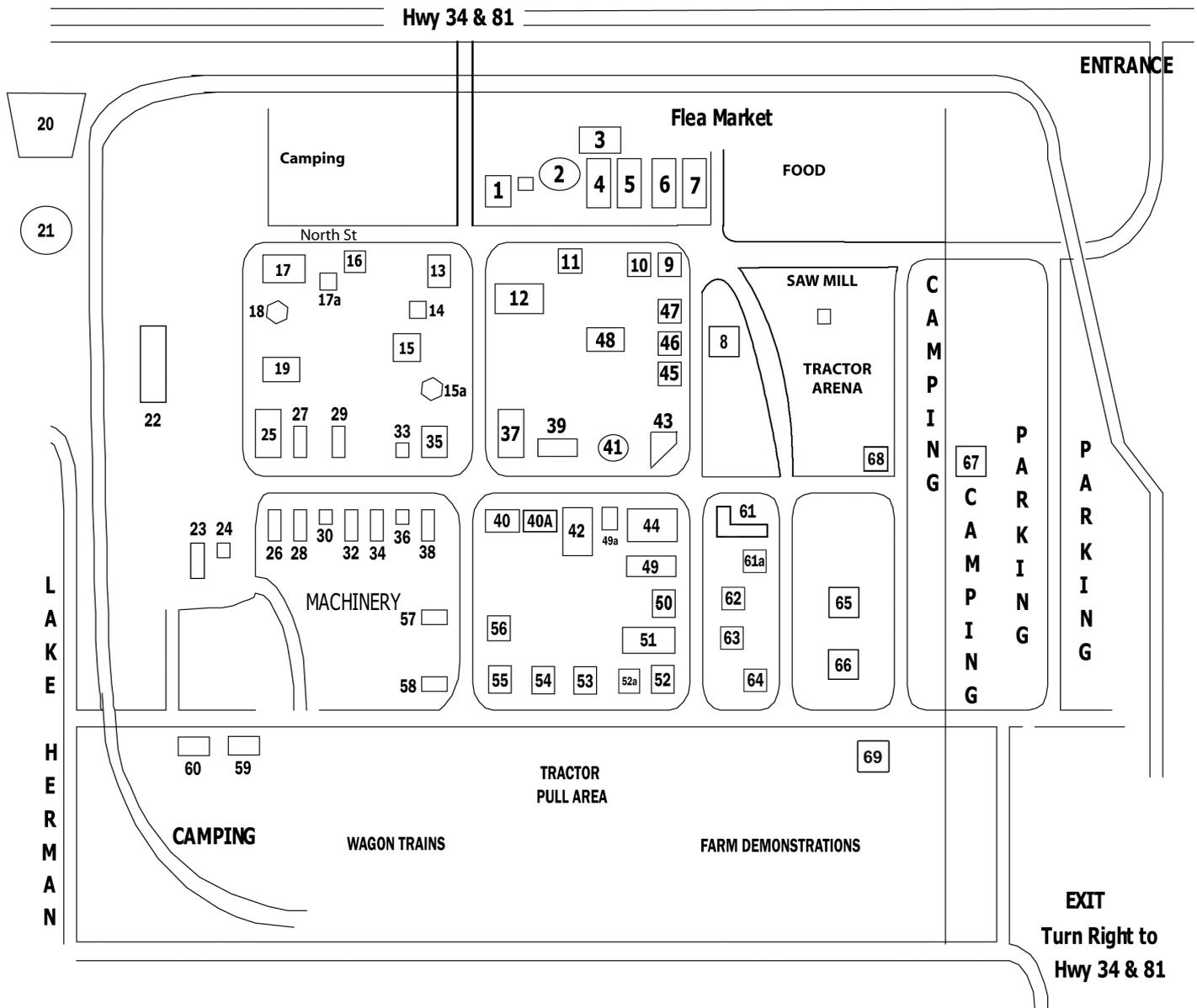


# Prairie Village Visitors Guide



**1. Office - Concessions** – The Chapin Lumber Company building from Winfred is presently used as the Gift Shop and Concessions building. Information, tickets, souvenirs and concessions are available. The small barn is used for storage.

