

*PIONEER VILLAGE MUSEUM
BARRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1866 13 ½ / 14th Ave.; Cameron, WI; 54822*

PIONEER VILLAGE MUSEUM CURATORIAL COLLECTIONS POLICY

Articles of Incorporation, Article 3:

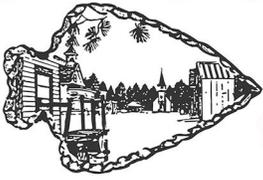
“The purposes shall be to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of Barron County. To this end, said corporation may collect printed or near print materials, manuscripts, materials reproduced by microfilm or other photographic process, and artifacts relating to the history of the said County. It may hold property, both real and personal, in any amount; may lend, sell, lease or rent such property provided such action be consistent with the terms of gift, bequest, or other conveyance under which title was originally acquired. It may hold exhibits of any kind consonant with the major purpose outlined above, either on its own or in cooperation with any other agencies, local or otherwise.”

The purpose of this Curatorial Collections Policy is to identify the existing collections housed at the Pioneer Village Museum (hereinafter “the Museum”) and to establish the professional practices and standards which the Barron County Historical Society (hereinafter “BCHS”) shall follow in the acquisition, deaccession, care, management, and use of collections owned, managed, or temporarily on loan to BCHS.

The Museum collects library material, artifacts, manuscripts, and photographic material which detail or exemplify the history of Barron County as it has evolved over time. Furthermore, it is the goal of the BCHS to not only put these collections on display for the public, but to give to each visitor a sense of ownership and belonging. Hence, the acquisition, care, use, and disposal of items in its safekeeping shall be governed by the highest standards of professional practice and personal ethics.

Collections Development

The Museum collects objects, photographs, and documents that help to better understand Barron County. It looks for items that are unique and have a local story or relationship. Moreover, it is the intent of the Museum to refine what it takes in, as to prevent inappropriate acquisitions. Upon the acceptance of this policy, the Museum may only take in that which pertains to specific buildings or exhibits currently in existence, production, or planning. Since the quality and relevance of collections are vital to the usefulness of the Museum, acquisitions shall meet the following conditions:



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- 1) Be relevant to the purposes and priorities of the Museum
- 2) Be adequately registered, documented, and acknowledged
- 3) Be properly stored and cared for
- 4) Be restorable at reasonable expense with a reasonable timeline (if applicable)
- 5) Be available for research, education, and exhibition purposes

It is unclear how many items the Museum is in possession of at this time, though it can be said with certainty that it exceeds 30,000.

Management Practices

Approved by the Board and reviewed periodically, the Curatorial Collections Policy guides all collections work. The policy details record-keeping requirements, preservation standards, and deaccession procedures.

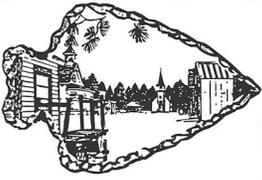
Accessioning

The acquisition of materials into the Museum's collection may be made by two parties: the Director and the Donation Committee. The Donation Committee, operating under the direction of the Board of Directors, is responsible for the acceptance of items that excel in size or significance.

Records

Any acquisition of materials must begin with an Item Custody Receipt, which transfers ownership of materials to the Museum. The Item Custody Receipt will come into effect on December 1, 2017 and will be periodically reviewed in conjunction with the Curatorial Collections Policy. The Item Custody Receipt requests permission to publish information about the donated materials online to the Museum's website, social media, online database, etc. It informs the donor that, unless advised otherwise, their personal information, such as their name, *might* be published along with any sort of biographical/historical information about the materials. The Item Custody Receipt also makes clear to the donor that the Museum can use the materials in any way they see fit, including deaccessioning. Upon completion, the Museum will give a copy of the Item Custody Receipt to the donor for their records, and will keep the original copy.

The Museum will keep further records of their accessions in the PastPerfect Museum Software. Items are to be entered into the software upon receipt and given an appropriate, individual Accession Number and Object ID Number. The item(s) must be entered into the program immediately in order to maintain searchable records and a chronological numbering system, which will come into effect January 1, 2018. A thorough description is to be given, along with any biographical/historical context given by the donor. The location of the item, whether temporary or permanent, must also be documented in the program in order to facilitate simple retrieval. The Accession and Object ID numbers are to be included with or on the items, in a way which is not detrimental to their condition.



Preservation

Every effort possible must be made to preserve the items which are accessioned and to keep them in the best condition which can be afforded by the Museum.

Acid-free materials must be utilized whenever possible, including boxes, folders, tape, paper, tags, and writing utensils. The Accession and Object ID numbers must be included with the item in a respectful manner, meaning the objects and artifacts are to have their numbers written on an acid-free tag or sticker, which will then be attached in a non-permanent way to the item.

Photographs may have their numbers written on the backs of them, as long as it is done with a pencil. White, cotton gloves must be worn when handling photographs, in order to prevent the transfer of oils which are harmful to the photograph. Gloves should not be worn when handling documents, as it often leads to tearing or mishandling of the paper. For objects outside of these two categories, the decision to wear gloves lies with the handler. Caution should be taken when handling items of any material, as many are of advanced age and were not made to last.

