

# *East Moline Rapids*

The original Mississippi River was not what it is today. There were no dams to control water flow. There was a fifteen mile stretch of the river from Rock Island, Illinois to LeClaire, Iowa that was like no other part of the great Mississippi River. That part of the river was turbulent and dangerous to riverboat navigation because of the rapids cascading through rocks.

In the eighteen hundreds to navigate this part of the river it was necessary to use a river pilot to go through the rapids that included this part of the river here at East Moline.

This sculpture commemorates that part of the Mississippi River as it flowed through the East Moline rapids.

The sculpture was designed and created by Quad City artist Ted McElhiney. It is constructed of one-half inch aluminum sheets and formed by Schebler Company of Bettendorf, Iowa.

The forming was done on large form machines and then welded together to create the action that was prevalent in the rapids during that period of the Mississippi River's famous history. The sculpture was designed to allow the viewer to look through the swirls of the sculpture and to see the river itself.