

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Preservation of historic, archeological, and cultural resources in the Village of Deer Park and Town of Emerald will foster a sense of pride in a community, improve quality of life, contribute to the preservation of rural character, encourage low-impact tourism and provide an important feeling of social and cultural continuity between the past, present and future.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

In 1983, the Wisconsin State Historical Society compiled a historic resources list of historic sites in Wisconsin communities. The historic resources lists for Deer Park and Emerald do not include any historic sites that are listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. They do include archeological sites that are included in the Wisconsin Archeological Site Inventory database and many historic sites identified through local historical groups, newspaper stories and other resources. Since the list was created, many resources may have been moved, lost or changed.

Using the historic resources list as a starting point, the Deer Park and Emerald Plan Commission members identified additional sites using local residents, historic documents and other state resources, such as the Century Farm and Home and Sesquicentennial programs. Much of the information was gathered during the development of the Community Background section. A final listing of each community's historic resources is identified below. Please note that some sites are not specifically identified to provide protection for the resource and property owners from trespassing, sight-seeing and looting.

EMERALD HISTORIC SITES

- Francis Klatt Century Farm, 2429 160th Ave., established 1906, 104 years, Section 15.
- Lawrence & Mary Moore Century Farm, 1472 230th St., established 1868, 142 years, Section 20.
- Donald Rachner Century Farm, 2284 CTH G, established 1876, 134 years, Section 18.
- Former Marvin Utecht Farm, side-gabled house and side-gabled barn, 170th Ave., south side, 1/2 mile west of CTH D, Section 12.



Barns such as this one on 170th Avenue are an important part of the agricultural heritage of Emerald and create a unique sense of the community. Photo by Barbara Nelson.

- Former Kenneth Salmon Century Farm, 2439 CTH S, established 1882, 128 years, Section 3.



Many types of historic structures are found in Emerald, including this silo is located on 130th Ave. Photo by Barbara Nelson.

- Old Silo, 2104 130th Ave., Section 30.
- Catalog-Order House, formerly known as the John Hanson house, and hipped-roof barn, 2681 170th Avenue, south side, ¼ mile west of CTH D, Section 12.
- Sears-Roebuck Catalog House, Oregon Style, 2565 160th Ave., south side, ¼ mile west of 260th St., Section 14.
- Two-story cube house, 2628 140th St., north side, ¾ mile west of CTH D, Section 24.
- Front gabled structure 130th Ave., south side, Section 29.
- Old Emerald Town Hall, CTH G and 240th Street, northwest corner, Section 16. Front gabled, clapboard structure.
- Greenwood Cemetery, CTH D and 140th Avenue and CTH D, Section 25.
- Hutton Creek School District #3, 2253 170th Ave., Section 8, now a single-family residence.
- Carr Creek School District #4, 2248 130th Ave., Section 29, now a single-family residence
- Oak Dale School District #5, 2448 CTH G, Section 15, now a single-family residence
- Emerald Station Depot, Section 1, moved to Town of Glenwood Frank Warner property.
- Foundations of the Country Maid Cooperative Creamery, CTH G, southwest corner of Section 15.
- Structures in the unincorporated community of Emerald:
 - 1894 Voeltz house, former boarding house, 2698 154th Ave., north side, at CTH D, west side, Section 13.
 - United Methodist Church, Gothic Revival, clapboard structure, Section 13.
 - Tavern/bar, CTH D, west side, boomtown structure, Section 13.
 - Retail building, CTH D, west side, boomtown-clapboard structure, Section 13.
 - Emerald Mill, north side of the railroad tracks, Section 13.
 - Post Office – Originally in house across from Kuehl's Bar & Grill, Section 13.
 - Former State Bank of Emerald, CTH D, east side, in Section 18 of Town of Glenwood. Rock-faced, concrete-block, neoclassical structure.
 - Kuehl's Bar & Grill, CTH D, north end and east side in Section 18 Town of Glenwood, 1933 concrete block, commercial vernacular structure.

