

Tours of Thornhill

Guided tours are available by appointment during the week. Cost is \$4/adults; \$2/children (\$30 minimum). Call 314-615-8328 for more information or to schedule a tour.

Field trips and educational programs are available with hands-on activities to present the history in the early days of the Louisiana Territory and Missouri statehood. See our brochure for details, available in office or website; or email: LRitchey@stlouisco.com

Thornhill Events 2016

Tea with Nancy

Saturday April 30 10am-12pm or 2-4pm
\$30. Advanced Reservations Required

Come join our historically inspired tea party with Governor Bates' wife, Nancy and her daughters at Thornhill in Faust Park. Learn about calling practices of the 1800s and partake in traditional refreshments. For reservations call 314-615-8336 or email LRitchey@stlouisco.com.

Open House-2016

April 23 & 24, May 7 & 8, 14 & 15 and August 27 & 28
1:00-5:00 PM. *Free to the Public.*

Get a closer look into the house and other buildings. Period-dressed guides will be available to answer questions. Call 314-615-8328 for more information.

Candlelight Tours of Thornhill

December 9 & 10 (\$8/person)
More info to follow.

Governor Bates Trail

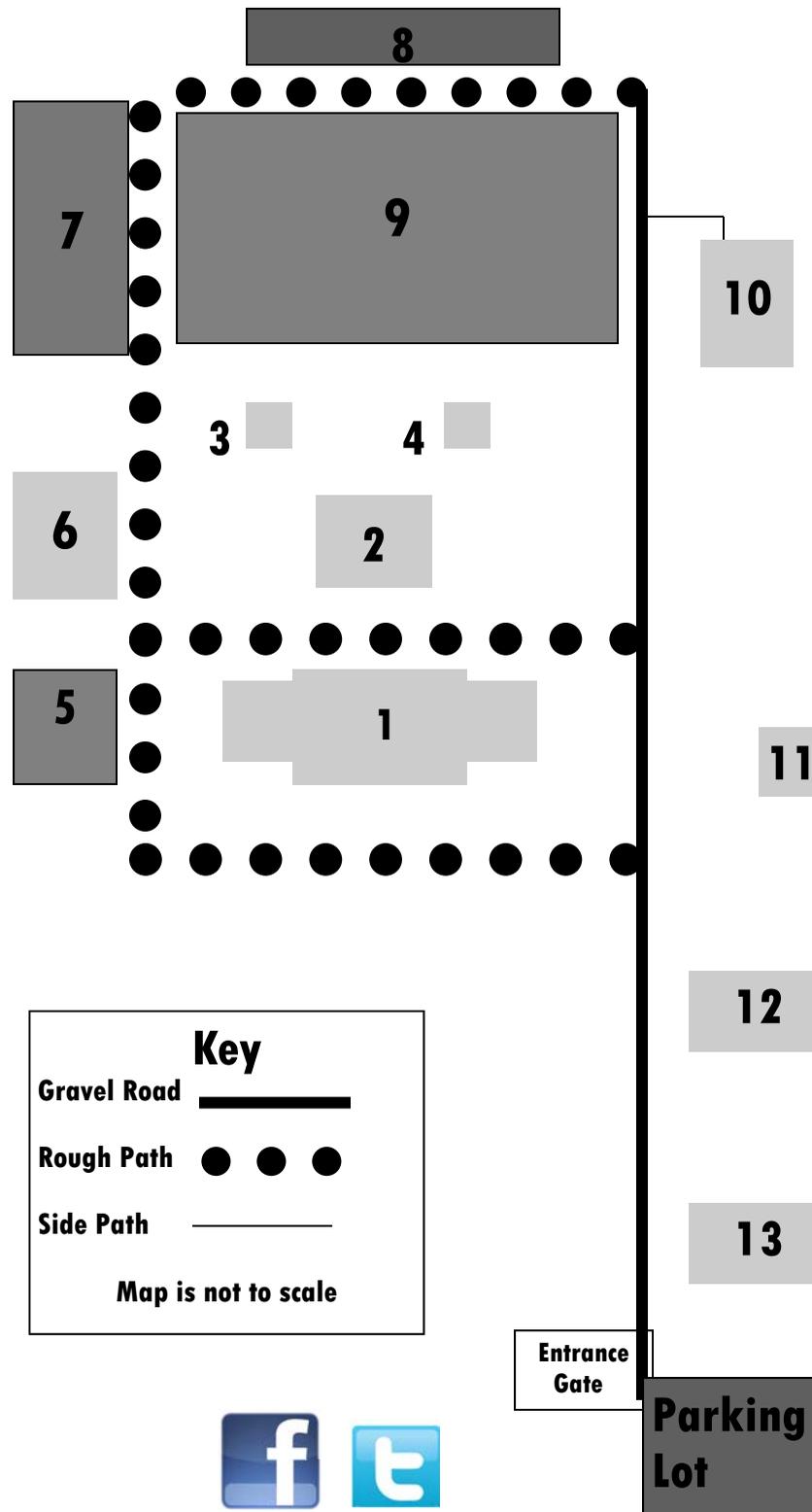
The Governor Bates Trail winds down the picturesque bluffs through the woods where the governor once walked. The trail is 1.1 miles long and is rated as difficult. From the Faust Estate side of the trail it is an additional mile to return to Thornhill via the park roads.

