

Please remember that many of these points of interest are private homes and are to be enjoyed from the roadway, sidewalk, or pathway.



Proceeds from the Historic Walking Tour map support the work of the Marine Restoration Society, which promotes the cultural and historic heritage of the village. For information visit [marine.govoffice.com](http://marine.govoffice.com).

*Enjoy*



Marine on St. Croix

# Historic

*Enjoy*

# Historic Walking Tour

Marine on St. Croix



Marine Mills, Minn., JAN 27 1902 189

*The Village of Marine*

TO CHARLES STRAND, Dr.

DEALER IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

July 1 To L Chimney 10 / 1st Matchbox 10 70  
 16 21 Galo. Perf. Oil 7 20 21 Tablets 10 730  
 4250

The tour is divided into four easy walks for you to enjoy.

- Village Center
- Historic Judd Street
- North Village
- Upper Village

Please remember that many of these points of interest are private homes and are to be enjoyed from the roadway, sidewalk, or pathway.



Please leash your dog(s) while walking the tours.



## Upper Village Tour 1.7 miles total distance

The Upper Village Loop begins at the Marine General Store. Walk west on Maple Street, carefully cross Highway 95 and proceed to 440 Maple.

### 26. Marine Schoolhouse ~ 440 Maple Street

After the second schoolhouse was destroyed by fire, the third was built here in 1867. The Polk County Press reported on July 23, 1869 that the fine two-story schoolhouse was "beautifully located and perfect in all appointments." Originally a four-room schoolhouse, an addition was built in 1892 to provide more space for the growing community of children. The schoolhouse closed in 1955 and was converted to apartments.



### 27. Christ Lutheran Church ~ 150 5th Street

The congregation was organized in 1872 as the Swedish Lutheran Church and was originally built across the street from the Stone House Museum (Site 29) in 1875. Church records show that the building committee determined that the church should be made of lumber from the local sawmill and done in Gothic style.



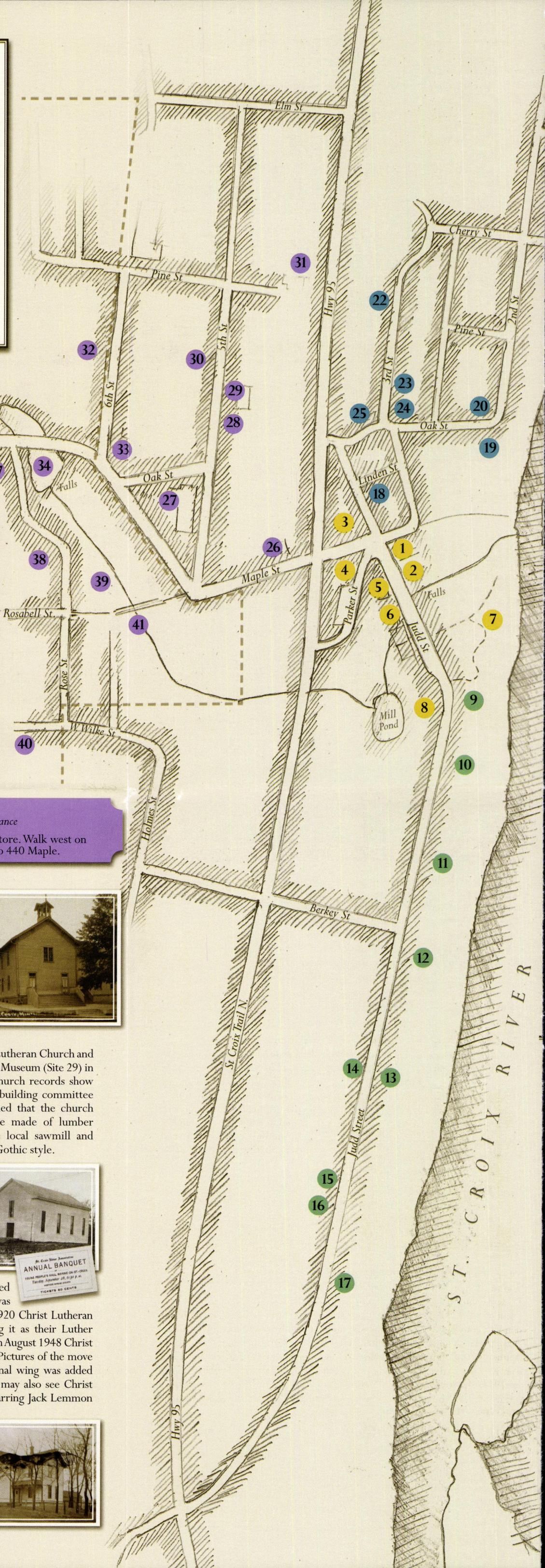
There were originally two churches in Marine, the other being the Congregational Church, also referred to as the 'English Church'. It was organized in 1858 and was located where Christ Lutheran Church now stands. In 1920 Christ Lutheran Church purchased the abandoned English Church using it as their Luther League Hall. Eventually the building was dismantled, and in August 1948 Christ Lutheran Church moved its building to the current site (Pictures of the move can be seen at the Stone House Museum). An educational wing was added in 1967, and a second addition completed in 1994. You may also see Christ Lutheran Church in the 1995 movie *Grumpier Old Men* starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.

