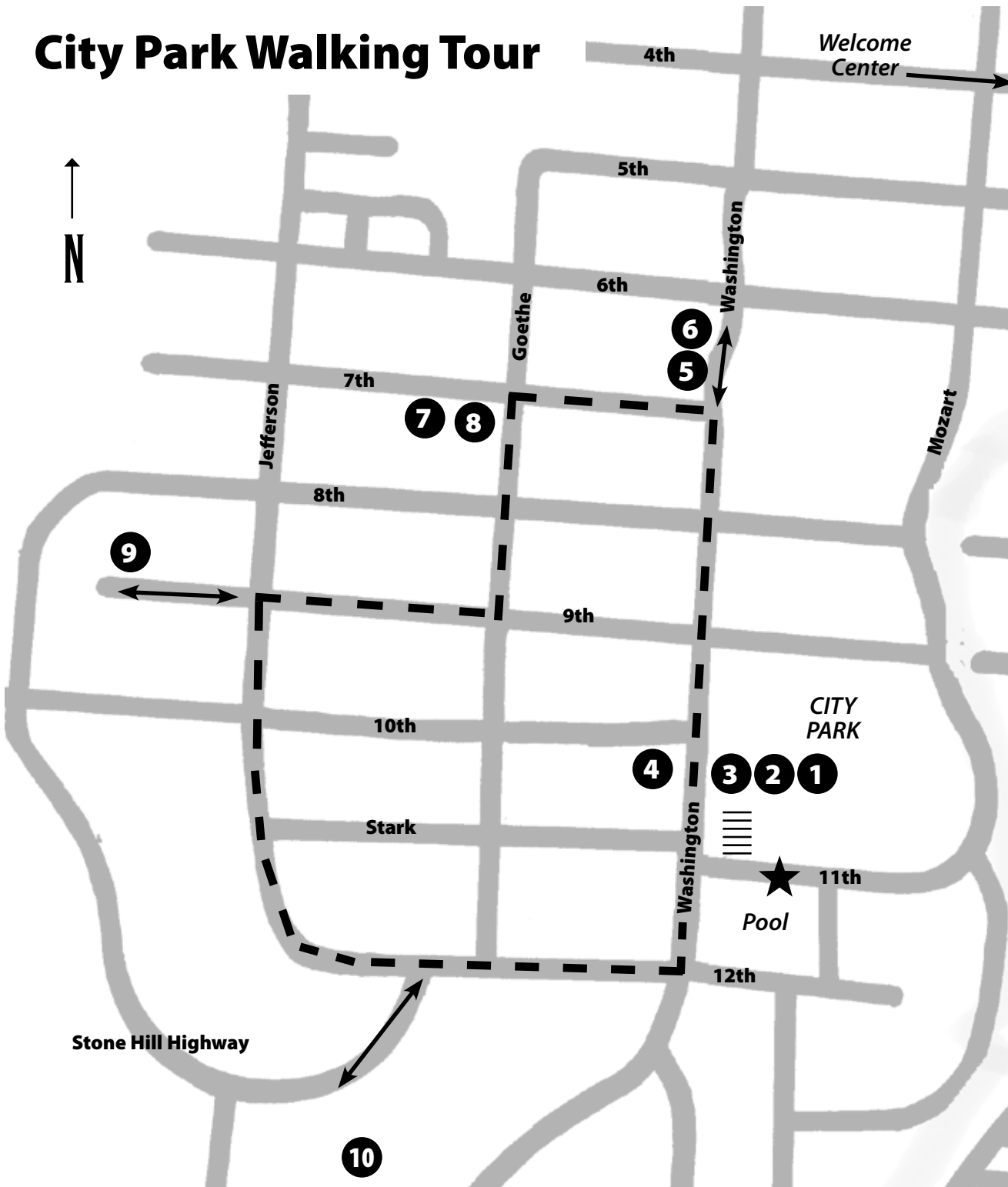


City Park Walking Tour



HERMANN

City Park Walking Tour

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When the first settlers arrived from Philadelphia in 1836, they were determined to form a German colony in the New World that was “German in every particular.” They were so sure their town would prosper and grow that they made Hermann’s Market Street ten feet wider than Market Street in Philadelphia. Today Hermann is a wonderful example of a beautiful and charming German community.

➔ *After parking your car at the city park, walk west on 11th Street, north of the swimming pool. A set of stairs leads to your first destination.*

1. The Rotunda Upper City Park

The Rotunda, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1864 by the Gasconade County Agricultural Association at a cost of \$2,000. It is thought to be Hermann’s oldest publicly owned building. The building was used as an exhibition hall for agricultural fairs and other community events. Its octagonal shape was traditional for barns in northern Germany, but quite unusual for an exhibition hall. In 2005 the Rotunda was listed as one of Missouri’s Ten Most Endangered Historic Places. The Brush and Palette Club has coordinated a restoration of the building and hopes to once again make it a venue for special events.

