

GRANT

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Grant Monument
Association

GRANT

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GMA LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

The Grant Monument Association is pleased to announce that it has established a new web site, www.grantstomb.org. This web site aspires to bring Grant's Tomb to a wider audience while keeping concerned citizens apprised of issues facing the monument.

It is hoped that visitors to the web site will be able to take something of a "tour"

of Grant's Tomb via the internet. Photos attempt to convey many of the features of the site and to survey the Tomb's history through recent times. The web site will be operating by mid-April 2002, and it is expected to be expanded and upgraded over time.

Significantly, the web site will feature studies of current issues facing the future of

the monument, including the need to transfer land surrounding to the Tomb to the National Park Service in order to con-

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ARCHITECT COMPLETES PAVILION STUDIES

The GMA has responded to information regarding National Park Service (NPS) plans to develop the overlook pavilion across the street from Grant's Tomb into a visitor center by developing architectural studies exploring how this may be done.

It will be recalled that the last edition of this newsletter presented the GMA's proposal, developed by architect Garland Reynolds, for land transfer and construction of a visitor center that would supply needs not currently met at Grant's Tomb. The

GMA's preferred location for such a site, which it is

the Tomb.

The NPS, for its part, plans to turn the overlook pavilion across the street from the Tomb into a visitor center. In view of these plans, the GMA is submitting two new conceptual studies, also by Mr. Reynolds, to supplement the study previously developed. These new studies present two alternative illustrations of how to design a visitor center with adequate facilities on the site of the overlook. They



Garland Reynolds at Grant's Tomb in March.

hoped would supply public restrooms, space for a gift shop, and facilities that would accommodate adequate interpretation, is the area immediately behind

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struct an adequate visitor center. This issue was highlighted in the last edition of the newsletter, and the web site will include several related architectural studies.

Another primary function of the web site will be to provide guidance for future interpretive planning and exhibits at Grant's Tomb. A good deal of material along these lines was developed by GMA president Frank Scaturro while he was a volunteer at the monument a decade ago, but since then, much of it has disappeared or other-

wise faded into obscurity as the site staff changed.

Now, thanks to the internet, which did not even

legacy for use both by the staff at Grant's Tomb in planning interpretive programs and exhibits and by

does not yet have a visitor center to house adequate exhibits, a feature on the GMA web site entitled "exhibit hall" displays items that might be included in such a facility — Grant's words, the tributes of contemporaries, and Grant's civil rights record, to name some examples. In the future, it is a goal to develop additional exhibits that detail Grant's military campaigns and political achievements. And while a presidential flag does not yet fly at Grant's Tomb (despite longstanding proposals to acquire one), the

While a presidential flag does not yet fly at Grant's Tomb (despite longstanding proposals to acquire one), the flag does fly on the Tomb's web site.

exist in the public realm a decade ago, it is possible to present an outline conveying U.S. Grant's life and

members of the general public in their educational endeavors.

Although Grant's Tomb

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would "revitalize the Overlook Pavilion with new, updated restrooms, a viewing terrace, a gallery, a retail sales area, exhibit areas, an audio-visual presentation area, and administrative offices and support space," Reynolds said. "Every effort has been made to maintain and enhance the beauty of the existing architectural style while adding new life and

function to the site as a whole while maintaining the Hudson River spectacular views."

The studies have been reviewed by a team that includes landscape architect Halsted Welles, building construction consultant Wajdi Atallah, and art historian Donald Martin Reynolds. The team assessed environmental as well as architectural factors.

The emerging consensus, however, points to at least one lingering dilemma: traffic. The overlook pavilion is located 30 feet from the busy west lanes of Riverside Drive. Any proposal that would introduce a volume of visiting pedestrians crossing the street must first determine if a method of safe pedestrian access is possible and, if so, how it may be implemented. Ad-

ditionally, the pavilion's lower level is below grade and would call for a detailed study to determine the extent of the need for waterproofing.

The GMA intends to explore these issues and the preferred location behind the Tomb with the NPS and other public officials, including New York City officials. The city is the current owner of both possible



Details of Reynolds' drawings — two possibilities for developing the overlook pavilion (west view).

ULYSSES S. GRANT NETWORK

The Ulysses S. Grant Network, a nonprofit organization founded in 1995, invites those with an interest in Grant to subscribe to their quarterly newsletter. The newsletter features biographical articles of Grant and his family, anecdotes from Grant's life, and information about Grant sites and events around the country. For a one-year subscription to the Newsletter, please send a check for \$12, payable to "The Grant Network," to Grant Network,

W3547 Playbird Rd., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.

The Grant Network Website, which has generously hosted the GMA for several years, is located at <http://saints.css.edu/mkelsey/gppg.html>. For more information, please email Diane Meives (USGlad@Excel.net) or Donna Neralich (Grantnet2@aol.com).

The GMA Mission:

- To commemorate and perpetuate the accomplishments of Ulysses S. Grant and Julia Dent Grant and their memory.
- To undertake educational activities and ceremonies as they pertain to President Grant's service to his country.
- To cooperate with public and private parties to insure the repair, maintenance and upgrading of Grant's Tomb in New York City.
- To raise funds to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

WEB SITE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

flag does fly on the Tomb's web site. Other GMA undertakings that go beyond the site's physical characteristics, such as the musical fanfare it commissioned, are also featured on the web site. An extensive list of links on the web site provides access to web resources that will aid general historical research as well as related historic preservation efforts at other national treasures. The GMA is glad to serve,

in whatever modest way it can, as a network to these worthy endeavors.

The web site would not be possible without the support of Garland Reynolds, the architect who has so generously given of his services over the past year, and Vic Williams, an associate of Mr. Reynolds who has similarly been generous with his time in developing the web site and serving as webmaster.

GRANT MONUMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The life and extraordinary public service of General and President Ulysses S. Grant is reflected in the grand monument in New York City that serves as his final resting place – popularly known as Grant's Tomb. The Grant Monument Association, the successor to the organization of the same name that built and administered Grant's Tomb until it was transferred to the National Park Service in 1959, was formed to ensure that this important part of our heritage would be preserved. To become a member of the Grant Monument Association or renew your membership for 2002, fill out the form below:

Membership Enrollment Form

You can join the GMA with an annual gift of \$25 or more (\$10 for students and senior citizens). Please indicate your gift below:

___ \$10 (senior citizens and students) ___ \$25 ___ \$50
 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ Other – Indicate Amount \$ _____

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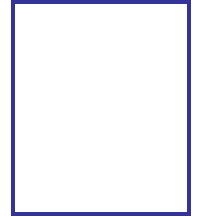
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This year marks the Bicentennial of the founding of the United States Military Academy at West Point, the training ground for Ulysses S. Grant and other top American military leaders during and after the Civil War. Events in observance of this anniversary are being held throughout the year, in the spirit of commemorating West Point's "contributions to the Nation and the peoples of the world." All are invited to attend. For more information, contact the Bicentennial Office, Building 600, West Point, NY 10996, (845) 938-5145, or email usmabicentennial@exmail.usma.army.mil.

Ulysses S. Grant Homepage

Congratulations to Candace Scott, whose Ulysses S. Grant Homepage was just voted #2 in a rigorous competition to determine the top Civil War website. One of the most extensive collections of information on any subject you will find on the internet, this remarkable website contains scores of both widely published and rare Grant photos, articles, interviews, and commentary.



Mark your calendar: Saturday, December 14, 2002 will mark the Centennial of the death of Julia Dent Grant. A ceremony is being planned at Grant's Tomb that day. Further details regarding this event will be announced in the next newsletter.

We Remember
September 11, 2001 