

THE

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LEGACY

Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation Preserving Our Heritage Newsletter

Update from the President.....

It has been an eventful few years since several people met at a brainstorming session with the Chamber of Commerce board to try to find a way to prevent demolition of the 1889 brick school house. From that meeting, the idea of the Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, Inc was born, and with the help of the village, we were on our way. Every step, big or small has been a learning experience.

Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, Inc., elected a board of directors, and became a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We have raised over \$100,000 toward the school project, which is well on its way. The District #1 School House brick has been stripped of its red paint and the gardens and brick walkway are off to a great start. The first floor interior walls have been removed, preparing the way for renovation to the original one-room classroom. The renovations, when complete, will bring the building back for public use as a living school museum reflecting education in a one room school, as well as a place for art shows, displays, and events. We are excited about the Farmers Market which will be on the grounds each Thursday throughout the summer and fall. We trust that as we move forward, the list of possible uses will continue to expand.

Fund raising is always a topic of discussion and concern as we rely solely on donations for every undertaken task. Because of community support and grants, MHLF has been very fortunate to receive the necessary funds each time we embark on a phase of the school project. Several times it has reminded me of Jesus feeding the multitude; the donations just seem to multiply until there is enough to complete a task. I am no longer a doubting disciple. I also have no doubt that when the school house is finished it will be a huge asset for the community. The generosity and support of this community has been heartwarming and gratifying, all the way from the village board to the donation from a Sunday School class.

Currently, the MHLF focus is the District #1 School House. However, it is our desire to be an organization of influence which helps to protect and celebrate other Mount Horeb historic structures. The support and involvement of the entire membership is needed to finish the school project and to grow. Your interest can be shown by a donation (major or small), a renewal of your membership, by being a board member, being on a committee, or working at the school house. We are always looking for good volunteers. Your input is always welcome. Please feel free to call me at 437-8751 to discuss any of these opportunities.

Thank you to everyone, who in whatever way, has been involved with Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, Inc. Your interest and help is truly appreciated and will be acknowledged by future generations who can see, not just read in books, that Mount Horeb has a history.

Jackie Sale

MHLF, Inc. Board of Directors

Jackie Sale, President	437-8751
Peggy Donaldson, Vice President	437-1108
Betty Drape, Secretary	437-5960
Chuck Misky, Treasurer	437-5823
Kurt Nowka, Board member	437-5273
Bev Schwierske, Board member	437-3581
Larry Soltis, Board member	437-4013
Marly VanCamp, Board member	437-5236

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Farmers Market ~ At School House

Every Thursday through October a Farmers Market will be on the grounds of the District #1 School House. The outdoor market, organized by the Mount Horeb Business Network Group, is held from 3 to 7 p.m., and provides a place to shop for local produce, meat and dairy as well as artisan creations. The sponsors also planned for refreshment vendors and music during the market.

The Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation board was happy to endorse having the Farmers Market on the School House grounds. It is exactly the type of community event that was envisioned for use of the school ~ a place to gather.

One of the organizers, Kathleen Kay of the Kaleidoscope Marketplace, said the market not only provides local products, but also creates a weekly social opportunity for families to come together and enjoy the charm of downtown Mount Horeb. She stated that the Business Network wants to increase the patronage and recognition of the downtown businesses and believes the Farmers Market will improve the quality of our community.



Business Network Group & MHLF Board Members

Nine business owners from the Mount Horeb Business Network volunteer their time to provide on-site supervision each week. The Business Network group indicated that proceeds left after expenses for operating the Market will go to the Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, Inc. toward the School House project.

Be sure to stop by each Thursday for fresh market products from local growers on the School House lawn. If you have questions about the Farmers Market, call Kathleen Kay or Pat Klarer at the Kaleidoscope Marketplace at 437-2787.

What's in the Future for Academy Street School?

The Mount Horeb Area School Board is now considering various options for meeting the future classroom and facilities needs of the school district. One school building and site within the scope of the study is the Academy Street School. This means the future of the Academy Street School will most likely be determined by referendum in 2007.

There are presently three scenarios involving the Academy Street School under consideration:

- 1) The school building will continue to be used for instruction after remodeling.
- 2) The school will continue to be used for education after remodeling as well as being utilized by the school district and other public entities for common purposes.
- 3) The school building will not be used

by the school district. It would be sold or it would be demolished and replaced with a new school building.

Original to this site was the Lutheran Academy, which was built in 1893. It operated for 10 years and was then purchased at a cost of \$5,000 in 1903 by the village of Mount Horeb to house its first high school. The high school continued there until the building burned in 1917. Alternate locations were then used for classrooms and school, including 2 buildings on W Main Street (one of which [the District #1 School] was moved for preservation to N Second Street). Space needs continued to grow and plans to rebuild on the Academy Street site began.

Built in 1919, at a cost of \$115,000, the brick school building, currently the Academy Street School, has been in use for 87 years. For 43 years, from 1919 to

Gratitude for Gifts

Mount Horeb continues to cherish the 1889 School. Landmarks Foundation gratefully acknowledges the community's continued support of the 1889 School. Contributors have enabled us to remove the paint, reroof the school, and enhance the front of the park with a patio area, flagpole and garden with fence. Brick sales are ongoing for the completion of the walkway when the other construction is completed.

