



Legislators' Guide to the Wisconsin Historical Society



Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

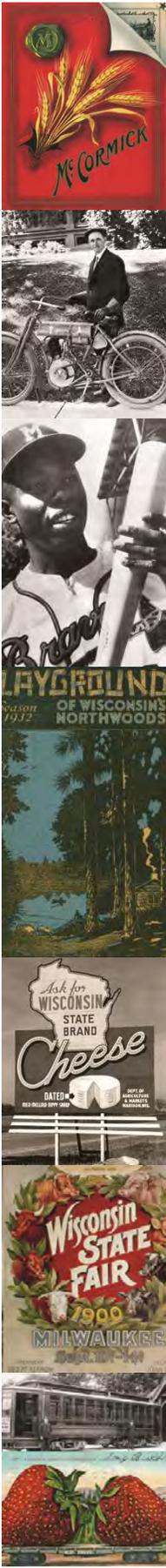
wisconsinhistory.org



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Overview



Map: The Society Around the State

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS AND LOCATIONS



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



LEGEND

-  **Society Headquarters**
 816 State St.
 Madison, WI 53706
 General Information: (608) 264-6400
LIBRARY (608) 264-6534
ARCHIVES (608) 264-6460

 Regular Hours:
 8AM - 9PM Monday-Thursday
 8AM - 5PM Friday and Saturday

Wisconsin Historical Foundation
 (608) 261-9364
-  **Historic Sites And Museums**

Circus World
 550 Water St., Baraboo, WI
 (866) 693-1500

First Capitol
 County Hwy. G, Belmont, WI
 (608) 987-2122

H.H. Bennett Studio
 215 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells, WI
 (608) 253-3523

Madeline Island Museum
 226 Col. Woods Ave., La Pointe, WI
 (715) 747-2415

Old World Wisconsin
 W372 S9727 Hwy. 67, Eagle, WI
 (262) 594-6301

Pendarvis
 114 Shake Rag St., Mineral Point, WI
 (608) 987-2122

Reed School
 U.S. Hwy. 10 & Cardinal Ave., Neillsville, WI
 (608) 253-3523

- Stonefield**
 12195 Hwy. W, Cassville, WI
 (608) 725-5210

Villa Louis
 521 N. Villa Louis Rd., Prairie du Chien, WI
 (608) 326-2721

Wade House
 W7824 Center St., Greenbush, WI
 (920) 526-3271

Wisconsin Historical Museum
 30 N. Carroll St.
 Madison, WI 53703
 (608) 264-6555
 Hours: 9AM-4PM Tuesday-Saturday
wisconsinhistory.org/museum
 Museum Store
 (888) 999-1669

-  **Area Research Centers**
wisconsinhistory.org/library/archives/arcnet
-  **Affiliated Historical Societies**
-  **Active Historic Preservation Commissions**
-  **Participating National History Day Schools**
-  **Fourth-grade Textbook In Use**
-  **National Register Listings**



816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
608-264-6440
www.wisconsinhistory.org

Fact Sheet

WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Our Mission

The Wisconsin Historical Society helps people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories.



Organization

The Society is one of the largest, most active, and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. Founded in 1846, the Society is governed by a 36-member Board of Curators. It is both a state agency and a private membership organization. It receives about 65 percent of its funding from the state of Wisconsin, and the other 35 percent comes from membership fees, admission fees, gifts, trust funds and grants.



Archives

The Archives serves as the state's official archive and holds all historical state records. It collects manuscripts and artifacts from private individuals and organizations. It also holds extensive visual and sound records, including more than 4 million historical photographs, posters, oral history recordings, and motion picture films. A network of 13 area research centers make the collections readily available statewide. In addition to Wisconsin history, holdings include several collections of national scope:

- Early American exploration & settlement
- Social action movements, such as civil rights
- Mass communications history
- U.S. labor history and business records



Library

The Library is the official state historical library as well as a nationally-recognized U.S. and Canadian history library, being designated as an official documents depository by the governments of Wisconsin, the United States and Canada.

As a University of Wisconsin-Madison library, it provides reference services in person, by phone, by mail and online. It lends in person, statewide and nationwide through interlibrary loan. Holdings include:

- 3.8 million North American volumes
- Second largest American newspaper collection in the U.S.
- Extensive U.S. and Canadian history collection



Wisconsin Historical Museum

The Museum, located on Madison's Capitol Square, contains four floors of permanent and rotating exhibits, an orientation theater, and a Museum store. Exhibits and programs document Wisconsin's history from prehistoric times to the present day, focusing on:

- Prehistoric history and Wisconsin's settlement
- Agricultural history, industry and tourism
- Political and environmental history



Historic Preservation-Public History

The Division of Historic Preservation-Public History helps people preserve places of enduring value and presents a fresh perspective on history through publications, programs and services.

Public History Programs

- Enhance history education in Wisconsin's schools
- Publish history books for schools and the public
- Assist over 375 local historical societies and museums
- Publish the quarterly Wisconsin Magazine of History
- Conduct the National History Day program for more than 10,000 students



Historic Preservation

The Society is the federally designated state historic preservation office. In partnership with communities, organizations and individuals, it works to identify, interpret, and preserve ancient and historic places for the benefit of present and future generations. In that role it:

- Administers the Wisconsin portion of the National Register of Historic Places
- Administers tax-credit programs for historic building rehabilitation that, in 2009, spurred \$60 million in new investment and created 1,310 jobs in Wisconsin
- Conducts underwater archaeological research
- Provides assistance to local organizations and government
- Reviews public projects for their effects on historic properties
- Administers historical marker and burial sites programs
- Maintains historic building, archeological and burial site inventories



Historic Sites and Museums

The Society's network of 10 historic sites promotes tourism and provides for the comprehensive study, appreciation and enjoyment of Midwestern frontier history.

The historic sites and museums, located throughout Wisconsin, include:

Old World Wisconsin, Eagle, WI
Outdoor living history museum of farm life

Pendarvis, Mineral Point, WI
A restored Cornish miners' colony

Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien, WI
Magnificently restored Victorian country estate

Madeline Island Museum, La Pointe, WI
A museum of Apostle Islands exploration and settlement

H.H. Bennett Studio, Wisconsin Dells, WI
Historic studio of the man who made Wisconsin Dells famous
2-11

Wade House, Greenbush, WI
1860s stagecoach inn, sawmill and carriage museum

Circus World, Baraboo, WI
America's circus museum, built on the original site of the Ringling Bros. Circus winter quarters

Stonefield, Cassville, WI
1900s farming village, Agricultural Museum and Governor Nelson Dewey home

First Capitol, Belmont, WI
The birthplace of Wisconsin's territorial government

Reed School, Neillsville, WI
A 1940s one-room school

Wisconsin Historical Society

Strategic Framework

MISSION

The Wisconsin Historical Society helps people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories.

Guiding Principles

1. To reach out and partner with the broadest possible public
2. To present and promote sound and authentic history
3. To share our riches of staff, collections and services in ways that captivate and respect our many audiences
4. To collect and safeguard evidence of our diverse heritage according to the highest standards of stewardship

VISION

We will work toward a future in which all individuals, families, communities and institutions actively use history to understand their own stories and the world around them, and to pass their heritage on to succeeding generations.

STRATEGIC AREAS

In order to advance our vision and achieve our mission, the Society is focused on the following four strategic areas:

1. Strengthening audience connections
2. Building and preserving accessible world-class collections
3. Increasing support for the Society
4. Ensuring the Society is a great place to work

Wisconsin Historical Society

Business Overview

Organization

1. Formed as a membership organization in 1846 and was chartered by the Legislature in 1853
2. Governed by a 36-member Board of Curators, with 24 elected by the membership
3. Organized into four divisions and Director's Office (which includes Information Technology)
 - a. Library-Archives
 - b. Historic Sites and Museums
 - c. Historic Preservation-Public History
 - d. Administrative Services
4. Wisconsin Historical Foundation — fundraising and membership support
5. Circus World Museum Foundation — operates Circus World
6. Historic Preservation Review Board and the Burial Sites Review Board
7. Friends groups

Staffing Resources

1. **Permanent and project positions** — 142.45 full-time equivalent positions
2. **Limited-term employees** — majority at the historic sites
3. **Volunteers** — about 250,000 hours annually (i.e. the equivalent of another 120 FTE positions)

Financial Resources

Operations Funding

2010 – 2011

a. State tax revenues	\$14,183,300	63.7%
b. Earned revenues	\$3,241,000	14.6%
c. Transfer revenue	\$2,553,000	11.5%
d. Federal revenue	\$1,216,500	5.5%
e. Endowment revenue	\$609,900	2.7%
f. Gifts and grants	\$387,600	1.7%
g. Other revenue	\$68,600	.3%
	\$22,259,900	100.0%

Facilities Funding Sources

- a. Building Commission monies
- b. Division of State Facilities monies
- c. Gift monies

Facilities

1. The Society owns and operates nine historic sites and owns but does not operate Circus World Museum, which is operated by Circus World Museum Foundation under a lease-management agreement with the Society.

