BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2007 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS



St. Francis Xavier Cathedral – Bell Towers Restoration

The Cathedral was dedicated in 1881, but the original construction only included the lower portions of the towers – the upper belfry portion wasn't finished until 1904. A few years ago, church maintenance found pieces of bricks on the sidewalk in front of the church. A closer look skyward showed significant brick masonry damage, and closer inspection revealed deteriorated flashings, roof tiles, and interior wood supports. 900 pound stone blocks set in the walls were found to be losing their corbelled brick masonry support. After the 120 foot high scaffolding was built around each tower, the brick masonry was repaired with 3500 new bricks, new flashings were installed, and the broken slate shingled dome roofs were replaced with new copper roofs topped by copper-clad crosses. After \$500,000 for masonry repointing and replacement and \$250,000 for new steeple work, the restored towers now stand proudly to greet the Cathedral's visitors below.



605 George Street, De Pere

This building was originally a residence, and more recently had been divided into apartments. When Steve and Carey Danen purchased the building, their first intention was to restore it to its original condition, but multiple interior and exterior renovations, including replacement of the wood siding with a brick veneer, made that rather unfeasible. At about the same time, Steve Taylor and Charles Aslakson were looking for a new business location, and this building caught their eye. Together, the four of them redesigned the interior to suit the new business, while the exterior brick masonry was restored, the roof replaced, and the doors, windows, and trim either repaired or replaced. The business is thrilled with their new offices, and the building now lends a dressed-up look to edge of downtown East De Pere.



Reedsville Granary, 2200 Dickinson Road, De Pere

In the 1850s, a three-story 8,800 square foot flour mill was built in the Town of Reedesville (about 20 miles south of Green Bay), and in the 1920s, it was converted into a granary. While it served the community well, it eventually fell victim to modern technology, was vacated, and was destined for demolition. Days before it was to be torn down, Pat Drury learned of the building and asked if he could help save it. When he found that Paul Renard and John Michaud were interested in having the building for their new offices, the dream started to became reality. The building was dismantled and re-erected in Ledgeview. The interior still displays much of the original materials - the timber framing was made visible, the old wall sheathing boards that had been covered by metal siding were reused as wood flooring, and artifacts such as the pulley drive elevator were reinstalled for display. The old Granary now lives on in its handsome new use.



Arketype, Inc., 612 Stuart Street, Green Bay

Founded in 1838, Grace Presbyterian Church congregation has had a long history in Green Bay. The present church was built in 1910, and was expanded with a rectory addition in 1918 and the sanctuary addition in 1929. In recent years, however, the congregation was declining, and by 2003, the building was no longer in use as a church. Around the same time, Arketype, Inc., a Green Bay creative design and advertising firm, was trying to juggle business success with increasingly cramped quarters on Washington Street. In 2004, the firm decided to purchase the church building and renovate it for their new offices. Their goal was to maintain the architectural integrity of the building, while at the same time taking advantage of open spaces well suited to a design studio. The maple floors have been refinished, several gothic-style light fixtures were restored, and the majestic stained glass windows were repaired and cleaned. As a bonus, two stained glass windows that had been hidden behind a wall were also brought to new light. The open-concept spaces are given a new brightness with the white-painted walls and glassed-in offices. Ever respectful of the building's history, Arketype invited the former congregation for an open house, and while many were still wistful at the loss of their church, all were enthusiastic about the wonderful transformation of their building. The perfect new testament for an old building born again.