We have been honored to receive grants from the MH Community Foundation for four consecutive years, Dane County Cultural Affairs for two, a Preservation Grant, and donations from the DeAtley Foundation. Other clubs and businesses that have contributed: Mount Horeb Rotary Club, Mound Vue Garden Club, Summer Frolic Committee, Mount Horeb Lions, State Bank of Cross Plains. and Amcore Bank. Donations are starting to come in for furnishing the restoration when it is ready. People continue to purchase bricks for the walkway, send memorials in honor of a designee and make annual membership contributions. The Board is grateful to all who have given consideration to the school.

1962, this building was Mount Horeb's *only* school, housing grades 1 through 12. By 1940 more than 500 students were enrolled, necessitating a \$100,000 addition on the west side of the building. The addition provided a gymnasium, music room and space for an agriculture course. The population grew, new buildings were constructed and grade levels held at the Academy Street School building have changed (currently, it is the Primary Center, with classrooms for grades 1 and 2).

If you are interested in the future of the Academy Street School, please make your interest known either to Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation board members, board of education members or to Wayne Anderson, superintendent.



MH Towers

One of the school's most prominent architectural features will soon be reappearing. The accurate reconstruction of the school's original bell tower is high on the project's restoration

agenda along with that of it's original entry.

When completed, the reconstructed bell tower will rest once again upon the front dormer of the school. Because the school is a designated local historic structure the unique architectural details are being carefully reviewed to make an accurate duplication both in design and replacement material, which is being substantiated by historic, physical, and photographic evidence.

Funds for this project have been given by the Mount Horeb Community Foundation, Inc. and the Mount Horeb Summer Frolic Committee. The MHLF is grateful to these groups who support our community in so many ways. If you know people in these organizations please thank them for their good work.

The District #1 School House bell tower

was only one of many notable "towers" in the village. Some have survived, others have not. One of Mount Horeb's buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, the Opera House at the corner of Main Street and South Second Street, has a prominent tower. The Opera House was built in 1895, just six years after the District #1 School House.

Open House Imports shop at 308 East Main Street still has its round tower. This building was originally the P.G. Krogh residence built in 1893 by Gilbert and Knut Kleven and was one of the early homes in "new town" Mount Horeb.

Another round corner tower along Main Street is at 409 East Main Street. It was the landmark residence of the Onon B. Dahle family built in 1895 by local builder Thomas Ayen. It is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style. This building later became Dr. Buckner's 20 bed hospital and following that, Dr. Kjervik's office and residence.

Those that did not survive:

Hotel Britton, corner of First and Front Streets, was a 20 room hotel with a tavern and large dining room. This hotel was built between 1894 and 1899, expanded by 1915 and was the first building in town with running water. It

was later known as the National Hotel. It was torn down to make the parking lot in 1967, but the tower had disappeared before then.

The 1903 Village Hall and Fire Station which stood between the present village hall and the District #1 School House at 106 North Second Street. It had a bell tower similar to the school tower and for a time housed a fire bell for the village fire alarm. This bell is now permanently displayed in front of the firehouse on Front Street. The brick building was demolished in the 1970's.

The Mount Horeb Lutheran Academy, which was located on the site of the present Academy Street School, was a large three story building with a sizable square tower with dormers on its steeped roof. The brick veneered building had classrooms as well as dormitory rooms, library, reading room and an assembly hall. The Lutheran Academy opened in 1893 and was used as a church-oriented private high school for ten years, until it was purchased by the village school district for a free public high school. The Academy burned in 1917 and was replaced with the present Academy Street School in 1919.

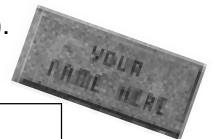
PAVE THE WAY Commemorative Brick Order Form



Looking for a memorable way to congratulate, honor or memorialize an important person? Give a gift that lasts forever – Purchase an engraved brick that will become part of the school house walkway ~ a lasting tribute to you or to those you want to honor.

Purchase price is \$50 per brick. Your donation also gives you a 1 year membership in the Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, Inc. A letter of acknowledgment will accompany bricks purchased in honor or commemoration of someone special.

Your 4x8 bricks may be inscribed with up to 2 lines – 12 characters per line (including spaces).



Purchaser's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Name and address for letter of acknowledgement to honoree: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation

138 E Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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picture courtesy of Mount Horeb Historical Society

The Landmark Legacy

Third Annual Membership Meeting **☯ Thursday, July 13th ☯**

The Annual Meeting of the Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, Inc. will be Thursday evening, July 13th, 7:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Community Center (105 N Grove.)

The agenda for the meeting will include an update on the School House project, the secretary's and treasurer's reports, and election of board members.

If you are interested in being on the board of directors, please call one of the present members to let them know. Your interest and participation are welcome.

Won't you join us at the annual meeting? We need your support.

Refreshments will be served.