

INFLUENCES ON ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL

Long ago, the Lakes Province may have been dominated by mountains with peaks as high as the Rockies; however, millennia of glaciers altered this landscape. Each advance and retreat of the glaciers carved the land like a sculpture. When the Wisconsin glacier retreated about 9,000 years ago, it left behind rolling lands full of glacial till and dotted with lakes.

The Lakes landscape can be divided into two distinct ecological zones:

The northern and eastern parts of the Lakes Province drift into the Allegheny Mountains and Maine of the Northeast Province. This is a glacially carved landscape with long, cold winters that has average winter temperatures below freezing and only 100 to 140 frost-free days annually. Landforms are level to rolling. Vegetation ranges from broadleaf deciduous forests to conifers (which grow well in the region's acid soils) to mixed forests. The summer landscape is lushly green. Fall brings brilliant colors. The long winters are white and brown. Little rock is exposed except along waterways.

