



Historic Prophetstown

Historic Prophetstown invites you to learn the story of the land and the people who have lived on it during the past 200 years. In this place you can hear the wind blow across the prairie, visit a developing Native American village where the tribes once met to try and preserve their way of life, and see how the land has provided for those who settled here. Historic Prophetstown is located within Prophetstown State Park and visitation is included with the park admittance fee.

The prairie has been carefully recreated to illustrate the delicate balance of grasses, native wildflowers, wetlands, and timber that would have been here hundreds of years before European settlement. This makes it one of the rare places you can experience what the great prairies would have been like with some grasses almost nine foot tall--so tall you could just barely see the top of a man's head when seated on a horse.

Prophetstown was established in 1808 as the spiritual, social, and political capital of a Native American Confederation that wanted to stop the expansion of United States settlement into their land. Tecumseh and his brother, The Prophet, urged their followers to return to traditional tribal beliefs and practices and to reject a "trade based" lifestyle. Today you can see replicas of the two major public houses of the village, the Council House and the Medicine Lodge, along with replicas of the "Chief's" Cabin and the Granary.

The Farmstead recreates life on a 1920s farm with its red barn, corncrib, chicken coop, hog house and a variety of animals including Belgian horses and milking cattle. The replica Sears Roebuck Company Catalog house with the player piano, wood stove kitchen, and copper washing machine allows you to understand the life of the farm family during all seasons of the year as they plow, plant, and harvest crops. Visitors can help gather eggs, see the cows being milked, take a horse drawn trolley ride through the prairie and experience life in a simpler time. Classes, workshops, and farmhouse suppers may be arranged. Special events are offered throughout the year.

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