

# Welcome to Perry County, Missouri



In Perryville, the county seat, visitors can stroll the beautiful square surrounding the 1904 **Perry County Courthouse**, with its chiming clock tower. After Perry County organized in 1821, county officials used a two-story log building for conducting county business. In 1825, a contract was let for the first courthouse. Funding of the \$1,486.25 project came from the sale of 55 lots of property deeded to the county by Bernard Layton. No known illustrations of the structure exist. By 1859, a growing county created a need for more space. The court appropriated \$8,000 for a two-story building, completed in 1861. The building continued in use until after the turn of the century. After county residents presented a petition calling for an election in February, 1903, voters approved a proposition for a \$30,000 bond issue to finance a new courthouse. Caldwell and Drake, Columbus, Indiana, contracted for construction in January, 1904. Construction began in February, 1904, cornerstone ceremonies were conducted June 4, 1904. Total cost on the red brick, 65 x 92 foot building was \$31,819. The courthouse continues in use today.

The Square has been transformed into a show place with beautiful streets, decorative sidewalks, "Washington" style light fixtures and decorative tree plantings. Brick paved plaza, landscaped seating areas, park benches, a sundial, a directional marker and a gazebo are all special features surrounding the courthouse lawn.

The Square is a true example of Perryville Pride and certainly conveys the correct impression that Perryville is a "quaint, clean, happy, friendly place."



Take a Self Guided Tour of **Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church and the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**, complete with a Gift Shop and Visitor Center. For more information on the Association of the Miraculous Medal, please visit their website at [www.amm.org](http://www.amm.org).



The **Faherty House**, located at 11 S. Spring Street, was originally constructed by Henry Burns in 1825 as a two-room stone house with a basement. It is thought to be the oldest remaining residence in the city. A brick, two-room addition to the house was built in the 1850's. The house also stands on one of the original town lots of Perryville. The restored house features a circa 1830-1890 exterior and interior and is owned and maintained by the Perry County Historical Society.



The **Perry County Museum**, a joint venture with the City of Perryville and the Perry County Historical Society, opened in May 1990. The Museum is located at the entrance of the City Park in a two-story brick house that was built in 1881 by the town's butcher, Joseph Duerr, and his wife, Mary Broeker Duerr.



In southeastern Perry County, near the Mississippi River, are the early German villages of Frohna, Altenburg, and Wittenburg.

The **Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum** complex was constructed in 2005 in Altenburg, Missouri. The Museum interprets the 1838-39 Lutheran immigration from Germany to America and the history of the seven original colonies that were established. It also follows the origins of the Lutheran Church in East Perry County and the regional German-American culture. A state-of-the-art exhibit hall, reception area, and gift shop was integrated into the original 1845 church building, commonly known as the "Big School", which also served as the original museum. The Museum offers guided and self-guided tours of the main gallery and original church. Tours of the 1839 Log Cabin - Concordia Seminary birthplace, the Christiane Loeber Cabin and the 1867 Trinity Church are also available.

The Perry County Lutheran Historical Society serves as the administrative body of the Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum. Visit their website at [www.altenburgmuseum.org](http://www.altenburgmuseum.org).



The **Saxon Lutheran Memorial** is an outdoor history museum in the setting of a log cabin village located on the homestead and farm of an early pioneer name Thomas Twyman since 1820. In 1839 it was bought by brothers Wilhelm and Christian Bergt whose family lived here from one generation to the next for 118 years. The SLM is an integral part of the establishment of the East Perry County community by the courageous, dedicated and devout Saxon Lutheran immigrants from Germany in 1839. It is dedicated to their pioneering spirit, the early lifestyles of homesteading and the beginning of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod which is all displayed throughout the various exhibits in our museum and log cabins on the property.

You are welcome to make arrangements to schedule a tour for your family, organization, church or school by contacting the curator, Lynda Lorenz. Tour buses and large groups are welcome, please schedule in advance. You can visit their website at [www.saxonlyutheranmemorial.com](http://www.saxonlyutheranmemorial.com) or call them at 573-824-5404.



Traveling south, visit the **Tower Rock Natural Area**, a designated national landmark, which features a 10 mile hiking trail. Tower Rock is a 90 foot high rock, which stands majestically in the Mississippi River. The history of Tower Rock dates to 1698, when three missionaries established a landing atop the rocky island. President Ulysses S. Grant designated Tower Rock a national landmark. Nearby, the early 1800's settlement of Old Appleton features the Lady of St. Joseph Shrine.