

INTRODUCTION

This chapter begins by briefly discussing Door County’s “community character,” which is intertwined with many of the county’s historical and cultural resources. It then provides a brief history of the county’s residents and its development, followed by an inventory of the historical resources in Door County. Included are discussion of the county’s historical associations; the area’s maritime history and maritime museums, lighthouses, and shipwrecks; general museums; archaeological sites; sites on the state and/or federal historic registries; and cemeteries. Finally, this chapter provides an inventory of cultural resources, such as cultural organizations, educational and cultural opportunities, visual and performing arts groups and venues, festivals, and pop culture.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Community character is defined by a variety of sometimes intangible factors, including the people living in the area, the visual character of the area, and the quality of life and experiences offered to residents and visitors. Door County’s community character consistently ranks as one of its highest assets in planning and visioning sessions. As is evidenced by the lists below of responses from residents at visioning meetings and affirmed in public review of this plan, all aspects of community character – the people, the visual attributes, and the general quality of life as well as the county’s specific historical and cultural resources – define or exemplify life in Door County.

Character of the People:

- Volunteerism – caring community
- Social conscience – caring about each other, sense of community
- Diversity of skills and interests
- Stable religious community
- Community pride
- Work ethic
- Good base of retirees to help with cultural and educational activities

Visual Character:

- Beautiful scenery, rural setting, natural/pastoral areas
- Rural farmland and buildings
- Scenic vistas
- Rural scenic beauty
- Character of the original town centers
- Quaintness and uniqueness of villages

Quality of Life:

- Small-town character – peaceful lifestyle (as opposed to hectic urban lifestyle)
- Fellowship of community – people are supportive and close-knit
- Sense of peace
- Safe, healthy, tight-knit community
- Low crime rate/safety
- Low population density
- Slow population growth
- Diverse communities; diversity between rural and tourist areas/community centers

- Cities and villages
- Big-city amenities in a small-town setting
- Clean environment
- Good human service agencies
- Small government footprint
- Large tax base

Historical and Cultural Resources:

- Agricultural heritage and setting
- Arts, music, theatre, galleries, authors, museums
- Arts and cultural resources – talented mix of people as well as places/organizations
- History and architecture
 - Maritime history and museums, shipwrecks, lighthouses
 - Influence of Belgian and other ethnic groups
 - Michigan Street Bridge
 - Historic buildings throughout the county

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Door County, along with the lands our Facilities and Parks are located on, are the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. Currently, there are 11 federally recognized Native American sovereign nations in Wisconsin. We acknowledge these indigenous communities who have stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

(County Board Resolution 2021-61, adopted August 24, 2021)

BRIEF HISTORY OF DOOR COUNTY

The first inhabitants of the region that would become Door County were the Paleo-Indians, thought to have arrived over 12,000 years ago. The county was first settled by the Native American tribes of Potawatomi and Winnebago (Ho-Chunk), with the Ojibwe, Sauk, Menominee, and Ottawa occupying nearby areas, though they wouldn't be alone for long. Other tribes that visited or settled in Door County include the Chippewa, Huron, Illinois, Iroquois, Outagamie, and Petun groups. These indigenous communities lived in harmony with this land, fishing the waters, hunting the woodlands, and cultivating plants and crops for time immemorial, centuries before European settlers ever visited or migrated into the Great Lakes region. Door County's name is derived from the Potawatomi's description of the dangerous six-mile-wide passage between Lake Michigan and Green Bay. The French translated the phrase for the passage to "La Porte des Morts," or in English, "The Door of Death" (most often referred to as Death's Door).

The earliest recorded history of the area begins with French explorer Jean Nicolet landing on Door County islands in 1634. The first permanent white settlers, however, did not arrive until the 1830s. Between 1860 and 1970, the population of the county nearly doubled, growing from 2,949 to 4,919 people. During the latter half of the 19th century, the predominant businesses included lumbering, fishing, and shipbuilding. Due to its rocky soil, the county's land was generally not suitable for farming

crops, but it was good for growing fruit trees, such as apple and cherry. Tourism also became an important economic activity, with early tourists arriving primarily by steamboat and motorized vehicles. Door County has remained an attractive tourist destination, with tourism comprising a significant portion of the county’s economic activity today.

Table 3.1 below provides a timeline of some events of historical importance to the county’s culture and economy occurring between 1634 and 1995. This list was compiled by George Evenson, a long-time Door County Historian who passed away in 2023. While history did not end in 1995, there is no current official historian for the county. For more recent history, contact information is provided in the Resources and Further Information section at the end of this chapter for the Door County Historical Society and the Door County Museum and Archives. Other chapters of this Plan also contain information on important events that have taken place since 1995.

Table 3.1: Timeline of Historic Events in Door County

Year	Event
1634	Jean Nicolet lands on Door County Islands.
1665	Radisson and Grosseliers winter here with the Potawatomi; establish fur trading base.
1669	Father Claude Allouez winters with the Potawatomi. First to write of "La Portage des Eturgeons," the area now known as Sturgeon Bay.
1673	Father James Marquette, missionary and explorer, and Louis Joliet stop in county for 3 months.
1679	Robert La Salle visits on ship "Griffin".
circa 1690	Nicholas Perrot visits the Potawatomi on Washington Island.
1720	Father Pierre de Charlevoix, Jesuit, visits and writes of area.
1816	American troops from Mackinac visit and name Washington Harbor for their flagship.
1817	Stone quarry operating at Bowyer Bluff on Washington Island.
1835	First white settlers to the county, Increase and Mary Ann Claflin, build a cabin at Little Sturgeon (located in what is now Town of Gardner).
1836	First lighthouse in County, Pottawatomie, built on Rock Island.
1846	Asa Thorp arrives in Fish Creek. In 1855, he builds the first commercial pier in the county there.
circa 1850	Commercial stone quarry operations established around the county, many around Sturgeon Bay.
1850s	First house built in Sturgeon Bay, by Robert Graham.
1851	Door County created as a separate governmental entity by act of the legislature (previously part of Brown County), with Baileys Harbor as county seat.
1856	First school in the county recognized by the state, in Sturgeon Bay (the few previous schools were private and informal in structure and schedule).
1857	First church in the county - Ephraim Moravian Church - constructed.
1860	First ferry begins providing service across Sturgeon Bay.
1862	First orchard (apples) set out in the county, by Swiss immigrant Joseph Zettel, in the Town of Sevastopol on land currently the site of The Farm.
circa 1870	Germans settle in what are now Towns of Baileys Harbor, Forestville, Liberty Grove, and Nasewaupée.
1871	Peshtigo Fire destroys property and claims 1,500-2,500 lives - 128 in Southern Door County - within hours of Chicago fire.
circa 1872	Lime kiln established at Little Sturgeon.

