

BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2008 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS



Ice House Coffee and Creamery, 2200 Dickinson Road, De Pere

It all started back in 2004. When the old 1909 red brick schoolhouse on Creamery Road in Ledgeview was threatened, Pat Drury stepped in to buy the building and use part of it as his offices. When the front portion of the school became an antiques shop, Pat thought that the shop would be complemented by a few more businesses, and Olde-School Square was born. One by one, the business development has grown with actual old buildings and turn of the century reproductions. The most recent addition is the Ice House. After it was built in the early 1900's, it was used for 50 years to store ice harvested from the East River. With the advent of refrigeration, the building became a mere storage shed. In 2007, Pat purchased the building for relocation to his "village". After removal of the roof structure to clear street pole wires and the three layers of board and hay insulation on the walls, the building was moved the 200 feet to its present location and renovated. The completed coffee and ice cream shop now provides a welcome stop for drivers and bicyclists from the East River Trail.



Wild Root Salon, 114 Michigan Street, De Pere

In 2007, Sue and Paul Fritsch were looking for a location for Sue's proposed hair salon. When they visited 114 Michigan, the location was great (just off George Street), but the building itself required a large amount of visualization. Built around 1891, the building had sat empty for a period of time, and the floor, walls, windows, and siding were all in bad shape and the house had no insulation. Also, the small room floor plan didn't lend itself to the larger space needed for an efficient hair salon. But with Paul being employed in the construction industry and the couple's experience with other smaller projects, they decided to take the plunge. Beginning in March with only the help of a few family members, they installed insulation and resided the house, replaced windows and doors, removed interior partition walls, installed new birch and cherry flooring from trees cut at their previous Denmark home, and decorated with a warm and inviting color scheme. By September, the Wild Root Salon was open for business in an attractive building salvaged from a former East De Pere house.



Annen Residence, 515 North Broadway, De Pere

This stately Queen Anne Colonial Revival house was built in 1886 by William Kellogg. In 1898, it was sold to R.J. McGeehan, a De Pere businessman who later became state senator, and it remained in the McGeehan family until 1950. Over the next 50 years, the house had several owners and saw less maintenance and repairs. In 2003, Rich and Mary Annen purchased the house as an "interesting project". Their patience was tested early when they discovered that the house had been vacant and unheated for at least a year, which caused frozen heating pipes to leak water throughout the house. Over the last five years, the Annens restored all the radiators and piping to go with a new boiler heating system, as well as removed and replaced the several layers of roof shingles, repainted the exterior, repaired displaced foundation walls, reinforced the floor framing, and built a garage and workshop in the style of a period carriage house. Their continuing restoration now includes moving from room to room, restoring the windows and refinishing the woodwork.



West Side Moravian Church – Ashwaubenon Cemetery Chapel

The Moravian Congregation of Fort Howard was organized in the "prayer room" of Tank Cottage in 1850, and in 1867, a church was built at the corner of 4th and Maple on a plot of land donated by Mrs. Tank. As early as 1869, there were members of the congregation who lived in Ashwaubenon. Since it was difficult to make the weekly trip into Fort Howard, they usually met for worship in someone's house and then made a monthly trip into town for the sacraments. In 1890, they built their own simple chapel on a half acre of land that soon became a site for the cemetery. By 1960, the chapel fell into disuse as families moved into the city, transportation improved, and the Congregation moved into their more conveniently located new church building on Oneida Street. In 1972, the chapel was threatened by the new construction of Hwy 172. While some members of the congregation felt that the Chapel should just be demolished, a small group convinced the others to instead move the building to the back edge of the site. In 2007, the congregation decided to address issues related to security and deterioration. Structural renovations included foundation repairs, reinforcement of the floor framing, and repairs to the lower levels of siding. Inside, newer paneling was removed to reveal the original plaster walls, and the walls and ceiling were repaired and given a fresh coat of paint. Finally, the two doorways were fitted with securely locked modern reproduction doors to protect the newly restored Chapel for many years to come.