### 28. The Parsonage ~ 221 5th Street

Built in 1884 at an approximate cost of \$1,400, the Parsonage was the property of Christ Lutheran Church for more than 100 years. The church sold the parsonage in 1987.



continued on back



### 32. John Nels and Anna Sophia Ecklund House ~ 240 6th Street

Peter Leadstrom built this house in 1882 and it was purchased by Anna Sophia Ecklund later that year. By 1909 the Ecklunds had nearly doubled the size of the house, creating the structure we see today. It was home to the Ecklund family for many years. Ecklund was assistant postmaster in Marine Mills, working for his son, Carl Arthur Ecklund (1884-1970), who was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson as the last postmaster of Marine Mills, for in 1917 Marine Mills became Marine on St. Croix.



### 33. Dennis Olsen Home ~ 201 6th Street

Built in 1890, it today maintains much of its original character. Olsen (1863-1940) was proprietor of the Marine stage line, stage driver for the creamery (Site 35), ran a livery service and grocery and was a fishing guide. An early promoter of tourism for Marine, in 1915 the "Red Goose" publication advertised, "A few miles below the [Soo-Line Bridge] is Marine Mills and if you have sent word to Dennis Olsen he will meet you with one of his \$50 rebate Fords, take you up the hill where Mrs. Olsen will have a good supper waiting for you. Here you will find comfort for the night's rest." In 1916, to further promote summer tourism, his brother Henry began building summer cabins on the river while Dennis rented additional homes in his neighborhood to accommodate the new influx of visitors.



### 34. Upper Mill Pond and Dam

From the Upper Mill Pond and Dam, the winding stream called 'Fall River' by the local Chippewa Indians and the "Millstream" to settlers, falls through "Diamond Cascade" immediately below the Upper Millpond, then "Oceania Falls" a few feet later, cascading south through Gables Glen and under the Red Bridge (Site 41). The stream flows southeast and under State Highway 95, to the Lower Mill Pond (Site 8). From there it flows northeast under the Brookside Inn (Site 6), then east under Judd Street. Along the east sidewalk of Judd Street, once an open footbridge, you can see the third cascade, "Fall River Falls," which leads to the St. Croix River. This stream was the power source for both the flourmill and the sawmill using a mill race or flume, which channeled the water to overshot wheels.



## Historic Judd Street Tour *continued from opposite side*

Judd and Maple Streets. During the winter, when Charles cooked in the lumber camps, his wife tended the bar. With five small bedrooms on the second level, it was also one of Marine's brothels. By the mid 1880's, the saloon reverted back to a house. In the late 1930's, the house was moved to 475 Judd Street.

### 14. Nels Rosengren Home ~ 500 Judd Street

A saw sharpener for the lumber company built this home in 1853. The house was added onto in 1884 after Marine was devastated by a tornado. It has a sandstone foundation quarried from the St. Croix River, most likely constructed by Gustaf Carlson, the local Swedish mason (see Site 17).

Nels Rosengren, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, purchased this home in 1885 when he retired from farming and moved to the village. The Rosengren home was carefully restored in 1997 after being purchased from the Rosengren family.

### 15. The Village Watering Trough

This was a public source of water for residents, passerby and horses for decades. The concrete well is located on what was the main thoroughfare through Marine prior to State Highway 95 being built in 1952. Many local villagers and summer cabin owners continued to fill water jugs with the cold fresh spring water until 1986 when a sign was posted warning the water may be polluted.



### 16. Ole Westergren Home ~ 600 Judd Street

Ole Westergren (1825-1889) came to Marine Mills in 1855 from Sweden and was employed as an apprentice blacksmith under James Solley. Westergren purchased the smithy from Solley in 1857 and continued as the village blacksmith until 1888. The home was built in 1857.

### 17. Gustaf Carlson House ~ 751 Judd Street

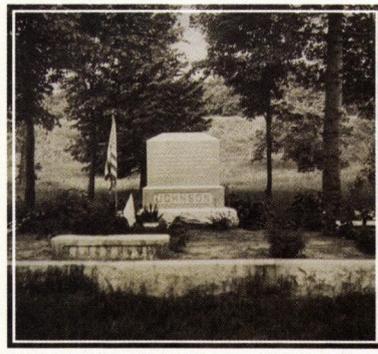
Now known as Reydon Cottage, the home was built in the mid-1850s by Carlson (1836-1919), a mason from Sweden who came to Marine in 1854 and helped build many structures in the town.