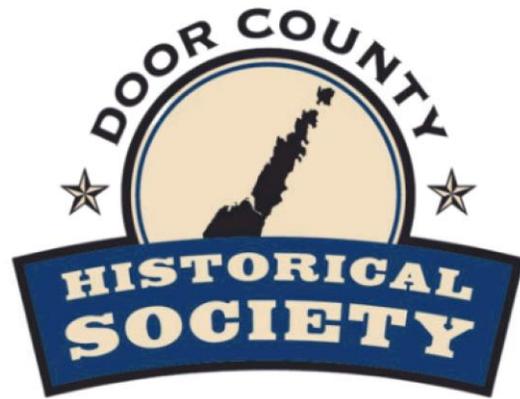
mid-1870s	Ice harvesting business and storage house established, at Little Sturgeon.
1878	First unit of the Door County courthouse built, in Sturgeon Bay, at a cost of \$12,500. (Previous courthouse, dedicated in 1860, was a converted hotel in Sturgeon Bay.) It was subsequently torn down in 1991.
1879	Sturgeon Bay to Lake Michigan canal opens for sizable vessels (work began 1872).
1880s	First banks established in the county.
1881	Thomas Smith and John Leathem form schooner and barge repair business.
1890s	First tourist steamboats arrive in Northern Door.
1894	Railroad lines completed - "Ahnapee and Western" - connecting Sturgeon Bay to Green Bay. The line includes a bridge across Sturgeon Bay.
1898	First "true" shipyard - one focused on building ships to sell others - established in the county, by August Reibolt and Joseph Wolter, located in Sturgeon Bay.
early 1900s	Highway improvements - surfacing with crushed stone and grading - encourage increased tourism via motor vehicles.
1909	First state park - Peninsula State Park - established in the county.
circa 1917	First milk processing (condensing and canning) plant established, in Sturgeon Bay.
1922	Summer art classes taught by Chicago Art Institute staff held in Baileys Harbor.
1931	Dedication of the first highway bridge across Sturgeon Bay (downtown, Michigan Street Bridge). Previous crossings were via railroad bridge or boat.
1935	Founding of The Clearing and Peninsula Players.
1941-1945	Sturgeon Bay shipyards boom during World War II.
1946	Peak year of cherry production in Door County with 43 million pounds of cherries produced.
1949	Lake-to-Lake Milk Cooperative starts collecting milk in Door County, providing a Grade A milk market for dairy farmers.
1950s	Some zoning in place at county level, administered by county clerk.
1960	A Swedish freighter hits the bridge in Sturgeon Bay, knocking it out of commission for 18 days and spurring demand for a second bridge.
1965	Founding of Peninsula Art School (now Peninsula School of Art).
1968	Railroad discontinues service to Door County.
1969	National Geographic prints article on Door County titled "A Kingdom So Delicious."
early 1970s	First multi-family developments with condominium-style ownership in the county.
1971	Manitowoc Company buys shipyard from Christy Corporation and greatly increased production, including the construction of 1,000-foot ore carriers.
1978	Bayview Bridge dedicated.
1983	Sherwood Point Lighthouse, the last manned lighthouse on the Great Lakes, is automated.
1995	Peterson Builders, Inc., a long-standing local shipyard business, launches its last boat, a crane barge. One shipbuilder remains (Bay Shipbuilding).

Source: George Evenson (1929 – 2023), long-time Door County Historian.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ARCHIVES

Door County has many associations dedicated to the preservation of the county’s historic sites and artifacts, including:

- Baileys Harbor Historical Society
- Belgian Heritage Center
- Door County Historical Society
- Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society
- Egg Harbor Historical Society, Inc.
- Ephraim Historical Foundation, Inc.
- Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands
- Friends of Rock Island
- Gibraltar Historical Association
- Heritage Alliance of Door County
- Jacksonport Historical Society
- Liberty Grove Historical Society
- Peninsula Belgian American Club
- Sevastopol Historical Society
- Sister Bay Historical Society, Inc.
- Steel Bridge Creative Foundation
- Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation, Inc.



Pictured: Door County Historical Society logo
Source: Door County Historical Society

In addition, Door County also has three archival resources housing a variety of information about the history of the county and its residents.

- Door County Historical Museum & Archives Center: Located in Sturgeon Bay, the purpose of the Door County Historical Museum & Archives Center is to secure, maintain, and make accessible to scholars and other interested persons the official records of county organizations and agencies, and other records and photos of historical value relating to life in Door County.
- Door County Library Laurie History Room: The Laurie History Room of the Door County Library Sturgeon Bay branch offers an extensive genealogy and local history collection. Resources available include: local newspapers on microfilm dating back to 1862 (also available on-line); obituary, cemetery, and marriage indexes; historical books and materials, including bibliographies; city directories; high school and college yearbooks; a census database, as well as federal and state censuses on microfilm; plat maps; and works by local authors.
- Washington Island Archives: Located in the Washington Island Community Center, the Washington Island Archives is a repository for Town of Washington records, including tax records; school records; Census, cemetery, and genealogical records; publications produced on the island as well as island articles submitted to the *Door County Advocate*; and pictures, maps, audio tapes, and video tapes.

MARITIME HISTORY

For centuries, the waters of Lake Michigan, Green Bay, and Sturgeon Bay Canal surrounding the Door Peninsula have served as source of food and as routes for transportation and trade for humans. Indigenous tribes originally fished and hunted these waters for beaver, whitefish, and trout, and later established a water route for fur trade with people living in what is now Canada. French explorers and fur traders eventually migrated to the peninsula via St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes system, opening more trade routes between Door County and Canada, thus replacing small canoes with large ships. In the 1850s, the shipping industry in the county thrived due to outside demand for pine logs, lime, cedar, cord wood, telephone poles, railroad ties, hemlock bark, and, later, stone and potatoes. Door County's commercial fishing and shipbuilding industries were also established in the 1850s; by 1882, there were roughly sixty shipping piers located around the county.

Although the bays and lakes are no longer the main travel route to and from Door County, the waters surrounding the peninsula continue to fuel the economy through shipbuilding, commercial fishing, and water-based recreational opportunities. Today, sport and commercial fishermen travel the waters in search of a variety of catch. Shipbuilders have grown from small shipyards into large, thriving industries, while other marine-related companies derive their livelihood directly from the water or indirectly from the marine industry. The lighthouses, shipwrecks, and maritime museums that illustrate the county's rich maritime history help fuel the county's tourism industry.

Wisconsin's Maritime Preservation and Archaeological Program

The Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Preservation and Archaeology Program is dedicated to preserving Wisconsin's historic shipwrecks and other underwater non-renewable cultural resources. Part of this program is the Wisconsin's Maritime Trails initiative, a collaborative effort between the Wisconsin Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute that works to document, preserve, and protect the state's submerged archaeological sites. Wisconsin Maritime Trails encompasses four regions of coastline and inland waterways, linking historic shipwrecks, lighthouses, historic waterfronts, historic vessels, museums, shore-side historical markers, and other attraction. Forming a metaphorical "trail," the initiative encourages divers, snorkelers, boaters, maritime enthusiasts, kayakers, and tourists to visit and enjoy Wisconsin's diverse collection of maritime and cultural resources. More information on the program may be found at the Maritime Trails website, listed in the Resources and Further Information section at the end of this chapter.

Maritime Museums

The Door County Maritime Museum was founded in 1969 by a group of commercial fishermen in Gills Rock. That museum opened its doors to the public in 1975, followed the next year by a small maritime museum in Sturgeon Bay. In 1997, a 20,000 square foot facility was constructed to replace the original Sturgeon Bay museum.

The organization overseeing operation of the museums expanded its name in the summer of 2022 to The Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. in order to clarify and solidify its role in preserving the lighthouses of Door County. The museum has also operated the Cana Island Lighthouse since 1975.

In addition to the displays and exhibits at each museum location, the organization conducts educational outreach, such as the Door County Lighthouse Festivals, held each year in late spring and early fall, and the Classic and Wooden Boat Show held in August during Maritime Week.



Pictured: Door County Maritime Museum logo
 Source: Door County Maritime Museum

LIGHTHOUSES

Door County has ten lighthouse locations, shown in Table 3.2 and Figure 3.1. Note that Cana Island, Chambers Island, and Pilot Island lighthouses are all on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Table 3.2: Door County Lighthouses

Name	Municipality
Baileys Harbor Range Lights (2 Lights)	T. Baileys Harbor
Cana Island Lighthouse	T. Baileys Harbor
Chambers Island Lighthouse	T. Gibraltar
Eagle Bluff Lighthouse	T. Gibraltar
Old Baileys Harbor Light (Birdcage)	T. Baileys Harbor
Pilot Island	T. Washington
Plum Island Range Lights	T. Washington
Pottawatomie Lighthouse (Rock Island)	T. Washington
Sherwood Point	C. Sturgeon Bay
Sturgeon Bay Canal Station (2 lights)	C. Sturgeon Bay

Source: Door County Maritime Museum & Door County Historical Museum

Figure 3.1: Door County Lighthouses



Source: Door County Maritime Museum & Door County Historical Museum

SHIPWRECKS

There are 211 shipwrecks in the waters around Door County, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) Shipwreck Database. Nine shipwrecks are listed on the state and national registers of historic places and have historic markers (signs posted on land near the wreck site). (See Table 3.5.) Eight shipwrecks are marked with WHS mooring buoys, which make the sites more accessible and safer for divers. (See Figure 3.2 & Table 3.3.) The moorings also help prevent anchor damage to fragile shipwreck structures.