**2. Steam Carousel** – This original 1893 carousel is cable-driven by a stationary steam engine and features original, hand-carved wooden horses from Germany. It came to the Village from Art B. Thomas of Lennox, SD. During the years, many visitors comment on having ridden this carousel at the Thomas Shows. Permanent covering was built in 1992.

**3. Office - Storage Building** – The Gehl Company of Madison, SD donated this building to Prairie Village. It is used for storage of records and office space for staff.

**4. Antique Cars and Machinery Storage**

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**6. Storage Antique Machinery**

**7. Storage Antique Machinery**

**8. Methodist Food Stand** – This is used by the Methodist Church Youth Group to serve food during the annual Jamboree.

**9. Storage Barn** – This is used to store small engines, etc.

**10. Red Shed** – The Red Shed was built on the grounds for storage of

machinery. It housed large gas and steam tractors. The clapboard exterior gives it the turn-of-the-century look.

**11. Log House** – The Log House was built by Lars and Ole Thormosgard, who homesteaded near Fairview, SD in 1872.

**12. Ashgrove Church** - A Seventh Day Adventist Church. The Breese Family restored it many years ago and more recently major preservation work was accomplished by Kevin and Sharen Swenson.

**13. Sneve Homestead** – Part of the first frame building in Brookings County. Traded to Svend Sneve for a lumber wagon and then pulled across frozen Lake Campbell with oxen to the Sneve

homestead near the lake, where it was the home of Johannes and Olive Olson, Mrs. Sneve's parents.

**14. Claim Shanty** – This claim shanty, built in 1877 east of Madison, SD was the home of an early settler while he “proved up” on his claim. The shanty was moved from the Phillip Zimmerman Farm.

**15. Sod house** – This Sod House structure is a replica of one in which the Jacobs family lived when they homesteaded in Alberta, Canada in 1910. It was built and authentically furnished by one of the daughters as a memorial to her parents.

**15a. Rock Garden** – Representation of geologic composition of the prairie, stocked and compiled by Tom Rittgers.

**16. Country School** – Built in the 1880's, the school was moved from nearby Nunda, SD. It was known as the Tobin, Carson or Tweet School in its day. It was from the Hyland School District in Lake County.

**17. Village Church** – This typical country church was moved to Prairie Village from Junius, where it had served as the community's church since it was built in 1906. Church services are held each Sunday from June through August. These services are coordinated through the area Ministerial Association.

**17a. Prairie Village Cemetery** – Former member Maurice Stedman, referred to by many as the “Old Timer,” is buried here. He was a fervent lover of Prairie Village and, having no family, expressed a great desire to be buried here. Proper legal action was taken to make this possible. Also buried here are Palmer and Alnor Reinicke, founders of PV and William Hammer a long-time Junius church member.

**18. Memorial Garden** – Planted and tended to by the Ladies Auxiliary in honor of deceased members of Prairie Village.

**19. Dee's Home** – This house was where Delores Johnson Habeger, wife of Joseph Habeger, grew up. They were part of the group that founded Prairie Village. The house is pre-1910 and is being restored.

**20. Round House** – Completed in 1998, it is one of the newest constructed round houses in the US. ITEA grant money was used to build it. It housed three steam and two diesel engines, as well as a combi-car and other railroad equipment and model trains.

•Engine No 29 – The No 29 is a 0-6-0-switch engine built in Lima, OH in 1944. It is coal fired and weighs 77 tons. She originally worked for the

Bay Terminal Railroad in Toledo, OH and then for the Duluth and Northeastern in Minnesota before arriving at PV in 1976.

•No 11 – Built in 1924 in Pennsylvania, it is a 0-4-0T type that carries its water and fuel on the locomotive itself rather than in a tender behind. It weighs 35 tons and arrived at PV in the summer of 1992 on a flatbed semi-trailer trucks from Deadwood, SD.