While the Museum is an open-air museum and therefore cannot control the climate for all of its materials, the materials which are not part of an exhibit must be kept in a climate controlled building, such as Jerome Hall. Standard climate management in museums or archives typically consists of a temperature no more than 75 degrees Fahrenheit and 55 percent humidity. The key to preservational climate control is consistency, and so materials must not be transferred repeatedly from one climate to another.

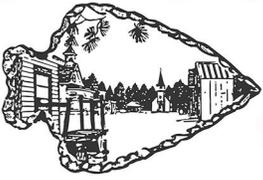
Deaccessioning

As with any museum, it is common for some materials to no longer fit within the scope of a collections policy. When this occurs, it is up to the Museum to decide how to handle the situation. The Museum will do all it can to find alternative housing for such items, as to avoid unnecessary loss of history. Proper research must be done in order to obtain as much knowledge of an item as possible, and with that knowledge a more appropriate home must be found. This is done by reaching out to other museums who may wish to have the item in their own collections. If a new residence cannot be found for an item, it may be disposed of.

Before transferring ownership of an item to a new museum or before it is disposed of, it must be deaccessioned in PastPerfect and the Item Custody Receipt must be properly updated.

Structures

The BCHS maintains a series of historic buildings, which have been moved to the property over the course of fifty years. Each building serves as a representation of a vital piece of Barron County's history, and holds artifacts that play an equally vital role.



The historic buildings are as follows:

Ebenezer Church

The Ebenezer Church was built in 1908 in rural Barron County. The congregation constructed the frame building including the altar, altar rail, pulpit, and pews. When the chapel closed, it was then moved to the site where it now stands, inside the Museum.

Meeting House

The Meeting House is a 17' x 25' log house, which was built in 1877 in the town of Maple Grove (now known as Prairie Lake). The construction of the cabin is known as chamfer and notch. The tools used were a maul, mortise, axe, and saw. Early clergyman would travel from town to town, staying at settlers' homes, and one such home was our Meeting House, owned by Peter Johnson Urberg. In 1922 the farm was sold to Elmer Holmstrand. He took the building apart, then put it back together at the Pokegama Inn Resort, in Chetek, Wisconsin. Roger Hamholm of Pokegama Inn donated the building to the Museum in February 1975. The Meeting House now stands as a representation of homelife in early Barron County. It holds various artifacts and photographs which either belonged to the family who lived there or have since been added by the Museum. The artifacts show the simplicity of early life and the evolution of our technologies.

Town Hall

The Town Hall is a 28' x 20' structure which was constructed in 1876 and originally used as a school. It served as a school until 1920 when it transitioned into a town hall. The town hall served many uses for a community: a library, relief in times of disaster, posting of war casualties, civil functions, and entertainment. Inside the Town Hall today is a grand piano, a pump organ, the backdrop from the Dallas Opera House, as well as various photographs.

Newspaper Office

This building was the Southside Fire Station in Rice Lake, which housed the hand drawn fire equipment of early years. While the exact age of the structure is unknown, we do know the Rice Lake Fire Department was organized in 1889. The building was owned by Mrs. Robert Lockman, a former Rice Lake resident who donated the Old Station to the Museum. It was moved here in 1979. The five newspapers in the county sponsored the moving and refurbishing of the building.

Doctor's Office

This 16' x 24' frame building was located on Highway SS in the Village of New Auburn. It was given to the Barron County Historical Society by Gladys Severson Sell of Route 3, Chetek, in memory of her father, Sam Severson. It was moved to the Museum in November of 1974. When you enter, you will be in a small waiting room, behind this is the area where exams and surgeries were performed. Gas was used to put someone under. The eye doctor was also located in this building. There are various artifacts which stand as a testament to early medicinal practices, such as glass vials, metal instruments, and wicker wheelchairs. As with the Meeting House, many artifacts have been added by the Museum since the arrival of the Doctor's Office to our site.



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Blacksmith Shop

This building is a functional blacksmith shop and contains items such as a bellows, gasoline engine power, line shafts, and numerous antique hand tools.

Gas Station

This 12' x 14' foot gas station was built in Turtle Lake by Arthur Gehrman in 1931. He was the sole owner of the small station that had operated for about forty-two years, closing in 1973. Mr. Gehrman's wife donated the building to the Barron County Historical Society and it was moved to the Museum in February, 1975. Since then, artifacts have been added to the building, most notably are fully restored gas pumps which stand in front of it.

Jail

The Dallas Jail was built in 1903 by Andrew Anderson and Anton Nelson. In October of 1972, the jail was dismantled so that it could be brought to the Barron Museum. It was reassembled and finished in 1973.

Post Office

This 16' x 24' log cabin was built by Henry Lande and Ashley Engness. The logs were cut from a farm woodlot and the logs notch construction is known as "saddle and notch." The tools used for the saddle notch were an axe and a gutter adze. The Lande brothers lived in the log house until 1951. Adolph Engness, brother of Ashley Engness, bought the farm in 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Engness gave the building to the Barron County Historical Society, and it was moved to the Museum in December, 1973.

