

VISITORS GUIDE

# CHARLESTON *Illinois*



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90

# A warm **welcome** from the community members of Charleston, Illinois!

Charleston is full of family fun, rich in Lincoln history and waiting for you to explore! Whether your stay is for pleasure or business, Charleston's atmosphere is a perfect blend of historic past, modern culture and progressive growth.

Just six miles east of Interstate 57, Charleston is centrally located about two hours northeast of St. Louis, two hours west of Indianapolis and three hours south of Chicago.

## Explore

There is something for **everyone to enjoy** all year long! Choose from modern art, local specialty stores, Lincoln State Historical Sites and recreational activities. Eastern Illinois University provides a diverse array of entertainment opportunities from college football games to symphony performances.

Charleston's square features a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque courthouse, restaurants and unique shops. The downtown square also sets the backdrop for large-scale murals depicting Charleston's past.

## Relax

Offering plenty of lodging with hotels, bed & breakfasts and camping sites, Charleston is a great location to spend the night while you explore surrounding communities. Day trips to Amish Country in Arcola, the winery in Greenup and Lake Shelbyville are each only 30 minutes away!

## Satisfy

When it comes time to enjoy a meal, Charleston offers a wide variety of restaurants that are sure to please everyone's palate. Diverse dining choices include fine dining, family sit-downs, fast food, coffee shops, Mexican, Asian buffets and pizzerias.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Charleston!

**Charleston Tourism Office**

**520 Jackson Ave.**

**Charleston, IL 61920**

**(217) 348-0430**

**[www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)**

**[tourism@co.coles.il.us](mailto:tourism@co.coles.il.us)**

**Explore**

**Relax**

**Satisfy**

# Annual Events



Charleston offers a wide variety of special events throughout the year. For a full listing of events, please visit: [www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)

## February

### Mid-winter Classic

Carl Sandburg School

Get ready to a 5K/10K/15K race, sun, rain or snow. [www.charleston-challengeduathlon.com](http://www.charleston-challengeduathlon.com)

## April

### Celebration: A Festival of the Arts

Eastern Illinois University Campus

A celebration of a multitude of arts - everything from blacksmithing to watercolor, accompanied by live performances and a variety of unique food vendors. [www.eiu.edu/~festival](http://www.eiu.edu/~festival)

## May

### 18th Street Block Party

18th Street, Charleston

A celebration of spring with food/crafts, "kid-friendly" activities, live music, and shopping.

Facebook - 18th Street Block Party

### IHSA Girls State Badminton Championship

EIU Campus, Lantz Gym

[www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org)

Over 70 schools competing. [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org)

### IHSA Girls State Track & Field Championship

EIU's O'Brien Stadium

Class A & AA Track Meet. Over 500 schools competing.

[www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org)

## **IHSA Boys State Track & Field Championship** **EIU's O'Brien Stadium**

[www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org)

Class A & AA Track Meet. Over 500 schools competing.  
[www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org)

## **Sheep-to-Clothing**

**Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site**

Follow the process of pre-industrialized woolen cloth manufacture from shearing the sheep to finished cloth. [www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org)

## **June**

### **Tour de Charleston - Illinois**

**Downtown Charleston Square**

Tour Charleston on a 12.5, 25, or 50 mile bike ride!  
Facebook - Tour de Charleston - Illinois

### **MuseFest**

**Downtown Charleston Square**

Arts & Crafts Festival, Music, Food & Fun! Facebook - MuseFest

### **Corn Belt Shrine Club & Tractor Pull**

**Coles County Fairgrounds**

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

Enjoy the truck and tractor pull while raising money for a great cause. <http://www.itpapulling.com>

## **Farmers' Market On the Square** **Downtown Charleston Square**

Every Wednesday, 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., June thru October  
Support our local farmers and craftsmen selling home-grown produce, baked goods, hand-made items, plants & flowers.

