

Timeline of St. Charles

A brief overview of key events and achievements to the history of St. Charles.



1800s

1836: First Factory and Sawmill

First factory and sawmill are built in Charleston. They were built on the site that would eventually become the Municipal Building.

1834: Charleston Settlement

The settlement of Charleston is mapped out, this being the name of the settlement prior to the naming of St. Charles.

1874: Incorporation

St. Charles is incorporated as a city.

1839: Changing the Name

A town meeting was called to rename the settlement after it was discovered a Charleston already existed downstate. The town was renamed St. Charles.

1900s

1920: Main Street Paved

Main Street is officially paved with brick. Previously, the road was only dust and mud.

1910: Third Rail Electric Line

St. Charles is granted a franchise to the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Third Rail Electric Line. Residents now had direct transportation to Chicago.

1928: Hotel Baker

The Hotel Baker opens on June 2nd.

1926: Arcada Theater

The Arcada Theater opens in downtown St. Charles.

1960: John F. Kennedy

Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy visits St. Charles while campaigning in Illinois.

1939: St. Charles Municipal Building

The St. Charles Municipal Building is built. A year later in 1940, it is officially dedicated.

2000s

2009: 1st Street Project

The first phases of the 1st Street project are completed. The project brings new shopping and dining options to St. Charles.

2000: New St. Charles History Museum

The St. Charles History Museum opens at its current location at 215 E. Main Street.

2019: 185th Anniversary

St. Charles celebrates 185 years since its original incorporation.

