

# HESSTON STEAM & POWER SHOW

## PROGRAM & GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome and thank you for visiting. Our volunteers hope your time here is fun and educational. The Hesston Steam Museum is operated by the LaPorte County Historical Steam Society, a volunteer 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.



### HESSTON STEAM & POWER SHOW

#### Schedule of Activities (Saturday - Monday)

- 7:00 - 11:00 Breakfast at Doc's Soda Fountain
- 10:00 Invocation and Flag Raising  
Trains start running
- 10:30 Free wagon rides begin  
Steam Crane loads logs for the sawmill
- 11:00 Sawmill in operation
- 12:00 Noon Whistle!  
Threshing with the steam engine
- 1:15 Steam Crane loads logs for the sawmill
- 1:45 Sawmill in operation
- 3:00 Parade of Power begins  
**Saw Mill operation and Threshing demonstrations will take place right after the parade.**

Your safety is important to us. This is a museum of large operating equipment. Trains and tractors cannot stop suddenly, so please stay off the tracks.

Always use the crosswalks and roads over tracks. Stay away from crane loads and power belts and keep children off equipment. Thank you and have a great day!

**HESSTON**  
STEAM MUSEUM



[HESSTON.ORG](http://HESSTON.ORG)



# PLACES TO VISIT ON CAMPUS

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The Depot Store & Gift Shop stocks many souvenirs to remember your day here at the Hesston Steam Museum. Our goal is to keep kids' imaginations steaming along! Located next to the main station building.

**THE DEPOT STORE**  
UNIQUE GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

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## DOC'S SODA FOUNTAIN

If refreshment is what you are looking for, there is no better place than Doc's. Originally located only 17 miles away at Schlipp's Pharmacy in Sawyer, Michigan, this 1930 vintage soda fountain is still serving up historic ice cream recipes. Doc's also serves up great burgers, hand-cut french fries, homemade desserts and other tasty treats.

Just to the right of Doc's is Uncle B's Smokehouse, serving up delicious smoked meats!

**For your convenience our rest rooms are located in the adjoining building.**

## THE HESSTON STEAM SAWMILL

Our mill is typical of those that dotted the countryside in the 1890's. These mills provided much of the lumber used to build towns and cities. Our mill was built in 1900 by the Hill-Curtis Machinery Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The mill features a huge sixty inch blade. We saw our own lumber for restoration projects here at the museum or for customers who bring in their own logs. Some of the lumber we will saw at this year's show will be installed on the Shay logging locomotive and a new caboose project in the works. The huge whistle (the loudest at the museum) comes from a U.S. Navy destroyer from WWII, so you are sure to hear it. Don't miss this classic steam-powered mill in operation!

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## Electric Light Plant

Our power plant was first to provide power to the LaPorte County Court House. It produces 60 KW of DC current. Because it's steam-powered, a great deal of coal is shoveled into the boiler everyday to run the engine. We celebrated the 100th birthday of this historic piece in 2009. Stop by, you might even get to blow the whistle!



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## BLACKSMITH SHOP

Fire and the hammer overpower steel! Stop in and watch the blacksmith shape steel right before your eyes. His craft, now an art form, was very important in the days of the steam engine. Our blacksmith forges hand crafted works of beauty and usefulness which are available for sale in the Depot Store.



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## E & J Good Building

The E & J Good Company steam engine was built in 1876 for use at the original Cook County Hospital building. This unique "steeple" engine is our oldest steam engine and one of our most historic pieces. It is currently being restored to operating condition. Please stop in and see our volunteers' progress.

Also housed here is the Edison Bipolar Dynamo with companion Armington & Sims steam engine, as originally specified by Thomas Edison.

Mr. Edison donated the steam engine and generator to the University of Notre Dame in 1885. The university chose our museum to safeguard this important piece of American history in 1971.

