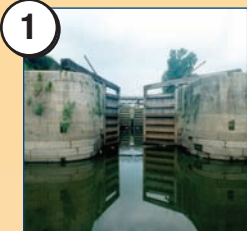
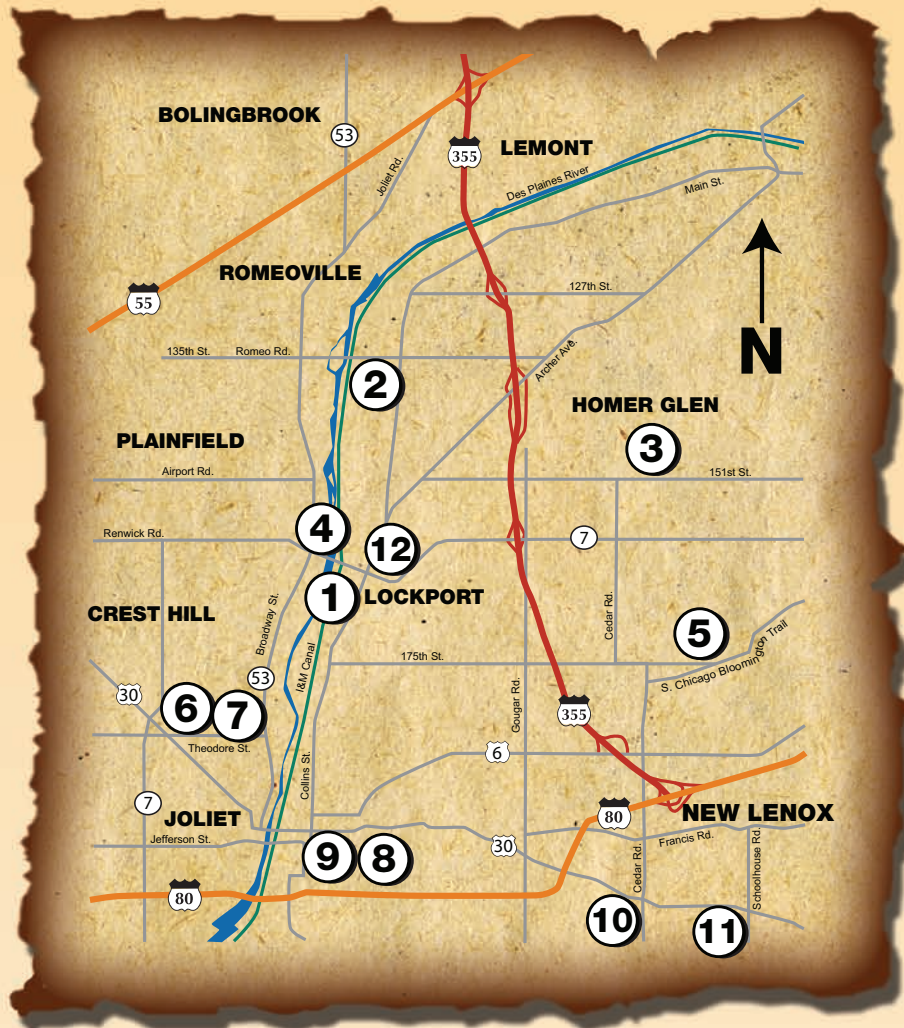


# WILL COUNTY'S HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE I-355 EXTENSION



## WELCOME TO A FEW OF WILL COUNTY'S HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS!

We would like to extend a warm invitation for you to visit the places that showcase Will County's rich heritage. By visiting our attractions, you will gain an appreciation as to why communities within Will County are committed to preserving the places that make them unique and provide a sense of place. The identified sites are in close proximity to the I-355 South Extension. We hope you return again to visit not just these historic attractions but other landmarks throughout the entire Heritage Corridor region.



**1**  
Illinois & Michigan Canal  
Heritage Corridor



**2**  
Isle a la Cache Museum  
501 E. Romeo Rd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446



**3**  
Benjamin F. Russell House  
aka Russell-Smazik House  
14247 151st St  
Homer Glen, IL 60491  
*Private Residence*



**4**  
Patrick Fitzpatrick House  
aka The Fitzpatrick House  
at Lewis University  
15701 S. Independence Blvd.  
Lockport, IL 60441



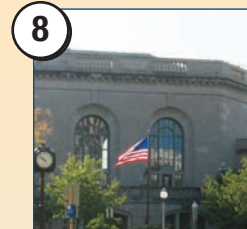
**5**  
The Stone Manor aka  
Gorham-Frazer House  
13044 Chicago  
Bloomington Trail Rd.  
Homer Glen, IL 60491  
*Private Residence*



**6**  
Crest Hill Veterans & Police  
Memorial Garden  
Crest Hill City Hall  
1610 Plainfield Rd.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403



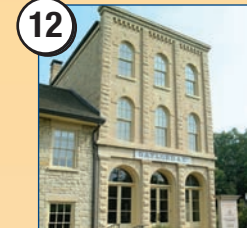
**7**  
Lidice Memorial Park  
Corner of  
Hosmer Lane & Prairie Ave.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403