## **July**

### **Red, White & Blue Days** **Morton Park**

A family festival with free concert with nationally known performers, parade, bell-ringing ceremony, children's games and all you can eat ice cream.  
[www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)

### **Annual East Central Illinois Antique Farm Equipment State Show**

**Coles County Fairgrounds**

All makes and models, restored or unrestored welcome. Garden tractor pull, threshing, kids' tractor pull, parade, antique pull, music and more. [www.terrydalefarms.com/show](http://www.terrydalefarms.com/show)

### **Coles County Fair**

**Coles County Fairgrounds**

Visit the oldest, continuous fair in Illinois. Seven full days of entertainment and excitement await you.  
[www.colescountyfair.com](http://www.colescountyfair.com)

## **August**

### **Bluegrass Jam**

**Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site**

Kick back and listen to this informal musical gathering of musicians from Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.  
[www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org)

## **September**

### **18th Street Fall Festival**

**18th Street, Charleston**

A celebration of fall with food/crafts, "kid-friendly" activities, live music, and shopping.  
Facebook - 18th Street Fall Festival

## **October**

### **Eastern Illinois University Homecoming**

Weekend events include an "all-you-can-eat" sunrise breakfast, EIU/Charleston 2.5k homecoming race, homecoming parade, EIU Panther football game.  
[www.eiu.edu](http://www.eiu.edu)

## **November**

### **Charleston Challenge 40 Mile Relay**

**Carl Sandburg School**

Spend the day running with friends on a scenic course that covers 40 miles of Coles County. Up to 4 runners per team or try the superman and go it alone!  
[www.charlestonchallengeduthlon.com](http://www.charlestonchallengeduthlon.com)

## **Embarras Valley Film Festival**

**EIU Campus and Charleston Public Library  
region.[www.evff.net](http://www.evff.net)**

Annual film festival honoring a person or theme relevant to East Central Illinois' Embarras Valley region.  
[www.eiu.edu/~evff](http://www.eiu.edu/~evff)

## **A Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer**

**Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site**

Thanksgiving traditions familiar to Illinois' Yankee settlers at the Stephen Sargent farm. [www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org)

## **December**

### **Christmas Candlelight Tours**

**Lincoln Log State Historic Site**

Christmas as celebrated on the prairie in the early 1800s on the Lincoln and Sargent Farms. [www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org)

### **Christmas in the Heart of Charleston**

**Courthouse Square**

Holiday Parade, carriage rides, live reindeer, refreshments, live window displays, entertainment, photos with Santa and much more.  
[www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)

Check out [www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org) for more events in our community!

# The Chamber

Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce

## Welcomes you to Charleston!

Visit us at

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

- Searchable Business Directory
- Community Calendar of Events
- Relocation Information
- Downloadable City & County Maps
- Mobile Phone App



[www.facebook.com/CharlestonAreaChamber](http://www.facebook.com/CharlestonAreaChamber)



[www.twitter.com/CACCIL](http://www.twitter.com/CACCIL)

# Arts & Entertainment



## Charleston Alley Theatre

718 Monroe Avenue  
217-345-2287 (CATS)

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

Located in the Historic Courthouse Square, a local theatre at its best, in an intimate setting, offering a wonderful mix of old and new drama.

## Doudna Fine Arts Center

EIU Campus, 7th St. and Hayes St.

College of Arts & Humanities

217-581-2917

[www.eiu.edu/~AHColleg](http://www.eiu.edu/~AHColleg)

The Doudna Fine Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University, is one of Charleston's architectural landmarks. Designed by internationally famous architect Antoine Predock, winner of the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in 2006 and the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum's Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Design in 2007, the Doudna stands at the center of EIU's campus. In addition to housing EIU's departments of Art, Music and Theater Arts, the Doudna boasts several public venues. The Theatre with 300 seats, the Black Box studio theater, the 600 seat Dvorak Concert Hall, the 180 seat Recital Hall, the 150 seat Lecture Hall and several corridor art galleries. Visitors welcome.



Get involved in the Arts! Charleston offers music, theater, & drama performances throughout the year.



## **EIU Symphony Orchestra & Musical Venues**

**Ticket Office**

**217-581-3010**

[www.eiu.edu/music/ensembles\\_eastern\\_symphony\\_orchestra.php](http://www.eiu.edu/music/ensembles_eastern_symphony_orchestra.php)

Mon. - Fri. from 8 am to 4:30 pm

The Department of Music proudly offers a wide variety of recitals and concerts year round in the 600 seat Dvorak Concert Hall.

