THE HISTORY BUFF TOUR GUIDE

A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS
AN AMERICAN MUSICAL CELEBRATION

"A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS" HISTORIC KANSAS CITY TOUR

Thank you for downloading the "History Buff Tour Guide Package" in conjunction with your attendance at Paula Vogel's "A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration!"



This self-guided tour explores some of the most significant Civil War and historical sites in the Kansas City area, providing context for the world depicted in the production you will experience at the Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre's production of Paula Vogel's "Civil War Christmas." You may complete the tour at your own pace, either in a single day or over multiple visits. For guests planning to visit all locations in one day, we recommend beginning in the morning and concluding at the Alexander Majors House, where you can conveniently transition from the final tour stop into the evening performance.



STOP NO. 1
BYRAM'S FORD

5951 MANCHESTER TRAFFICWAY, KANSAS CITY, MO 64130

The Byram's Ford Battlefield (located within the Big Blue Battlefield Park) is open 5:00 AM to Midnight every day.

Today, portions of the battlefield are preserved within Big Blue Battlefield Park, offering visitors a glimpse into one of the most significant military engagements in Missouri history.

Byram's Ford was the site of critical fighting during Price's Raid, the final major Confederate campaign west of the Mississippi River. On October 22–23, 1864, Confederate forces under Major General Sterling Price clashed with Union troops along the Big Blue River as part of a desperate effort to maintain momentum toward Kansas City.

Confederate troops initially succeeded in forcing Union defenders from their positions by crossing at an unguarded ford. However, Union forces regrouped and launched a successful counterattack the following day. The fighting at Byram's Ford became a pivotal component of the larger Battle of Westport, ultimately contributing to the collapse of Price's Missouri campaign.

WWW.BATTLEFIELDS.ORG/VISIT/BATTLEFIELDS/BYRAMS-FORD-BATTLEFIELD



STOP NO. 2
UNION CEMETERY

227 E 28 TERRACE,
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

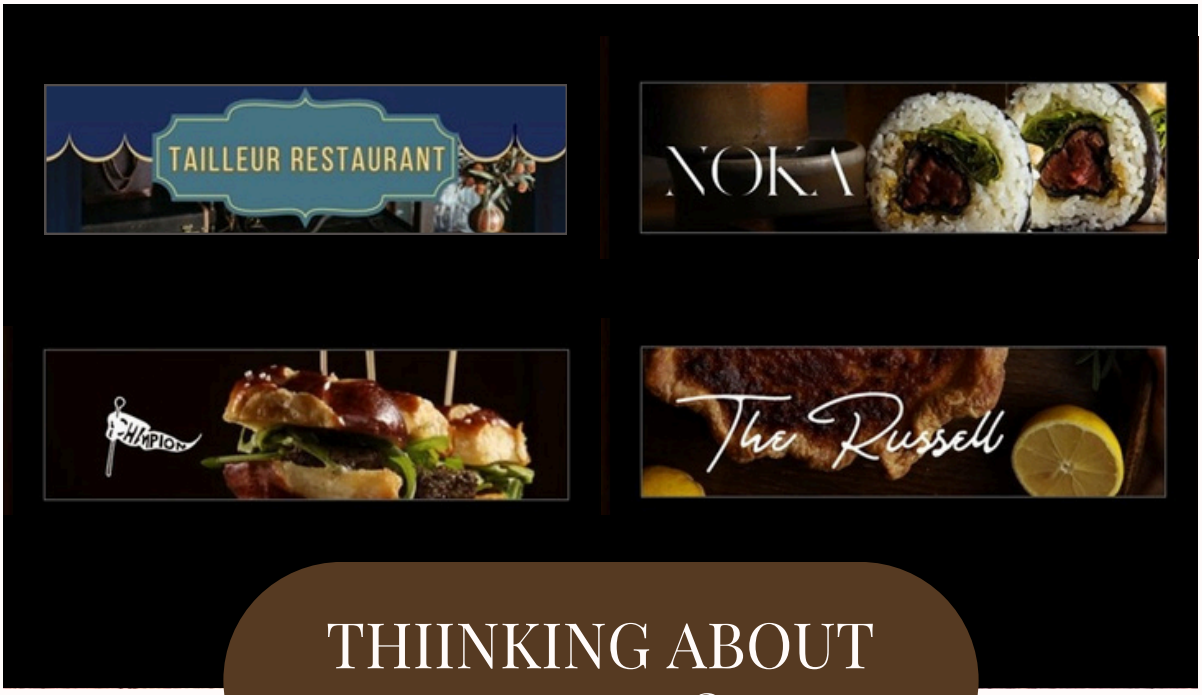
The main vehicle gates at Union Cemetery (located in the Union Hill neighborhood near Crown Center) are open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Pedestrian and walk-in access is generally available from dawn to dusk.

