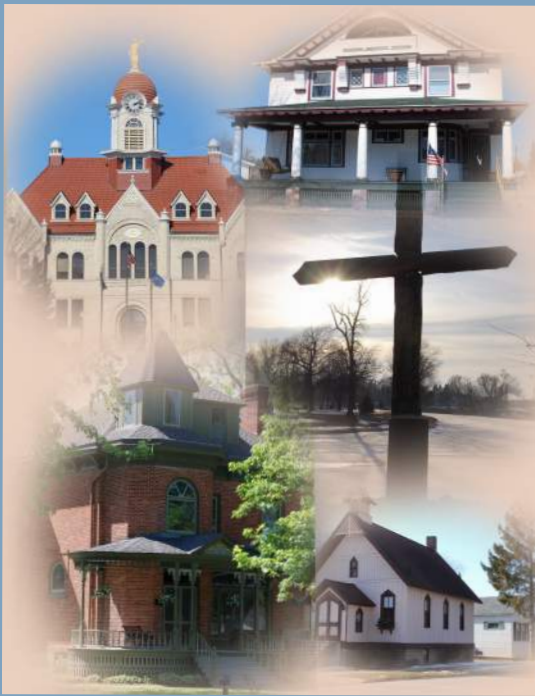# Oconto
Ride Oconto History

Bring your bike
and
Visit the City of Oconto

You will find 5 bike routes with 46 historical stops. This includes:

1 National Landmark

5 Historical Markers

28 National Register of Historic Places

Other important websites:

www.cityofoconto.com

www.ocontoctyhistsoc.org

I. Copper Culture Trail ● 4 miles :

II. Museum Route ● 2.3 miles

III. Harbor Route ● 3.3 miles

IV. Blue River Route ● 3.5 miles

South Red River Route ● 2.1 miles

North Cemetery Route ● 2.7 miles

[P] Public Parking

Look for these signs to help you along the way

23 🚲

See inside for historical information ➡

1.1.1.*Copper Culture State Park (Copper Culture Way) **No admission sticker needed** – Prehistoric burial ground, designated with a **Historical Marker** and a **National Historic Landmark**. It is the earliest dated Old Copper Cemetery in North America (**c5500 BC**). Here, you can visit a Historical Walking Trail and Oconto's Copper Culture Museum. It is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Monday to Sunday from 11:30 am - 4:30pm. Free admission, donations are welcome 920-834-6206

2.2.2. Allouez Historical Marker (Brazeau Avenue) – This region was once part of New France. Oconto was the site of Jesuit missionary Father Claude Allouez's Mission of St. Francis Xavier in late **1669**. A hut and a chapel made of bark and cedar were abandoned in 1671.

3.*St. Peter's Catholic Church (516 Brazeau Avenue) – Originally a wood frame building, in **1899** the current church was built with Romanesque Revival style, on land donated by Peter Pecor, the founder of Frenchtown. Parishioners walked from Oconto Falls and Peshtigo to attend services.

4.4. Brazeau House (403 Brazeau Avenue) – Typical of a Victorian Queen Anne Style house, the Brazeau House has steeper pitched roofs, along with less typical ornate details. This house, built in **1896**, has a balloon frame, meaning the frame is made up of long 2 x 4 lumber that extends from the foundation all the way to the roof.

5.5. Patterson Bridge and House (Smith Avenue) – The first bridge across the Oconto River in Frenchtown. Mr. Patterson's store was at the southwest corner of the bridge. The building of the bridge changed the way of life.

6.6. McDonald Street began as a trail of the Menominee tribe, served as a stage coach route to Fort Howard. Was called Upper State Road around **1860** and eventually was widened to the street we see today.

7. Evergreen Cemetery (Cook Avenue) – Founded in the early **1850s**, it was Oconto's first public cemetery. Mary Ellen Brunquest was the first person buried there. The cemetery also has a monument of Governor Scofield.

8.*O'Kelliher House (419 Main Street) – This modest one-story bungalow built in **1914** has shingled siding, low pitched gable roof, and an enclosed recessed porch on battered supports. It also has Belgian-style casement windows (1 large on top, 2 divided on bottom). Mrs. Cleo (O'Kelliher) Flynn helped to found the Oconto Historical Society and acquire the Beyer Home as a museum**.**

9.*Phelps House (427 Main Street) – The land was bought for $150 in **1869**, and the house built in **1895**. It is a superb example of Queen Anne architecture and boasts a large curved porch, turned post and spindle railings, brackets, and a round conical shaped turret. The curved windows and double-entry doors illustrate its opulent construction.

10.*Murphy House (439 Main Street) – This vernacular house, built in **1881** has a gable roof, large front Tuscan columned veranda with leaded glass, and side lights at the front doorway. An owner discovered it was built using salvaged 2 x 6s, which had been chained together through holes at each end to hold lumber in secure piles as it was rafted out to ships from saw mills in town. After the "ties" were used, the rough lumber was sold to anyone who wished to buy it.

