

# Heritage Tourism, Community Development, and Geospatial Activities in Northeastern North Dakota

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Rural Northeastern North Dakota's economic development increasingly includes tourism that generally focuses upon scenic amenities. Yet, cultural amenity-oriented tourism exists and is expanding, too. Uniquely, one form of heritage tourism is using waypointing and geocaching to inform people about local history and geography. Since the summer of 2015, waypointing and geocaching materials have been created for North Dakota's Red River Regional Planning Council. This collaboration involves the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission, the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission, the Dakota Science Center, and the University of North Dakota's Department of Geography and GIS plus private citizens who are avid geocachers. This poster is focused upon presenting the methodologies used to investigate the assorted sites in the two counties plus follow-up activities that are ongoing. This type of heritage tourism was highlighted in the summers of 2016 and 2017 as part of the Red River Regional Council's plans for promoting community-based approaches to visiting the area, notably to Canadian tourists, so to continue to diversify local economic development. Waypointing and geocaching activities for the summer of 2018 are well-underway, and more attention is being given to expanding this form of community development in this region of the Peace Garden State.

**Pembina County Geocache/Waypoint Locations**

Location Reference Name	Waypoint	Geocache permission status	Registered Landmark	Registered Place
Pembina Historic Jail	48°25'29.30N 107°15'23.00W			
U.S. Custom House and Post Office	48°25'00.00N 107°14'40.00W			1858
Pembina River Bridge	48°27'28.00N 107°14'40.00W			
Fort Clark Log Building	48°27'27.00N 107°14'40.00W			
St. Catherine's Church of Lomice	48°27'00.00N 107°14'40.00W			
U.S. Custom House and Post Office	48°25'00.00N 107°14'40.00W			1858
Pembina River Bridge	48°27'28.00N 107°14'40.00W			
Fort Clark Log Building	48°27'27.00N 107°14'40.00W			
St. Catherine's Church of Lomice	48°27'00.00N 107°14'40.00W			
Pembina County Courthouse	48°27'00.00N 107°14'40.00W			
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*Source: Dakota Science Center*

Illustrated with this table are the various sites studied in the summers of 2016 and 2017. Additional sites are being studied as part of ongoing efforts to improve and to extend the waypoint trails of the Red River Regional Council. Several of these sites are already on the National Register of Historic Places. For example, the panel to the right has photos that show two examples of such places, both of which are churches.

### The Methodology: Multi-faceted Approach

- Archival
- Field Work
  - Initial Site Visits
  - Efforts During July
- Preparation of the Waypointing Materials
- Readying Materials for Website
- Collaborations across Disciplines and Locales


The Google image below illustrates the site characteristics of St. Catherine's Church of Lomice, near Lawton in Walsh County. This is a Register of National Historic Places that is being developed as a geocache location.



Geocaching and waypointing can be done as a tourism activity in any season of the year, including winter as illustrated by the scene below of the Vikur Lutheran Church at Mountain. This National Register of Historic Places listed church is probably the oldest Icelandic church in the United States. It was built in 1885 and continues to have religious services.

Mountain is one of the most significant Icelandic ethnic areas of North America. The migration of the Icelanders into this part of northeastern North Dakota from Manitoba is highlighted in the waypointing materials for the site shown here. Indeed, August the Deuce is an annual ethnic heritage event that draws tourists even from the homeland of Iceland. This year's event is slated for August 3-5, 2018.

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/13000862.htm>



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**How do I get started on the Pembina/Walsh Geotrail?**

The only necessities are a GPS device or a GPS-enabled mobile phone so that you can navigate to the caches, and a free Geocaching.com Membership. There is a wealth of information about geocaching on this website. If you want to download a GPS application to your smart phone, we recommend loading GPS Essentials. Once you have geocaching.com, do a search for caches in Pembina and Walsh counties. Those on the trail will be labeled as PWHHT geocaches. Read the description and GPS location of the geocache(s) and start your treasure hunt! To track your progress on the PWHHT and to lay claim to a Pembina HPC or Walsh HPC pathtag, you need to download the PWHHT passport v.2 here. When you find a geocache at a trail site, you must write down the passport code found inside or on the geocache, the date you found the geocache, and the GC code. Once you have found at least five (5) geocaches in one county, you can claim your pathtag by mailing your passport complete with site, date and GC code, along with your name and mailing address to the address noted on the passport. The passports can also be dropped off at the Pembina County Museum, Icelandic State Park, or Red River Regional Council. Remember, to get your pathtag, you must provide a name and mailing address. Once you get your pathtag reward, you may also log it in at [www.pathtags.com](http://www.pathtags.com). The pathtag serial number is on the back of the coin!

