

Stop Three

Go west on South Street, stop between 24* and 25* streets. The high land to the south was the Courthouse Square of Lexington from 1823 until 1848. The two historical markers do not tell you that this area was the scene of great activity in the Trail days. In 1880 an early settler, "Uncle George" Houx, recalled that "money was sewed up in leather bags... like meal sacks from Santa Fe, and when they arrived in Lexington, were thrown down like common baggage."

In addition to the various businesses needed to service, supply and outfit groups traveling west, the square was the site of the Aull brothers first store and warehouse. In 1822, John Aull and his brothers Robert and James became major outfitters with additional stores in Richmond, Liberty and Independence.

Stop Four

Continue west on South Street and stop near 20th Street. Probably most of the traffic from the east and much of the traffic from the riverfront converged on this point to head south and west on the highland or ridge route to Fort Osage.

Stop Five

Moving west on South Street, you will notice several significant homes from the pre-Civil War and late Victorian period. This part of town grew up with the arrival of steamboats on the river in the 1830's and the 1840's.

Homes associated with the Trail included the William H. Russell house, which once stood at 1406 and 1402 South and the William Bra ford Waddell home, located across from the site of the of the old Methodist Church at 1301.

Russell started working for the Aull brothers in 1830. He opened his own store in 1838 and in 1849 he started working with wholesaler and retailer William Bradford Waddell. In 1854 the two Lexington men joined Alexander Majors of Kansas City to win the unified contract to supply all military

Majors of Kansas City to win the unified contract to supply all military posts m the West. Their company of Russell, Majors and Waddell soon faced financial problems, and after their famous Pony Express failed to win them the mail contract for their stage coach line, their company went bankrupt.

Stop Six

Turn right (north) on Highway 13 and cross Franklin Street. On the right is the Lexington Historical Museum. The museum, which was originally the headquarters of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, features exhibits on the Santa Fe Trail, Pony Express and the Battle of Lexington.

Stop Seven

Continue north on 13* street and cross Main Street. The Battle of Lexington State Historic Site is approximately 2 blocks on your left. Here a Civil War battle was fought September 18th - 20th, 1861. Continue past the site to Wood and 15th street. At the rear of the parkmg lot of Lafayette Regional Health Center is a monument to Russell, Majors and Waddell, which mistakenly says that they kept their livestock and wagons here. Turn around and return to Main Street and go right two blocks.

Stop Eight

On the left is the 1847 Greek revival Lafayette County Courthouse. It is the oldest working courthouse in the country. Missouri

Southerners accidentally hit it with a cannonball on the top of the far-east column. On the west comer of the square is another monument honoring Russell, Majors and Waddell, this one placed by the Pony Express Association. It notes that the home office of the company originally stood across from the marker on the northwest comer of 10th and Main Streets.



Stop Nine

Continue west to 817 Main. This brightly colored building was originally the Limrick Bank. William Limrick sold a great deal to traders and others going west from his many commercial enterprises, which helped pay for the mansion known as Linwood Lawn.

Stop Ten

Turn right onto Broadway, on the left 1/2 block is the 1830's Log House. This large log structure originally stood one block to the west on the bluff overlooking the Missouri River. The Trail River Route went past its front door. The Lexington Historical Association moved and restored it to its pre-Civil War appearance.

Stop Eleven

Continue northwest to the intersection of Broadway and Highland. To the right is the Madonna of the Trail. It was placed here by the Daughters of the American Revolution and dedicated by Harry S. Truman in 1928. The street that comes up from the river in front of the statue is known as Jack's Ferry Road, after an early ferryboat operator in the area. It was the main route by which supplies destined for Lexington or Santa Fe would have reached the bluff after being unloaded from steamboats on the upper landing.



Stop Twelve

Go southwest on Highland Avenue one block. On the right, 788 Highland, is a house which was used as a temporary bank by Robert Aull m 1845, while the Fifth Branch Bank of the State of Missouri (standing at 8th and Main as the Elks' Building) was being completed.

Stop Thirteen

766 Highland is a recently restored house, which once was part of the Elizabeth Aull Seminary. The unmarried sister of the Aull brothers left money to start a private Presbyter-ian school in her home. This house belonged to John Aull, who donated it and enough money to start the school, in return for his sister's larger house down the street. The school, which closed in 1903, was quite progressive with no public performances or tests, to embarrass a student.

Stop Fourteen

Continue southwest to 712 Highland. This is the large home that Elizabeth Aull left for a Presbyterian school, but, as previously noted, it became the home of John Aull

Stop Fifteen

Continue southwest on Highland down what is known as "Irish Town Hill." After the Civil War, Lexington's hemp industry died but it was soon replaced by coal mining. Thousands of miners came to the area and many Irish miners lived in this area. At the bottom of the hill is a DAR marker. It is one of many placed by the State of Missouri and the Daughters of the American Revolution to mark the Santa Fe Trail across Missouri.



It was believed that most Santa Fe traffic went on this river route through Wellington, which is about seven miles to the west. This was probably not the case, although it is thought that the river route was an important alternative when the river was low. Probably most of the traffic went south on 20* Street and continued south of town. If you would like to follow the "highland route" please return to 20th and South Streets.

Follow 20th Street south past the railroad tracks to Machpelah Cemetery, on your right. Established in 1849, it contains the graves of such Trail-related families as the Aulls and Waddells. To see more of the "highland route" continue south on 20th Street to Highway 13. Turn left and follow Hwy 13 over U.S. 24, for about 2 miles. At a sharp curve, by a pre- Civil War plantation house, it is believed that the Trail wound south for another mile or so before turning west, probably on one of the existing county roads. The exact route has not been established. The passage over the Sni Creek was apparently by a rock crossing which took travelers to the trail route which has been identified south of Wellington, about 4 miles west.

