



# Louisiana Purchase Exposition

Modern Day Fairgrounds Tour

## Introduction

This is not intended to be a detailed tour of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The purpose, here is to take a quick drive through the modern day Forest Park in St Louis and to point out the location of various features of the 1904 Worlds Fair.

Included with these slides are copies of maps from the Fair and today (2016). An intermediate picture shows the two maps overlaid and matched to show how the two compare. Notice that the 1904 Worlds Fair map has south at the top rather than the convention used today.

Come along. Follow the path through and around the park and visit the world's greatest fair.



## Arial View of the Worlds Fair



## Directions

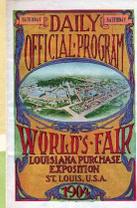
Approach the park from highway 170 via Forest Park Parkway.

As you cross Big Bend you will pass the Aeronautic Concourse. The Athletic Fields for the III Olympiad are farther South (later).

Continue East until you get to De Baliviere.

Turn Right on De Baliviere.

If safe and practical, stop for a moment at Lindell.



## Directions



During the Fair, you would now be inside the train station built specifically for the fair. Tracks went to the left and downtown to Union Station.

Other tracks brought fairgoers here by street car.



## Entrance



The History Museum was built with profits from the fair nearly 10 years afterwards.

The Main Entrance was just west of the History Museum.

Turnstiles were a new innovation at the 1904 Fair.



## Just inside the gates



We're inside the Fair.  
Up next, The Plaza of St Louis.

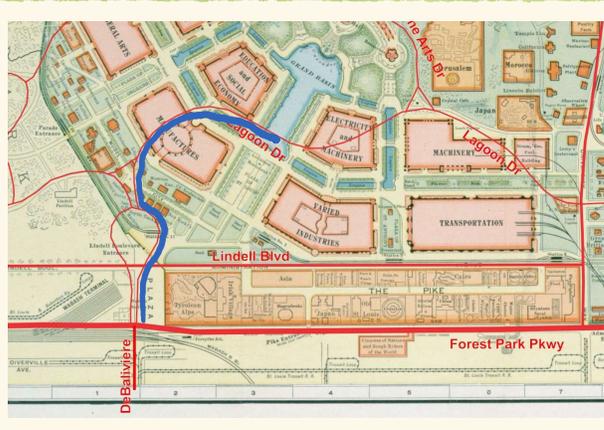


## Directions

Note: Map orientation shows South at the top.



Drive around the History Museum and keep right.  
At Lagoon Dr. Turn Right.  
As you follow this path, you will drive through the Model City and the Palace of Manufacturer. As you approach the Grand Basin, you will find the Palace of Education and Social Economy on the left  
If safe and practical, stop at the bridge over the Post Dispatch Lake.





At the Fair, the Grand Basin would extend farther to the right. Beyond it was the Plaza of St Louis.

To the left, you would see the Grand Cascades. At the top of the hill, Festival Hall.



## Plaza of St Louis



The Plaza of St Louis was a common gathering place. Several assemblies and parades were held, during the course of the fair, at the plaza.

From here you could see Education and Social Economy on the left and Electricity and Machinery on the right.



# The Grand Basin



The Grand Basin was the central focal point of the fair grounds. At one end, the Plaza of St Louis. At the other, the Grand Cascade and Festival hall.

Festival hall is at the center of the Colonnade of States.



# Directions



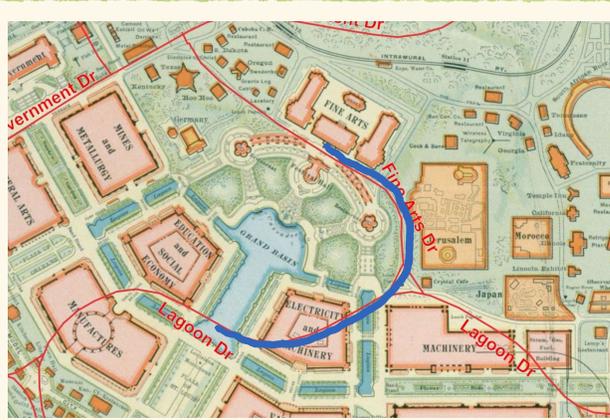
Continue forward and follow Lagoon Drive.

On the right is the Palace of Varied Industries. You will pass through the Palace of Electricity and Machinery. Then on the right is the Palace of Machinery.

Keep left and follow Fine Arts Drive.

Farther right is Japan and then Jerusalem

If safe and practical, stop in front of the Art Museum



# The Palace of Fine Arts



This is the first of the three permanent structures that were built for the fair. The central structure was built to provide a safe, secure and fireproof place to exhibit artworks from all over the world. Temporary pavilions extended to the right and the left. After the fair, these were replaced with the permanent stone and brick structures you see today. Later additions at the back and on either side were built to accommodate the growing collection.



