


**ELGIN
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

GALLERY GUIDE

elginhistory.org • museum@elginhistory.org
 360 Park Street • Elgin, IL 60120 • 847-742-4248
 OPEN: Wednesday–Saturday from 11am to 4pm

ELGIN: A 20TH CENTURY CITY

Explore the impact of the 20th Century on the city of Elgin and its citizens. Local and national events are featured from 1910 to 1970, including suffrage, World War I and World War II.



20TH CENTURY CHANGES

Elgin was influenced by Latino immigration, African American civil rights experience, and a large Laotian immigration during the Vietnam War, followed by urban renewal.



PIONEER LIFE

Discover how our city founders, the Giffords, traveled to this area. Learn where the Giffords migrated from and how they packed their wagon. Step into a model of a log cabin just like James Gifford built for his family.



RIVERS TO RAILS

Follow Elgin as it grew from homestead cabins to a burgeoning town, spurred by its proximity to the Fox River and the resource of water power. This town was a destination for many diverse immigrant groups who contributed their skills and talents.

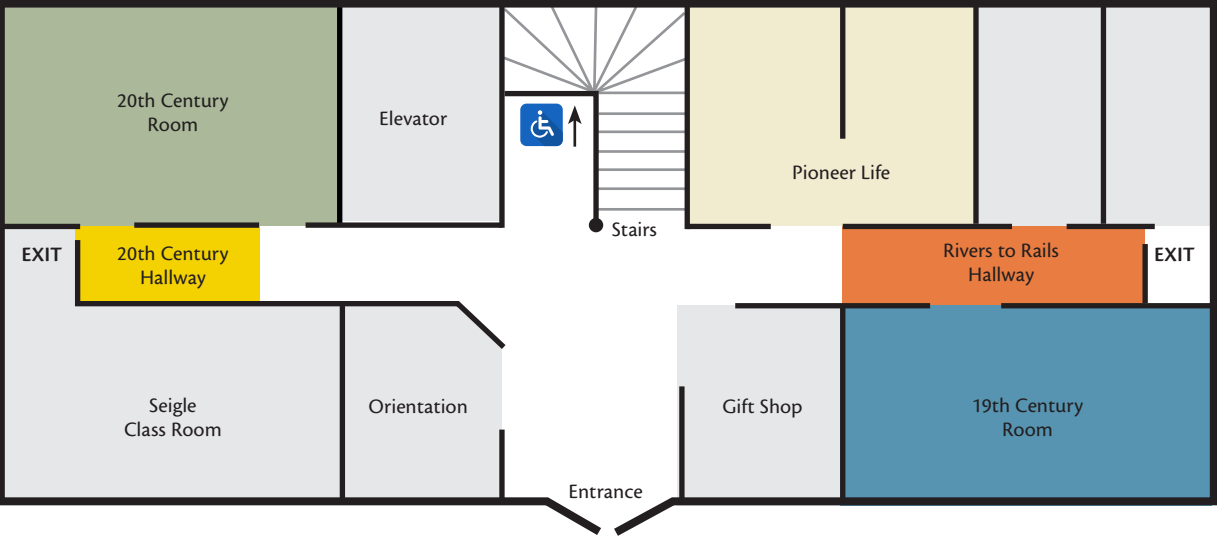


BOOM TOWN

By 1870, the railroads were crisscrossing through Elgin. On the rails came the skilled immigrant to work at the Watch Company, the creameries, and in the building trades. Others came to work at factories and foundries. Elgin was a Boom Town!



GROUND FLOOR

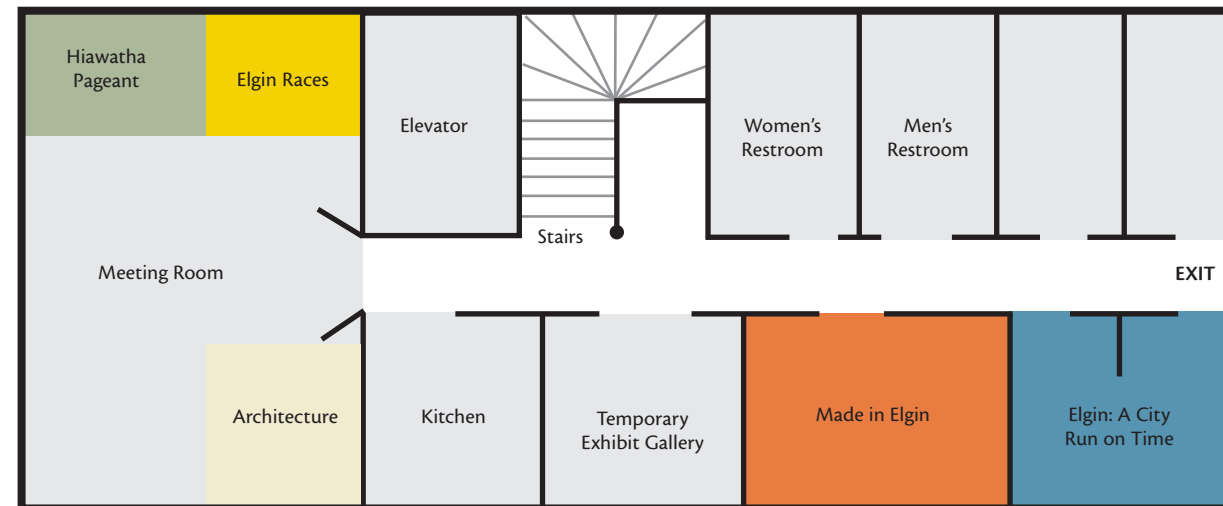


HIAWATHA PAGEANT

For more than 50 years Elgin Boy Scouts, under the direction of Boy Scout leader Carl Parlasca, participated in the Hiawatha Indian Pageant. Based on the Longfellow poem Song of Hiawatha, the production drew thousands of spectators each summer at Camp Big Timber.



SECOND FLOOR



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

When you join the Museum receive free general admission. Most programs and events are free, plus members get 15% off at the Museum Store. Support Elgin history!

VISIT THE REBER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Extend your visit to the 3rd floor library where Museum staff will help direct your research. Or visit the Museum's website at www.elginhistory.org for online indexes and searchable information.

COME BACK FOR MORE!

Check out our website at www.elginhistory.org for upcoming special events and group tours that make history fun and engaging.



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ELGIN RACES

Elgin was a thoroughly modern city by 1910. The recently perfected autos had all but replaced the horse and buggy in town. The time was ripe for a national auto race right here in Elgin. The rural landscape west of town lent itself perfectly to a race course and the rest is history.



MADE IN ELGIN

The phrase “Made in Elgin” was synonymous with high quality craftsmanship. See the products that have been manufactured here in the past two centuries— you may recognize many iconic brands. Some like Elgin Street Sweeper and Sparkle Glass Cleaner are still headquartered here.



ELGIN: A CITY RUN ON TIME

The Elgin National Watch Company produced watches for 100 years. View the pocket watches, innovations, and complex technology. Learn about the Company's impact on Elgin, its citizens, and the world.

