



Dodge County

MINNESOTA

DODGE COUNTY ,
MANTORVILLE,
MINNESOTA

- Home of the oldest working courthouse in the State of Minnesota.



2016

DODGE COUNTY COMMUNITIES

CLAREMONT



DODGE CENTER



HAYFIELD



KASSON



MANTORVILLE



WEST CONCORD





DODGE COUNTY

MANTORVILLE, MINNESOTA

DODGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

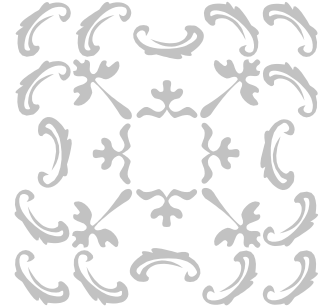
Dodge County is comprised of seven school districts:

Hayfield School District

- Hayfield

Kasson-Mantorville School District

- Kasson
- Mantorville



Triton School District

- Claremont
- Dodge Center
- West Concord

Blooming Prairie School District

- Blooming Prairie (portions of Ripley & Westfield Townships—in the southwestern corner of the county)

Byron School District

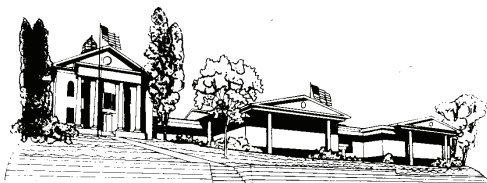
- Byron (portions of Mantorville Township—in the middle/eastern section of the county)

Kenyon-Wanamingo School District

- Kenyon (portions of Ellington Township—in the northwest corner of the county)

Pine Island School District

- Pine Island (portions of Milton Township—in the northeast corner of the county)



DODGE COUNTY, MANTORVILLE, MINNESOTA



HISTORIC MANTORVILLE

The county seat is Mantorville, MN named after the Mantor brothers who were among the first settlers, who arrived in 1853. Mantorville is on the National Register of Historic Places due to the wealth of architectural heritage preserved in this quaint village. All twelve blocks of the downtown area are listed on the registry.

The area hosts a number of recreational activities. Several city parks, Four Seasons Ice Arena, scenic bike trails, camping, golfing, shopping, horse drawn carriage rides, historic tours, and the Mantorville Theatre Company are among the many activities in Dodge County.

PLACES TO VISIT IN DODGE COUNTY

Dodge County hosts a number of festivals and fairs throughout the year including the Mantorville Art Show, the Dodge County Free Fair, Berne Wood Fired Pizza, Kasson's Festival in the Park, Mantorville Marigold Days, Dodge Center's Harvest Fest, Claremont's Hog Fest, West Concord's Survival Days, and Old Fashioned Christmas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TOURISM IN MANTORVILLE PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEB PAGE: [HTTP://WWW.MANTORVILLETOURISM.COM/](http://www.mantorvilletourism.com/)





DODGE COUNTY

MANTORVILLE, MINNESOTA



FIRST SETTLEMENT IN DODGE COUNTY

Concord Township - The unincorporated village of Concord was the site of the first settler's dwelling in Dodge County. On April 15, 1854, pioneers assisted James Monroe Sumner in erecting his family's log house and subsequently called this new town "Sumner's Grove." However, when the plat was filed in 1856, the name was changed to Concord, after the capital of New Hampshire. In spite of the rattlesnakes the town prospered with a post office that was established in 1856 and by 1870 had fourteen businesses including a hotel. However, in 1885 the Chicago Great Western Railroad bypassed Concord three miles to the west, and slowly businesses gravitated to the new community of West Concord. The railroad offered modern, swift transportation and access to broader markets and a wider variety of wholesale goods. The village continued to serve local farmers despite the lack of a rail connection. The post office closed in 1906, and by 2005 there was only one business and the cemetery remaining in the village. Unlike many villages, Concord did not become a ghost town and still in 2016 has a small community of residents.



RECRUITING STATION

Wasioja Township - When the Civil War began in 1861, Minnesota was the first state to offer and send troops to aid the Union cause. In April, 1861, this building was converted to use as a recruiting station. Recruits from the Wasioja station, numbering over 200, formed the nucleus of Company C of the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. They were sworn in by Colonel James George, who later led them at the Battle of Chickamauga.

Built in 1855 by Colonel George, a Mexican War veteran, to serve as his law office and as a bank, the building was the meeting center of the village in the late 1850s. In the years following the Civil War, it was used as a jail, office, storeroom, post office, and private residence.

The Dodge County Historical Society purchased the building in the early 1960s in order to preserve what was by that time the only remaining Civil War recruiting station left in Minnesota. In 1987 the Society undertook a restoration project to return the structure to its original appearance. The project was completed in July, 1988, at the time of the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The recruiting station stands today as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the men of Minnesota who fought and died to preserve the Union.



WASIOJA SEMINARY RUINS

Wasioja Township - The role of buildings in the development of a community and their significance in history is amply pointed out by the history of this structure. Anxious to promote the growth of the newly formed town, the citizens agreed to provide the Free Will Baptists with a building for a seminary. A structure of native limestone was completed in 1860, and the Minnesota Seminary opened in November of that year with an enrollment of more than 300 students. By 1861 the school had been renamed Northwestern College and offered classes on all levels from primary to collegiate. In 1862 Wasioja had a dozen stores, a hotel, a flour mill, and was surrounded by farms and quarries that promised a great future.