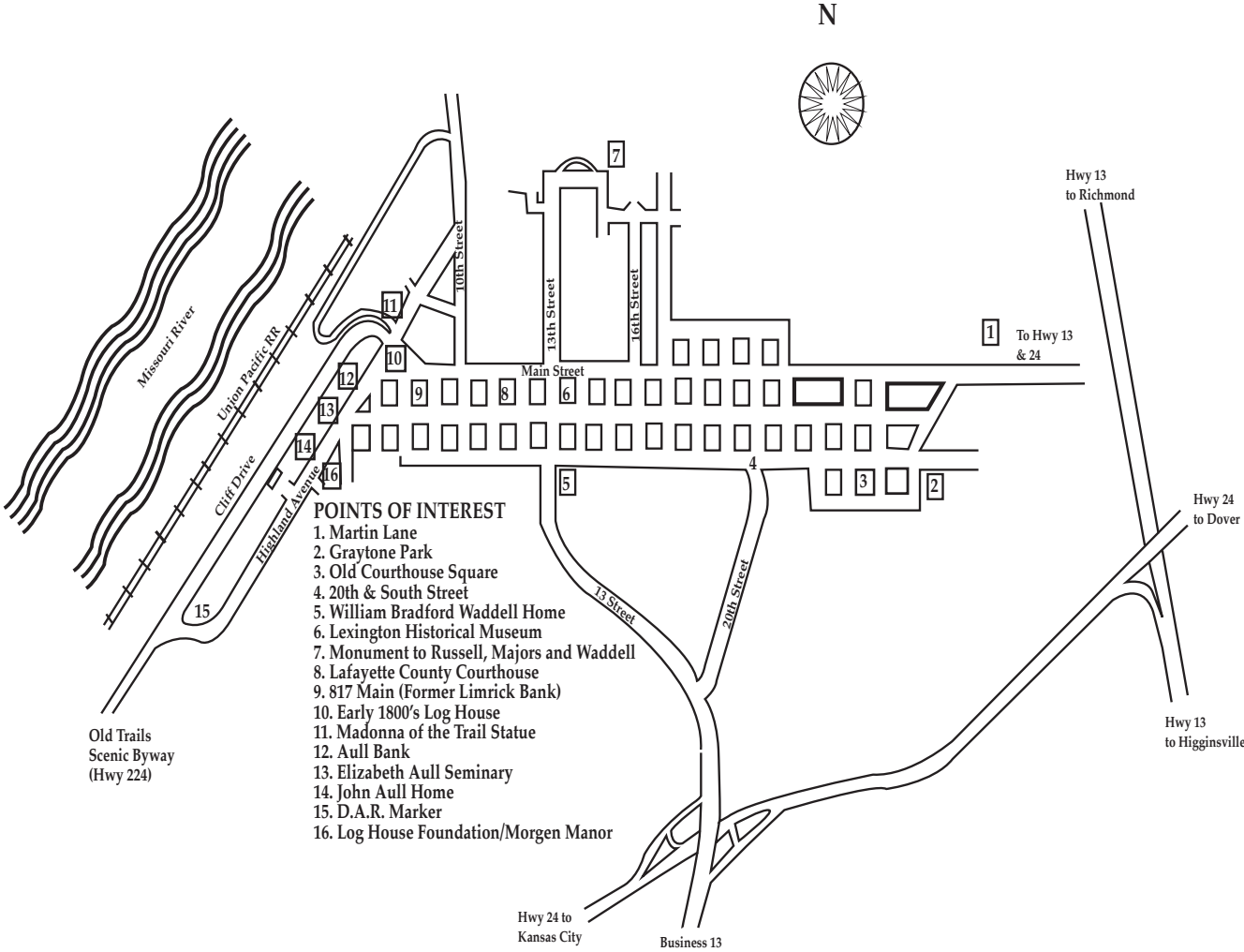
We are happy you came to follow the Santa Fe Trail through Lexington and to travel the streets where covered wagons once rolled.

*Researched and written by Roger Slusher.
Design and edits by Byron Nicodemus*

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Lexington Tourism Bureau:
(660) 259-4711
visitlexingtonmo.com

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MAP OF LEXINGTON, MO



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WHERE COVERED WAGONS ONCE ROLLED

A tour of the Santa Fe Trail in Lexington, Missouri

In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail became America's first great international commercial highway, and for nearly sixty years thereafter was one of the nation's great routes of adventure and western expansion.

American settlers had been living in few years when William Becknell Missouri, for Santa Fe in September 1821. With the success of the new Santa Fe Trail, most of the early traders went through Lexington. Trade goods such as tinware, tobacco, whiskey and beeswax originated in Lexington. Direct expeditions from the area started as early as 1824 when Strother Renick was hired by General McRea to "take a small stock of goods on pack mules over the trackless prairie to Mexico."



Stop One
From the junction of Hwy 224 (Main Street) & 24 travel west on 224 .8 miles & turn north into Martin Lane. Stay right and turn around at first chance. As you head back to 224, you are entering Lexington just as the Santa Fe traders did in the 1820's. This rambling lane was the main road into town from the east until the early 1900's when U.S. 224 was built.

Stop Two
Return to 224, turn right and go .3 miles, then turn left on Dover Road and follow this diagonal street two blocks to South Street. Turn left at the intersection and stop. The large white house on the hill, known as Graystone Park, was built by a doctor in the 1830's and must have witnessed a lot of Santa Fe trade. Apparently, many traders camped at a spring in the