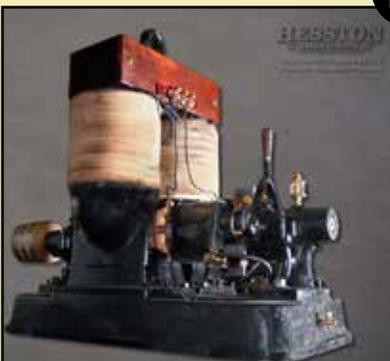


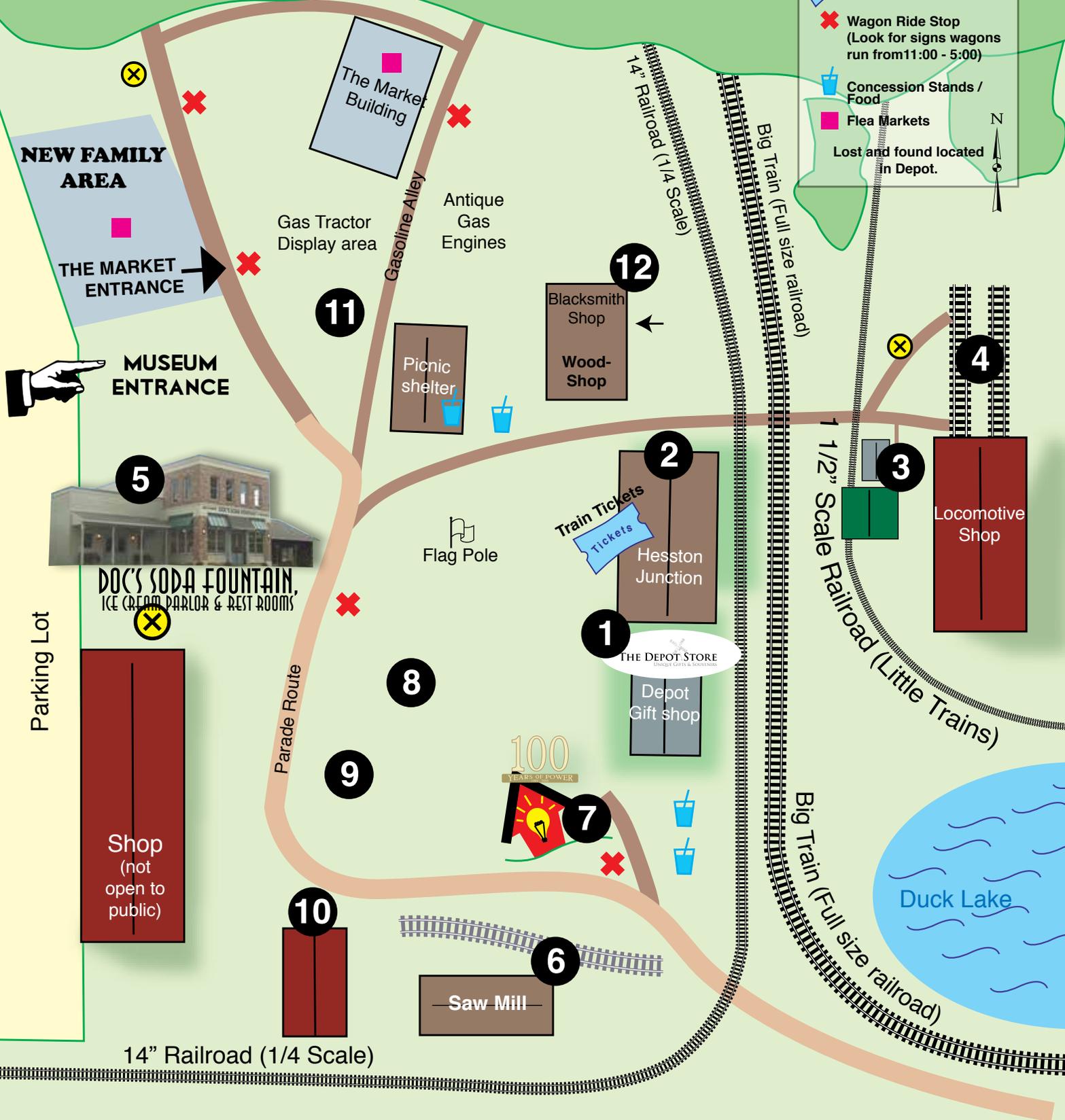
Photo : J. Franklin Photography

- 1 Museum Gift Shop.
- 2 Hesston Junction Main Station, train ticket sales - Board Big Train & 1 1/2" Gauge Train Here.
- 3 1 1/2" Scale Train Station Complex, Purchase Train Tickets & board little trains here.
- 4 Locomotive display yard.
- 5 Doc's Soda Fountain & rest rooms
- 6 Hill-Curtis 1900 Hesston Steam Sawmill & Browning Steam Crane.South Shore Caboose.
- 7 Electric Power Plant and Large Steam Engines.
- 8 Baker Fan - Tests Steam Tractors' Horse-power.
- 9 Threshing Demonstration Area.
- 10 E & J Good Building / Steam Engines
- 11 Gasoline Alley. Everything gas powered! Farm Implements & tractors
- 12 Hesston Blacksmith Shop.

**Map Key to Symbols**

-  Restrooms / Port-a-jons
-  Train Ticket Sales
-  Wagon Ride Stop (Look for signs wagons run from 11:00 - 5:00)
-  Concession Stands / Food
-  Flea Markets

Lost and found located in Depot.

## RAILROADS TO RIDE

### Narrow Gauge, Vintage Amusement and Craftsman Railroads! The Hesston Steam Museum has three different railroads, each with a unique story.

The largest railroad is a re-creation of an authentic narrow gauge railroad from the turn of the 20th century. These are genuine coal-burning or wood-fired steam powered locomotives that would have worked as freight trains and passenger trains of days gone by. The largest of our locomotives is our #7, the 1929 Shay Logging Locomotive that weighs 67 tons and is the biggest narrow gauge Shay ever built.

Our Vintage Amusement Railroad has rails 14" apart. The trains that operate on this line were built from 1930 to 1940 for amusement parks in large cities. These miniature trains were used to take families on short rides around the park grounds. Watch for the Kiddieland Limited, which was built for the famed Kiddieland Amusement Park in Melrose Park, Illinois.



The Craftsman Railroad is the smallest of our railroads and has rails that are only seven and a half inches apart.

