H.H. Bennett Studio & Museum

215 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells, WI 608.253.3523

Madeline Island Museum

226 Col. Woods Avenue, La Pointe, WI 715.747.2415

Old World Wisconsin

W372 S9727 Hwy. 67, Eagle, WI 262.594.6301

114 Shakerag Street, Mineral Point, WI 608.987.2122

U.S. Hwy. 10 & Cardinal Avenue, Neillsville, WI 608.253.3523

12195 Hwy. VV, Cassville, WI 608.725.5210

521 N. Villa Louis Road, Prairie du Chien, WI 608.326.2721

W7965 State Hwy. 23, Greenbush, WI 920.526.3271

Wisconsin Historical Museum

30 N. Carroll Street, Madison, WI

Museum Store: 888.999.1669

Area Research Centers

wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/arcnet



Active Historic Preservation Commissions



Participating National History Day Schools



National Register Listings



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL



Making tax dollars work for Wisconsin through innovative programs.

Thank you for your support!

For more information contact Kate Easton, Legislative Liaison (608) 264-6442

Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories Since 1846

wisconsinhistory.org

Who We Are

The Wisconsin Historical Society is the state's memory and premier storyteller. Though we are a small state agency, we make major contributions to Wisconsin's economic, educational, and cultural health through innovative initiatives and programs.

Our Value

Our programs, historic sites, museums, collections, and archives inform and entertain while also challenging the public to think critically about their place in history. We promote Wisconsin tourism and our historic preservation program reinvigorates neighborhoods. We believe that increasing the public's knowledge of history has profound societal, cultural, and economic benefit.





Meeting the Moment, Preparing for the Future

- Collected history as it happened during the 2021 fiscal year, acquiring
 25 manuscript collections and 872 objects, as well as 140 submissions to our COVID-19 Journal Project (now over 400 total).
- 53 Society staff members shared their expertise by accepting temporary job reassignments to help other state agencies (DHS, DWD) respond to demand for services during the height of the pandemic.
- Surpassed our target of \$30 million raised in private contributions for a new state history museum and secured real estate for a final site on Capitol Square, keeping us on our timeline to open the museum in 2026.
- Reopened all 12 historic sites and museums across the state for in-person visits in summer 2021 thanks to \$1 million in Recovery Act funding.
- Reached \$2.6 million in private gifts, allowing Phase I of the New Arrivals
 entry project at Old World Wisconsin to move forward with the construction
 of a new brewing building and relocation of a 1906 tavern to the historic site.



Education

- Despite the pandemic, 3,526 students participated in the National History Day program, with 52 qualifying for the National competition and seven finishing in the Top 10 or winning special awards.
- The Society enjoyed significant growth in digital engagement. Total followers on social media platforms reached **47,632**, including a **25% increase** on Facebook. One post on the anniversary of the Peshtigo fire reached **151,452** people and was shared over **1,400** times.
- 41,740 students used our 4th-grade Wisconsin history textbook.
- The Society Press sold **40,918 books**, many printed on Wisconsin paper, and published **13 new titles and 7 audiobooks**.
- Society Press virtual and in-person programs attracted **6,395 attendees**.
- **382 people from 19 states and 53 Wisconsin counties** participated in our 14th Annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, including 49% first-time attendees. The virtual event featured **32 sessions**.



Statewide Impact

- Before fully reopening in-person, Society historic sites created new programs for safe engagement, such as the *Family Fun Drive* at Old World Wisconsin, which drew **4,000 drive-thru guests** in fall 2020 and spring 2021.
- The Society ended the fiscal year with **9,880 members** (2,289 new).
- Library & Archives Division provided access to historic books, newspapers, documents, and other materials to more than **19,238 patrons**.
- Advised and supported a network of 425 affiliated local history and community organizations.
- The 962-square-mile Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast in Lake Michigan, researched and mapped by Society archaeologists, was designated the 15th national marine sanctuary, paving the way for educational programming and economic impact for communities through tourism.



Private Investments and Jobs

- Over **\$4** million of the Society's \$22.9 million budget more than **18%** was supported by gifts, grants and earned income in Fiscal Year 2021.
- The State Historic Preservation Office approved projects that resulted in \$127 million in income-producing historic rehabilitation work in Wisconsin, bringing \$24.6 million in federal historic preservation tax credits to the state and creating 2,117 jobs. A total of 478 buildings were rehabilitated.
- The private sector invested \$143 million in rehabilitated historic properties with the help of Society historic preservation specialists.

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