**8**  
Union Station  
50 E. Jefferson St.  
Joliet, IL 60432



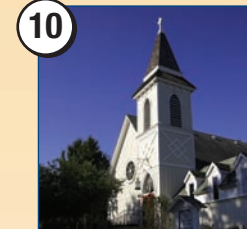
**9**  
Rialto Square Theatre  
102 N. Chicago St.  
Joliet, IL 60432



**12**  
Gaylord Building  
200 West Eighth St.  
Lockport, IL 60441



**11**  
Schmuhl School  
20733 S. Schoolhouse Rd.  
New Lenox, IL 60451



**10**  
Grace Episcopal Church  
209 North Pine St.  
New Lenox, IL 60451

FOR LODGING, AREA EVENTS & OTHER ATTRACTIONS

[www.HeritageCorridorCVB.com](http://www.HeritageCorridorCVB.com)

800 - 926 - CANAL(2262)

HeritageCorridor  
convention & visitors bureau

ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

# WILL COUNTY'S HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

- 1 Illinois & Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor**  
At a stroke, the opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in 1848 gave Illinois the key to mastery of the American mid-continent. The canal's commissioners laid out a canal port that would grow into a great metropolis; their fellow citizens patented agricultural and industrial innovations that would make this the richest economic zone the world had ever seen. Illinois is now the most populous inland American state which is directly traceable to the 96-mile canal that linked the Great Lakes to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. The I&M Canal was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1963 and the first National Heritage Corridor in 1984. Much of Will County's section of the canal has a tow path open for walking and biking.
- 2 Isle a la Cache Museum**  
"Island of the Hiding Place" - this mysterious title is the translation of the French phrase Isle a la Cache. It refers to a time when the French voyageurs traveled down rivers deep into the wild unknowns. The eighteenth century was a time of change and mixing of diverse cultures; see all this at Isle a la Cache Museum. Isle a la Cache Museum was completely renovated and reopened in June 2007. All new exhibits, many of them interactive, an enlarged display area, and enhanced native landscaping around the museum make for a totally new experience for museum visitors. **Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday; Noon - 4:00 p.m., Sunday.**
- 3 Benjamin F. Russell House aka Russell-Smazik House**  
*This landmark is located on private property and permission must be granted by its owners to view the house in its entirety.*  
**This Homer Glen landmark** (also a Will County landmark) is associated with distinguished Homer Township resident and farmer, Benjamin F. Russell. Constructed during the mid 19th century, the house was originally designed as an I-House. As was common with vernacular buildings, the house exhibits changes over time and architectural elements of other house styles have been incorporated. An example of this can be found in its hipped roof, which is reminiscent of the American Foursquare style (1900-1920). The current owners have rehabilitated their house and worked to ensure that it continues to reflect and remain a tribute to Homer Glen's agricultural heritage.
- 4 Patrick Fitzpatrick House aka The Fitzpatrick House at Lewis University**  
**Built in circa 1842**, the Patrick Fitzpatrick House is one of the most historic properties in Lockport Township (outside of the Illinois & Michigan Canal). The Fitzpatrick House is an unusually fine example of early local limestone construction. Located along Route 53, one of the first stage coach routes in Illinois, the site of the Fitzpatrick House is an important landmark which expresses continuity with the transportation and economic heritage of the Lockport area. The house is part of the homestead that included the original 160 acres of the Lewis University campus, donated to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1920 by philanthropist Michael Fitzpatrick, son of Patrick Fitzpatrick. In 2001, Lewis University acquired the house, which is now home to several of Lewis' staff offices. Most notably, the University's Alumni Center and Office of Development currently resides in the Fitzpatrick House. The house is a Will County landmark and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 5 The Stone Manor aka Gorham-Frazer House**  
*This landmark is located on private property and permission must be granted by its owners to view the house in its entirety.*  
**The Stone Manor House** was built by Elijah Dodge Gorham in 1865 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Joliet-Lemont limestone blocks 19 inches thick were used in the construction of the walls and wood from the farmstead supplied material for the trim. Gorham lived in the house until the late 1870's when he moved to Kansas and founded a town in his name. In 1906, the house was sold to James D. Frazer, one of Homer Township's pioneer families. In addition to the local historical significance of the building, it is one of the finest examples of Italianate architecture within the region.
- 6 Crest Hill Veterans and Police Memorial Garden**  
**Every Memorial Day** the city hosts a ceremony honoring our veterans and members of the Police Department who lost their lives in the line of duty.
- 7 Lidice Memorial Park**  
**On June 10, 1942**, the small village of Lidice was literally flattened by the invading German forces in reprisal for the assassination of an SS Leader. In all, about 340 residents, including women and 82 children, lost their lives during this brutal attack. In remembrance of those killed during this horrific event, Crest Hill established Lidice Park as a permanent memorial to honor our sister city residents. Every year, the Czechoslovak American Congress commemorates the memory of the people of Lidice with a ceremony.
- 8 Union Station**  
**Union Station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places**, designed by noted Chicago architect Jarvis Hunt in 1912. The Bedford stone structure has an imposing Neo-Classical Revival style façade with grand arches, keystone, stone balustrades, and cornice. At the time of construction, the station was part of a major public works project that involved elevating all major rail lines crossing the city center, a project that gained national attention.
- 9 Rialto Square Theatre**  
**The Rialto Square Theatre** was designed as an elegant vaudeville movie palace by noted movie palace architects C.W. and George Rapp. The 2 million dollar theatre which opened in 1926 is regarded as one of the most beautiful movie palace theatres in the nation. The building includes an eclectic mix of Greek, Roman and Byzantine architectural styles and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 10 Grace Episcopal Church**  
**The Grace Episcopal Church** has served the New Lenox community since 1868. The church building was modeled after Christ Church in West Davenport, Iowa, and to this day remains one of the very few local examples of Gothic Revival architecture. The first service conducted in the building occurred on September 4, 1870. The bell tower was added in 1888, and the Parish Hall in 1978.
- 11 Schmuhl School**  
**This Will County landmark** was constructed in 1932, and served in its educational capacity until 1996. The building was moved from its original location to Forest Preserve District land in 2000 and historic rehabilitation efforts on the school moved forward. In fall 2006, New Lenox Area Historical Society together with over 500 participants celebrated the grand reopening of the schoolhouse. The Schmuhl School remains the last one-room schoolhouse in New Lenox Township, and provides the wonderful opportunity to learn about education during the 1920s and 30s. Visitors to Schmuhl School can also access the 2.8 mile Hickory Creek Bikeway that leads trail users through scenic Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve and onto Brightway Lane or Hickory Creek Junction, both in Mokena.
- 12 Gaylord Building**  
**Enter a world where history was made.** Constructed in 1838, the Gaylord Building played a major role in the creation of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, the final link in America's great water highway system of the 19th century. This handsome canal-side building, made of local limestone that was unearthed while digging the canal, is a vivid link to the past. Today the Gaylord Building is a gateway to the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Explore the building's exhibit galleries. Enjoy a meal in its Public Landing Restaurant. Relax with a stroll or bike ride along the scenic canal trail. Linger in the nearby antique shops of historic downtown Lockport.