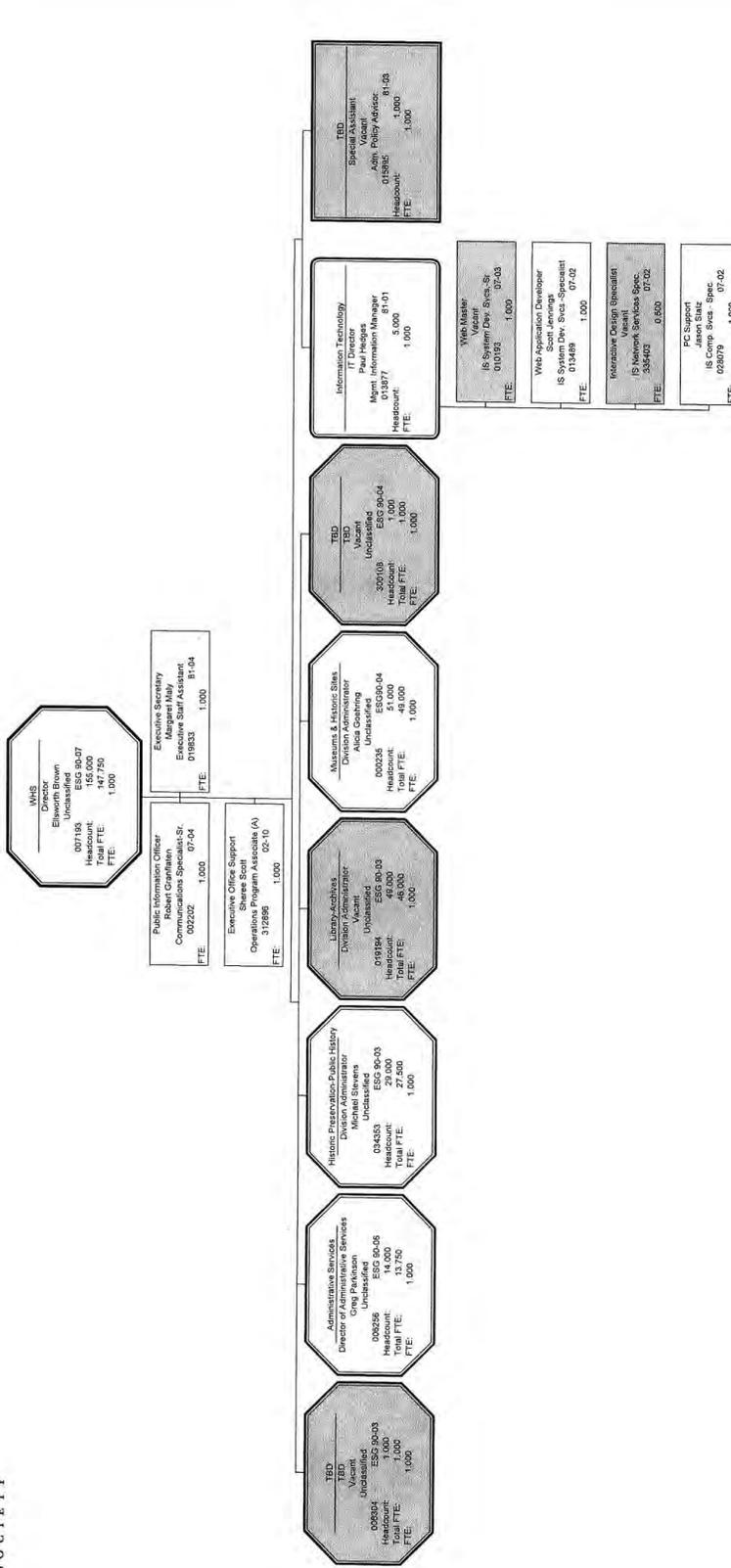
Historic Site	Location
Circus World	Baraboo
Old World Wisconsin	Eagle
Wade House	Greenbush
Madeline Island Museum	La Pointe
Villa Louis	Prairie du Chien
Stonefield	Cassville
H.H. Bennett Studio	Wisconsin Dells
First Capitol	Belmont
Pendarvis	Mineral Point
Reed School	Neillsville

2. The Society owns two major buildings in Madison – the Headquarters Building and Wisconsin Historical Museum — plus 225 additional buildings located at the 10 historic sites:

Historic Site	# of Buildings
Circus World	39
Old World Wisconsin	84
Wade House	9
Madeline Island Museum	5
Villa Louis	17
Stonefield	54
H.H. Bennett Studio	1
Reed School	1
First Capitol	5
Pendarvis	<u>10</u>
	225

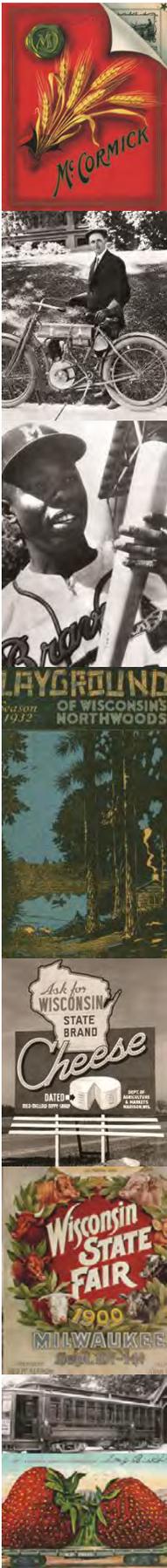
Organizational Chart

Wisconsin Historical Society
Director's Office



January 5, 2011

Budget



Wisconsin Historical Society

State Funding Sources

1. State Tax Revenues (designated as GPR)

Within this funding source, the state authorizes expenditures of monies for three main Society purposes — general program operations, utilities and debt service. General program operations include monies for personnel (e.g. salaries and fringe benefits for permanent and non-permanent employees) and supplies and services (e.g. travel, telephone, security, etc.) About 85 percent of state tax revenues received by the Society for general program operations are for personnel costs. GPR is separately authorized for (a) utility costs for Society-owned-and-operated buildings (including in the biennium, Circus World Museum) (b) debt service costs for Society building projects financed with bonds backed by state tax revenues and (c) in the second year of the biennium costs to prepare Society collections scheduled for relocation to the Storage Facility .

2. Earned Income Revenues (designated as SEG)

Within this funding source, the state authorizes expenditures of endowment and earned income monies. The Society's endowment income can be unrestricted or restricted as to its use. A Board of Curators policy controls the maximum expendable amounts in each category annually. The Society's sources of earned revenues include monies from admissions, sales and services and Department of Natural Resources monies to cover a portion of the Society's operational costs at the Northern Great Lakes Center in Ashland.

The Society is authorized to expend an estimated SEG total that, in the case of earned revenues, can be exceeded only if more revenues come to the Society than originally estimated.

3. Federal Revenues (designated as PRF)

Within this funding source, the state authorizes expenditures of monies received from federal agencies for ongoing program operations (e.g. the Historic Preservation program) and special projects (e.g. the grant to preserve the H.H. Bennett glass plate negatives). The Society is authorized to expend an estimated PRF total that can be exceeded only if more federal grant monies come to the Society than originally estimated.

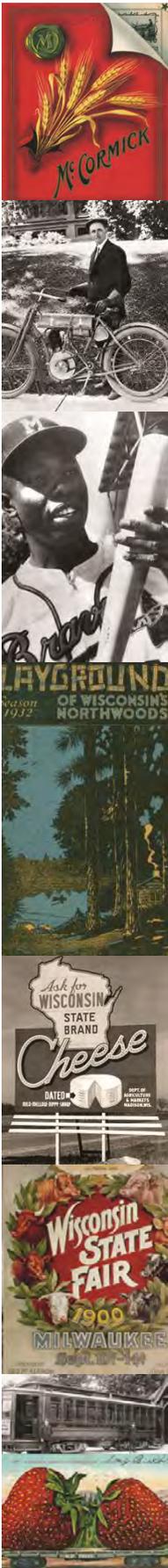
4. Gift Revenues (designated as PRO)

Within this funding source, the state authorizes expenditures of monies received by the Society directly and indirectly (e.g. collected by the Wisconsin Historical Foundation and Friends groups and, subsequently, given to the Society). The Society is authorized to expend an estimated PRO total that can be exceeded only if more gift monies come to the Society than originally estimated.

5. Transfer Revenues (designated as PRS)

Within this funding source, the state authorizes expenditures of monies received from other state agencies. In the state's accounting system, the PRS designation applies to expenditures in the "receiving" organization to differentiate them from expenditures in the "providing" organization. The Society receives PRS monies from (a) the Department of Administration to cover a portion of the Society's operational costs at the Northern Great Lakes Center in Ashland through the Library-Archives Division and of our Burial Sites program through the Historic Preservation-Public History Division, (b) the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for archeological services for highway projects through the Museum Division and (c) preparation to move collections into the Storage Facility. The Society is authorized to expend an estimated PRS total that can be exceeded only if more transfer monies come to the Society than originally estimated.

Services



Wisconsin Historical Society

Services for Elected Officials

Contact: Kate Easton, Government Affairs Coordinator, at 608-264-6442

- **Limited reproductions of historic images**
Historic images of Wisconsin people, places and events, plus regional and national history from the Society's vast collections. Visit our website to view a sampling of our images at www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi
- **History research assistance**
Help researching for public presentations on Wisconsin or U.S. topics
- **Local history information**
Statistics and guidance for Wisconsin local historical organizations
- **School tour information**
Insights on educational programming for the Wisconsin Historical Museum and 10 Wisconsin historic sites
- **Historic preservation advice**
Clarification of historic preservation processes, including help with restoration techniques and tax credits for homeowners and commercial developers
- **Family history research assistance**
Access to genealogical resources in Madison and statewide through interlibrary loan and 13 Wisconsin area research centers
- **Online resources**
Access to digitized American history records and books, made possible in part through our partnership with Google Books

Wisconsin Historical Society

Online Resources

wisconsinhistory.org

The Wisconsin Historical Society serves more than 15,000 people every day through its website. You and your constituents will find dozens of tools for investigating the state's heritage; thousands of pictures, articles, books, documents and artifacts; and friendly, prompt replies to your questions.

What can I do online?

- Find answers to constituent questions
- Grab photos to use in presentations and publications
- Copy text for newsletters and press releases
- Get background for meetings, speeches, and publications
- Subscribe to updates like "This Day in Wisconsin History"

What's in it for my constituents?

