

Introduction to tours

N1-Narrator 1

N2-Narrator 2

N1: Welcome to “It Happened Here” an informational audio tour from Jefferson National Expansion Memorial that commemorates the role St. Louis played in the westward expansion of the United States during the 19th century. Use the “It Happened Here” map to locate the tour stops numbered labels on the park grounds; these numbered labels are attached to the light poles along the walkways. The map is available at the Information Desk in the visitors Center under the Gateway Arch or online on the PastCast page at www.nps.gov/jeff. During Fair St. Louis and Live on the Levee events throughout July and August, maps are also available at the National Park Service tent located in the Family Fun village north of the stage on the levee.

Please proceed to the first stop

After Lewis and Clark- Land Redistribution 1804-1820- Who gets the land?

Stop #1

Home of Pierre Chouteau

N2: Today's PastCast tour, "After Lewis and Clark", explores four sites on the grounds of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial linked to the days of early American rule in St. Louis. As the Americans expanded into the area once controlled by the French and Spanish, decisions had to be made regarding the land and the people who already lived there. These tricky questions proved problematic for many of the villagers in St. Louis.

N1: This tour begins near the Arch Parking Garage at the North Overlook near the Eads Bridge. If not already there, walk to the first lamp pole on the walkway heading east toward the river and the Eads Bridge and look for the PastCast label announcing Stop #1 on the "After Lewis and Clark" tour. Begin your tour here. From your position, look back at the center of the top level of the garage. Imagine a large stone house there, with galleries (or porches) on three sides of the first and second floors. The home measured 75 by 45 feet, overlooked the river, and was north of the busy market area. Originally built by fur trader Jacques Clamorgan in 1785, Pierre Chouteau Sr. purchased the home in 1788.

N2: This large home served Pierre, his family, and his many guests. His first wife, Pelagie Kiercereau, died in 1793 during childbirth after ten years of marriage. In 1794, Pierre married Brigitte Saucier, with whom he had five children. Chouteau owned

several slaves who lived in their own quarters. A large stone wall surrounded his home, forming a compound for the slave quarters, the fur warehouses, and the open grounds where many Native Americans could encamp when they came to visit.

N1: At age 17, Pierre Chouteau was given a huge responsibility to fulfill for his family's fur trade business: to live among and trade with the Osage Indians. In doing so, he acquired an incredible knowledge of and respect for the Osage, who in turn grew to trust and admire him. This experience would serve him well for the next several decades as the Chouteau family traded and worked out treaties with the Osage.

N2: The Chouteau brothers, Auguste and Pierre, were very influential in the community of St. Louis and much of Upper Louisiana. When the Americans took over the territory from the French, the families hosted a ball. The change in power was sure to disrupt their lives, but the men sought methods of accommodation with the Americans to make it less damaging.

N1: Pierre, throughout his time with the Osage, had laid claim to a great deal of land. When the French and the Spanish claimed jurisdiction over the land, a man's word often served as the legal necessity for claiming the land, as did uncontested occupation. When the Americans took over, they wanted to see physical evidence in the form of paperwork.

N2: Pierre Chouteau claimed land in the St. Louis area and also in areas inhabited by the Osage. He wanted the job of Indian Agent with the United States Government, which

differed from the way it was conducted by the Spanish governors. The Spanish agents served as government ambassadors and merchants, and were given exclusive trading rights with the tribe. Under American rule, agents served the government only, working as mediators with merchants, and handling the official allotment of goods. The Americans wanted free trade agreements with the tribes, to encourage “free enterprise” among the people.

N1: President Jefferson appointed Pierre Chouteau as an Agent of Indian Affairs for Upper Louisiana in 1804, about the time Meriwether Lewis spent the winter with Chouteau to gather information for his upcoming trek. Chouteau’s success was based on his vast understanding of the Native Americans Indians with whom he had lived and now served. He refused to supply the traders with inferior goods, understanding the need to maintain good relationships.

N2: When the Americans took power, one of their goals was to sell the land, but the records in St. Louis were not accurate enough to determine what land was available. On May 26, 1804, an Act of Congress made null and void all land grants issued since the Treaty of St. Ildefonso, between October 1, 1800 and December 20, 1803, which was the day the United States assumed authority at New Orleans. This affected thousands of land grants, including over 30,000 acres of what is now eastern Iowa claimed by the Chouteau brothers. The citizens of St. Louis quickly drafted a letter to William Henry Harrison, then Governor of the territory. The letter protested the unfairness of the act and asked for

representation to determine the legality of the surveys. In answer to this plea a special land commission composed of three members was created.