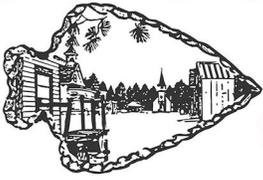
The equipment in the Museum post office came from various area offices as they were updated through the years. The individual patron boxes in the lobby came from the Barron office. There was a window that separated the lobby area from the working area, where you could buy stamps, money orders, or other things needed. Each piece of mail was stamped and cancelled with the date and the town it was mailed from. They were then put into pouches to designated towns and transferred to the train.

General Store

This 20' by 24' structure was built in the early 1930's by Carl Espeseth, who originally constructed it as an office in Dallas. He used it as the center of his horse dealing business but in later years it became a doctor's office. Most recently, the Chibardun Telephone Cooperative acquired the building and used it for storage. The Chibardun Telephone Cooperative gave it to the Barron County Historical Society, and it was moved to the Museum site in September 1972. The artifacts which are housed in this structure are largely not original to the building, but still stand as a representation of the sort of items which could be purchased in such a store. Materials such as clothing, food, tools, and household items can be found on the shelves of the General Store.

Dentist's Office

This 11' x 13' building was the headquarters of Anderson Lumber Company until the business was discontinued in 1930. The building was then purchased by Ted Boedecker of Almena and used as a gas station until he retired in the late 1940's. It was later owned and run as the Corktown Tavern. Paul Heller purchased the building and had it moved to the Museum in June 1972. Inside



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the Dentist's Office you can find a dentist's chair, various dental reference books, and numerous dental tools.

Joliet School

The Joliet School was built in 1905 and could be found in the Town of Stanley on the west side of the Red Cedar River. The school was eventually closed in 1962, and the building was given to the Barron County Historical Society. It was moved to the Barron County Game Farm (now the Museum complex) in 1964 and has the distinction of being the first building to appear on the Museum street site. It looks much the same today as it did when it was in use. Original desks, pictures, and books are at home in the School, as well as additional items which have been added by the Museum.

Hedin Home

This 14' x 24' cabin was built in the late 1800s by A.P. Hedin. The Hedin family had 11 members who lived in the cabin. The furnishings, while not original to the home, are typical of the furnishings used by the Hedin family.

Farmstead

Log House: The 14'x 18' log house was built in 1920 along Brown's Creek in the Town of Prairie Lake. The log construction is known as "dovetail notch," which is of Swedish (1640) origin. The tools used to make this notch were a lip adze and axe. It was a home for the late Elling Petterson. Olaf, Einar, and his brother Edwin, built the house. It later was occupied by his daughter, Ms. Petra Louis.

Log Barn: The Log Barn is 12'x20' log barn was built in 1918 by the late Jim Avery on the present Bradley Nelson farm in the Town of Prairie Lake. The log construction is known as "sharp notch," and the tool used was mainly an axe. It was moved to the Museum grounds in July 1976.

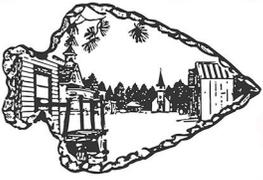
Railroad Depot

This 12'x16' authentic whistle stop Soo Line depot was given to the Barron County Historical Society by the Soo Line railway. The railway was started in Minneapolis in 1883. It was organized by a group of Minneapolis business men headed by leading millers to provide a route to the east. When it was completed, it proved to be a great boon to general business in Minnesota and the entire Northwest. The building was moved to the Museum site in September 1972 from Cylon, Wisconsin. It stands with its original furnishings of a pot-bellied stove, station manager's desk, pigeon-holed cabinet for papers, end table, bench, and writing desk.

Line Shack

At the turn of the century and after the clearing of the white pine and deciduous trees in this area, many of the loggers homesteaded on some of the cut-over. The men and their horses were hired by the town, county or state to work on a railroad or road construction site in or near their community, therefore, they stayed on the construction site until finished.

To accommodate this crew of men, mobile bunkhouse line shacks were constructed as sleeping quarters for these men. The line shack was designed to be a portable kitchen to prepare food and furnish shelter for the construction crew.



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Barber Shop

The Barber Shop was built circa 1916 and used as part of the Earl Morey Lumber Company. After they had finished using it as part of the lumber company, it was used for a gas station in the Village of Campia. This building was then moved to the Museum in September of 1972. The building was then restored by the Heart of the North Barbershop Chorus. Today it houses several barber's chairs, along with various instruments used by the barbers of the past.

Saloon

The Saloon had been the office of the Northern Granite Co., which dated from 1908 and was located on 5th Street in Barron. It features an 1896 back bar from an early saloon in Prairie Farm, which is the oldest village in the county, along with a section of bar from The Coach Bar in Poskin, which dates back to the 1930's or earlier. Featured also are numerous smaller items found in a saloon. The building was given to the Barron County Historical Society by Lee Zabka of Barron. The Barron County Tavern League financed the cost of moving the building to the Museum, which occurred in July 2004, as well as the necessary repair work and redecoration.