- Online shopping for gifts and historic photos
- Resource help for K-12 students' school assignments
- Lesson plans for teachers
- Trip planning information on historic sites and museums
- Vital records and other genealogy data for family history
- Historical photographs, maps and birds-eye views
- Advice on saving older homes for property owners
- Guidance on historic preservation regulations for developers

Online Tools

- **Dictionary of Wisconsin History**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary
 - 10,000 biographies, definitions, place names and essays linked to original historical documents
- **Topics in Wisconsin History**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/topics
 - Encyclopedia articles on more than 100 subjects, people, events and "A Short History of Wisconsin"

Online Collections

- **Architecture & History Inventory**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi
 - Historical and architectural data on 120,000 properties, from barns to railroad bridges
- **Local History & Biography Articles**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/wlhba
 - 16,000 newspaper and magazine stories for every Wisconsin county, nearly every town
- **Maps**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/maps
 - Historical and reference maps related to Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region
- **Museum Collections**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum/collections/online
 - More than 4,000 objects of all kinds, photographed and described
- **Turning Points in Wisconsin History**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints
 - 50 pivotal events in Wisconsin history explained through 1,000 original documents, essays and lesson plans
- **Wisconsin Historical Images**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi
 - Nearly 70,000 historical images online
- **Wisconsin Magazine of History**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/wmh/archives
 - 2,500 articles, 1917 to the present, on all aspects of Wisconsin history
- **Wisconsin in the Civil War**
www.wisconsinhistory.org/civilwar
 - More than 16,000 pages of diaries, regimental histories, soldiers letters, articles and maps

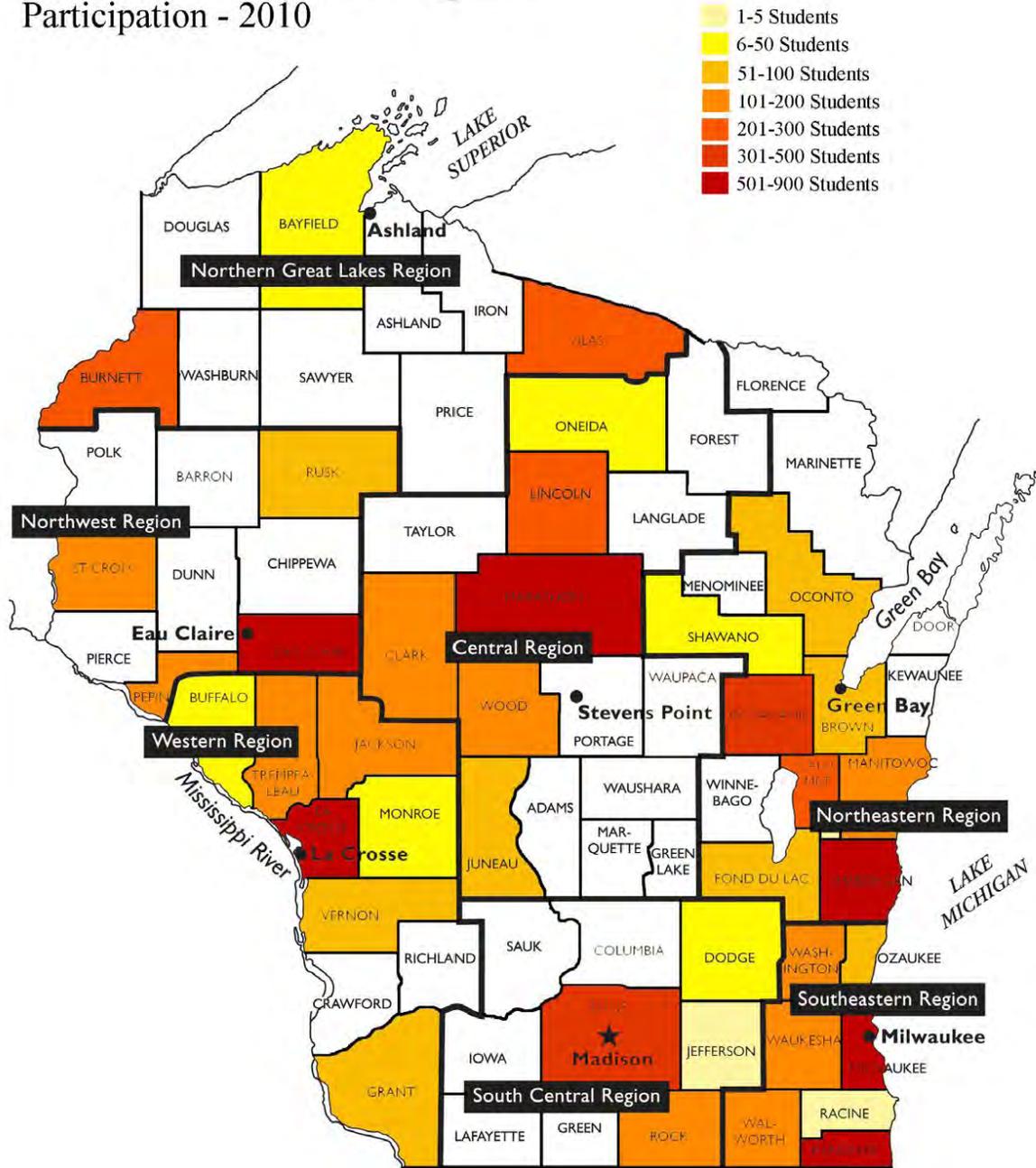
For More Information, contact:

asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org or call 608-264-6535

Wisconsin Historical Society

National History Day Participation

National History Day in Wisconsin
Participation - 2010



Wisconsin Historical Society

Services for Local Historical Societies

The Wisconsin Historical Society offers a variety of services to local historical societies. Our experienced staff can provide advice on subjects ranging from care of museum objects to preservation of historic buildings, often through the Society's website at www.wisconsinhistory.org. Below are staff contacts (608 area code unless otherwise noted).

General Assistance and Affiliations

The Society operates offices in Madison and Eau Claire to assist local historical organizations.

Contacts

Rick Bernstein, 264-6583
Southern Wisconsin, Madison
rick.bernstein@wisconsinhistory.org

Janet Seymour, 715-836-2250
Northern Wisconsin, Eau Claire
janet.seymour@wisconsinhistory.org

Museum Collections

Curators from the Museum are available for consultation on the care of collections, identification, documentation and collection management.

Contact

Paul Bourcier, 264-6573
paul.bourcier@wisconsinhistory.org

Museum Expertise

Museum staff provides information on exhibit design and fabrication, legal administration issues, education and interpretation programs and volunteer programs.

Contacts

Jennifer Kolb
jennifer.kolb@wisconsinhistory.org

Exhibit Primer

This basic guide provides guidance on producing small exhibits and information on exhibit cases, lighting, artifact mounts and labels.

Contact

Doug Griffin, 264-6561
douglas.griffin@wisconsinhistory.org

Youth Program Development

Beth Lemke from the Museum can provide ideas and share success stories in developing educational elementary school programs in adherence with DPI Standards.

Contact

Beth Lemke, 264-6567
beth.lemke@wisconsinhistory.org

Teaching Kits

The Museum has developed teaching kits that provide hands-on activities and instruction guides primarily used in classrooms but also applicable to museums and historical societies.

Contacts

Denise Wiggins, 261-2461
denise.wiggins@wisconsinhistory.org

Beth Lemke, 264-6567
beth.lemke@wisconsinhistory.org

Elementary and Middle School Student Programs

Sarah Aschbrenner from the Historic Preservation-Public History Division can provide ideas and advice on ways to involve children in local history.

Contact

Sarah Aschbrenner, 264-6487
sarah.aschbrenner@wisconsinhistory.org

Middle and High School Student Programs

Sarah Aschbrenner from the Historic Preservation-Public History Division can assist in involving middle school and high school students in local history through the National History Day program.

Contact

Sarah Aschbrenner, 264-6487
sarah.aschbrenner@wisconsinhistory.org

Building Restoration and Techniques

Jim Draeger can field questions regarding how to properly restore or rehabilitate your historic building.

Contact

Jim Draeger, 264-6511
jim.draeger@wisconsinhistory.org

Applying for Tax Credits for Rehabilitation of Historic Homes

Let your members know how they can apply for tax credits when they restore their historic homes.

Contact

Mark Buechel, 264-6491
mark.buechel@wisconsinhistory.org

Burial Sites Preservation

State Archaeologist John Broihahn answers questions about protecting burial sites.

Contact

John Broihahn, 264-6496
john.broihahn@wisconsinhistory.org

Archaeological Sites Protection

State Archaeologist John Broihahn answers questions on identifying and protecting archaeological sites.

Contact

John Broihahn, 264-6496
john.broihahn@wisconsinhistory.org

Maritime Preservation and Archaeology Programs

Underwater archaeologist Tamara Thomsen can help answer questions regarding historic maritime resources, including lighthouses and shipwrecks.

Contact

Tamara Thomsen, 221-5909
tamara.thomsen@wisconsinhistory.org

Applying for National Register of Historic Places Status

Daina Penkiunas can help answer questions on nominating a building, site or district to the Register.

Contact

Daina Penkiunas, 264-6501
daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org

Researching Historic Buildings or Districts

Joe DeRose helps answer questions on how to research historic properties.

Contact

Joe De Rose, 264-6512
joe.derose@wisconsinhistory.org

Working with Government Agencies to Protect Historic Resources

Chip Brown can provide information about working with agencies to ensure that government projects do not have a negative impact on historic resources.

Contact

Chip Brown, 264-6508
chip.brown@wisconsinhistory.org

Landmarks Commissions

If you represent a local historic preservation landmarks commission and would like to inquire about technical assistance or training.

Contacts

Rick Bernstein, 264-6583
Southern Wisconsin, Madison
rick.bernstein@wisconsinhistory.org

Janet Seymour, 715-836-2250
Northern Wisconsin, Eau Claire
janet.seymour@wisconsinhistory.org

Historic Preservation Assistance to Nonprofits

If you represent a nonprofit organization and want technical assistance or training regarding historic preservation planning projects.

Contact

Jim Draeger, 264-6511
jim.draeger@wisconsinhistory.org

Historic Photographs

Visual Materials Curator Andy Kraushaar answers questions on the care and preservation of iconographic materials and photographs.

Contact

Andy Kraushaar, 264-6481
andy.kraushaar@wisconsinhistory.org

Paper Conservation

Conservation Specialist Katie Mullen offers advice on the care and handling of paper artifacts, including books, manuscripts and visual materials.

Contact

Kathleen Mullen, 264-6489
kathleen.mullen@wisconsinhistory.org

Maps

Reference archivist Harry Miller can assist with questions about maps, atlases and cartographic materials.

Contact

Harry Miller, 264-6459 or -6560
harry.miller@wisconsinhistory.org

Questions on Wisconsin or American History Facts

Library staff will answer factual questions about Wisconsin or American history.