11.*First Church of Christ, Scientist - designated with a **Historical Marker** (Corner of Chicago Street & Main Street) – Built in **1886**, using stone, weatherboard, and brick, the church was built in the Gothic Revival style. The building was the first in the world built solely for Christian Science worship. The interior, except for the replacement of an old chandelier, is virtually unchanged.

12.*Morrison House (443 Main Street) – Built in **1881** as a frame construction with fieldstone, gabled roof, and asbestos shingles. The turned spindles on the large wrap-around front porch are a typical Queen Anne feature.

13.*Paramore House (451 Main Street) – This house with returned eaves, a plain frame, and a double door with transom was built around **1871**. Also notice the shingled World War I era front porch.

14. The J. Sargent House (503 Main Street) – The architecture of this house, built in **1878**, resembles local rural farm homes, with many Italian features, such as a five-sided bay and a porch featuring thin posts with elaborately carved brackets. Note the carriage house to the rear.

15.*The Schneider House (510 Main Street) – Inspired by Colonial-style architecture, this house, built in **1923**, has a steep gable roof, shed-roofed dormers in the roof, multi-paneled windows, shutters, molded cornices, and a Federal Revival decorated doorway with fanlight and columns.

16. Pendleton House (523 Main Street) – Built about **1889**, this large two-story Queen Anne style house includes a wrap-around veranda and a double doorway. It has steeply pitched gables trimmed with geometrically designed gale braces at the peaks. The only major exterior change has been the addition of the bay window and a room at the rear east side.

17.*H. Sargent House (516 Main Street) – Built in **1867**, this is a two story framed house with returned eaves and a later front porch. It has undergone exterior changes, including addition of a garage, breezeway, rear bedroom, family room and aluminum siding. The east wing was removed.

18.*Morgan House (527 Main Street) – Essentially unchanged, this **1890** Victorian-style house features an unusual jerkin-headed roof with more typical Queen Anne details, such as a wrap-around porch and cutaway corners.

19.*Crawford House (522 Main Street) – Built about **1869**, this house has retained its simple frame Greek Revival appearance despite major exterior alterations at the turn of the century, giving it a Classical Revival appearance. Changes include removing the railing around the top of the porch roof, altering the front doorway, and railings on the front porch.

20.*Landreth House (537 Main Street) – Elements of the Classical Revival design are illustrated in this home, built in **1903**. It has a broad front porch with Roman Ionic columns, a third floor balcony recessed under a wide arch, and a front entry door containing a 270 piece leaded glass light. An extension was built on the back porch.

21.*Tourtillott House (532 Main Street) – This frame Italianate house, built around **1860**, featuring front veranda, side porch with carved woodwork, two-story side bay window, and bracketed eaves, is the oldest house in the historic district. French windows are on the first floor and the entry door is framed with sidelights and a transom light. The rear section of the house has had extensive additions.

22. Charles Hall House (543 Main Street) – Built around **1878**, this Second Empire-style home has a mansard roof. It features round-arched dormer windows and elaborate eave brackets, typical of the style. The house previously had an observation tower on the roof. The enclosed front porch was added.

23.*Ellis House (548 Main Street) – This Victorian-style home, built in **1880**, features multiple roofs, bracketed eaves, and several two-story bays. It was once one of the showplaces on the street with an estate-like yard. It has been greatly modified.

24.*Smith House (553 Main Street) – Built around **1883**, this is a later Victorian frame house with an intersecting steep gable roof, a wide forty-seven foot long porch, and large picture windows with leaded glass panels. Major alterations include an attached garage at the rear.

25.*Barber Rental House (558 Main Street) – Built around **1870**, this simple one-and-a-half story frame house has an intersecting gable roof. Remodeling enclosed a front porch in 1935 and removed fancy carved barge board (cut-out woodwork).

26.*Pendleton House (567 Main Street) – Except for a west-side porch addition, this two-and-a-half story Queen Anne style house, built around **1880,** remains relatively unchanged. It has clapboard siding on the first story and staged square butt shingles above.

27. Barber House (562 Main Street) – This simple one-and-a-half story house built in **1868** has a carved and spindled pediment over a later entrance porch. Other additions include enlarging the original structure, enclosing the side porch, and adding a two stall garage.

28.*Bond House (606 Main Street) – Built in **1929**, this is a one-story, stucco Spanish Colonial-style structure with a tile roofed parapet. Note the semi-circle front entrance porch supported by Roman Ionic columns. The building remains unchanged except for the addition of a room on the south side.

29.*Governor Scofield Mansion (Brunquest Home) (610 Main Street) – Built in **1869**, this is an Italianate-style structure with round-arched dormers in the roof, bracketed eaves, arched windows, and elaborate frame bay windows. An elaborate wraparound porch was reconstructed in 2001. In the rear of the house stands an oak tree that is about 250 years old. Edward Scofield served as Governor of Wisconsin from 1897 to 1901 and lived in Oconto from 1883 to 1925.