# Festival Hall



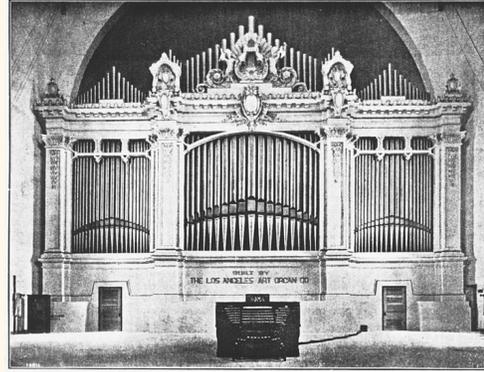
In front of the Palace of Fine Arts (to your left) is Festival Hall. Primarily a venue for music performances, it seated 3000.



# Festival Hall Organ



The largest pipe organ in the world was in festival hall. That organ formed the foundation for the Wanamaker (now Macy's) Store organ in Philadelphia. The organ is still played each day.



ELECTROLIAN  
GRAND CONCERT ORGAN—FESTIVAL HALL, ST. LOUIS, MO.—COST, \$100,000.

# Festival Hall



The electric light was a big part of the Fair, like no other fair. Here is Festival Hall at night.

Here the Colonnade of States appear either side of Festival Hall.



Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, 1904.  
Festival Hall. Night Scene.

# Colonnade of States



Today short drives, each ending in a circle, are at the top of Art Hill. This would have been the location of the Colonnade of States.

The Louisiana Purchase territory became 15 states - Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Indian Territory



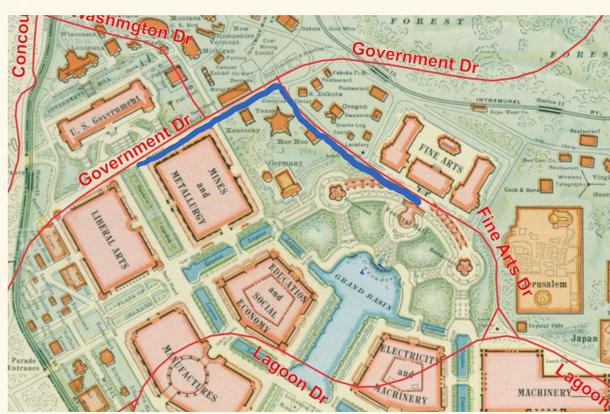
# Directions



Continue forward and down the hill.

As you travel down the hill, on the right, you will pass the sites of Grant's Log Cabin, Oregon, Disciples of Christ, and South Dakota. On the left is Hoo Hoo and Texas. Farther down the hill from Hoo Hoo is the German Pavilion.

Turn Left onto Government Drive. Cross Washington Drive.



## House of Hoo Hoo



Hoo Hoo was a fraternal and labor organization of lumberman.



ERECTED BY SOCIETY OF HOO-HOOS—LUMBERMEN OF AMERICA. HOUSE OF HOO-HOO. LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION, ST. LOUIS.

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www.delcampe.net

## U.S. Government Building



The U.S. Government Building was an imposing structure that filled the area now occupied by the decorative fountain and waterfall.

Scattered around the building were several exhibits displaying the resources of the United States.



# Missouri State Building



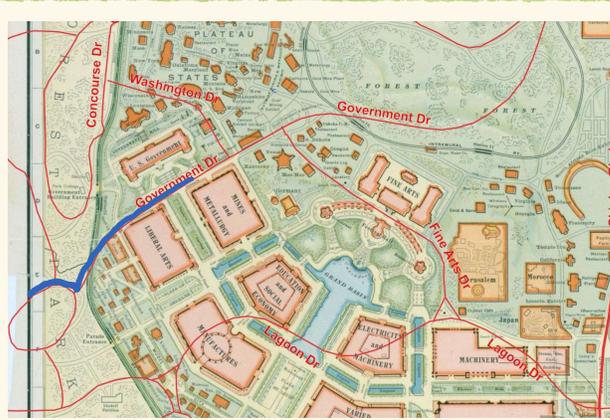
Behind the U.S. Government Building, about where the Worlds Fair Pavilion stands today was the Missouri State Building.



# Directions



**Drive forward.**  
On the left you will pass the Palace of Liberal Arts and U.S. Marine Corps Pavilion.  
At this point you are at the eastern edge of the Fairgrounds.  
Continue driving until you get to the circle in front of The Muny.



