

Petersburg National Battlefield VirtualCache Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Site 15: Grant's Cabin

N 37°19'1.208"

W 77°16'34.598"



When Lieutenant General U.S. Grant, general-in-chief of all Union armies, first arrived here on June 15, 1864 his headquarters was an hospital tent with some benches out front. Only with November's arrival and still no end of the siege in sight were cabins built for Grant and his staff. In January of 1865 his wife and their youngest child moved in with him and stayed until the end of the siege.

It is from this cabin that Grant, via telegraph, oversaw the whole Union war effort. Maps of Georgia, the Shenandoah Valley, and other parts of the South were on his desk along with those of Petersburg and Richmond. Men such as Admiral Porter, General Sheridan, General Sherman, and President Lincoln sat around the table in his cabin to plan the defeat the Confederacy and discuss the future of America.

With war's end the cabin was moved to Philadelphia to raise awareness for the U.S. Sanitary Commission. By the 1980s it was in a dilapidated state when the National Park Service acquired it. What stands before you is a cabin with 5-10% of it's original material that's an accurate reproduction of the structure and slightly off its original foundation.

Visit Instructions: Standing outside of the cabin, name the two rivers that you see.