The Carlson house was originally a frame house consisting of a kitchen, dining room, living room and two bedrooms. The Strickland family from Evanston, Illinois purchased the home and a second floor was added around 1923 when the house was remodeled. It was in this house that Mrs. Stricklund organized the Women's Civic Club of Marine in 1922.



### 35. Creamery Ruins.

The Marine Co-operative Dairy Association, organized in 1893, collected milk and cream from local farmers and manufactured and sold butter, cheese, and other dairy products. This creamery was destroyed by fire in 1908. A third creamery was built in 1914 and again destroyed by fire in 1916.

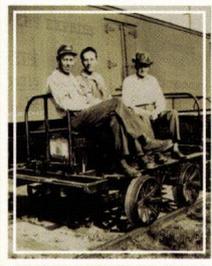


### 36. Oakland Cemetery

The 32 acre cemetery was organized in 1872 by a private association of Marine residents and managed later by the Village. In 1878, Adam Amos relocated seventeen unclaimed bodies from the old Nason Hill burial grounds to the Oakland Cemetery for the sum of eighty dollars. The cemetery contains the graves of early settlers, Civil War veterans, veterans of other major conflicts, as well as other citizens. Every year the community hosts a Memorial Day celebration here.

### 37. John Linnerooth House ~ 705 Broadway

Built in 1887, this home exemplifies a double gabled Swedish-built home. Notice the original chimneys and original exterior window trim typical of early Swedish construction. The additions of a screen porch, enclosed porch and dormers in 1922 are quite distinct from the original structure. The home is still in the Linnerooth family today.



### 38. Oscar Carlson Home ~ 170 Rose Street

Built in 1851 by John Ludden, the home is an excellent example of an early Swedish-built home. Oscar Carlson (1864-1958), a bridge foreman for the railroad, purchased the home in 1904. He married Emma Hockerson in 1893 and ten children were raised here! The home remained in the Carlson family until 1980 and the current owner has maintained its original character and charm.

## Village Center Tour *continued from opposite side*

Doric columns. The bank was closed briefly in 1918 when it was discovered that William H. Schafer, one of the bank's owners, had swindled funds from the bank. The bank was reorganized in 1919 as the Security State Bank of Marine.



### 6. Brookside Inn ~ 140 Judd Street

Constructed in 1930 by the Marine Creamery & Produce Company, built over the meandering and cold trout stream, which cooled the milk stored at the creamery.

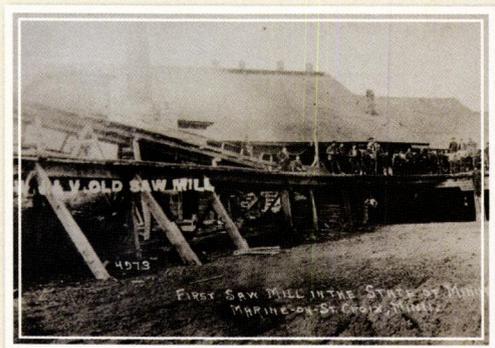
Note the stream exiting the north side of the building. The Creamery closed less than one year after opening. Later, Frank A. Huff moved his business from just across the street, the Old Mill Inn, into the building to establish it as the Brookside Inn.



### 7. Old Marine Mill Site

At the Old Marine Mill Site on August 24, 1839, with a cumbersome up-and-down saw, the first lumber in the St. Croix Valley was cut from the Marine Mill. It was on this site that one of Minnesota's greatest industries was born and operated for over 50 years. In 1852 the first Marine sawmill was torn down and a new water-powered mill with a forty-foot overshot wheel was built. This second mill was destroyed by fire in 1863, and in 1866 a third sawmill was built on this same spot. During 1873 the sawmill was almost completely rebuilt again with more modern machinery and a new 50-horse power mill.

In the summer of 1884, the village was devastated by a tornado. Piles of stacked lumber, the sawmill smoke-stack, and the mill dam and sluice were all destroyed. According to the Taylors Falls Journal: "Nearly every building in Marine was more or less injured." The storm was the final blow to the fortunes of the lumber barons, Walker, Judd and Veazie. After 1888, most of the buildings were dismantled and the machinery was sold to other lumber mills down the river. The Old Marine Mill Site was declared a National Historic Site in 1970, and today the Minnesota Historical Society is guardian of the property. (Historic markers on site)



### 19. Sunwood ~ 201 Oak Street

Also known as the Hiram Berkey Residence, this is the oldest existing residence in Marine, constructed by the Lumber Company in 1848 to provide room and board for the lumber mill workers. Hiram Berkey, one of the original thirteen owners of the company, purchased it in 1858, making it his home for many years. Berkey added the west wing to this Greek revival in the 1870's. Local legend has it that Berkey stubbornly refused to acknowledge the property was no longer his, and long after his death, continued to haunt this old house. The north wing was added in the 1930's. The cast of the movie *The Emigrants* (1971) stayed in the house while filming the movie.

