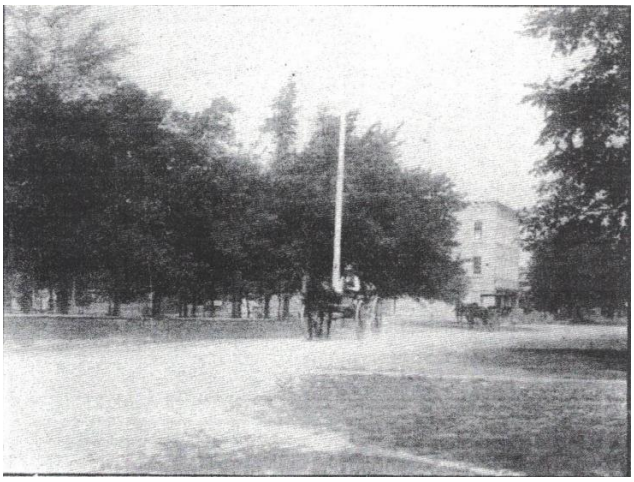
Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission

McCormick Memorial Park



Virginia Street
Dedicated in 1840

The City of Crystal Lake has approved its 18th landmark designation in protecting McCormick Memorial Park.

The park was documented as a Public Square as early as 1840. Over the years, it has been an important gathering location and a landmark for travelers along Virginia Street (US Route 14). US Route 14 was part of the Black and Yellow Trail. This trail could take travelers from Chicago, through Crystal Lake, past the Black Hills of South Dakota and into Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

There are numerous memorials and plaques all around the park. The first commemorative plaque was set on the property in 1936 at the 100th anniversary of the founding of Crystal Lake. Under this plaque is a time capsule.

McCormick Memorial Park received its current moniker in 1956 after the untimely passing of Pastor Edwin A. McCormick the year prior. A description of the history of the park was given during the dedication to the memory of Father McCormick. It was stated, “may this memorial serve to remind us that we too can make our mark, each in his small way in the annals of Crystal Lake”.

The park is owned and maintained by the City. The landmark status will help protect the existing park layout, existing memorials and plaques, and the fieldstone portion of the Chamber of Commerce building.