## **EIU Theatre**

**Ticket Office**

**217-581-3110**

[www.eiu.edu/~theatre\\_theatix@eiu.edu](http://www.eiu.edu/~theatre_theatix@eiu.edu)

The theatre wing of Doudna Fine Arts Center will give EIU Theatre Arts students, faculty and patrons the best the contemporary theatre design can offer, including a 300 seat proscenium theatre, a 150 seat flexible black box and a 75 seat experimental theatre. Mon. - Fri. from 2 pm - 6 pm beginning the Monday prior to the opening night.

## **Tarble Arts Center**

**9th Street at Cleveland Ave.**

**Eastern Illinois University campus**

**217-581-ARTS (2787)**

[www.eiu.edu/~tarble](http://www.eiu.edu/~tarble)

Tarble Arts Center is open year round presenting art exhibitions, a gift shop, special events, performing arts, and educational programs. The permanent collection includes Illinois folk art and contemporary art. The Tarble is also the home for performances by the Charleston Community Theatre. Free admission to the galleries and events; admission fee for performances and classes. Call email, or go online for current exhibitions, events and hours. Closed Mondays and major holidays.



**(217) 345-7689**

**810 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Charleston, IL**

# Attractions



Charleston is rich in Lincoln history and has many beautiful historic homes and buildings. Spend your day strolling the historic downtown or visiting local attractions.



*Looking for Lincoln is a program designed to help visitors find the places in Central Illinois where Lincoln lived, worked and to learn about the people who helped to shape the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.*

**Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site**  
400 South Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna  
217-345-1845

[www.lincollogcabin.org](http://www.lincollogcabin.org)

Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site was the 1840's home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of our 16<sup>th</sup> president. The site includes a working, living historic farm developed around a two-room cabin. A second farmstead, the Stephen Sargent Farm, has been moved to the site to help broaden visitors' understanding of the 1840's rural life in Illinois. Both offer an array of interpretive programs. Call the site for a current calendar of events. Special group tours available by appointment. Donations accepted.  
Hours: Site: Wed. - Sun., 8:30 am - 5 pm, Year round  
Visitor Center: Wed. - Sun., 9 am to 5 pm, Year round  
Living History Program: Wed. - Sun., 9 am to 5 pm, May through October

## Moore Home State Historic Site

South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

South Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna  
217-345-1845

[www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org)

Located just one mile north of Lincoln Log Cabin, the Moore Home was the 1860's home of Abraham Lincoln's stepsister, Matilda Hall Moore and the location of President-elect Lincoln's last visit with his Coles County family on January 31, 1861. Donations accepted. Hours: Contact Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site for hours of operation.

## Thomas Lincoln Cemetery

South 4<sup>th</sup> Street off of South  
Lincoln Highway Rd. Lerna

217-345-1845

[www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org)

Many visit this cemetery to see the burial site of Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln. Free Admission  
Hours: Open daily from dawn until dusk.



# McGrady Inn

## Bed and Breakfast

**803 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Charleston, IL 61920**

**For Reservations, visit [www.mcgradyinn.com](http://www.mcgradyinn.com)**

**Or call (217) 348-8259**



The McGrady Inn is a 100-year-old historic church. It features a two-story atrium, wood beams, hardwood floors, stained glass, and floor-to-ceiling windows. This gorgeous getaway is located in the heart of Charleston, only blocks away from EIU campus and downtown. The McGrady Inn offers five spacious bedrooms with a private bathroom in each. Modern amenities include: flat screen TVs, Wi-Fi, and cable.

### **Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum**

**Coles County Fairgrounds, 416 West Madison Ave.**

**217-348-0430**

**[www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)**

Tour the only museum in Illinois retracing all the senatorial debates of 1858 between Abraham Lincoln and Stephan Douglas. The museum offers exhibits and interactive displays that tell the debates' story through film, audio selections, artifacts and photos. The museum also includes a children's hands-on area and a gift shop. Volunteers may be available at various times. Special group tours available by appointment. Donations accepted. Hours: Open year round, 9 am to 4 pm.