### 20. Murch House ~ 200 2nd Street

Built in 1872, the house combined both Victorian and farmhouse style design, typical of the style of Yankee homes built after the Civil War. Elisha Murch was employed as a sawyer by the mills and served under General Henry Sibley during the bloody Sioux Uprising in 1862. In the 1890's his widow sold the home. Residents to this day have honored Mrs. Murch's request, "Don't touch the woodwork!"



### 21. The Marine Landing 10 Elm Street

This was the site of the Marine Ferry which provided service to Marine and neighboring communities in Wisconsin from 1856 to 1954. Hiram Berkey (Site 19) was the first of many ferry boat operators over the years. Gilbert Walker and Ed Walquist started a boat livery and canoe rental business on the site in the 1930's with 10 boats and 20 canoes. Local residents, farmers, businessmen, and tourists crossed the 700-foot distance ferrying as many as fifty vehicles an hour in the '40's and '50's. Today it is a privately owned marina—please stay off the docks. *(historic marker on site)*

*continued on back*

production of the sixth grade play. The Village Hall is the also oldest hall in the state that continues to serve as the seat for community government.

### 3. Village Bandstand

Built in the 1880's, and finished just in time to celebrate the "Glorious Fourth" as referred to by early Marine residents. The Marine Cornet Band was formed in 1884, and these 'Band Boys' as the locals called them, played many open-air concerts from the Village Bandstand. The Bandstand has gone through several rebuilds and has moved locations over the years. This was the site of the John Lund Hotel and Saloon which was purchased in 1918 by the Marine Town and Country Club, a men's organization aiming to benefit the village. Among its attractions were a pool table, library, victrola and the village's first radio. The club was active for twenty-three years.



### 4. Village Square *(Historic markers on site)*

Home to the first bell brought to Marine Mills in 1857, intended to serve as a church bell. The bell originally had been a steamboat bell. Behind the bell at the wayside rest is an original millstone, used to grind flour at the mill.

### 5. Security State Bank of Marine ~ 120 Judd St.

The site originally housed a stable and livery service, offering stage-coach transportation to and from Stillwater. The barns burned in 1907 and in 1914 the Marine Mills State Bank was built on the site in a Greek revival style, featuring

*continued on back*



(Site 3) for sixteen years. Just to the north of the property line is an area called 'Empson's Landing', also known to long-time residents as 'Ward's Landing'.

### 12. Nels Peter Roth House ~ 401 Judd Street

A longtime blacksmith in Marine, Roth (1841-1927) built this house in 1860. James Taylor Dunn writes, "Although the horse and buggy had passed on as a means of conveyance, Marine continued to cater to the four-legged beasts with a resident blacksmith to the end of the 1930's."<sup>5</sup>



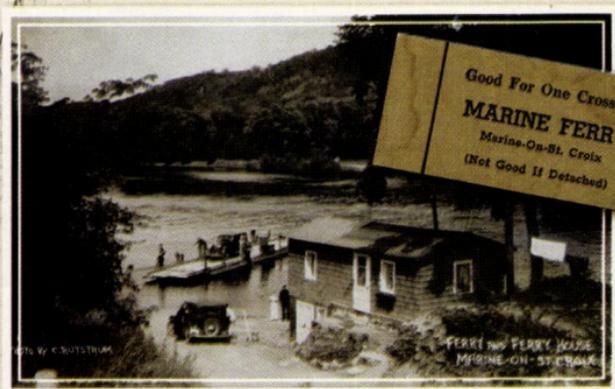
On September 9, 1884, a tornado swept through the Village of Marine and this house was blown into the river. According to local accounts, a woman seated in her sewing rocker was picked up by the tornado and deposited into the river with the rest of the Roth house. The woman survived unhurt, and the house was then restored. During the Depression the "Salad Bowl" restaurant was opened here, to take advantage of the burgeoning auto tourist trade.

### 13. Charles Mermond Inn & Saloon ~ 475 Judd St.

Built in 1860, this saloon was one of four in Marine in the 1870's. While working for the Lumber Company, Charles Mermond started a popular saloon in his home on the northwest corner of

*continued on back*





## North Village Tour .8 miles total distance

Start this walk at the group of buildings north of the Marine General Store.

