

Small Historic Towns Across America.

As presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org

Brief History of Mineral Point, Wisconsin

Mineral Point was settled in 1827 while it was still part of the Territory of Michigan. This land was unharmed by glaciers, which left minerals in the soil. This news reached Cornwall, England in 1830 and the people started to come to Mineral Point. These people were advanced in stone building and mining. Mineral Point became an important city for its lead, galena and zinc because people were trying to find the easiest place to find minerals. Mineral Point became wealthy because of so many minerals. The population of Mineral Point was 2,487 at the 2010 census. The population of 2014 is 2,653. Mineral Point is the third oldest city in Wisconsin. This city is known as "where Wisconsin began."



Photo of Mineral Point Historical Society

Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).

Mineral Point Wisconsin is located in the South Western corner of the state. Mineral Point is halfway between Madison Wisconsin and Dubuque Iowa. From the airport take U.S. 151 to state route 23, which will take you straight to Mineral Point.

Who was the President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at this time.



John Quincy Adams was the President of the United States when Mineral Point was being established. A war called the Winnebago War took place during 1827 concerning lead and minerals. The Indian tribe called Ho-Chunks were upset at the lead miners for trespassing on the Indian's land. They were also upset because they heard false rumors that Americans had captured two Indians and killed them. The Indians made a few attacks on the town, however, a war never broke out because American troops showed up and the conflict ended. The Winnebago War led to the Black Hawk War of 1832.

Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.

The oldest building in Mineral Point is called the Mineral Point Railroad Museum. This depot is one of the last surviving buildings of its time. This building is the oldest depot in Wisconsin and is over 150 years old. Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the Mineral Point Depot the "Best Interpretive Site" in 2005.

The largest business that employs the most people is called Cummins Emission Solutions. This business is a worldwide leader that manufactures engines and works with other related technologies. Cummins employs around 48,000 people around the world and works in 190 countries.

City government.

During this time, Henry Dodge was the first governor of Wisconsin. He was governor from 1836 to 1841. In May of 1830, a county board of supervisors met to organize their local government. The town supervisors were to find and help the poor. G. B. Cole, of Mineral Point, bought a log cabin that was used for the first county jail. The first courthouse met in a log cabin. During this time it was difficult because the government was not completely set up.

Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.

Pendarvis is a historic attraction in Mineral Point. It was founded by Robert Neal and Edgar Hellum. Pendarvis is a historic village that shows the significance of the life of the Cornish people and the history of lead miners. The village teaches the history of Mineral Point, how lead mining went beyond fur trading and more.

Festivals and Events: Cornish Festival, which has tours, workshops, food, and more, starts every year on September 25-27. Gallery Night has arts, crafts, woodworking, photography, printmaking, furniture and more. Fall Art Tour invites artists to come and share how they make their art. They open up their studios every third weekend in October.

Where can we stay if we visit Mineral Point?

Bluebird Hill Country cottage is a house that has a beautiful view near a pond with quiet surroundings. This house is on eighteen acres and it only takes three minutes to get to town. There are three bedrooms which accommodates six people. There are two baths, a Jacuzzi, a kitchen, TV, Wi-Fi, and much more. Another place you can stay is the Cothren House called The Cabin. It was built in 1835 and is the only log cabin in Mineral Point. You can also stay at Maple Wood Lodge. This place is on twenty-six acres, has three bedrooms, a kitchen, a fireplace, Jacuzzi, and two miles of private trails.

Why would I want to visit this historic small town.

I would want to visit Mineral Point because it is a small, interesting town with a lot of history. I think it would be really neat to visit a town where the state of Wisconsin began. I would like to see the buildings and places and ask people how the town has changed or how it has stayed the same. I would also enjoy visiting historic places and walking on the trails in the woods. I enjoyed learning about this small town and would love to learn more about Mineral Point.

Links you may wish to visit.

<http://mineralpoint.com/history>

http://igeonote.com/city/map/345017/mineral_point-wisconsin-united_states

Youtube video of Mineral Point:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YojiFdygJFU&index=2&list=PLCccwCvLLr98e56K8UOKvKehqCy5T3f4s>

Upcoming Events: <http://mineralpoint.com/events/calendar>