Established in 1857, Union Cemetery is the oldest public cemetery in Kansas City and serves as the final resting place for more than 55,000 individuals. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the cemetery was originally intended to serve both the communities of Westport and Kansas City.

The cemetery contains the graves of civic leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, veterans, and many of the individuals responsible for shaping Kansas City's growth and development. Veterans from conflicts ranging from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War are interred here, including soldiers who fought on both sides of the Civil War.

Union Cemetery remains one of Kansas City's most important historical landmarks and offers visitors a unique opportunity to connect with the region's past.

WWW.UCHSKC.ORG



THIINKING ABOUT LUNCH?

CONSIDER VISITING ONE OF OUR LOCAL PARTNERS!

TAILLEUR – Founded by Heather White, TAILLEUR brings the spirit of the Parisian table to Kansas City, pairing thoughtful cuisine, elegant design, and a historic Main Street setting.
3933 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64111

NOKA – Located in Martini Corner, NOKA combines Japanese influences, Midwestern ingredients, and live-fire cooking in a sophisticated, nationally recognized dining experience.
334 E 31st St, Kansas City, MO 64108

LE CHAMPION – A Westport café, coffee bar, and cocktail lounge from the team behind NOKA and The Russell, offering coffee, small plates, wine, and cocktails in a relaxed, all-day setting.
4149 Pennsylvania Ave, Kansas City, MO 64111

THE RUSSELL – A chef-driven Main Street café known for wood-fired cooking, fresh ingredients, and elevated comfort food, from sandwiches and salads to seasonal specialties.
3141 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64111

RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED



STOP NO. 3
BATTLE OF WESTPORT

5200 WORNALL RD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112

Jacob L. Loose Park is open daily from 5:00 a.m. to midnight. Note that the main parking lot gates typically lock at 10:00 p.m., though pedestrian access remains open until midnight.

Often referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West," the Battle of Westport was fought October 21–23, 1864, and involved approximately 30,000 soldiers. The battle marked the decisive defeat of Confederate General Sterling Price's Missouri campaign and effectively ended Confederate hopes of regaining influence in Missouri.

The monument before you commemorates the location where Price's forces were turned back and forced into retreat. Installed by the Native Sons of Kansas City, the six-ton granite marker at the north end of the park stands near the heart of the battlefield. The canon pictured above is at the sound end of the park.

Historians consider the Battle of Westport one of the most consequential engagements west of the Mississippi River. Following the Confederate defeat, Price's army suffered further losses during its retreat and never again posed a serious threat to Union control of Missouri.

CIVILWARONTHEWESTERNBORDER.ORG/ENCYCLOPEDIA/BATTLE-WESTPORT



STOP NO. 4
JOHN WORNALL HOUSE

6115 WORNALL RD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64113

The John Wornall House Museum is open for tours from Wednesday to Sunday. Self guided tours are available during all open hours. Guided tours are offered on Saturdays at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
Adult tickets are $8, Seniors / Students $6, Children 6-12 years $5, under 6 years enter for free.

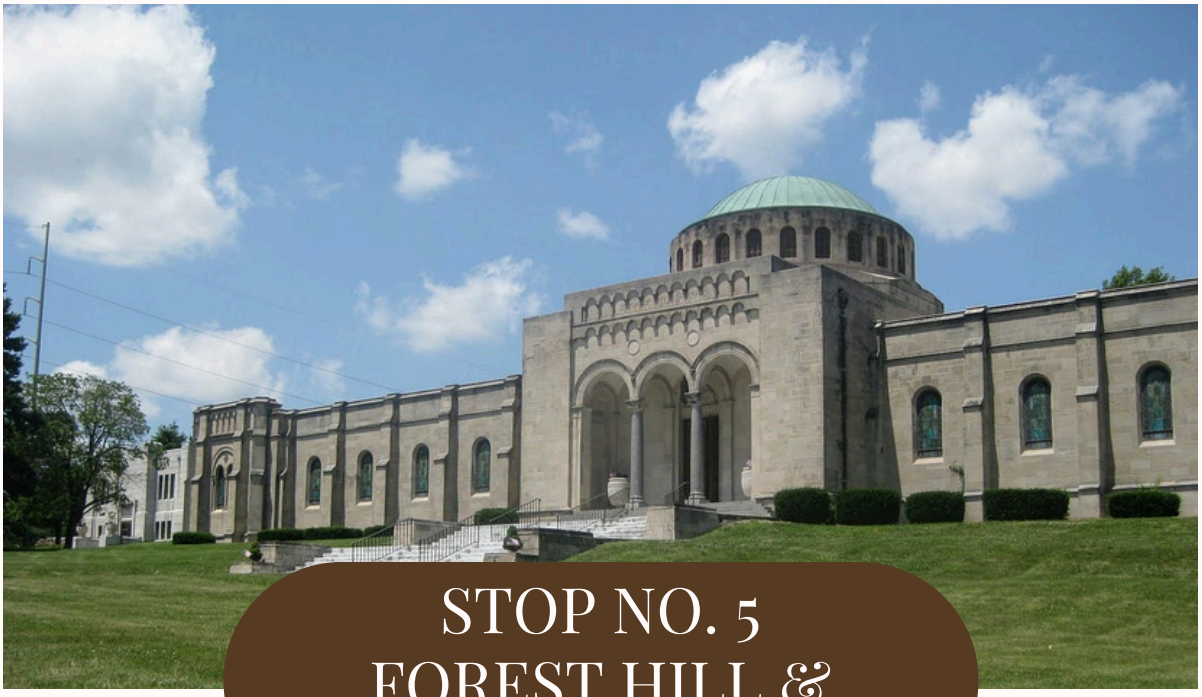
Built in 1858, the John Wornall House stands as one of Kansas City's most significant surviving Civil War-era structures. The Wornall family owned approximately 500 acres of land surrounding the property, much of which now encompasses modern Kansas City neighborhoods.

