

Wedding Rental Policy

The security and environmental protection of the buildings and collections at Steele County Historical Society are of primary importance. In order to maintain proper conservation and security levels for the buildings and collections, both in storage and on exhibit, the following guidelines will be observed in regard to weddings in the Saco Church at Steele County Historical Society—Village of Yesteryear.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ST. WENCESLAUS OF MORAVIA CHURCH

The St. Wenceslaus of Moravia Catholic Church was originally built seven miles southwest of Owatonna in 1891. More than a century ago, it served as a center for the early Catholic immigrants from Czechoslovakia. The church was a mission church and was first served by priests from Sacred Heart Parish in Owatonna. The altar in the church was purchased in 1910 and moved by horse and wagon to the church from the train station in Pratt. The parish closed in 1952 due to a declining membership. Through the efforts of Father Kasal, then the priest of Sacred Heart Parish in Owatonna the church and all its contents were given to the Steele County Historical Society. It was moved to the Village in 1962. The church today is a special reminder of the religious heritage of Steele County and is completely furnished with its original artifacts.

Public Use:

The Saco Church at the Steele County Historical Society is nondenominational and may be used for weddings of all religions and creeds. The St. Wenceslaus of Moravia Church is available for weddings, baptisms/dedications, vow renewals and other ceremonies of you choosing.

Bookings:

Scheduling of weddings should be made several months in advance prior to the desired date through the Society office following the completion of an application form and subsequent approval. All Society-sponsored programs, events and activities have priority over wedding requests.

Arrangements to view the church must be made ahead of time through the wedding coordinator or director.

The use of the Saco Church is reserved for your guests during the time of the wedding. However, other visitors may be present on the grounds at Steele County during the wedding.

Fees:

A fee of \$200.00 is charged for weddings at Steele County Historical Society. A nonrefundable deposit of \$50.00 must be paid at the time of application with the balance of \$150.00 to be paid no later than one month prior to the wedding date. If snow or ice removal is needed for a winter wedding, an additional fee of \$50.00 will be assessed. The wedding couple must also be a member of the Steele County Historical Society, and the \$25 membership fee must be paid at the time the deposit is made.

Rental of the Saco Church does NOT include admission to other buildings, exhibits or guided tours. Wedding guests wishing to tour the Village of Yesteryear must pay an admission fee at the Emporium/OZ Print Shop.

Cancellations:

The Historical Society office 507/451-1420 must be notified immediately of any cancellation or change of dates or times as soon as they occur.

Steele County Historical Society Brochures:

Steele County Historical Society brochures are available should you wish to send them to your guests. Contact the Society office for assistance.

Equipment and Services:

The church seats 75 to 80 people comfortable in 18 pews. There are electrical outlets, a velvet kneeler, altar candles, and a working pump organ in the church for your use. The Society has a list of organists who are available to play for events. You may also bring in your musical instruments, musicians, or use prerecorded music. The bell in the church steeple, operated by pulling down on the rope after unfastening it from a hook on the wall, may be rung before or after your ceremony.

Altar candle holders may be used. Dripless candles **MUST** be used and provided by the wedding couple.

The Historical Society does **NOT** provide outside groups with any audiovisual, sound or other type of equipment.

The church will be clean and ready for your use. A Historical Society representative will be available during the rehearsal and wedding.

Set up and moving of **ALL** church property shall be handled by Historical Society personnel **ONLY**.

The bridal couple is responsible for providing and making arrangements for officials, musicians, flowers, aisle runner, candles, decorations and other wedding details.

A room for changing into wedding attire is available in the basement of the Dunnell House.

Decorations:

Decorations and aisle runners **CANNOT** be taped, nailed, thumb-tacked, screwed, pinned or fastened to pews, windows, woodwork, or any church property. Pew decorations such as tied ribbons or hanging bouquets on covered wire are allowed.

Rice, bird seed, flower petals, and other materials may **NOT** be thrown in or outside the Saco Church.

Photographs:

Wedding photographs may be taken on the Village grounds and staircase in the Dunnell House.

Food and Drink:

Food and drink are **NOT** allowed in the Saco Church or the Dunnell House at any time.

Alcoholic Beverages:

Alcoholic beverages are **prohibited** on the Historical Society grounds. This includes bottles of champagne, beer, wine coolers and other alcoholic beverages. This provision will be strictly enforced. Please inform your bridal party and wedding guests of this rule.

Smoking:

Steele County Historical Society is a **smoke-free facility**. Smoking is not allowed anywhere on museum

property (indoors or out). Please inform your bridal party and wedding guests of this rule.

Rehearsals:

Please schedule a rehearsal time with the Steele County Historical Society staff.

Storage:

Storage space for equipment and supplies is not available at Steele County Historical Society and any such materials brought in must be removed at the end of each wedding. Under NO circumstances does the Historical Society assume responsibility for materials left in buildings or on the premises.

Clean-up:

Clean-up is the **responsibility of the bridal couple** and must take place within one hour directly after each wedding. Both the Saco Church and Dunnell House basement must be clean before you leave. This includes removing flowers, candles, boutonniere boxes, hangers and other items. It usually works best if the bridal couple assigns this task to an usher or family member not in the wedding party.

Group Liabilities:

Groups using facilities of Steele County Historical Society are charged with the responsibility of adhering to the policies outlined above. The applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Steele County Historical Society from any and all claims which may arise from accidents or injuries to participants or persons connected with the use of facilities at the Steele County Historical Society.

Damages:

Any damages to buildings, equipment or property must be reported immediately to Historical Society personnel on duty. Under NO circumstances is any individual or party to attempt to repair or clean any damage suffered to the facility. All damage costs, as determined by the Society, will be borne by the group under which the damage was sustained.

Exceptions:

Any exceptions to the wedding rental policy and guidelines shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the Steele County Historical Society.