Figure 3.2: Door County Shipwrecks



Source: Wisconsin Historical Society & University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute.

Table 3.3: Door County Shipwrecks

Ship Name	Year of Wreck	Area
Louisiana	1913	Washington Island
Fleetwing	1888	Gills Rock
Meridian	1873	Ellison Bay
Frank O'Connor	1919	Baileys Harbor
Carrington	1870	Egg Harbor
Christina Nilsson	1884	Baileys Harbor
Oak Leaf	1928	Sturgeon Bay
Daniel Lyons	1878	Forestville

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society & University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

MUSEUMS

Table 3.4 lists Door County’s museums and other historic sites that are open to the public for the viewing of historic buildings, artifacts, and/or artwork.

Table 3.4: Door County Museums & Other Historic Sites

Name	Location
Alexander Noble House	Town of Gibraltar
Bjorklunden Stavkirke (Chapel)	Town of Baileys Harbor
Cana Island Lighthouse	Town of Baileys Harbor
The Clearing	Town of Liberty Grove
Corner of the Past/Old Anderson House Museum	Village of Sister Bay
Door County Historical Museum	City of Sturgeon Bay
Door County Maritime Museum, Gills Rock	Town of Liberty Grove
Door County Maritime Museum, Sturgeon Bay	City of Sturgeon Bay
Eagle Bluff Lighthouse	Peninsula State Park
Ephraim Historical Foundation Museums	Village of Ephraim
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson Bar Museum • Anderson Store Museum • Goodletson Cabin • Groenfeldt Stable • Iverson House • Pioneer Schoolhouse • Svalhus Research Library 	
Erskine Root Cellar	Town of Jacksonport
Gibraltar Town Hall	Town of Gibraltar
Gus Klenke Garage	Town of Liberty Grove
The Hardy Gallery (houses the Francis Hardy Center for the Arts)	Village of Ephraim
Historic Village at the Crossroads at Big Creek	City of Sturgeon Bay
Jackson Harbor Maritime Museum	Town of Washington
Jacobsen Museum	Town of Washington

Liberty Grove Historical Society Museum	Town of Liberty Grove
Miller Art Museum	City of Sturgeon Bay
Pottawatomie Lighthouse	Rock Island State Park
Thordarson Estate	Rock Island State Park
Washington Island Farm Museum	Town of Washington
Washington Island Stavkirke	Town of Washington

Source: Door County Historical Museum

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

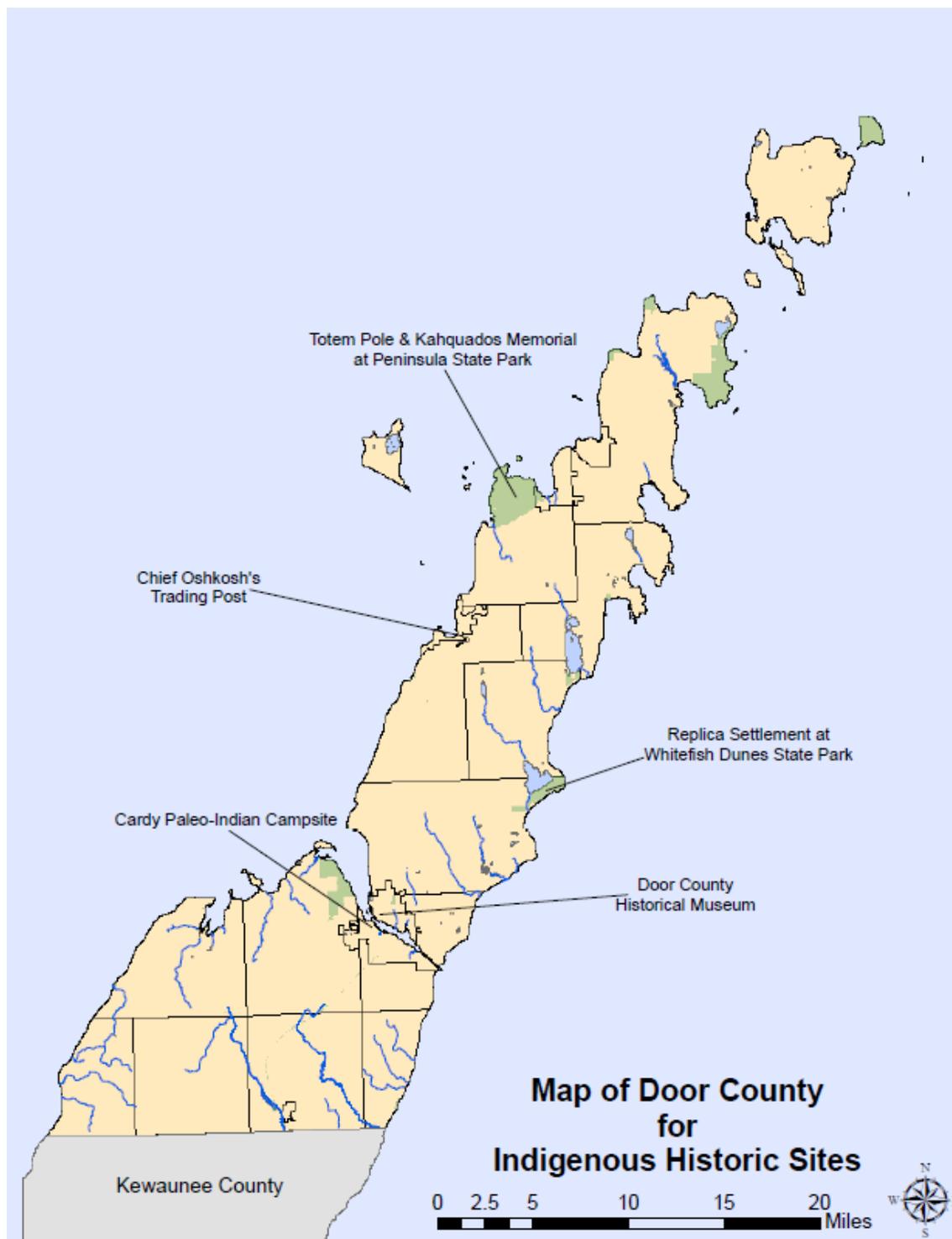
The WHS has designated 15 archaeological sites in Door County, 11 of which are maritime related. Of the four sites on land, two are restricted to discourage trespassing and looting, and to show respect for sites that may be sacred to others. The other two are found in state parks: the Rock Island Historic District and the Bay View Site at Whitefish Dunes. More information about Door County’s archaeological sites may be found on the Wisconsin Historical Society’s website, listed in the Resources and Further Information section at the end of this chapter.

INDIGENOUS HISTORIC SITES

The history and influence of the Paleo-Indians and Native Americans in Door County can be seen in countless places. The following are the five main First Nations historical sites accessible to residents and visitors (see also Figure 3.3):

- *Replica Settlement at Whitefish Dunes State Park*— a re-creation of a Native American settlement in the woods featuring replica wigwam structures and prehistoric tools.
- *Cardy Paleo-Indian Campsite* – a historical marker and information kiosk identify the site where Clovis points, hunting tools, scrapers, and other artifacts dating back more than 10,000 years were found in Sturgeon Bay.
- *Totem Pole & Kahquados Memorial at Peninsula State Park* – dual memorials for the region’s earliest inhabitants and a great Potawatomie leader, Chief Simon Onanquise Kahquados, who was a tireless indigenous activist advocating for the return of stolen native land, and who is buried at the site.
- *Door County Historical Museum* – museum in Sturgeon Bay that contains a collection of tools and artifacts found throughout the county, including fluted spear points, end scrapers, flake tools, and other artifacts.
- *Chief Oshkosh’s Trading Post* – the site where Chief Oshkosh of the Menominee Nation, known as a passionate advocate for the region and his people, once had his trading post and held lively powwows featuring drumming, dancing, and storytelling. Today, there is a shop selling authentic art, books, jewelry, and more.