Faust Park

15185 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017
www.stlouisco.com/Parks/Faust
314-615-8FAU (8328)

Management has the right to deny admission to some areas for health and safety issues.

For accommodations to make a program accessible call:
314-615-4386, 314-615-7840 TTY or 800-735-2966 (Relay MO)



Thornhill: Home of Missouri's Second Governor

Faust Park is located on land that was once owned by Frederick Bates (June 23, 1777- August 4, 1825), second governor of the State of Missouri. The residence is located on its original site and is the oldest existing governor's home in the state. It was built circa 1819 and was remarkably sophisticated for its frontier location. Built in the Federal style, it reflects the traditions of Bates' native Virginia, with its high ceilings, fine woodwork and symmetrical floor plan. In 1974, the Thornhill complex, including the house, two barns, granary, cemetery and other buildings, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

History of the Property

Starting in 1808, Bates purchased land from both John Lewis and Ezekiel Rogers. Rogers had purchased his property in 1800 from Francis Howell, who had acquired it cheaply from the Spanish Colonial government in 1797, as an incentive to draw European settlers to the Louisiana Territory. John Lewis had also purchase his land from the Spanish Government. This parcel was described as 30 miles west of St. Louis and situated on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. Its proximity to the river offered faster and safer travel options to and from St. Louis and St. Charles, then the state capital of Missouri. Ultimately, this frontier estate encompassed over 900 acres.



Biography of Frederick Bates

Frederick Bates arrived in St. Louis in 1807, shortly after the return of Lewis and Clark's expedition to the west. The United States had doubled in size with the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, a mere four years earlier. President Thomas Jefferson appointed Bates to three important positions: as the Territorial Secretary, Recorder of Land Titles and a member of the Board of Land Commissioners in the new Louisiana Territory. Bates had significant influence on the early development of the territory. As a land commissioner, he determined who had official recognition of land ownership. Early on, Bates spent much of his time traveling, in order to bring court proceedings to claimants, rather than requiring them to travel to St. Louis, the territorial capital. As Secretary, he served as acting territorial governor during the frequent absences of Governor Meriwether Lewis. In his letters, Bates revealed that he saw himself as an "agent of order and law set against a wild, promiscuous frontier people."



Frederick Bates

While Bates had little time for farming, he maintained a modest crop at his country estate using first, tenant farmers, then in 1812, an enslaved African family of three. Bates had a residence in St. Louis and spent little time in "Bonhomme" (Chesterfield) until members of his family arrived from Virginia, around 1818. By the time of their arrival, improvements were well under way on his two story plantation style home, which he called Thornhill. He arrived at the name Thornhill based upon the Hawthorne trees that were prevalent on the hill where his house stood.

In 1819, towards the end of his term as Land Commissioner, the 41-year-old Bates married his 16-year-old neighbor, Nancy Opie Ball (1802-1877). Nancy was the daughter of a wealthy Virginia colonel. The couple had four children, Emily Caroline (1820-1891), Lucius Lee (1821-1898), Woodville (1823-1840) and Frederick Jr. (1826-1862).