•Wihelmine Victoria No 5 – One of our steam engines here at PV. It was manufactured in 1927 on Ruhr Valley in Germany. It worked in an industrial yard during World War II and did receive damage at that time. PV does have the original maintenance records of this engine. It uses a 24 in. (60cm) track and came to PV from Mankato, MN in 1969. This engine weighs 8 ton and “one scoop of coal” will take it around the track if the fireman tries really hard.

•Combi-Car – This came from the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. It was built in 1909 and was used in the Chicago area for commuter service. It then came to Huron, SD and was used by the CNW between Huron and Aberdeen for passengers. After it was retired from active service it was used to transport workers to sites for railroad repairs. It was also used on the SD State Fair Ground and came to PV from there in 1993

**21. Railroad Turn Table** – This came from the Omaha Railroad in Sioux Falls, SD. It was installed in 2000. It is used to turn engines and cars around as needed to move on the tracks and into the Round House. It originated in Altoona, WI.

**22. Wentworth Depot** – This is the only remaining union depot in South Dakota and was used by the Milwaukee and Burlington Northern Railways at Wentworth. It is used here at PV for all of our train arrivals and departures.

•Trestle/Bridge – This was installed in 2007 on the railroad track. It is located on the east side of the grounds.

**23. Chapel Car** – “Emmanuel” was the second of seven railroad cars specifically designed and constructed as a rail church. Emmanuel was in service for 49 years beginning in May 1893. In 1972 Emmanuel was moved to PV from Sioux Falls. Restoration continues to progress.

**24. Junius Depot** – Built by the Milwaukee Railroad, this small depot served the community well for many years, then was used for storage on a nearby farm and finally reached PV.

**25. Wentworth Hotel and Barn** – These two buildings were moved from Wentworth where they had provided

lodging for weary travelers and their horses since 1890. The barn has been restored and is used for tool display and small engines.

**26. Junius Bank** – This bank is typical of those found in early small towns and on the vast prairies of this era. This original bank from Junius closed before the 1929 crash.

**27. Telephone Office** – This was the Battle Creek Telephone Office the information “Central.” The operator handled all calls and lived upstairs and worked downstairs as she provided communication with the “human touch” for all of the community.

**28. Ketcham-Cheatam Coal** – During pioneer days every town provided a most important commodity to the early settlers – fuel – in the form of coal. Mr. Ketcham had a flourishing coal business in Madison in the 1890's. He had various partners through the years. For a short time he had a partner from Minnesota by the name of Cheatam. This was an unusual combination. Some here recall that this was listed in “Ripley's Believe It or Not” columns. Before the arrival at Prairie Village in 1972, this building served as a small grocery store in east Madison.

**29. Gross Store** – Originally named “Leroy Store,” it was built by E.R.C. Gross to accommodate farmers who brought cream to the Gross' Ashgrove Farm Creamery and who needed staple groceries. It was also the LeRoy Post Office before there was rural delivery.

**30. Dentist Office** – Equipment of Dr. P.M. Rensvold, one of Madison's first dentists, is displayed here.

**32. Old Madison Hotel** – Also known as the Lake County Poor Farm. Built in 1878 in the original Madison town site. This hotel was moved to PV in 1975. From its porch there is a beautiful view of Lake Herman.

**33. Barbershop** – Barber Harold Bitzer owned this original barbershop for 50 years in Tolstoy, SD before its move to PV. Many of the furnishings in the shop belonged to Mr. Bitzer, who had them arranged in much the same fashion in Tolstoy.

**34. Law Office** – This building, first used as the Village Office, has become the Law Office for PV.

**35. Library** – Originally Howard City Hall, this building later housed the library, which was the first chartered library in the Dakota Territory (1886). The library has been restored and furnished in its original style.

**36. Jail** – This is the original jail, moved from Winfred, SD where its solid 2'x4' walls housed law breakers. The

walls were constructed by a method known as “cribbing.”