Figure 3.3: Indigenous Historic Sites, Door County



Source: Destination Door County; Door County Land Use Services Department, GIS Analyst.

NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

Both the National and State Registers of Historic Places include sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts that are significant in national, state, or local history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Properties are usually nominated for potential inclusion on the State Register and the National Register at the same time. The process of getting a site approved for listing on the registries can take up to 18 months.

Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archaeological resources. The National Register is the official list maintained by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior of historic properties in the United States deemed worthy of preservation. There are 74 places in Door County listed on the National Register (See Table 3.5).

Found in 1846, two years before Wisconsin became the 30th state, WHS is tasked with maintaining the State Register, Wisconsin's official listing of state properties determined to be significant to Wisconsin's heritage. There are 63 places in Door County on the state register (See Table 3.5).

Owners of private property listed in the State and National Registers are not restricted in what they can do with the property, although certain activities such as demolition or historically inappropriate renovations would prompt removal of the property from registry lists. Benefits to a property owner of having a site listed on the registers include:

- Eligibility for state and federal income tax credits for rehabilitating historic properties (up to 25% of total project cost);
- Eligibility for federal grants, when available;
- Consideration in the planning of federally assisted and state assisted projects, as well as projects of local government and school boards, when those projects affect the property;
- Eligibility to use the state's Historic Building Code, which may facilitate rehabilitation;
- Qualification for state and federal charitable income tax deductions for the donation of historic preservation easements; and
- Eligibility for official State Register of Historic Places plaques.

WISCONSIN'S ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY INVENTORY

As required by state law, WHS maintains a permanent record of historical and architectural information called the Architecture and History Inventory (AHI). WHS uses the AHI to identify properties that may qualify for the national and state historical registers and which may serve educational and tourism purposes. This database, which can change frequently, contains data on buildings, structures, and objects that illustrate Wisconsin's unique history. It documents a wide range of historic properties such as barns, log houses, metal truss bridges, and small-town commercial buildings that create Wisconsin's distinct cultural landscape.

The AHI lists 1,636 sites in Door County. The creation of that list began in the mid-1970s when graduate school students did informal surveys by riding around in the county on bicycles, taking photos of places that looked historic. Since then, WHS has distributed grants to agencies such as Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission and the Gibraltar Historical Society to conduct more systematic surveys of selected areas within the county. Other properties have been added to the list through federally funded

projects that require notification of historical properties, such as the Highway 57 expansion, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development projects in the City of Sturgeon Bay, and the United States Coast Guard's involvement with maritime structures. Between 2004 and 2007, additional research was conducted in the Towns of Nasewaupee and Gardner by a local resident, resulting in the addition of 14 more sites to the AHI. For information on how to obtain copies of these studies, see the WHS information in the Resources and Further Information section at the end of this chapter.

Table 3.5: National and State Registers of Historic Places, Door County

Name	Location	Type
Advance Shipwreck (Barge)	T. Nasewaupee	Site
Anderson Dock Historic District	V. Ephraim	District
Australasia Shipwreck (Wooden Bulk Carrier)	T. Sevastopol	Site
Baileys Harbor Town Hall - McArdle Library	T. Baileys Harbor	Building
Bouche, J.B., House	T. Brussels	Building
Bullhead Point Historical and Archaeological District	C. Sturgeon Bay	District
Cana Island Lighthouse	T. Baileys Harbor	Building
Cardy Site	C. Sturgeon Bay	Site
Carnegie Free Library	C. Sturgeon Bay	Building
Chambers Island Lighthouse	T. Gibraltar	Building
Christina Nilsson	T. Baileys Harbor	Site
Church of the Atonement	T. Gibraltar	Building
Cupola House	V. Egg Harbor	Building
Draize, August, Farmstead	T. Union	Building
Eagle Bluff Lighthouse	T. Gibraltar	Building
Ephraim Moravian Church	V. Ephraim	Building
Ephraim Village Hall	V. Ephraim	Building
Falque, Joachine J., House	T. Brussels	Building
Fleetwing	T. Liberty Grove	Site
Free Evangelical Lutheran Church - Bethania Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation	V. Ephraim	Building
Gibraltar District School No. 2	V. Ephraim	Building
Globe Hotel	T. Baileys Harbor	Building
Grape Shot Shipwreck (Schooner)	T. Washington	Site
Green Bay Sloop Shipwreck	T. Sevastopol	Site
Hanover Shipwreck	T. Gibraltar	Site
Hillside Hotel	V. Ephraim	Building
Iris Shipwreck	T. Washington	Site
Jacksonport Wharf Archaeological District	T. Jacksonport	District
Jischke's Meat Market	V. Sister Bay	Building
Joint Brussels and Gardner District School Number One	T. Brussels	Building
Lakeland Shipwreck (Steam Crew)	C. Sturgeon Bay	Site
Larson, L. A., & Co. Store	C. Sturgeon Bay	Building
Little Lake Archaeological District	T. Washington	District

Louisiana Street/Seventh Avenue Historic District	C. Sturgeon Bay	District
Monfils, Joseph, Farmstead	T. Brussels	Building
Murphy Farms Number 1	T. Egg Harbor	Building
Noble, Alexander, House	T. Gibraltar	Building
Peterson, Peter, House	V. Ephraim	Building
Pilot Island Light	T. Washington	Building
Plum Island Range Rear Light	T. Washington	Structure
Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower	T. Nasewaupsee	Structure
Pottawatomie Lighthouse	T. Washington	Building
Sherwood Point Light Station	T. Nasewaupsee	Building
Sturgeon Bay Bridge	C. Sturgeon Bay	Structure
Sturgeon Bay Canal Lighthouse	C. Sturgeon Bay	Structure
Success Shipwreck (Scow Schooner)	T. Sevastopol	Site
Teweles and Brandeis Grain Elevator	C. Sturgeon Bay	Building
The Clearing	T. Liberty Grove	Site
Third Avenue Historic District	C. Sturgeon Bay	District
Thordarson Estate Historic District	T. Washington	District
Thorp, Freeman and Jesse, House and Cottages	T. Gibraltar	Building
Vangindertahlen, Louis, House	T. Brussels	Building
Vorous General Store	T. Gibraltar	Building
Water Tower	T. Washington	Building
Welcker's Resort Historic District	T. Gibraltar	District
Zachow, William, Farmstead	T. Liberty Grove	Building
Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park	T. Baileys Harbor	Building
Zahn, August, Blacksmith Shop and Residence	T. Baileys Harbor	Building
<u>National Registry Only</u>		
Baileys Harbor Range Light	T. Baileys Harbor	District
Bohjanen's Door Bluff Pictographs	T. Liberty Grove	Site
Clafin Point Site	T. Gardner	Site
Frank O'Connor (bulk carrier/shipwreck)	T. Baileys Harbor	Site
Meridian (Schooner) Shipwreck Site	T. Liberty Grove	Site
Namur Belgian-American District	T. Union	District
Pilot Island NW Site	T. Liberty Grove	Site
Plum Island Life-Saving and Light Station	T. Washington	District
Porte des Morts Site	T. Liberty Grove	Site
Rock Island Historic District	T. Washington	Site
Sturgeon Bay Post Office	C. Sturgeon Bay	Building
Whitefish Dunes - Bay View Site	T. Sevastopol	Site

State Registry Only		
Englebert, Frank and Clara, House	T. Brussels	Building
Determined Eligible/Owner Objection		
Iverson, Andreas, House and First Public School	V. Ephraim	Building

Source: *Wisconsin Historical Society, 2022.*

*Type of Places:

- A building is constructed to shelter human activity. Examples include houses, barns, and commercial buildings
- A site is the location of a significant event or a place of occupation or activity. It has historic value regardless of existing structures or buildings. Examples include shipwrecks, archaeological sites, and parks
- A structure is made for purposes other than shelter. Examples include bridges, boats and ships, and grain elevators.
- A district is a group of historically-related properties, like a neighborhood or a downtown.