2. Bandstand Upper City Park

Twenty yards west of the Rotunda is the Bandstand, a reminder of Hermann’s musical heritage. Hermann residents have always loved music. Built in the 1880s, this structure took the place of the original, which was built in 1864, the same year as the Rotunda. It was a great venue for the entertainment of many Hermannites.

3. Charles Eitzen Memorial Upper City Park

Near the gateway to the park is a memorial to Charles Eitzen, an early resident of Hermann who built his fortune in the shipping and lumber industries. Eitzen gave back to the community that he loved. He donated \$50,000 to build the Gasconade County Courthouse and founded the park in which you are standing.



➔ *Go through the stone gateway. Directly across from the park you will see your next landmark.*

4. Stark Mansion 10th and Washington Streets

Built in 1885, this home was known as “Stark’s Wine Castle.” George Stark was a co-owner of Stone Hill Winery and, eventually, the sole owner of the establishment. Designed in the Second Empire style by Otto Wilhelmi of St. Louis, the home was said to have been “built to impress.” Its style was popular in bigger cities, but rarely seen in smaller towns. Stark was the most successful businessman of his time. His contributions to the wine industry have made Hermann a tourist destination.

➔ *Go right (north) on Washington.*

5. 614 Washington Street

Throughout Hermann you will find many businesses that hold historical significance. The homes in Hermann also have a story to tell. Most people in mid-19th century Hermann made money by growing grapes in their yards. In German culture, homes were built as close to the street as possible to make room for large backyard gardens. This came in handy when the people of Hermann started home vineyards. It is also said that the more windows a home had, the wealthier its owners were. This home, built in 1900 in the late Queen Anne style, is atypical for the Hermann area. The house once had a large garden area, but now has only a small grape arbor.

6. 606 Washington Street

Somewhat of a detour from our walk, this home, now attorneys’ office, has an interesting tale to tell. Built between 1880–1881 by Christian Kuhn, it replaced Kuhn’s original home, which had been destroyed by a fire. Kuhn, like many Hermann settlers, made his own wine. At the time of the fire, he had 4,000 gallons of wine in his cellar, all of which survived the blaze. The new home was built atop the old cellar.

➔ *Turn around and go west (right) on 7th Street.*

7. 304 W. 7th Street

George Klinge owned a number of lots in the mid 19th century, but chose this one for his home and business. The home was built between 1858–1860. Klinge also located his brickyard business on this property.

His company, which had four employees, produced some 465,000 bricks per year, generating an annual profit of \$1,000—a lot of money back then! Klinge also had five acres of vineyards. The brick wing on the west of the house was built in the 1870s or 80s. The frame addition was added around 1900.

8. Birk’s Gasthaus/Herzog Mansion 7th and Goethe

The Herzog family home was built in 1886 by Michael Poeschel, one of the original owners of Stone Hill Winery. William Herzog was a co-owner of Stone Hill Winery. The names of Stone Hill’s founders are famous in Hermann. Many B&B suites around town are named after Poeschel, Stark, or Herzog. The mansion is now a bed and breakfast. At one time, Herzog’s vineyards partly surrounded the house.

➔ *Continue south down Goethe Street. From Goethe go west (right) on 9th Street to the end of the road.*

9. 523 W. 9th Street

Built in 1878 by Michael Poeschel, this landmark home is somewhat difficult to see. Poeschel was one of the original owners of Stone Hill Winery, which at that time was called Poeschel and Scherer Wine Co. The home was built with proceeds from the sale of the winery. Poeschel started another winery at his home, where he made and stored wine. The home is built in the Germanic center-hall style. It also has Italianate features. The current owners operate the Red Barn Crafts and Antiques shop on the property. A museum across the street is open on festival weekends and during special events.

➔ *Go back down 9th Street and take a right on Jefferson, which becomes 12th Street. From 12th Street, go right up Stone Hill Highway.*

10. Stone Hill Winery

Established in 1847, Stone Hill Winery was one of the first wineries in Hermann and one of the largest wineries in the world the mid-19th century. Stone Hill was an extremely popular wine producer, winning competitions worldwide. When Prohibition hit, wine producers in the area were forced out of business. The Held family bought Stone Hill Winery in 1965 and restored it to its current state. Today, winery visitors enjoy tours, tasting, a restaurant and gift shop. Stone Hill opens at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday, and at 10:00 on Sunday. Closing times vary throughout the year.

➔ *When you have finished enjoying Stone Hill, go back down Stone Hill Highway and take a right on 12th Street. Cross Washington and you are back where you started.*