Frederick Bates' career culminated on November 17, 1824, in St. Charles, when he was sworn in as second governor of Missouri, succeeding Alexander McNair. Just 9 months later, however, on August 4 1825, he died of pleurisy at Thornhill. He is buried in the family cemetery behind Thornhill with other members of his family.



Nancy Opie Ball Bates

Governor Bates' estate was divided among his three surviving children, Emily Caroline, Lucius Lee and Frederick Jr. with Lucius Lee inheriting the 98 acres that included the house and barns. After permanently setting aside the family grave yard, Lucius Lee sold his portion of the farm to Charles Eisenhardt in 1884. In 1930, those 98 acres was sold to Leicester Busch Faust, who lived next door. (In 1918, Faust had acquired the 80 acres owned by Emily Caroline Bates Walton.)

Leicester Busch Faust, the grandson of Tony Faust and Adolphus and Lily (Anheuser) Busch, had bought Thornhill to protect it from being demolished. During the Faust ownership, Thornhill was used as a caretaker's residence for the Faust Estate. The home had been drastically altered with the addition of a rear wing, removal of most of the interior woodwork, demolition of the east wing and chimney and replacement of the windows. The clapboards had been replaced with asbestos shingles, and the classical portico by a one story porch. While these original details were updated, the woodwork and windows were carefully stored elsewhere on the property.

In 1968, Leicester and Mary (Plant) Faust gave the same 98 acres, including the historic house and buildings, to St. Louis County for use as a park and historic site. Faust Park opened to the public in 1973. Following completion of archaeological and historical research, restoration of the house and buildings to their original appearance began and progressed through the 1980s and early 1990s, with use of the original woodwork and windows that had been saved years earlier.

Today, the obvious centerpiece of the Thornhill estate is (see map) (1) the circa 1819 home of Frederick and Nancy Bates. The house includes a dining room, parlor, an office and three bedrooms. Each room has a door to the outside, as well as a fireplace for heating. The (2) detached kitchen is located at the back of the house. It was reconstructed based on the original stone foundation and from examples in Virginia. The

In 1831, Nancy married Dr. Robert Ruby and had four additional children: Caroline Jett, Nancy Opie, John Ball and Robert Ashley. Dr. Ruby died in 1839, leaving her alone, again, with young children to raise. Nancy lived at Thornhill from 1819, when she married Frederick Bates, until the 1850s when she moved to St. Louis to live with a daughter, leaving Thornhill to her eldest son, Lucius Lee Bates.

The kitchen was located away from the main house, common practice as they were known to burn down on an average of once every three years. The (3) icehouse located behind the kitchen was used to store river ice that was packed in straw and acted as a refrigerator. The (4) smokehouse was where meats produced on the farm were preserved for use throughout the year. The (5) garden would have been another source of food for the family throughout the year. In the (6) blacksmith shop all of the iron work used in the house and on the farm was created.



Icehouse and Smokehouse

The (7) family cemetery is the burial place of Governor Bates, Nancy, their oldest son, Lucius Lee, and their youngest son, Frederick Jr. Their middle son, Woodville, is buried on the campus of Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. Their oldest child, Emily Caroline is buried in Oak Grove City Cemetery, in St. Charles, MO.



Bates' tombstone

The (8) heritage peach orchard from which Bates distilled peach brandy in the (11) distillery and the (9) maple grove. Maple syrup was made by harvesting sap from the maple trees and boiling it.



Blacksmith shop

Also located on the grounds is the (9) heritage peach orchard from which Bates distilled peach brandy in the (11) distillery and the (8) maple grove. Maple syrup was made by harvesting sap from the maple trees and boiling it.

The estate contains three barns. The (10) granary stored corn and grain used by the family throughout the year. The granary was built so that there were no openings for rodents to gain access to the grains being stored. The (13) 1820s timber frame barn is a significant example of early 19th century barn construction. It was used to store hay that was harvested on the farm. The hay would have been used to feed the animals that were maintained on the property. While the (12) 1860s barn was not original to the time of Frederick Bates, it was built by the Bates heirs during their time at Thornhill. This barn most likely was used for housing livestock.



View of 1820s barn with 1860s barn behind it