### 18. Hockerson Brother's Marine Meat Market ~ 11 Judd Street

This structure originally housed the Hockerson Brother's Marine Meat Market, which sold cream, eggs, poultry, hides, produce and meats. Built in 1920, it replaced the meat market located where the current Post Office is today. The building housed the Belisle-Peterson Undertakers in the 1930's, which ironically also provided ambulance service. After World War II, this building became part of the Consolidated Lumber Company, supplying building materials, coal and hardware to local residents. In 1977 the building was again reinvented as an ice-cream parlor. The Village Scoop operated there until the late 1990's when it moved to a new location behind the Marine General Store.



## Village Center Tour .5 miles total distance

Start this walk at the Marine General Store

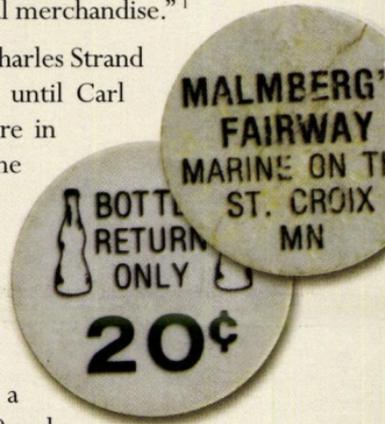
### 1. Marine General Store ~ 101 Judd Street

This landmark for Marine, was built in 1870 and was once called the Company Store. James Taylor Dunn notes that the store "carried on an expanded business in general merchandise and lumbermen's supplies" and is "one of Minnesota's historic landmarks still used for the sale of general merchandise."<sup>1</sup>

The store has a history of father-son ownership. Charles Strand and later his son Roy ran the store from 1914 until Carl Malmberg and his son Ralph purchased the store in 1962. Garrison Keillor, a frequent visitor to Marine and seasonal resident in the late 1970's, used to say on his weekly "Prairie Home Companion" radio show, "If you can't get it at Ralph's, you can probably get along without it."<sup>1</sup>

### 2. Village Hall ~ 121 Judd Street

The first structure on the Village Hall site was a boarding house for lumber workers, built in 1840 and used as a school before burning in 1856. The current structure was built in 1888 to house both the Village government offices and the fire house, including a hand-pumper fire engine, purchased by the Village Council in 1886 for \$1,060 and still owned by the Village of Marine. In 1921, the upstairs of the Hall was transformed to contain Marine's new 'Opera House', the existing auditorium complete with a stage and balcony. Native artist Axel Lindahl painted the St. Croix River scene on the drop curtain still used today. Beginning in 1917 it was the scene of the community Christmas tree program and party for all of the children in the surrounding area. Since 1972, local elementary students have graced the stage with their annual



## Historic Judd Street Tour 1.5 miles total distance

Start this walk across the street from the Early Settler's Cabin ~ 201 Judd Street

### 9. Charles Westergren ~ 201 Judd Street

Built in 1870 for Charles Westergren (1854-1914), "the well known Marine druggist, photographer, prison guard, hotel keeper, township clerk, postmaster, undertaker, justice of the peace, village marshal, ferry man, and 'boss clerk' for the Lumber Company."<sup>3</sup> This home, with its clean lines and an absence of architectural details, is a fine example of the Swedish influence in the community. Operating as a hotel from 1892-1914, the Messenger paper reported in 1896 that "The Fish Hotel is doing a rushing business, owing to the large number of men who have come down from the woods."<sup>4</sup> During Prohibition, bootleggers operated a still out of the basement of this home, with an escape tunnel leading to the river.



### 10. Betty Crocker House ~ 241 Judd Street

Built in 1854 by Charles Lindquist, a Swedish settler and cobbler in Marine for many years. In 1947, Janette Kelley, one of the first women to portray Betty Crocker at General Mills, was driving through Marine, had car trouble and stopped to use a telephone. Noticing this house was for sale, she eventually bought it. The house, with its "six-over-six" windows, is typical of New England homes of the time.



### 11. Percy H. Empson House ~ 350 Judd Street

Empson immigrated to America from England in 1896. The house, built in 1900, is twin-gabled and original, with the exception of a porch on the river-side of the house which was enclosed in 1945. Empson was also president of the Marine Town and Country Club

## Upper Village Loop *continued from opposite side*

### 29. The Stone House Museum ~ 241 5th Street

This building originally served as the Marine Township House and jail for Marine Township, which encompassed not only the village, but May and Scandia Townships as well. Built in 1872 by Gustav Carlson (Site 17), this is the only stone building in historic Marine and was constructed of cut stone quarried in the village. After the abolishment of Marine Township in 1893, the building was used as a jail, schoolroom, community center and storage building. In 1934, this building was chosen as an example of Minnesota architecture and was recorded in the historic archives of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The building opened as the Stone House Museum on July 4, 1963, organized by the Marine Women's Civic Club. Today the Stone House Museum is full of many local artifacts and is open to visitors during the summer months. *(Historic marker on site)*



### 30. John Lund House ~ 250 5th Street

Built in 1884 with the intention that John Lund, an immigrant stonemason, would sell it to the Lutheran Church for \$1250 to use as their new parsonage for Marine's first resident clergyman, Pastor Stenborg. The house never became a parsonage however. Some said that a dispute over the initial price between the church and Lund took place. Others said that Lund could not produce a proper deed. And yet others said the real story was that the Pastor's wife didn't like the house, but instead liked a new house being built down the street. The house is of Classical Revival design and retains the original sandstone gatepost. One of the few remaining carriage houses in the village still stands behind the house today.



