

Fine examples of a variety of architectural styles can also be found within the Upper Bluff National Register Historic District, and East Side National Register Historic District. Both districts are in close proximity to the city center. Information on these can be found at the Visitors Center.



In Memoriam



Christ Episcopal Church (1887-2006)

JOLIET HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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JOLIET HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY CENTER ARCHITECTURAL TOUR



WELCOME TO THE JOLIET CITY CENTER

The Joliet City Center Architectural Tour will introduce you to a variety of architectural styles and building types found in downtown Joliet.

The tour is designed to begin at the Joliet History Museum (located at 204 N. Ottawa Street) and will take you through the heart of the city center, ending at the History Museum.

If time allows, the tour brochure suggests additional sites, numbered 20 through 24, that are located just outside the area highlighted by the map and are indicated by directional arrows.

We hope you enjoy the tour!



22. Joliet Steel Works Building

This structure marks the industry that earned Joliet its nickname: “City of Steel.” The Joliet Steel Company built this two-story limestone building in 1891. The large, rusticated, Syrian entry arch is characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque style while the symmetrical façade and pedimented roof with classical detailing bears strong influences of the Neoclassical Revival style. The Joliet Steel Company eventually came under the umbrella of the U.S. Steel Corporation. The building has largely sat vacant since the 1980s.



927 N. Collins St.

23. Joliet Correctional Center

Construction started on this notorious national landmark in 1857. Built with Joliet limestone, quarried simultaneously with its construction, this complex housed inmates until 2001 when it officially closed. One large building features a cell house in panoptical configuration. The federal penitentiary has garnered national attention through notorious inmates as well as movies like Blues Brothers. It was most recently the setting for the TV drama Prison Break.



1125 N. Collins St.

24. Joliet Central High School

A community landmark, Joliet Central High School is a 4-story, Collegiate Gothic Revival style structure that was built of Joliet limestone in 1901. F.S. Allen designed the first section of the main school building, which now spans two entire city blocks. Unique interior features, which date to the early 20th century, include marble stairs and floors, an observatory, and the largest indoor auditorium and gymnasium in the city.



201 E. Jefferson St.



Ottawa & Clinton

19. St. Mary's Catholic Church

St. Mary's (Carmelite) Church is a Gothic Revival style, circa 1882, Joliet limestone structure that is set on a raised foundation, which houses the parish hall. The Church has a traditional 3-part Gothic façade, with a central tower/spire rising to a height of over 200 feet. The structure has limestone buttressing on the building corners and between all windows. The interior has a high, central nave with Gothic vaulting and side aisles carried on posts of clustered collinettes. A large stained glass skylight, portraying a white dove, is located in the apse of the church.



416 N. Chicago St.

20. St. Joseph Catholic Church

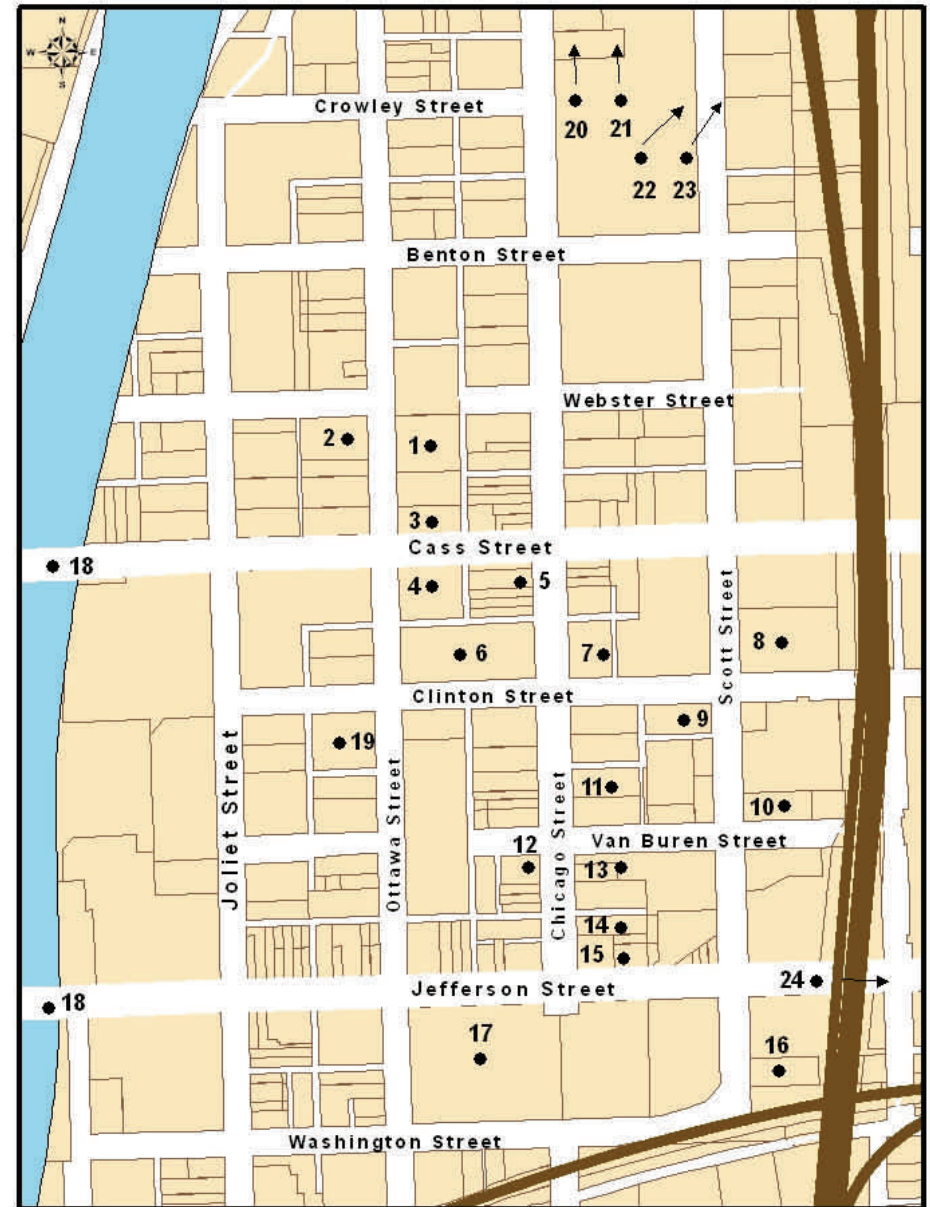
St. Joseph's parish, which has historically been associated with the city's Slovenian population, was established in 1891. The current church, was built out of Indiana Bedford limestone in the Romanesque Revival style in 1905. William Brinkman served as architect and Adam Groth as contractor. The front façade is dominated by twin spires that rise 152 feet high and a large rose-shaped stained glass window. Exterior features also include Romanesque arched windows and entrances as well as 16 carat gold crosses topping the twin spires.