CEMETERIES

The third edition of *Cemeteries of Wisconsin* lists local cemeteries by geographic township and range. It ignores incorporated community boundaries, so cemeteries located in the villages and the City of Sturgeon Bay are included in the towns' totals. Table 3.6 lists all Door County cemeteries identified in *Cemeteries of Wisconsin*, plus others identified in county records. Other burial sites present in the county may not be listed here, particularly smaller, family cemeteries or unnamed cemeteries. Note that the Sturgeon Bay Library Laurie History Room has a list of all known persons buried in Door County.

Table 3.6: Cemeteries, Door County

Name	Location	Name	Location
Baileys Harbor Town Cemetery	T. Baileys Harbor	Juddville	T. Gibraltar
St. Mary's of the Lake	T. Baileys Harbor	Stevenson Family	T. Gibraltar
Brussels Town Cemetery	T. Brussels	St. Paul's Lutheran	T. Gibraltar
Emanuel's Lutheran Cemetery	T. Brussels	Zion	T. Gibraltar
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery	T. Brussels	Holy Nativity/Christ the King (Episcopalian)	T. Jacksonport
St. Michael's Catholic Church	T. Brussels	Jacksonport Lakeview	T. Jacksonport
St. Hubert Catholic	T. Brussels	St. Michael's Catholic	T. Jacksonport
White Star Church Cemetery	T. Brussels	Zion Lutheran	T. Jacksonport
Clay Banks Town Cemetery	T. Clay Banks	Ellison Bay	T. Liberty Grove
Tanum Lutheran Cemetery	T. Clay Banks	Liberty Grove	T. Liberty Grove
Egg Harbor	T. Egg Harbor	Little Sister	T. Liberty Grove
St. John the Baptist Catholic	T. Egg Harbor	Rowleys Bay	T. Liberty Grove
Brockhausen Cemetery	T. Forestville	St. Rosalia's Catholic	T. Liberty Grove
Brown Church Cemetery	T. Forestville	Sister Bay Moravian	T. Liberty Grove
Emanuel Lutheran	T. Forestville	Trinity Lutheran	T. Liberty Grove
Forest Lutheran Cemetery	T. Forestville	Elton J. Shulties Memorial	T. Nasewaupsee

Forestville	T. Forestville	Hainesville Cemetery	T. Nasewaupee
Holy Name of Mary Catholic	T. Forestville	Pilgrim's Rest	T. Nasewaupee
Maplewood	T. Forestville	St. Salan	T. Nasewaupee
St. Mary's Cemetery (Old)	T. Forestville	Salem	T. Nasewaupee
St. Mary's, Holy Name of Mary	T. Forestville	Salem Luther Cemetery	T. Nasewaupee
St. Michael	T. Forestville	Schumacher-Nasewaupee	T. Nasewaupee
St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery	T. Forestville	Weckler-Pilgrims Rest	T. Nasewaupee
Woller	T. Forestville	Bayside	T. Sevastopol
Geise Family	T. Gardner	Family Cemetery (abandoned)	T. Sevastopol
Precious Blood Episcopal Cemetery	T. Gardner	Mausoleum-Catholic	T. Sevastopol
St. John the Baptist Spiritualist	T. Gardner	St. John's Evangelical Lutheran	T. Sevastopol
St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery	T. Gardner	St. Joseph's Catholic	T. Sevastopol
Stevenson Pier Cemetery	T. Gardner	SS. Peter & Paul Catholic	T. Sevastopol
Tornado Park	T. Gardner	Whitefish Bay	T. Sevastopol
White Star Spiritualist Cemetery	T. Gardner	Mt. Olive	T. Sturgeon Bay
Blossomburg	T. Gibraltar	Shiloh	T. Sturgeon Bay
Bethany Lutheran	T. Gibraltar	Sturgeon Bay/Samuelson Family South Side/Circle Ridge	T. Sturgeon Bay
Clafin/Thorp	T. Gibraltar	St. Francis Depaul	T. Union
Eagle Island	T. Gibraltar	St. Mary of the Snow Catholic	T. Union
Ephraim Moravian	T. Gibraltar	Lighthouse	T. Washington
Evangelical United Brethren	T. Gibraltar	Rock Island Cemeteries	T. Washington
Goodletson Family	T. Gibraltar	Sand Beach	T. Washington
Horseshoe Island (abandoned)	T. Gibraltar	Washington Island Township	T. Washington

Source: *Cemetery Locations in Wisconsin 3rd Edition, 2005; Door County Land Use Services, 2007.*

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources in the county include a wide array of associations and schools, galleries and studios, theatre groups, performing arts centers, and festivals. A diverse variety of galleries, studios, museums, and performance spaces offer the opportunity to see original works by local painters, potters, sculptors, craftspeople, weavers, and performers, many of whom draw inspiration from the natural beauty of the area. Education centers offer opportunities for people of all ages to learn about the natural environment, art, folk art, dance, drama, history, horticulture, literature, and many other topics.

As part of a larger national study, the Wisconsin Arts Board (WAB) released in 2002 the results of a study of the economic impact of the non-profit arts industry in Wisconsin. This study, the most recent one done by the WAB, included detailed economic data from data approximately 300 arts organizations in

Wisconsin, including many in Door County. Door County also commissioned its own local study and found that Door County arts organizations and their audiences:

- Supported the full-time equivalent of 632 jobs;
- Paid \$12.2 million in household income to local residents; and
- Delivered \$2.5 million in local and state government revenue.

ASSOCIATIONS

Door County has a variety of associations dedicated to cultural education, appreciation, awareness, outreach, events, and exhibits.

- **Potter's Guild.** The Door County Potters' Guild is a community of professional, resident crafts people making functional and decorative work in clay. Established in 1976, the Guild encourages support and camaraderie between its half-dozen or more members, and is dedicated to the creation of high-quality ceramics.
- **Washington Island Art Association.** Washington Island Art Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing high quality workshops to its artist members on Washington Island. Membership in the Association is open to professional and amateur artists and is also a requirement in order to teach or participate in a sponsored workshop.
- **Write On, Door County.** Write On, Door County is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire and engage writers and readers of all ages. Membership in the organization includes discounts on classes, access to exclusive events, interviews, and content, and advanced registration opportunities for conferences and other events.

CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Door County has a variety of cultural and educational opportunities for all ages of visitors and residents including the study of music, art, nature, and theatre. Note that museums, which offer an array of cultural and environmental educational opportunities, are listed in the historical resources section earlier in this chapter and are therefore not listed again here. Also note that the Door County Library System, another cultural resource, is discussed in Chapter 9, Community Facilities and Utilities.

- **The Art and Nature Center.** Founded in 1965, the Art and Nature Center (ANC), located in an old schoolhouse on Washington Island, features an art gallery and a nature room. The nature center includes an observation beehive, tanks of live snakes, fish, and frogs, as well as classes and excursions led by the ANC's naturalist on staff. The art center gallery features pieces of various mediums by Island artists for sale to the public.
- **Birch Creek Music Performance Center.** Birch Creek was founded in 1976 with the mission of providing intensive, performance-based instruction to promising young musicians through their Residential Summer Music Academy. Students, typically ages 14 to 19, are offered advanced training as well as the opportunity to perform public nightly concerts alongside nationally and internationally-renowned music professionals.
- **Björklunden (Björklunden vid Sjön).** Swedish for "Birch Grove by the Lake," Björklunden vid Sjön is Lawrence University's 441-acre North Campus estate in the Town of Baileys Harbor. Björklunden offers various seminars and hosts retreats for Lawrence students during the academic year, and adult continuing education seminars during the summer. The lodge hosts many musical events that are open to the public and the facilities, including lodging, are

available for use by private, public, and corporate groups for conferences, meetings, and special events.