**37. Print Shop** – Being developed into a “turn-of-the-century” weekly newspaper office. Hand-set type and printing on early job and newspaper presses are demonstrated at times here.

**38. Electric Museum** – A new building was constructed by East River Electric Cooperative in the 1880’s style. It housed electrical heritage items. One area depicts an authentic 1890 farm kitchen.

**39. Bleachers** – Used by our visitors to view activities on Main Street.

**40. Livery Barn** – In horse and buggy days a livery stable was an important necessity in any town. The Ramona Spur and Lariat Club built this stable at PV.

**40A. Blacksmith Shop** – This small shop is similar to those where most farmers did their own blacksmith.

**41. Band Stand** – The original band stand was moved from Tolstoy, SD 205 miles northwest of Madison. Restoration was financed by the Madison Band Parent Association to honor Bill Ireland, a Madison school band director for 21 years.

**42. Opera House** – The “Socialist Hall” was built by the Socialist Party in 1912 in Oldham, SD. Lawrence Welk made his stage debut in this hall in 1924. It was moved to PV in 1970 and is used for summer entertainment.

**43. Gas Station** – This old-time gas station came from Iroquois, SD.

**44. Junius School House** – This building, used until 1965, had both elementary and high school students in its four classrooms during part of its history. This building now houses a history of Madison’s Community Hospital with articles used during the

era. Nurses were trained at the hospital in the 1920’s There is also a display in other parts of the building of antiques looms, and rugs are made here during our Jamboree. A millinery shop is also housed here.

**45. Overby Machine Shop** – This 1913 era machine shop was originally at the Glenn Overby family farm near Mellette, SD.

**46. First Aid Station** – This building was moved to PV in 1992 and serves as the First Aid headquarters during the Jamboree.

**47. Carpenters Shop** – This housed a large antique tool collection and now contains modern equipment used by carpenters in restoration and maintenance of PV.

**48. Modern Rest Rooms** – Modern bath and shower house.

**49. Auxiliary Kitchen** – This building is used by the Ladies Auxiliary to serve refreshments and food.

**49a. Concession Stand** – This building is used during Opera house events.

**50. Picnic Shelter** – This was put up in 1998 to shade our patrons.

**51. Undertaker** – This building was originally located in Madison, SD and used as the Tomscha Diner. It now exhibits an interesting collection of antique mortuary items provided by the Hallenbeck and Ellsworth Funeral Homes.

**52. The Smith House** – This house and its furnishings were donated by George Smith in memory of his family, who were among Lake County’s first settlers. The original structure was built in 1881 with the first carload of lumber shipped to Winfred, SD. Nail marks on the East side of the house show where

their claim shanty was once attached.

**52a. Summer Kitchen** – Many farm homes had a “summer” kitchen near the main house. In this small kitchen, all of the cooking and baking was done to keep the main house cool in warm months.

**53. Nicholaison House** – The Johann (John) Nicholaison homestead was built in 1897 and moved from its original site near Rutland, SD. The complete furnishings were provided by the family.

**54. Fiddlers Museum** – This building houses a collection of the “Old Time Fiddlers” memorabilia and many toy collections.

**55. Goodwin Church** – This church came from Goodwin, SD (east of Watertown) in 1995.

**56. Storage Barn**

**57. Storage Barn**

**58. Large Stationary Engine** – David Appel of Redfield, SD is in the process of installing this large engine.

**59. Storage Barn**

**60. Storage Barn**

**61. Cook Shack/L-Shed** – Used to store machinery and to serve food during various events.

**61a. Baker Fan** – Used to test engines

**62-66. Storage Barns**

**67. Original Ticket Booth** – from Chautauqua grounds at Lake Madison

**68. Modern Rest Rooms** – Modern bath and shower house. Also contains the tractor registration office.

**69. Granary** – Moved to the village from the Nunda area in 2012, this old time granary contains a John Deere elevator, burr mill, and houses a 1906 wooden freight wagon.