To learn more about these historic attractions, please contact the following:

**Lidice Memorial Park and Crest Hill Veterans and Police Memorial Garden**  
City of Crest Hill  
Nick Churnovic, Mayor  
1610 Plainfield Rd.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403  
815-741-5105  
www.cityofcresthill.com

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
The Rev. Bridget K. Tierney  
209 North Pine St.  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
P: 815-485-6596  
gecnl@sbcglobal.net  
www.gracelenox.org

**Village of New Lenox**  
1 Veterans Pkwy.  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
P: 815-462-6400  
info@newlenox.net  
www.newlenox.net

**The Stone Manor and Benjamin F. Russell House**  
*Village of Homer Glen*  
Jim Daley, Mayor  
14933 Founders Crossing  
Homer Glen, IL 60491  
P: 708-301-0632  
www.homerglen.org

**Patrick Fitzpatrick House**  
*Lewis University*  
One University Pkwy.  
Romeoville, IL 60446-2200  
P: 800-897-9000  
www.lewisu.edu

**Will County Historic Preservation Commission**  
58 E. Clinton St., Suite 500  
Joliet, IL 60432  
P: 815-774-3364  
www.willcountylanduse.com/HPC

**I & M Canal Heritage Corridor Canal Corridor Association**  
Ana Koval, Director  
Lockport, IL  
P: 815-588-1100  
www.canalcor.org

**Schmuhl School**  
*New Lenox Area Historical Society*  
205 W. Maple St., Rt. 30  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
P: 815-485-5576  
www.newlenoxhistory.org

**Isle a la Cache Museum**  
501 E. Romeo Rd. (135th St.)  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
Located 0.5 mile east of Route 53, in Romeoville.  
P: 815-886-1467  
www.fpdwc.org/isle.cfm

**Will County**  
Lawrence M. Walsh, County Executive  
P: 815-740-4601  
www.willcountyillinois.org

**Rialto Square Theatre and Union Station**  
*Joliet Historic Preservation Commission*  
Barb Newberg, City of Joliet Planner and Commission Secretary  
150 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432  
P: 815-724-4052  
bnewberg@jolietycity.org  
www.joliethpc.com

**Village of Romeoville**  
Fred Dewald, Mayor  
13 Montrose Dr.  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
P: 815-886-7200  
www.romeoville.org

FOR LODGING, AREA EVENTS & OTHER ATTRACTIONS  
[www.HeritageCorridorCVB.com](http://www.HeritageCorridorCVB.com)  
800 - 926 - CANAL(2262)

HeritageCorridor  
convention & visitors bureau



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

10/07 - 15K