### 31. Asa Parker House ~ 17500 St. Croix Trail North

One of the original holders of the Marine Lumber Company, Parker (1812-1894) spent his early years in the pineries. The house, built in 1856 by Parker, was one of five manor houses perched on the river bluff and is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture with its Ionic columns, porches and balcony of nineteenth century elegance. It was "high tech" for its time, as wooden troughs made from logs brought water to the house. The house was converted to a bed and breakfast in 1986.



## North Village Tour *continued from opposite side*

### 22. John Holt House ~ 300 3rd Street

Often referred to as the "doctor's house", the house was built by John Holt in 1856. The house was the first dwelling in the village not owned by the Lumber Company. It was later owned by Dr. Anders Soderlind, and then Dr. Henry W. Noth, thus earning its name.



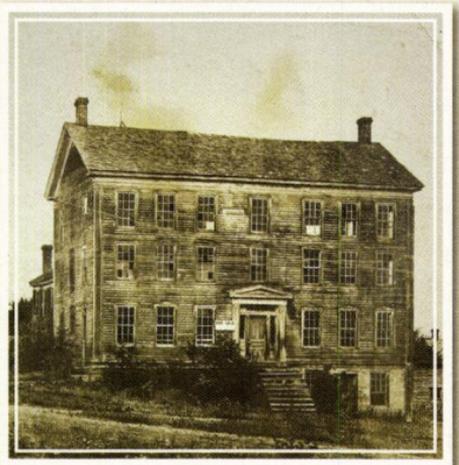
### 23. Carl Louis Anderson Home 201 3rd Street

An example of a "simple Swedish house", this home is constructed entirely of wood walls, ceilings and floors. The house was moved from the Upper Village to a farm outside of town and to its present location in 1975. The tool shed to the east of the house was the original summer kitchen.

### 24. The St. Croix Hotel

*(just south of Carl Louis Anderson home)*

The scene of a murder in Marine, the stone steps of the hotel can be seen just to the south of the Anderson home (Site 23). Built in 1857 as a general merchandise shop, the structure was converted to a hotel in 1868 by Mathias Welshons, expanding it to include 25 rooms and a ballroom on the third floor. In 1881 Welshons' granddaughter was shot and killed in the hotel by her alcoholic husband, who later hanged himself in the institution where he was committed. In 1892 this hotel, the last sizable one in Marine, was completely destroyed by fire.



### 25. Hillside ~ 200 3rd Street

Once known as the Ole M. Anderson Place, Hillside, built in 1854, is another example of a two story Greek Revival. In 1913, Pauline D. Wickman converted the house to the Hillside Inn. In 1932 it advertised "Rustic joys with the comforts of town - bed and breakfast, \$1.25." Hillside Inn soon became a favorite honeymoon retreat. The five bedroom inn became a private dwelling again in 1945, was beautifully restored in 1991 and remain as private property.



**39. Rose's Addition** (— — — — — indicates the addition boundary)

John Gabrielson Rose (1840-1898) came to Marine Township with his parents, settling on a local farm in 1854. In 1880, he moved to the village and in time became a successful businessman.

In 1884, Rose sold off a large piece of land in the upper village, creating buildable lots for the growing population. This area, still called Rose's Addition, was popular among the Swedish settlers. In 1855 Swedish Lutheran Clergyman Eric Norelius estimated there were two thousand Swedes in Minnesota, three hundred of whom lived in Marine, the second largest Swedish settlement in the territory (the first being Chisago Lake). In 1885 a bridge (Site 41) was built over 'Rose's Ravine' that connected this Swedish neighborhood to the rest of the village.



