

Powell Press Building -  
oldest commercial structure  
on Peoria's Riverfront  
40.68982° N, 89.58689° W



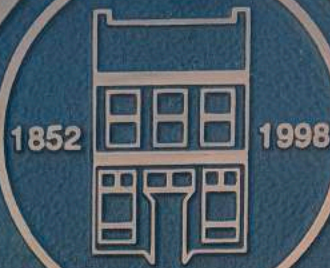
## PEORIA ON THE RIVERFRONT

THE ILLINOIS RIVER IS THE MAJOR WATERWAY  
WITHIN ILLINOIS BOUNDARIES. NATIVE  
AMERICANS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE LIVED  
ALONG ITS BANKS FOR 11,000 YEARS.

- 1673 ALONG THIS RIVERFRONT FRENCHMEN  
MARQUETTE AND JOLLIET ENCOUNTERED THE  
PEORIA TRIBE OF THE ILLINIWEK INDIANS.
- 1680 LASALLE CONSTRUCTED THE ILL-FATED FORT  
CREVE COEUR ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER.
- 1691 FORT ST. LOUIS WAS ESTABLISHED ON PEORIA'S  
NORTHSIDE BY HENRI DE TONTI AND A PARTY OF  
FRENCH MARINES. THIS SMALL VILLAGE WAS THE  
FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN THE ILLINOIS  
TERRITORY AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL 1796.
- 1778 ON THIS SITE FRENCH-SPEAKING INHABITANTS  
BUILT A NEW VILLAGE (LA VILLE de MAILLET).  
THIS VILLAGE EXTENDED SEVERAL BLOCKS  
DOWNSTREAM AND BECAME A FUR TRADING  
CENTER
- 1812 AMERICAN TERRITORIAL MILITIA BURNED LA VILLE  
de MAILLET, ENDING THE FRENCH INFLUENCE IN  
PEORIA HISTORY.



Powell Press Building -  
oldest commercial structure  
on Peoria's Riverfront  
40.68982° N, 89.58689° W



# PEORIA

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMERICAN CITY

- 1813 AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES CONSTRUCTED FORT CLARK ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF THIS SITE.
- 1819 FIRST AMERICAN SETTLERS ARRIVED IN PEORIA.
- 1829 STEAMBOATS FIRST DOCKED HERE AT THE LEVEE.
- 1845 THE CITY OF PEORIA BECAME INCORPORATED.
- 1854 RAILROAD FACILITIES ALLOWED RAPID GROWTH OF GOODS AND SERVICES.
- MID 1800s STRONG INDUSTRIES AROSE IN PEORIA - FOUNDRIES, PORK PACKING, FARM IMPLEMENTS, BREWERIES, DISTILLERIES, WHOLESALE WAREHOUSING, STOCKYARDS AND POTTERY MAKING.
- 1860s DISTILLERIES AND BREWERIES GENERATED MAJOR TAX REVENUES TO HELP FINANCE THE CIVIL WAR.
- LATE 1800s DISTILLERY ROW EXTENDED ALONG THE RIVERFRONT. PEORIA BECAME KNOWN AS THE "WHISKEY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD."
- 1909 HOLT CO. OF CALIFORNIA, LATER CATERPILLAR, BEGAN LOCAL OPERATIONS.
- 1910 CATERPILLAR BEGAN OPERATIONS.
- 1920 PROHIBITION ENDED PEORIA'S WHISKEY ERA.
- 1925 BEST AND HOLT COMPANIES MERGED TO FORM CATERPILLAR. PEORIA LATER BECAME KNOWN AS "THE EARTHMOVING CAPITOL OF THE WORLD."
- LATE 1990s COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND THE ARTS THRIVE IN PEORIA.



