

# Fort Atkinson State Preserve

❖ Built 1840-42 ❖



**R**ediscover Fort Atkinson, a federal military post, built to maintain order among various Indian tribes displaced by European-American settlers and to prevent the settlers from trespassing on Indian land. The fort was never attacked and daily life was peaceful for the 150 people garrisoned there. Fort Atkinson is owned and preserved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and designated as a State Preserve. 🌿

Photo Credit: SHSI, Chuck Greiner

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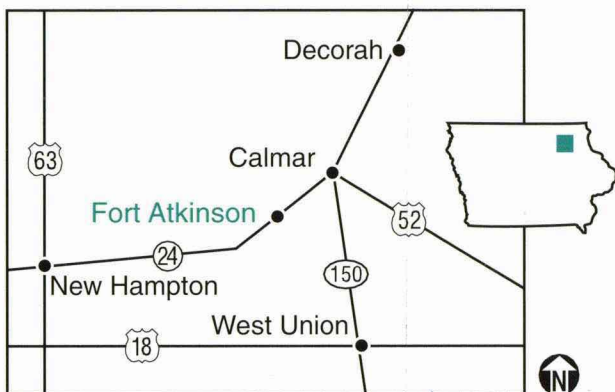
Fort Atkinson, Iowa

When constructed in 1842, Fort Atkinson had 28 buildings and a stockade wall. The War Department abandoned the fort in 1849, selling the land and buildings in 1855 to local settlers. Most of the buildings were then altered or destroyed. Through research and archaeological surveys, portions of the fort were reconstructed and a museum was placed in one of the barracks. A Rendezvous is held the last full weekend in September each year when artisans, musicians and costumed army troops recreate an early era in Iowa history.

Other natural and cultural points of interest in the area include Backbone State Park, Pike's Peak State Park, Volga River Recreation Area, Yellow River State Forest, Montauk Historic Governor's Home, Bily Clock Museum, and the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.



SHSI, Chuck Greiner



*Fort Atkinson — Located in Winneshiek County just west of State Highway 24 in Fort Atkinson*

**Hours:** Open noon to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day weekend until the Rendezvous closes in September. Free admission.

**Address:** For more information or to schedule a group tour, contact the local manager: Volga River Recreation Area, 9026 Ivy Road, Fayette, Iowa 52142. Call (319) 425-4161.