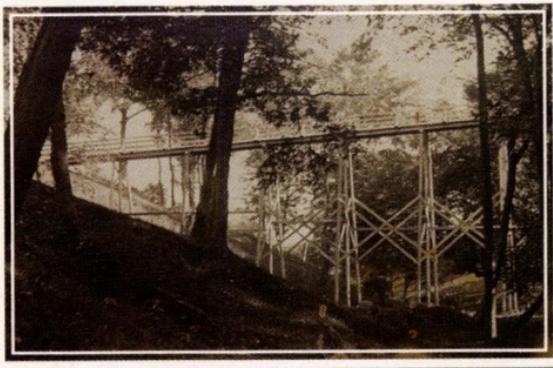
**40. Carl Peter and Gustava Samuelson Home ~ 901 W. Wilke**

Originally Rose's farmstead, the Samuelson's purchased the property for \$400 and built their home in 1888. The house burned to the ground in 1910 and was rebuilt in 1911. In 1924 William Colwell Edgar of Minneapolis purchased the house, acreage, gardens, and trout brook for \$7,000.<sup>8</sup>

Edgar was a writer, publisher of flour milling periodicals and a humanitarian. In 1893, he organized an effort to send grain and flour to starving peasants in Russia; in 1914 he organized the Millers Belgian Relief Movement and, with the help of Herbert Hoover, sent shiploads of flour to Europe. Hoover later visited the Edgars at this home, fishing in the stream and autographing the fireplace. After Edgar's death in 1932, his daughter Marjorie, a founder of the Girl Scouts in Minnesota, lived in the home until the late 1950's.

**41. The Bridge at Gables Glen**

In 1885 the Village Council approved \$75 to construct a footbridge across what was called 'Rose's Ravine', the land between the Upper Mill Pond and the Flour Mill. This bridge was removed in 1912 and in 1913 Joseph Gable gave the Village permission to build a bridge across his glen providing, "they will erect a good and substantial bridge and keep said bridge in good repair."<sup>9</sup> The bridge, now known as the Red Bridge, was completed in 1917, and refurbished in 1969, completely rebuilt in 1987, and recently restored in 2009 keeping true to the wishes of Joseph Gable.



*Cross the Red Bridge to return to the lower village*

**8. Early Settler's Cabin**

This hand hewn structure was the home to Sven Anderson, his wife and 3 children. Built by Anderson in 1852, it was their home until 1869. In 1938, to celebrate the Marine Centennial, the log cabin was moved to its present site from its original location two miles northwest of the village. The community gathers at this site to celebrate Mill Stream Day every May. Behind the cabin you will see the Lower Mill Pond, part of the millstream that powered industry in Marine. (Historic marker on site)

*For further history of Marine on St. Croix, see "Marine on St. Croix: 150 Years of Village Life" by James Taylor Dunn, a long term resident of Marine and local historian. The book is available at the Stonehouse Museum and at the Marine General Store. Visit the town of Marine's website: <http://marine.govoffice.com> for more historical information, under the link for "Restoration Society".*

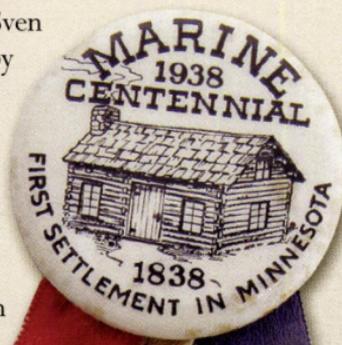
*Thanks to City Council Member Everett Myers for initiating this project. History researched and compiled by Mark McGinley. Photos and artifacts from the Mark and Dawn McGinley Collection. Written by Mark and Dawn McGinley, edited by Ann Myers, Jennifer Holloway and Curt Moe.*

*Thanks to numerous current and past homeowners for their input. Funded by the Marine Restoration Society and the City of Marine on St. Croix.*

**REFERENCES:**

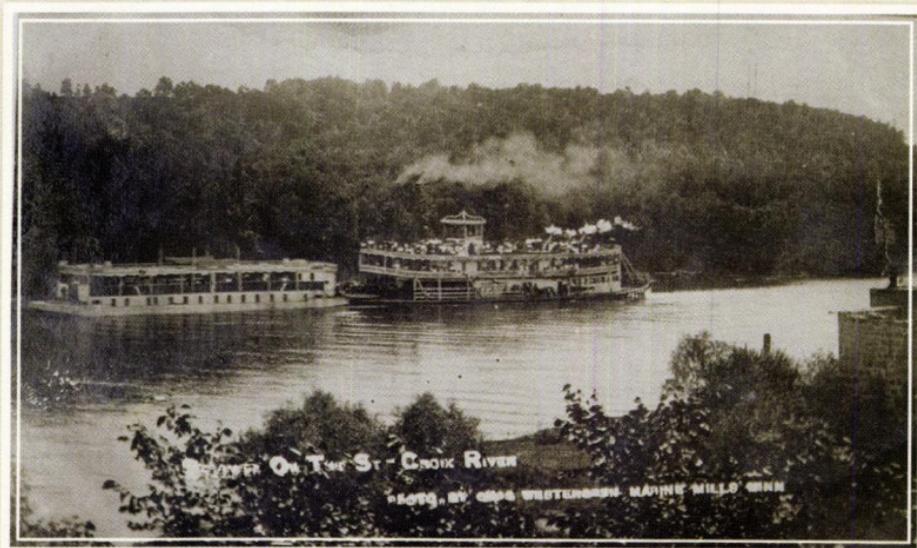
- James Taylor Dunn, *Marine on St. Croix: 150 Years of Village Life*. (Marine on St. Croix: Marine Restoration Society, 1989), 1 p.45, 2 p.61, 9 p. 89-90, 6 p.110, 7p.93.
- James Taylor Dunn, *Marine on St. Croix: From Lumber Village to Summer Haven, 1938-1968*. (Marine on St. Croix: Marine Historical Society, 1968), 3 & 4 p.17, 5 p.79.

