



Sisu Heritage Inc.

P.O. Box 127

Embarrass, MN 55732

Sisu Heritage, Inc. Fact Sheet

Our Mission:

- "The mission of the Sisu Heritage Inc. is to enhance the Embarrass region by preserving and sharing its unique culture, climate and history."
- It is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1987.
- Sisu Heritage Inc. is a funded affiliate of the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Primary Activities:

- Conducts Embarrass' Finnish-American Summer Festival including: Finnish American music, food, dancing, crafts and includes Finnish traditions such as boot throwing.
- In conjunction with the Embarrass Township, maintains the Nelimark Homestead, including a number of historic buildings and a collection of antique farm equipment. The Nelimark Sauna located on the property is on the National Register of Historical Places. The Sisu Heritage is in the process of remodeling the Nelimark Home into a Museum featuring local artifacts, pictures, written histories and much more to preserve the vast heritage of the people of the Embarrass region
- Maintains and has renovated the Gregorius and Mary Hanka Homestead. The cattle barn on the farm, renovated by the Sisu Heritage, is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.
- Operates Heritage Homestead Tours of the area's historic sites in conjunction with the Embarrass Township. The group has recently received a gracious donation of the Seitaniemi House Barn property. Plans are in progress to preserve this architectural jewel of Finnish log construction and include it in the tours this summer.
- Collects items of historic importance for the region with hopes of preserving them for future generations.
- Provides a bi-annual newsletter for Sisu Heritage members.

Projects for the Future:

- Expand the museum for display of more local artifacts and incorporate written and oral histories of the Embarrass area into the Nelimark Homestead.
- Significant renovation and preservation of the Seitaniemi House Barn property.
- Further preservation Hanka Homestead and the Nelimark Homestead and property.

The Embarrass Area:

- The first white visitors to the Embarrass area were fur traders who paddled the Embarrass River to and from their trading posts.
- For many years the Embarrass area lay uncultivated and unoccupied, and even in 1895 there were only 30 people living on the site of the future Embarrass.
- The community was nearly 100% Finnish from the early 1900s until the taconite mines of the 1950s, when a melting pot of different nationalities moved into the community.
- Today the community has received national recognition and is renown for its vernacular architecture--Seven sites on the National Register of Historic Places, Uncommon Place designation, and has been featured on PBS specials.

Contact Information: Sisu Heritage, Inc. PO Box 127, Embarrass MN 55732
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