflict with park management objectives.

Restoration. A cultural landscape may be restored to an earlier appearance if (1) restoration is essential to public understanding of the cultural associations of a park, and (2) sufficient data exists to permit restoration with minimal conjecture.

Reconstruction. An obliterated landscape may be reconstructed if (1) reconstruction is essential to public understanding of the cultural association of a park established for that purpose, and (2) sufficient data exist to permit reconstruction with minimal conjecture.

Each degree of treatment requires differing levels of knowledge about the historic landscape. Reconstruction requires the greatest

³²National Park Service Management Policies-Management of the National Park System, Washington D. C. : 1988, 5.6.

level of knowledge regarding characteristics and features of the historic landscape and is not a feasible option for the ULSG landscape. In circumstances where restoration or reconstruction is deemed essential, but there is inadequate knowledge to implement such a treatment, it cannot be done.

PRESERVATION OF THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE

The choice of preservation would not allow for changes to the landscape to accommodate visitor needs. The current facilities for parking, access, administration, interpretation, and maintenance clearly are not adequate. This is an appropriate treatment only until another treatment can be selected and implemented.

RESTORATION OF THE ENTIRE LANDSCAPE TO THE GRANT ERA

There is clearly insufficient knowledge and integrity for a restoration of the landscape to the Grant era. While the amount of information regarding the landscape of this period is limited, there is sufficient knowledge about later periods to know that the landscape has been greatly changed since the time Grant was associated with it. These changes have altered the feeling, setting, workmanship, materials, and design of the site. Consequently, the integrity of the overall landscape has been significantly reduced.

The lack of reliable documentation means that any attempt at

restoration or reconstruction would be based on a large amount of conjecture. While there are a number of pictures from this period, the only photograph is of people on the front porch. Given the artistic nature of these other images, they cannot be used to determine where the features such as fences actually were located. While archeological research might help find the location of some missing features, this is uncertain given the high degree of soil disturbance that has occurred in the twentieth century.

There is insufficient knowledge to restore features such as the drainage ditch, the spring run to the creek, the fences, and the plantings on the site. Many other features, such as the barn, the creek, and the spring itself, cannot be restored because the surrounding land has been extensively changed and is not owned by the NPS. The fact that such features and the agricultural setting cannot be restored makes it improbable that a restoration of the entire property the NPS now manages could ever be done in accordance with the latest NPS policy regarding landscape restorations. NPS management policy makes it clear that, "Cultural landscapes...will not be 'beautified' to suit modern aesthetic tastes through decorative plantings or other modifications not reflecting historic conditions."³³ It would not be possible to reflect accurately the historic conditions of the Grant-era landscape with the level of information available.

Buildings such as the chicken house would have to be removed since they can not be documented as having been on the site during

³³Ibid., 5.6.

this period. Other features such as the narrow access road and entrance over the tracks would have to stay as they were historically even though this would put the public at risk. While little is known about the historic pedestrian circulation system, it is doubtful that it would ever provide adequate access for future visitors. There is no graphic evidence that the walk to the front door was paved before 1890. The written evidence regarding the paving of the walk is inconclusive. This would mean that an unpaved path would have to accommodate future visitors.

A limited restoration of part of the site in front of the house to the Grant era might be possible. This would only be possible if additional information can be found through future research and archeological investigations. Since most of the images from this period emphasize the house, there is more information with which to work. Unfortunately, these images contradict one another in some instances. These images also show only the front portion of the house. The use of photographs taken after this period may provide some clues as to the appearance of the landscape during an earlier period. While such images are helpful, the lack of photographs from the time that Grant was associated with the property is a significant impediment to accurately restoring the landscape.

REHABILITATION OF THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE

Rehabilitation of the contemporary landscape, if done in a manner sensitive to the Grant-era landscape, may be the best alternative given the current level of knowledge. It is reasonable to argue that the site as it currently stands cannot serve an appropriate use for the public. Rehabilitation would allow the landscape to be retained as it evolved historically by maintaining and repairing significant historic features. Changes needed for contemporary use would be acceptable.

This option would mean that the barn, the chicken house, the walk to the front of the house and the caretaker's cottage could be retained and used for contemporary needs if desired. The vegetation on the property which is not historically significant could be retained for its value in screening and for the prevention of erosion. Parking and circulation systems for vehicles and pedestrians could be added and modified as needed. Features from later periods which are hazardous to visitors, or visually intrusive, such as the fountains, could be removed.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The lack of knowledge and integrity for the landscape from the Grant-era, makes it clear that the primary treatment for the overall landscape should be rehabilitation. The level of knowledge for the landscape around the front of the house is better. If additional evidence is found through archeological research or other means, it might be possible to restore an area immediately around the house within an overall landscape rehabilitation. This approach would be would require that the style and location of the fence, which is believed to have surrounded the house, be established. Currently there is not sufficient information to place a fence around the entire house without a great degree of conjecture.

Such an approach would also mean having two different levels of treatment for the site's landscape. The section of the draft Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes that deals with rehabilitation indicates that it would be acceptable, although not ideal, to select rehabilitation as the primary treatment with restoration as a secondary treatment, thus allowing for the removal of selected non-historic features without attempting to restore a historic landscape that can not be documented.³⁴

Such an approach has the advantage that it would allow the issues of site access, parking, visitor needs, views into and out

³⁴Ibid., 6.

of the site to be dealt with while still respecting the historic fabric that remains. Having two levels of treatment would also allow for the removal or alteration of hazardous features or intrusive features. Restoration of the core area near the house is ultimately dependant on finding additional information for this area of the landscape. Until such information is found, rehabilitation of the entire site to meet immediate visitor needs, (life safety codes, ADA) could be done provided it did not preclude a later restoration of the area immediately adjacent to the house. Until a treatment has been selected and approved the current landscape should be preserved. Even after a treatment has been approved, ^{in the GMP} changes that are not necessary to meet immediate visitor needs should wait for a complete cultural landscape report.