



JOHN DEERE

John Deere Sites and Contributions Named to “Top 200” Lists Commemorating Illinois’ Bicentennial Year

As the state of Illinois celebrates its 200th birthday in 2018, numerous “lists of 200” are being created and published to honor some of the great places, people, and inventions rooted in the state.

John Deere created the first successful self-scouring steel plow in 1837 in Grand Detour, Illinois, a development that changed agriculture forever. His legacy in the state lives on today, and is noted through some of the current bicentennial celebration lists. Here’s a quick rundown:

Illinois’ Top 200

Illinois residents are celebrating the state’s bicentennial by choosing the 200 most significant people, places and things in state history in online voting coordinated by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, The State Journal-Register and the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. Residents can vote every two weeks for different categories throughout the year.

They recently selected the John Deere Historic Site in Grand Detour as a top historic site in the state. Other sites joining it to round out the top three spots include Lincoln’s New Salem, a state-run historic site that recreates the village where Lincoln lived as a young man, and Pullman, which is simultaneously a Chicago neighborhood, a national monument and a state historic site.

Earlier in the year, residents also chose John Deere’s steel plow as the top invention and innovation in state history as part of the ongoing Illinois Top 200 project.

Illinois’ 200 “Great Places”

The Illinois Council of The American Institute of Architects (AIA Illinois) recently named John Deere’s original Illinois home in Grand Detour, and Deere & Company’s World Headquarters building in Moline, to the states’ list of 200 “Great Places.” Nominations came from architects from all parts of the state and were weighed against criteria, must be publicly accessible, pedestrian-friendly, designed on a human scale, and provide vibrant, public spaces, among other requirements.

The home John Deere built in Grand Detour is now part of the John Deere Historic Site, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. Deere erected a simple, one-and-a-half-story clapboard house that resembles a type found in New England. Originally the house only measured eighteen by twenty-four feet, with three rooms downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. Deere made various



JOHN DEERE

additions and alterations to the house during his occupancy, which ended in 1848.

Visitors to the Historic Site can enjoy guided tours of his home, along with a recreation of his blacksmith shop, and an archeological exhibit featuring tools and artifacts found on the location of his actual shop.

AIA Illinois also named Deere & Company's World Headquarters building in Moline to the list of "Great Places." The building is an example of architect Eero Saarinen's desire to create an architecture that reflects the client's identity as it fits into its environment. To link the building with the manufacture of farm equipment, Saarinen used a special steel that develops a protective coating of rust when exposed to the atmosphere. The Deere World Headquarters Building represents the first time that this self-weathering steel was used in an architectural application.

The building houses an equipment display floor and a 180' long 3-dimensional mural created by Alexander Girard containing historical items that reflect the history of John Deere and American agriculture. This area is open to the public seven days a week, year round.

To plan your visit to these top places, go to www.VisitJohnDeere.com to learn more. All of the John Deere Attractions are free and open year round.