<i>DEER PARK HISTORIC SITES</i>

- Trinity Methodist Church, historically Norwegian Methodist Church, North Street and Second Street, southwest corner; late 1800's gothic revival church with steeple and bell tower.
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, historically German Lutheran Church, 214 North Street, northwest corner; late 1800's church with steeple.
- DeCosse Bar since 1957, historically Emerson Implement, Front Street, north side; a one-story, boomtown structure.
- Historically Deer Park Hotel, now a duplex, West Front Street, north side; two-story, front gabled structure.
- Artists in the Park, historically Deer Park Grade School, a single-family home and art studio, Main Street/STH 46, east side; 1 1/2 story, white stucco, art modern structure.
- Historically Deer Park Post Office, now an apartment building, Main Street/STH 46, east side, north of Front Street; two-story, boomtown structure.
- Historically Gust's General Store, now an apartment building, Main Street/STH 46, east side, north of Front Street; two-story, boomtown structure.
- Historically CJ Olson Store, now an apartment building, Main Street/STH 46, east side at Front Street; two-story, boomtown structure.
- Historically Union State Bank, now an antique shop and boutique, Main Street/STH 46 and Front Street northwest corner; one-story, brick, commercial vernacular structure.
- Historically Isaacson's Garage, now a consignment shop, 121 Main Street/STH 46, west side, north of Front Street; one-story, brick structure.
- Deer's Bar & Café, historically a grocery store and food locker, now restaurant, tavern, apartments and Laundromat, 201 Main Street/STH 46, west side; two-story, brick structure.
- Deer's Food Locker, historical site of the creamery and Elmer Hilyar's Meat Market, 210 Main Street/STH 46 and North Street, southeast corner; one-story structure. The creamery structure was cut in half and converted to two single-family homes, locations uncertain.
- Historically a restaurant and telephone office, now a single-family home, 124 Main Street/STH 46, east side; two-story, front gabled structure.
- Historically a one-story cube house, now two-story, single-family home, 115 Third Street.
- Miller home, historically John Sakrison the local banker's house, 206 Park Street and Second Street, south side and southwest corner; two and a half story structure.
- Historically Erickson House, 115 North Street West; two-story structure.
- Historically Lumber Yard, Second and South Street, west side and northwest corner; steel-siding over original wood warehouse structure.

Mapped archeological sites are predominantly burial sites. Under Wisconsin law, Native American burial mounds, unmarked burials and all marked and unmarked cemeteries are protected from intentional disturbance. Each community should make a request to the State Historical Society for more detailed information when a specific development proposal is offered on land in an area where a known historic or archeological site has been mapped, if its location is not readily apparent.

Emerald and Deer Park should work with developers, the county and the state to preserve each community's historic homes, churches, farmsteads, barns and outbuildings that contribute to each community's agricultural and small town heritage, rural character and aesthetic beauty and create a unique community. Emerald and Deer Park can continue to promote their community's farming or small village heritage by supporting local festivals, fairs, markets, farm tours or farm breakfasts.

Additional historic or archeological resources could be identified through an individual or joint effort to create a countywide survey of historic and archeological resources. The State Historical Society provides survey funding on an annual basis, with applications due in November. There is presently no local match requirement.

HISTORIC RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Once resources are identified, they can be protected through a variety of techniques. One option is listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the State Register of Historic Places programs. There are several benefits that come with being listed, such as eligibility for state and federal income tax credits for rehabilitation, use of a special historic building code and protective negotiations when government-funded or assisted projects (i.e. roads) threaten the resources. They can also be valued elements in tourism.

The "Barn Again!" program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Successful Farming magazine has been a successful and visible program for recognizing, rewarding and encouraging the preservation of historic farm buildings.

