



816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-264-6450  
www.WisconsinHistory.org

## 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 27-member Board of Curators. It is both a state agency and a private membership organization. It receives about 60 percent of its funding from the state of Wisconsin, and the other 40 percent comes through fundraising, federal grants and earned revenues.

## 2014/2015 Fact Sheet



### 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 14 area research centers makes the collections readily available statewide. In addition to Wisconsin history, holdings include several collections of national scope:

- Early American exploration and 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 an internationally-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
- 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 12 historic sites and museums promotes tourism and provides for the comprehensive study, appreciation and enjoyment of Midwestern frontier history for more than 300,000 visitors annually. The historic sites and museums, located throughout Wisconsin, include the Wisconsin Historical Museum in Madison, and:

### 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

### First Capitol, Belmont, WI

The birthplace of Wisconsin's territorial government

### H.H. Bennett Studio, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Historic studio of the man who made Wisconsin Dells famous

### 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

### Madeline Island Museum, La Pointe, WI

A museum of Apostle Islands exploration and settlement

### Reed School, Neillsville, WI

A 1940s one-room school

### Black Point Estate, Lake Geneva, WI

Historic Victorian "cottage" and gardens on a private island