Civil War Encampment Site  
40.71518° N, 89.57747° W

THIS TABLET MARKS THE SITE OF CAMP LYON,  
WHERE THE FOLLOWING ILLINOIS REGIMENTS  
OF VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
WERE ENCAMPTED FROM MAY 1861 TO JUNE 1864.  
UPON IT ARE INSCRIBED THE DATES OF ENCAM-  
PMENT AND NAMES OF THE COLONELS OF THE  
REGIMENTS:

17<sup>th</sup> INFT. MAY 24, 1861.  
COLS L. E. ROSS, A. S. NORTON.

PEORIA BATTERY, MAY 26, 1861.  
CAPTS P. DAVIDSON, H. BORNIES, W. W. CAMPBELL.

47<sup>th</sup> INFT. AUG. 16, 1861.  
COLS J. BRYNER, W. A. THRUSH,  
J. H. CROWTHER, J. D. MACTURE.

86<sup>th</sup> INFT. AUG. 27, 1862.  
COLS D. D. IRONS, A. L. BARNSTOCK.

11<sup>th</sup> CAV. DEC. 20, 1861.  
COLS R. G. INCERSOLL, L. W. KERR, O. PINK.

112<sup>th</sup> INFT. SEPT. 1862. COL. W. J. HENDERSON.

14<sup>th</sup> CAV. DEC. 1862.  
COLS H. CAPRON, F. M. DAVIDSON.

139<sup>th</sup> INFT. JUNE 1, 1864. COL. P. DAVIDSON.

ERECTED BY GEORGE A. WILSON CIRCLE,  
MEMBERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,  
PEORIA, ILL. 1897.





John C. Flanagan House  
Built in 1837  
Oldest standing house in Peoria  
942 NE Glen Oak Ave  
Peoria, IL 61603



THE PEORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS  
ORGANIZED 1934





Charles Feltman House  
401 W Armstrong Ave  
Peoria, IL 61604

#### THE PEORIA GRAIN TRADE

Early Peoria commercial enterprises were established on a broad agricultural base. Distilling, cattle marketing, leather processing, and farm machinery manufacturing in turn rose to prominence.

Until the availability of low cost transportation, the use of grain in Peoria had been limited largely to domestic consumption. In 1847, the canal connecting Lake Michigan to the Illinois River was opened; seven years later, a spur connected Peoria to the main line of the Rock Island Railroad at Bureau Junction. First by water and then by rail, large quantities of grain were shipped to the hungry east and north.

In 1870, just five years after the Civil War, eight flour mills processed 13,000 bushels of wheat daily. With the opening of the new Fort Clark Elevator, storage capacity surpassed 175,000 bushels. By 1880, five elevators with a combined capacity of over 1,100,000 bushels could process 450 carloads of grain per day. More than 20,000,000 bushels of grain were passing through the Peoria market each year on eleven railroads.

The distilling business, an "off-shoot" industry born out of the need to use surplus grain, soon mushroomed into Peoria's largest industry. Between 1900 and 1919, Peoria became the largest distilling center in the world.

#### THE CHARLES H. FELTMAN HOUSE

In the twenty years following the Civil War, the population of Peoria had grown from 18,000 to 35,000. By this time, because few undeveloped sites remained along the bluff itself, comfortable houses were rising on recently surveyed streets threading across the prairie to the north and west.

Charles Feltman, a prominent grain trader, one-time president of Peoria Board of Trade, and the man primarily responsible for organizing the Peoria County Farm Bureau, built this large frame residence about 1884. Simpler in style than some other Victorian houses of the time, this house nevertheless reflects both basic elements and details of the Victorian pattern. Heavy wood casings surround the windows; an eclectic facade, broken at the roof by multiple peaks and gables, is dominated by a large porch, the roof of which rests on wood columns topped with remarkable Corinthian style capitals carved from wood.

This house was occupied by two generations of the Feltman family over a span of some 90 years until the house and furnishings were purchased by the W. Paul Buchanan family in the 1970's. While the neighborhood has undergone considerable transition, this structure, now maintained in nearly original condition, remains an excellent example of a large Victorian residence of a prominent business family of that day.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS



LANDMARK FOUNDATION