

The Historical Society of Cheboygan County, Inc.

Scope of Collection Statement and Collection Plan

Preface

The Historical Society of Cheboygan County, Inc. (HSCC) fulfills its responsibility for managing its properties and collections by adopting as a board policy this Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) and Collection Plan. Together these two statements outline the parameters and themes of collecting; the principles which underpin the collecting activity and the ethical considerations involved in both of these activities.

A Scope of Collections Statement is a comprehensive statement which specifically defines the types of objects a museum collects and why it does so. It describes what the collection includes, what to add, what not to add, and what may need to be removed from the collection.

On a practical level, the Scope of Collections Statement is a valuable tool for museum curators, the collection committee and others who actively work with collections. The SOCS describes the museum's collection activities to the public, volunteers, and donors as well as to the staff who work with collections. It acts as a road map which guides the collection committee of the board of directors in evaluating new acquisitions, in budgeting, in allocating limited resources, and in overall planning and management of the museum's collections. Defining the museum's scope of collections is especially useful in justifying donation refusals. The Statement can also help the collection committee and the board of directors decide which museum objects might be appropriate for hands-on-use and which might be appropriate candidates for deaccession.

A. History of the Collection

The collection was begun when Ellis Olson, a Cheboygan resident, opened a small museum in the basement of the Carnegie Free Library building which was, at the time, used as the Board of Education Office. The original museum contained approximately 1,217 artifacts from the private collection of Ellis Olson and other objects donated by Cheboygan County residents. Incorporated in 1971, the HSCC's tax-exempt status was recognized in that same year.

In 1972 the collection was moved to the former Cheboygan County Sherriff's residence on Huron St. In 1997, the current exhibit hall was opened and major parts of the collection were moved into the new building. Period settings were begun in the Sherriff's residence while some rooms in the residence were retained for collection storage. Presently, the exhibit contains approximately 10,000 artifacts.

B. Primary Spatial and Temporal Ranges

The **primary spatial (geographic) range** of interest for all collecting is the area now referred to as Cheboygan County, Michigan. This includes the cities and villages of Cheboygan, Afton, Aloha, Alverno, Burt Lake, Elmhurst, Indian River, Mullett Lake, Riggsville, Topinabee, Tower, Wolverine and that part of Mackinaw City within Cheboygan County. This area also includes any unincorporated towns or villages within the area now referred to as Cheboygan County.

The **temporal range** for collection artifacts is broad. Material is collected from all periods to document the history of Cheboygan County and the surrounding region of the Straits of Mackinac. This includes material that documents the recent history of Cheboygan County. This long time scale provides depth to the current and potential interpretive programs and exhibits.

C. Thematic Statement

The collections at The Historical Society of Cheboygan County, Inc. document the social, cultural, political, religious, military, medical, industrial, and technological history (as well as the daily lives) of the people of Cheboygan County. These collections illuminate broad themes in our history:

1. Daily Life

The domestic and business environments and the intersections and tensions between public and private life will be explored by the museum. The collections will reflect the changing notions of home and family life, and how individuals have used the domestic and business spheres to reinforce or challenge the accepted ideas of family, gender roles, community, age, religion, and the division of labor.

2. Industrial Life

The collections of the HSCC will reflect the diversity of industry that has shaped and reshaped life in Cheboygan County over time; how, after the collapse or

decline of one industry, the people of Cheboygan County “reinvented” their lives in part because of changes in American life itself.

3. Environmental

A focus of the HSCC collections explores the relationship between county residents and the natural environment—how our history and lives have been shaped by the geography, topography, climate and natural resources of the region and how we have shaped and reshaped places and spaces.

D. Collection Content Summary

Since its inception, the collections of HSCC have expanded from objects housed in a temporary building to the addition of historic structures and a permanent exhibit hall. Guided by the spatial, temporal, and thematic parameters the collections of the HSCC include historic buildings, artifacts, archival material, and library material.

Historic Structures are buildings with sufficient integrity and provenance to make them worthy of preservation and interpretation. Historic structures currently part of the collection include the 1879-1880 Sheriff’s Residence and Jail, the 1912 Jail Addition, and a mid-19th century log cabin. These structures represent significant examples of architectural and cultural history. Any other structures added to the collection must likewise have sufficient provenance and architectural integrity to make them worth of preservation and interpretation.

Artifacts are historic objects acquired:

1. to furnish a historic structure
2. for exhibition, for research or both,
3. to provide documentation for the interpretation of a structure, or
4. to enhance the public presentations at the HSCC site relating to the cultural history of the geographic range of interest.

