E-mail not displaying properly? View in browser.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the September/October 2026 edition of Capitol Connections—your source for the latest news and updates from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Our mission to collect, preserve and share stories is made possible by continued support from the Wisconsin Legislature and administration. Thank you!

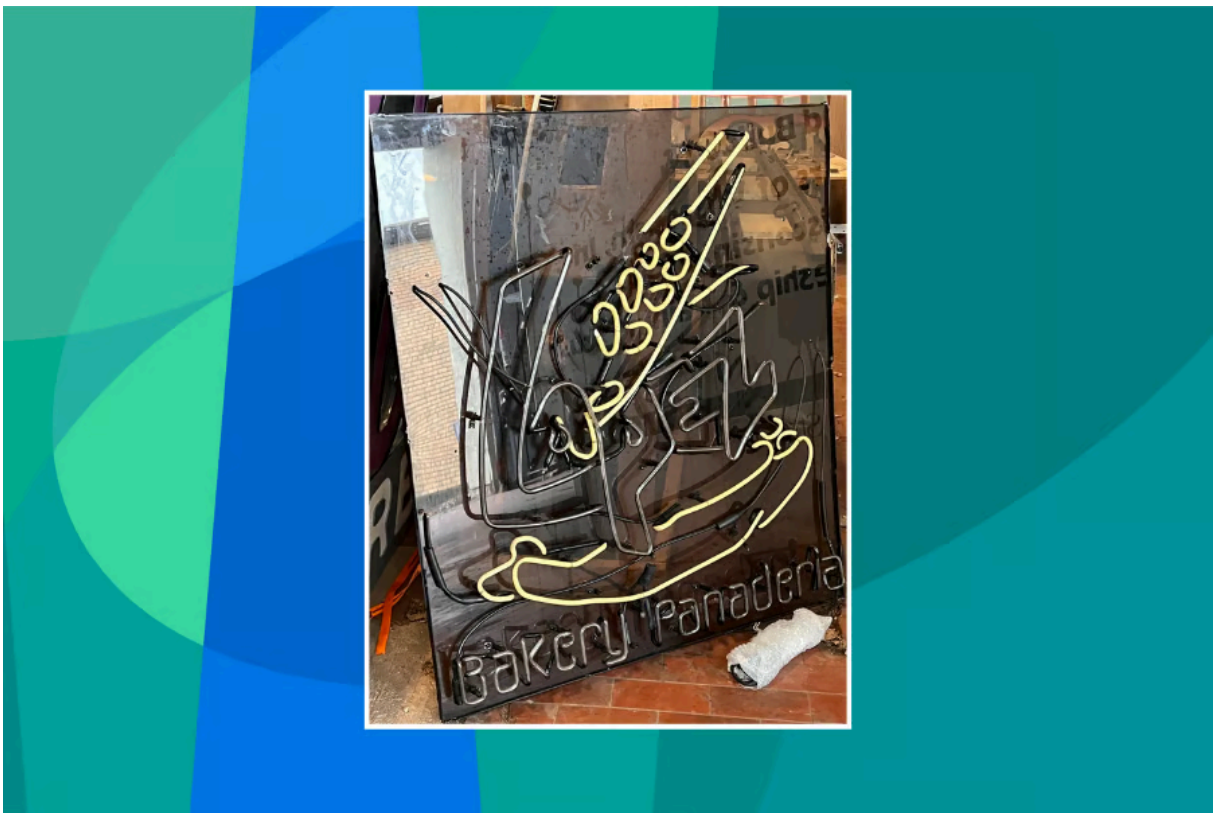


Photo: *For 50 years, Lopez Bakery and Restaurant shined as an example of Hispanic entrepreneurship on Milwaukee's south side. The legacy will live on at the Wisconsin History Center where the sign will light up again as part of the neon wall.*

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with WisHistory

Hispanic Heritage Month, recongized Sept. 15–Oct. 15 each year nationwide, spotlights the history, cultures and contributions of Hispanic Americans. WisHistory is celebrating by sharing stories from across Wisconsin. Here's how you can join the celebration:

DISCOVER: Follow WisHistory on social media for Hispanic Heritage Month highlights. See how items from Milwaukee's annual Mexican Fiesta became part of the WisHistory collection, and watch for a sneak peek at a special acquisition for the Wisconsin History Center: the neon sign from Milwaukee's Lopez Bakery.

EXPLORE: Visit the free exhibit "Fields of Arrival: Migration, Work, and Memory in Door County," presented by WisHistory affiliate Ephraim Historical Foundation. On display now through Oct. 15, the exhibit explores the lives and contributions of immigrant workers who helped shape Door County's agricultural and tourism industries.

READ: Visit your local library or bookstore to discover Hispanic voices. Two great additions for your reading list are "Somos Latinas: Voices of Wisconsin Latina Activists" and "Obrero Unidos: The Roots and Legacy of the Farmworkers Movement," both published by Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

RSVP for a Legislator Wisconsin History Center Hard Hat Tour

Wisconsin's new home for history is rising on Capitol Square! As we prepare for the public opening of the Wisconsin History Center, legislators are invited to preview the progress during a hard had tour of the site. WisHistory staff will guide legislators on the walking tour to view all five floors of the facility.

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 11 or Wednesday, Dec. 16, between 1-4 p.m.