### **Old City Cemetery and Chambers Cemetery**

**Corner of Madison and 'E' Street**

**217-348-0430**

**[www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)**

Discover the graves of Charleston's earliest residents among which include Lincoln's extended family, local friends and victims of the 1864 Charleston Riot. The cemetery sits across the street from the Lincoln - Douglas Debate Museum. Hours : Open daily from dawn until dusk. Free Admission.

### **Downtown Square**

**7<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Ave.**

**217-348-0430**

Charleston's Downtown Square has been the site of the Coles County seat since 1835. As a young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln practiced law in a previous version of the courthouse. Today, the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque courthouse sits at the center of the square. Historic buildings display stunning architectural details and serve as home to current professional offices, unique shops and restaurants.

### **Charleston Riot Historic Marker Courthouse Square**

The Civil War spread to Charleston when a face-to-face encounter took place between southern sympathizers called "copperheads", Union soldiers and citizens who favored the Lincoln Administration. An artistic mural of the rendition can be seen one block west of the Historic Marker at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> street and Jackson Avenue.

### **Greenwood School Museum**

**800 Hayes Ave.**

**[www.coleshistory.net/GreenwoodSchool.htm](http://www.coleshistory.net/GreenwoodSchool.htm)**

This authentic one-room school house offers visitors a look at how education was taught from 1895-1945. Special group tours available by appointment. Free. Hours: Open by Appointment only.

### **Five Mile House**

**5 miles South of Charleston on Illinois Highway 130**

**217-348-0430**

**[www.fivemilehouse.org](http://www.fivemilehouse.org)**

Built around 1840 with a Civil War era kitchen addition, the restored and furnished house received its name because it sits exactly five miles south east of the Coles County Courthouse in Charleston. Open certain summer weekends, for special events and by appointment. Donations accepted.



## Eastern Illinois University

600 Lincoln Ave.

[www.eiu.edu](http://www.eiu.edu)

Eastern Illinois University, home to more than 12,000 students, is well known for its excellence in academics, the arts and athletics. Founded in 1895, the beautiful campus provides diverse architectural styles that reflect the university's history.

## Dudley House Museum

895 7<sup>th</sup> Street

217-345-2934

[www.coleshistory.net](http://www.coleshistory.net)

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this Queen Anne-style house illustrates the lives of an established and affluent family in a rural Midwestern town in the early twentieth century. Serving as home to the Coles County Historical Society, the Dudley House Museum contains the original woodwork and furnishing from the 1920s and 1940s. Free Admission. Hours: Open by appointment.



## Enhancing the Lives of Individuals with Disabilities

CCAR Industries is a nationally accredited, not-for-profit organization. We are dedicated to providing the highest quality, individualized services to program participants and their families in a safe and nurturing environment.

### PROVIDING:

Early Intervention  
24-Hour Residential Services  
Client & Family Support  
Developmental Training Services  
Adult Day Services

### VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Industrial Contracting  
Recycling Services  
Supported Employment  
Job Placement

1530 Lincoln Avenue | Charleston, IL 61920 | (217) 348-0127

[facebook.com/CCARIndustries](https://facebook.com/CCARIndustries)

[ccarindustries.org](http://ccarindustries.org)

*View our job openings at [ccarindustries.org/employment](http://ccarindustries.org/employment)*

# Banquet & Meeting Facilities

## Charleston Carnegie Public Library

712 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
217-345-4913  
[www.charlestonlibrary.org](http://www.charlestonlibrary.org)  
2 rooms, capacity 200



## Charleston Country Club

8355 Country Club Rd.  
217-345-9711  
[www.lincolngarden.net](http://www.lincolngarden.net)  
Main dining capacity 130, garden room 70

## Lincoln Garden Restaurant

703 W Lincoln Ave.  
217-345-5070  
[www.lincolngarden.net](http://www.lincolngarden.net)  
1 room, capacity 35

## MLK Jr. University Union

Eastern Illinois University  
7<sup>th</sup> and Grant St.  
217-581-3861  
[www.eiu.edu](http://www.eiu.edu)  
2 ballrooms, capacity 400 & 650, 12 rooms,  
capacity 60