The locomotives that run on this fun and exciting railroad are built by hobbyists in home shops. In fact, most of these scaled down steam engines run just like the larger full-sized prototypes they are modeled from. Steam modeling dates back to the late 1800s and got its start in England. A scale steam locomotive can take several years to complete.

Each railroad has its own route that will thrill both the young and the young at heart.



Photo by Rob Gill



Vintage Kiddieland Limited Steam Train

## THINGS TO EXPERIENCE

### Machines made big farming possible.

From the steam traction engine and separator to the first gas tractors, the Industrial Revolution made it possible for farmers to supply food for a growing nation. Some of the most important tasks were harvesting wheat and separating the grain from the inedible part of the plant, known as chaff. The threshing machine is an ingenious device that does this with ease.

**Make sure you schedule time to see one of our threshing demonstrations.**

### Gasoline Alley

Life was once hard; every task was done by hand as there was no electricity, especially in rural areas. Companies like Maytag, Montgomery Ward, Sears Roebuck & Company, and many others built small gas motors to do everyday chores. These engines are unique and can be quite beautiful. You will hear a difference as these engines run quietly and have a mesmerizing rhythm.



Steam traction engine with threshing machine.



### Tractor Displays

You will be amazed at the original and restored tractors on display, many of which are automobile show quality. No matter what the paint looks like, these machines have been the backbone of the American farmer for decades. We celebrate them for their usefulness, beauty and history.

### The Browning Locomotive Steam Crane

The Browning Steam crane was built in 1941 for the US Navy and was used at their depot in Columbus, Ohio. It is self-propelled using the same steam engine that it uses for lifting. The boom reaches 65 feet tall and has a lifting capacity of 26 tons. Weighing in at 92 tons, the Browning is our heaviest piece of equipment. Be sure to catch the crane in action as it effortlessly loads logs for the mill.