501 N. Chicago St.

21. Original Dairy Queen

The famous ice cream franchise opened their first store in this 1906, two-story, brick commercial building at 501 North Chicago Street in 1940. From 1941 to 1955 the ice cream company grew from 10 to 2,600 stores. It is now a international ice cream and grill operation, providing millions with "cool treats."





214 N. Ottawa St.

1. Renaissance Center

The circa 1924, cement stucco Art Deco/Spanish Revival style structure was designed by D.H. Burnham Co., who won a design competition sponsored by the local chamber of commerce for the site. The simple, planar, stucco façade is accented with Spanish and Renaissance Revival motifs. The Spanish influence is seen in the open arcade at the front entry and the sheltered portico. The original structure featured a large, central open courtyard with skylight.

2. Central City YMCA

Designed by D. H. Burnham Co., the 1927 building is a 5-story Neoclassical Revival style structure. The main entrance is surrounded by ornamental limestone trim, including pairs of engaged columns and a stone arch capped with a stone pediment. An arch topped plate glass transom is located above the entry door, which is shielded by an original ornamental wrought iron grille. The Women's Addition was constructed in 1949.



215 N. Ottawa St.

3. Ottawa Street Methodist Church

The Neoclassical Revival style structure was designed by Julian Barnes based on the Renaissance Triumphal Arch motif. The structure was built in 1909 as the third location of the United Methodist Church in Joliet. The congregation merged with another congregation in 2003. The congregation sold the structure to the City of Joliet in 1993. The city renovated it into a historical museum from 1996-2003. It is now known as the Joliet Area Historical Museum.



204 N. Ottawa St.



50 E. Jefferson St.

16. Union Station

Built in 1912 by the Adam Groth Company, Union Station was designed by highly regarded architect Jarvis Hunt. The Bedford stone structure exhibits an imposing façade with grand arches, keystones, stone balustrades and cornice. Interior features include marble stairs and floors. The station was built as part of a major public works project. At the time of completion, Joliet was a major railroad hub, with 200 trains per day passing by Union Station.



14 W. Jefferson St.

17. Will County Courthouse

Completed in 1969, the Will County Courthouse, embodies the distinctive characteristics of modernist design. Concrete braces that extend upwards from the ground floor actually support the top 3 floors of this weighty building. The smooth concrete facade lacks architectural embellishments emphasizing geometric shape over any traditional style. Finally, the differing window patterns were meant to visually symbolize the specialized interior functions of each floor.

Jefferson, Cass, Jackson,
& Ruby Streets

18. Iron Bridges

The Army Corps of Engineers began dredging the Des Plaines River for a new shipping canal in the early 1930s, and these five green iron truss bridges were erected in 1932 to ensure the smooth facilitation of barge, auto, and pedestrian traffic down and across the river. Residential, commercial, and industrial development occurred on both sides of the river early on, so these bridges were vital to maintaining connections within the city. It is an engineering marvel to watch these bridges open and close.