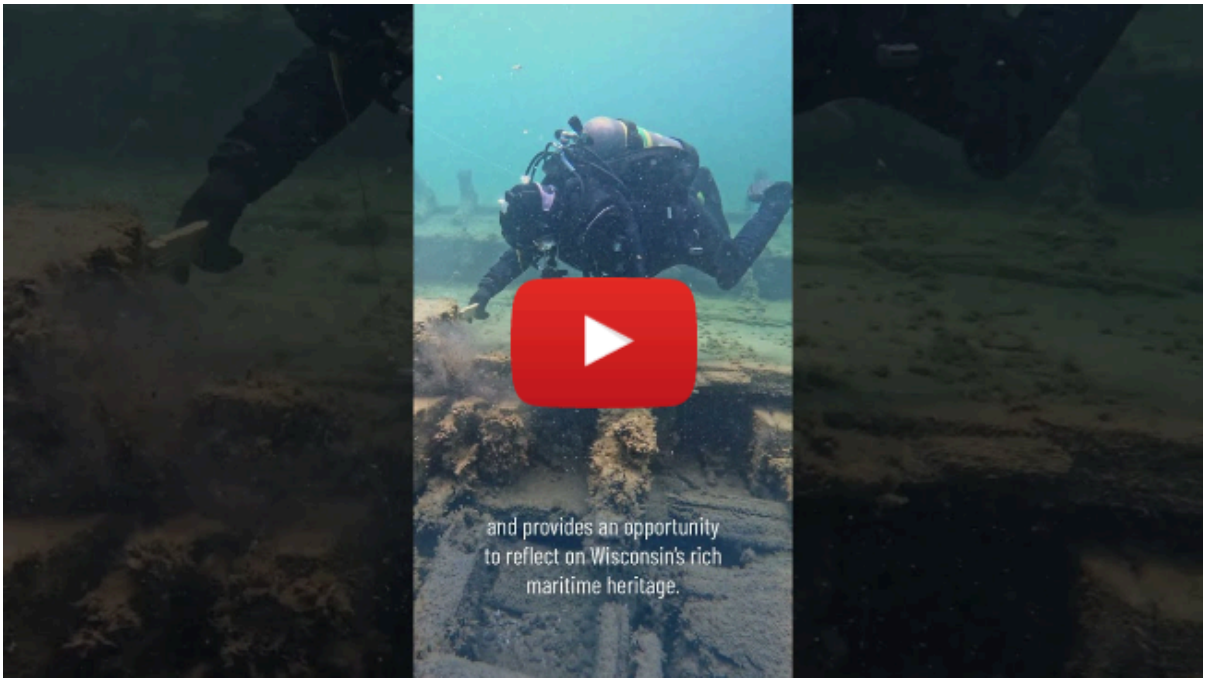
HOW: RSVP for your tour time by clicking on the button below. Hard hats and safety glasses will be provided, and please wear closed-toe, comfortable walking shoes and long pants—this is an active construction site!

BOOK TOUR

More Upcoming Events

Oct. 9-10, 16-17, 23-24: Halloween Legends & Lore at Old World Wisconsin (Waukesha County)
Oct. 10-11: Autumn Celebration Weekend at Wade House (Sheboygan County)
Oct. 15-16: 20th Annual Local History & Historic Preservation Conference (Milwaukee County)
Oct. 16: Poe at the Point (Walworth County)
Oct. 17: Safe & Spooky Halloween (Grant County)
Oct. 27: History Makers Tour – Objects That Connect Us (Manitowoc County)

Click here for a complete listing of WisHistory events!



Special thanks to all elected officials and supporters who took time to submit messages of congratulations to WisHistory staff and the Historic Preservation Review Board for making the 100th shipwreck listing possible!

In The News 📰

Fox 11: Door County Shipwreck Frank D. Barker becomes 100th added to state historic register
VolumeOne: Inspired By Historic Textiles, Eau Claire's Rylee Oberg Unveils The Silver Maple Bride
The Daily Cardinal: Madison's mounds hold history in plain sight
Milwaukee Magazine: Here Are 6 New Books by Wisconsin Authors Releasing This Fall
WBAY: Historian links American Revolution to Wisconsin's land treaties
Sheboygan Press: New marker honors the lost town of Amsterdam in Sheboygan County
WSAW: UWSP project wins Governor's Award for Archival Innovation from Wisconsin Historical Society

Photo: *The Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Company Complex was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. Additional documentation was prepared to extend the period of significance through 1973 and to document the company's industrial significance.*

Recent Listings

National Register of Historic Places:

- Thomas H. Smith Shipwreck (Racine County)
- East Troy Electric Railroad Historic District (Waukesha & Walworth County)
- Calvary Baptist Church (Milwaukee County)
- Upper Lone Tree Farm (Green lake County)
- Harley Davidson Motorcycle Complex [Additional Documentation] (Milwaukee County)
- F.J. King Shipwreck (Door County)
- State Bank of De Pere (Brown County)
- Jennibel Shipwreck (Door County)
- Fire Station Number 4 (La Crosse County)

Did You Know?

WisHistory launched a new quarterly newsletter, the Tribal Relations Roundup, earlier this year. Interested in receiving the latest news and updates about our ongoing collaboration on various projects, initiatives, and programs with First Nations in Wisconsin? Click on this link to sign up for the newsletter!

Wisconsin Historical Foundation, Inc.
816 State St Madison, WI 53706