- **Camp Will.** Camp Will, part of Door Shakespeare’s youth programming, is a weeklong summer workshop dedicated to the development of communication skills, language, and group social skills through the process of creative play and group scene work. Campers ages 8-17 explore Shakespeare’s words through rhythm, story drama, and vocal and physical performance techniques, ending the week with a performance of their scene work.
- **The Clearing.** The Clearing is a folk school founded in 1935 by renowned Danish landscape architect and conservationist Jens Jensen. The folk school emphasizes discussion, conversation, nature study, hands-on work, and reading and writing, creating a unique combination of learning, history, tradition, social interaction, and quiet reflection. There are week-long summer programs, as well as one- & two-day workshops and winter programs available for residents and visitors.
- **Crossroads at Big Creek.** Located just east of the City of Sturgeon Bay, this 125-acre preserve includes several educational resource centers and an extensive all-season trail system that connects to evergreen and hardwood forests, streams, seasonal ponds, wetlands, and upland meadows. Crossroads offers experiential life-long learning focused on science, history, and the environment.
- **Door County Candle Company.** Founded in 1993, the Door County Candle Company has celebrated the candle making tradition for over 25 years. Located in the Town of Sevastopol, Door County Candle Company offers candle dipping for any visitors and residents over the age of two.
- **Francis Hardy Center for the Arts.** The Francis Hardy Center for the Arts is a non-profit organization with a gallery located in the heart of Ephraim’s historic district on Anderson Dock. The mission of the Francis Hardy Center for the Arts is to promote awareness and appreciation of the arts through education and outreach programs, events, and exhibits. The Hardy Gallery showcases various educational exhibitions seasonally from May to October.
- **Hands On Art Studio.** Located in the Town of Gibraltar, Hands On Art Studio is a DIY studio offering free-wheeling walk-in art experiences. Projects available daily include ceramics, mosaics, fused glass, canvas & glassware painting, stamped jewelry, and board signs. Other classes beyond the daily offerings include metal shop, clay wheel throwing, and jewelry-making workshops—reservations are recommended.
- **Miller Art Museum.** Founded in 1975 by Gerhard and Ruth Miller, the Miller Art Museum was established as Door County’s year-round center for exhibition, education, and creative enrichment in the visual arts. The museum’s permanent collection and changing exhibitions are utilized to foster and inspire community creativity.
- **Open Door Bird Sanctuary.** Located on 34 acres in the Town of Jacksonport, the Open Door Bird Sanctuary works to create ambassadors of the environment by inspiring and educating the public through various aviaries, hiking trails, private tours, and summer programs focusing on local birds.
- **Peninsula School of Art & Guenzel Gallery.** Founded in 1965, the Peninsula School of Art is located in Fish Creek (Town of Gibraltar). As Door County’s artistic and cultural hub, the school is a year-round visual arts destination, offering unique experiences for artists such as fine art workshops, youth programs, various exhibitions, and art-centered events.

- **The Ridges Sanctuary.** The Ridges Sanctuary became Wisconsin's first land trust in 1937. Comprised of over 1,500 acres of pristine natural areas located in the Town of Baileys Harbor, the sanctuary has been designated as a State Natural Area, an Important Bird Area, and a National Natural Landmark. Environmental education programs are offered year-round as well as naturalist-led hikes. During the summer, day camp programs for children in preschool through fifth grade, family workshops, and a weekly lecture series are offered.
- **Sievers School of Fiber Arts.** Founded in 1979, Sievers School of Fiber Arts is a three-season visual arts and crafts school located on Washington Island. The school offers weeklong and weekend classes for students of all skill levels.
- **Third Avenue PlayWorks.** The Third Avenue PlayWorks (TAP) was founded in 1999 to provide high-quality, year-round community performing arts and educational opportunities in Door County. TAP seeks to inspire cultural awareness through classes and workshops, including a writer's workshop and classes in short and long fiction, poetry, and playwriting. TAP also offers theatre classes and summer camps for children and teens.
- **Write On, Door County.** Write On, Door County is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire and engage writers and readers of all ages. One-day workshops and multi-session classes are available to members as well as the public. A writers' residency program is also offered, as well as writing conferences and retreats.

CULINARY ARTS, WINERIES, AND BREWERIES

Door county contains a multitude of cooking schools, wineries, breweries, and more. The cooking schools offer instruction from professional chefs, with events and classes often focusing on local foods. The wineries offer a variety of award-winning locally produced wines along with tours, wine tasting facilities, and on-site sales.

COOKING SCHOOLS

- **Savory Spoon Cooking School.** The Savory Spoon Cooking School, a member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals, is a seasonal school open from June to October.
- **Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC).** Located in the City of Sturgeon Bay, NWTC offers a variety of cooking and food preservation classes, including a local foods cooking class.

WINERIES, BREWERIES, ETC.

- Anchored Roots Winery & Vineyard, Town of Egg Harbor
- Bridge Up Brewing Company, City of Sturgeon Bay
- Door County Brewing Company, Town of Baileys Harbor
- Door Peninsula Winery/Door County Distillery, Carlsville (Town of Egg Harbor)
- Door 44 Winery, Town of Sevastopol
- Harbor Ridge Winery, Town of Gibraltar
- Hatch Distilling Company, Village of Egg Harbor
- Island Orchard Cider, Ellison Bay (Town of Liberty Grove)
- One Barrel Brewing Company, Village of Egg Harbor
- Orchard County Winery, Fish Creek (Town of Gibraltar)
- Peach Barn Farm House & Brewery, Village of Sister Bay

- Red Oak Vineyard & Winery, City of Sturgeon Bay
- Shipwrecked Brew Pub, Village of Egg Harbor
- Simon Creek Vineyard & Winery, Town of Jacksonport
- Starboard Brewing Company, City of Sturgeon Bay
- Stone’s Throw Winery, Town of Baileys Harbor

VISUAL ARTS: GALLERIES AND STUDIOS

Door County has a long-standing tradition of attracting artists to the area, with a variety of galleries and studios up and down the peninsula displaying artwork by local, regional, state, and national artists. Artists also display their works at local shops, restaurants, and events. The types of arts found in the county include:

- Painting (oil, pastel, watercolor, etc.)
- Photography
- Sculpture (metal, wood, glass, pottery, etc.)
- Weavings
- Crafts (furniture, leather, etc.)

PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS AND VENUES

Performing arts are prominent in the local culture of Door County. There are multiple performing arts groups and venues across the county providing entertainment for both residents and visitors.

- **Birth Creek Music Performance Center.** Located in the Town of Egg Harbor, Birch Creek offers residents and visitors nightly concerts by students and music professionals during the summer months.
- **Door County Auditorium (DCA).** Featuring excellent acoustics, this 725-seat venue offers an intimate setting for professional and community performances. Year-round programming includes the Fireside Coffeehouse Concert Series, Peninsula Music Festival, St. Norbert Lecture Series, local and professional theatre, dance, and music. DCA is also home to Gibraltar Schools’ theatre and music programs, where students star in productions year-round. “Movies at The Door,” the latest addition to DCA programming, offers free movies to the public.
- **Door Shakespeare.** Door Shakespeare is a non-profit professional theatre troupe that performs Shakespeare and other classical theatre during the summer in an outdoor garden setting located at Björklunden in the Town of Baileys Harbor.
- **Fishstock Concert Series.** This venue holds concerts in a 100-year-old dairy barn and can seat up to 750 people. They host a variety of music groups throughout the season. Tickets are available for purchase online.
- **Holiday Music Motel/Steel Bridge Songfest.** Located in the City of Sturgeon Bay, the Holiday Music Motel is a fully operational motel featuring music events, collaborative songwriting retreats, and a radio station that exclusively broadcasts the music created within the motel. The Steel Bridge Songfest (SBSF) was established in 2005 by Citizens for Our Bridge, Inc. as a music festival promoting the preservation of the Michigan Street Bridge and the Third Avenue Historic District. The songwriting retreat for this festival takes place at the motel.