## Panther Paw Bar & Grill

1412 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
217-345-7849  
[www.pantherpawbar.com](http://www.pantherpawbar.com)  
1 room, capacity 125

## WB's Pub-N-Grill

409 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
(217) 348-5147  
Facebook - Wbs Pubn Grub  
1 room, capacity 44

## Unique Suites Hotel/Brickhouse Restaurant

920 W. Lincoln Ave.  
217-348-8161  
[www.uniquesuiteshotel.com](http://www.uniquesuiteshotel.com)  
5 rooms, capacity 600

## Lodging & Camping

### Days Inn

810 Lincoln Ave.  
217-345-7689 - Toll free: 800-DAYSINN  
[www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com)  
50 Rooms

- 27" Television
- Refrigerator
- Coffee Maker
- Ironing Station
- Free Local Calls
- Pets allowed with Permission
- Restaurants within Walking Distance
- Offering EIU Specials & Senior Discounts
- Cable TV/HBO
- Microwave
- Hair Dryer
- Handicap Accessible
- Large Jacuzzi Suite
- Fax and Copy Services
- Free Wireless High-speed Internet Access
- Free Daybreak Continental Breakfast

### McGrady Inn

806 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-348-8259  
[www.McGradyInn.com](http://www.McGradyInn.com)  
4 Bedrooms with 1 two-story loft

### Loft Features

- 32" LCD Television
- Shower with Body Jets
- 1922 Clawfoot Bathtub
- Leather Queen Sleeper Couch

### All Rooms Offer

- Queen comfort-top bed
- Cable Television
- One Mile From Eastern Illinois University
- Large Private Bath
- Breakfast

## Unique Suites Hotel

920 West Lincoln Ave.

Charleston, IL 61920

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

Email: [info@uniquesuiteshotel.com](mailto:info@uniquesuiteshotel.com)

54 Newly Renovated Executive Rooms

2 Executive Master Suites

21 Standard Rooms

### Executive Rooms Feature

- 32" Flat Screen Television
- Refrigerator
- Work Station
- Microwave

### Amenities Include

- High Speed WIFI
- Hot & Cold Full Breakfast
- Cable Television
- Outdoor Heated Swimming Pool
- Refrigerator
- Brick House Bar and Grill
- Microwave
- Outdoor Fire Pit
- Coffee Maker
- Banquet & Meeting Rooms (Formal Seating For 300+)
- Ironing Station
- Fitness Room
- EIU Friends & Family & Group Discounts Available
- Guest Laundry
- Vending Room
- Ample Bus & Tractor Trailer Parking
- One Mile From Eastern Illinois University

*Brick House Bar & Grill on site serving Lunch, Dinner & Sunday Brunch. Find us on Facebook!*

## Campgrounds

### Fox Ridge State Park

18175 State Park Road.

8 Miles south of Charleston on IL Highway 130.

217-345-6416

[www.stateparks.com/fox\\_ridge.html](http://www.stateparks.com/fox_ridge.html)

Fox Ridge State Park offers 42 Camping Sites, Class "A", drinking water, grills, picnic areas, electricity and water available, shower building, dump station.

### Walnut Point State Park

2331 ECR 370N. 20 miles north of Charleston on Co Hwy 7.

217-346-3336

[www.stateparks.com/walnut\\_point.html](http://www.stateparks.com/walnut_point.html)

Walnut Point State Park offers 34 Class "A" camping sites with vehicle access and electric hookups, a shower building, sanitary dump station, drinking water, playground equipment and much more. Contact Park office for program & site availability.

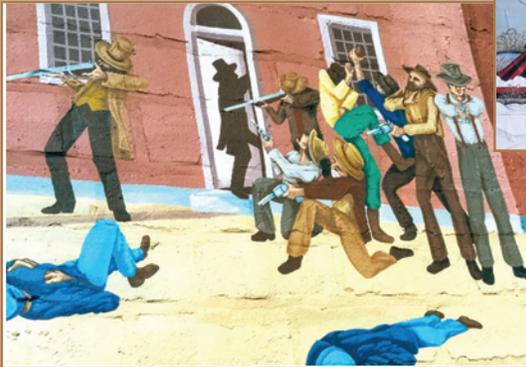


[www.rocsblackfront.com](http://www.rocsblackfront.com)

**ROC'S Baby Back Ribs**

410 6th Street • Off the Square in Charleston  
(217) 348-8018 • Open 7 Days a Week

# Murals Around The Square



Take a walking tour of the murals around the square. Visit all 7 murals at your own pace. Informational pamphlets are available at City Hall, 520 Jackson Avenue.

