



Prepared in cooperation by the Dodge County Historical Society, Dodge County Environmental Services and the Goodhue County GIS Office

Wasioja (Ghost Town)

LOCATION: 600th St and 210th Ave, Dodge Center, MN 55927

STATUS: Private

TYPE: Historic, District

HISTORY: Wasioja was settled in 1854 when Curt Moses met Chief Wazi oja. A post office was established in 1857. Colonel James George was also one of the founders of Wasioja. He was the speaker at the dedication of the Seminary in 1858. Dr. Miller and Dr. Garver practiced medicine here. Students from the Seminary answered President Lincoln's "Call to Arms" and enlisted for the Civil War. The Civil War Station as well as the two-story limestone school, the Baptist Church and the Doig House are preserved for future people to realize that Wasioja was once a busy thriving village. Industries included agriculture, logging, milling and the excavation and burning of limestone from Wasioja quarries. 1860 marked the height of Wasioja's prosperity. It was in that year that the Minnesota Seminary was dedicated, and the town reached its peak population of 1,000, larger than Rochester, Dodge Center, and its rival, Mantorville. In 1860 the inhabitants of Wasioja looked forward to becoming the county seat and to the coming of the railroad. Wasioja suffered three major blows that literally wiped it out. The town failed in its bid to become the county seat, the Civil War took a heavy toll of Wasioja's best at Chickamauga, and the railroad by-passed it. Today, Wasioja houses less than one hundred residents.

OTHER RESOURCES:

<https://www.dodgecountyhistorical.org/>

PROPERTY PICTURES:



School at Wasioja, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1972.



Cheese factory, Wasioja, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1972.



Cheese factory, Wasioja, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1913.



Baptist Church, Wasioja, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1974.



Wasioja lime kiln, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1930.



Wasioja Mill, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1885.



Old Settlers' meeting at the Wasioja Seminary, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1890.



Old Settlers' meeting at the Wasioja Seminary, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1885.



Wasioja Baptist Church, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society circa 1960.



Wasioja plague, 2021