Contact

The reference staff, 264-6535
asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org

Wisconsin Archives Mentoring

Service Local historical societies can get advice on how to care for their archival collections through the services of volunteer professional archivists by phone, email and, in some cases, on-site visits.

Contact

www.uwosh.edu/archives/wams

Genealogy Website Questions

Refer genealogists directly to the Society's website for a wealth of information about researching their family history.

Contact

www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy

Genealogy Research in Madison

If you need to speak with a genealogical specialist, a reference librarian trained in genealogy is available during library hours.

Contact

Wisconsin Historical Society Library,
264-6535

Genealogy Research Statewide

You may also advise genealogists that they can find research resources at any one of the 13 local Wisconsin Area Research Centers.

Contact

www.wisconsinhistory.org/archives/arcnet

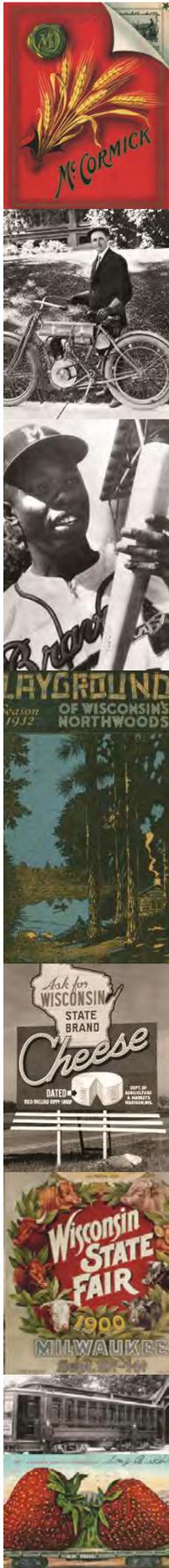
Fundraising

The Wisconsin Historical Foundation provides assistance to local historical societies by answering questions related to fundraising.

Contact

Diane Nixa, 261-1378
diane.nixa@wisconsinhistory.org

Contacts



Wisconsin Historical Society

Contacts

Ellsworth H. Brown 608-264-6440 ellsworth.brown@wisconsinhistory.org
Director

Greg Parkinson 608-264-6581 greg.parkinson@wisconsinhistory.org
Deputy Director

Alicia L. Goehring 608-264-6515 alicia.goehring@wisconsinhistory.org
Director of Special Projects

Margaret C. Maly 608-264-6440 margaret.maly@wisconsinhistory.org
Executive Staff Assistant

Kate Easton 608-264-6442 kate.easton@wisconsinhistory.org
Government Affairs Coordinator

Program Managers

Michael E. Stevens 608-264-6464 michael.stevens@wisconsinhistory.org
Historic Preservation and Public History

Matthew Blessing 608-264-6480 matt.blessing@wisconsinhistory.org
Library-Archives

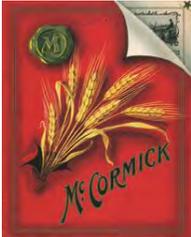
Cheryl Sullivan 608-264-6434 cheryl.sullivan@wisconsinhistory.org
Museums and Historic Sites

Wisconsin Historical Foundation

Diane Nixa 608-264-1378 diane.nixa@wisconsinhistory.org
Chief Advancement Officer and Co-Director

Wes Mosman Block 608-264-6443 wes.mosmanblock@wisconsinhistory.org
Chief Operating Officer and Co-Director

Board



LAYGROUND
Season
1932
OF WISCONSIN'S
NORTHWOODS



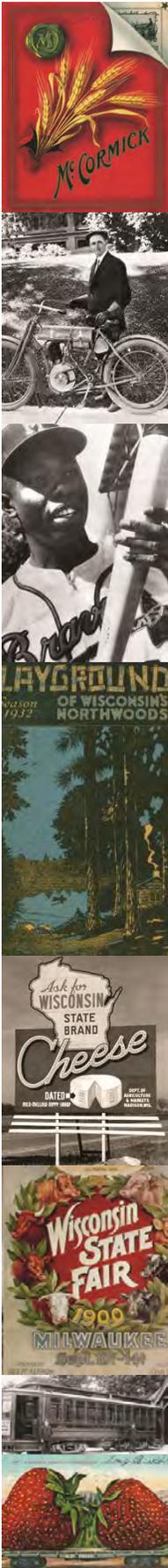
Wisconsin Historical Society

Board of Curators

Name	City	Occupation
Ellen D. Langill President	Waukesha	Professor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Conrad Goodkind President-Elect	Whitefish Bay	Retired Partner, Quarles & Brady
Sid Bremer Treasurer	Green Bay	Dean Emeritas, University of Wisconsin-Marinette
Ellsworth H. Brown Secretary	Madison	The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director, Wisconsin Historical Society
Betty Adelman	Mukwonago	Owner, Heritage Flower Farm L.L.C.
Dave Anderson	Malone	District Director, 7th Congressional District of Wisconsin
Jon Angeli	Lancaster	Retired Director, Grant County Department of Social Services
Angela Bartell	Middleton	Retired Judge, Dane County
Rep. Terese Berceau	Madison	Wisconsin State Legislator
Laurie DeWitt Davidson	Marinette	Retired Director of Human Resources, Engstrom Helicopter Corporation
Norbert Hill, Jr.	Oneida	Director of Education and Training Oneida Nation
John O. Holzhueter	Mazomanie	Retired Staff Member, Wisconsin Historical Society
Greg Huber	Wausau	Judge Marathon County Circuit Court
Carol McChesney Johnson	Black Earth	President, Taliesin Preservation Inc.
Will Jones	Madison	Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Rep. Steve Kestell	Elkhart Lake	Wisconsin State Legislator
Bernie Long Ex Officio	Wauwaukee	President, FRIENDS of the Wisconsin Historical Society
Chloris Lowe, Jr.	New Lisbon	Owner, Lowe Consulting

Rebecca Martin Ex Officio	Madison	Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs University of Wisconsin System
Judy Nagel	De Pere	Vice President, Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors LLC
Jerry Phillips	Bayfield	Owner, Old Rittenhouse Inn
Sen. Fred A. Risser	Madison	Wisconsin State Legislator
Brian Rude	Coon Valley	Director, External Relations Dairyland Power Cooperative
Michael Schmudlach	Brooklyn	Owner, Mike Schmudlach Builder
John Schroeder	Oostburg	Former Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Sen. Dale Schultz	Richland Center	Wisconsin State Legislator
Sam Scinta	Onalaska	Publisher, Fulcrum Publishing

Appendix



Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

"Artifact returned to Historical Society," Wisconsin State Journal, December 6, 2010, page 1 of 1

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010 • Madison's largest reporting team • Breaking news 24 hours a day at www.madison.com

Knife sheath is the first of 116 items stolen by a former curator to return

Artifact returned to Historical Society

By **GEORGE HESSELBERG**
ghesselberg@madison.com
608-252-6140

A Native American artifact stolen in the 1990s by a disgraced Wisconsin Historical Society museum curator has wended its way back to the institution's collection, nurturing a faint but persistent hope that other stolen artifacts might follow.

The path to the recovery of the beaded, northern Plains knife sheath began in January, but the return of the sheath from an unnamed museum in New York was not announced until last week in an understated notice in a monthly society publication.

The sheath is the first to be returned of 116 — now 115 — items listed as still missing and stolen by David Wooley, a curator in the Native American ethnographic and archaeological collections

who was convicted of stealing more than \$100,000 worth of Native American artifacts. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2001, and the thefts took place during his employment as a curator at the museum in the 1990s.

"We have been told that it usually takes a decade for these things to start surfacing," said chief curator Paul Bourcier.

After Wooley was arrested, the museum recovered 32 missing items. The knife sheath is the 33rd, and the first since the arrest, said Bourcier.

In January, a dealer in artifacts from Montana called the museum to report he saw the sheath on the museum's website — which lists the stolen items and includes photographs of 12 of the items — and recognized it as "recalling



Wisconsin Historical Society

This pre-1850 sheath, stolen from the Wisconsin Historical Society museum in the 1990s, was recovered last week after it was found at a museum in New York.

Please see **KNIFE**, Page A5

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

FROM PAGE ONE / LOCAL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010 • A5

Knife

Continued from Page A1

distinctly this piece in a transaction that occurred several years ago in New Mexico," said Bourcier.

The dealer knew what happened to the sheath after that, and directed Bourcier to the website of a private New York museum, which had its Native American artifact collection images online.

"I looked at the two images on the screen and immediately knew that was it," he said.

Bourcier and staff traced the sheath, with help from the New York museum, which received it as a donation from someone who bought it from a person who bought it from a "known associate" of David Wooley.

"Once we heard the name of the person from whom the dealer got it in New Mexico, we said 'oh yeah' and this was a name that came up during the investigation time and again," said Bourcier.

According to an appraisal, the recovered sheath is a pre-1850 example of a northern Plains artifact with "seed beads as well as pony (larger) beads, and demonstrates a direct trading market between the northern Plains and the Great Lakes." "Pony" beads

are so-called because they were commonly used on horse gear arriving by pony trade with the first French fur trappers.

The sheath was donated to the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1963 by Mary Land of Newark, N.J.

Bourcier said no arrests were made in the recovery of the sheath, though Capitol Police assisted in the investigation. He declined to name the private museum involved, and said the sheath was returned to the collection, in storage.

One of the difficulties encountered in searching for the stolen artifacts is so few of them — a dozen — were photographed. The list, at www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum/collections/object-recovery.asp, now includes 115 items.

"Photography was not a routine part of processing until a decade ago or so," said Bourcier. "Digitizing collections has made a huge difference," he said, noting a recent inventory was completed of the museum's entire "non-archeological collection of three-dimensional objects in Madison," a collection of 100,000 objects.

Wooley, described in 2001 by Dane County Circuit Judge Moria Krueger as a "major criminal," also was convicted of stealing an important artifact during his time as a curator for the tribal museum at Lac du Flambeau.