This includes artifacts:

1. with provenance to Cheboygan County;
2. that duplicate or closely approximate items original to the interpreted site or themes that no longer exist or are unavailable for exhibition, or
3. that originated or pertain to the history of the geographic range of interest.

The artifact collections may include items of household furnishing and implements, items of domestic life; fine and decorative arts; military objects; tools and products of trades, crafts and manufacturing; agricultural implements; objects for transportation; textiles; clothing, and personal accessories; and ethnographic objects.

Archival materials are primary source documents, original photographic prints and negatives, original motion picture material (film and videotape), and paper ephemera. These are acquired because they document the structures and collections administered by HSCC; establish a provenance relationship to the structures and collections; or document the institutional history of HSCC. Archival materials include non-current records or groups of records collected and preserved by an individual or organization. These include papers, files, documents, photographs and other materials created by the individual or organization that have intrinsic value. This intrinsic value arises because the records have unique physical features, artistic or aesthetic qualities, educational potential, or because they are associated with a famous person, place, event or issue. While archives are usually unpublished material, they may also include rare published matter such as maps, books, and plans that conform to material identified under the spatial and temporal ranges identified above.

Library materials, as a discrete group from archival collections, are defined as published and unpublished scholarly works, microfilms, videotapes, periodicals, individual articles and other current research materials relevant to the history of Cheboygan County or the administration of the HSCC itself. Current publications, published works without provenance to the structures or collections of HSCC, and photographic copy prints are among the items included here.

Economic History

Prehistoric Cultures

Cheboygan County

Native American Subsistence

Cheboygan County

Lumbering

Cheboygan County

Commercial Fishing

Straits Area

Inland Waterway

Maritime Trade/ Shipping

Straits Area

Cheboygan County

Inland Waterway

Tourism

Cheboygan County

Inland Waterway

Marketing

Retailing

Resorts Hotels/Motels

Michigan as it relates to

Cheboygan County

Commercial Trades/Retailing

Cheboygan County

Manufacturing

Cheboygan County

Social History

Ethnic History

especially group interaction

Politics

*In Cheboygan County or as it
relates to Cheboygan County*

Education

Cheboygan County schools

Recreation

Cheboygan County parks and recreation areas

Inland Waterway

Boating

Skiing

Camping

Biking

Family and Domestic Life**Religion****Arts & Culture**

Decorative or performing arts at or relating to Cheboygan County or are representative of the culture of Cheboygan County.

Celebrations

Cheboygan County

Military History

French activity in the area that became Cheboygan County through 1763

British activity in the area that became Cheboygan County through 1815

American activity in the area that became Cheboygan County through the present

Civil War

as it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

Spanish-American War (April 25 to August 12, 1898)

as it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

World War I

as it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

World War II

as it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

Korean War

as it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

Vietnam War

as it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

First Gulf War—Operation Desert Shield (August 7, 1990 to March 17, 1991)

As it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

Second Gulf War – Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 20, 2003 –

As it relates to the people of Cheboygan County

Transportation History

Water

Straits of Mackinac

Cheboygan River

Inland Waterway

Lighthouses and beacons

Land

Snowshoeing, skiing, dog sledding

Snowmobiling

Iceboating

Horse-drawn

Trolley

Railroads

Northern Michigan highways and roads as it impacts the tourism or culture of Cheboygan County.

Air

Cheboygan County Airport

any other public air transport facility

Institutional History

The Historical Society of Cheboygan County, Inc.(1971) and it's unincorporated predecessor museum (1969).

Collection Plan

A. Collection Plan

The HSCC collects the material culture of the people of Cheboygan County and its environs, and preserves it in the public trust for the benefit of present and future generations. We look for objects, ordinary and extraordinary, whose stories and meanings are rich and complex, have inherent worth, both reflect and challenge the conventional wisdom, and invite us to look deeper or broader. These objects and their documented contexts illuminate and interpret the larger themes of our history. Our collections form the foundation for research, scholarship, exhibition, public programs and outreach.

B. General Statements

1. The role of objects is to serve as a form of evidence of the past, along with document and visual records.
2. Objects have many meanings, and, over time, knowledge about the objects and the interpretations of the past will change
3. In the future, as in the past, the Museum's collecting will be guided simultaneously by current themes for exhibition and public programs and by the larger goal of a comprehensive historic collection. Long-range collecting and current themes may not always be in accord (nor need they be).