- **Isadoora Theatre Company.** Isadoora is a semi-professional non-profit community theatre organization with a 3-show season running October through May at various venues in Door County. The mission of Isadoora Theatre Company is to celebrate theatre through its basic elements of movement, music, story, and thought.
- **Island Players.** Since 1984, Island Players has served Washington Island as a non-profit community theatre. Players produce full-length plays and musical productions, sponsor workshops and informal play readings, and provide programs in the public school and a summer acting camp for children.
- **Midsummer’s Music Festival.** The Midsummer’s Music Festival began in 1991 as a festival of chamber ensemble music held over several weeks throughout the summer. It now offers numerous professional concert programs throughout the year in churches, private homes, art galleries, and retreat centers throughout the county.
- **Northern Sky Theatre.** The Northern Sky Theatre (NST) produces original music shows at an outdoor amphitheater in Peninsula State Park from June to August every year. NST also holds year-round production at their newly constructed (2019) Creative Center and Gould Theatre. The mission of NST is to create, develop, and present professional musical and dramatic productions that will further the knowledge and appreciation of the culture and heritage of the United States.
- **Paul Sills’ Wisconsin Theatre Game Center.** The Sills’ Center, located in the Town of Liberty Grove, offers one-week improvisational theatre intensives for students, actors, directors, and teachers.
- **Peninsula Music Festival.** The Peninsula Music Festival offers symphony, chamber music, and recital series over the course of three weeks each August at the Door County Auditorium in Fish Creek (Town of Gibraltar). Professional orchestral musicians come from all around the world to be part of this annual Music Festival.
- **Peninsula Players.** Founded in 1935, Peninsula Players is America’s oldest professional resident summer theatre. Peninsula Players offers five shows each season, varying from comedies to dramas, with nightly performances in an open-air theatre. It is located along the shoreline of Green Bay, between the Village of Egg Harbor and Fish Creek (Town of Gibraltar).
- **The Red Barn.** The Red Barn offers space for local and visiting artists to perform country, jazz, gospel, and original music, theatrical events, and other productions. It is located at Gislason Beach Park on Washington Island.
- **Third Avenue PlayWorks.** In addition to its educational programming, each year Third Avenue PlayWorks (TAP) sponsors numerous local theatre productions at its location in the City of Sturgeon Bay. TAP offers performance space to other theater as well as music ensembles.
- **Trueblood Performing Arts Center.** The mission of the Trueblood Performing Arts Center is to provide and maintain a public facility in which creativity may flourish and to encourage public participation in education and entertainment for the residents and visitors to Washington Island.
- **Washington Island Music Festival.** Washington Island hosts a music festival each August. The festival is a series of concerts performed by world class musicians who donate their talents and spend two weeks living and performing on the island.

Other performing arts venues in the county include coffee shops, galleries, taverns, restaurants, and open-air performance spaces. Listed below are municipal outdoor venues with regularly scheduled music performances during the summer months

- **City of Sturgeon Bay.** Between mid-June and late August, Martin Park hosts the weekly Harmony by the Bay concerts.
- **Village of Egg Harbor**
 - Peg Egan Performing Arts Center. The Peg Egan Performing Arts Center is an outdoor amphitheater in the Village of Egg Harbor that hosts a variety of musical performances throughout the summer months.
 - Eames Cherry View Park. This band shelter hosts a free sunset concert series during the summer months
- **Village of Ephraim.** Local music is offered weekly during the summer months at the Harborside Park gazebo. In the event of rain, concerts take place at the historic village hall.
- **Village of Sister Bay.** From mid-June to mid-August, the Village of Sister Bay’s “Concerts in the Park” performances take place in the Waterfront Park gazebo.
- **Town of Baileys Harbor.** Between June and August, weekly concerts are offered on the lawn of the Town Hall.

FESTIVALS

Door County hosts many festivals and complimentary events throughout the year, providing social, celebratory, cultural, and educational experiences for visitors and residents alike. Listed in this section are the standing festivals. Detailed information is available through Destination Door County or the local business/civic associations listed immediately below. (See the Resources and Further Information section for Destination Door County contain information.)

BUSINESS/CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

- Destination Door County of Door
- Baileys Harbor Community Association
- Destination Sturgeon Bay
- Door County North Business Association
- Egg Harbor Business Association
- Ephraim Business Council
- Fish Creek Civic Association
- Jacksonport Area Business Association
- Washington Island Chamber of Commerce

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

February

- Fish Creek Winterfest

May

- Season of Blossoms (county-wide)
- Door County Half Marathon (Peninsula State Park)

- Maifest (Town of Jacksonport)

June

- Steel Bridge Songfest (City of Sturgeon Bay)
- Door County's Spring Century Ride
- Door County Beer Festival (Town of Baileys Harbor)
- Ephraim Fyr Bal Festival
- Olde Ellison Bay Days (Town of Liberty Grove)
- Door County Plein Air Festival (Town of Gibraltar)

July

- Fourth of July: Day-long festivals in the Town of Baileys Harbor and the Village of Egg Harbor; fireworks in Fish Creek (Town of Gibraltar), Gills Rock (Town of Liberty Grove), Washington Island, and the City of Sturgeon Bay.
- Annual Jefferson Street Festival (City of Sturgeon Bay)
- Belgian Days (Town of Brussels)
- Cherry Festival (Town of Jacksonport)
- Carlsville Days (Town of Egg Harbor)
- Washington Island Fly-In/Fish Boil
- Door County Triathlon

August

- Washington Island Scandinavian Festival
- Door County Fair
- Valmy Thresheree and Antique Machinery Show (Town of Sevastopol)
- Washington Island Fair and Parade
- Kermis (traditional Belgian harvest celebration; held throughout Southern Door towns starting late August through September)



Pictured: Door County Fair Logo
Source: Destination Door County

September

- Marina Fest (Village of Sister Bay)
- Sturgeon Bay Harvest Festival & Moon Celebration, Street Art Auction & Classic Car Show
- Baileys Harbor Autumnfest
- Door County's Fall Century Ride

October

- Egg Harbor Pumpkin Patch Festival
- Townline Art Fair (Village of Ephraim)
- Washington Island Cider Pressing Party and Fall Festival
- Sister Bay Fall Festival
- Fall 50 Relay (running event)

November

- Christmas by the Bay (City of Sturgeon Bay)
- Capture the Spirit (Villages of Ephraim & Sister Bay)

POP CULTURE

MOVIES

Door County has been the filming location and setting for multiple films over the past three or so decades. Most recently, in 2022, the well-known actor Craig T. Nelson starred in the indie movie *God Loves the Green Bay Packers* which was filmed in Door County. A variety of other movies have been filmed in the county, including:

- Mags and Julie Go on a Road Trip – 2020
- June Falling Down – 2018
- Ghosts of Door County – 2013
- Feed the Fish – 2010
- The Emissary – 1989

LITERATURE

A plethora of novels, short stories, and other literature have Door County as their chosen setting. Many of the works fall in the mystery genre and have won literary awards.