# Liberal Arts Mines and Metallurgy



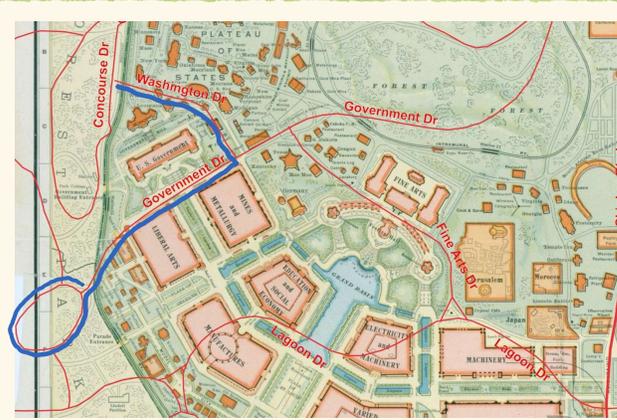
You have just passed the Palace of Liberal Arts on the Right.  
Ahead on the right is the Mines and Metallurgy building



# Directions



**Follow Government Drive until you come to Washington Drive.**  
**Prepare to turn left onto Washington Drive.**  
There is no safe place to stop on Washington Drive.  
As you go up the hill, notice the large iron bird cage on the right.



# U.S. Bird Exhibit



The large iron aviary was set up by the Smithsonian to display native birds and wild life. The display was remarkable and memorable. Visitors were able to walk through the aviary and see these exotic birds up close.

At the close of the Fair, the Smithsonian donated the Aviary to the city of St. Louis. It became the foundation for the St. Louis Zoo.

Although intended to be removed after the fair, this is the second structure on this tour that actually was part of the fair.



# Plateau of States



Around the aviary were several houses set to exhibit the history, resources and industry of several of the states in the union.

Michigan was to the right of the Bird Exhibit.

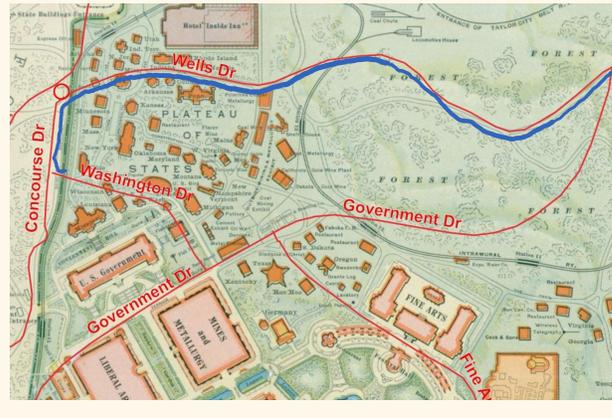
Oklahoma, Maryland, and West Virginia was behind.



# Directions



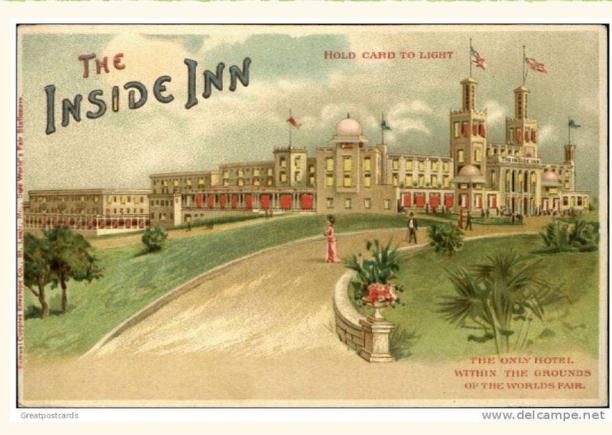
Drive ahead to the traffic circle.  
Keep Right to Concourse Drive  
As you come around to the southern side of the zoo, you will pass the location of the "Inside Inn".



# Inside Inn



The Inside Inn was a hotel to accommodate visitors to the Fair.



# Directions



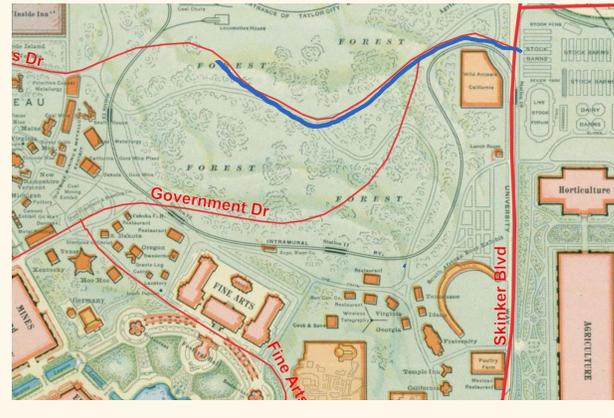
Follow Wells Drive past the Zoo and the wooded area to Skinker.

At the time of the fair, this area was left natural / wooded and except for a few picnic pavilions, probably appeared as it does these days.

If Safe and Practical – Stop before you reach Skinker.

Near this intersection was the Wild Animals California exhibit.