## 1920s Charleston Storefronts

by Glen C. Davies (Urbana, IL)

On Madison Ave. at 6<sup>th</sup> St.

The storefronts shown, taken from locations around the Charleston Square, are the Model Barber Shop (414 6<sup>th</sup> Street), Goodwin Brothers Grocery (307 6<sup>th</sup> Street), The Corner Confectionery (623 Monroe Avenue) and Alexander's Department Store (521 7<sup>th</sup> Street).

## Lincoln's Last Journey to Charleston

by Diann Graham (Charleston, IL)

On 5<sup>th</sup> St. at Monroe Ave.

Shortly before he left for Washington for his March 4, 1861 inauguration, Abraham Lincoln made a last journey to Charleston to bid farewell to his friends and family. He arrived on a freight train, there were no formalities to welcome president-elect Lincoln, and a witness recalled that he was unceremoniously dropped off "in the mud several hundred feet down the track" from the station.

## Coles County Courthouse and Charleston Square in 1912

by Mark Monken (Charleston, IL)

On Van Buren Ave. at 6<sup>th</sup> St.

This mural shows the Coles County Courthouse and Charleston Square as they appeared in 1912 when Charleston was a booming city. The Courthouse Square was the hub of the business district in Charleston in the early 1900s.

## Charleston Arts & Entertainment Mural

by Bernard Williams (Chicago, IL)  
708 Monroe Ave.

This montage of images is made up of noted Charleston artists, theatre and opera houses, architectural details and posters of events, all dating from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s. Featured are: Oscar-winning cinematographer Gregg Toland, famous for his work in 1939's *Wuthering Heights* and *Citizen Kane*; noted folk artist Jennie Cell; silent movie star Charles Clary, known for his role in *The Penalty* (1920); Brown County landscape painter Paul Turner Sargent; and the celebrated folk singer and actor, Burl Ives. All are Charleston natives except Ives, who attended Eastern Illinois University. There are also references to the historic Will Rogers movie theatre, the Lincoln Theatre, and the Coles County Fair. This mural was co-sponsored with the Tarble Arts Center (EIU), and funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, the Jaenike Access to the Arts Fund (EIU Foundation) and Tarble Arts Center membership contributions.

## The Second Coles County Courthouse, c. 1858 - 1898

by Rebecca Sawyer Spoon (Charleston, IL)  
(based on a pen-in-ink drawing by Jim Donahoo,  
Charleston, IL) 617 Madison Ave.

It was in this courthouse that a lawyer named Abraham Lincoln handled dozens of cases from the early 1840s to 1857, including the famous Matson Slave Trial of 1847. The second Coles County Courthouse sat in the center of the Courthouse Square where the present Coles County Courthouse now stands. Built in 1835, new wings were added beginning in 1858 that changed the building's appearance. In 1898, the courthouse was completely demolished, except for one cornerstone, and rebuilt as it appears today.

## Lincoln Saying Good-bye to Sarah Bush Lincoln

by Glen C. Davies (Urbana, IL)  
On 5<sup>th</sup> St. at Jackson Ave.

On January 31, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln bid farewell to his stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, at the Moore Home located south of Charleston. At their farewell, legend has it that Sarah had a premonition – this would be the last time she would see her beloved stepson. On Lincoln's death, she is quoted as saying: ***"I knowed they'd kill him. I ben awaiting fur it."*** The Moore Home, now a State Historic Site, is located seven miles south of Charleston on Lincoln Highway Road (South 4<sup>th</sup> Street).

## The Charleston Riot of 1864

Rebecca Sawyer Spoon (Charleston, IL)  
520 Jackson Ave.