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

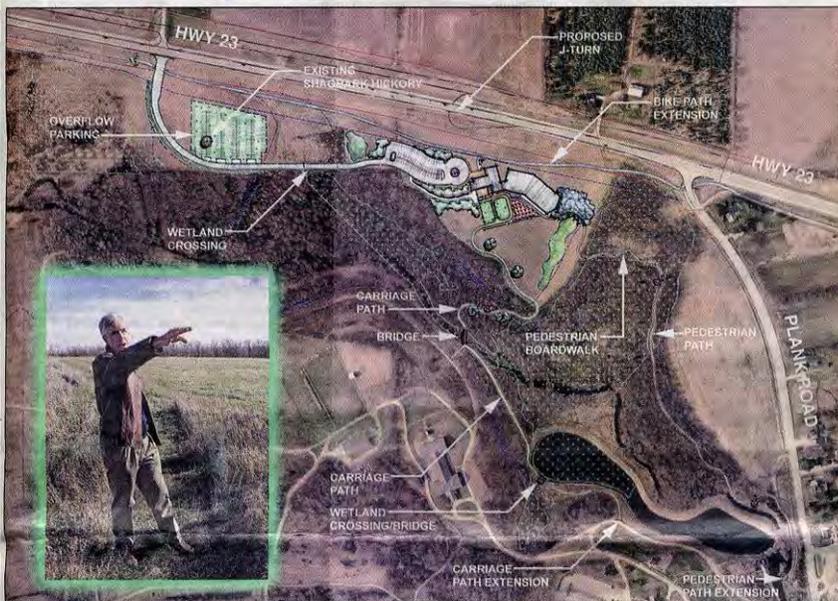
"Forward! movement for Wade House," The Sheboygan Press, November 14, 2010, page 1 of 2

Sunday, November 14, 2010

The Sheboygan Press



'Forward!' MOVEMENT FOR WADE HOUSE



Inset photo of David Simmons by Bruce Halmo. The aerial photograph/graphic courtesy of the Wade House was edited for clarity. Illustration by Bruce Halmo/The Sheboygan Press

Historic site in Greenbush will get new visitors center, other dramatic changes in vast statewide plan

BY JANET ORTEGON
Sheboygan Press staff

When visiting the Wade House Historic Site, you drive right past the stately, restored inn and pull into the back, where your visit begins with a walk through an ordinary-looking gift shop.

The result is a less-than-stunning introduction to the house where Sylvanus Wade and his family settled Greenbush and welcomed travelers on the Plank Road in the mid-1800s.

Officials believe they can do better.

Sweeping changes are in the works for the Wade House — and other historic sites statewide. They include an approximately \$14 million learning and visitors center at the Wade House and a dramatic re-orienting of the entire site.

The project is part of a \$77 million statewide plan to make needed changes, upgrades and improvements to historic sites all over Wisconsin, and the Wade House is one of the first on the list.

"Obviously, there's issues with the economy right now, but what we've been dealing with, really, over the last 12 years is a decline in attendance at historic sites around the country," said Alicia Goehring, administrator for the



Wade House director David Simmons calls the current Wesley Jung Carriage House "more akin to a used car lot." The new carriage museum will have interactive components.

Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Museums and Historic Sites. "We really felt like the Wisconsin Historical Society's mission is to connect people to the past."

To do that, the society has embarked on a major capital campaign, dubbed "Forward!" which is just now going public, Goehring said.

The project at the Wade House will turn an unused bluff overlooking state Highway 23 into a 40,000-square-foot learning and visitors center and carriage museum.

The current visitors center and Wesley Jung Carriage Museum leave a lot to be desired as far as drawing people in and helping them understand the importance of the Wade House in the area's history, said David Simmons, director of the Wade House site.

See Wade House/A2

The Sheboygan Press
special report
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Portions of this Special Report can be found at sheboyganpress.com.
The complete Special Report is exclusive to print editions of The Sheboygan Press

>> For more information about the capital campaign for expansion at the Wade House Historic Site, go to wisconsinhistory.org and click the link for the "Forward!" campaign.

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

"Forward! movement for Wade House," The Sheboygan Press, November 14, 2010, page 2 of 2

A2 The Sheboygan Press, Sunday, November 14, 2010

www.sheboyganpress.com

Wade House/'Forward!' plan means big changes for historic site

Continued from A1

"What we don't have is anyplace within the space for visitors to get a sense of the experience before them," Simmons said. "In

most living history experiences, one is, we hope, transported back into time."

The carriage museum is a particular problem because it does a very poor job of showcasing what Simmons said is the only collection of horse-drawn transportation of its kind in the country.

"It's a marvelous collection and not very well housed," Simmons said. "A major component in our decision to create new Jung Carriage Museum is that collection, as wonderful as it is, is more akin to a used-car lot than it is to

a strong interpretive display of the vehicles and their context — how they were used and what they meant in their time period."

The new carriage museum will have some interactive components and will do a thorough job of explaining why the horse-drawn vehicles — which were just about to be replaced by combustion engines — were so important.

"(The Wade House) really needed a facility that helped interpret," Goehring said. "(The carriages) are more than just

beautiful. Why are they important?"

The new visitors center will include classroom and meeting space, a gift shop and a large space that will be available for rent for private events like wedding receptions, Simmons said. The Wade House draws roughly 20,000 visitors per year.

The new visitors center also will make the site a year-round operation as opposed to the spring-to-fall season the Wade House currently observes, Simmons said.

Sheboygan historian Bill Wangemann said the Wade House is a rare and often overlooked jewel, and the planned work will help expose many more people to its important lessons.

"It's probably one of the nicest or best functioning historic sites ... in the state," Wangemann said. "Historically, it's important — there's no question about that. It shows us what Sheboygan County was like. You can't go ahead if you don't where you've been and that's why history is so important. It's a real gem for Sheboygan County."

The Wade House recently received an \$800,000 federal grant for transportation enhancements and bicycle and pedestrian projects, which will help the bottom line of the entire project, Goehring said.

"It's very important to the overall vision that we have," Goehring said. "The \$800,000 will be used to help us fund the fabrication and installation of exhibits in the visitors center and museum."

Goehring said fundraising for the Wade House improvements has al-



"A major component in our decision to create new Jung Carriage Museum is that collection, as wonderful as it is, is more akin to a used car lot than it is to a strong interpretive display of the vehicles and their context — how they were used and what they meant in their time period."

Wade House director David Simmons

ready brought in \$13.4 million. The minimum amount needed to break ground on the project is \$13.8 million, which means they're well on their way.

Of that total, \$6.5 million came from the State Building Commission, which has to approve major changes made to state structures. The federal grant will provide \$800,000 and the rest is from private donations.

In the state's overall goal of \$77 million, there's still \$8 million to go.

Groundbreaking for the new visitors center and carriage museum is expected to occur in June 2011 and organizers are determined to hold a grand opening on June 6, 2013, which will be the 60th anniversary of the opening of the historic site.

The long-range plan for the Wade House has three more phases over the next

12 years, and they include renovating the long-unused Robinson House, a fresh restoration at the Wade House and some changes to the Plank Road approach to the Wade House, among other things.

Goehring said funding hasn't even been discussed yet for those later projects.

Simmons said that in addition to the many practical reasons for the upgrades at the Wade House, the intangible ones might be the most important.

"We're envisioning a much more magical tree to the historic site," he said. "(Visitors will get on a horse-drawn wagon, travel down through woods, across a bridge ... along a tree-lined road, traveling in time to the historic core of the site."

Reach Janet Ortegon at jortegon@sheboyganpress.com

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

"Grant to allow surveying of shipwrecks," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, November 16, 2010, page 1 of 2

Emma Watson

LOCAL

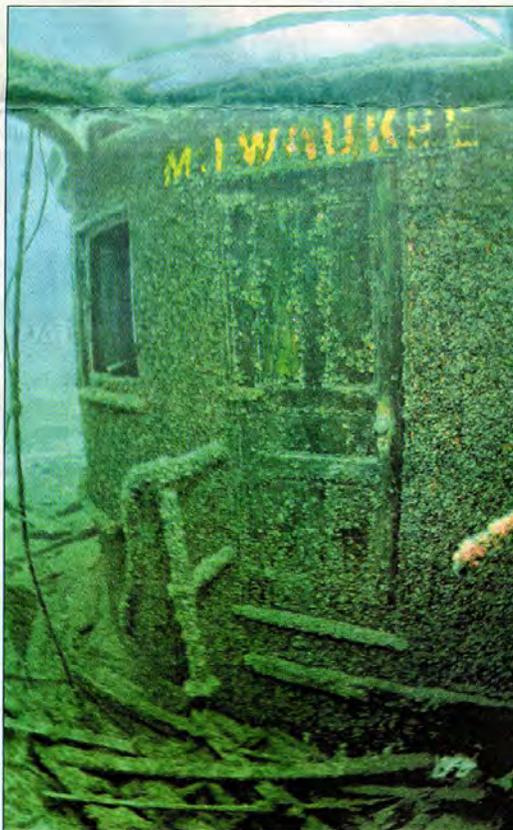
Public schools: State superintendent pushes for funding increase. 3B
No vetoes: Barrett signs city's 2011 budget. 3B
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Grant to allow surveying of shipwrecks



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Milwaukee" can still be read on the S.S. Milwaukee, a car ferry that sank during a Lake Michigan gale off the coast of Milwaukee in October 1929.



The S.S. Milwaukee car ferry sank on Oct. 22, 1929. All on board died.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

S.S. Milwaukee, which sank in 1929, is among five to be studied

By MEG JONES
mjones@journalsentinel.com

At 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 22, 1929, as the S.S. Milwaukee car ferry was caught in a ferocious gale, the ship's purser wrote this note and tucked it into a watertight case: *The ship is taking on water fast. We have turned around and headed for Milwaukee. Pumps are working but the sea gate is bent and won't keep water out. (Crew compartment) is flooded. Seas are tremendous. Things look bad.*

By the time the note was found, the ship's purser and the rest of his shipmates were already dead. A few members of the crew — some accounts say 52 died on the S.S. Milwaukee, others say it was 47 — managed to escape the 338-foot-long car ferry before it plunged to the bottom of Lake Michigan, along with its cargo of rail cars carrying bathtubs, automobiles, lumber, barley, canned peas and salt.

