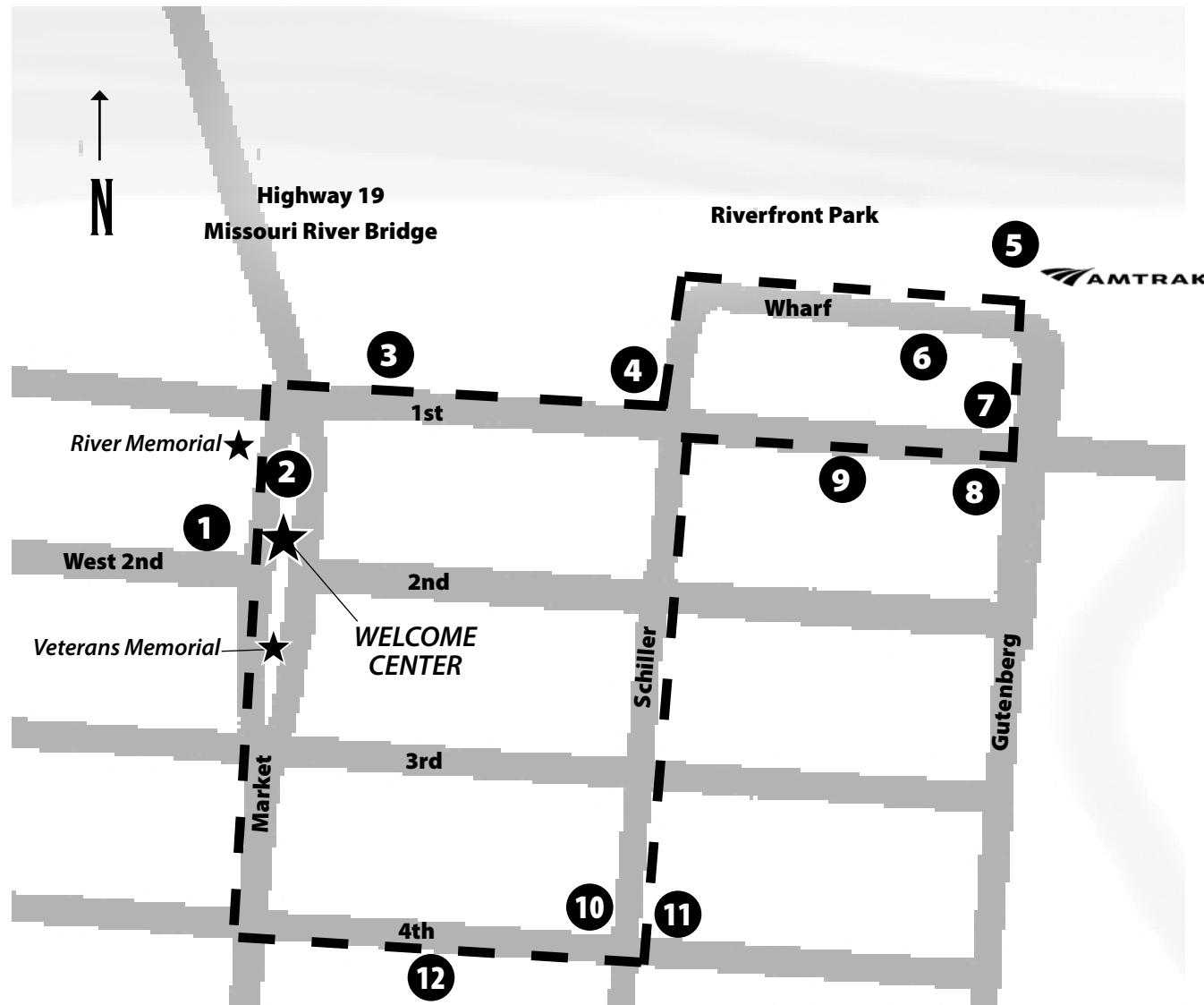


Riverfront Walking Tour



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.



HERMANN Riverfront Walking Tour

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Hermann Welcome Center
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→ Begin your tour at **Deutschheim** on West Second Street, just a few steps west of the Welcome Center.

1. Deutschheim State Historic Site

109 West Second Street

Deutschheim State Historic Site, the official German heritage site of the Missouri Division of State Parks and Historic Sites, consists of two homes built in the mid-1800s. Period furniture, tools and gardens give visitors a glimpse into life in early Hermann. Tours daily, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

→ Proceed north on Market, toward the bridge. The **Gerald Engemann River Memorial** will be on your left.

2. Statue of Arminius

First and Market

This statue honoring our town's namesake was erected in 2009. In the year 9 A.D. Arminius, now known as Hermann, led an army of northern Europeans, which annihilated three Roman legions at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest, a victory historians say changed the course of European history.

→ Go east down First Street.

3. Gasconade County Courthouse

119 East First Street

This magnificent building is the only courthouse in Missouri and one of the few in the United States built with private funds. Charles Eitzen, a wealthy merchant and one of Hermann's original settlers, donated \$50,000 to build the courthouse. He also helped fund many other projects, including the Hermann City Park and the German School. The courthouse is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

→ Continue east on First Street. When you reach Schiller Street, turn left toward the river.