Another popular program, the Barns Preservation Initiative, to help owners rehabilitate and preserve Wisconsin's barns was begun in 1994 by the Wisconsin Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin Extension and the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation. The new program recognizes the importance of the state's agricultural heritage as embodied in barns, farmhouses, outbuildings and landscapes and has initiated steps to help owners and organizations to preserve and reuse those cultural resources. Workshops that address the preservation of barns have been conducted, informational and technical materials have been prepared, and plans to make additional resources available and to address other rural preservation topics are underway.



Historic barns dot the landscape in Emerald and are important to the community's heritage that hopefully will not be lost. For example, this barn which was located on the Bonnie Steinert farm on CTH D, has since burned down. Photo by Barbara Nelson.

SCENIC RESOURCES

Scenic beauty is an important cultural resource in rural towns and small villages. There are numerous local areas that offer stunning views of the landscape, landmarks (i.e. hills) and bodies of water. In the following list, various resources and agencies have been consulted and each Plan Commission has identified areas of high scenic value where there should be some efforts at preservation.

Scenic Resources Town of Emerald

SITE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION & SIZE
Town of Emerald Park	Picnic shelter, playground and volleyball court.	Section 13 1 Acre
Emerald Valley Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area	Hardwood forest and restored prairie with some wetlands to be restored.	Section 9 156 Acres
Prairie/Wildlife Area	Prairie, forest & wetlands lands on an existing nonmetallic mining site, may be added to Emerald Valley Area as restoration is completed.	Section 9 40 Acres
Hutton Creek	Headwaters of Hutton Creek and all of Hutton Creek	Sections 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 24, 26, 36 20 Acres
Emerald Lake	Located west of CTH O. Extremely large wetland complex with water year-round. Residents have fond recollections of activities at this site including ice skating, picnicking and swimming.	Section 5 80 Acres
Future Klatt-Lyons Wildlife Preserve	Located south of 160 th Ave. Very large waterfowl nesting area with wetlands, potholes, wooded land and waterfowl habitat. Is a wet, swampy backwater to Hutton Creek.	Sections 13 & 14 40 – 80 + Acres
Yankee Pond	Located east of CTH O. Large pothole wetland. Town residents have extensive recollections of skating and swimming in this year-round pond.	Section 16 20 Acres
Emerald Wetlands	Includes marshes, pothole lakes, wooded land, waterfowl habitat	Sections 21, 28 & 29 40 -- 80 Acres
WisDOT Wayside	Located on east side of STH 63 Very scenic area, open in the summer, closed for the winter. If this site is vacated by the WisDOT the town should consider acquiring it as park property.	Section 6 5.5 Acres

Sources: WIDNR website; *Heritage Areas of St. Croix County*, UW-Extension 1976, *Natural Area Inventory*, West Central Wisconsin 1976 and *Town Plan Commissions 2010*.

Scenic Resources
Village of Deer Park

SITE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION & SIZE
Village Park	Picnic facilities, playground, ball field, courts, deer pen and open space.	Section 7 10 Acres
US Fish & Wildlife Deer Park Waterfowl Production Area	Wetlands, prairie and oak savanna. Open Hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles, horseback riding and dogs off leash (except when hunting) are not allowed.	Section 7 153 Acres
Wetlands	Located east of Main St./STH 46 and north and south of South Street East. Large closed depression and wetlands complex.	Section 8 10-15 Acres
Otto Neitge's Original Deer Farm	Located at the end of North Street East. Still farmed.	Section 15 160 Acres
Otto Neitge's Gravesite	Located on his retirement farm, site is west of house and south of Willow River, now WDNR land.	Section 8, Town of Cylon

Sources: WIDNR website; *Heritage Areas of St. Croix County*, UW-Extension 1976, *Natural Area Inventory*, West Central Wisconsin 1976 and *Town Plan Commissions 2010*.

SCENIC RESOURCE PROGRAMS

One technique for preservation of scenic views is to require a viewshed analysis at the time of development. Amendments to the each community's subdivision ordinance would be necessary. A viewshed analysis would identify the places from where the new development could be seen from other locations and the impact of the view that would result if development occurred in the manner proposed. New development should be designed, located and landscaped in a manner that does not detract from these scenic views.