C. Intellectual Principles for Future Collecting

1. The Museum's collections should reflect the breadth, depth, and complexity of the experiences of the people of Cheboygan County. The Museum actively seeks items to illuminate under-represented stories and groups.
2. Objects will be chosen that have their own stories, and which make clear larger stories of a county-wide scope and not just the history of the City of Cheboygan.
3. Museum staff will continue to re-examine collections in response to new scholarship and changing interpretations.
4. Museum staff considers it of the utmost importance that we strive to conserve and preserve our objects to the best of our abilities and resources. However, as a smaller museum, our staff and financial resources are limited. As such, careful consideration shall be given toward objects that may stretch our resources. Objects that require extreme conservation, or are in a state of disrepair or neglect, will be weighed very carefully prior to acquisition. Only those objects

whose benefits to our mission (such as those of great cultural, artistic, or historic significance) outweigh the burden of their care, shall be considered for acquisition.

5. In acquiring objects, Museum staff will pay as much attention to intellectual matters (relevance, context, significance, and provenance) as to the procedures of collecting (registration, conservation, and shipping).
6. Only objects that are deemed to be authentic shall be accessioned into the Museum's permanent collections. Reproductions, duplicates, or forgeries will be added to the Education Collection or the Exhibit Property Collection, or not be accepted at all.
7. In terms of cataloging, the intellectual content will be documented in an accessible manner. Research tools and documentary techniques (oral/video history, documents, photographs) will be employed to provide context for the Museum's acquisitions.
8. During the acquisition process, the Museum staff will endeavor to garner as much supporting documentation as possible for the objects being considered. In order to support our mission, our goal is to learn the provenance, history, anecdotes, biographies and any other factual (or mythical) information related to the artifacts. The richer the documentation for an artifact, the more relevant it becomes to our collecting priorities.
9. The HSCC will adhere to the letter and spirit of accepted ethical standards and principles and policies adopted by the museum and its governing body.
10. The HSCC will comply with The Museum Disposition of Property Act (Public Act 24 of 1992, incorporated herein by reference) with respect to the disposition of property loaned to the HSCC.

D. Collecting Priorities

The following priorities shall be utilized by responsible staff in determining what collections will be actively sought, acquired, and accessioned for the purposes of research, exhibition, and preservation. At all times they are to be informed and guided by the overall needs of the collections; the availability of similar materials via bequest, exchange or purchase; the significance of potential acquisitions to the mission-driven objectives of the HSCC; the legal and ethical guidelines of the museum profession; and the general statements, intellectual principles, and collecting themes outlined above and in the Scope of Collections Statement.

1. As a matter of first priority, the HSCC shall endeavor to collect items of virtually all material types pertaining to:
 - a. The 1880 Sherriff's Residence and 1912 Jail Addition.

- i. Either original artifacts which will be accessioned into the primary collection,
 - ii. or items appropriate to the various time period interpreted which will be added to either the Education Collection of the Exhibit Property Collection.
 - b. The mid-nineteenth century Log Cabin.
 - i. Either original artifacts which will be accessioned into the primary collection,
 - ii. or items appropriate to the various time periods interpreted which will be added to either the Education Collection of the Exhibit Property Collection.
2. Of secondary priority to the collecting activities of the HSCC shall be the acquisition of items pertaining either directly or indirectly to the history of Cheboygan County and the cities, villages and unincorporated towns therein.
 3. Of tertiary priority to the collecting activities of the Museum shall be the acquisition of items which serve to emphasize the broader regional and national themes and stories which bear a direct connection to the history of Cheboygan County.

E. Recommendations for Future Collecting Activities

The HSCC will endeavor to collect those items that will round-out the collection categories outlined above, namely:

1. furnishings and accessories to complete the Sherriff's Residence and its associated period rooms;
2. any items that enhance the interpretation of the Log Cabin.
3. items related to Cheboygan County residents participation in the U.S. Civil War.
4. items related to the history of transportation in Cheboygan County (pre-European contact to 1950)
5. items, either original or reproduction pertaining to the Native American presence in Cheboygan County.
6. items that relate to domestic life of the 20th and 21st centuries, with very careful attention given to the limitations of space and resources of the museum.

Resources used:

Guidelines for Writing a Scope of Collections Statement. California State Parks: Archaeology, History & Museums Division. Museum Services Section, March 2009

Scope of Collections. Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinac Island Michigan.

Scope of Collections & Collecting Plan. The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Missoula County Montana.

Recommended by the

Collection Committee: Brian Jaeschke Date: October 19, 2011

Brian Jaeschke, Collection Chair

Approved by

the Board of Directors: Rosalie Despain Date: October 19, 2011

Rosalie Despain, Secretary