The area west of Skinker was devoted to Agriculture. Exhibits showed farm animals and the latest in farm technology. Great tractors and threshers were on display. The Agricultural building was one of the largest at the fair and was said to be the largest enclosed space in the world.



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# Directions



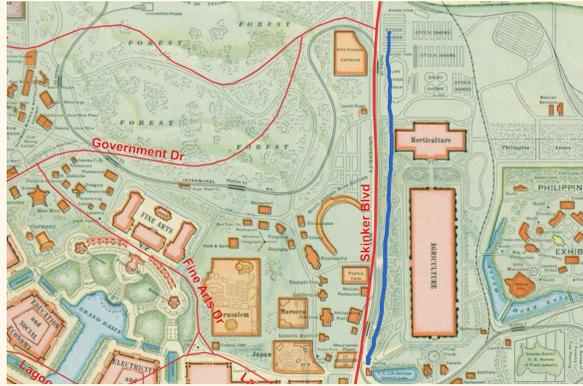
Go Right on Skinker. Stay in the right lane.

Traffic on Skinker tends to be crazy. Please be careful.

As you pass the golf course on the right notice the landscape.

After Aberdeen Street on the left you will come to the Missouri Historical Society Archive.

If Safe and Practical – Stop here.



# The Observation Wheel



Originally built for the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, The Observation Wheel was one of the most admired exhibits at the Fair.

- 264 feet tall
- 36 wooden cars (from railway cars)
- 60 people per car (2160 total)
- Powered by a stationary steam engine.

This was a premium E-Ticket\* ride! The price was 50 cents and lasted for 2 revolutions or about 20 minutes.



\*Reference to Disneyland ride tickets prior to 1955, the latest, most advanced, and most popular rides.

# The Mystery



The area across from the Missouri Historical Society Archives is where the Observation Wheel was set up.

After the Fair, the great wheel was dynamited and sold for scrap.

The story goes, the great axle was too heavy to be hauled away, yet no one knows where the axle lies.

Pictures of the day, show the Observation Wheel on flat ground.

Looking at the terrain today, we see a fairly large mound.

I think I know where the remains of the Observation wheel lay.

# Directions



Continue North on Skinker until you get to Lindell.

Go right on Lindell

You are now in the middle of The Pike.

# The Pike

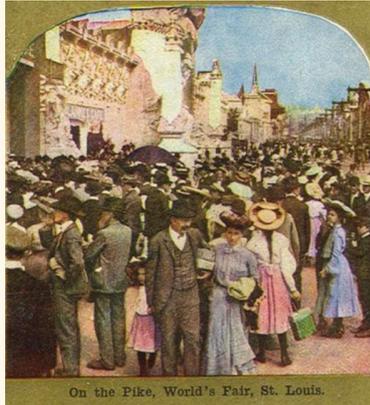


The Louisiana Purchase Exposition was for the betterment of mankind.

The Pike was for something else. It was for entertainment and the more sensational the better.

This is where you would find the Hoochy Koochy Dancers.

There were many exotic and mysterious things found here. Everything from Creation to Damnation and many things in between.

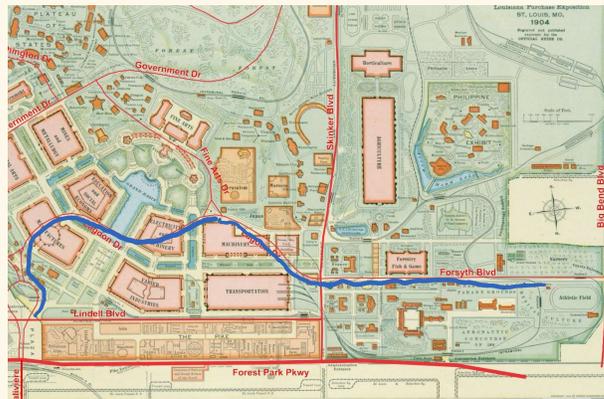


On the Pike, World's Fair, St. Louis.

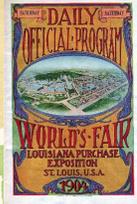
# Directions



This brings us back to where we started. From here you can go right on De Bolavier to right on Lagoon Drive. Follow Lagoon Drive and cross Skinker to Forsythe Blvd. Stay on Forsythe until you reach the Francis Athletic Field. (right)



## III Olympiad



To the left are the gates to Francis Field. This is the site of the 1904 Olympics. These gates and the bleachers were built for the fair. Beyond is the field house, renovated for the 2004 presidential debate, bears no resemblance to it's 1904 appearance.



## The End

Images used in this presentation were gathered from a wide variety of sources on the World Wide Web. My thanks to everyone who shared their libraries.

Remember the mystery and the grandeur of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition as you leave.