N1: As Chouteau's influence with the tribes remained unshaken with the transfer of power, the United States government utilized his skills and his knowledge. Chouteau was instrumental in keeping the Osage allied with the United States during the War of 1812. He remained Indian agent for the Osage until 1818, retired in 1820, and died on July 9, 1849 in St. Louis.

N2: But what of the Chouteau land and the other players in the land claims debate? Our story continues at the next stop, William Clark's Home, Indian Museum, and Council House. To get there walk south, toward the Gateway Arch, along the walkway. Just ahead at the second light pole is a PastCast label announcing Stop #2 of the "After Lewis and Clark" tour. Pause your player at this time and resume when you arrive at your next stop.

After Lewis and Clark

Stop #2

General William Clark

N1: Stop 2. William Clark's House and Museum. You are standing on the location of explorer William Clark's Indian Museum and Council House. Just next door to the north,

in the direction of the Arch Parking Garage, was the large brick house he moved into in 1818.

N2: After spending two years and four months on their famous expedition to chart the West, William Clark and Meriwether Lewis returned to St. Louis in September 1806. Later that year both men set out for Washington, D.C. to personally present information on their discoveries to President Thomas Jefferson. As a reward for his services, President Jefferson appointed Clark Brigadier General of Militia and special agent to the Indian tribes of the West.

N1: When William Clark returned to St. Louis in 1807 he was quickly swept up in local politics, which included the controversy over Spanish land grants. Clark sided with the older French residents on this issue, especially his friends - the Chouteau family. As Indian agent for the government, Clark sought to treat native people with fairness, although his major task was to make way, at all costs, for the westward expansion of the United States. One of his goals was to create a comprehensive policy to protect the interests of tribes along the river from exploitation by fur traders and fur trade companies. He was known among the tribes as the "Red-Haired Chief."

N2: One of Clark's longest-running battles was over the "factory system" of Indian trade. This system, in effect from 1795 to 1822, was administered through a chain of government-owned and operated stores. The factory system was meant to offset the influence of the English and Spanish over the tribes, to strengthen U.S. military policy, and to promote peace on the frontier. Clark believed that the goodwill he established

through his personal contacts with Indian leaders would be jeopardized if the factory system was abolished.

- N1: Many tribal chiefs and representatives visited Clark in the museum and council chamber next to his house, which was specially built for this purpose. They often made presents of clothing, weapons and ceremonial items, which Clark displayed. The museum was open to “any person of respectability at any time,” and distinguished visitors included Keokuk, Prince Maximilian, Karl Bodmer, George Catlin and the Marquis de Lafayette.
- N2: One visitor, Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, wrote of a visit to the museum in 1826, describing some of the items he saw, including: “[A]rticles of Indian clothing ... weapons of different tribes ...the medals which the Indian chiefs have received at different periods . . . and the portraits of the various chiefs who have been at St. Louis to conclude treaties . . .”
- N1: Clark loaned his collection for exhibition in Germany prior to his death, and it was lost or destroyed sometime during the 1830s. It was thought to be one of the largest and most complete collections of its time. Today, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial carries on the tradition of Clark’s Indian Museum beneath the Gateway Arch in the Museum of Westward Expansion. Visitors can see a number of items representing Plains Indian life and culture, including one of the largest collections of Indian Peace Medals in the world.

- N1: After the loss of the collection, Clark leased the museum building to Doctor William Beaumont in 1838. Beaumont, a surgeon for the United States Army, is credited with early experiments leading to the understanding of human digestion.
- N2: That same spring, a young army engineer named Lieutenant Robert E. Lee rented a two-room cottage behind Clark's house. Lee was working on a project to prevent silt from filling the St. Louis harbor. For one month during 1838, three world-renowned figures lived on the same block: William Clark, William Beaumont and Robert E. Lee.
- N1: William Clark's legacy lives on today. He raised a family of five children in St. Louis. Because he was trusted and competent, Clark was appointed as the first territorial governor of the Missouri Territory. He helped organize the states of Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas, was a partner in a fur trade company, and an investor in St. Louis real estate. Most importantly, Clark oversaw the government's program of Indian removal, negotiating, convincing, and sometimes forcing eastern tribes to move west of the Mississippi.
- N2: Clark died of illness on September 1, 1838. His mansion and the museum building were torn down after a fire destroyed much of the district in 1849. The buildings were replaced by the Union Buildings, four-story warehouses, described as being entirely fireproof, "even to the window frames, which will be of iron." William Clark rests in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis. A granite obelisk marking his grave is inscribed, "Soldier, explorer, statesman and patriot. His life is written in the history of his country."