Have a great time and tell us about your PWHHT experience when you log your visits on [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) or [pathtags.com](http://pathtags.com). If you have questions, please contact us at [cheryl@redriverrc.com](mailto:cheryl@redriverrc.com)

<http://www.redriverrc.com/historic-preservation/>

**Pemba AND WALSH COUNTY HISTORIC GEOTRAIL PASSPORT**

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Have a great time and tell us about your PWHHT experience when you log your visits on [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) or [pathtags.com](http://pathtags.com). If you have questions, please contact us at [cheryl@redriverrc.com](mailto:cheryl@redriverrc.com)

<http://www.redriverrc.com/wpcontent/upload/s/2015/06/passport-v.2.pdf>

This panel has documents about the project and the protocols for using the regional geotrail (highlighted above) and the cover of the passport (to the right above). Directly to the right is an ad for Geocaching 101 that indicates the where, when, and what of the council event sponsored as part of celebrating in 2017 the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Geocaching 101**

Want to learn about the fastest growing high-tech family-friendly activity in the world? Come to this workshop to learn how to participate in this modern day treasure hunt!

**Where:** This workshop is being offered in two locations: Edinburg Community Center and Icelandic State Park Amphitheater.

**When:** Friday, June 17, 2018 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Open Park, Cavalier, ND 58103

**What:** Geocaching 101 workshop. Learn how to enjoy the pleasure of geocaching and gain about historic sites in Pembina and Walsh County.

Attend this FREE workshop sponsored by the Pembina and Walsh County Historic Preservation Commissions. No pre-registration is required. For more information, contact the Red River Regional Council at 701.352.3550.

This workshop is one of several activities being held across North Dakota in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

<http://www.redriverrc.com/event/geocaching-101-fun-for-the-entire-family/>

The Edinburg Hardware Store is also on the National Register of Historic Places. Located in the community of Edinburg, it originally was the Edinburg WPA Auditorium. The structure served as a recreation and entertainment center from 1939 to 1963 before conversion to what is a classic small town general store. It is a popular stop on many waypointing visits to this part of Pembina County.

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/13000863.htm>

**Small Towns. Big Ideas.**  
Celebrating success and inspiring the future

**3rd Annual Ideas to Actions Summit**  
November 2, 2017

This project received the 2017 Community Builders Catalyst Award from the Red River Regional Council.



Telling the story of a place helps to encourage repeat visits by tourists to learn more once they become aware of the area's heritage. It promotes both economic development and community pride.

**Hamilton Hotel, ca. 1910-1919**

Some waypoint locations mark sites that once were crucial places on the local cultural landscape but have disappeared, such as the Hamilton Hotel. Other sites are highlighted because of intriguing tales about the place, especially a graveyard as noted below and to the left.

**What is the story here about the "Bootlegger's Gravestone" in the Hamilton Cemetery?**

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/13000863.htm>



Below is a Google image of the Lower Pembina River's course between Walhalla (far left) to Pembina (far right). It is anticipated that some of the 2018 field season will include follow-up visits in this area which is known by the vernacular regional name of the Rendezvous Region. That appellation is a homage to the importance of the fur trade to the settlement of the area by the Metis, a key ethnic group that bridge European and indigenous cultures. Also on the list of sites for the 2018 field season are places in Cavalier, the county seat of Pembina County.



For access to bibliographic citations and related documentation, notably about the waypointing sites (see table to the upper left), please visit the Dakota Science Center's website at [www.dakota-science.org](http://www.dakota-science.org)

**NORTH DAKOTA**

<http://www.und.edu/ndscs/www/content/images/2014/01/ND-Map-1-Region-IV.jpg>

The map above highlights the Red River Regional Council's relative location. It encompasses four counties of northeastern North Dakota.

### Acknowledgements

Red River Regional Council  
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 University of North Dakota  
 Chester Fritz Library's Orin B. Libby Special Collections  
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 Red River Geocachers

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