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# Westmoreland And Portland Places: The History And Architecture Of America's Premier Private Streets, 1888-1988



## Synopsis

Nowhere in America has the private place flourished as it has in St. Louis, and no private places have played a more important role in that city's or the nation's history than Westmoreland and Portland. Â Owned by the residents rather than by the city and governed by a board of trustees responsible for lighting, sewers, roadways, security, landscaping, and refuse removal, Westmoreland and Portland are lined with spectacular houses in the style of Italian palazzi, French chateaus, and English country estates. The residents of Westmoreland and Portland have run many of the largest businesses and industries in St. Louis and in many cases in the United States. Â In 1904 they were among those who planned one of the most spectacular world's fairs ever, and in 1927 they helped finance Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight. Â They served in the cabinets of presidents Cleveland, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Coolidge, and Hoover. Â By examining these and many other accomplishments of these families, Julius Hunter provides a unique historical perspective on the past century of American life. In addition to providing the historical background, Hunter presents vivid descriptions of glamorous social occasions in Westmoreland and Portland--weddings, balls, even funerals--and he shows that the residents were sometimes united, and sometimes split, by bonds of family, marriage, religion, club membership, and political preference. Â Interviews with people who lived on those streets early in this century provide a unique glimpse of what it was like to grow up in the prestigious neighborhood. Hunter's text is superbly illustrated. Â More than 200 color photographs depict the houses as they appear today, including architectural details and interior views. Â More than 200 black-and-white photographs provide a glimpse of St. Louis's past. Â Every house that has stood in either Westmoreland or Portland is shown. Â All of these mansions were designed by architects, many of them of national or international reputation, and an essay by Esley Hamilton supplies additional information on the architects and the styles in which they worked. Â A Chronology of Owners presents the ownership dates for every resident, past and present. The engaging text and the beautiful illustrations combine to make this book pleasurable reading for everyone interested in either the St. Louis of the past or the city of the present.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In *Westmoreland and Portland Places* Julius K. Hunter traces a century of two St. Louis private streets, focusing on the way of life that produced the elegant houses described in a separate essay by Esley Hamilton, an architectural historian."--New York Times Book Review"*Westmore and Portland Places* is attractive enough to be a best-selling cocktail table' book, but it is considerably more than that. Well written and thoroughly researched, it offers a great deal for the reader. . . .

While not unique to St. Louis, the private street flourished here as nowhere else, and these opulent examples, occupied and treasured, are of more than local interest. They are worthy of the book, and the book is worthy of them."--*West End Word*"A fascinating architectural tour of one of the premier private places in the nation. . . . The 400 photographs here are a luscious feast of American architecture. Author Hunter has tastefully assembled these photos and written in an admiring manner of this unusual architectural area. Captivating."--*Book Reader*"Hunter weaves wonderful stories about St. Louis' two premier private places while artfully describing them and their ornate opulence. . . . *Westmoreland and Portland Places* is a must.' Julius Hunter's masterful treatment of the subject is thorough and concise in every authentic detail."--*St. Louis Marketplace--A Forum*"The elaborate coffee table book,' with more than 200 pictures in color, delves into the history and architecture of two of America's existing private streets, both in St. Louis."--*St. Joseph New-Press*"*Westmore and Portland* are the grandest remnants of the golden era of private places."--*Spirit: Quarterly Newsletter of the Missouri Historical Society*

Julius K. Hunter is an Anchorman at KMOV-TV in St. Louis. He has hosted a call-in-program at KMOX Radio, and he wrote the popular "Past Times" column for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. He is also the author of *Kingsbury Place: The First 200 Years* (C. V. Mosby Company, 1982).

This book is a beautiful, hard-bound book that would adorn any table. The detailed history of each of

the homes and photos showing the Era of Yesterday and how many of the Wealthiest families lived in some of the most extravagant homes in the mid-west. The reason I purchased this book was due to the purchasing of some 1912 Aeoline Pipe Organ Pipes and wanting to confirm that they did indeed come from the mansion I was lead to believe in the purchase. The English Horn and the Geigen Principal pipes are from one of these homes and many of these beautiful mansions from the past had pipe organs. Usually all pipework was designated to a entire room adjacent to the main parlor or music room. And many times the pipes lived in the attic and the sound made its way down from the attic of the home into the main areas. Ethereal, mysterious music filled these mansions and the details to quality were ahead of its time!

Anyone with an interest in historic homes should own this book, especially if you live in Saint Louis. It's beautifully printed, and full of interesting information about almost every single house in what is one of Saint Louis' premier neighborhoods. I will say that if you want interior photos the book is slightly lacking in that area, and floorplans of more homes would have been nice to see. However, the book is very comprehensive and gives a fascinating history of the development of these areas, as well as the people who comissioned these homes. This book is on a table in my living room, and guests always pick it up and are drawn in when they start flipping through the pages. Perhaps because we live in Saint Louis and therefore have a "personal" connection to the homes in the the book because we can see them, but it really is an interesting look at the architecture of the period.

A wonderful book with great photos of some of the most awesome homes I have ever seen. riding my bicycle in that area of St. Louis often and driving by those wonderful old neighborhoods makes it special to see who built the homes and when. As for being thrown out of the neighborhood. I too had that experience. At a Central West End open house a few years ago I spoke with a lady that was the chair of that organization. She said that if I'd call and let them know I was going to walk or bike through the area, she didn't think it would be a problem. I called on a Saturday and no one was there, so my friend and I rode our bicycles in. We met three of the area residents and all were quite gracious and understood our love of the architecture. I'd recommend if you wish to "tour" the area, you contact them, and let them know who you are and why are wanting to go. I do understand to an extent their concerns. Lastly, so many well preserved and wonderful homes. So glad someone made a book about them. Steve

We lived in carriages houses on both Portland and Westmoreland, so I enjoyed getting this book

and learning more about the houses we lived behind, and the other houses on the streets. Of course I'd prefer more photos, for the insides of the houses are amazing. But they cover a lot.

Authoritative and beautiful book on a beautiful subject! I first saw it in 2000 at the MSU Library in Springfield, MO, and never forgot it. Fifteen years later in the Internet era, I jumped at the chance to obtain this book.

Fascinating for every architectural & history buff. If you haven't visited Saint Louis OR explored its numerous & varied treasures - this book will whet your appetite to do so!

I love this book. It has tons of beautiful exterior photos but I would like to see more historical photos and more interior shots. I would also love to see more recounts by the people who lived there. There are a few stories and I read them over and over. I'd really like to give this book a four and a half but that's not an option.

This was a gift, shipped quickly and they loved it! Very Happy!

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2000-2001) Portland Hikes: The Best Day-Hikes in Oregon and Washington Within 100 Miles of Portland  
Portland Restaurant Guide 2017: Best Rated Restaurants in Portland, Oregon - 500 Restaurants, Bars and CafÃ©s recommended for Visitors, 2017 Portland Hikes: Day Hikes in Oregon and Washington Within 100 Miles of Portland  
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