

Historic Missouri Roadsides

Bill Hart

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Bill Hart : Historic Missouri Roadsides before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Historic Missouri Roadsides:

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Historic Missouri Roadsides is a richly illustrated travel/history/photography book, consisting of six tours of Missouri on mostly two-lane roads and highways. Varying greatly in length, five of the seven tours mark their beginning points near Kansas City and St. Louis, making the tours attractive to Missouri "staycationers" who are eager to get out of the city. One tour is traveled almost exclusively on Missouri Route 79. Dubbed the River Road tour, the route along Highway 79 closely follows the Mississippi River north from St. Charles County to Lewis County, near the Iowa border. A second tour which closely follows the Mississippi River is El Camino Real, which travels along US Highway 61 southward from Jefferson County to New Madrid in the Missouri Bootheel. The Gottfried Duden/Lewis Clark Tour traverses Missouri Highway 100 from Gray Summit in Franklin County westward to tiny Bonnot's Mill on the Osage River in Osage County. The Mostly 24 Tour begins in Excelsior Springs in northwest Missouri and travels eastward across the state to Hannibal. The Platte Purchase tour begins in St. Joseph Missouri and heads north and east through all of the counties of the purchase which completed the map of Missouri in 1853 and then some, traveling to

Unionville in north central Missouri. The final trip, called the Osage Hills and Prairies, travels through southwest Missouri from Lebanon in Laclede County to Nevada in Laclede County, follows a part of Old Route 66 to Carthage, then ends at Nevada in Vernon County. Places to eat/drink, visit/shop and stay are listed in the book and include only small, Missouri-owned businesses. Don't look for McDonald's here - only real places owned by real people and keeping it local. This book is richly illustrated with photographs by the author and post cards and mementos from his personal collection.

From the Inside Flap Historic Missouri Roadsides is a richly illustrated travel/history/photography book, consisting of several tours of Missouri on mostly two-lane roads and highways. Varying greatly in length, most of the tours mark their beginning points near Kansas City and St. Louis, making them attractive to Missouri "staycationers" who are eager to get out of the city. One tour travels almost exclusively on Missouri Route 79. Dubbed the River Road tour, the route along Highway 79 closely follows the Mississippi River north from St. Charles County to Lewis County, near the Iowa border. A second tour that closely follows the Mississippi River is El Camino Real, which travels along US Highway 61 southward from Jefferson County to New Madrid in the Missouri Bootheel. The Gottfried Duden/Lewis and Clark tour traverses Missouri Highway 100 from Gray Summit in Franklin County westward to tiny Bonnot's Mill on the Osage River in Osage County. The Mostly Route 24 tour begins in Excelsior Springs in northwest Missouri and travels eastward across the state to New London. The Osage Hills and Prairies tour travels through southwest Missouri from Lebanon in Laclede County, follows a part of Old Route 66 to Carthage, then ends at Nevada in Vernon County. Finally, the Platte Purchase tour begins in St. Joseph and heads north and east through all of the counties of the purchase (which completed the map of Missouri in 1853) and then some, traveling to Unionville in north central Missouri. Places to eat, stay, and visit are listed in the book and include only small, Missouri-owned businesses. Don't look for McDonald's here only real places owned by real people and keeping it local. This book is richly illustrated with photographs by the author from his personal collection.

About the Author Bill Hart is a fifth generation Missouri native, having grown up in Perry County in southeast Missouri. His interest in small town and roadside Missouri was fostered by his work for the past several years with the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation (Missouri Preservation), where he currently serves as Executive Director. He holds a degree in Historic Preservation from Southeast Missouri State University and did his graduate coursework in Architectural History at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. Bill is particularly interested in vanishing Missouri building types, including roadside and countryside. He was one of the founders of the Missouri Barn Alliance and Rural Network (Mo BARN), advocating for documentation and preservation of Missouri's historic farmsteads.