<sup>8</sup> *"From Rose to Samuelson to Edgar: The Story of a Marine Home"*, a paper by James Taylor Dunn.



*This commemorative ribbon was given to long-standing citizens in recognition of their years of residence. The ribbon shown above belonged to Dennis Olson (site 33).*

# Welcome to Marine on St. Croix



Imagine a steamboat full of immigrants coming up the St. Croix River, a lumberjack floating a raft of logs down river to the sawmill, or the village blacksmith pounding iron to repair an old wagon wheel. Next, imagine a sleigh full of children going to the Swedish Church on Christmas Day or a man bundled in warm clothing pulling firewood up the hill. These scenes were commonplace in Marine in the mid – late 1800's.

We invite you to use your imagination and take a step back in time. Welcome to the village and enjoy the tour.

Ostrum Ave. N

35

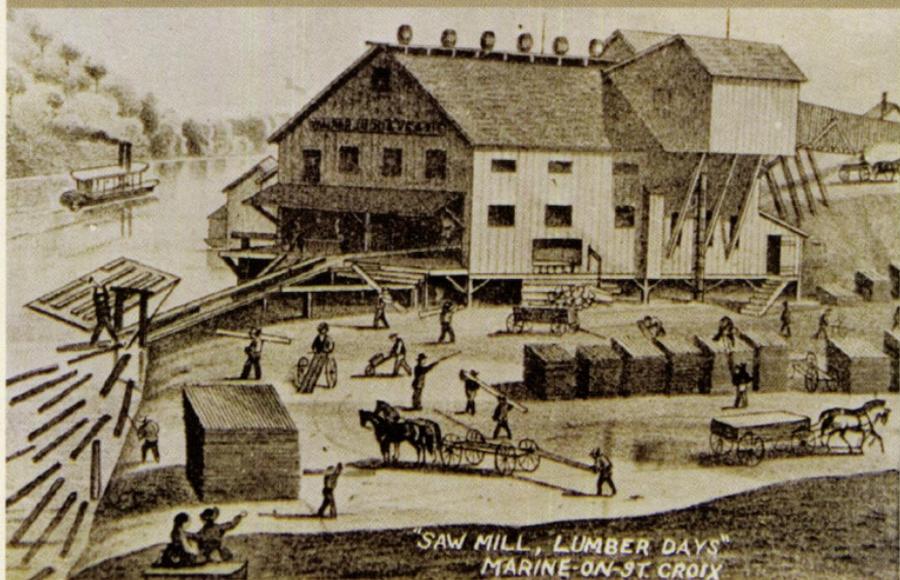
36



*Train travel was a significant part of Marine history from 1886 to 1961. The railroad delivered both the mail and passengers to Marine, and other stops along the St. Croix River valley.*

## A Brief History of Marine

Once a bustling lumber town, Marine on St. Croix is today a tranquil village, looking much as it did in the 1800's. An 1837 treaty with the Dakota (Sioux) and Ojibwa (Chippewa) Indians opened the area to the white settlers for the first time and drew Yankee lumbermen to the valley. In 1838 a piece of land was claimed where a stream called 'Fall River' by the Chippewa poured into the St. Croix River. By the fall of 1839, these hardy pioneers were operating the first industry in Minnesota – a commercial sawmill.



The first of thousands of Swedish immigrants to come to Minnesota came by steamboat up the river to work at the sawmill. By the 1870's the lower part of the Village of Marine was booming with four stores, two hotels, a blacksmith, a flour mill, a gunsmith, a ferry crossing, two carriage and wagon shops, four saloons, a brewery, a cabinet shop, one cooper shop, one boot and shoe shop, and a daily stage between Marine and Stillwater. The Walker, Judd and Veazie sawmill employed between 70-100 lumberjacks. The heydays of lumbering only lasted a few decades however and by 1884, a shortage of lumber, a log jam that lasted fifty-seven days, and a tornado all took their toll on the once booming industry.

But Marine lived on, and in the 1910's the village transitioned to a summer retreat for well-to-do city dwellers. The architecture throughout richly reflects the New England background of Marine's first settlers, the heritage of the Swedish sawmill workers, and the adventure of the summer residents who built their cottages on the river.