78 N. Chicago St.

13. First National Bank of Joliet

Built in 1919, the Neoclassical Revival style structure was designed by architects Mundie & Jensen. The structure incorporates a massive colonnade with fluted columns, Corinthian capitals and dentillated moldings. The architect utilized Indiana Bedford limestone to accommodate the generous detailing as seen in the roof balustrade, decorative friezes and dentillated moldings.



66 N. Chicago St.

14. Barber Building

A Joliet limestone, five-story, Richardsonian Romanesque style structure designed by Joliet architect F.S. Allen in 1887. The structure exhibits rusticated stone façade and characteristic Romanesque massing of arches and piers. A circa 1914 building renovation by D.H. Burnham Co. included the installation of an elevator. Architect F.S. Allen's office was located in this building.



Chicago & Jefferson Sts.

15. Morris / Woodruff Building

The Morris / Woodruff Building is a seven-story, Bedford stone, Gothic style, mixed-use commercial/office building built circa 1919. The noted Chicago architect William LeBaron Jenny designed the structure. It exhibits vertical and horizontal organization of facades by piers and spandrels. Gothic influences include arched, decorative windows with intricate detailing, and decorative cornices and moldings.



170 N. Ottawa St.

4. Public Service Building

Noted architect H.V. Van Holst designed the 1930 Art Deco style structure with Bedford limestone exterior resting on a granite base. The Art Deco style is exemplified in the building massing and the cut glass, metalwork reliefs and decorative "turtle glass" light fixtures. The simple, smooth facades provide a background for highly detailed incised and relief ornament.



22 W. Cass St.

5. L.F. Beach / Goldblatt's / Klines

A circa 1918, four-story, brick and Bedford limestone structure designed by D.H. Burnham and Co. The original blueprints indicate that the building was supposed to be more elaborate and less streamlined than what was built. The structure was first housed the L.F. Beach Department store, followed by Goldblatt's, and finally Kline's. The building remained a department store until the mid-1980s. Presently, it houses a nightclub and upper-level offices.



150 N. Ottawa St.

6. Joliet Public Library

The Gothic and English Tudor style structure was designed by D.H. Burnham Co. and built in 1903 of Bedford and Joliet limestone. The structure has decorative stone quoins, coursings and copings. After a fire damaged the building in the late 1980s, the library built a large addition on its eastern half. The original wall was left exposed and can be viewed on the second floor of the library.



150 N. Chicago St.

7. Auditorium Building

A four-story, multi-use Joliet limestone structure designed by Joliet architect Julian Barnes in 1891. The structure exhibits Richardsonian Romanesque influences with its pattern of arches organized into horizontal bands on the facade. In addition, the structure has Joliet limestone and granite columns, a corner tower and a massive arched entry. The structure is an unusual example of a church design, due to the inclusion of street-level commercial storefronts and upper-level auditorium and office space.

8. U.S. Post Office



51 E. Clinton St.

Federal post office architect James Knox Taylor designed the two-story, sandstone, Neoclassical Revival style structure in 1903. The building exhibits classical influences with its massive, fluted, Ionic columns and by its cornice, dentils, and detailing on the symmetrical facades. An elaborate cartouche is located above the entrance. Stone balustrades located along the parapet reflect Baroque influences.

9. Louis Joliet Hotel



22 E. Clinton St.

Built in 1927, the structure is an eight-story, red-brick, Bedford stone and terra cotta, Renaissance Revival style hotel designed by architect Noyes Roach. The structure exhibits the characteristic use of varied Classical pediments, simple ornamentation and rhythmic fenestration. The structure was the finest hotel in Joliet and was known throughout the region for its elegance and luxury. The building has been recently renovated into apartments with first floor commercial space.



100 N. Scott St.

10. St. Anthony's Church

Originally the First Baptist Church, St. Anthony's is Joliet's oldest church structure, built in 1858. The church was altered in 1902 when purchased by St. Anthony's parishioners. Around 1918, a steeple with a pinnacle cross was added to the three-story tower; and in 1980, the stucco façade was covered with a red brick façade. This church has historically been associated with the Joliet's Italian population.



102 N. Chicago St.

11. Rialto Square Theatre

Heralded as one of the "most beautiful theatres in the nation," the Rialto Square Theatre opened in 1926 as a vaudeville movie palace to replace the Crystal Stairs theatre, which had burned in 1918. Designed by noted architects Rapp & Rapp, the theatre features a floating balcony and gold-infused, multi-story arch over the front entry.



81 N. Chicago St.

12. Crystal Square/D'Arcy Building

The circa 1918, 4-story, white terra cotta office building replaced the Crystal Stairs Theatre, which was destroyed by fire in 1918. The building exhibits "Chicago School" influences in the window design and placement. It is adorned with incised and relief ornament including Gothic eagles, Classical acanthus leaf cornice, decorative moldings and spandrels.