On March 28, 1864, a gunfight erupted on the Charleston Square between Union soldiers and Civil War opponents known as "Copperheads" – pro-southern Democrats. A large crowd had gathered for a Democratic rally and Union soldiers were in town on leave. Fighting broke out between the groups. Nine men were killed and twelve wounded before troops arrived from Mattoon to quell the riot. Hostilities between pro-Union Republicans and Copperheads was not new to eastern Illinois – prior to the Charleston Riot, Copperheads had been killed in Mattoon and Paris. The Copperheads, convicted in the subsequent trial, were later pardoned by Lincoln.



# Outdoor Recreation



Charleston offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Enjoy swimming, hiking, fishing, golfing, and racing all just minutes away!

## **Fox Ridge State Park**

18175 State Park Road. 8 Miles south of Charleston on IL Highway 130.

217-345-6416

[www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)

With miles of rugged, scenic hiking trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, fishing, hunting and camping, Fox Ridge State Park is the perfect place to get back to nature. Hours: Daily, April 1- September 30 from 7:30 am to 10 pm; October 1 - March 31 from 7:30 am to 5 pm.

## **Lake Charleston**

1 Mile south of Charleston on IL Highway 130

217-345-6897

Covering 440 acres, Lake Charleston has a fishing pier and gazebo, dock and boating. No wake entire reservoir. Nearly 10 miles of hiking/biking trails. Map on [charlestonillinois.org](http://charlestonillinois.org). Hours: Open daily, 6 am to 10 pm

## **Lincoln Prairie Grass Trail**

5<sup>th</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue.

217-345-6897

Whether you want to quietly pedal or jog briskly, the Lincoln Prairie Grass Trail is an excellent place to experience sights between Mattoon and Charleston. With 2 miles of paved surface and 10 miles of aggregate surface, jogging, walking, equestrian riding and biking permitted. Hours: Open daily, dawn to dusk.

## Charleston Parks and Recreation Department

520 Jackson Avenue  
217-345-6897

[www.charlestonillinois.org](http://www.charlestonillinois.org)

Fifteen parks offer a variety of recreational areas and activities including swimming, tennis, skateboarding, playground, picnic shelters, amphitheater, ball-fields and walking trails. Parks are open during daylight hours.

## Rotary Community Aquatic Center

920 17<sup>th</sup> street.  
217-345-3233

[www.charlestonillinois.org](http://www.charlestonillinois.org)

With an Olympic size pool, zero-entry pool with large splash toys, a 121-foot waterslide, diving boards, large umbrellas, deck chairs and concessions, there is fun in the sun for everyone! Hours: Daily Memorial Day - Mid-August. Subject to Change - Weather Permitting.



## Bent Tree Golf Course

South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln Highway Road.  
217-348-1611

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

Public 18 hole golf course. Carts available.

## Charleston Driving Range

South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 4253 Lincoln Highway Road  
217-348-1883

## Charleston Speedway

3 miles east of Charleston on IL Highway 16  
217-345-2929

[www.charlestonspeedway.net/news.php](http://www.charlestonspeedway.net/news.php)

Dirt bank track.

## Coles County Dragway USA

217-345-7777

3 miles west of Charleston on IL Highway 316

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

One-eighth mile drag strip. 2007 Summit Racing Series Track of the Year.

## Coles County Modified Midget Racing

5 Miles west of Charleston on IL Highway 316  
217-348-8035

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

Coles County Speedway is one of the oldest dirt track facilities in the mid west. Constructed and operated by the Coles County Modified Midget Racing Association, the track opened for racing in 1956. The track features a challenging 1/8th mile dirt/clay oval which produces two, three wide racing.

