

Pontiac, IL

The city of Pontiac, Illinois is rich with history, architecture, and tourist attractions. Founded by George Fell in 1837, the town was named in honor of Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa Indians. Chief Pontiac was greatly admired by both white settlers and Native Americans for his leadership skills – particularly in uniting tribes in times of war.

Much of the town's Neo-classical style architecture has been preserved over time and is apparent in buildings like the courthouse, situated in the center of the city only minutes away from the Pontiac Amtrak station. Most tourist attractions in Pontiac are found alongside the historic Route 66 highway. Route 66, also known as “the Mother Road,” was established in 1926 and provided a direct route from Chicago to Los Angeles, with lodging, diners and novel diversions all along the way. From the train you can see old Route 66 and some of its tourist attractions. Nearby attractions include the Old Log Cabin Café, the Route 66 Museum and Hall of Fame, and the Livingston County War Museum.

The town of Pontiac, Illinois is constantly finding ways to preserve and restore historic landmarks, including current efforts to preserve a sign for Meramec Caverns. Meramec Caverns was one of the most well-known of the Route 66 stops, made famous by owner Lester B. Dill. Mr. Dill is credited with the invention of bumper stickers, used to entice people to his business for an underground tour and souvenirs. The next time you see a bumper sticker, remember that you've had the privilege to travel through the place where this popular advertising technique started.

Today, Pontiac and the cities along old U.S. Route 66 draw tourists from around the world to travel back in time and experience the attractions of the historic “Mother Road.”

Source(s):

City of Pontiac. (2010). Retrieved November 8, 2010 from <http://www.pontiac.org/> .

Pontiac, Illinois Tourism Bureau. (2010). Retrieved from <http://visitpontiac.org/webpages/index.php?art=238> .\

Route 66 Association of Illinois. (n.d.). Pontiac Scores Another Museum! Retrieved from <http://www.il66assoc.org/>.

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