30. Farnsworth Public Library (715 Main Street) – The Neoclassical-style structure was built in **1903**. George Farnsworth arrived in 1856, at the age of 31, a poor man with little formal education except for the good books he read. Wanting to do something that would greatly benefit the community, he built this library for future generations to enjoy.

31. M. Pocquette Building (Corner of Main Street & Huron Street) – This commercial building is vernacular in style and was built in 1904.

32. Nicholas Perrot Historical Marker (Freedom Park, corner of Main Street & Superior Avenue) – Remembering Nicholas Perrot, a French fur trader, diplomat, and influential person of the Great Lakes region, who mediated between the Menominee and the Potawatomi tribes in **1668**. The planter in the park once stood in front of the Christian Scientist Church and served as a watering trough.

33.*Oconto Post Office (141 Congress Street) – Built in **1922**, this Georgian Revival-style building has a monumental round arch door and windows.

34.*Oconto County Courthouse (301 Washington Street) – This building, built in **1891**, has two images, a fish and a log, above the front entrance symbolizing Oconto's main industries. After a fire in 1907 destroyed the top of the building, the current domed tower, tile roof, and Lady Justice statue were built. The east wing was added in 1960, followed by the west side addition in 1977 and a 4 floor addition on the east side in 1992.

35. RL Hall Land Title Company Inc. Sponsor (361 Badger Ct.) – Founded in **1855**, this is the oldest family-owned business in Northeast Wisconsin.

36.36.*St. Joseph's Catholic Church (705 Park Avenue) – Now called Holy Trinity Parish after merging with St. Peter Parish, the church has Byzantine-style architecture with a polychromy façade with red brick trim. This building is a drastic renovation of an **1870** frame church.

37.37.*John Campbell House (916 Park Avenue) – Built in **1892**, this Victorian-style house has a polygonal entry tower with a flared pavilion roof and unusual oval windows.

38.38.*Beyer Home Museum Sponsor (917 Park Avenue) – Built in **1868**, it was the first brick mansion in the county. In 1941, the Oconto County Historical Society received the house with the stipulation that it become a museum. The complex includes the George E. Hall Annex, carriage house, and log cabin. The museum is open for public guided tours daily June 1st – Labor Day noon to 4:00 p.m. 920-834-6206.

39. Hall House (1105 Park Avenue) – Built in **1870** in Italianate style and acquired by Richard L. Hall, owner of Hall Land and Title Company. As Surveyor, he laid out the first State Highway in Oconto County in **1855** over an ancient Indian trail, from Marinette, through Peshtigo, Oconto, Pensaukee, Oak Orchard, and Suamico to Walnut Street in Green Bay.

40.*St. Mark Episcopal Guild Hall (408 Park Avenue) – Believed to be the oldest church building standing in Oconto, built in **1866**, in Greek Revival style. Originally the Methodist Church, moved from the southwest corner of Park Avenue and Congress Street. The church was demolished in 1998. The hall is the present site of the Machickanee Players theater.

41. Stanley Toy Factory (310 Park Avenue) – This **Historical Marker** serves as an interesting reminder of the Stanley Toy Factory built in **1872,** (originally a Music Hall). C. Schwedler made cast iron toys. On December 29, 1949 a fire destroyed the business, with its toy molds and records. Stanley toys are prized collector pieces.

42. Joseph Hall House (1317 Main Street) – Built in **1865**, this front gabled, Chicago-style house has a steeply roofed porch with Doric columns. He also built the Music Hall that later became the Stanley Toy Factory.

43.*Huff Jones House (1345 Main Street) – Possibly Oconto County's oldest standing home, built in **1850**, in Greek Revival-style. Huff Jones built this frame house with wood from his new steam-powered lumber mill, built in 1849 where the Oconto Yacht Club now stands. Oconto County's first election was held here in 1852.

44. Oconto Harbor (Harbor Road) – Built about **1879**, ships docked at the Oconto Municipal Pier, which extended over 500 feet out into the Bay. In the early 1900's, there could be 100 ships anchored at the pier. Old pilings are still visible in the bay. The lower part of the Oconto River from the City Docks east is a man-made channel. The original river goes by the Oconto Sportsmen's Club and is still an outlet to the Bay.

45.*Holt & Balcom Lumber Company Sponsor (106 Superior Avenue) – Presently the Brothers Three Restaurant. The building housed the company's offices and was built in **1854**, in the Greek Revival-style. The Holt Lumber Company operated for 92 years and was built where once the Menominee village "Oak-a-toe" stood.

46. The Former County Court House & Hospital (Corner of First Street & Collins Avenue, **the former Lower State Road**) – Built around **1869**, this was the second courthouse built and then housed the Oconto Memorial Hospital. Additions were built in 1933.