

LANDSCAPES
(General Grant's Cabin)
Gravois Road,
St. Louis County, Mo.

HABS No. MO-1134

HABS
MO.

95 - AFT.V

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of St. Louis

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT - ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene L. Pleitsch, District Officer
1592 Arcade Building, St. Louis, Mo.

GENERAL GRANT'S CABIN
Gravois Vicinity
Gravois Road, St. Louis County, Mo.

Historical Data

"In 1854 U. S. Grant and his family returned to Missouri from California and Mrs. Grant's Father, Col. Frederick Dent, gave them an 80-acre farm on the ridge north of the old Dent homestead. It was on that 80-acre tract that Grant erected his cabin and dubbed the name of his home "Hardscrabble". About 1859 Grant traded the farm for a house at Seventh and Barton Streets in St. Louis but due to a flaw in the title of the City house, he lost that property and then removed to Galena, Illinois where he worked with his father in the latter's tannery until the outbreak of the Civil War. . . ."

Wm. Lyman Thomas, History of St. Louis County (1911), p. 107.

"About 1890 the cabin was sold to Edward Joy, for the sum of \$5,000 (or \$500.00) and Mr. Joy had the cabin removed carefully to the subdivision which he was then promoting known as 'Old Orchard' now a part of Webster Groves. The man who dismantled the cabin for Mr. Joy was Edward Lancaster of Webster Groves, and in later years he related that every log and shingle was carefully marked, and even the chinking was brought along. Wilson P. Wells, an old resident of the Gravois Settlement, was chosen to rebuild the cabin, he being familiar with that class of construction. . . . Just before the Chicago World's Fair an attempt was made by a speculative syndicate to raise a large sum of money with which to take the cabin to Chicago for exhibition purposes. The effort was not successful and we next hear of its sale to the C. F. Blanke Coffee Company for the sum of \$8,000 and its trip to the grounds of the St. Louis World's Fair. . . ."

Missouri Historical Review, Jan. 1921, p. 413.

After the fair it was purchased by August A. Busch and removed to his farm on the Gravois Road, which includes part of the old Dent acreage.

Charles Weber, a cabinet maker, was one of the neighbors who helped erect the Grant cabin. He made the doors, window frames and sash.

Prepared by John A. Bryan 1/14/41

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