

# Funk Gem & Mineral Museum Tour - Shirley, IL

The Funk Gem and Mineral Museum is central Illinois' largest collection of minerals, fossils and gemstone materials open for touring. Earning the nick-name "Big Chunk Funk", at age of 53 LaFayette Funk II fell in love with rocks and minerals while on a field trip with his son. Over the next 30 years he assembled one of the largest private gem and mineral collections in the world. Travels for the Funk Bros. Seed Company allowed him to acquire specimens from locations even the Smithsonian's collection does not include. In addition to minerals, there are separate collections of fossils, central Illinois Indian artifacts, Chinese soapstone carvings, seashells and corals. There is also a room of fabulous fluorescent minerals.

## Funk Prairie Home

Marquis de LaFayette Funk built the Prairie Home in 1863 and 1864 with timber felled in Funks Grove. In 1864 LaFayette married Elizabeth Paullin and continued a family legacy that began before the birth of our Nation. Visitors to the Prairie Home will see much of the original furniture, including rosewood and walnut pieces shipped from Philadelphia. All thirteen rooms of the Prairie Home are fully decorated and open for viewing.

LOESS has made arrangements for a staff-guided tour of the museum, followed by a tour of the Prairie Home. If you have Internet access, please sign-up online at the link here. Please make ONE entry for EVERY participant and use your phone number or email address as your "name" (duplicate for other party members). Example of what you will see is on the right. You add entries by clicking on the blue "+".

<https://doodle.com/poll/ky5g84gx3ftbbpm>

If you do not have Internet access, please contact Carole Harp at:

217-414-0239.

We will contact you in September to confirm your participation. We need to have a close head-count by mid-September.

		YES	MAYBE
1 participant	+	✓1	✓0
loesseditor...	✎	✓	

### Driving Directions

- From Interstate I-55, Take Exit 154 for Shirley
- Turn the opposite direction of the Shirley sign (heading East now)
  - Look for the yellow **LOESS Tour** road sign near the **Funks "G"** sign
  - Turn right onto the frontage road (Co. Rd 1100 E). Follow around curves 1.5 miles to Prairie Home's drive on left (hidden, wooded entrance)
  - Lost? Call the Curator at 309-827-6792

### Where & When

Friday, October 5

- 1:00: Mineral Museum Tour
- 2:00 Prairie Home Tour

Shirley is just south of Bloomington-Normal (**B-N** on map below) and about an hour north of Springfield on I-55.

Guided tours can be scheduled at other times:

Tuesday - Saturday

Contact the Museum at:

309-827-6792

[www.funksgrove.org/index.html](http://www.funksgrove.org/index.html)