Four crew members fled in one of the lifeboats but it wasn't a refuge, only another vessel of death. Their bodies were found in the lifeboat four days after the ferry foundered.

Now a popular wreck for scuba divers,

Please see **SURVEYS, 5B**

SHIPWRECKS ON THE WEB

Five shipwrecks will be added to Wisconsin's Maritime Trails system of historic markers, highlighting each wreck. Already, there are 32 placed around the state at parks and waterfronts. For photos and information, go to www.wisconsinshipwrecks.org and www.maritimetrails.org.

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

“Grant to allow surveying of shipwrecks, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, November 16, 2010, page 2 of 2

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Divers examine what remains of one of the automobiles the S.S. Milwaukee was transporting when it sank in heavy Lake Michigan seas.

From page 1

SURVEYS

5 shipwrecks to be studied

the car ferry sits in 90 to 120 feet of water three miles northeast of Atwater Beach. For non-divers, though, it's hard to picture just what the wreck looks like or its historical significance in a time when railroads often moved rail cars by water to avoid crowded rail yards.

Soon, though, the S.S. Milwaukee will be more accessible, not just to divers but to those who won't need a tank of compressed air to see the shipwreck.

Starting next summer archaeologists will survey and document the S.S. Milwaukee and four other Lake Michigan shipwrecks in Wisconsin waters through a federal grant awarded this month to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Chosen because they represent a cross section of historically significant vessels, the shipwrecks are near Milwaukee, Manitowoc, Kewaunee and Sturgeon Bay.

“Part of what we were looking for were five shipwrecks that are already popular with people,” said Jim Draeger, deputy state historic preservation officer. “They're all ones that are pretty intact and have good archaeological potential.”

The \$170,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration Transportation Enhancement program will pay for digital photo mosaics, sketches and measurements, photos, site plans and

Shipwreck survey

Underwater archaeologists will survey five shipwrecks next summer, including the S.S. Milwaukee car ferry which sank in 1929 with all hands, through funding from a \$170,000 federal grant.



Journal Sentinel

historic research. Digital photo mosaics illustrate the wreck as it now looks by piecing together hundreds of photos taken by scuba divers. Divers will measure and sketch the wreck, said Draeger.

The archaeological surveys and documentation will be used to nominate the five wrecks to the National Register of Historic Places, which will give them additional legal protection. Buoys will be placed at each site so dive boats can safely moor without harming the shipwreck.

Along with the S.S. Milwaukee, these ships will be surveyed:

■ EMBA, an early self-loading vessel scuttled in 1932 about six miles north-

east of Milwaukee's main harbor;

■ Floretta, an iron ore schooner wrecked off Manitowoc in 1885;

■ America, a three-masted freight boat that sank near Kewaunee in 1880;

■ Lakeland, an iron steamer loaded with new autos lost off Sturgeon Bay in 1924.

Jerry Guyer has dived on the S.S. Milwaukee for years. He takes many customers to the wreck through his work as owner of Pirate's Cove Dive Shop in Milwaukee and captain of the Lender scuba charter boat.

Among the popular sights are the wheel house, which lies on the lake bottom near the wreck, as well as the twisted storm gate that many believe led to the demise of the Milwaukee. Some have speculated that the rail cars broke free and crashed against the gate, allowing water to flow in.

While the S.S. Milwaukee used to be a challenging dive for those who wanted to penetrate the wreck and swim inside to see the rail cars and cargo, it's now very difficult because the ship is starting to break apart. Until a few years ago divers could see two intact 1920s automobiles, but now the vehicles have been reduced to piles of car parts.

“It was fairly intact until the last 10 years. It's been breaking apart. The decks and bilges have all collapsed. It's not what it once was,” said Guyer. “Because of its depth, it's a shorter dive than some of the other (wrecks.) Its size makes it pretty hard to see on any one dive, so a lot of people ask to go back and make several dives.”

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

"Historical explorations move 'Forward!'," Wisconsin State Journal, November 21, 2010, page 1 of 1

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL • NOVEMBER 21, 2010

Travel

SECTION H



Colorful Curacao

As Caribbean islands go, this friendly and diverse place stands out.

COMING NEXT WEEK

>More on entertainment, arts and culture at 77square.com

Wisconsin tourism > Preserving heritage

Historical explorations move 'Forward!'

By **GEORGE HESSELBERG**
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Projects designed to enhance "heritage tourism" in Wisconsin received a \$970,000 boost this month from federal grants aimed at preservation efforts above ground and under water.

Because the money comes from transportation sources and is required to be used for "surface transportation," among other criteria, the Wisconsin Historical Society is channeling it to horse-drawn carriages and sunken ships.

The five ships involved plied the surface of Lake Michigan but sunk between 1880 and 1932.

The carriages are in an extensive collection housed at Wesley Jung Carriage Museum, part of the Wade

House stagecoach inn attraction in Sheboygan County.

The money gets added to the society's "Forward! Campaign," an ambitious effort begun with the state slogan's exclamation point four years ago to raise \$77 million from public and private sources for numerous projects. The new total is \$68.7 million, said Bob Granflaten, historical society spokesman.

The total includes \$43.3 million in public, or government funds, and \$25.4 private funds raised.

"For the last \$8.3 million we are seeking private donations," he said, describing a public effort that began in October with an invitation-only gathering of potential donors in Madison.

Please see **TOURISM**, Page H2



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO

The Wade Jung Carriage Museum, on the Wade House grounds, holds every manner of sleigh, carriage and wagon. A replacement carriage house will be ready in 2013, and a new \$800,000 federal grant will pay for exhibit installation.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE H1

The two new grants come from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Enhancement program, in reimbursements administered by the state Department of Transportation. The largest of the two, \$800,000, will pay for installing exhibits in a new Learning and Visitor Center to open in 2013 at the carriage museum, a unique gathering of carriages, sleighs and wagons. Wade House, which ended regular hours in mid-October but offers special events year-round, has had 16,733 visitors this year, Granflaten said.

The remaining \$170,000 pays for the society's underwater education program, an unusual project for unusual tourists. The project involves gathering information — taking archaeological surveys, for example — that will help put the Lake Michigan shipwrecks on the National Register of Historic Places. But the effort is broader than that,

"Very little is known about these ships," said Draeger, so a survey will add to the trove of information included in the society's "Maritime Trails" program. The wrecks attract wet-suited tourists, he said, and the grant also will pay for mooring buoys to assist shipwreck seekers and to protect the sites from anchor-dragging visitors.

Heritage tourism efforts can combine maritime elements — the shipwrecks with nearby lighthouses, for example — into groups that can be promoted, Draeger said.

"The surveys also help us write the history and track the evolution of vessel designs," he said.

"We are trying to build public appreciation of these shipwrecks by allowing public access to them, teaching people these wrecks are important. Rather than have divers discover the wrecks on their own and pull a chunk off, this will help teach responsible tourism. Visit the wrecks and leave nothing behind but bubbles."

Shipwrecks: The Wisconsin Historical Society's maritime projects are detailed at two websites, www.wisconsinshipwrecks.org and www.maritimetrails.org. The five Lake Michigan shipwrecks targeted for archaeological surveys are:

- SS Milwaukee. Steel rail car ferry lost off Milwaukee in October 1929, with all hands on board.
- EMBA. Early self-unloading vessel scuttled off Milwaukee in December 1932.
- Floretta. Iron ore schooner lost off Manitowoc in September 1885.
- America. Three-masted canaller lost off Kewaunee in September 1880.
- Lakeland. Iron steamer loaded with new automobiles lost off Sturgeon Bay in December 1924.

Wade House: Details about the Wade House are available at wadehouse.wisconsinhistory.org.

Winter at state historic sites: For a complete schedule of offseason events, check www.wisconsinhistory.org/sites/index.asp.

Forward! Campaign: The Wisconsin Historical Society's public-private fundraising and education campaign is detailed at www.forwardcampaign.org.

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

"Hanging on to those things that define us," Wisconsin State Journal, October 7, 2010, page 1 of 2



SECRET PLACES | HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Photos by STEVE APPS - State Journal

Paul Bourcier, the Wisconsin Historical Society's chief curator, stands next to an 80-inch-tall fiberglass "Big Boy" that originally stood in front of the Madison Park Street restaurant of the same name in the 1970s. The Big Boy is one of 98,000 historical objects and thousands more archeological artifacts stored in the basement of the Wisconsin Historical Society — one of Madison's Secret Places.

There are places we can go and others we can't. This installment in our Secret Places series, which appears occasionally, is designed to take you to hidden, unknown or in-plain-view-but-off-limits places in Madison and Wisconsin. Today we visit the storage rooms and archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Hanging on to those things that define us

By **GENA KITTNER**
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608-252-6139

Deep in a basement on the UW-Madison campus lies the story of our state:

The cheesehead hat signed last year by President Barack Obama on his visit to Wright Middle School in Madison is there.

So is the 1 millionth aluminum wheel cover cast at the Reynolds Metal Company in Beloit in 1996 and signed by the employees, and a wild rice threshing

WEB EXTRA

Video: See inside the Wisconsin Historical Society's storage and archive.
Go to: madison.com/wsj

machine used on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation.

They're among the 98,000 historical objects and thousands more archeological artifacts found in the storage of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Please see **HISTORICAL**, Page A7



This 1941 Harley-Davidson Knucklehead — one of 2,452 made by the Milwaukee company — was confiscated by the state after its owner got one too many drunken driving violations. It stands in the middle of an aisle in a crowded storage room at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

“Hanging on to those things that define us,” Wisconsin State Journal, October 7, 2010, page 2 of 2

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

FROM PAGE ONE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2010 • A7

Historical

Continued from Page A1

Consider this Secret Place the state's antique warehouse — clean but musty, crammed but orderly — a slideshow of the objects both notable and obscure that epitomize Wisconsin.

“We do rely on people's sense of history, of their willingness to share their stories with other people,” Paul Bourcier, the Wisconsin Historical Society's chief curator, said of the society's collection that has been built almost entirely through donation. “Our stories are important. We want something of ours to be preserved so that future generations can appreciate the things that we did.”