Then the course of history was changed. The Civil War had begun and men from Minnesota were on the battlefields. Captain James George, who had served in the Mexican War, asked the students to volunteer. Led by Professor Clinton A. Cilley, the young men marched down to Captain George's law office and enlisted. That office is preserved today by the Dodge County Historical Society. Organized as Company C of the 2nd Minnesota, they marched off to war. Just over a year later at Snodgrass Hill near Chickamauga, they stopped the Confederates' advance at a high cost. Of the eighty young men that left Wasioja, only 25 returned with life and limb intact. The town never recovered from the great loss.

The school continued to operate, although its enrollment had been cut in half, and in 1868 the Free Will Baptists ceased their sponsorship. It was reopened as the Groveland Seminary, closing in 1872 and was reopened again in 1873 by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference. The school finally closed in 1894, and in 1905 a fire destroyed the building, leaving the ruins that stand today.

Reverend A. B. Gould, a graduate and instructor of the Seminary, acquired and preserved the ruins. On his death his heirs deeded the site to Dodge County as a public park. Stabilization of the ruins and erection of the Seminary's plaque were carried out in 1994.



PLOWVILLE

Wasioja Township - The first National Soil Conservation District Field Day and Plow Matches were held here on September 6, 1952. Over 125,000 spectators saw demonstrations of new methods and new techniques for soil conservation during the event. The presidential candidates for the 1952 election spoke here on the importance of agriculture. Both Adlai Stevenson and Dwight D. Eisenhower acknowledged that the future of the country depended on the preservation of soil and water resource.

This event was held because of actions begun in the 1930s. The U.S. Congress had enacted the Soil Conservation Act in 1935, in response to the dust storms and floods that ravaged the country because of drought and poor land management practices. The legislation led to the creation of a partnership between governmental agencies, states, and individuals to address a broad range of resource concerns. They ranged from erosion control, contour plowing, flood prevention, water quality, wetlands, and wildlife, to recreation and community development. Today there are over three thousand conservation districts covering 98% of the privately owned land in the 50 states, and, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. Within Minnesota there are 91 Soil and Water Conservation Districts that generally follow the borders of the county in which they are located.



DODGE COUNTY

PROFILE

Dodge County is nestled in a picturesque setting in the Zumbro River Valley. The geography ranges from highly productive flat soils in the west to secluded wooded river valleys and limestone bluffs in the northeast. Its convenient location is within minutes of Rochester, MN, home of the Mayo Clinic, and within an hour and a half drive from the Twin Cities. National retailers are also found in Owatonna, just a few minutes west of the county. The county is 440 square miles and has a population of 20,087. The population of the area continues to increase, growing 9% from 2001 to 2009. Rural/small town living is the primary draw for those who make Dodge County their home. Residents are proud of its excellent schools, acres of city parks, beautiful housing, and the charming historical sites.

Agriculture has been the County's chief industry for decades. Today corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay and sweet corn are the prominent crops. There are more dairy cattle per capita in Dodge County than any other Minnesota county. Dodge Center hosts the site to McNeilus Industries, a world-renowned company.

HISTORY

Settlement began in 1853. The first house was erected in 1855 and became a stagecoach tavern. Dodge County was formally established on February 20, 1855. The County was originally part of Wabasha, Dakota, and Rice counties. Historical landmarks are abundant throughout the county. Some of these include the Hubbell House (1854) a now world famous restaurant, saloon, and stage coach stop and the Civil War Recruiting Station (the only one in Minnesota).

The Dodge County courthouse was built in 1865 at a cost of \$15,000. The structure is made of Mantorville limestone. It is the oldest working courthouse in the state. A modern annex that matches the existing courthouse style was added in 1990 to fit the growing needs of the county. In 2009, the Service Center

building, located in Dodge Center, was completed and houses Dodge County Public Health.

In 2015, the Government Services Building, located in Mantorville, was completed and houses Dodge County Administration, County Board Room, Land Records, Environmental Services and Extension.



The Dodge County Courthouse houses the Attorney's Office, Court Administration, Court Services, Drug Court, Emergency Management, MN Prairie, Sheriff's Office and Veteran Services.



DODGE COUNTY

MANTORVILLE, MINNESOTA



ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

CONCORD - Concord Store & Locker, park, scenery in Concord.



DODGE CENTER - Creek Park, Dodge Country Club/Golf Course, Veteran's Memorial.



KASSON - Park and Aquatic Center, State Theatre, Lions Park.



MANTORVILLE - Dodge County Historical Society, Sunrise Bike Trail, Riverside Park Dam.





DODGE COUNTY

MANTORVILLE, MINNESOTA

DODGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

22 6th Street East
Mantorville, MN 55955

Departments include:

Attorney's Office, Court Administration,
Court Services, Drug Court, Emergency
Management, MN Prairie, Sheriff's Office
and Veteran Services.



DODGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES BUILDING

721 Main Street North
Mantorville, MN 55955

Departments include:

Administration, Assessor's Office, Recorder's
Office, Building Operations, County
Commissioner's Board Room, Environmental
Services, Extension, Information Technology,
Employee Relations, Finance, Planning &
Zoning and Recorder/Abstractor.