A second technique for preservation of scenic views is the state and federal "rustic road" and "scenic byway" programs to preserve and celebrate particularly scenic road corridors. State "rustic roads" designations would be best suited for scenic town roads. To qualify, a roadway must be substantially undeveloped and have outstanding natural features, including native vegetation, abundant wildlife, open areas or agricultural vistas that make the area unique. The federal "scenic byway" program may be best suited for state or county highways. The town or village should work with the county to explore possibilities, advantages and disadvantages of these programs.

EMERALD CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

Goal: Enhance and maintain the Town of Emerald's cultural and scenic resources and rural character.

Objectives:

1. Identify and preserve the town's cultural tradition and agricultural, historic, and archeological resources that recognize the community's pre-settlement and early settlement periods.
2. Encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and sites.
3. Protect scenic roadways in the town.
4. Encourage the preservation of scenic resources.
5. Work with other units of government to develop and enforce appropriate land use regulations to maintain rural residential quality.
6. Discourage incompatible land uses.

Policies:

1. Cooperate with the State Historical Society, St. Croix County, surrounding communities and local agencies on surveys of historic and archeological resources in the town.
2. Maintain an inventory of historic, archaeological and scenic resources.
3. Provide the inventory for reference and discussion before and during consideration of land development proposals.
4. Support local festivals, fairs, farm tours, farm breakfasts, and markets that celebrate the town's farming heritage and rural way of life.
5. Encourage events that promote the town's historical past and rural heritage.
6. Continue to support the Glenwood Area Historical Society in Glenwood City as a local repository for historical materials; also encourage residents to donate items to the historic materials repository that the library maintains.
7. If the STH 63 Wayside is vacated by WisDOT pursue acquisition for a town park facility.



One of many historic structures in the unincorporated community of Emerald. This former boarding house built in 1894 is now a single family home. Photo by Barbara Nelson



Classic rural, hipped-roofed barn formerly owned by John Hanson located in Emerald. Photo by Barbara Nelson

8. Encourage private landowners to protect and, if necessary, rehabilitate identified cultural, historic, archeological and scenic resources when specific sites are proposed for development.
9. Support St. Croix County and other units of government zoning and subdivision land use regulations that are intended to manage incompatible land uses.
10. Work with the county to enforce property maintenance codes to maintain rural residential quality and appearance.



Former Sears-Roebuck catalog house. This rural farmhouse is a classic example of the unique historic structures that dot the landscape in the Town of Emerald. Photo by Barbara Nelson.

DEER PARK CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

Goal: Enhance and maintain the Village of Deer Park’s cultural and scenic resources and small-community rural character.

Objectives:

1. Identify and preserve the village’s cultural traditions and historic and archeological resources that recognize the community’s pre-settlement and early settlement periods.
2. Identify and protect cultural, historic, archeological and scenic resources.
3. Encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and sites in the village.
4. Encourage the preservation of scenic resources.
5. Protect scenic roadways.



The former bank building, now used for retail, is one of the oldest buildings in Deer Park. Photo by Carolyn Mertz.

Policies:

1. Cooperate with the State Historical Society, St. Croix County, surrounding communities and local agencies on surveys of historic and archeological resources in the village.
2. Maintain an inventory of historic, archaeological and scenic resources.
3. Provide the inventory for reference and discussion before and during consideration of land development proposals.
4. Encourage private landowners to protect and, if necessary, rehabilitate identified cultural,



The Trinity Methodist Church is a late 1800’s gothic revival church with steeple and bell tower. Photo by Carolyn Mertz.

historic, archeological and scenic resources when specific sites are proposed for development.

5. Encourage events that promote the village's historical past and small town heritage.
6. Continue to support the Deer Park Public Library as a local repository for historical materials; also encourage residents to donate items to the historic materials repository that the library maintains.



DeCrosse's Bar was once an implement dealership. It has been a tavern in Deer Park since 1957. Photo by Carolyn Mertz.