10 rooms filled with history

A tour of the collection — a maze of rooms rarely shown to the public — starts at the basement level with Bourcier, swiping his badge to open a secure door and shutting us down a short flight of stairs to the processing area, where new objects are photographed and catalogued before being stored.

Beyond this small, brightly lit area, adjoining rooms hold row after row of drawers and metal shelves filled with 164 years' worth of procurements.

Every available slice of space — 10 rooms, 20,000 square feet — is filled.

A 1941 Harley-Davidson Knucklehead — one of 2,452 made by the Milwaukee company and confiscated by the state after its owner racked up too many drunken driving violations — is parked in the middle of an aisle next to beer kegs from Gray's Brewing Co. in Janesville and the brewery in Monroe that used to produce the Berghoff and Huber brands. On the other side of the Harley is a roll-top desk owned and possibly made by Darwin Clark, a Madison mayor in the 19th century.

An iron lung, used to treat polio in the 1950s, from the Wisconsin Veterans Hospital is in a corner.

A 6-foot-tall fiberboard Indian cutout displayed in Milwaukee during the Milwaukee Braves' World Series win in 1957 is tucked behind a dentist chair.

“You can see some of our aisles are blocked in with various things because we've just run out of room,” Bourcier said. “Things are just too crowded for long-term preservation.”

Only about 2 percent of the society's museum collection is on display at any



STEVE APPS - State Journal

A 6-foot-tall fiberboard American Indian cutout displayed in Milwaukee during the Milwaukee Braves' World Series win in 1957 is tucked behind a dentist chair in a storage room of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

given time. A society committee reviews all proposed donations that pass the curators' muster.

Bigger digs on the way

Fortunately, a bigger storage building is on the horizon.

By 2014, the society's museum collection will be moved to a new, 95,000-square-foot facility slated to be built on state-owned property near the Mendota Mental Health Institute on Madison's North Side.

The facility will have a larger area for processing additions to the collection, including an isolation room to store objects such as outdoor signs that could come to the historical society infested with bugs. Now these objects are tightly wrapped in plastic to prevent the bugs from spreading to other objects and stored alongside everything else.

The building will have a conservation lab, a photography studio and a bigger processing room. Other rooms will be designated for paintings, industrial machinery and culturally sensitive materials such as Native American items. The facility will store collections of books, media and archival materials and be shared with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Space constraints “really limit us as far as the kinds of things that we can preserve from Wisconsin's past and present,” Bourcier said.

“Say we were offered the Wienermobile — a classic Wisconsin artifact. We

COMING UP

In an upcoming installment of the Secret Places series, we'll take you behind the scenes at Dane County Regional Airport.

wouldn't have any place to put it in the current building. But in the new building, we'd have a place to park that.”

Over the years, the society has had to turn down Wisconsin-made automobiles and other pieces of heavy industry, transportation or agriculture, such as a cranberry harvester, because it had nowhere to store it.

But officials have made special accommodations at locations off campus for old beer vats from the Stevens Point Brewery and the first robotic milking machine made by Boumatic of Madison.

Preserving contemporary, too

The storage isn't just filled with the old. Items such as the Cheesehead signed by Obama and the six-pack of Capital Supper Club, which Bourcier bought the first day the beer hit grocery store shelves, sit near 1,300 milk bottles that were collected over the decades from dairies in the state.

“We're really carrying on a legacy by collecting contemporary material,” he said. “We try to concentrate on those things that help define Wisconsin as a place. That's really the direction a lot of our future exhibits are going to go.”

FILM VAULT

Not far from the sprawling storage area of the Wisconsin Historical Society is the society's film vault, which lies under the grass and steps leading to the society's front door.

Here, 145,000 rolls of microfilm and 23,000 reels of motion picture films are stored as part of the collaboration between the society and the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research at UW-Madison.

“This certainly qualifies as a space that people don't get to,” said Harry Miller, the society's reference archivist.

Above the film vault, much of five floors within the historical society's headquarters are devoted to its archive collections, including letters, minutes, studies, scripts, reports and financial records that social and political organizations, businesses and Wisconsin state and local governments have created.

Documents of note among the archive include a set of letters with signatures from everyone who signed the Declaration of Independence, likely worth more than \$1 million.

A box of papers from former Republican Gov. Scott McCallum sits next to a box of Little Lulu's cartoon strips.

One section of the floor holding theater and film materials is partly closed off by a locked cage, behind which are boxes with promotional photographs.

“These are mostly the kind of photos you see in theater lobbies,” Miller said, pulling out glossy photos of Ava Gardner.

Although less rare now, the photos traditionally carried a high market value, he said. “One time, many years ago, there was a theft of some of these stills and this cage was constructed.”

In addition to the collections in the society's library, archives and museum storage, 100,000 more objects are located at the Wisconsin Historical Society's 11 museums and historic sites throughout the state.

— Gena Kittner

TELL US ABOUT A SECRET PLACE

Is there a Secret Place you'd like the Wisconsin State Journal to uncover? We want your ideas for locations not accessible to the general public. They're out of the way, hidden or off-limits. Send your ideas to Assistant City Editor Mark Pitsch at mpitsch@madison.com, or call 608-252-6145.

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

“Quest for bigger closet,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, October 20, 2010, page 1 of 2

JSOnline.com

WEDNESDAY: OCTOBER 20, 2010

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A Harley-Davidson 1941 Model FL "knucklehead" motorcycle is part of the collection of artifacts at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Quest for bigger closet

Historical Society raises funds for new storage space

PRESERVING THE PAST

Projects to be partly paid for by the fund-raising campaign include:

- A new building to safeguard the historical society's collections.
- Revamping Old World Wisconsin in Eagle and Wade House in Greenbush.
- A third generation of the society's website.

By MEG JONES
mjones@journal sentinel.com

Madison — The state's attic, hope chest and file drawers are rapidly filling up.

For more than 150 years, the Wisconsin Historical Society has been the collector of the state's story — the repository of governors' important and not-so-important papers, maps of the Great Lakes before Europeans knew what Lake Michigan's shoreline looked like, movie scripts, photos, paintings, a 1941 Harley-Davidson "knucklehead" motorcycle, even a Big Boy restaurant sign.

More than 4 million titles of published materials are stored by the Wisconsin Historical Society, along with reams of archival materials such as pictures, posters and advertisements. The society has lots of shelves, all of which would measure 32 miles if set end to end. But like any closet, a bigger one will soon be needed.

The Wisconsin Historical Society has launched a campaign to raise \$8.3 million in private funding by 2013 for several initiatives, including build-



This fiberglass Big Boy restaurant figure was perched at a Madison restaurant until 1971. It now has a home at the Historical Society.

Please see HISTORICAL, 8A

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

“Quest for bigger closet,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, October 20, 2010, page 2 of 2

2010

NATION • FROM PAGE ONE

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



Patrons use the recently renovated library reading room at the Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State St., in Madison. The society has launched a fund-raising campaign.

From page 1 HISTORICAL Society needs space

ing a new facility to house the collections, improving two of the state's historic sites and revamping the society's website. The society has already raised \$68.7 million in government and private funding and hopes to gather the remaining \$8.3 million from individuals and corporations through forwardcampaign.org.

The new storage facility will be built in Madison on vacant state land near Mendota Mental Health Institute. The 163,000-square-foot building will have two main storage rooms with a total of 95,000 square feet. It won't be open to the public. Instead, anyone who wants to view something held at the new storage facility will request the item, which will be brought to the Historical Society building next to the Memorial Union. No donated items have been turned away yet, but a few big things, such as huge antique beer aging tanks, the first robotic milking machine and Wisconsin State Fair murals, are being temporarily held at other state sites until a new preservation facility is built.

"We've slowed our collecting because we're running

MORE PHOTOS ONLINE

To view a gallery of Historical Society photos, go to journal.com/photos.

out of collecting space," said Wisconsin Historical Society Director Ellsworth Brown, noting that some documents are fragile and fading. "Nothing has disintegrated to the point we've had to throw anything out, but what we've had is a risk of a gap in the record because we can't accept some things."

The latest phase of the fund-raising campaign began earlier this month. Overall, the campaign includes:

- \$29.3 million to safeguard the Historical Society's collections. That includes the new storage facility, now being designed and scheduled to open in mid-2013; renovating the Wisconsin Historical Society building in Madison, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and a preservation endowment to add employees to help with conservation of papers and artifacts.

- \$20 million to revamp Old World Wisconsin in Eagle and Wade House in Greenbush. Wade House will get a new interpretive center and a year-round museum to house the horse-drawn carriage collection that includes rare buggies, milk wagons, sleighs and a fire engine. Old World Wisconsin will get more interactive displays and amenities.

- \$2.5 million for new technology, specifically a third generation of the Wisconsin Historical Society's website, which has not changed much for almost a decade. Plans call for the new website to be more interactive and specific to users' needs. It will allow researchers to look for a certain document, teachers to search for information for lesson plans and tourists to identify which historic sites they might want to visit. For example, the new website could be used to look up all of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings and plot out a driving route to visit them, said Brown.

- \$19.2 million for future projects, endowments and acquisition and cataloging of special collections.

Mammoth collection

The amount and variety of things held by the Wisconsin Historical Society is mind-



Slot machines confiscated by the state in the early 1950s are among the items in the Wisconsin Historical Society's collection.

boggling. And the papers, artifacts and memorabilia are not simply locked away in a vault — it's all available to whoever wants to look at it. About 400 people each day come to the Historical Society building to look at the collections while thousands more visit online daily, said Michael Edmonds, deputy director, library-archives division.

"If it was all in a hangar in Utah, it wouldn't matter. What's important is to share it with people," said Edmonds, noting that the wealth of information amounts to a mosaic of world culture. "It's a vision of history that's not just wars and elections."

When the Wisconsin Historical Society began to put some of its collections online in the late 1990s — a digital lifetime ago — the first book scanned and posted on the website was a roster of Wisconsin's Civil War soldiers. Within a few weeks, the Civil War roster had gotten 30,000 hits, said Edmonds. That opened a lot of eyes to the power of the Internet in accessing history and figuratively blowing the dust off items in the society's collection, including the world's first atlas, Edith Head's designs for Grace Kelly's costumes in "To Catch a Thief," and a "Citizen Kane" shooting script.

