Welcome to the Illinois State Capitol

Monuments and statues...are the open books of civilization...made to perpetuate the memories of those who have been true and faithful in the battle of life.

—Judge Henry S. Baker at the dedication of the Pierre Menard statue

Illinois State Capitol Sculptures: A Walking Tour

Jesse White • Illinois Secretary of State

“Monuments and statues...are the open books of civilization...made to perpetuate the memories of those who have been true and faithful in the battle of life.”

—Judge Henry S. Baker at the dedication of the Pierre Menard statue

Welcome to the Illinois State Capitol

Begin your tour at the Sundial at the north entrance.
Welcome to the Illinois State Capitol

Begin your tour at the Sundial at the north entrance of the Capitol and work your way clockwise.

I am pleased to present this brochure about the statues and monuments located on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol Complex.

We can take great pride in our State Capitol and the grounds surrounding it. The statues and monuments described in the inside of this brochure add beauty and dignity to the area while providing a glimpse of those individuals who have helped shape Illinois’ rich history.

I hope you find your walking tour of the Capitol grounds both interesting and educational.

Jesse White
Secretary of State
Sundial


Pierre Menard

The 8-foot bronze statue of Menard's "contraction" was dedicated on April 28, 1977, with about 800 people in attendance. The statue and dedication date were added on Dec. 7, 1981. Sculptor: John R. Maloney, 1986

Illinois Workers Memorial

The 300-pound bronze statue of a 26-year-old Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was moved to its current location. Then Secretary of State Jim Edgar said King "hoped he would be remembered as the original bell in Philadelphia and the famous Liberty Bell. Abandoned at the Illinois State Treasury Department. Abandoned at the Illinois State Fairgrounds for 25 years, the 2,000-pound bell was resurrected in 1976 and toured every county as part of the Illinois Centennial. The 10-foot, 6-inch bronze statue of Illinois' first Lieutenant Governor was the first to be placed on the Capitol lawn of any state. The dedication took place on Oct. 5, 1918, for the centennial of the Illinois State Fair. The bronze sundial was donated by the Daughters of Illinois Veterans of the Civil War (AMVets) and dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic on Oct. 6, 1914. The Illinois State Band played for the dedication. The monument was dedicated in conjunction with the AMVets' 50th annual convention and the 74th GIBG Encampment.

The 3-foot wall. The monument was built through public donations. Each May, on National Police Officers Memorial Day, a ceremony is held to honor Illinois police officers recently killed in the line of duty. The 13-foot monument has a pedestal and a female police officer, was dedicated on Oct. 29, 1995, to honor current and former Illinois police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The statue was moved to its current location just north of the Illinois State Capitol at 1st and Capitol Ave. The monument was dedicated in conjunction with the Illinois 150th anniversary celebration.

Illinois Firefighters Memorial

On May 13, 1999, a monument was erected in memory of "the firefighters of Illinois who have given their lives in service and support the Constitution of the United States." Four life-size, bronze firefighting figures and a rescued child on a 14-foot-tall stone cairn are added to the original 643 officers engraved on the Illinois Firefighters Memorial. It is part of the Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day. Sculptor: Neil Brooks, 1999

Illinois Police Officers Memorial

The memorial, with its three bronze figures of a male and a female police officer, was dedicated on Oct. 29, 1995, to honor current and former Illinois police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The 3-foot monument has a pedestal and a female police officer, was dedicated on Oct. 29, 1995, to honor current and former Illinois police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The monument was dedicated in conjunction with the Illinois 150th anniversary celebration.

Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day

The monument depicts the three sites of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks was erected on Sept. 11, 2002, in memory of "the firefighters of Illinois who have given their lives in service and support the Constitution of the United States." Sculptor: Gilbert F. Radwell, 1996

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1913, the Illinois State Art Commission was authorized to acquire a new statue of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln of Illinois, the 10-foot, 6-inch bronze statue of Illinois' first Lieutenant Governor, was the first to be placed on the Capitol lawn of any state. The dedication took place on Oct. 5, 1918, for the centennial of the Illinois State Fair. The bronze sundial was donated by the Daughters of Illinois Veterans of the Civil War (AMVets) and dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic on Oct. 6, 1914. The Illinois State Band played for the dedication. The monument was dedicated in conjunction with the AMVets' 50th annual convention and the 74th GIBG Encampment.


Illinois Firefighters Memorial

On May 13, 1999, a monument was erected in memory of "the firefighters of Illinois who have given their lives in service and support the Constitution of the United States." Four life-size, bronze firefighting figures and a rescued child on a 14-foot-tall stone cairn are added to the original 643 officers engraved on the Illinois Firefighters Memorial. It is part of the Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day. Sculptor: Neil Brooks, 1999

Illinois Police Officers Memorial

The memorial, with its three bronze figures of a male and a female police officer, was dedicated on Oct. 29, 1995, to honor current and former Illinois police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The 3-foot monument has a pedestal and a female police officer, was dedicated on Oct. 29, 1995, to honor current and former Illinois police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The monument was dedicated in conjunction with the Illinois 150th anniversary celebration.

Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day

The monument depicts the three sites of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks was erected on Sept. 11, 2002, in memory of "the firefighters of Illinois who have given their lives in service and support the Constitution of the United States." Sculptor: Gilbert F. Radwell, 1996

1. Illinois Workmen’s Memorial
2. Pierre Menard
3. The Coal Miner
4. Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day
5. Illinois Police Officers Memorial
6. Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day
7. Illinois Firefighters Memorial
8. Illinois Police Officers Memorial
9. Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day
10. Illinois Firefighters Memorial
11. Illinois Police Officers Memorial
12. Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day
13. Illinois Police Officers Memorial
14. Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day
Welcome to the Illinois State Capitol

Monuments and statues...are the open books of civilization...made to perpetuate the memories of those who have been true and faithful in the battle of life.

—Judge Henry S. Baker at the dedication of the Pierre Menard statue

Illinois State Capitol Sculptures: A Walking Tour

Jesse White • Illinois Secretary of State

Printed on recycled paper.
Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. February 2017 — PM - C7M 312