MUSIC

Door County has a live music scene that is a popular draw for residents and visitors alike. The list of big names who have brought their voices to the peninsula include:

- Jeff Tweedy
- Ray Charles
- Johnny Cash
- Willie Nelson
- Jackson Browne
- Lumineers
- Melissa Etheridge
- Lyle Lovett

RESOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The Art and Nature Center ([Art & Nature Center \(wianc.org\)](http://wianc.org))

Baileys Harbor Community Association ([BHCA \(doorcounty.com\)](http://doorcounty.com))

Baileys Harbor Historical Society ([Home \(baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org\)](http://baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org))

Belgian Heritage Center ([Belgian Heritage Center - Welcome!](#))

Birch Creek Music Performance Center ([Birch Creek Music Performance Center – Door County, WI](#))

Björklunden (Björklunden vid Sjön) ([Björklunden | Lawrence University](#))

The Clearing ([The Clearing | The Clearing Folk School](#))

Crossroads at Big Creek ([Crossroads at Big Creek - Door County, Wisconsin](#))

Destination Door County ([Destination Door County | Door County, Wisconsin](#))

Destination Sturgeon Bay ([Sturgeon Bay Door County Visitor Center | Destination Sturgeon Bay](#))

Door County Historical Museum & Archives

- ([Door County Archives | Door County, WI](#))
- ([Door County Historical Museum | Door County, WI](#))

Door County Auditorium ([Door Community Auditorium | Home of Unforgettable Experiences! \(dcauditorium.org\)](#))

Door County Candle Company ([Home - Door County Candle Company](#))

Door County Historical Society ([Door County Historical Society – Collect. Maintain. Share.](#))

Door County Library Laurie History Room ([Genealogy and Local History | Door County Library](#))

Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse ([Door County Maritime Museum & Cana Island Lighthouse \(dcm.org\)](#))

- **Sturgeon Bay Museum**
120 North Madison Ave.
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Phone: (920) 743-5958
- **Gills Rock Museum**
12724 Wisconsin Bay Rd.
Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Phone: (920) 854-1844

Door County North Business Association ([Door County North – Find yourself here.](#))

Door County Potters' Guild ([Home - Door County Potters' Guild \(doorcountypottersguild.com\)](#))

Door Shakespeare ([Door County's Professional Shakespeare Theater Company - Door Shakespeare](#))

Egg Harbor Business Association ([Egg Harbor Door County - Explore Egg Harbor](#))

Egg Harbor Historical Society, Inc. ([EGG HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Home \(eggharborhistory.org\)](#))

Ephraim Business Council ([Ephraim Business Council | Ephraim Door County \(ephraim-doorcounty.com\)](#))

Ephraim Historical Foundation ([Ephraim Historical Foundation](#))

Fish Creek Civic Association ([Visit Fish Creek](#))

Fishstock Concert Series ([Live Music Concerts- Fish Creek | Door County | Fishstock \(fishstockmusic.com\)](#))

Francis Hardy Center for the Arts ([The Hardy Gallery | Door County Wisconsin](#))

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands ([Friends of Plum & Pilot Islands - Home \(plumandpilot.org\)](#))

Friends of Rock Island ([Friends of Rock Island \(squarespace.com\)](#))

Gibraltar Historical Association ([Home | historicnoble-gha](#))

Hands On Art Studio ([Hands On Art Studio | Door County | Fish Creek | Art](#))

Heritage Alliance of Door County ([Heritage Alliance of Door County - Home | Facebook](#))

Isadoora Theatre Company ([Theater Group, Acting Troupe, Theater Troupe- Sturgeon Bay, WI \(isadooraheatrecompany.com\)](#))

Island Players ([Home \(washingtonislandplayers.org\)](#))

Jacksonport Area Business Association ([Jacksonport Area Business Association | Jacksonport - Door County, WI](#))

Jacksonport Historical Society ([Jacksonport Historical Society](#))

Liberty Grove Historical Society ([Liberty Grove Historical Society | Door County, Wisconsin – A door to the past](#))

Midsummer's Music Festival ([Midsummer's Music - Classical chamber music by world-class musicians in beautiful venues throughout Door County, Wisconsin \(midsummersmusic.com\)](#))

Miller Art Museum ([Home \(millerartmuseum.org\)](#))

Northern Sky Theatre ([Northern Sky Theater](#))

Open Door Bird Sanctuary ([Home - Open Door Bird Sanctuary](#))

Paul Sills' Wisconsin Theatre Game Center ([Paul Sills' Wisconsin Theater Game Center](#))

Peninsula Belgian American Club ([Peninsula Belgian American Club](#))

Peninsula Players ([Home - Peninsula Players - Door County Theatre](#))

Peninsula School of Art ([Peninsula School of Art](#))

The Red Barn ([Red Barn Washington Island - Home | Facebook](#))

Sevastopol Historical Society ([Sevastopol Historical Society – Town of Sevastopol \(townofsevastopolwi.gov\)](#))

Sievers School of Fiber Arts ([Sievers School of Fiber Arts — Learn, refresh and reflect](#))

Sister Bay Historical Society ([Sister Bay Historical Society – Appreciating the heritage of Sister Bay \(sisterbayhistory.org\)](#))

Steel Bridge Creative Foundation ([Steel Bridge Creative Foundation](#))

Steel Bridge Songfest ([Steel Bridge Songfest](#))

Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation ([Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation](#))

Third Avenue PlayWorks ([Door County's Finest Theater - Third Avenue Playhouse \(thirdavenueplayworks.org\)](#))

Trueblood Performing Arts Center ([Welcome | Trueblood Performing Arts Center | Washington Island \(tpacwashingtonisland.com\)](#))

Washington Island Archives ([Town's Historical Archives | Town of Washington Island, Door County, Wisconsin \(washingtonisland-wi.gov\)](#))

Washington Island Art Association ([Washington Island Art Association \(washingtonislandarts.com\)](#))

Washington Island Chamber of Commerce ([Washington Island Chamber of Commerce – Experience Washington Island](#))

Washington Island Music Festival ([Washington Island Music Festival](#))

Write On, Door County ([Home - Write On Door County](#))

COOKING SCHOOLS, WINERIES, DISTILLERIES, AND BREWERIES

Anchored Roots Winery & Vineyard ([Anchored Roots Vineyard & Winery \(anchoredrootswine.com\)](#))

Bridge Up Brewing company ([Single Barrel Craft Brewing in Door County - Bridge Up Brewing](#))

Door County Brewing Company ([Door County Brewing \(doorcountybrewingco.com\)](#))

Door Peninsula Winery/Door County Distillery ([Door Peninsula Winery \(dcwine.com\)](#) / [Distillery | Door County Distillery | Wisconsin](#))

Door 44 Winery ([Door 44 Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin - Wine Sampling Door County WI \(44wineries.com\)](#))

Harbor Ridge Winery ([Harbor Ridge Winery](#))

Hatch Distilling Company ([Hatch Distilling Co. - Craft Distillery from Door County, Wisconsin](#))

Island Orchard Cider ([Island Orchard Cider](#))

One Barrel Brewing Company ([Welcome - One Barrel Brewing Co.](#))

Orchard County Winery ([Lautenbach's Orchard Country Winery & Market | Door County, WI](#))

Peach Barn Farm House & Brewery ([Peach Barn Farmhouse and Brewery – Peach Barn Farmhouse & Brewery \(peachbarnbrewing.com\)](#))

Red Oak vineyard & Winery ([Red Oak Winery](#))

Shipwrecked Brew Pub ([Shipwrecked Brew Pub, Door County's original Microbrewery \(shipwreckedmicrobrew.com\)](#))

Simon Creek Vineyard & Winery ([Simon Creek Vineyard & Winery](#))

Starboard Brewing Company ([Starboard Brewing](#))

Stone's Throw Winery ([Home - Stone's Throw Winery \(stonestrowwinery.com\)](#))

REGIONAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Wisconsin Historical Society ([Wisconsin Historical Society | Explore our historical collections, research your family history, teach and learn Wisconsin history, preserve historic properties, donate, volunteer and more.](#))

National Register of Historic Places ([National Register of Historic Places \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#))