

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING PLACEMENT OF THE ESSEN LOG CABIN ON THE CITY'S HISTORIC REGISTRY, WITH SUCH BEING CONSISTENT WITH THE REPORT AND ACTION SET FORTH IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION DATED MAY 23, 2024.

WHEREAS, the City has, for a long time, identified the Essen Log Cabin as a significant historical asset of this area, and Wildwood's history; and

WHEREAS, after much discussion with certain heirs of the Essen Family, it ultimately donated the cabin to the City in 2016, with the condition the City reconstruct the cabin on property owned by it, and ultimately allow it for public use; and

WHEREAS, the City, being the owner of the historic asset, began its process to place such onto the City's Historic Registry, first holding a public hearing before the City's Historic Preservation Commission held on March 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, with this hearing, and associated recommendation process, the Commission supported the request based upon six (6) of the thirteen (13) criteria set forth in considerations of this nature; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission completed its recommendation process, along with acknowledging its appreciation and support of the reconstruction of this structure as part of the City's Village Green project, including its reuse for educational purposes and creating awareness of residents and visitors of the rich history of the area; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation report, dated May 23, 2024, was forwarded to the City Council for a public hearing, which was completed on June 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council concurred with the Historic Preservation Commission and, at its conclusions regarding this historic asset, which led its members to accept the prepared legislation that hereby places this historic element onto the City's Historic Registry; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is empowered and enabled to make such decisions in this regard under its authority granted by State Statute and local Charter, when determined to be in the best interest of the public's health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. The City Council of the City of Wildwood, Missouri hereby determines that, based upon the information and recommendation provided to it by the Historic Preservation Commission, the City-owned 'Essen Log Cabin' is appropriate for placement on the City's Historic Registry, and then to be reconstructed upon said property identified as 16904 Crestview

Drive (St. Louis County Locator Number: 23V220013). This designation is based upon the conclusion the structure is historically significant due to the following considerations:

Criteria for Use	Compliance Level
<p>1. Its character, interest or value is part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the community, County, State, or country.</p>	<p>Yes – This is a classic example of an early log structure from this area during its early development by European settlers, in this case, German immigrants. The building reflects the City’s rural heritage, particularly during a time when this area was considered a “frontier.” It also reflects a period when whole families would live together in one-room (with loft) spaces, often many to a bed. It therefore has a high value relating to the characteristics of the area long before it became Wildwood. This cabin, once reconstructed, will be the only cabin of its type to be available for public viewing and use in the City of Wildwood.</p>
<p>2. Its overall setting is part of a collection of buildings, elements, or objects where the overall collection forms a unit.</p>	<p>No – The cabin is to be relocated from its original setting to the City’s Village Green.</p>
<p>3. It has the potential to be returned to an accurate historic appearance regardless of alterations or insensitive treatment that can be demonstrated to be reversible.</p>	<p>Yes –The petitioner’s intent, which is partially underway, is to reconstruct and restore the building to its historical appearance.</p>
<p>4. Its location is the site of a significant local, County, State, or national event.</p>	<p>No – None has been recorded or discovered in the City’s research upon it.</p>
<p>5. It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, County, State, or country.</p>	<p>Yes – The City’s search of records does indicate the Essen Family significantly contributed to this area’s development. John, Gerhard Rudolph Essen’s son, lived in the cabin before moving into the Ball-Essen House, part of the Ball-Essen Farmstead National Historic District, near Babler State Park, and ran a commercial farm there for decades that was twice the size of the average farm in St. Louis County at the time. Descendant Francis (also known as F.X.) Essen was a founder of Ballwin and brought electricity to large areas of West St. Louis County. His son, Don Essen, was chairman of the Pond-Grover Study Commission, which resulted in the incorporation of the City of Wildwood. Frederick (Fred) Essen, a close relative from the same historical period (b.1863), but living in Pond, was highly influential, purchasing an important local newspaper in the area, serving as St. Louis County Recorder, and then as a U.S. Congressman.</p>


Criteria for Use	Compliance Level
6. It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type valuable for the study of period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.	Yes – This is a classic example of an early log structure from this area and was built with local materials. The cabin is an opportunity to teach the public about early building techniques and construction practices, such as chinking.
7. It is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, architect or landscape architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the community, State or country.	No – Information could not be determined.
8. It embodies design, detailing, materials or craftsmanship that renders it architecturally significant.	No – none determined.
9. It embodies design that makes it structurally or architecturally innovative.	No – none determined.
10. It has a unique location or singular physical characteristic that makes it an established or familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, or City.	No – none determined.
11. Its character is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations, or other commercial structures, with a high level of integrity, or architectural significance.	Yes – It is a classic example of an early log structure from this area, which would have served as a home, farm, and business.
12. It is suitable for preservation or restoration.	Yes – Patterhn-Ives, a local firm with expertise in historic restoration, has extensively researched the structure, tagged the logs, and developed reconstruction drawings for it.
13. It has potential to yield information important to history or prehistory.	No – none determined.

Section Two. The City Council hereby adopts, for the purposes of this action, the Historic Preservation Commission’s Letter of Recommendation dated June 10, 2024 on this matter, which establishes the parameters and rationales for the designating ordinance, under the requirements and regulations of Chapter 440.040 of the Wildwood Municipal Code – Historic Preservation and Restoration Code.

Section Three. The City Council hereby directs the Department of Planning to complete the necessary steps to finalize the nomination process of this asset onto the Historic Registry and its future reconstruction upon the City's Village Green site.

Section Four. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval.

This Bill was passed and approved this 15th day of July, 2024 by the Council of the City of Wildwood, Missouri after having been read by title, or in full, two (2) times prior to passage.



Presiding Officer



Joseph Garritano, Mayor

ATTEST:

ATTEST:



City Clerk



City Clerk