Some of the funds will be used to hire additional workers to scan and post online more documents, photos and archival materials. On a recent day behind the scenes at the society's building, a large scanner was being used to take pictures of an oversize 1866 book of photos by G.N. Barnard called "Photographic Reviews of Sherman's Campaign," with the book opened to a picture showing the destruction of Confeder-

ate Gen. John Hood's ordnance train.

Another scanner was being used by digital archivist Laura Lob to photograph a large hand-colored print of Wisconsin's Civil War mascot, the bald eagle dubbed "Old Abe."

With next year's sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War, the Wisconsin Historical Society is scanning about 25,000 pages and documents pertaining to the state's participation in the war.

The historical society often gets licensing requests to reprint photos and documents in its collection. Among the most popular is the small poster advertising the auction of the farm owned by Wisconsin serial killer Ed Gein that burned down before it could be sold.

Recently, a professor in New England studying early Mohawk Indian primers published for missionaries contacted the Wisconsin Historical Society for help and learned that the only known existing copy of the primer is in Madison. Edmonds scanned the primer and e-mailed the pages to the professor.

When members of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who were initially prevented from entering racially segregated Little Rock High School in 1957, visited Madison recently, they were surprised to see their police incident reports. Edmonds said the society's director during the 1960s noticed many students were traveling to the South on civil rights trips and asked them to donate their diaries, papers and mementos.

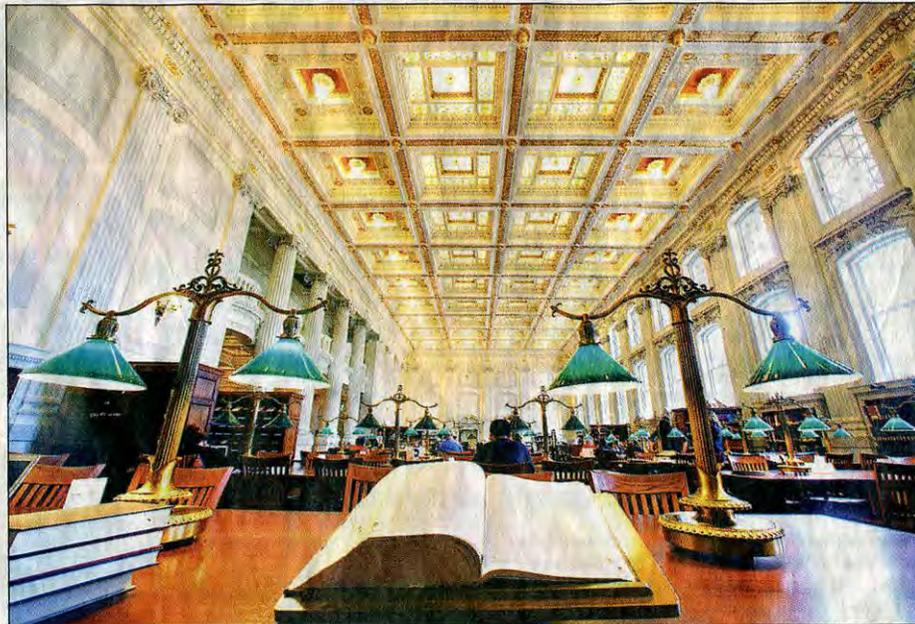
Now, just about anyone writing about the Civil Rights Era in American history visits the Wisconsin Historical Society, either in person or on the web, said Ed-

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

“Out with the old ... in with the really old,” Wisconsin State Journal, April 22, 2010, page 1 of 1

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LOCAL



CRAIG SCHREINER — State Journal

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library Reading Room has been restored to its 1900 grandeur, with discrete nods to 21st century technology and careful attention to detail. The room, open to the public, already is attracting additional readers and researchers, society officials say.

OUT WITH THE OLD...

... in with the really old at Library Reading Room.

By **GEORGE HESSELBERG**
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How does one restore a “sense of place” when there is little evidence of what the original looked like?

Detective work, attention to quality, brilliant solutions and persistence were brought to the task of restoring the Library Reading Room at the Wisconsin Historical Society’s campus headquarters.

For the \$2.9 million renovation and restoration project, the society received a room demure in tone, expansive in structure and inventive in meeting an odd challenge of in-with-the-really-old, out-with-the-old.

These subjectives the public can test for itself in tours Friday and Saturday, but students and other researchers have already responded positively to the new room: The comfy leather reading chairs, the soothing color tones, the lovingly

restored column curleys and cues and dangly bell flowers, the mahogany tables, the handy outlets for laptop computers and the inviting green-shaded lamps.

“We had to restore the look and retain the functionality,” said Peter Gottlieb, state archivist.

This restoration dates to 1955 when the room — which is on the second floor, facing the Library Mall — was significantly, and, nearly fatally, altered. Only if you had been there before then would you have known about the ornate stained glass skylights panels.

“Nearly fatal” because the ornate stained glass skylights were smashed, the ceiling was dropped and the graceful room turned into more “room” and less “grace.” The “new” ceiling, with ornate plaster rosettes, gold leaf accents and a blushing ocre contrast color, is gasp-inducing.

“We had one photograph, a black-and-white,” said Jim Draeger, the society’s architectural historian, of the search for samples of



This photo of the Reading Room is from 1900, the year the building was dedicated. Restorers had few materials to consult for information. These original skylights — unlike the new ones — had real light coming through.

Wisconsin Historical Society

what the room looked like in 1900, when the Neoclassical Revival building was dedicated. They also had one postcard, hand-tinted, from Germany, dated 1900. Researchers scoured records for written descriptions of the room, looking for colors, consulted old blueprints and followed clues from the way the tiny mosaic floor tiles were colored.

One green glass lampshade was found in the museum’s collection, and from that the stylish lamps were recreated — even the deepening shade of green was duplicated — returning “task lighting” and a casual intimacy.

Ellsworth Brown, society director, noted the building for 50 years was the UW-Madison library, and that reading room then and since was defined by users’ experiences.

“This is a declaration of a sense of place,” Brown said, inviting the public to rediscover it.

IF YOU GO

What: Free public tours of the newly renovated Library Reading Room in the Wisconsin Historical Society’s historic headquarters building.

When: 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

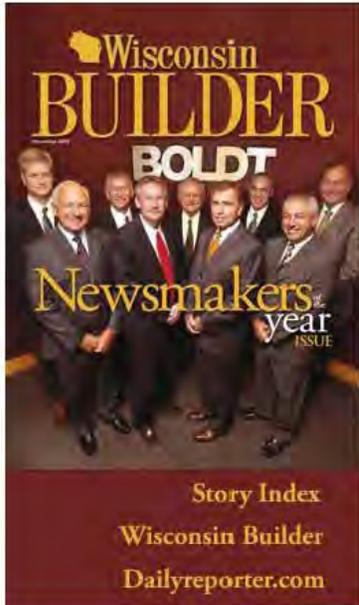
WEB EXTRA

Photo gallery: View details in the restored Wisconsin Historical Society Library Reading Room.

Go to: madison.com/ws/

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

“Better than the original,” *Wisconsin Builder*, April 28, 2010, page 1 of 2



Artist Brian Fick of The Garland Guild, Indianapolis, applies gold leaf to one of the pendants that decorate the 30-foot-high ceiling of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Library Reading Room.

Photo submitted by the Wisconsin Historical Society

Better than the original

Findorff gives Library Reading Room overdue finishing touches

It took 110 years, but the Library Reading Room at the Wisconsin Historical Society's headquarters in Madison is finally getting the finishing touches it was originally designed to have.

During the building's construction at the turn of the 20th century, money ran out and the interior was never painted, gold leafing was never applied as intended and other decorative details went by the wayside, said Greg Parkinson, the society's director of administrative services.

"For the first time, 110 years later, the building will really be completed," he said of the renovation and restoration project.

Major work was done on the building in the 1960s, Parkinson said, but it involved taking out decorative elements, not putting them in. Due to the political unrest at that time on the University of Wisconsin-Madison's campus — the historical society is in the middle of the campus' Library Mall — first-floor windows were removed and replaced with stone, he said.

After many years spent gathering support for a full renovation/restoration of the Historical Society, the restoration of the



Construction workers with J.H. Findorff & Son Inc. restore the left half of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Library Reading Room on July 23 in Madison.

Photo submitted by J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.

Wisconsin Historical Society In the Media

“Better than the original,” Wisconsin Builder, April 28, 2010, page 2 of 2

Library Reading Room is the first step in that direction, Parkinson said.

The Library Reading Room was a natural place to start, he said, as it is the most visible part of the building.

“The Historical Society has pushed hard for this work in recent years,” he said. “We were successful in gaining the support of the Division of State Facilities and the Building Commission over the past couple of years.”

As with any project that involves a commonly used space, working around the society’s many visitors has been a challenge, said Steve Klaven, project manager for J.H. Findorff & Son Inc., the general contractor on the job. Use of a ramp from the outside directly to the second-story Library Reading Room offers the contractors a way of going in and out with minimal disruption to visitors, he said.

Klaven said he jumped at the opportunity to work on the project because of his previous experience renovating the Boston Public Library.

“With these types of projects, you have sensitivity toward the historical nature of the building,” he said. “There’s a tremendous degree of protection involved — preserving the existing finishes and protecting the floors.”

To achieve a historically accurate look, artists were hired to complete decorative painting, plaster work and gold leafing, Klaven said.

The result will be multifaceted, Parkinson said.

“It will be a dazzling gem,” he said, “but also a state-of-the-art library reading area.”

The restored Library Reading Room will include a variety of new equipment such as improved microfilm machines and computer terminals, Parkinson said, in addition to the decorative touches that were part of the original design.

“It will be a nice mixture of the old and the new,” he said. “We hope it will be attractive in nature and use of the facilities will increase.”

— Caley Clinton

Project Specs

Project name: Wisconsin Historical Society Library Reading Room renovation

Location: Madison

Owner: Wisconsin Historical Society

General Contractor: J.H. Findorff & Son Inc., Madison

Architect: Isthmus Architecture Inc., Madison

Project cost: \$2.96 million

Start date: June 21, 2009

Completion date: March 1, 2010