Not far from here is the lamp post label for Stop #3, Antoine Soulard's Home. Please proceed south on the walkway toward the Arch, and stop at the lamp post in the center of the concrete plaza you will soon come to. The plaza and lamp post will be on the right as you travel in the direction of the Arch. Be sure to look for the label. Please pause your player and resume listening when you reach that location.

After Lewis and Clark

Stop #3

Antoine Soulard

N1: Stop 3: Antoine Soulard . Welcome to the location of the early St. Louis home of Antoine Pierre Soulard and his wife Julia Cerré [Cer RAY]. Today you are standing under a canopy of trees on the landscaped grounds of the Gateway Arch, and can look westward toward the high-rise buildings of the city and a placid reflecting pond. If we traveled back in time 200 years, we would instead see dusty, narrow streets flanked by wooden fences formed from 8-foot-tall logs placed into the ground side by side. In the enclosure of the fence in front of you would be a log barn and a traditional French colonial vertical log house, befitting the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in St. Louis.

N2: Julia Cerre's husband, Antoine Soulard, was born in Rochefort, France in 1766. He followed in his father's footsteps and became an officer in the French Royal

Navy, but was forced to leave France during the Revolution. By 1795 Soulard had come to St. Louis, and the Spanish administrators appointed him as the King's Surveyor General of Upper Louisiana.

- N1: The story of Antoine Soulard reflects the confusion resulting from the transfer of governments after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. When the sovereignty of St. Louis passed to the United States after 40 years of French and Spanish governance, many inhabitants feared that their property would be taken by the Americans.
- N2: An Act of Congress nullified all land grants issued by the Spanish government in the Louisiana Territory. The U.S. did not intend to displace the inhabitants from their land, many of whom had lived in St. Louis for years, Congress wanted to prevent speculators from claiming land without occupying or improving it. And to raise revenue by selling land that had no legal title.
- N1: Inhabitants frantically sought to make their claims to large land grants legal. Clear title, however, was difficult to prove. In fact, many titles were not even registered. Under Spanish rule, land grants were very informal, and were often no more than verbal agreements accompanied by sketches of boundaries and improvements. Land grants could be dispensed by the Spanish lieutenant governor at St. Louis, but had to be confirmed by the governor at New Orleans by traveling there in person with the proper documents. Few St. Louisans had taken this extra step, meaning that their land claims could be challenged in American

courts. Many of these land claims amounted to hundreds of square miles along the Missouri River and the backcountry.

N2: The Territorial Government established in St. Louis was charged with determining ownership of parcels granted by the Spanish. Because many of the claims were very large, the Americans had good reason to challenge them, to make room for their own development as they pushed west. Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison appointed Soulard because of his prominence with in the city of St. Louis and his former role as “Surveyor for the District of Upper Louisiana.”

N1: Soulard was given the difficult task of combing through land grant records dating back to 1800. He found more than one million acres of property that were either unregistered or without legal description. In some cases where he found no owner for a particular plot of land, or when ownership was in dispute, Soulard himself applied for ownership!

N2: Soulard was accused of conflict of interest by the new American citizens, particularly Judge John B.C. Lucas, a member of the Land Commission. Although Lucas’s fellow commissioners verified Soulard’s claims, Soulard was dismissed as surveyor, and spent decades defending his title to his remaining property. As for the Land Commission, some Spanish land claims were upheld, even some of the very large ones. But the majority, especially those granted

between 1803 and 1804, when it was known that the Americans would be taking over the territory, were nullified, to the dismay of many of the old French residents of St. Louis.

N1: Antoine and Julia Soulard lived their remaining days on a large plantation south of the city that had originally belonged to Julia's father, Gabriel Cerre. After her husband's death Julia eventually won a judgment in their favor. Today, the area of their plantation is known as the Soulard neighborhood, and the Soulard Market stands on what was once their land.

N2: Walking to Stop 4 on the "After Lewis and Clark" tour will take approximately seven minutes, and offers you an opportunity to stroll the beautiful Gateway Arch grounds with a spectacular view of the Memorial's arch designed by Eero Saarinen. Please proceed towards the south leg of the Gateway Arch, the leg farthest from you, traveling all the way to its south face. I suggest that you pause the recording now, and let me give you the rest of the directions once you have reached that point. See you there.

