



photo by Bob Griffin

Culture, History & Museums...

Parks, museums & various historic settlements throughout Clayton County preserve the history of the area. This county has been the site for ancient burial grounds, pioneer settlements & is renowned for its impressive limestone structures & bridges.

Elkader Opera House, Elkader, built in 1903 boasts one of two surviving horseshoe balconies. Recently renovated in the style of the times, the opera house has an active performance schedule. 563-245-2098 www.elkaderoperahouse.com

Keystone Arch Bridge, Elkader, constructed in 1889, is the longest keystone arch bridge west of the Mississippi River. It is 346 feet long and built of locally quarried limestone. www.elkader-iowa.com/Keystone%20Bridge.html

Motor Mill, Elkader, built between 1867 & 1869, the 90-foot mill boasts six full stories & is believed to be the tallest structure of its kind in the Midwest. An inn, cooperage, icehouse & livery stable are also located on the site. Motor Mill is on the National Register of Historic Places. 563-245-1516 www.motormill.org

Carter House Museum, Elkader, is an example of Greek Revival architecture and is filled with many of the home's original furnishings. 563-245-3450 www.carterhousemuseum.com

Froelich is a historic village located between Monona & McGregor. A replica of the first successful gasoline traction engine (forerunner of today's John Deere Tractor) is on display as well as an 1866 one room school & "The Iron Clad Store" are open for visitation. 563-536-2841 www.froelichtractor.com

Garnavillo Historical Complex, Garnavillo, consists of a Historical Museum, an original Log Cabin, (dismantled & accurately reconstructed) & an Early Lodge Hall built in 1860. Open: Memorial Day thru Labor Day or by appointment. 563-964-2775 or 563-964-2109

Jerry Everitt Tractor Museum, Volga City, view vintage tractors used in years past. Open by appointment. Self-guided tours. Tour groups welcome. 563-767-2175

Lockmaster House Heritage Museum, Guttenberg, preserves the history of Iowa's lock & dam system. It is the last remaining lockmaster house on the Upper Mississippi River located on the grounds of Lock & Dam #10. 563-252-1531



Marquette Depot Museum, Marquette, relive the rich history of the railroad & Marquette, Iowa from the 1860's to present with Railroad artifacts, pictures, gifts & souvenirs. 563-873-1200

McGregor Historical Museum, McGregor, discover many stories about McGregor's history. Learn about McGregor's founder, Alexander MacGregor, Andrew Clemens (a historically famous McGregor artist known for his great skill in the lost art of sand painting), see memorabilia from the childhood home of the famous Ringling Bros. Circus family & much more! 563-873-2221

Monona Historical Museum & Willa Helwig History Center, Monona, boasts the "World's Largest Known Display of Hand Carved Chains" & memorabilia of an earlier Monona. 563-539-8083 www.mononahistoricalmuseum.org

Plowman Barn (pronounced Plowman) is home to the Northeast Iowa Farm & Antique Association (NEIFAA). The barn was originally used as a dance barn & meeting place and is located near Garber. 563-252-3646

The Wilder Museum, Strawberry Point, houses a collection of 800 heirloom dolls, an assortment of doll furniture, an extensive arrowhead collection, primitive tools & turn of the century Victorian furniture. 563-933-4615 www.strawberrypoint.com/Wilder_Museum/museum.htm



George Maier Rural Heritage Center, Elkader, is located in a restored former sales barn & houses a collection of rural artifacts representing the work & lives of those living in the Midwest since 1850s. 563-245-1849

The National Register of Historic Places

Clayton County has numerous sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ranging from buildings to bridges. Come to Clayton County & visit these historic treasures preserving the history & culture of our county.