## WB's PUB-N-GRUB, INC.

Owners - Debbie & Duane Fuller



217.348.5147

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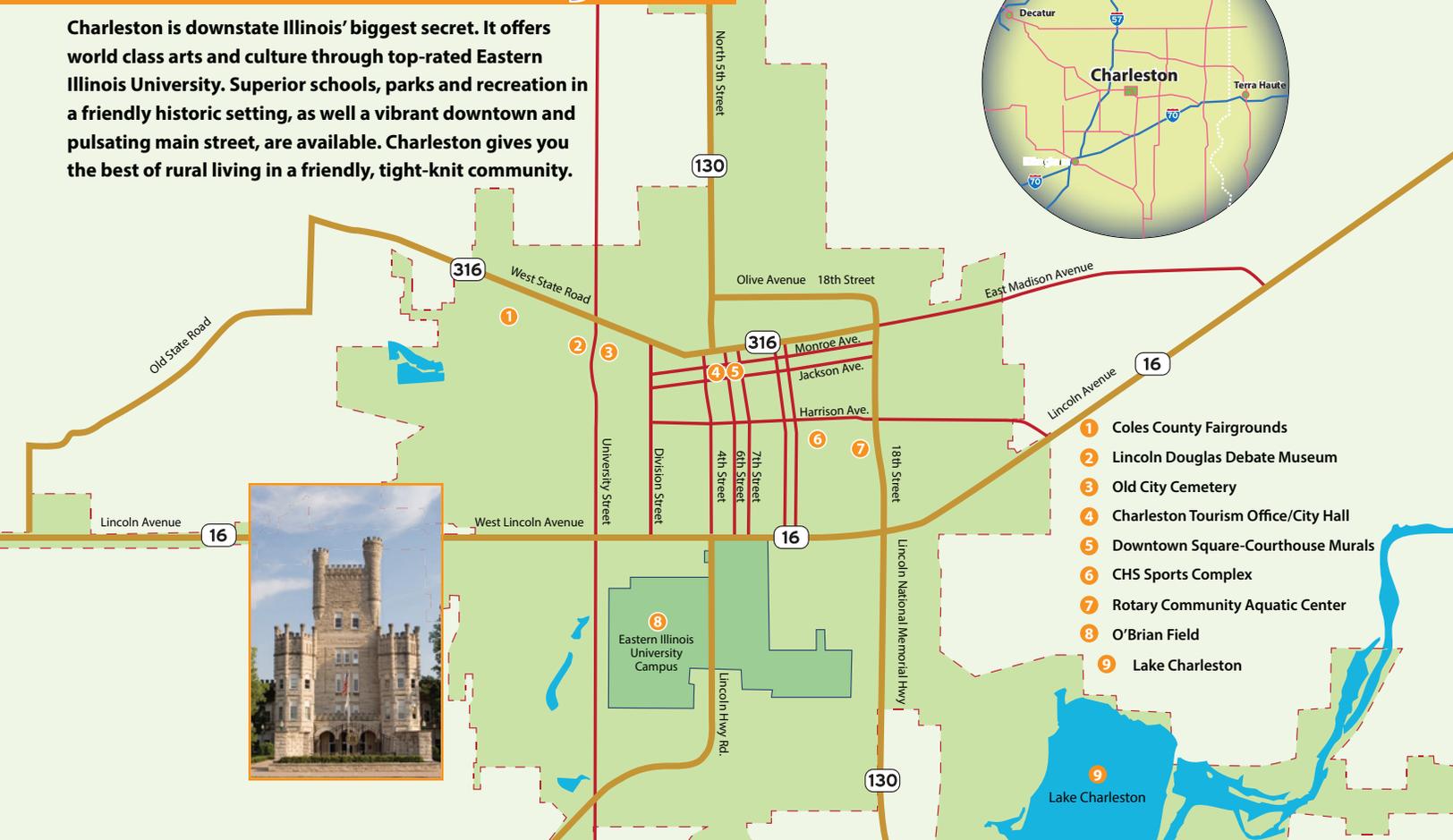
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- 1 Coles County Fairgrounds
- 2 Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum
- 3 Old City Cemetery
- 4 Charleston Tourism Office/City Hall
- 5 Downtown Square-Courthouse Murals
- 6 CHS Sports Complex
- 7 Rotary Community Aquatic Center
- 8 O'Brian Field
- 9 Lake Charleston

# CHARLESTON

HOME OF EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## Charleston Tourism Office

520 Jackson Avenue  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-348-0430

[www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)  
[tourism@co.coles.il.us](mailto:tourism@co.coles.il.us)



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Interstate 57, Charleston is  
centrally located about two  
hours west of Indianapolis  
and three hours south of  
Chicago