If you are now at the south leg, take a moment to be sure you are standing on the side that faces south. Please face your body south, and look to the right. Do you see the walkway that curves west toward the Old Cathedral? You might have to look for it through the trees. It's the walkway that does not go uphill. Please proceed along that walkway. Watch for the lamp posts on the south side of the walkway, and

look for the PastCast labels as you cross one of the park's service roads. If more than one label is visible, just look for the one titled "After Lewis and Clark."

Please pause your player and resume listening when you reach that location.

After Lewis and Clark

Stop #4

Free Women of Color- Jeanette Forchet

N1: You are now standing near the site of a house which over 200 years ago belonged to a woman named Jeannette Fourchet. The facts of Jeannette's life might seem unremarkable to us today except for the fact that she was a woman of color who emerged from slavery to become a respected and wealthy member of the St. Louis community.

N2: Jeannette had gained her freedom before coming to St. Louis, and received one of Pierre Laclede's original land grants in 1765. She married a blacksmith named Gregory, and they built a house measuring 20 x 25 feet near this spot in 1766. By the time Gregory died in 1770, Jeannette had borne three children. She supported them by working as a laundress, and was remarried in 1773 to a gunsmith named Valentine. By the time of her second marriage Jeannette had a personal worth of 1,349 livres [pronounced LEEVE ray] (the French denomination similar to a British pound or a Spanish dollar) and owned a 40 arpent [AHR pon] tract of land (an arpent was 85% of an English acre). Valentine died in 1790, and Jeannette inherited half of their common

estate, which included an 80 arpent tract of land, fine walnut beds and armoires [ARM waa]. Jeannette died in 1803, leaving her house and property to one of her daughters.

N1: The story of Jeannette seems very common today, but Jeannette accomplished her success as a woman of color in the 1700s. Under French and Spanish law, she could own property, marry legally, and make contracts. She could receive an inheritance from her husband, something that was not prevalent in British or American society in that era. Women were seen as partners in the Creole way of life, something that was a carryover from New Orleans to St. Louis.

N2: Under the French and Spanish rule slavery did not deny the role of persons of color within society. When the Spanish began their dominion over St. Louis, the issue of the enslavement of Indians was problematic. Since native people were highly desirable trading partners and objected to the practice, Spanish administrators outlawed Indian slavery, although many continued to be held in what is today Missouri. Even tougher American laws against Indian slavery were imposed in 1804, and several slaves later sued in court for their freedom based on their proof that they were of Native American and not African ancestry. The last known Indian slave in St. Louis was a woman named Marguerite, who sued for her freedom in 1834 from Pierre Chouteau.

N1: According to the Spanish census records of 1799, there were approximately 56 free persons of color and 268 slaves living in St. Louis, out of an entire population of about 1,000 people. In other words, nearly 1/3 of the community was composed of persons of

color! When the Americans took over in 1804, relations between blacks and whites became strained because little was known about the American system of slave law and whether it would be imposed upon St. Louis. Would St. Louis slaveowners be allowed to keep their slaves?

N2: When the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was ratified, it outlawed slavery in the territories north of the Ohio River. But the Northwest Ordinance was quickly judged not to apply to the new Louisiana Territory. During the winter of 1805, the first in St. Louis under American rule, anger levels were high. The French settlers wanted to keep their slaves. That winter, Pierre Chouteau had his home destroyed by fire that he claimed had been set by a female slave who was known to be difficult.

N1: The new American citizens moved quickly to adopt laws regarding slavery patterned on those in the State of Virginia. Persons of color were reduced to perpetual inequality and many of the legal protections of Spanish law were taken away from them. Certificate of freedom were necessary to prove that a person was not enslaved, for all persons of color were presumed to be slaves unless they could prove otherwise. Restrictions imposed involving travel and gatherings of black persons, the possession of firearms and property ownership, and the process of slaves hiring themselves out for wages. However if a free black or a mulatto could not pay taxes, he or she could be hired out to earn money by the courts.

N2: The lives of African Americans in St. Louis, slave and free, changed greatly after the transfer in to the American legal system in 1804 . But within those changes there survived a knowledge and memory of the fairer legal system they had known. Wealthy free persons of color went on to become the legendary “Colored Aristocracy” of St. Louis, while those who were enslaved used every means at their disposal, legal and extra-legal, to escape their slave status. It was a struggle for freedom that ended with the Civil War, and a struggle for fairness and equality that continues to the present day.

N1: Thank you for joining us for this episode of *It Happened Here*. We look forward to sharing more information about this National Park Service area, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.