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JOHN DEERE HISTORIC SITE FACT SHEET

Where the John Deere Legend Began

BACKGROUND

The **John Deere Historic Site** in Grand Detour is the original Illinois homestead of John Deere and is the location where he built his first “self-scouring” steel plow. The home Deere built still stands, and the Historic Site was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service, and a Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

In the atmosphere of a friendly 19th century prairie village, informed tour guides provide an entertaining and educational perspective of life on the prairie. The John Deere Historic Site is funded and managed by the John Deere Foundation and opened to the public in 1964.

HISTORIC SITE EXHIBITS

Archaeological Dig: In 1962, an archaeological team from the University of Illinois unearthed the exact location of the blacksmith shop where John Deere worked in the early 1800’s. The location is preserved in an exhibit hall and features artifacts found on the site. A backdrop includes a pictorial interpretation that charts Deere’s progress.

John Deere’s Home: Deere built this home in 1836 and later added sections to accommodate a growing family. The rooms are furnished in period décor and guided tours are available.

Blacksmith Shop: A recreation of Deere’s original shop, entering is like a time warp to early pioneer days. Generally, five to seven times a day, resident blacksmith Rick Trahan demonstrates just what it takes to be a skilled iron worker.

Gift Shop and Visitor Center: Works created by the resident blacksmith are sold here along with a variety of country primitives, collectibles and antiques. You’ll also find John Deere Historic Site branded food products including, jams and canned goods.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The John Deere Site is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm May through October. Special group tours can be arranged during winter months. Admission is \$5 per visitor age 12 and older.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Wed. – Fri.	9 am – 5 pm
Sat.	10 am – 5 pm
Sun.	Noon – 4 pm