4. Fernweh Distilling Company

Schiller and Wharf Streets

The large building on the left was built in 1867 as the St. Charles Wine Hall, a saloon and restaurant. It served as Hermann's first high school from 1898 to 1923. Today the building is home to a popular restaurant and craft distillery.

→ Continue east on Wharf Street.

On the right you will see the former **Leimer Hotel**, now part of the Wharf Street Inn, and **Eitzen Townhouse**. Eitzen built his home so it overlooked the wharf and Missouri River where he made his fortune.

→ Cross Wharf Street to Riverfront Park. (Watch for trains!)

The river has played an important part in Hermann's history and development. As you learn more about our city, you will hear stories about the

riverboat captains who lived here. Names like Heckmann, Wohlt, Baecker, Ruediger, and Trail come to mind. The Heckmann family had eight sons, seven of whom became riverboat captains.

5. Lewis and Clark Marker

Riverfront Park

A Lewis and Clark Expedition marker is on the east side of Riverfront Park. Hermann was one of the many stops along the Lewis and Clark Trail. William Clark wrote in his journal, "We camped on an Island on the Starboard Side near the Southern extreme of Luter Island... great deal of deer sign on the bank." Loutre Island is just northeast of Hermann.

→ Return to Wharf Street and continue east.

6. White House Hotel

232 Wharf Street

The White House Hotel was built by the Rippstein family in 1869. As administrator of the Rippstein estate, Eitzen managed the hotel in his later years. Many dignitaries stayed here during the well-known "German Day" celebrations, including William Jennings Bryan, noted orator and Presidential candidate in 1896, 1900, and 1908. A guest register signed by baseball great Ty Cobb is displayed in the hotel museum. The White House Hotel is the only one of Hermann's early hotels that has remained in its original condition. While no longer a working hotel, the building has been meticulously restored and is open for tours at various times, May to October.

7. Festhalle

237 East First Street

The newly remodeled Festhalle at the corner of Wharf and Gutenberg streets is owned by Jim and Mary Dierberg and is part of the Hermannhof Winery complex. The facility is used for receptions, parties, and festival events. A beautiful gilded stag is above the front entrance on First Street. Hermannhof Winery and the Hofgarten are just east on First Street.

8. Hermann Star Mill

First and Gutenberg

Across the street from the Festhalle, the 4-1/2 story Star Mill building was erected in 1867 for \$40,000. It was co-owned by Mattais Kochele and Henry Reitemeyer, one of the wealthiest merchants in town. The Star Mill was the first steam-powered grist mill in Hermann. Today the building houses the Oncken Machine Shop.

→ Continue west on First Street.

9. Concert Hall

206 East First Street

The Concert Hall in the middle of the block was built in 1878 by John Pfautsch and Phillip Kuhn. A tavern and restaurant occupied the first floor; a concert hall was on the second floor. It was said that the saloon was "one of the largest and finest west of St. Louis." In its heyday, the Concert

Hall was a hub of community activity. There were at least four concerts each year, plus dramas, dances, and receptions. In 1879 Henry German Sr. painted the Concert Hall sign, probably the same one you see today.

→ Turn south (left) on Schiller Street.

Take a short detour right on Third Street to see a perfect example of early Hermann, unchanged since the 1840s when most of the houses were erected. The early Germans built their homes close to the sidewalk to make more room for backyard gardens.

→ Return to Schiller Street and continue north to Fourth Street.

10. Historic Hermann Museum at the German School

Fourth and Schiller

Constructed in 1871, this building was Hermann's elementary school, where for many years only German was spoken. The building was erected with large classrooms to accommodate meetings of local organizations. The clock tower, which can be seen from many parts of town, was added in 1890. The building remained a schoolhouse for 84 years. In 1955 it was deeded to Historic Hermann, Inc., which restored the building and made it into a fully appointed museum with an extensive collection of Hermann-area artifacts of historic and cultural interest. The building is open to the public, late March through October, November weekends and the first two weekends of December. Hours: Daily 10:00 to 4:00, Sunday Noon to 4:00, closed Wednesday.

11. Gasconade County Historical Society Archives

Fourth and Schiller

This is the former Farmers & Merchants Bank building, built in 1909 by the same man who built the current Heritage Real Estate and Insurance building at the corner of First and Schiller and the Wine Valley Inn at the corner of Fourth and Market. Staffed by trained volunteers, the Archives and Record Center is a one-stop research facility.

→ Go west (right) on Fourth Street.

12. Showboat Theatre

East Fourth Street

Construction on the Showboat Theatre began in 1934 by Charlie Baumstark. There was a contest to name the new theatre. Out of 175 entries a seven-year-old boy won. We are fortunate to have active theater groups that produce wonderful musicals, dramas, and comedies to entertain residents and visitors.

→ Continue down Fourth Street to Market Street and turn right to return to the Welcome Center and the Veterans Memorial in the parkway just south of the Welcome Center.