

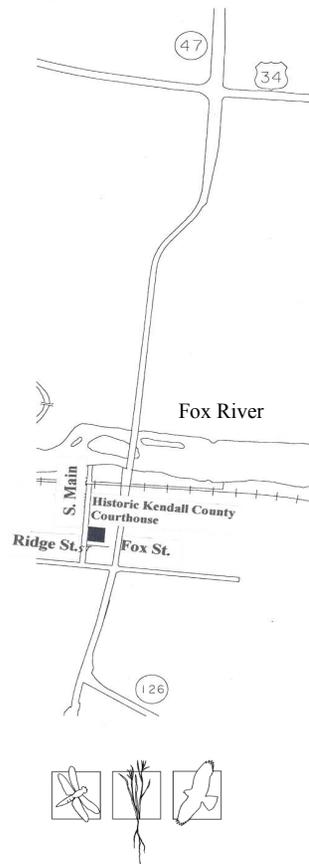
History

From its location high upon the hill the Victorian Italianate structure towers proudly over the Fox River and the City of Yorkville. This impressive building opened its doors on June 16, 1864. Early in its history, the courthouse caught fire on March 25, 1887 and when the smoke cleared all that was left standing of the beautiful building was the brick and limestone frame. The safe in the treasure's office also survived the fire and every penny of the County's money was spared. The building was rebuilt, but many changes from the original design have occurred over the years. In 1958, the wings on the east and west sides were built and the upstairs courtroom. The last renovation, completed in 2001, brought back many of the original features. The stellar courtroom on the top floor reflects the effort to recreate the initial beauty of the building. After a period of over 100 years, the design of the original cupola once again sits atop the roof. The main large north window has also been restored to its original design. The building once again is alive with activity and continues to add to its legacy.



Directions

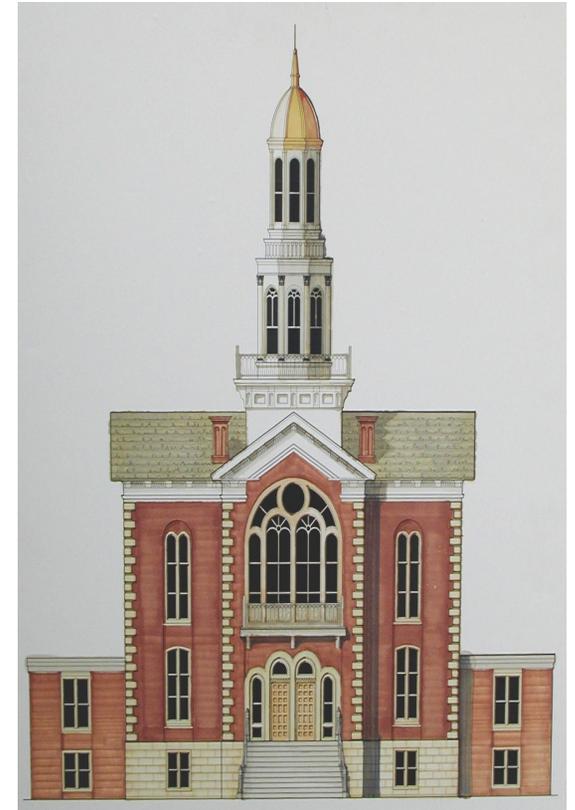
The Historic Courthouse is located just west of Route 47. It can be reached by turning west off of Route 47 onto Fox Street and then north onto Main Street.



Kendall County Forest Preserve District
110 West Madison Street
Yorkville, IL 60560

General Information (630) 553-4025
Laws of Nature (630) 553-4111
Forest Preserve Director (630) 553-4131
Fax: 630 553-4023

Kendall County Historic Courthouse



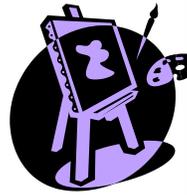
Old Foundations
Support New
Beginnings

Visitor's Guide



Laws of Nature

Featured in the Historic Courthouse is the Laws of Nature Center. Visit a variety of unique and fascinating exhibits focusing on the natural resources of Kendall County. Exhibits are designed to delight visitors of all ages. Insects, prairies, Native Americans, and a library area are a few of the stations you can stop at and explore. Living exhibits, such as our working beehive bring our visitors into the real experience of seeing nature at work. We encourage people to get involved with our hands-on exhibits and to explore our activity carts. Group tours are available with advanced registration. For information on school, group or special needs programs, please call (630) 553-4111.



Olde Courthouse Gallery

Featured in the Kendall County Historic Courthouse is the Olde Courthouse Gallery. The Gallery is designed to give local artists a chance to exhibit their talents and to give visitors a chance to buy an exceptional piece of original work at a moderate price. Even if your not interested in buying, it is worth the trip to see over 50 pieces of artwork displaying all types of mediums.

Enjoy photographs, watercolors, pastels and many other types of fine works of art from talented local artists. Exhibits change periodically throughout the year.



Rooms for Rent

The **Historic Courtroom** can be utilized for functions such as presentations, plays, and weddings. The setting of the original courtroom has been restored to its historic condition making it the jewel of the Courthouse. Many of the items that grace the courtroom are original pieces of history that were located in the room during its life. A reception room and a unisex restroom are located adjacent to the courtroom. Food and drink are not allowed in the Historic Courtroom. An elevator and stairway serve the Historic Courtroom on the second floor.

Capacity is 130 wooden seats, fixed in place.

The **East Wing Conference Room** is a versatile room that can accommodate meetings, presentations, and other gatherings. This room is located on the main floor and is adjacent to the kitchen, which is equipped with a refrigerator and a sink. Capacity is 70, chairs and tables are provided. Fees vary according to the room and amount of time needed. For more information, contact **the Kendall County Forest Preserve District at (630) 553-4025 or kcforest@co.kendall.il.us**



Located throughout the Courthouse are many objects of historical significance to the county. Take time to stroll the halls to find these pieces of history.

