BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2005 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS





Blonde Homestead, 2487 Deckner Avenue, Green Bay

In 2002, Dan and Michelle Schrap purchased the house that was constructed by the Blonde family in 1898. While it was not in the best condition, they knew that they wanted to preserve as much of the original as possible, and with Dan's experience as a homebuilder, they felt that they could take on the project. The carpet was lifted to expose hardwood floors, which they beautifully refinished. Since the original siding was quite deteriorated, it was removed and replaced with new, freshly painted cedar siding. The original windows have been restored, and walls have been cleaned and painted to provide a bright and cheery interior. The house once again stands proudly on the hill overlooking Preble.



Snow White Cottage, Edgewater Beach, Green Bay

In 1923, Max Schober, a well known Green Bay architect, purchased an Edgewater Beach property and began to build a cottage, by himself, by hand. At 400 square feet, this was to be neither a practical dwelling nor a traditional cottage, but a rustic cabin with design features that would display his vivid imagination. The walls are built of fieldstones pulled up by sled from the shore at the bottom of the hill. Each window has mullions made of branches, and shutters with intricate animal carvings. The doors, which are covered with a decorative pattern of narrow cedar half-logs, are flanked by colorful stone benches. During the lean years of the Depression, Max could often be found working out at the cottage, but as work picked up during World War II, he was able to spend less and less time on the project. Finally, in 1940, he sold the unfinished cottage to Carl Emmel, who finished the interior and added the stone fireplace and chimney. Subsequent owners installed a bathroom and a copper roof. In 2002, the property was placed for sale, and based only on photographs, John and Gaye Meyer of Stoughton fell in love with the cottage and finalized the purchase, sight unseen. To restore the image of a rustic "forest cabin", the Meyers removed the obtrusive driveway and installed a stairs as the only access down from Edgewater Beach Road. General restoration has included the reproduction of the original intricate shingle pattern on Max Schober's log-framed gazebo. The Meyers anxiously make the 3 hour drive to enjoy their newly preserved, uniquely charming cottage.



Curly Lambeau Birthplace Home, 615 North Irwin, Green Bay

In 2003, after reading a book about Green Bay Packer legend Earl "Curly" Lambeau, Ken Calewarts and his son, John, became curious about the location where Lambeau lived after his birth in 1898. Although it was known that Lambeau lived on the east side and attended East High School, the city directory at that time listed the Lambeau family as residing at 615 North 12th Street, a street name that no longer exists on the east side. After much research, they discovered that "12th Street" was renamed "Irwin Avenue" about 100 years ago. 615 North Irwin Avenue, which was confirmed as Lambeau's boyhood home, had the added distinction of being one of the oldest homes in Green Bay that retains its original exterior walls and is standing on its original foundation. Calewarts formed a group of investors to purchase the house. Based on plans prepared by Mike McMahon (a former BCHS Preservation Award recipient), the house has been brought to code, the exterior renovated, and the lot enclosed with period fencing with a memorial plaque placed in front. The group hopes to sell the restored house, with proceeds going to benefit Nicolet School located across the street.



LeMieux Chapel, on the Campus of University of Wisconsin - Green Bay

In 1925, Joe and Odile LeMieux built a chapel along the limestone ridge, behind their house located on the west side of Bay Settlement Road. Since their son was studying to become a Catholic priest, and since Odile would occasionally have health problems, she thought that a chapel would be a quiet place for him to meditate when he came home and a convenient place for her to pray on days when travel to Holy Cross Church would prove too difficult. Joe, a mason, and Odile's brother Fabian, a carpenter, constructed the chapel using limestone from the ridge. The Chapel was dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of lost articles. The Chapel was used continuously by the LeMieux family and their descendants (including the VanLanens and the Jadins). In 1984, the property was sold as part of the land required for the creation of the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, and while the house was demolished, the chapel was preserved with the provision that it be maintained by UWGB as long as it remained structurally sound. In 1999, the family painted the woodwork and repointed the masonry, while UWGB constructed a small wooden bridge to connect the site to their arboretum trail. The chapel remains unlocked for all visitors to enjoy the history and solitude.