The house was constructed using locally sourced materials and likely relied heavily on the labor of enslaved workers, reflecting the realities of Missouri's status as a slave state before the Civil War.

During the Battle of Westport, the house served first as a Confederate field hospital and later as a Union hospital. Soldiers filled nearly every room, and the property witnessed some of the heaviest fighting of the campaign.

Today, the Wornall House serves as a museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the complex history of the Missouri-Kansas border during the Civil War era.

WORNALLMAJORS.ORG



STOP NO. 5
FOREST HILL & CALVARY CEMETERY

6901 TROOST AVE
KANSAS CITY, MO 64131

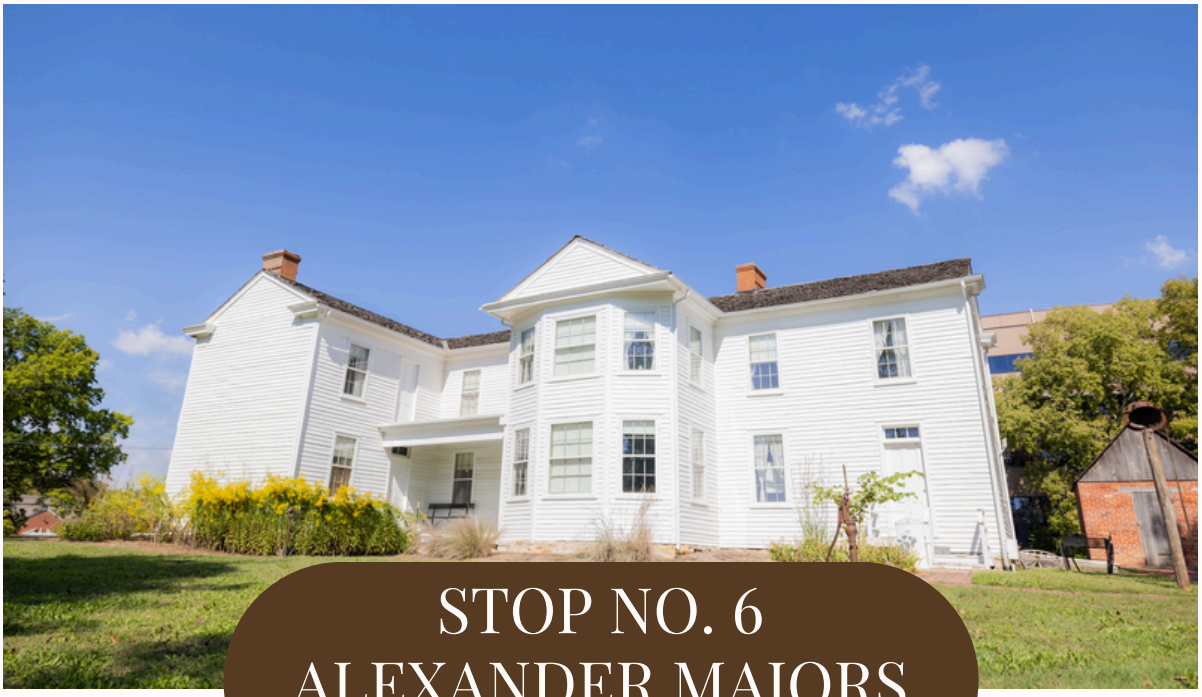
The cemetery is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cemetery is closed on Sundays.

Established in 1888, Forest Hill & Calvary Cemetery spans approximately 160 acres and is renowned for its beautiful landscape design, rolling hills, and impressive collection of trees and monuments.

The cemetery was designed with the philosophy that burial grounds should serve not only as places of remembrance but also as spaces of beauty and reflection. Landscape architects George Kessler and Sid Hare helped create one of Kansas City's most treasured historic landscapes.

Among those buried here are civic leaders, military heroes, business pioneers, athletes, and influential figures whose contributions shaped the city and region. Notable graves include those of H. Roe Bartle, Joyce Hall (Hallmark), Tom Pendergast, Joseph Shelby (Civil War General), R. S. Sutherland (Lumber Yards), William Volker, William T. Kemper Sr, J. Logan Jones (Jones Store), Supreme Court Justice C. E. Whittaker, J.C. Nichols, Buck O'Neil, Satchel Paige, Kate Spade, and members of the Wornall family.

WWW.FHCCEMETERY.COM



STOP NO. 6
ALEXANDER MAJORS HOUSE

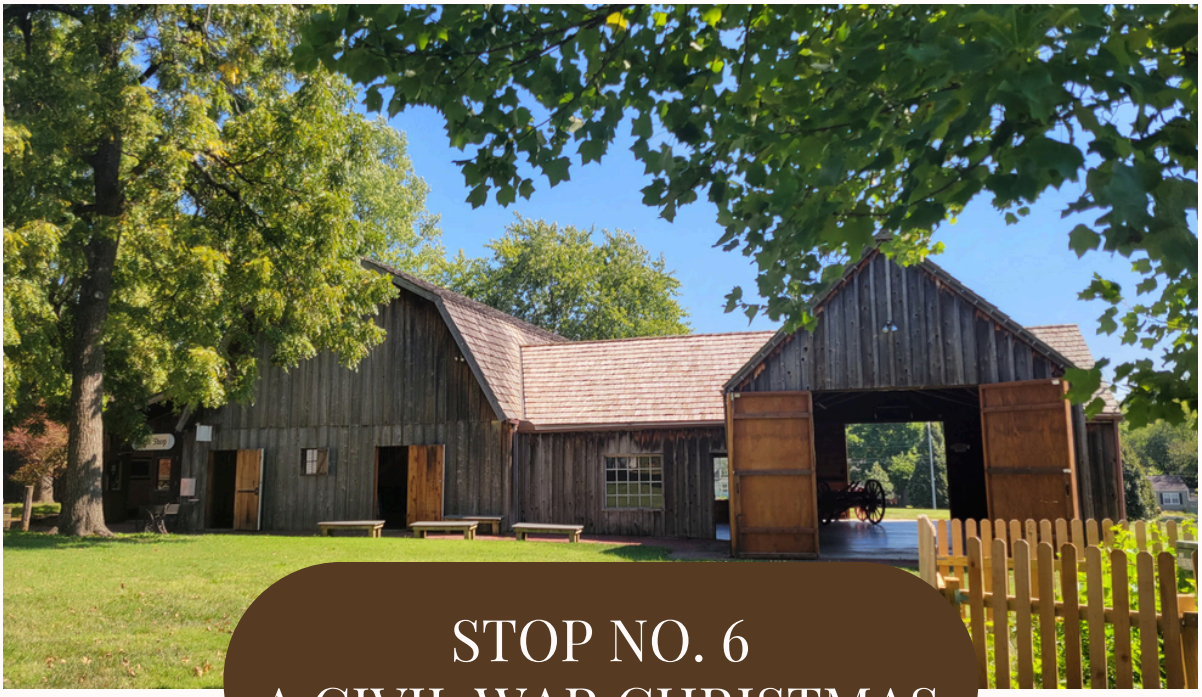
8201 STATE LINE RD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64114

Tours can be booked by appointment only and can be booked in advance through www.wornallmajors.org. $8 per person.

Alexander Majors was a prominent freighter and businessman whose company, Russell, Majors & Waddell, played a critical role in supplying western military forts and supporting westward expansion. The property served as both a family home and an operational headquarters for one of the largest freighting enterprises in the American West.

Like many prosperous Missouri households of the period, the Majors family relied upon enslaved labor. Historical records indicate that approximately sixteen to seventeen enslaved individuals lived and worked on the property.

Saved from abandonment in the twentieth century, the house now operates as a museum dedicated to interpreting life on the Missouri frontier and preserving the region's complex history.



STOP NO. 6
A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS

8201 STATE LINE RD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64114

Your final stop brings you to the Alexander Majors Barn, the performance site for "A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration."

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel with musical arrangements by Daryl Waters, the play is set on Christmas Eve, 1864, during the final months of the Civil War. Through a rich tapestry of historical and fictional characters—including President Abraham Lincoln, soldiers, abolitionists, enslaved people seeking freedom, and ordinary citizens—the story explores themes of hope, reconciliation, and shared humanity during one of the nation's most turbulent periods.

As you take your seat, consider the stories and locations you have encountered throughout this tour. Together, they provide a deeper understanding of the historical landscape that shaped the world of A Civil War Christmas and the enduring legacy of the Civil War in Kansas City and beyond.